

July 3, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Good fishing reports coming in from all areas of the state. The recent storms however, have muddied the waters and slowed some areas of fishing down. Reports of mayflies are starting to show up and that should help with the steelhead in the coming weeks. For those trout and salmon fishing certain areas are starting to pick-up where others are beginning to slow down.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Detroit River: Walleye have been caught in the lower Trenton Channel including the area near the Edison Plant. Some jumbo perch were caught in the weeds around the Horse Island Flats.

Lake St. Clair: Walleye fishing is good near the shipping channel and also in the deeper water off the Mile Roads. Bass fishing has been good with more fish showing up in deeper water.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been spotty with some fish coming from the Port Huron Area.

Lexington: Some perch are starting to show up south of Lexington coming off the weed beds but you have to work to find them. Pier anglers are mainly getting rock bass and white bass.

Port Sanilac: Trout and salmon fishing is slowing down a bit and are scattered. Pier anglers are reporting rock bass and white bass.

Harbor Beach: Look for lake trout in deeper waters when using dodgers and spin glows on the bottom. Good colors were purple, pink, yellow, green or black. For salmon, use medium or large spoons 40 to 70 feet down in 70 to 150 feet of water. Steelhead were hitting on bright colors in 80 to 150 feet of water. Try 25 to 50 feet of water near the cemetery for perch when using minnows. Walleye fishing will be slow until the waters clears up. Try off the north wall in the early morning or late evening when casting small body baits or spoons in green, purple, silver or blue. Inside the harbor is good for bass and pike.

Grindstone City: Those trolling are taking walleye and whitefish on small spoons in 30 to 40 feet of water. Salmon and lake trout were caught in 120 feet of water. A few smallmouth bass were caught in the harbor.

Port Austin: Salmon and steelhead are scattered in 40 to 70 feet in depth but lake trout can reliably be found near the bottom in 70 to 100 feet of water. Start shallow early in the morning and work deeper as the sun comes up. Walleye fishing is slow.

Saginaw Bay: Excellent walleye fishing in a lot of locations this past week such as in 24 feet of water north of Gambil's Marina near Pinconning, as well as in 12 to 14 feet of water off of the Pinconning Bar. Other locations were Northwest of Buoys 1 & 2; Two miles east of the Spark Plug and in 25 to 28 feet of water near the Spark Plug. Other anglers reported walleye catches in six to eight feet of water off the mouth of the Kawkawlin River very early in the morning as well as in four to 14 feet of water on and along the Callahan Reef. Crawler harnesses are the go-to bait, but crank baits and spoons are also taking fish. Best spinner colors are green, anti-freeze and chartreuse. If it's cloudy, try gold, silver, or copper. Best crank bait colors were chrome with blue, orange or gold backs, purple or fire-tiger.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch fishing picked up this week. Anglers were catching perch in 30 to 50 feet of water. Salmon anglers were making good catches of fish. Trollers should target 80 to 120 feet of water and deeper. Steelhead fishing from the piers is slow.

St. Joseph River: Smallmouth and Walleye fishing have been good but after all the rain the river is high and muddy.

South Haven: Salmon fishing has slowed down a little this week. There are a few fish being caught in 100 feet of water. Anglers are taking freshwater drum on the pier. Still fishing night crawlers on the bottom is working best. Perch fishing continues to be slow.

Grand Haven: The fog, weather, and wind have made fishing very difficult. Salmon anglers have been fishing in 85 to 110 feet of water, 40 to 90 feet down. Spoons are still the main bait of choice in colors of blues and yellows. Pier fishing is slow. Mostly caught have been catfish, sheephead and bass. No perch reported.

Grand River at Lansing: Anglers should be prepared to deal with high, muddy water due to the recent storms. Smallmouth bass have been hitting using live baits, and small crank baits.

Lake Jordan: Nice catch rates fishing for bass and crappie and bluegill using live baits.

Muskegon: Salmon anglers have been fishing in 90 to 100 feet of water, 40 to 50 feet down. Spoons were used in the colors of blues and greens. No perch reported.

Whitehall: Fish are most likely out in deep water due to warm water temperatures. Anglers should try traveling north to the flower creek area as the water temps are cooler. Pier anglers caught catfish and bass this week by casting yellow and green body baits and with cut bait.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Has had great lake trout fishing with plenty of limits. Anglers targeting them are using spoons, cowbells or dodgers with spin-glos. The lakereels have been suspended all up and down the water column within 10 feet from the bottom. The best depths have been in 40 to 80 feet of water. Chinook, atlantics, along with the occasional pink have also been taken. Anglers are using downriggers, lead cores, copper, and dipseys. Spoons have been working the best however. Good colors have been greens, blues, orange and silver, green and orange, silver and glow stuff both early and late in the day. Catches have been made straight out from the harbor and west towards Calcite Harbor, Swan Bay and Adams Point.

Alpena: Walleye are starting to show up. Anglers are heading out and fishing at night for the best success. Anglers are using crawler harnesses and or body baits. Best places have been Sulphur Island, Scarecrow Island, Grass Island, right out front of the marina and North Point. The walleye have been moving around a lot as of late. The shallower water seems to be the best. Mayflies are starting to hatch so it may slow things up for a little bit. Thunder Bay Island and 9 mile has had some super fishing with many limits. Anglers are fishing anywhere from 45 to 80 feet deep.

Thunder Bay River: Pretty quiet over the last week. A few rock bass, pike, drum and walleye. Most are using live bait such as leeches, night crawlers or worms.

Harrisville: Fishing has been steady with a mixed bag of fish coming in. Harvest has included lake trout, salmon, steelhead and walleye. Lake trout have been in shallow and out deep from 60 to 80 feet of water and in 100 to 140 feet of water. Salmon and steelhead are in the same area and seem to be by product catches while targeting lake trout. Anglers are using lead core, copper, dipsey's and down riggers with spoons, cut bait, spin-n-gloves and body baits. Walleye are still around the area in good numbers with late evening and early morning providing the best catches on crawler harnesses, bottom bouncers, and body baits.

Oscoda: Is producing a mixed bag of fish including lake trout, salmon, steelhead, walleye, smallmouth bass and catfish. The boats are reporting lake trout, steelhead and salmon catches. Reports are that the lake trout are suspended in half of the water depth you are fishing. Steelhead and salmon are in the lower 2/3 of the water column. Most reports are in water depths of 90 to 120 feet of water off lead core, dipsey's, copper, down riggers with a wide spread. Spoons, mainly dark colors, are working the best. Walleye and smallmouth along with catfish are being caught off the pier. Walleye and catfish are hitting off the pier in late evening.

Houghton Lake: Bluegill are biting on slip bobbers and leeches from four to 12 feet along the edge of the weed bed.

Tawas: Pier fishing at Tawas Bay is in 'summer mode' with a few bass, drum, and catfish being caught and some of the local kids are fishing for and catching carp. Boat anglers out of Tawas are catching steelhead out past Buoy #2 in 50 feet of water to almost up on the surface. The steelies are apparently in there taking advantage of the hatching mayflies. Trollers after walleye are doing fair down toward Alabaster in 25 to 40 feet of water or going to the north side of the Charities and fishing around the Steeples. Limit catches were common north of the Charities.

Tawas River: Shore anglers were getting a few bass, catfish and drum.

Au Gres: Lots of boats out, lots of walleye caught with lots of limit catches. Much of the action was in 35 to 45 feet of water out near the shipping channel. Other boats were going north of the Charities and doing well.

Au Gres River: Shore anglers were taking good numbers of catfish and drum.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Smallmouth bass anglers are still focusing most of their effort near the permanent structures east of Wequetonsing (i.e. the pier at Roaring Brook) and near the north shore of Petoskey State Park. They also did well fishing shallow in the Wequetonsing docks. A lot of success was also had inside Harbor Point and in the harbor itself. Green tube baits and soft plastic worms are working well. Many fish over 6 pounds are reported to have been caught this spring by catch and release.

Petoskey: The surface temperature of Little Traverse Bay remained in the low to mid 50's at the surface last week. Boat pressure remains pretty low in Petoskey. A lot of lake trout caught were under the slot limit. Anglers are using spoons and peanuts and fishing from Bay Harbor east into the Bay. Fish are being caught in 60 to 100 feet of water, some suspended and some close to the bottom. Anglers fishing near the mouth of Bear River on D Pier were still catching smallmouth and rock bass. A lot of freshwater drum were caught last week as well. Walleye are being picked up during the afternoons and evenings past the mouth of the river. Anglers were mainly using crawlers, crank baits, soft plastics and flies on all of those species. Anglers fishing the break wall are still catching a few smallmouth bass and northern pike using jigs with soft plastics, small crank baits or just a hook with a crawler.

Charlevoix: Boats are targeting lake trout from North Point to the can at the cement plant. Winged glow bobbers and flashers or dodgers were working well with green always being a good color. Lake trout were caught in 40 to 70 feet of water -- some within 10 feet of the bottom. A cisco was also caught out near the cement plant while trolling. Smallmouth bass can be seen in the channel, but the bite was a bit slow. The few bass that are biting are on the large size. Smallmouths were caught on crawlers, crank baits, and jigs with soft plastics. Some ciscos were still being caught in the channel at various times of the day. Carp and northern pike have been spotted cruising around in the channel as well.

Lake Charlevoix: Anglers are reporting the mayfly hatch has started. Anglers are catching some walleye just before dark and cisco at various times during the day.

Ciscos were found in Loeb Bay, Oyster Bay and into Round Lake. Try a little jig with a soft plastic or a Swedish pimple for cisco.

Traverse City: Smallmouth bass fishing has been good in East Bay. Anglers have been catching bass in the shallows on tube baits, crank baits, and spinner baits. Lake trout fishing has been good for the relatively few boats targeting them. Depths have been variable, but most fish were caught near the bottom in 20 to 50 feet of water. West Bay reports good smallmouth bass fishing in five to 15 feet of water. The lake trout bite has been good fishing in 15 to 40 feet of water on spoons or spin glows behind dodgers.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass fishing has been fair; however the majority of fish have been on the small side. Anglers were targeting bass with tube baits, crawlers, and leeches. A few freshwater drum were caught as well.

Boardman River: Smallmouth bass fishing has been relatively slow with mostly sub-legal fish taken on live baits. Carp and rock bass have been caught as well.

Platte River: Walleye and Steelhead can be found at the mouth and in the stream in small numbers. There are large numbers of suckers and carp from the hatchery to the lake.

Frankfort: Salmon catches have slowed from the past two weeks but anglers are having some luck in the early mornings and evenings out front in 120 to 200 feet of water trolling 60 to 100 feet down. Blues, greens, and chartreuse colors have been the most popular. Anglers heading north to Platte Bay have been having good luck with lake trout.

Onekama: Anglers had good catches of steelhead heading off shore a mile and trolling the top 40 feet of water with orange and chartreuse spoons. The Barrel is producing nice size lake trout and the occasional king with the early morning bite producing nicer catches.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are still having nice catches of large and smallmouth bass throughout the lake. Smallmouths are hitting good around the break walls and largemouths are shallow around structures and on the drops in 18 to 22 feet of water. Pan fish are starting to bite after the mayfly hatch but it is still a little slow.

Manistee: Salmon fishing has slowed down compared to what it has been the last couple weeks. Boats were finding Salmon 40 to 80 feet down in 100 to 200 feet of water. Steelhead anglers going offshore looking for the temperature break were doing well. The hot color for steelhead was orange. Pier fishing is slow since the water has warmed up.

Ludington: Boats are catching some Salmon 30 to 80 feet down in 80 to 180 feet of water. Anglers going offshore looking for the temperature break were finding decent number of Steelhead. Bright colored spoons were working well for the offshore anglers. Pier fishing is slow.

Pentwater: Boating anglers fishing on Lake Michigan traveled 12 to 14 miles out to find fish. These fish were taken in 300 to 400 feet of water. Steelhead and Chinook salmon were taken from the top twenty feet of the water column. Lines running closer to the bottom returned fair numbers of lake trout as well.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The fish bite for most of the week was up and down but steady. Anglers harvested a fair number of Chinook with some coho and lake trout. Anglers are now trolling in 20 to 120 feet of water 15 to 90 feet down from the head of the bay northward to Carla's Restaurant at speeds of 1.9 to 2.5 mph. Some anglers put in at Traverse Bay Marina trolling in depths of 130 to 180 feet of water using a variety of spoons and colors. The lake trout bite was slow here. Anglers who were jigging off of Big Louie's Point in waters from 150 to 260 feet down took some limits of lake trout.

South Portage Entry: Anglers fishing waters from the lighthouse southward along the 41 shoreline to the Red Rocks picked up a mix of chinook, lake trout and rainbow. Anglers were trolling in waters from 30 to 60 feet deep 25 to 55 feet down at speeds of 1.8 to 2.3 mph. The fish bite was up and down during the week here also. Anglers are also picking up lake trout trolling in water from 60 to 120 feet deep at Farmers, Newton's and Big Reefs. A variety of spoons and colors were used.

Lake Antoine: Bass anglers are catching good numbers and good-sized smallmouth bass along with a few largemouth bass casting crank baits or drifting crawlers in the lily pads and tall grass. Panfish anglers are catching a good number of yellow perch, black crappies, bluegill and rock bass with some keepers. Anglers are catching a lot more in the smaller class mainly jigging, drifting or still-fishing with crawlers.

Marquette: Surface water temperatures have warmed into the mid to upper 40's near the river. A few boats have ventured out to Stannard Rock with good results in limiting out with lake trout jigging off the reef in 100 feet of water on the edges. Lake trout anglers in the Marquette area have been doing fair with some slow days depending on winds. Best areas have been about three miles east of Marquette near the Sand Hole and Sand River area near Shot Point. Shore anglers at the Carp River report slow action with a few steelhead reported casting with assorted spoons and cleos.

Little Bay De Noc: The best walleye fishing was in the southern bay from Breezy Point south to Nosee-um Creek. Anglers trolled or drifted crawlers w/harnesses in four to 14 feet of water. Many limits of fish were reported. The Escanaba River reported fair catches using the same in 10 to 20 feet of water. "Black Bottom" area also reported fair catches using crawlers or cranks in 10 to 28 feet of water. Kipling area reported fair perch catches using minnows or crawlers in 14 to 26 of water. Anglers also reported drum catches throughout the Bay. No salmon reports.

Big Bay De Noc: Both walleye and smallmouth bass catches slowed here this week. The walleye are moving south although catches were reported in the "Boot" area, Kates Bay and south to Garden Bluff. Best catches were in 16 to 20 feet of water trolling crawlers w/harnesses. Northern pike were active this week with Ansell's Point

area and into Garden Bay being the best area. Most trolled cranks, spinners or spoons in eight to 12 feet of water. Most smallmouth anglers reported fish at various depths from four to 16 feet of water with Porcupine Point, Kate's Bay and Puffy Bay being best using spinners, jigs w/crawlers or cranks. Fairport anglers reported a few catches this week as the water slowly begins to warm up. Best catches were in 120 feet of water with meat rigs or tricolors working best.

Au Train: Surface water temperatures have finally warmed into the upper 40's near shore. Offshore surface temps remain in the mid 40's. Anglers this past week had mixed results with local anglers frustrated as the bite was slow, however some anglers still did well catching close to limit of lake trout with a few coho, Chinook and steelhead as part of their catch. Most anglers are having best luck with downriggers although a few lake trout have been caught off bottom using dipsy divers. Spoons have been best choice with chartreuse and orange colors doing well. Productive areas for fishing have been east and north of AuTrain Island in close to 200 feet of water along with the Shelter Bay flats fishing near Laughing Whitefish Point. Other productive areas have been Wood Island Reef.

St. Mary's River: Walleye have been slow in and around Lime Island of Raber Bay. The walleye bite has been slow all week due to cold water temperatures. A few under size fish have been caught and released, including undersize pike and smallmouth bass. Anglers have been watching for the July fly hatch in order to start fishing for lake herring. A few mild hatches have been reported in the Raber area, but no heavy hatches yet. Evening hours in Bay Dewausi while trolling crank baits, and crawler harnesses in four to six feet of water just off weed beds have produced a few nice walleye in the 20 to 24 inch class. Walleye fishing seems to be more productive in the evening hours on the St. Mary's River watershed.

Sault Ste. Marie: A few nice Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout are being caught on the discharge side of Gloverland Electric Power Plant casting spoons and black crank baits with chrome colored bellies trolling in four to six feet of water.

Detour: Had low numbers of anglers due to wind and rain. However, those anglers going out harvested lake trout and a few Atlantic and Chinook salmon. Anglers were fishing from the city launch to the #3 green can and around the lighthouse to the #2 red can on the Drummond side using watermelon, green/gold, pink/purple, green/white and black/orange spoons.

Cedarville and Hessel: Anglers still-fishing with chubs for pike are doing well along the south and east shores of Hessel Bay, off the marina pier early and 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, casting with spinner baits in the shallow water. Herring are still not in, but should begin to show with consistent warm weather.

St. Ignace: Angling pressure has been low. Chinook salmon and lake trout are coming in from behind Mackinaw Island around Round Island and from the southwest side of Mackinaw Island.

July 10, 2014

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Fisheries Division

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RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Strong storms and windy conditions have scattered fish in the Great Lakes and some of the large inland lakes. Cool water temperatures made for good pike and walleye fishing on the inland lakes. Certain areas have fly hatches to contend with but all and all; summer fishing in Michigan is good!

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Algae blooms are causing walleye to move into shallower water. The better fishing was in 16 to 20 feet off Stony Point and at the Dumping Grounds. A few large fish were caught as shallow as 10 feet. Most are using spoons and crank baits with the low visibility. Perch numbers are increasing in 20 to 24 feet off Stony Point. Walleye were caught in 10 to 17 feet off Luna Pier by those using Hot-n-Tots or Erie Dearies.

Huron River: Is producing smallmouth bass on crawlers and spinners.

Detroit River: Those hand-lining with flat fish have caught walleye as well as those jigging with a piece of crawler on a black jig. Most are fishing near the mouth and around Celeron Island or Sugar Island. White bass are still in the river. Those vertical jigging or casting from Belle Isle to Wyandotte caught a few musky.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Bass anglers continue to do well fishing the flats and drop-offs. Try plastic worms or jigs in waters between 2 and 12 feet deep. For bluegill try the coves on Strawberry Lake and Whitewood Lake.

Lake St. Clair: Has good smallmouth bass fishing in 15 to 17 feet along the Mile Roads and south of Huron Point. Walleye and perch fishing were slow in Michigan waters but good reports were coming from the Ontario side of the lake.

St. Clair River: Had slow walleye fishing between Algonac and Port Huron. Anglers may want to try hand-lining at night.

Lexington: Fishing along the outside of the Thumb slowed but lake trout and steelhead were still hitting. Windy conditions made fishing difficult.

Harbor Beach: The fish are scattered so anglers will need to do some searching to find them. Try straight out, north or south of the harbor with lines in the bottom 30 feet of waters 50 to 125 feet deep. For salmon and steelhead try spoons with 2,3,5,7 and 10 color lines and offshore boards. Bright colors are best like orange, green, silver, purple and gold. Fly hatches are ongoing and the fish are full of them so it is hard to get them to bite. For lake trout use dodgers or spin doctors with spoons and spin-gloves near the bottom or spoons 50 to 100 feet down. Walleye were caught by those casting from the wall or trolling close to shore. Early and late are best with small body baits and spoons in perch colors, silver, blue and black.

Grindstone City: Walleye were hitting very well in 25 to 40 feet. Anglers using lead core and small spoons are catching fish and limit catches were reported. Large whitefish were also caught and some were in the 10 pound range. The very tip of the Thumb is a good place to fish if the wind is out of the south.

Port Austin: Is producing a few walleye. It appears that the fish have not yet moved onto the reefs between Caseville and Port Austin.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye fishing continues to be very good but windy conditions are hampering trollers. There is some indication that the fish are moving toward deeper water. More boats are working out near the Green Spark Plug (Buoys 1 & 2) at the end of the shipping channel, the deep side of the Bar, and areas similar. Those trolling out of Caseville were getting some bigger walleye off Oak Point and north of the Charity Islands.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing has slowed however boat anglers have caught a decent number of perch. Pier anglers are catching good numbers of freshwater drum along with the occasional steelhead.

South Haven: Fishing for all species was slow. Some caught perch but overall fishing was tough.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers are fishing 45 to 120 feet down in 110 to 165 feet. Blue spoons and blue meat rigs have done well but white paddles were also starting to catch fish. Pier fishing was very slow. Some were casting for large and smallmouth bass. No perch to report.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing lots of channel and flathead catfish off the east side wall and near Fulton Street and Bridge Street. Try live suckers, bluegills, cut bait or soft shell crayfish. Walleye were caught by those drifting crawlers, casting body baits or when trolling crawler harnesses and body baits. Some caught the occasional Skamania on fly's, crawlers or minnows. For panfish, try the backwaters with leaf worms or wax worms. Pike were hitting on live suckers.

Grand River at Lansing: Water levels are up however smallmouth bass and catfish have been caught below the dams. Pike were caught below the North Lansing Dam.

Maple River: Had high water levels. Boat and shore anglers need to use caution until water levels recede.

Morrison Lake: Had good crappie fishing.

Reeds Lake: Was good for bluegill, crappie, bass and pike.

Muskegon: Is still producing some trout and salmon 45 to 120 feet down in 110 to 165 feet. Try spoons and meat rigs. Blue was the hot color. No perch and no pier fishing to report.

Muskegon River: Is producing smallmouth bass on flies and soft plastics.

Whitehall: Had few anglers. Those fishing the channel caught bass when using cut bait or green and yellow body baits.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Anglers are catching limits of lake trout including a lot of smaller fish. Most are fishing throughout the water column and not just off the bottom. Steelhead are starting to show up and were caught higher in the water column on spoons with orange on them. Use short segments of lead core with 1, 2, or 3 colors and sliders on downriggers and bright colors. Chinook were scattered. There really is no large thermocline. Anglers are trying up and down the water column with spoons in green, blue, silver or anything that glows early and late. Try straight out, Adams Point, Swan Bay or up near the State Park and Forty Mile Point.

Alpena: For walleye fishing, some days are better than others. Most are fishing at night around Sulphur Island, Grass Island and Scarecrow Island, North Shore and North Point. Early morning was just as good as night fishing when trolling a mix a body baits and crawler harnesses. If one doesn't work, try the other when fishing up on the shoals in shallow water. Those fishing around Thunder Bay Island caught the occasional chinook, pink, Atlantic salmon or steelhead. Try short segments of lead core with sliders and bright colors. Chinook are around but no big numbers. Try up and down the water column with spoons in 40 to 60 or 70 to 90 feet.

Thunder Bay River: Not much to report even though anglers are fishing. They caught a couple keeper smallmouth bass right along with sub-legal smallmouth and lots of tiny rock bass.

Harrisville: Has walleye in good numbers. Try 12 to 30 feet north and south of the harbor and between Greenbush and Sturgeon Point. Fish shallow in the early morning and move deeper mid-day. Try crawler harnesses, bottom bouncers and body baits. Lake trout, salmon and steelhead were caught in 60 to 120 feet on spoons, spin-gloves, cut baits and fly's behind dodgers and flashers. Look for steelhead along the scum line.

Oscoda: Pier fishing was on and off. Early morning and late evening were best with the occasional mid-day catches. Salmon, lake trout and steelhead were holding south of the river were scattered and on the move. Try 50 to 150 feet and look for baitfish which were abundant. Scum lines were few and far between but that's where the steelhead are and hitting on dark colored baits.

Au Sable River: Look for walleye all the way to Foot Dam. Body baits and crawler harnesses are producing the most. Catfish are moving in throughout the night.

Higgins Lake: The hex hatch is done. Anglers are catching lots of rock bass including some in the 11 inch range. Good numbers of perch were caught near the Sunken Island, the Main Island and along the ridge that runs off the west boat launch. Smallmouth bass were hitting on spinners and crawlers. Lake trout can still be found in 80 to 100 feet. Rainbow trout were suspended in 20 to 40 feet. Both are hitting on rapalas and bombers in blue and silver or rainbow.

Houghton Lake: The better fishing was for walleye and bluegills along the weeds.

Tawas: Those trolling are heading to the north side of the Charity Islands and picking up large walleye in 25 to 35 feet. Pier and river fishing were slow.

Au Gres: Fishing remains excellent with a lot of anglers, a lot of walleye being caught and a lot of limit catches reported. On days with a north wind, anglers did well straight off the mouth of the river in 25 to 40 feet.

Au Gres River: Catch rates for catfish picked up immediately after the rain.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Smallmouth fishing from boats seems to have slowed. Lake trout anglers around Harbor Point found fish shallow and suspended last week. Success was found in 20 to 60 feet but the water was starting to warm so the fish may be moving deeper.

Petoskey: Wind and fog have made it difficult for boat anglers. Those able to get out did catch a couple lake trout and cisco. Those fishing on the D Pier near the mouth of the Bear River caught lots of rock bass, bluegill and sub-legal smallmouth. It appears the freshwater drum may have moved out. Most are using crawlers, crank baits, soft plastics and flies.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers are still focusing on the area between North Point and the cement plant. Lake trout were still caught in shallow waters. Try 10 to 40 feet down in waters up to 180 feet deep. Spoons and winged glow bobbers in green were still working best. Schools of fish were also marked out in front of the lighthouse in 70 to 80 feet but the water was too rough for jigging. Smallmouth fishing in the channel was hit-or-miss but a few large fish were caught by those using crawlers, leeches, soft plastics or crank baits. Cisco were caught in the channel.

Bear River: Angler pressure was low. Some are trying for summer steelhead which usually show up this time of year. Most are using spawn bags.

Traverse City: Windy conditions and currents in the East Bay caused water temperatures to drop and the smallmouth action slowed. Bass anglers will want to look for areas with warmer water and the fish are more active. Lake trout fishing was good in waters 15 to 50 feet deep. In the West Bay, the smallmouth action was slow but lake trout fishing was good.

Elk River: Is producing mostly sub-legal smallmouth bass. Anglers are using tube baits, crawlers and leeches. Freshwater drum were also caught.

Boardman River: Catch rates were slow with only a few smallmouth bass, rock bass, carp and the occasional pike being caught.

Frankfort: Anglers are working the shelf from the pier and trolling north while fishing the top 80 to 120 feet in waters 300 to 400 feet deep. Flies, meat rigs and spoons are getting hits and blue was the hot color.

Onekama: Those trolling in deeper water reported good catches of chinook salmon. Most were heading west of the piers and targeting the top 60 to 90 feet of waters 450 to 500 feet deep. Spoons worked best and gold was the hot color.

Portage Lake: Mayflies are still washing up on shore so panfish activity was still slow in the shallows. Those fishing deeper in 18 to 22 feet around the buoy off Little Eden caught fish. Bass anglers are working the drop-offs with worms.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Have good bass fishing. Anglers are using spinners, rapalas or crawlers. Those trolling bottom bouncers with crawlers and leeches caught walleye in deeper water.

Manistee: Salmon and steelhead were caught 30 to 80 feet down in 100 to 200 feet on orange and pink spoons.

Manistee River: Is producing Skamania near Tippy Dam. Try flies, spinners or rapalas. A fair to good number of brown trout have also been caught.

Ludington: Is producing salmon and steelhead in the top 80 feet of waters 100 to 250 feet deep. Try orange spoons and green flies.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Catch rates were still up and down. Those trolling 15 to 90 feet down in 20 to 120 feet did harvest some splake and lake trout from the head of the Bay north to Carla's Restaurant. Trolling speeds were 1.9 and 2.5 mph. Those launching from Traverse Bay Marina were trolling 5 feet off the bottom in 100 to 150 feet at the 5, 6 and 7 Mile Reefs.

Lake trout were also caught in 120 to 165 feet off Big Louie's, Gay Point and Hermits Cove when using spoons in a variety of colors. Some were jigging in 140 to 260 feet off Big Louie's and the 6 and 7 Mile Reefs.

Lake Antoine: Was still producing good numbers of panfish for those drifting, jigging or still-fishing with crawlers. Anglers caught yellow perch, bluegills, pumpkinseed and rock bass. Many were on the small side. Those targeting bass had fair to good catches of smallmouth when trolling crawlers or casting crank baits.

Marquette: Those targeting lake trout had fair results catching between two and four fish near the "Sand-Hole" and north of Granite Island towards Little Presque Isle when trolling spoons on dipseys or downriggers. Surface water temperatures near shore were warmest near the mouth of the Chocoy and Sand River. Those trying for salmon caught very few fish. Those jigging near Stannard Rock caught lake trout up to ten pounds when fishing along the edge in 100 feet of water.

Little Bay De Noc: Is still producing good catches of walleye in the southern bay between Breezy Point and No-See-Um Creek. At Breezy Point, anglers are trolling crawler harnesses in 10 to 12 feet or straight out from the Ford River near the "Fingers" in 16 to 22 feet with crank baits and crawler harnesses. Down by No-See-Um Creek, they are trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 4 to 10 feet and several limit catches were reported. Fair catches near the Escanaba River and the "Black Bottom" in 10 to 20 feet. The head of the Bay was quiet with low participation. Some perch were caught in Kipling and Gladstone when using crawlers in 10 to 25 feet. Northern pike were active in Kipling near the Power Plant in 10 to 12 feet. Try spinners or crank baits. Several nice pike were reported in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor by those trolling spoons or crank baits along the channel. Salmon anglers have started to catch chinook out near the Ford River Buoy when trolling 70 to 80 feet down in 120 feet with spoons. Steelhead were also caught.

Big Bay De Noc: Had very low angler participation and no walleye reports. Smallmouth bass anglers reported fair to good catches using plastics, crank baits or crawlers in Kate's Bay. Most were trolling or casting in 8 to 14 feet. Fairport was pretty much the same as last week with fair catches reported by those trolling spoons or meat rigs 60 to 80 feet down in 120 feet. Anglers reported schools of alewife so the action should only get better.

Au Train: Anglers reported mixed results and were mainly targeting lake trout. Surface water temperatures near shore were in the low 50's and offshore waters were in the mid to upper 40's. Anglers did best with spoons or fly's tipped with cut bait off the Shelter Bay Flats and towards Laughing Whitefish Point when fishing along the edge in 160 to 180 feet or with downriggers east of Au Train Island and Wood Island Reef. No salmon to report.

Munising: The number of boat anglers dropped because catch rates were very slow. The few heading out were fishing in the bay and around Grand Island. Surface water temperatures were 45 to 52 degrees but few anglers were targeting lake trout. Pier fishing was slow and catch rates were poor for those targeting splake.

Grand Marais: Had increased angler activity leading into the annual lake trout tournament. Evenings were more productive but most of the fish caught were less than 12 inches and no limit catches were reported. Catch rates were much better three to six miles out in the shipping channel and near Sable Point. Most of the fish were 2 to 4 pounds but a few up to 13 pounds were taken in waters between 70 and 200 feet deep. Shore anglers fishing near the marina had poor results.

St. Mary's River: Is producing a few Atlantic salmon on the discharge side of the Clover Land Power Plant. Try casting spoons, small yellow and white crank baits or medium size minnows. Walleye were caught by those still-fishing minnow in 8 to 12 feet on the discharge side of the Power Plant. Whitefish were also caught by those using small black fly type baits. A few rainbow trout and whitefish were caught off the Canal Bridge upstream from the Power Plant when drifting small spawn bags for whitefish or maroon back flat fish with a chrome belly for rainbows. Walleye fishing was slow at the mouth of the Charlotte River. A few pike were taken by shore anglers using crawlers under a bobber in 4 to 6 feet in the early morning. Raber Bay and Lime Island were slow for walleye. Aquatic vegetation is short in most of the bays this year due to the cold weather. Anglers have been looking for fly hatches in order to catch lake herring but none were reported yet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Report good pike fishing in Hessel Bay, Musky Bay, Snows Channel, Cedarville Bay, Government Bay and Moscoe Channel. Anglers are casting or still-fishing with chubs. Perch fishing has picked up along the east end of Cedarville Bay and Snows Channel and good bass fishing along the Snows Channel for those casting spinner baits. The herring are not in yet.

St. Ignace: Chinook and lake trout are still being caught behind Mackinac Island, at Round Island and around Bois Blanc Island.

July 17, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Weather wise, it has been quite a week. Winds have come from just about every direction. Keep in mind the reports this week could change quickly because of the cool weather, strong north winds and a warm-up by the weekend.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Is producing walleye in 16 to 18 feet around the Dumping Grounds. Anglers are using spoons, crank baits, wiggle warts, thundersticks or Hot-n-Tots. Purple, pink or red were the hot colors. Good numbers of perch were caught on minnows in 20 to 24 feet near Stony Point.

Detroit River: Is producing walleye in the lower river around Celeron Island and Sugar Island as well as the Trenton Channel. Some nice perch were caught in the weed beds around Sugar Island and Celeron Island.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Panfish are being caught at the mouth of the rivers and the drop-offs. Bass anglers are targeting 3 to 18 feet of water along the weed beds and sand bars. At night try dark spinner baits or top water lures. The public launch hours at Portage are 8am-10pm.

Lake St. Clair: Continues to provide good smallmouth action especially off the Mile Roads. Try crawlers, spinners, tube baits and artificial crayfish. Those targeting musky have caught some nice fish. The walleye action was spotty for those trolling crawler harnesses. No word on perch in Michigan waters but those fishing the Ontario side did catch fish. Sturgeon season is now open on both Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. Anglers will need to obtain a non-transferable Lake Sturgeon Tag available at all license vendors before they go fishing.

Port Sanilac: Anglers caught a few perch ranging 7 to 13 inches in 18 to 20 feet along the weed beds. The key is to move around until you find an active school of fish. Pier fishing was slow as it usually is this time of year.

Harbor Beach: With all of the storms and windy conditions, anglers will need to do some searching to find fish. There are still some active bug hatches going on. For salmon, try straight out, north, or south of the harbor about 30 feet down in waters 50 to 200 feet deep with between 2 and 10 color lines with offshore boards. Good colors were orange, copper, green, silver, purple or white with black dots. Lake trout were in 120 to 220 feet and hitting on dodgers or spin doctors with spin-gloves or spoons 50 to 100 feet down. Walleye fishing is still on the slow side but a few were taken by those casting from the wall or trolling close to shore with small spoons, body baits or crawler harnesses.

Grindstone City: Had very good walleye fishing between Grindstone and Burnt Cabin Point. Anglers are using Hot-n-Tots or wiggle warts in 24 to 29 feet.

Port Austin: Walleye fishing was good to very good along the reefs to the west and in 20 to 35 feet off the Port Austin Light. Crawler harnesses with pink, anti-freeze, perch or copper blades worked best.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye fishing continues to be very good. When boats can get out, limit catches were reported. There are further indications that the walleye are making the annual summer movement toward deeper water but good numbers of fish are still being caught around the inner bay. Good fishing was reported just north of the Green Spark Plug in 20 to 25 feet, west of the Red Spark Plug in 19 feet, off Pinconning in 17 feet, the Bay City State Park and mouth of the Kawkawlin River in 10 to 12 feet, Callahan Reef in 10 feet but the weeds are starting to become a problem, in the Slot between Quanicassee and North Island in 12 to 16 feet, the Bar off Fish Point in 12 feet and the west side of the Bar in 17 feet and north of Big Charity Island in 25 to 32 feet. Crawler harnesses continue to produce, but hot-n-tots are also working. Gold, purple, anti-freeze, and green were good colors.

Saginaw River: Walleye have been caught in the lower river between the mouth and the Coast Guard Station. Most are trolling crank baits.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing slowed but fish were caught in 100 to 120 feet. Pier anglers have caught freshwater drum. Perch fishing picked up in 40 to 50 feet. Most of the fishing pressure was south of the piers.

South Haven: Perch fishing has finally started to improve. The fish are scattered so drift fishing in 30 to 40 feet was the most productive. Salmon fishing was slow but those caught were taken in 120 feet or deeper. Pier fishing was slow.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers were running in the top 90 feet of waters 120 to 150 feet deep. Those using paddles were starting to catch more fish. Try white paddles with blue flies or blue and gold spoons. Pier anglers were trying for steelhead when using shrimp in the cooler water. No perch to report.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Those fishing up near the Sixth Street Dam have caught the occasional Skamania on spinners, small rapalas and flies. Catch rates for pike and largemouth bass were good. Catfishing opportunities were very good for both channel and flatheads. Anglers are using live suckers, bluegill, cut bait, and soft shell crayfish. Check out the backwaters for panfish.

Grand River at Lansing: Water levels were a bit high and the current is fast. Anglers are catching catfish and smallmouth bass however you will have work hard to keep the bait where you want it.

Maple River: Was still under a flood advisory. Boat and shore anglers need to use caution until water levels recede.

Morrison Lake: Had good crappie fishing but anglers will need to move around to find the fish. Most are drifting or slow trolling.

Muskegon: Pier anglers were trying for salmon and steelhead but had no luck. Boat anglers were running baits between the surface and 90 feet down. More fish were caught on white paddles with blue flies or spoons.

Muskegon River: Is producing a few trout for those fly fishing. Smallmouth bass fishing was good for those using crawlers, leeches and crayfish.

Whitehall: Boat anglers reported a thermocline about 65 feet down and most found fish in 160 to 200 feet. Those fishing across from Stoney Lake did well. Everything works so try trolling with dipseys, lures, copper and flies. Lake trout were suspended alongside other species.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Had relatively good fishing when boats can get out. They have caught a mixed bag of chinook, lake trout, steelhead, Atlantic, pink, coho and even a few walleye in 40 to 90 feet. They are using downriggers, lead core, copper and dipseys up and down the water column. Look for structure and baitfish and don't always think about running all the way north to Forty Mile Point, a lot of salmon have been close to the marina lately.

Alpena: Catch rates for walleye were mixed as anglers try to find them. Some are heading as far as South Point, Scarecrow Island, Sulphur Island and Grass Island while others are heading to North Point, North Shore and Thunder Bay Island. All are using body baits and crawler harnesses with no color preference. Lake trout action was good off Thunder Bay Island in deeper water when using attractors near the bottom and salmon were hitting on spoons higher in the water column.

Harrisville: Water temperatures were wreaking havoc on fishing and all species were scattered at different depths. Lake trout along with the occasional salmon and steelhead were caught in waters 45 to 120 feet deep. Use downriggers, lead core, copper and planer boards.

Most of the fish were hitting on dark colors and the majority had gobies in their stomach. Steelhead were feeding along the scum lines if you can find them. Walleye were in the area in good numbers, from the rock wall around the harbor up to Sturgeon Point and northward in 10 to 40 feet. They are closer to shore late evening and early morning and deeper mid-day. Try body baits and crawler harnesses with long lines and planer boards.

Oscoda: Boat anglers caught lake trout, salmon and steelhead straight out and north of the port. Start shallow in the early morning and work your way out to waters up to 150 feet deep. Fish all depths and use dark colors. Pier anglers are drifting crawlers and leeches with a slip bobber and bottom bouncers for walleye. Those fishing off the end of the pier caught a few fish on small spoons and body baits.

Au Sable River: Has walleye between the mouth and Foote Dam. Boat anglers are drifting crawlers with split shot to adjust for depth. Jigging up the river with crawlers and casting body baits over the holes is working well.

Higgins Lake: Is still producing perch near the islands and some nice rock bass. Pike were caught by those bobber fishing. Try live suckers or chubs. Lake trout were out deep in 100 to 120 feet.

Tawas: Most walleye anglers were heading south and fishing just north of Big Charity Island but some were even fishing off Oak Point and north to Caseville. A change in water temperatures as a result of the windy conditions was causing the fish to relocate. A couple boats trolling in 35 to 55 feet south of Buoy #2 have done well for lake trout and steelhead. Pier anglers are catching a summer mix of smallmouth bass, rock bass, freshwater drum and the occasional walleye in the evening.

Tawas River: Fishing was slow.

Au Gres: Excellent walleye fishing continues in 25 to 30 feet. Most boats are now going south of Pointe Au Gres and fishing the outer reaches of the inner bay or out near the commercial shipping channel.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Lake trout were caught 80 to 90 feet down in 90 to 100 feet of water around Harbor Point. Most are using green spoons. Some also reported catching a couple chinook salmon. Those smallmouth bass fishing have only caught a few sub-legal fish along with some rock bass when using artificial bait.

Petoskey: Angler pressure and catch rates for salmon are low. Rock bass, undersize smallmouth bass and some nice catfish were caught near the mouth of the Bear River. Try crawlers, crank baits of soft plastics. A couple bluegill were caught off the D Pier. No thermocline has developed yet.

Charlevoix: Lake trout are starting to move deeper in the water column and were caught 60 to 90 feet down in 90 to 100 feet. Boat anglers are fishing from the Cement Plant to North Point but most of the fish were caught at North Point. Try spoons, winged glow bobbers, or cut bait. The odd chinook salmon has started to show up. One was caught 80 feet down on a flasher and squid. A couple Cisco were also caught. Smallmouth fishing in the channel picked up but most of the fish were sub-legal. Try crawlers or leeches near the bottom or artificial scented baits. A couple small rainbow trout and freshwater drum were also caught in the channel.

Lake Charlevoix: Currently has a mayfly hatch in progress. Walleye and smallmouth bass fishing was pretty good.

Traverse City: The East Bay is producing a few smallmouth bass in the shallows. Lake trout fishing was good for those running spoons 40 to 75 feet down in 50 to 80 feet. Those fishing in the West Bay reported decent smallmouth action when using brown or green tube baits. Lake trout were taken in 50 to 70 feet.

Elk River: Still has sub-legal smallmouth bass hitting on tube baits, crawlers, leeches or artificial crayfish. A couple freshwater drum were also caught.

Boardman River: Fishing was slow with only a few rock bass, carp and sub-legal smallmouth bass taken on crawlers or leeches.

Platte River: Fishing pressure slowed. Those hitting the upper river near the hatchery caught some nice brown trout and small rainbow trout that were feeding on late afternoon fly hatches. There are lots of carp and redhorse suckers. Smallmouth bass were stacked up from the Mud Lake outlet to the Short Arm Trail and at the mouth where anglers were casting crawlers.

Platte Bay: Some big lake trout were caught on spoons in 80 feet of water.

Frankfort: The early morning bite along the Shelf is producing good catches for those trolling northward. Try the top 80 feet in waters 150 to 350 feet deep with blue, white and purple spoons or blue and white flashers and flies.

Onekama: Is producing a good number of chinook salmon for those trolling green or blue spoons in 150 to 200 feet. Those fishing the Barrel caught lake trout. The fish were both suspended and off the bottom and hitting on flashers with spin-gloves and cowbells.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers have done well in the shallows and along the drop-offs. Both large and smallmouth were hitting throughout the day. Panfish were slow in the shallows so anglers were targeting waters 14 to 18 feet deep where they caught some bluegill and rock bass.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Continue to produce a fair to good number of bass and pike right along with some bluegill, perch and crappie.

Manistee: Trout and salmon were caught 30 to 80 down in 100 to 200 feet. Boat anglers found good numbers of steelhead in the top 50 feet. Bright colored spoons continue to work well.

Manistee River: Still has Skamania near Tippy Dam. Catch rates were fair to good with flies, spinners and rapalas. Anglers will find a good number of brown trout large and small.

Ludington: Boat anglers are finding trout and salmon 40 to 90 feet down in 100 to 200 feet. Good numbers of steelhead and lake trout were caught by those using orange, yellow and pink spoons.

Pentwater: Had a fair number of boats heading to 400 feet and trolling the top 40 feet. They caught chinook, steelhead and lake trout. Those targeting salmon in 160 to 200 feet had a harder time finding fish but when they did they caught good numbers when trolling about 65 feet down.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The bite was slow with only a few salmon caught by those trolling in 30 to 60 feet from the Baraga Marina northward to Sand Point and Old Mission. A few lake trout, brown trout, splake and rainbow trout were also caught. Most were fishing 25 to 45 feet down with spoons in orange or purple. Those jigging for lake trout had fair success in 180 to 260 feet out from Jentoff's Dock, Whirl-I-Gig and the pine tree on the north side of Pequaming. In Traverse Bay, anglers were still picking up fair catches of lake trout in the bottom 5 feet of waters 100 to 150 feet deep near 5, 6 and 7 Mile Reefs or in 120 to 165 feet near Big Louie's, Gay Point and Hermits Cove. Most are using spoons with purple and white the hot colors. Those jigging caught lake trout in 140 to 260 feet.

Lake Antoine: A lot of panfish are being caught but it is becoming a struggle to find the bigger fish. Boat and shore anglers are catching bluegill, sunfish, yellow perch and rock bass when drifting or floating minnows and crawlers. Bass anglers are still catching some nice large and smallmouth when casting crank baits near the lily pads and grassy areas. Those trolling crawler harnesses have also done well.

Marquette: Boat anglers reported slow fishing for lake trout with only a handful of anglers getting two or three fish near the "Sand Hole" east of the Chocolay River, towards the Sand River and Shot Point. Depths vary but try waters between 100 to 200 feet and deeper. Shore anglers at the Carp River caught a couple small rainbow trout.

Little Bay De Noc: Anglers were at the mercy of the winds which have slowed participation in both bays. Walleye catches were down and the better fishing was still in the southern part between Breezy Point and No-See-Um Creek when trolling or drifting crawlers in 8 to 14 feet. Jumbo perch action was fair in 10 to 14 feet between the Second and Third Reefs. Fair to good perch catches off Gladstone and over to the West Bank when using crawlers in 14 to 30 feet.

Northern pike were active around the mouth of the Day's River. Many are trolling crawlers or crank baits in 14 to 20 feet. Salmon anglers reported fair catches north of the Ford River Can when trolling spoons or meat rigs 70 to 80 feet down in 100 to 120 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Had rumors of walleye caught north of the Big Bay Shoals by those trolling crawler harnesses in 15 to 22 feet. Most anglers were after smallmouth bass but catch rates were down. The better fishing was at Ogontz and Kate's Bay when trolling or casting plastics, crank baits or crawlers in 10 to 17 feet. At Fairport, feast or famine was the theme for salmon anglers. Most reported baitfish in the shallows however most of the salmon were caught deeper at 70 to 80 feet down in 120 to 150 feet.

Au Train: Had very low angler pressure. Those fishing primarily for lake trout had mixed results. A few reported catches of three to five fish for a party of two whereas others were having a tough time catching any fish. Some were caught in less than 100 feet but those in 200 feet or deeper had poor catch rates. The best areas were off the Shelter Bay Flats, north of Au Train Island and the Wood Island Reef. Try spoons tipped with cut bait.

St. Mary's River: Raber Bay, Swedes Point, and Maud Bay just north of Detour Village were slow for walleye, yellow perch and smallmouth bass because of the cold water temperatures. Aquatic vegetation is still fishable for mid-July. Northern pike are good in 4 to 6 feet along the edge of the weeds around Lime Island but no lake herring to report. A large fly hatch was reported on the east side of Lime Island in the Canadian Marsh. Raber Bay needs more fly hatches to draw lake herring from the deep water. Atlantic salmon were caught on the discharge side of the Power House when trolling or casting 2 and 3 inch rubber minnows. Use baits with a black back and a gray to white belly. The South end of Rotary Park was producing a few rainbows for those casting flies just off the current on the south end of the park. Little and Big Lake George were slow for walleye and perch as cold water shut down the bite.

Detour: Lake herring moved in last week and a few boats did manage to take limit catches near Cherry Island, Grape Island, and Howard Island. Red teardrops and wax worms were the ticket. Salmon and trout fishing were good with anglers taking Atlantic and chinook as well as lake trout from the city launch to the #3 Green Can, around the lighthouse and to the #2 Red Can on the Drummond side. Some boats were continuing another 2 miles south for lake trout. Try red and white, green and silver or purple spoons.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike fishing remains excellent in Hessel Bay when still-fishing with chubs or casting. Musky Bay and Middle Entrance also had good pike action. Some nice perch were caught along the east end of Hessel Bay and the north end of Snows Channel. Mackinaw Bay and Shepard Bay were good for pike and bass when casting in the shallows. Lake herring are showing up. A few limit catches were taken in McKay Bay and Prentice Bay in 8 to 14 feet with small caddis flies, wax worms or red teardrops.

St. Ignace: Catch rates were poor.

July 31, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-373-1280

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The inland lakes are providing some good fishing opportunities and can be a great alternative to those that are not able to get out on the Great Lakes because of windy conditions.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye are being caught off Stony Point, the Dumping Grounds, and along the Michigan-Ohio border. Most fish were caught on crawler harnesses, spoons and crank baits. Hot colors were copper and purple. A good number of perch were caught in 22 to 26 feet at Stony Point. Minnows work best.

Detroit River: Those jigging out near Horse Island have caught a few walleye. Fish were also caught by those trolling crawler harnesses in the lower river. Those fishing the rock piles off Rat Island have caught some nice yellow perch.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Bluegills were caught along the drop-off on Strawberry Lake. Bass fishing was slow for the most part but a few fish were taken along the weed beds in deep water and along the flats towards evening. The better fishing is during the week when there is less boat traffic.

Oakland County: Catch rates for bass and panfish were picking up on inland lakes.

Lake St. Clair: Bass fishing has been very good. Fish were scattered in 6 to 18 feet and hitting on a variety of baits. Lots of fish were in the 2 to 4 pound range and some were larger. Walleye and perch fishing on the Michigan side were spotty as the fish seem to be scattered.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was very good after dark between Marine City and Port Huron. Walleye action during the day was fair with fish caught in the South Channel and the Middle Channel. White bass continue to provide good action along the channels. Try casting over the weed beds along the shallow flats off the North and Middle Channels. These same areas are producing muskie.

Port Sanilac: Perch fishing here and at Lexington was spotty with anglers having trouble finding the fish. All you can do is move from weed bed to weed bed and look for an active school of fish.

Harbor Beach: When boats can get out, they are still catching trout and salmon. The fish might be scattered so finding them may take a while. Best fishing was straight out, north or south of the harbor in waters between 50 and 200 feet deep. For walleye, those casting off the wall have taken fish in the early morning or late at night.

Grindstone City: Had very good walleye fishing however a shift in the wind dropped lake temperature by 7 degrees. Anglers were working hard to find fish. The same pattern is making it hard for salmon and trout anglers because the thermocline was so far offshore.

Port Austin: Had excellent walleye fishing east to Grindstone City and around to Lighthouse Park in 30 to 40 feet. Spoons and crawler harnesses took fish in the 3 to 5 pound range. Recent weather patterns pushed in warm water along the tip of the Thumb and that may have fueled the bite. Walleye fishing to the west of the port was not good because of cold water.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye are still being caught at a variety of locations including 18 to 24 feet off Pinconning and Gambil's Marina, 18 feet off Linwood, the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12), north of Buoys 1 & 2 which is the Green Spark Plug, the Slot from Quanicassee to North Island in 7 to 11 feet. Crawler harnesses in all the usual colors continue to be the go-to bait as well as blue and silver crank baits. Shore fishing at all locations was generally slow with only a few bass, freshwater drum, and catfish taken. Water temperatures at Caseville were hovering around 59 degrees which sharply curtailed success but walleye were still caught north of the Charity Islands and off Oak Point.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Had very good perch fishing but then it slowed. The better fishing was south of the pier in 30 feet. The few boats targeting salmon had some good catches in 140 feet. Spoons were the ticket. Pier anglers are catching freshwater drum.

South Haven: Perch fishing continues to get better. Catch rates were fair with most fish taken in 28 feet. Salmon fishing slowed. Some fish were caught but the boats had to go out very deep to catch them. Pier fishing was slow.

Grand Haven: Anglers are fishing up to 70 feet down in 75 to 175 feet. Most fish were caught on orange, green or blue spoons however those using a white spinnie with a green fly or yellow meat rigs have also taken fish. Perch fishing was hit-or-miss along the mud line in front of the north pier and in the perch holes. Pier anglers are using shrimp and alewife however catch rates for steelhead were very slow because of the warm water.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing steelhead on flies and spinners. Channel and flathead catfish are hitting on live bait and cut bait. Anglers caught big suckers on crawlers and bass were hitting on crawlers, spinners and plastics.

Ingham County: Had good bass fishing throughout the area with limit catches reported. Anglers are catching keeper size bass, catfish and some nice panfish.

Muskegon: Is producing trout and steelhead. Anglers are trolling spoons in the top 30 feet of waters 90 to 120 feet deep around the first set of commercial nets which can be found from Muskegon south to Hoffmaster State Park. Try mini or regular spoons. Hot colors were UV, mixed veggie, orange and blue.

Muskegon River: Is producing a few trout for those fly fishing. Smallmouth bass fishing was good for those using crawlers, leeches and crayfish.

Whitehall: Those fishing across from Stoney Lake did well. The lake turned over and water temperatures were cold so fish were caught in the top 35 feet. Lake trout were suspended while chinook and steelhead could be found at the same depths. Most were using meat rigs.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Boat anglers are taking chinook, coho, pink salmon, steelhead and lake trout in 45 to 120 feet. Most are spreading lines throughout the water column with blue and silver, green or black and white spoons. Steelhead were up high and hitting on orange spoons. Try Forty Mile Point, straight out from the harbor or south towards Swan Bay and Adams Point.

Alpena: Those targeting trout and salmon are heading towards the Nine Mile Can, Rockport, the Nordmere Wreck and Thunder Bay Island and fishing in 45 to 90 feet. Anglers are using spoons and attractors for lake trout near the bottom. Steelhead were caught up high on orange spoons. Walleye are being caught throughout the bay. Hot spots were Sulphur Island, Grass Island, Scarecrow and Thunder Bay Island when using a combination of crawler harnesses and crank baits.

Thunder Bay River: Is producing smallmouth bass, rock bass and a few walleye. Anglers are using crawlers and leeches or casting artificial baits.

Harrisville: Fishing slowed as water temperatures dropped. Boats making their way out had limited success for steelhead, lake trout and salmon. Try dark colors and start shallow about 60 feet and head out to 120 feet. Walleye were holding in 12 to 40 feet north and south of the harbor.

Oscoda: Boat anglers had decent results for lake trout, steelhead and the odd salmon. Most were dropping lines in 75 feet and working their way out in the morning. In the evening, reverse and follow the fish into shallow waters. Lake trout are hitting on dark colors in the bottom 20 feet. Steelhead are on the scum lines and staying up high.

Au Sable River: Walleye are still making their way into the river in good numbers. Crawlers, leeches and stick baits are working well early or late.

Higgins Lake: Continues to produce a lot of rock bass. Perch have been caught but anglers will have to locate the schools of fish. Those trolling and jigging caught lake trout along the bottom. Most are fishing along the ridge that runs off the North Sunken Island. Some caught bass ranging 17 inches or so while others have caught pike ranging 22 to 34 inches.

Houghton Lake: Those fishing along the weed beds are catching panfish, walleye and bass. Try 6 to 10 feet of water.

Tawas: Pier and river fishing were slow with only a few smallmouth bass, rock bass, freshwater drum and small perch caught. Boats trolling outside Buoy #2 caught steelhead off the surface and down to about 20 feet in waters 35 to 50 feet deep. A few walleyes were also caught. A couple of boats perch fishing along the weed beds off Jerry's Marina caught a fair number of fish ranging 6 to 10 inches. A good number of walleye boats continue to head south to the Charity Islands.

Au Gres: Water temperatures dropped because of prevailing winds however those trolling were still taking good catches of walleye straight off the mouth of the Au Gres River and south of Pointe Au Gres off the Rifle Bar in 10 to 20 feet. Look for areas of warm water and you will find active fish.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Lake trout fishing was hit-or-miss but some were caught around Harbor Point. Many were smaller than the minimum size limit of 20 inches. Some nice smallmouth bass were caught on tube baits on the harbor side.

Petoskey: Anglers are mainly catching lake trout with most boats focusing on the area from the water treatment plant to Bay Harbor. The fish are 50 to 90 feet down in waters 75 to 140 feet deep. They are hitting on winged glow bobbers and spoons combined with flashers or cowbells. Undersize smallmouth and rock bass are still hitting on crawlers, crank baits and soft plastics near the mouth of the Bear River.

Bear River: The rain did bring some Skamania up to the dam. The summer run steelhead were mostly males and hitting on spawn bags and flies. Some of the fish were over 10 pounds.

Charlevoix: Salmon are starting to show up. Chinook were caught 80 to 90 feet down in 110 to 200 feet. Those fishing off the Cement Plant caught a few more than those at North Point. Spoons and meat rigs worked best. Most are catching lake trout off North Point of South Point. Try 50 to 90 feet down in 100 to 140 feet with glow bobbers, spoons and meat rigs. Fishing pressure has increased in the channel where anglers caught smallmouth bass, rock bass and freshwater drum on live or artificial crawlers and leeches. Lake Charlevoix still has a mayfly hatch.

Traverse City: Lake trout fishing was fair in the East Bay. Anglers are trolling 40 to 50 feet down in 70 to 90 feet. A few salmon were also caught. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair in waters up to 15 feet deep. A limited number of lake trout were caught in the West Bay. Try spoons or spin-gloves 45 feet down in 60 to 90 feet. Only a few salmon were caught. Smallmouth bass were caught between the shallows and 15 foot.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass have been caught using leeches, crawlers, and tube baits. The majority were sub-legal.

Boardman River: Catch rates were slow but a couple summer steelhead were caught near the Union Street Dam. Try spawn or crawlers. Most are catching smallmouth bass or some rock bass.

Platte River: Fishing slowed because of the warm water. Some found small trout feeding on hatches in the upper stretch below the hatchery. Most of the cold water species have gone out to the big lake. Some very large carp and suckers are holding below the hatchery.

Platte Bay: Had good lake trout fishing when those in small boats were able to launch. Those trolling spoons did very well in 50 to 90 feet.

Frankfort: Cooler water slowed salmon fishing. A few chinook were caught in the top 80 feet of waters 120 to 250 feet deep. Blue has been the popular color. Lake trout were very active in 70 to 90 feet. Try bouncing the bottom with cowbells and spin-gloves. Pier anglers are catching freshwater drum when casting small spoons.

Onekama: The "Barrel" is producing good catches of lake trout for those trolling green spin-gloves near the bottom in 75 to 100 feet. Cooler water temperatures had salmon anglers heading out 12 miles to find fish.

Portage Lake: Had yet another fly hatch with the cooler temperatures. Panfish anglers are having a difficult time finding good numbers of hungry fish. Bass anglers did well near structure and along the drop-offs.

Pentwater: Most anglers fishing off Little Sable Point returned with no fish. There is a concentration of boats fishing across from Stoney Lake which is where the fish are.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: A few chinook were caught by those trolling from Sand Point to Carla's Restaurant. Try 25 to 50 feet down in 30 to 60 feet and trolling speeds between 2.2 and 2.8 mph. Lake trout, brown trout, splake and steelhead were also caught on orange, purple and green lures. Those jigging for lake trout did fair in 180 to 260 feet out from Jentoff's Dock, Whir-I-Gig and the pine tree on the north side of Pequaming.

Traverse Bay had fair catches of lake trout within 5 feet of bottom in 100 to 150 feet along the Mile Reefs or in 120 to 165 feet off Big Louie's, Gay Point and Hermits Cove. Try spoons in a variety of colors including purple and white. For the South Portage Entry, lake trout were caught from the Lighthouse south to the Red Rocks along U.S. 41 when trolling 25 to 40 feet down in 30 to 60 feet with purple spoons. Lake trout were also caught when trolling in 90 to 180 feet along Farmer's Reef and Newton's Reef.

Lake Antoine: Anglers are catching lots of panfish but finding the bigger ones has become a challenge. Those drifting crawlers or using minnows caught bluegills, perch, sunfish, rock bass and the occasional crappie. Smallmouth bass anglers have caught some nice fish when casting crank baits or trolling lures.

Little Bay De Noc: Had fewer anglers as alewife and fly hatches are keeping the fish well fed. The boat launch at Kipling is closed until mid-August so crews can replace the ramp and do some dredging. A few walleye were caught in the "Fingers" which are straight out from the Ford River. Most were trolling crawlers or stick baits in 14 to 25 feet. Fair perch fishing at Gladstone when using crawlers or minnows in 14 to 25 feet and off the mouth of the Escanaba River in 25 feet. Pike anglers caught some big fish 40 inches or more when trolling crank baits or spoons in 12 to 22 feet near the Escanaba ship docks. Salmon fishing was fair to good out near the Ford River Can. Several fish over 20 pounds were caught 50 to 70 feet down in 110 to 120 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Bass anglers report fewer catches than previous years and cooler water temperatures could be the reason why. Most were fishing the southern end of Kate's Bay and near Garden Bluff with spinners, crank baits or plastics in 10 to 18 feet. Off Fairport, anglers reported fair to good catches when trolling spoons 50 to 70 feet down in 120 to 140 feet in the "Gap". Copper was the hot color. Some anglers are doing well but others not so well. Surface waters temperatures were 54 to 56 degrees and somewhere near 44 degrees where the fish are.

Munising: Boat anglers targeting lake trout were also picking up a few splake, brown trout and steelhead. Catch rates for lake trout were slow. Boats were heading east along Pictured Rocks towards Grand Portal, around Grand Island and north of Wood Island. Pier anglers were few and catch rates for splake were slow but some did manage to catch the occasional legal fish in the 15 to 19 inch range. No report from shore anglers or Big Reef.

Grand Marais: Pier anglers were few. With the cool water temperatures, there should be some whitefish especially on days with a north wind. Those fishing in the early morning reported a few limit catches on the windy days. Boat fishing was slow but anglers were still fishing 3 to 6 miles out in the shipping channels and near Sable Point. Fish were found in waters 70 to 200 feet deep.

St. Mary's River: Atlantic salmon arrived at the Clover Land Power Plant on Portland Street. Anglers have taken limit catches of 7 to 9 pound fish when trolling 3 inch spoons 4 to 6 feet down. Fish were also caught when drifting small brown fly baits for whitefish near the discharge.

Walleye fishing was good for shore anglers just before dark below the Sugar Island Ferry Dock. Try drifting crawlers with 4 ounce sinkers along the steel breakwall. Walleye were slow in Raber Bay and those caught were undersize. Walleye, musky and pike action was slow downstream of the Rock-Cut and Moon Island but pike were caught by those trolling spoons in 5 to 6 feet along the weed beds in Lake Nicolet. Anglers are still waiting for lake herring to show up near Lime Island and Raber Bay. No reports yet but it should not be too much longer.

Detour: Lake herring and whitefish were caught on red teardrops with wax worms around Cherry Island, Ashmund Island, Grape Island, Howard Island and Reck Island which is just south of Harbor Island. Trout and salmon action was good with Atlantic, chinook and lake trout taken between the city launch and the #3 Green Can and around the lighthouse to the #2 Red Can on the Drummond side. Red and white, green and silver or purple spoons were hot.

Cedarville and Hessel: Those fishing the east end of Hessel Bay and the north end of Snows Channel have caught some nice perch. Pike fishing was good in Hessel Bay, Musky Bay and Middle Entrance. Pike and bass were taken in shallow waters in Mackinaw Bay and Shephard Bay. Lake herring are here and catch rates were good in McKay Bay and Prentice Bay for those using small caddis flies, wax worms and red teardrops.

July 31, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

With storms, a strong cold front and northwest winds, fishing was not off to a good start this week. Some rivers were high and muddy. Though it may feel like fall, the calendar says it is still summer so fishing should pick back up.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had another slow week because of the weather. Walleye were caught by those trolling in 16 to 20 feet in Brest Bay. They are using wiggle warts, tail dancers and thundersticks. A few were taken on crawler harnesses near the Dumping Grounds. Perch fishing was best in 22 to 26 feet off Stony Point and 24 feet straight out from Bolles Harbor.

Detroit River: Walleye fishing was good in the lower river and those jigging for muskie had good reports in the middle sections. White bass are still abundant throughout the river.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Bass fishing improved with anglers finding fish in the deeper weed lines along the sandbars and near the mouth of the rivers. Try pitching jigs or use soft plastics. A few pike were caught on Strawberry Lake and Gallagher Lake by those casting crank baits or spinners. Bluegills could be found in the bays and along the weeds in 6 to 8 feet.

Lake St. Clair: Bass fishing continues to be very good with consistent reports coming from waters over 15 feet deep. Perch and walleye fishing are spotty.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been very good in the lower river and the channels leading out into the lake. Jigging and trolling crawler harnesses worked best. Some perch are also starting to show up in the weed beds along the shoreline in the North and Middle Channels. Sturgeon fishing has been slow since the opener but a few large fish have been caught.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Were slow with only a few anglers out searching the weed beds for perch.

Harbor Beach: Walleye fishing was picking up before the storms and windy conditions. Anglers will want to try straight out and north of the harbor in 30 to 90 feet when trolling crawler harnesses, small spoons or Hot-n-Tots. Hot colors were perch and purple or silver with black. Try casting body baits from the wall in the early morning or late evening. Salmon and steelhead were caught with spoons off downriggers in 60 to 150 feet. Good colors were bright orange, copper, gold or white with black dots.

Port Hope: Walleye were deep in waters 65 to 70 feet. Some of the fish were suspended in waters over 100 feet deep.

Grindstone City: Walleye fishing slowed as the fish went out to waters 50 to 60 feet which would indicate the thermocline is very deep along the outside of the Thumb. Boats searching for salmon and lake trout seem to confirm this as they were fishing waters 140 to 200 feet to find lake trout. They also caught the odd steelhead and a couple smaller pink salmon.

Saginaw Bay: Is still producing walleye. Catches run from 2 or 3 fish per boat to half-limits to the occasional limit catch. Try out near Buoys 1 & 2, general vicinity of the Spark Plug, off the Bay City State Park in the early morning in 10 to 12 feet, in the Slot between Quanicassee and Sand Point in 8 to 16 feet or along the west side of the Bar in 20 to 25 feet. Fishing slowed north of the Charity Islands and off Oak Point however a few were caught off the Hat Point Reef. Most of the boats were coming from Port Austin.

Saginaw River: Is still producing the occasional walleye on reef runners and husky jerks in the last two miles of the river.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

New Buffalo: Perch anglers are fishing to the north about halfway between here and St. Joe. Another area to try is just north of Union Pier in 20 to 30 feet around Lakeside Reef.

St. Joseph: Pier anglers were doing very well for steelhead with most of fish caught on shrimp under a bobber. If the cold water stays around the piers, fishing should continue to be good. Boat anglers found fishing a little more difficult. Those fishing near the piers caught a couple steelhead on spoons. Lake trout and salmon were in 80 to 100 feet. Perch fishing slowed with the colder water temperatures but should resume if the water warms back up. Try 30 feet of water south of the port.

St. Joseph River: No word on trout but those night fishing have done very well for channel and flathead catfish. Anglers are using crawlers, bluegills and cut bait.

South Haven: Few anglers were out. A couple steelhead were caught but overall pressure was low with the cold water temperatures. Most of the fishing was inside 30 feet of water south of the port. Perch fishing was slow.

Grand Haven: Foggy conditions have been a problem for boat anglers. Those able to get out were fishing 20 to 80 feet down in 140 to 240 feet when using gold spoons with orange and yellow. Blue paddles with a blue or white fly 50 to 70 feet down also caught fish. Perch anglers found fish in 20 to 30 feet when using minnows or spikes. Pier anglers were catching steelhead on shrimp.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Continues to produce some nice catfish for those using suckers, bluegills or fresh cut bait. Smallmouth bass are hitting on tube baits, crank baits, spinners, crawlers and leeches. Summer steelhead can still be found up near the dam.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing smallmouth bass and catfish. Try minnows and leeches.

Morrison Lake: Continues to produce crappie just as it has all summer. Try the east or west end with minnows. Anglers have caught bluegill along with some nice largemouth bass.

Muskegon Lake: Walleye anglers were taking decent catches when trolling. Try 10 to 15 feet around Strawberry Island which is just west of Hartshorn Marina with small rapalas, crank baits or Hot-n-Tots. Anglers caught bluegill, crappie and catfish.

Muskegon River: Those fly fishing have done well for steelhead and brown trout. Anglers continue to do well for smallmouth bass when casting artificial crawlers, crayfish and leeches. Some caught the occasional pike.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: With storms and strong winds, water temperatures have been fluctuating over this last week. When anglers can get out fishing wasn't all that bad with a mixed bag of chinook and Atlantic salmon, steelhead, lake trout and the occasional walleye. They are fishing straight out from the marina, up near the State Park and Forty Mile Point or south towards Calcite Harbor, Swan Bay and Adams Point. Most are using downriggers, lead core, copper and dipseys throughout the water column in 45 to 130 feet. Steelhead and Atlantic salmon were caught up high in the water column on bright colored spoons like orange. Attractors with flies, squid and cut bait have caught some of the bigger salmon. Good colors were blue and silver, black and white, green, blue or anything that glows early and late.

Alpena: Anglers had good success for lake trout straight out and along the 1st and 2nd set of "Humps". Those fishing around North Point and Thunder Bay Island caught chinook and pink salmon, lake trout, steelhead and walleye. Spoons and attractors with flies, squid or cut bait worked best. Walleye were caught straight out in 20 to 50 feet with body baits or crawler harnesses. A few fish were caught around Thunder Bay Island, North Shore and North Point.

Harrisville: When anglers can get out, fishing was good. Those targeting walleye had success in front of the harbor, to the north or the south in 12 to 40 feet. Look for bottom contours, gravel and rock or anything in the way of structure. Late evening and very early morning were best when using small spoons, crawler harnesses, bottom bouncers and stick baits. Lake trout are there but anglers will have to find them. Try 60 to 180 feet with a variety of lures.

Oscoda: Had lots of lake trout with fish caught as far north as Greenbush and down to Au Sable Point in waters between 80 and 200 feet deep. Spoons, flies, spin-gloves and cut bait in dark colors worked best. Steelhead and salmon were caught but the numbers were down. With the high winds, scum lines have not been able to form. Look for steelhead in the upper third of the water column near the scum lines.

Au Sable River: Has walleye between the mouth and the dam and they are hitting on crawlers, leeches and stick baits. Those fishing up river are targeting the deeper holes. Some large smallmouth bass were also caught.

Higgins Lake: This is a great time to take the kids out fishing because anglers are catching lots of rock bass. Yellow perch up to 10 inches were caught in 20 to 50 feet around the Sunken Island and the Main Island. Good lake trout action along the drop-off in 80 to 120 feet when trolling spoons, rapalas, body baits and cowbells. Those jigging caught fish on Swedish pimples, krocodiles and cast masters.

Houghton Lake: Fishing slowed with the cold front however anglers are still taking a mixed bag of bluegills, sunfish, crappie and some nice rock bass. Walleye and some big pike were taken when trolling the weed beds. Bass anglers have caught some nice smallmouth.

Tawas: Trolling for walleye has been hampered by windy conditions. Walleye action north of the Charity Islands has slowed. A couple fish were picked up in 25 feet near Alabaster. A couple steelhead and walleye were taken around Buoy #2 and from the weed beds off Jerry's Marina. Those still-fishing with minnows along those weed beds did catch a few decent perch and a couple pike. Pier fishing was slow with only a few pike, smallmouth bass, rock bass, small perch and a couple bluegills taken.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing slowed but anglers were still getting some fish north of Buoys 1 & 2 in 25 feet or off the Saganing Bar in 12 feet. Another contingent would be 30 to 35 feet out near the shipping channel.

Au Gres River: Is currently being dredged. Fishing was slow.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Anglers are out looking for salmon around Harbor Point. Lake trout are pretty much the only fish being caught 85 to 105 feet down when using spoons.

Petoskey: The surface water temperature in Little Traverse Bay was at 66 degrees which shows water temperatures were not rising very fast. Anglers are catching mainly lake trout especially between the water treatment plant and Bay Harbor. The fish were 80 to 90 feet down in 100 to 150 feet and hitting on winged glow bobbers and spoons combined with flashers or cowbells. Some say the salmon are not in Little Traverse Bay yet so anglers might want to try heading north or south of the bay.

Bear River: Recent rains have kept the summer run steelhead moving up to the dam. A few nice fish were caught by those drifting spawn bags below the dam.

Charlevoix: Anglers are still searching for salmon and a few had luck around the Cement Plant and north at Nine Mile Point when trolling spoons and meat rigs. The majority of fish caught were lake trout and bigger fish are coming in more often. Try 90 to 130 feet down in 120 to 150 feet from South Point to North Point with spoons and winged glow bobbers. Fishing pressure in the channel has increased. Most are catching sub-legal smallmouth bass especially when there is a stronger current. Both natural and artificial crawlers and leeches on the bottom work best.

Traverse City: The East Bay had good lake trout action in 80 to 110 feet. Some fish were suspended while others were caught near the bottom. There were reports of a few salmon but success was limited. Smallmouth bass action was fair. The West Bay had good lake trout action but catch rates for salmon were very slow. Lake trout were 40 to 60 feet down in 80 to 110 feet deep. Smallmouth bass action was fair in 15 feet.

Elk River: Had relatively slow fishing. The only species caught were sub-legal smallmouth bass and a few rock bass below the power dam.

Boardman River: Other than a couple steelhead taken on spawn bags near the Union Street Dam, fishing was slow.

Platte River: Fishing has been slow. Small trout were caught in the upper fast water by those fly fishing towards dark. Those fishing the lower stretch caught smallmouth bass and suckers. On days with a south wind, anglers fishing the mouth caught smallmouth bass.

Platte Bay: Boat anglers are still catching lake trout straight out in 80 feet. Chinook have started to show up in the West Bay.

Frankfort: Water temperatures are still below normal but chinook have been caught when trolling 40 to 90 feet down in 120 to 250 feet. Mixed colors of blue and orange worked best. A few chinook were reported in the harbor between the piers. Those trolling north to the point caught good numbers of lake trout when bouncing the bottom in 60 to 100 feet with spin-glows and cowbells.

Onkama: Is producing a few chinook in the top 80 feet of waters 120 to 180 feet deep. They are using slims or small spoons in green, orange or blue. Good numbers of lake trout are still coming from the "Barrel" when bouncing lures off the bottom.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are working the drop-offs and near structure. The bite was a little slower with the cooler weather. Panfish activity was good in the early morning but slowed during the day.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: With the weather all over the place, so are the fish. Anglers will need to be patient until they find a school of fish. Both lakes had fair to good bass fishing for those using artificial worms, crawlers or leeches. Pike have been caught when trolling or casting along the weed beds. Those looking for panfish have caught crappie and bluegills.

Manistee: With cooler water in the area, those trolling closer to shore may find some chinook and steelhead. Those heading out found trout and salmon 30 to 80 feet down in 80 to 160 feet. Try green or purple meat rigs with glow spoons.

Manistee River: Has fair to good summer run steelhead action just below Tippy Dam. Those fly fishing have caught some nice fish. Bass fishing was good.

Ludington: Those trolling found trout and salmon 20 to 80 feet down in 100 to 200 feet with orange, green or blue spoons and purple meat rigs.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The salmon bite was slow. Those jigging for lake trout had fair success in 180 to 260 feet out from Jentoff's Dock, Whirl-I-Gig, Big Reef and the pine tree on the north side of Pequaming. In Traverse Bay, lake trout were caught 5 feet off the bottom in 100 to 150 feet along the 5, 6 and 7 Mile Reefs and in 120 to 165 feet off Big Louie's Point, Gay Point and Hermits Cove. Most are using a variety of spoons and colors but purple and white worked best. Those jigging in 140 to 260 feet off the 6 and 7 Mile Reefs and off Big Louie's also caught lake trout.

Lake Antoine: Was producing a good number of panfish but most were small. Bass anglers are still taking some nice large and smallmouth when casting crank baits or trolling crawlers and jigs with plastic worms.

Marquette: Surface water temperatures remain in the low to mid 50's near shore. Foggy conditions are hampering boat anglers. Lake trout were caught in the bottom 40 feet of waters less than 140 feet deep near Shot Point and north of Granite Island towards the "Sand Hole" in 180 to 220 feet. Lake trout were also caught on spoons 40 to 50 feet down around Partridge Island. Those fishing Stannard Rock reported good catches of fish ranging 3 to 20 pounds when jigging twister tails and artificial gulp baits. Small rainbow trout and brook trout averaging 7 inches were caught on spinners in the mouth of the Carp River.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported fair catches up by the Vagabond Resort when trolling crawler harnesses in 10 to 24 feet. Those trolling the "Black Bottom" marked few fish but did catch some with crawler harnesses in 20 feet. Perch anglers reported fair to good catches in 8 to 14 feet off the mouth of the Day's River and near Gladstone Beach in 14 to 25 feet with crawlers or minnows.

Lots of freshwater drum were caught by those trolling for walleye near Gladstone, the "Black Bottom" and the Center Reef. Pike were active at the head of the Bay. Anglers were trolling spinners and crank baits in 10 to 20 feet from Garth Point to just south of the Day's River. Salmon fishing has picked up with fair to good reports around the Ford River Can. Most were trolling spoons or cut bait 50 to 70 feet down in 80 to 120 feet. Walleye were caught by those trolling crawler harnesses in 12 to 20 feet in the mouth of the Escanaba River.

Big Bay De Noc: Smallmouth bass anglers had little to report as the fish were elusive. Some were caught from the Garden Bluff area and into Garden Bay when using plastics in 10 to 18 feet along the shoreline. In Nahma, anglers fished plastics or crawlers in 12 to 20 feet just off the mouth of the Sturgeon River but most were too small. Rumor has it some walleye were also caught during the evening in the same area. Good pike action in Kate's Bay and over near Ansell's Point when trolling spoons, spinners or crank baits in 8 to 14 feet. At Fairport, salmon catches improved as water temperatures warmed. Good catches were reported by those trolling spoons or cut bait 30 to 70 feet down in 80 to 140 feet along the "Gap."

Au Train: Catch rates were fluctuating with most anglers taking one to three lake trout for about five hours of fishing. Most are using spoons but some are using cut bait in waters less than 100 feet and up to 225 feet. A couple large lake trout up near 30 pounds were caught recently. Anglers reported hatches of flying ants.

Munising: Cool and breezy weather has slowed overall fishing effort. Those heading out were mainly targeting lake trout but catch rates were very slow. Target areas were along Pictured Rocks toward Grand Portal, around Grand Island and north of Wood Island. Surface water temperatures were in the low to mid 50's. Pier anglers managed to catch a couple splake that were legal size.

Grand Marais: Pier fishing was slow but with the cooler water there may be some whitefish in the area. The better fishing is usually in the morning on windy days. Boat anglers were targeting lake trout north and west of the bay, 3 to 6 miles out in the shipping channel and near Sable Point in 70 to 200 feet. Boats trolling in 40 to 50 feet caught the occasional trout and salmon.

St. Mary's River: Had excellent Atlantic salmon and whitefish action when drifting artificial spawn just off the current in 8 to 10 feet on the discharge side of the power plant. Lake George had good pike action for those trolling spoons just off the weeds in 8 to 10 feet around Gem Island. A few muskie were taken on bucktail spinners below the Rock Cut at Tea Cut Island.

Detour: Whitefish continue to hit around Cherry Island, Ashmund Island, Grape Island, Howard Island, and Reck Island for those using red teardrops and wax worms. Salmon and trout anglers were harvesting Atlantic, chinook and lake trout from the city launch to the #3 Green Can, around the Lighthouse and to the #2 Red Can on the Drummond side. Walleye action was good around Drummond Island with fish caught by those trolling planer boards and crawler harnesses in Scott Bay or between Peck Island and Paw Point in 4 to 6 feet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Hessel Bay is good for yellow perch. Anglers are fishing the east end and just into Snows Channel. Moscoe Channel was fair for perch. Both large and smallmouth bass fishing was excellent in the shallow bays when casting spinners along the weed beds and into the lily pads. Pike fishing was excellent along the north shore of Government Bay in 10 to 15 feet, in Middle Entrance and Musky Bay, and along the south shore of Hessel Bay. Try still-fishing with chubs or casting.

St. Ignace: Anglers are catching lake trout and steelhead in the middle of the bay on green and white or green and gold spoons.

August 7, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

1-855-777-0908

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The inland lakes are producing walleye, bass, pike and panfish. Those stocked with trout are also producing some fish. Stable weather through the weekend will once again enhance fishing conditions around the state.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Attention Anglers: With the ongoing algae bloom, the fish are safe to eat however anglers will want to rinse their catch if taken in waters where the algae is concentrated. Walleye fishing slowed but fish were still caught in 16 to 20 feet in Brest Bay when using spoons or crank baits such as wiggle warts, tail dancers or rattling Hot-n-Tot's. Good colors were orange, pink or purple. A few fish were taken on crawler harnesses in 24 to 26 feet at Stony Point. Perch fishing was good for those using perch rigs and minnows at Stony Point as well as straight out from Bolles Harbor in 24 to 26 feet.

Huron River: Is producing smallmouth bass and catfish.

Detroit River: A few walleye were caught by those jigging crawlers in the lower Trenton Channel. Perch were caught along the weed edges around Celeron Island.

Lake St. Clair: Anglers are doing well for bass when casting spinners, tube baits and crank baits or still-fishing with crawlers and leeches in 12 to 15 feet. Try the cuts and canals in Anchor Bay. Those targeting muskie have caught some nice fish when trolling near the Dumping Grounds.

Port Sanilac: Fishing has slowed on the outside of the Thumb. Anglers are going 100 to 125 feet for chinook and shallow for steelhead. No perch to report.

Harbor Beach: For lake trout try 60 to 125 feet down in 90 to 175 feet with dodgers, spin-gloves and spoons. Steelhead were caught straight out and north of the harbor when using spoons off downriggers or 2,3,5,7 and 10 color lines with offshore boards. Bright orange and black, copper or green are good colors to start with. Walleye were caught north of the harbor in 25 to 70 feet by those using crawler harnesses, small spoons or Hot-n-Tot's. Best colors were lime green, copper or mixed veggie.

Port Austin: Was producing salmon in 100 to 120 feet. Anglers found better walleye fishing here. Try crawler harnesses near the light and to the west in 40 feet. A couple fish were caught off Oak Point.

Saginaw Bay: Some walleye were caught a mile south of the Spark Plug in 24 feet, off Gambil's in 16 feet, off the Pinconning Bar in 12 to 14 feet, off Linwood in 17 feet and off the Callahan Reef. Along the inner bay, success was spotty because the fish were scattered. Some were caught in 12 to 14 feet on blue and silver crawler harnesses and a few were caught along the Coryeon Reef. No perch to report in the inner bay. From Quanicassee to Bay Port, the fish were scattered so anglers were fishing at all depths. Some did best in 10 to 14 feet when using crawler harnesses or Hot-n-Tot's.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers at Smith Park caught channel cats and freshwater drum.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

New Buffalo: Boats trolling in waters between 160 and 200 feet caught some nice chinook, coho and steelhead. Most are using lead core and sliders with spoons in bright colors. Perch anglers are fishing in 20 to 40 feet north of the port.

Kalamazoo River: Is producing smallmouth and catfish below the Allegan Dam.

Gull Lake: Is producing bluegill and some perch. Pike anglers found fish when trolling out near the Hog's Back in 18 to 30 feet.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers are catching salmon 40 to 85 feet down in 80 to 130 feet. Steelhead were caught on orange spoons in the top 30 feet. Salmon were caught on blue and green spoons and flies or white paddles, spinnies and flies. Yellow, blue green or purple meat rigs also caught fish. Pier fishing slowed as water temperatures were back up to 65 degrees or more.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: The occasional steelhead can still be found up near the dam. Orange or gold were good colors. Those targeting catfish have done well on live or cut bait. Smallmouth bass action was good.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing smallmouth bass and catfish. Some pike were caught in Jackson County.

Lake Lansing: Was producing some good size bass.

Lake Ovid: Anglers had limited success for bass, muskie, and panfish.

Shiawassee River: Those fishing from Henderson Road to Johnstone Road had some luck when fishing the deeper holes. They caught some nice smallmouth bass along with panfish and suckers.

Muskegon: Anglers here were fishing the same depths as Grand Haven. Salmon were 40 to 85 feet down and steelhead were hitting in the top 30 feet of waters 80 to 130 feet deep. Use orange spoons for steelhead or blue and green with white paddles or spinnies and flies for salmon. Meat rigs also caught fish. Hot colors were yellow, a blue green or purple.

Muskegon Lake: Anglers have caught smaller walleye and bass. Catch rates for panfish were fair to good.

Muskegon River: Has active fly hatches. Smallmouth bass fishing is very good.

Whitehall: Anglers found 39 degree water in 30 to 40 feet. Some traveled north a mile or two and fished 15 to 40 feet down in 140 to 160 feet and caught steelhead which were feeding on flies. A couple chinook were also caught. Pier anglers caught a fair number of perch with cooler water close to shore. Minnows worked best. A couple salmon and brown trout were caught on body baits.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Anglers continue to catch a mixed bag of chinook and pink salmon, steelhead, lake trout and a few walleye. While the fish are scattered, the best depths were 40 to 100 feet and the hot colors were orange, green, blue, black and white or anything that glows early and late. The bigger fish were caught on attractors with flies, squid and cut bait. The key is to find baitfish.

Alpena: Activity has slowed but those fishing around Thunder Bay Island and the "Humps" did well for lake trout and the occasional steelhead or salmon. Walleye fishing slowed as most were now fishing Rockport.

Thunder Bay River: Did not have much to report. Anglers are using live bait or trolling for whatever might hit like walleye, smallmouth bass or catfish.

Fletcher's Pond: Has been good for panfish and largemouth bass.

Harrisville: Dredging will begin within the next 7 to 10 days however it should not affect anglers making their way out into the harbor and the lake. Access for shore anglers may be blocked for a short time. Fishing was spotty. Most are targeting walleye in 12 to 45 feet between Greenbush and Sturgeon Point with crawler harnesses, bottom bouncers and body baits. Lake trout moved out deeper and are hitting on dark colors in 100 to 150 feet.

Oscoda: Catch rates picked up for boat and shore anglers. Boat anglers had good success fishing the bottom 2/3 of water 120 to 150 feet deep. Dark colors work best but anglers might want to think about running a good spread of baits throughout the water column. Pier anglers caught a mix of smallmouth bass, catfish, pike and walleye. Start looking for the early fall salmon or steelhead off the piers because they were logged in at this time last year.

Houghton Lake: Anglers caught walleye along the weed beds. Panfish activity was hit-or-miss but anglers did manage to find rock bass, crappie and bluegills.

Tawas: Those trolling caught a few walleye near Buoys #4 and #6 and off Jerry's Marina. Some caught small perch. Pier anglers are getting smallmouth, rock bass and a few perch. Those casting body baits at night have caught a few walleye.

Tawas River: Is producing a few rock bass and smallmouth bass.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing was slow. The best action was in 10 to 15 feet when using Hot-n-Tot's, husky jerks and crawler harnesses. The action was scattered around the shipping channel, off the hotel and towards the Saganing Bar.

Au Gres River: Is producing a few channel cats.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Salmon reports were few but lake trout are still being caught from 5 Mile Point to Harbor Point. A good number of fish were marked 110 feet down.

Petoskey: Many are catching lake trout and a couple chinook just past Bay Harbor and near the hospital. Anglers marked large schools of baitfish and both salmon and trout had alewife in their bellies. Lake trout were anywhere from 60 to 100 feet down. Most are using spoons, flashers and flies. Those fishing the D Pier caught a stray walleye or two, sub-legal smallmouth bass and rock bass on crawlers. A good number of smaller bass were caught outside the breakwall.

Bear River: Steelhead action at the dam has slowed but anglers still caught a few fish when using spawn bags or natural baits.

Charlevoix: Salmon fishing picked with many catching one or more chinook of good size. Most were fishing the area from Fisherman's Island to the area around the Can at the cement plant in 120 to 150 feet. Try 50 to 75 feet down with spoons, meat rigs and plugs. Lake trout were caught in front of the cement plant and off North Point on spoons and meat rigs 40 to 90 feet down in 100 to 130 feet. White spoons with colored dots were hot. The salmon bite was best in the early morning. Smallmouth fishing in the Pine River Channel was hit-or-miss. Freshwater drum and rock bass were caught on natural baits.

Traverse City: The East Bay had good lake trout action near the bottom in 90 to 120 feet. Those jigging managed to catch a few whitefish as well. Catch rates for chinook were slow for those running flies behind dodgers 50 to 60 feet down. In the West Bay, lake trout were caught within 10 feet of bottom in 85 to 115 feet. Try spoons or spin-glow. Salmon were slow.

Elk River: Is producing smallmouth bass and rock bass for those using crawlers or leeches below the power dam.

Boardman River: Is producing summer steelhead near the Union Street Dam. Most are drifting spawn bags.

Platte River: Fishing was slow but those near Veteran's Park are taking advantage of the fly hatches towards dark.

Loon Lake: Anglers were catching a few walleye and pike on the west side.

Platte Bay: Catch rates were hit-or-miss but those trolling caught a couple big chinook salmon and lake trout.

Frankfort: No big numbers but some very nice catches were reported by those fishing the Herring Hole and north to the point in 100 to 180 feet. Chinook and steelhead were caught and those going deeper caught lake and brown trout. Most are using spoons and meat rigs with white and blue the hot colors. Alewife were seen around the piers and chinook were caught off the wall by the car ferry landing.

Onkama: Those trolling the top 60 to 90 feet in waters 160 to 180 feet deep caught chinook and steelhead. The early morning bite was best.

Portage Lake: The water is beginning to warm a bit so anglers are moving out a little deeper and fishing in 12 to 21 feet for bluegills and perch in the morning. Those working the breakwall caught some nice smallmouth bass.

Manistee: Catch rates were hit-or-miss. Boat anglers found salmon and trout 20 to 80 feet down in 80 to 300 feet on glow spoons and plugs as well as yellow or purple meat rigs. No salmon were caught off the piers.

Manistee River: Has been good for those fly fishing and those casting spinners. Caddis flies were reported below Tippy Dam. Bass fishing has been very good for those casting.

Ludington: Anglers found trout and salmon in 70 to 160 feet. Out deeper, try the top 80 feet with green or blue spoons and purple or blue meat rigs. Pier anglers said the perch action was slow.

Pere Marquette River: Is also good for those fly fishing. Anglers are catching summer steelhead and brown trout.

Pentwater: Those trolling 58 feet down caught lake trout. Chinook were taken right off the bottom in 80 to 120 feet near the sand dunes at Silver Lake. Some fishing in waters 200 feet deep took steelhead right off the surface.

UPPER PENINSULA

Black River Harbor: Lake trout fishing was fair in 100 to 120 feet.

Ontonagon: Fishing was spotty because of all the wind. A few lake trout were caught 10 to 15 feet off the bottom in 60 to 80 feet. Green and orange spoons worked best. Walleye fishing was slow with only a couple fish caught.

Lake Antoine: Boat and shore anglers are still catching sunfish, bluegills, yellow perch and rock bass when drifting crawlers. Many were small however a few nice ones were caught. Bass anglers continue to do well when casting or trolling crank baits or plastics. A few walleye and northern pike were also caught.

Marquette: Most are targeting lake trout and salmon. A few coho were caught on high-lines and dipsey divers. The better success was near the White Rocks, north to Granite Island and near Little Presque Isle and the Clay Banks. Those trolling caught lake trout 40 to 50 feet down in less than 150 feet. Those fishing the "Sand Hole" found fish in waters 200 feet or more when using spoons tipped with cut bait. Colder water temperatures may be keeping the lake trout suspended. Those fishing around Stannard Rock had good success but the fish were smaller.

Little Bay De Noc: The Kipling boat launch is now open. Angler participation was down with the exception of salmon anglers. Walleye catches were fair. In the Kipling area anglers trolled or drifted crawlers on harnesses in 18 to 30 feet and along the Center and Third Reefs in 10 to 20 feet. The Escanaba River anglers also reported fair catches using the same in 8 to 12 feet. Perch anglers did a little better with fair catches in the Gladstone Beach area when still-fishing crawlers or minnows in 10 to 25 feet and east of Butler Island in 10 to 14 feet. A few good catches of perch were reported just south of the Day's River in 12 to 14 feet. Northern pike were active with fair to good catches reported around the mouth of the Day's River using crank baits or spoons in 10 to 12 feet, by the shipping docks in Escanaba in 8 to 12 feet and the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when trolling the channel with spinners, spoons or crank baits. Good smallmouth action between the Ford River and Breezy Point when casting plastics, crank baits or spinners in 12 feet. Salmon anglers reported fair catches north of the Ford River Can 50 to 60 feet down in 80 to 90 feet. The better catches were further south almost to the Cedar River when fishing 40 to 60 feet down in 80 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Pretty much all the anglers were bass fishing. The hot spots were between Poplar Point and Porcupine Point when casting or trolling crank baits, spinners or plastics in and around 12 feet of water. Fair catches were reported in 10 to 14 feet near Ogontz. Lots of freshwater drum in 10 to 15 feet in the south end of Kate's Bay. Catch rates for salmon off Fairport were fair to good 40 to 60 feet down in 80 feet. Some did well while others struggled. Try copper, spoons or meat rigs.

Au Train: Anglers are mainly targeting lake trout when trolling spoons. Popular colors were orange and gold or green and silver. Catch rates were slightly better two to three miles north of Au Train Island and towards the Shelter Bay flats. Some observed lake trout surface feeding on flying ants on calm days.

Au Train Lake: Had good walleye fishing. Try along the west side near the inlets with jigs, rapalas and live bait such as leeches.

Munising: Catch rates for lake trout were poor to fair with anglers putting in long days while trolling the popular spots like Pictured Rocks, Grand Portal, Grand Island and Wood Island Reefs. Water temperatures were still in the low to mid 50's. Pier fishing was slow with only a couple legal-size splake taken. A few pike 26 to 30 inches were caught recently. Reports from the Big Reef indicate fishing was starting to improve.

Grand Marais: Had low angler activity and catch rates have not changed since last week. Boat anglers were still heading north and west of the bay, out near the shipping channels and near Sable Point and targeting waters 70 to 200 feet deep. No salmon to report. A few tried offshore at the marina but had no luck. Pier fishing was limited but anglers may still find a couple whitefish when using a single egg.

Big Manistique Lake: Perch fishing was fair in 10 to 15 feet. Some use leeches to catch the bigger fish.

Luce County: The inland lakes are producing bass, pike, and walleye.

St. Mary's River: Those fishing at the Clover Land Power Plant are doing well for lake whitefish when drifting a #12 hook fly in the tail waters off the discharge side of the plant. They are catching as many Atlantic salmon as they are whitefish. Drift fishing with small worms will also catch Atlantic salmon. Walleye were caught on the east side of Sugar Island near Hay Point when trolling crawler harnesses with gold beads and silver smiley blades in 8 to 12 feet just off the weed beds. Walleye were slow in the shipping channel between 6 Mile and 9 Mile. Water temperatures were still about 58 degrees in most of the river. The Rock Cut downstream to Moon Island and the entire south end of Neebish Island were slow for walleye and smallmouth bass. Raber Bay had ongoing fly hatches. The lake herring have finally showed up in fair numbers on the west side of Lime Island at the State Boat Dock. A caddis fly with a Swedish pimple worked good in 17 to 18 feet off the dock at the State Campground. Boat anglers need to use caution in the waters around Drummond Island. Water levels are up however there are a lot of rocks just below the surface.

Detour: Red teardrops and wax worms are still taking whitefish around Cherry Island, Ashmund Island, Grape Island, Howard Island, and Reck Island. Trout and salmon action was good with anglers taking lake trout, chinook and Atlantic salmon when using red and white, green and silver or purple spoons. They are fishing from the city launch to the #3 Green Can and around the lighthouse to the #2 Red Can on the Drummond side. Northern pike are good at Grape Island in 6 to 8 feet on the southeast side when trolling chrome spoons with a red eye.

Cedarville and Hessel: Had good yellow perch action when using minnows in 8 to 12 feet in Hessel Bay. Anglers are fishing the east end and just into Snows Channel. Moscoe Channel remains fair for perch. Excellent pike fishing along the north shore of Government Bay in 10 to 15 feet, Middle Entrance, Musky Bay and along the south shore of Hessel Bay in 8 to 12 feet when still-fishing with chubs or casting. Excellent large and smallmouth bass fishing continues for those casting spinners in the shallow bays along the weed beds and lily pads.

St. Ignace: Anglers are harvesting lake trout from Mackinac Island to the north. Chinook were hitting in the bay right in front of the city launch. Early morning was best and the hot colors were orange, green and gold or blue and silver.

August 14, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Much cooler weather has improved fishing for some species but slowed for others. Trout and salmon fishing continue on the Great Lakes while the inland lakes provide walleye, pike, bass and panfish.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: The walleye bite slowed but a few fish were still caught in 16 to 18 feet between the Fermi Power Plant and Brest Bay when using crawler harnesses and crank baits such as wiggle warts and tail dancers. Hot colors were purple, pink and copper. The better perch fishing was in 24 to 26 feet at Stony Point however a few were caught near the E Buoy on minnow rigs. The bite was best from 9:00 until 1:00pm and again at 4:00pm. Try cutting minnows in half if the bite seems to slow.

Huron River: Is producing smallmouth bass. Try live bait, tube baits and spinners. For catfish try crawlers, cut bait or shrimp.

Detroit River: Water levels were up and muddy. Anglers are taking some nice yellow perch but no big numbers. Try the south end of Celeron Island, around Rat Island and Sugar Island with minnows. A few walleye were caught around the south end of Grosse Ile. Bass anglers continue to do well.

Rouge River: Had higher water levels.

Lake St. Clair: Was producing some walleye in US waters near the shipping channel. Use crawler harnesses. Smallmouth bass fishing has been good throughout the lake. Fishing could be tough this week due to all the runoff from heavy rains.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was inconsistent. Fish seem to be scattered.

Lexington and Port Sanilac: Had few boat anglers. Pier fishing was slow with anglers only taking warm water species. Some large pike were starting to show up in the Lexington harbor.

Harbor Beach: Walleye were caught straight out and north of the harbor in 80 to 90 feet on crawler harnesses, small spoons or Hot-n-Tot's. Hot colors were lime green, copper, mixed veggie, black and orange or black and white. Chinook were caught in 80 to 120 feet north or straight out when using spoons off downriggers and also 2, 3, 5 and 10 color lines with offshore boards. Hot colors were bright orange and black, copper, green or black and white. For lake trout head out to waters 80 to 95 feet while using dodgers with spin-gloves or spoons 60 to 90 feet down.

Port Austin: Is still producing a few walleye but fishing has slowed. Those targeting lake trout took good numbers in 120 to 135 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye fishing is slowing down but there are still bright spots. Some limit catches were taken in relatively shallow water on both sides of the bay so walleye fishing can still be productive but you may have to change where you fish. On the west side, a few were caught in 10 to 12 feet off Gambil's Marina, 12 to 14 feet off the Pinconning Bar, near Buoy H and west of the Spark Plug. Along the east side, walleye fishing was good in 8 to 12 feet on either side of the Slot and along the Bar. Only a few limits were taken however most boats were bringing in enough fish to make the trip worthwhile. Crawler harnesses and crank baits worked best. Best spinner colors were orange, chartreuse and pink or purple and chrome crank baits. Try north of the Charity Islands, Oak Point and along the reefs between Caseville and Port Austin.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers have caught steelhead. Most are floating shrimp under a bobber. Fishing should stay decent as long as the water stays cold. Boat anglers caught a few salmon in 80 to 120 feet. Catch rates were spotty but some nice fish were taken. A good number of perch were caught in 30 feet.

South Haven: Salmon fishing was pretty good with fish caught in waters 80 feet and deeper. Dodgers and flies worked best for chinook. Pier anglers are catching the occasional steelhead when floating shrimp. Perch fishing was good in 25 feet.

Grand Haven: The wind turned the lake over and cold water temperatures returned. Boats trolling off the end of the piers caught steelhead right along with those trolling spoons in the top 30 feet of waters 150 to 170 feet deep. Hot colors were orange and gold. Just a few chinook were taken 40 to 85 feet down on spinnies and blue or green flies. Perch anglers were targeting waters 35 to 40 feet deep. Pier anglers caught steelhead on shrimp or alewife.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Anglers are still taking the occasional summer steelhead when using flies, spinners, body baits or a jig and wax worm up near the dam. The catfish bite has slowed.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing some walleye over at Moore's Park. Try minnows along the wall where the fast water is.

Lake Lansing: Is producing a few bluegills.

Reeds Lake: Is producing some pike and panfish.

Muskegon: Catch rates were slow. Anglers are catching steelhead but fewer chinook salmon in waters up to 170 feet deep. Steelhead were found in the top 30 feet and were hitting on orange or gold spoons. Those fishing the channel were casting spoons or using shrimp. No perch to report.

Whitehall: Anglers had some luck around the Clay Banks or two to three miles north of the pier in 170 feet when trolling 45 to 55 feet down. Some were heading north quite a ways to catch fish. The action really is around Little Sable Point right now and many were catching coho. Meat rigs worked best.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Anglers are still catching a mix of mostly Atlantic and chinook, lake trout and steelhead with the occasional walleye or pink salmon. Water temperatures are constantly changing with the currents. Most are fishing anywhere from 40 to 120 feet and spreading lines throughout the water column. Look for baitfish and the thermocline. The active fish seem to be much higher in the water column.

Alpena: Those fishing around Thunder Bay Island and the "Humps" did well for lake trout and the occasional steelhead or salmon. Many were heading to Rockport or Presque Isle for a mixed bag and better results. Look for the cooler water. Some days the fish are deep and other days you will find them higher in the water column. Walleye fishing has slowed with some action around Thunder Bay Island but most are now fishing Rockport.

Thunder Bay River: Had no change and little to report. Most are just hoping to catch a walleye, smallmouth bass or catfish.

Harrisville: Is producing a good variety of fish. Walleye seem to be the most sought after. Anglers did well from the Black River to Greenbush. Early morning before daylight, and late evening were best but a few fish were also caught mid-day. Try stick baits, Hot-n-Tot's or crawler harnesses in 12 to 30 feet. Salmon were in the harbor and a few were caught by shore anglers using spoons or body baits.

Oscoda: Had a mixed bag of chinook and Atlantic salmon, lake trout, steelhead and walleye coming in. The fish were coming in closer to shore so start shallow and work your way out. Try 30 to 120 feet with downriggers, planer boards, lead core, copper and long lining. Spoons, body baits and cut bait seem to work well. Pier fishing picked up for walleye and catfish. Anglers have seen silver fish off the pier in the early morning.

Au Sable River: Those fishing upstream caught large and smallmouth bass, pike and walleye. Those fishing at Foote Dam not only had good luck but were also enjoying the recent improvements and more room to fish.

Tawas: Those trolling along the weed beds near Buoys 2, 4 & 6 caught a few walleye. Fair catches of perch were taken by those fishing the deep edge of the weed beds off Jerry's Marina. Most of the fish were 6 to 8 inches. Pier anglers caught smallmouth, rock bass and a few small perch.

Tawas River: Is producing catfish at night.

Au Gres: Those trolling for walleye continue to do well south of Pointe Au Gres in 8 to 12 feet, just west of the shipping channel in 25 to 35 feet and off the mouth of the Pine River and the Rifle River.

Au Gres River: Had slow fishing in the lower river due to dredging.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Harbor Point has been good for lake trout and a couple salmon were caught however rumor has it the salmon fishing was better north of the harbor. For lake trout, try spin-gloves 75 to 90 feet down.

Petoskey: Surface water temperatures were up near 68 degrees with a thermocline about 50 feet down. Most are catching mainly lake trout but a few chinook were also caught from Bay Harbor to the pier. Chinook were 50 to 85 feet down in 110 to 120 feet and hitting on spoons, flies and plugs. Hot colors were yellow, white and blue. Lake trout were plentiful 50 to 95 feet down in 110 to 135 feet. Try spin-gloves and spoons in yellow or green. Meat rigs were also taking a few fish. Smallmouth bass were hitting on crawlers outside the west breakwall.

Bear River: Was running pretty low with the lack of rain. There was very little fishing pressure at the dam.

Charlevoix: Fishing was hit-or-miss. Some were skunked and some caught only lake trout. Early in the week boats did well near the Cement Plant and later the better fishing was off North Point. The salmon were high in the water column and caught 30 to 60 feet down in 120 to 140 feet but some also caught fish in waters over 200 feet deep. Lake trout were 65 to 90 feet down. Blue spoons, flashers and flies seem to work best. A couple steelhead were caught 20 to 50 feet down. Smallmouth bass fishing in the channel was still good but few keepers were taken.

Traverse City: In the East Bay, anglers are beginning to catch a few chinook salmon but success was limited. Most were caught on spoons or flies 50 to 60 feet down in 90 to 160 feet of water. Lake trout fishing was good near the bottom in 90 to 115 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing was good in 15 to 35 feet. A few salmon were caught in the West Bay. Try spoons or flies around "The Hole" and northward 50 to 65 feet down at dawn or dusk. Lake trout fishing was good in 100 feet and the smallmouth action was fair along the drop-offs in 20 to 30 feet.

Elk River: Fishing has been relatively slow. Sub-legal smallmouth bass, rock bass, and freshwater drum were caught on live bait. Only a couple steelhead were caught.

Boardman River: Steelhead fishing slowed. Only a few sub-legal smallmouth bass and rock bass were caught on crawlers.

Platte River: Had few anglers. Try fly fishing up near the hatchery for rainbow trout.

Loon Lake: A few walleye were caught by those slow drifting crawler harnesses on the west side. Those trolling stick baits caught pike.

Platte Bay: Those fishing straight out in 60 to 90 feet caught some nice lake trout on bright colored spoons. Big chinook were found near shore in the West Bay by those using green or blue spoons.

Betsie River: The mature chinook salmon are starting to change color. Several anglers reported fish going over the Homestead Dam.

Frankfort: The “Herring Hole” was very productive with several nice catches of chinook and steelhead. Anglers are trolling in 100 to 160 feet and working the top 60 feet with dipsey divers 90 to 120 feet back, 2 and 3 colors of lead and long leads on downriggers with meat rigs. Hot colors were bloody nose, reds and greens. Several chinook were caught off the pier and the Car Ferry landing on the Elberta side.

Onekama: Those heading straight west from the pier and trolling the top 50 feet of waters 100 to 130 feet have caught good numbers on meat rigs and spoons. Bloody nose and green were hot colors and early morning was best. The “Barrel” is also producing good numbers of lake trout throughout the day. Try spin-gloves.

Portage Lake: Walleye were hitting on crawler harnesses along the shoreline in front of Little Eden and the Inn. Panfish and bass were slow. Bass anglers working the drop-offs caught a few largemouth.

Manistee: Catch rates were spotty with most anglers targeting the top 80 feet of waters up to 200 feet deep. In low light conditions, anglers are using glow spoons or plugs. Try meat rigs in red, purple or blue. Salmon fishing was slow for pier anglers.

Ludington: Fishing was tough. Some found trout and salmon in the top 80 feet of waters up to 160 feet deep when trolling spoons and glow plugs or green and blue meat rigs or flies. No salmon off the piers.

Pentwater: Salmon and trout fishing were spotty but some large chinook were caught in 75 to 100 feet off Little Sable Lighthouse. Some say the fish were stacked up in the area. Others ran into fish when trolling 30 to 50 feet down in 170 to 180 feet. Meat rigs worked best and green was the hot color. Pier anglers caught smallmouth bass, pike and a few perch.

UPPER PENINSULA

Black River Harbor: Was slow with only a few lake trout caught just outside the harbor. Anglers are trying for salmon in the early morning but had little success.

Ontonagon: Fishing was fair with lake trout caught in 25 to 30 feet outside the breakwalls. Fish were also showing up in 60 to 100 feet. Try dodgers with spin-glows or green and orange spoons. Walleye fishing in the river was very slow.

Keweenaw Bay: The bite was slow for salmon as anglers wonder where this fish are compared to previous years. Those jigging for lake trout had good success in 180 to 260 feet out from Jentoff's Dock, Whirl-I-Gig, Big Reef and the pine tree on the north side of Pequaming. Good lake trout action in Traverse Bay up to 5 feet off the bottom in 100 to 150 feet along the 5, 6 and 7 Mile Reefs, Big Louie's, Gay Point and Hermits Cove in 120 to 165 feet. Try spoons in a variety of colors including purple and white. Those jigging also did well in 140 to 260 feet. In the South Portage Entry, anglers found good lake trout action out from the lighthouse, south to the Red Rocks along US-41, the Mud Banks, Farmers, Newton and Big Reefs when trolling 25 to 40 feet down in 30 to 60 feet. Purple spoons worked best.

Lake Antoine: Effort was down over the last week. Those fishing caught bluegills, perch and rock bass but most of the fish were small. Bass anglers casting crank baits caught smallmouth however the majority were too small to keep.

Marquette: Had good lake trout action along the Clay Banks, Granite Island and north along the drop-offs in 200 feet of water. Most are using spoons. Fish were caught towards the Sand River in 150 to 200 feet by those using dipsey divers and lead core. Most of the fish averaged 3 to 4 pounds.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported fair catches. Those trolling crawler harnesses and crank baits in 7 to 12 feet in the evening caught fish. Others marked fish in the Breezy Point area but water clarity was high and few fish were caught. Good to excellent smallmouth action between the Ford River mouth and Breezy Point and further south to No-See-Um Creek. Try 4 to 12 feet with crawlers, leeches, crank baits or plastics. Quite a few large fish were caught. Catch rates for perch were down. The better fishing was in 10 to 20 feet between the Day's River and the Second Reef when using crawlers. A few jumbo perch were taken in 7 to 10 feet off Breezy Point. Salmon anglers are heading south of the Ford River Can and fishing 40 to 80 feet down in 80 to 130 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Smallmouth anglers had fair to good catches from Porcupine Point to Indian Point when casting or trolling crawlers, leeches, crank baits or plastics in 4 to 12 feet. Ogontz had similar results in 3 to 8 feet and Kate's Bay had good catches in 10 to 12 feet. Garden Bay had good to excellent perch fishing about 100 yards from the boat launch. Try crawlers in 8 to 10 feet. At Fairport, salmon anglers had fair to good catches but the better locations changed daily. Try 40 to 90 feet down in 80 to 150 feet with copper, meat rigs and spoons. Many are now south of Poverty Island. Even though the fish are moving in and out, we are now at the peak of the salmon season so this is the time to get out there.

Au Train: Those targeting lake trout continue to target waters 150 to 220 feet deep north of Au Train Island, Shelter Bay flats and near the Wood Island Reef. Fish were caught on spoons with cut bait near the bottom. No salmon to report.

Munising: Catch rates for lake trout increased but most were putting in their time to earn their catches. The better spots were along Pictured Rocks, Grand Portal, Grump's Hump and the Big Reef. Reports from the Big Reef indicate bigger fish are being caught and limit catches were the rule. Fish ranged 12 to 17 pounds. Pier fishing was slow especially for splake.

Grand Marais: There were no reports from anglers targeting whitefish. Boat anglers are targeting lake trout north and west of the bay when heading out three to seven miles to the shipping channels. Good catches were reported off the southwest bank near Caribou Island in waters between 70 and 260 feet deep. A few small perch were caught at the marina and near the boat launch but many were throw backs.

St. Mary's River: Good numbers of Atlantic salmon and whitefish have been caught in Sault St. Marie when drifting fly baits on the discharge side of the Power Plant just off Portage Street. Those fishing two miles east of Lime Island caught whitefish around Butter Field Island and Maple Island when jigging fly baits or wax worms in 40 to 50 feet. Northern pike are good just off weed beds in Lake Nicolet, and Bay Dewausi when trolling spoons in 6 to 8 feet. Morning and evenings were best. Walleye action was good thirty minutes before dark when drifting crawlers off the breakwall just below the Sugar Island Ferry. Shore anglers do best using a 3 oz. sinker with a 24 inch leader and crawler harness. A few muskie were caught in 6 to 8 feet by those trolling large black bucktail spinners below the rock cut at Tea Pot Island. Moon Island east of Kemps Point is producing a few 8 to 10 inch yellow perch. Try worms and shiner minnows in the early morning. Raber Bay is producing a lot of walleye but many were small.

Detour: Boat anglers did well for chinook, pink salmon and lake trout when trolling from the city launch to the #3 Green Can, around the lighthouse and to the #2 Red Can on the Drummond Island side.

Cedarville and Hessel: Had excellent pike fishing for those using chubs in Hessel Bay, Middle Entrance, and along the north shore of Government Bay. Bass anglers casting in the shallows had excellent catch rates. Perch fishing is good in Hessel Bay in 8 feet but hit-or-miss in the Moscoe Channel. Herring can still be found in McKay Bay and Prentice Bay. A few boats had limit catches.

Carp River: Those fishing the mouth caught northern pike.

St. Ignace: Was producing a good number of chinook and lake trout for those fishing around Mackinac Island.

August 21, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

A light number of salmon moved into some of the rivers but warmer temperatures by the weekend will slow the movement of fish. Rain and windy conditions have once again stirred up the Great Lakes and the inland lakes.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had some good perch fishing at times near the E-Buoy and straight out from Bolles Harbor in 22 to 24 feet but the best action remains near Stony Point in 24 to 26 feet. Anglers are using all kinds of perch rigs and many were cutting minnows in half. The occasional walleye can still be found from the Fermi Power Plant to Brest Bay in 12 to 18 feet. Try crawler harnesses, crank baits and tube baits. Purple, pink and copper were the hot colors.

Huron River: Had good smallmouth bass fishing for shore anglers. Many are using live crayfish while others are using artificial baits that look like a fat shiner on a jig.

Detroit River: The water has cleared up. Anglers caught some nice yellow perch around Celeron Island, Rat Island and Sugar Island. Most are using minnows. Walleye fishing was quite slow with only the occasional fish taken.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Good numbers of bass and bluegill have been seen in the channels connecting the lakes. Bluegills were caught near the bottom along the weed lines and near the points. For bass try top water in the evening in the channels and outlets. Strawberry and Little Portage seem to be producing the majority of bluegills right now.

Lake St. Clair: Those trolling crank baits and crawler harnesses in 14 to 18 feet near the shipping channel and the main lake reported a good mix of catches. Most are targeting walleye, but catches of smallmouth bass, pike, muskie, white bass and yellow perch are common. For smallmouth, try 12 to 17 feet. Those starting to target yellow perch had success in 14 to 17 feet when using slip bobbers and shiners.

St. Clair River: Walleye reports were hard to come by. More anglers are looking for sturgeon and some good reports have come from Marine City and down through the North Channel. Anglers are reminded that fish less than 42 inches or greater than 50 inches must be released immediately.

Lexington and Port Sanilac: Fishing activity was very light, with little success. The lake is really stirred up from all the wind and will need some time to settle down.

Grindstone City: Several lake trout were caught in the early morning. Pink salmon, steelhead and the occasional walleye were also caught on six colors of lead core and trolling spin-glow and UV spoons in 100 to 137 feet off Lighthouse Park.

Saginaw Bay: Fishing pressure has been minimal due to the weather. When boats can get out, they are still catching some walleye along the weed beds especially along the inner bay. A few boats tried fishing out from the state park but windy conditions made it difficult.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat anglers are taking good catches of salmon in 80 to 140 feet. Most fish were caught on spoons. Perch fishing is slow overall as the fish were scattered in waters 20 to 60 feet. Pier anglers caught steelhead on shrimp and freshwater drum on crawlers but the water is warming so less steelhead were caught.

St. Joseph River: Had good smallmouth fishing. Try shallow running crank baits.

Kalamazoo River: Was low and clear so the smallmouth bass fishing really picked up. There is still some dredging going on so stay upstream of Marshall or downstream of Kalamazoo for best water conditions.

Grand Haven: Chinook fishing is really heating up especially for those fishing 60 to 120 feet down in 160 to 230 feet. They are using 300 and 400 foot coppers, blue, green or blue and green flies attached to white or UV paddles or spinnies. Meat rigs in UV with yellow also caught fish. Water near shore has warmed again so pier fishing for steelhead and perch fishing have slowed.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Had a few chinook, coho and brown trout up near the dam. No big numbers yet but it won't be long.

Grand River near Lansing: Anglers caught a few pike in Eaton County and bowfin after dark in Jackson County.

Lake Ovid: Anglers were catching some big largemouth bass.

Reeds Lake: Anglers caught bluegills and crappie.

Muskegon: Anglers are fishing shallower here, 50 to 90 feet down in 55 to 130 feet and catching chinook. Most are using white or UV paddles and spinnies with green and white, green or blue flies. Orange glow spoons also caught fish. Pier anglers were trying for salmon but had no luck.

Whitehall: Water temperatures were very cold at 39 degrees 50 feet down and the fish marked would not bite. Anglers looking for warmer water found a temperature break at 120 feet. Salmon were caught in the top 50 feet of waters 120 to 200 feet deep. Alewife moved out of the channel but anglers were still getting a few salmon on body baits. A few walleye were caught in the channel on artificial lures. Pier fishing should improve soon.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Fishing will be difficult until things settle down. Surface water temperatures were in the low 60's. Before the wind and rain anglers were taking trout, salmon and a few walleye. The fish were scattered. Try halfway down in 40 to 120 feet and scatter lines throughout the water column. The better areas are between the State Park and Forty Mile Point or south between Calcite Harbor and Adams Point with green, blue, black and white or anything that glows. Some of the bigger salmon were taken on flashers with squid, flies or cut bait.

Alpena: When boats can get out, they caught trout and salmon out near the Humps and Thunder Bay Island. More anglers were fishing Rockport and Presque Isle because the fish were closer to shore.

Harrisville: Is producing walleye, salmon, lake trout and steelhead between the Black River and Greenbush in 30 to 80 feet. It seems most of the fish were attracted to the same baits. Try spoons, stick baits, body baits and cut bait and be sure to spread them throughout the water column. For shore anglers, spoons and body baits worked best outside the harbor wall. Steelhead and walleye were outside the wall just before dusk and just before daylight.

Oscoda: Boat anglers were not running as far to find fish as most were starting close to shore and then heading out in the morning and reversing by starting out deep and heading towards shore in the evening. Chinook, steelhead, lake trout and Atlantic salmon were holding in 60 to 90 feet but run your bait top to bottom.

Au Sable River: Walleye are moving in and heading all the way up to the dam. Channel catfish are slowly trickling in late in the evening and there is a good number of large and smallmouth bass upstream.

Houghton Lake: Is producing a few walleye including one 27 inch fish that was caught when floating a leech. Bass anglers have caught some nice fish and those looking for bluegill have done well in 10 feet of water when using leeches or wax worms.

Tawas: A few walleye are still being caught with the better fishing closer to shore in 10 to 15 feet near the weed beds. Fish were caught off Jerry's Marina in Tawas Bay and off the mouth of the Pine River, Rifle River and Saganing River. Perch anglers had fair catches of smaller fish six to eight inches near the weeds off Jerry's Marina.

Wixom Lake: In Gladwin County had fair to good crappie fishing.

Au Gres: Is still producing some walleye when anglers can get out. Try fishing near the mouth of the rivers or out near the shipping channel.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Harbor Point is still producing lots of lake trout anywhere from 50 to 100 feet down in 120 to 160 feet. One boat caught a salmon up near Seven Mile Point when using spoons or dodgers with flies.

Petoskey: Surface water temperatures were at 60 degrees and the thermocline was 50 to 60 feet down. Salmon fishing seems to be picking up but some boats are only getting lake trout. Most are fishing near the hospital and water treatment plant but a few were in Bay Harbor and straight out from the marina. Lake trout were scattered everywhere but 70 to 90 feet down produced quite a few. Although most of the chinook were 50 feet down one was caught at 90 feet and a coho was caught 40 feet down. Try spoons, plugs and meat rigs. Pier anglers are still catching smallmouth bass but many were small. Try crawlers, small tube baits, spinners and crank baits.

Bear River: Heavy rain and wind seemed like the perfect combination to push fish up into the river however only one steelhead was harvested at the dam. Salmon should start to show up soon.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers caught a few lake trout and the odd salmon. Most are trolling near the cement plant and towards Fisherman's Island. Fish were caught 40 to 60 feet down in 100 feet with spoons and flies. A few lake trout were taken 60 to 80 feet down off North Point but a few were hitting shallow just 20 to 25 feet down. Smallmouth fishing in the channel is good but only a couple keepers were taken with crawlers and leeches on the bottom. Freshwater drum were also caught.

Traverse City: In the East Bay, anglers were hooking into a few salmon but overall catch rates were slow. Depths were highly variable with fish caught anywhere from 40 to 115 feet. Catch rates for lake trout were fair. Smallmouth bass were found in 30 to 50 feet. In the West Bay, salmon fishing is slowly picking up. Lake trout action was steady in 90 to 120 feet.

Elk River: Still has slow catch rates with only smallmouth, rock bass and freshwater drum for the taking.

Boardman River: Had slow fishing as well. Early arrival chinook salmon should start to show up soon. Anglers caught smallmouth, rock bass and freshwater drum.

Platte River: Catch rates were slow with only a couple small rainbow trout taken on dry flies up near the hatchery.

Loon Lake: Anglers are finding pike and walleye along the west side.

Platte Bay: Those trolling caught some big lake trout and yellow was the hot color. Chinook were caught in the West Bay on J-plugs in green with a black ladder back.

Frankfort: Chinook, steelhead and lake trout were hitting in 100 to 150 feet. Anglers are trolling the top 80 feet with downriggers or 100 to 140 feet with dipseys and J-plugs. White and blue were hot colors. Salmon anglers are fishing the Herring Hole or heading a bit deeper to waters between 200 and 250 feet deep later in the day. Alewives are now in and around the piers. Shore anglers caught chinook on alewife or glow spoons in the early morning.

Onekama: Those heading straight out from the piers and trolling the top 60 feet in 120 to 170 feet have caught chinook and steelhead. The morning bite was best on meat rigs and flies. Red and blue were good colors.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers caught some very nice large and smallmouth when fishing around the docks and along the drop-offs.

Manistee: Catch rates were starting to improve with trout and salmon caught in the top 60 feet of waters 80 to 160 feet deep. Glow plugs and spoons worked well in low light conditions. Green flies and meat rigs also caught fish. A couple chinook were taken off the piers but catch rates were still slow.

Manistee River: A few salmon are pushing their way up as far as Tippy Dam in the Big Manistee. The Little Manistee saw a steady run of salmon. The weir was put into place last week.

Ludington: Salmon and trout action was starting to improve. The better fishing was the top 60 feet of waters 90 to 180 feet deep when using green meat rigs and flies or glow plugs. Pier anglers caught a few chinook or brown trout on glow spoons.

Pere Marquette River: Also has some early salmon starting to show up. No big numbers yet but anglers are catching a few. Those fly fishing caught brown trout.

Pentwater: Those fishing in 80 to 100 feet seem to do best as the salmon appear to be staging for the run. Fish were caught a mile south of the pier and near the sand dunes at Silver Lake. Meat rigs were the ticket. Pier anglers caught smallmouth bass when still-fishing or casting with minnows.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The salmon bite was slow. Those jigging for lake trout found fish in 180 to 260 feet off Jentoff's Dock, Whirl-I-Gig, out from the pine tree on the north side of Pequaming and along Big Reef. In Traverse Bay, the lake trout bite slowed in 100 to 150 feet along the mile reefs and 120 to 165 feet off Big Louie's, Gay Point and Hermits Cove. Try five feet off the bottom with spoons. The bite was slow for the South Portage Entry for those trolling for lake trout.

Lake Antoine: Is producing some nice smallmouth bass for those using top water crank baits. Those drifting crawlers or using minnows and a jig with a piece of crawler have done well. Many were small but some were good size.

Marquette: Catch rates were slow and most anglers caught lake trout averaging four pounds. Stannard Rock was good with a number of young fish caught. Catch rates were fair near Little Presque Isle, Clay Banks and Granite Island. Anglers had limited success near Shot Point. No salmon yet however a few anglers were starting to spot the occasional chinook near the Carp River. Shore anglers using small spinners and spoons caught a few lake trout.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye catch rates were spotty. At the head of the Bay anglers are trolling crawler harnesses in six to 14 feet and switching to stick baits at night. Fish were also caught in 16 to 24 feet along the Second Reef, the Black Bottom and in 12 to 20 feet off the mouth of the Escanaba River. Use crawlers on harnesses. Those fishing off Breezy Point were marking fish in 10 to 14 feet but few were caught. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair to good for those casting plastics, crank baits or spinners in 10 to 12 feet near the mouth of the Ford River. Perch anglers reported fair catches off the mouth of the Day's River in 12 to 18 feet and the Second Reef in 10 to 20 feet. No salmon reports this week.

Big Bay De Noc: Had no walleye catches recorded. Perch action in Garden Bay slowed. Anglers were fishing throughout the center of the Bay in nine to 14 feet with crawlers. Fair to good smallmouth bass fishing in six to 14 feet in Ogontz, eight to 12 feet near Indian Point and eight to 16 feet in Kate's Bay. Most were using plastics or crank baits but some opted for crawlers. Salmon anglers had fair to good catches from the "Gap" and south past Poverty Island. Depths changed daily from 80 to 170 feet while 40 to 90 feet down. Overall this season has been slower than previous years.

Au Train: Fishing continues at a slow pace and there have been no salmon to report. Surface water temperatures near shore were close to 60 degrees and the offshore temperatures were in the upper 50's. Catch rates for lake trout were spotty for those using spoons and cut bait in 120 to 180 feet northeast of Au Train Island near the flats and drop-offs. Try near the bottom along the edge of the reefs near Grump's Hump, Millers and Wood Island.

Luce County: Those stream fishing for brook trout have done well.

Manistique Lake: Had good perch fishing.

St. Mary's River: Had a few good fly hatches east of Lime Island, Macomb Island, and Maple Island. Those looking for lake herring and whitefish caught a few limits when jigging artificial flies with #12 hooks in 20 to 40 feet. Raber Bay was slow for legal size walleye with lots of 13 and 14 inch fish caught and released. Bigger walleye were caught along the east side of Neebish Island when using crawler harnesses near the drop-off in 12 to 18 feet. Keeper size walleye were caught off the steel breakwall just below the Sugar Island Ferry Dock. Evenings were best when drifting crawler harnesses. A good number of Atlantic salmon have been caught at the power plant off Portage Street when drifting natural flies on the discharge side. A few pike were taken along the west side near Burnt Island when trolling spoons with a red eye or bucktail spinners. Some reported catching perch at the south end of the Rock-Cut and north of Munuscong Bay at Moon Island when using shiners in 12 to 14 feet.

Detour: Was producing a good number of walleye off Swedes Pointe and Maude Bay but most of the fish were smaller.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike fishing remains excellent for those still-fishing with chubs in Hessel Bay, Middle Entrance and along the north shore of Government Bay. Bass anglers casting in the shallows have done very well. Perch fishing was good in eight feet in Hessel Bay but hit-or-miss in the Moscoe Channel.

August 28, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Salmon movement into the rivers is still on the light side but it won't be long. The inland lakes are producing panfish, bass and pike. The upcoming holiday weekend should have plenty of fishing opportunities for all.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: The walleye bite slowed but a few fish were caught early morning or at night in Brest Bay and near the Raisin River Buoys in water as shallow as 10 feet. Try Hot-n-Tots or wiggle warts. Those perch fishing caught the occasional walleye. For perch, try straight off Stony Point and up to the Fermi Power Plant in 24 to 26 feet. Lots of perch were caught at the E-buoy but many were small. Try bigger minnows to avoid the small perch and fish near the bottom to avoid white bass and white perch.

Detroit River: Was producing some nice perch about a mile south of Celeron Island. Most are using minnows in 14 feet or so. A few walleye were caught near the Trenton Power Plant on the Grosse Ile side.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Fishing was slow. Those fishing the river mouths and bends between the lakes did best. The bass bite was slow so try slow presentations in 10 to 15 feet. The bluegills moved to deeper water so try fishing near the bottom with a slip bobber and worm.

Lake St. Clair: Smallmouth bass fishing continues to be good in the Michigan waters. Some of the best reports are from water over 17 feet deep along the shipping channel and off the mile roads. Perch anglers say the bigger fish are scattered but decent catches came from the Dumping Grounds and along the shipping channel.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been very good in the upper river for wire-liners. Fish were also caught by those trolling crawler harnesses near Algonac and Marine City. Sturgeon fishing picked up with good reports from the North Channel near Algonac and Pearl Beach. Muskie fishing was very good along the weedy edges of the North and Middle Channels. Perch fishing was productive along the weed edges in the channels.

Lexington and Port Sanilac: Those trolling caught steelhead, lake trout and pink salmon in 100 feet or more. Some steelhead and the odd walleye were caught in 60 to 80 feet. Pier fishing was slow with a few small pike caught at Lexington.

Harbor Beach: Salmon and steelhead were caught in 80 to 130 feet straight out or north of the harbor. Run spoons off downriggers and also on 2, 3 and 5 color lead lines and offshore boards. Bright orange and black, copper, green or black and white were good colors. For lake trout, head straight out and fish 90 to 120 feet down in 120 to 130 feet with spoons or dodgers with spin-glow. A few walleye were caught on crawler harnesses, small spoons or Hot-n-Tots in 80 to 90 feet. Good colors were lime green, copper, black and orange, black and white or mixed veggie. A few perch were caught on minnows near the gap in the breakwall.

Grindstone City: A few walleye were caught in 40 to 50 feet here and at Port Austin. Catch rates have slowed. Those trolling found steelhead, lake trout, pink salmon and a couple chinook in 135 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Fishing was a little better however the action is clearly in "August Mode". Walleye fishing has slowed substantially, but persistent anglers can still find a few fish west of the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12), in the southern end of the Slot from Quanicassee to Fish Point, over the Bar and out near Buoys 1 & 2. The average was 3 to 5 fish per boat. Fall perch fishing has yet to begin, and pier fishing is slow. Smallmouth bass were caught off the Charity Islands. Channel cats were taken from the Hot Pond and shore anglers at Essexville continue to catch a mix of bass, catfish and freshwater drum.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch fishing is very inconsistent as the fish seem to be scattered in 30 to 70 feet. Salmon fishing was decent with most fish taken in the early morning in 90 to 120 feet. Pier fishing was slow.

St. Joseph River: Continues to provide good smallmouth bass fishing.

Dowagiac River: Skamania steelhead are hitting in the lower river below the Pucker Street Dam.

South Haven: Perch anglers are fishing as shallow as 20 feet or as deep as 60 feet but catch rates were not consistent. Salmon fishing was good when using spoons in 80 to 90 feet in the early morning. Pier fishing was slow.

Kalamazoo River: Has good smallmouth bass fishing when the water clears. There is still some dredging going on so stay upstream of Marshall or downstream of Kalamazoo for the best water conditions.

Gun Lake: Was producing largemouth bass in Robins Bay and Pickerel Cove.

Port Sheldon: Was producing a mix of chinook, coho and steelhead in 165 feet.

Grand Haven: The water warmed up. Salmon anglers were fishing 70 to 105 feet down in 80 to 160 feet and setting wire divers out 220 to 240 feet. The better bite was on white paddles and spinnies with green, blue, UV or green and blue flies but some were also using meat rigs in UV greens and yellows. A few fish were taken on J-plugs, "Atomics" and glow spoons. No perch with the warm water.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Anglers are finding steelhead and the occasional salmon. Pike have been caught throughout the river. Those drifting crawlers with a #7 split shot have caught a few walleye. Panfish were caught at Millennium Park.

Grand River near Lansing: Had good largemouth bass action for boat anglers fishing between Moore's Park and Dimondale. Most are using golden shiners or artificial minnows. The smallmouth and catfish bite has slowed. Those looking for bluegills and crappie might want to try fishing the deeper water.

Reeds Lake: Continues to produce bluegills and crappie. Most are using leaf worms and wax worms.

Muskegon: Is fishing the same as Grand Haven because of the warm water. Put white paddles and spinnies with blue and green flies 70 to 100 feet down in 80 to 160 feet. Those using meat rigs and J-plugs have also caught fish. Green and yellow were good colors.

Muskegon Lake: Had some chinook salmon near the old paper mill and near the Sand Docks were anglers were jigging.

Muskegon River: Those targeting smallmouth bass continue to do well when using plastics, spinners or flies.

Whitehall: Salmon were caught right on the bottom in shallow waters 50 to 80 feet or about 70 feet down in waters 200 feet or deeper. Meat rigs were the ticket including a new copper and meat rig combination.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Foggy conditions have hampered fishing. The lake has rolled over. Surface water temperatures were barely 60 degrees and 20 feet down was in the upper 40's. Anglers are catching a mixed bag of trout, salmon and walleye. Swan Bay has started to heat up. Not a lot of fish but some decent salmon were caught by those trolling J-plugs or bombers with planer boards in 20 feet. Those fishing deeper are running downriggers, lead core, copper and dipseys. The water is cold so run your baits higher in the water column. Good colors were green, blue, orange and silver, black and white or anything that glows. J-plugs with flashers and flies, squid or cut bait have also caught fish.

Alpena: Anglers caught a few walleye in 30 feet along North Point, Sulphur Island or Grass Island. Good lake trout action along the “Humps”. Anglers also caught the occasional steelhead, pink salmon or stray chinook. Most are still going to Rockport or Presque Isle so they don’t have to run so far out to catch salmon and trout.

Thunder Bay River: Anglers are using live bait when targeting catfish, smallmouth bass and panfish. Success was limited but a few were caught.

Harrisville: Still has some on-going dredging in the harbor. The launch is still open and boats are able to make it out to the lake. Trout and salmon were caught in shallow waters 60 to 80 feet. Fish the entire water column with dark colored baits including large spoons. A good number of walleye seem to be in the area between the Black River and Greenbush. Try 12 to 40 feet early evening until midnight and early morning until just after day break with crawler harnesses, stick baits or small spoons.

Oscoda: Pier fishing has started to pick up and should not be long before the early salmon start to show up. Boat anglers are catching steelhead, lake trout and salmon in 60 to 80 feet and are moving in closer. Those fishing in the evening reported fish close to shore and around the piers. Try dark spoons, body baits and cut bait when trolling. Pier anglers are using spoons such as Little Cleo’s, glow spoons, body baits and twister tails.

Au Sable River: Walleye are in the river and the numbers seem to be increasing.

Higgins Lake: Has lots of rock bass being caught and perch are there for the taking when anglers can find a school of fish. Try around the Sunken Island and Treasure Island. Lake trout ranging 18 to 24 inches were caught just off the bottom in 85 to 100 feet when trolling cowbells, rapalas and bombers or when jigging Swedish pimples and castmasters. Some nice rainbow trout were caught 20 to 40 feet down in waters 100 feet or deeper.

Houghton Lake: Is producing walleye, bass, pike, bluegills, crappie and sunfish. For walleye, target 8 to 10 feet along the edge of the weed beds with leeches. Smallmouth bass were hitting on leeches and crawlers.

Tawas: Pier angling is slow with a few smallmouth bass, rock bass and small perch taken. Those out trolling caught a few walleye out near Buoy #2 and near Alabaster in 25 to 35 feet.

Au Gres: Those trolling for walleye were averaging 2 to 3 fish per boat and pressure has dropped considerably. The few out for perch did not have much luck.

Au Gres River: Dredging continues to hamper fishing efforts.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Most boats have been fishing the Petoskey side of the bay. There are still lake trout at multiple depths in Harbor Springs and some have also picked up a couple salmon that were 75 feet down in 130 to 140 feet. Boats running up the coast toward Seven Mile Point or staying close to harbor have caught fish.

Petoskey: Still had a thermocline about 50 feet down. A few salmon were caught on spoons 50 to 75 feet down. A good number of lake trout were caught, with many in the Slot. The fish were scattered but caught 50 to 90 feet down when trolling over multiple depths. Not many pier anglers. A few casting spoons or crank baits in the early morning caught the occasional salmon but no big numbers yet.

Bear River: A couple salmon are starting to show up at the dam. Some have caught the occasional steelhead on spawn.

Charlevoix: Salmon fishing seemed to be slightly better in the evening. Boat anglers could be found near the cement plant and towards Fisherman's Island. Many are catching a lot of lake trout which are further up in the water column as compared to a typical year. Fish were caught anywhere from 35 to 90 feet down in 120 to 170 feet and salmon were more shallow about 50 feet down. Try spoons, hootchies with flies or meat rigs. Those running sliders have done well. Sub-legal smallmouth were caught on crawlers or leeches along the bottom in the channel.

Traverse City: Salmon fishing has been sporadic in the East Bay with most taking zero to three chinook per outing. Depths were variable, but most were fishing 30 to 70 feet down. Lake trout fishing was good in 100 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing has been good in shallow water or along the first drops. In the West Bay, salmon are beginning to stack up in "The Hole" but catch rates were still hit-or-miss. Most are using flies or spoons. Lake trout fishing was good for those jigging or trolling north of Traverse City in 100 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing continues to be good.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass have been caught below the dam, as well as small panfish when using live bait. Most of the bass were sub-legal.

Boardman River: Fishing continues to be slow except for a few smallmouth and rock bass hitting on live baits. There have been rumors of salmon entering the river.

Platte River: Catch rates were still slow except for a few rainbow trout taken up near the hatchery. Water temperatures were 74 degrees which is keeping the fish out. A few were seen jumping near the mouth but did not want to bite.

Platte Bay: Coho are in the East Bay. They are scattered however anglers did find them in the top 20 feet of waters 40 to 100 feet deep in the southwest corner near the commercial nets and along Otter Beach. Anglers need to use caution near the commercial nets as the lines may extend several hundred feet in any direction from the floats. Try blue or green spoons and blue J-plugs.

Frankfort: Catch rates were hit-or-miss. The chinook were right in front of the piers but moved out deeper. Anglers are working hard to locate fish from 40 feet to 500 feet. The morning bite was best out from the pier with fish hitting on meat rigs and J-plugs. Pier anglers catching alewife caught a couple chinook, coho and one very nice 44 inch pike. Those jigging Swedish pimples and Jonah jigs caught chinook. Hot colors were green, pink and purple.

Onekama: The Barrel is producing nice catches in the early morning. Anglers are working the top 60 feet with 2 and 3 colors of lead, 100 to 150 feet back on dipseys with meat rigs catching the bigger kings. Coho were in the same area and hitting on blue or green spoons.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers continue to have a great season throughout the lake. Cooler water temperatures had the bass in close and along the drops. Walleye were hitting on crawler harnesses near Little Eden and the Inn.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: Are producing some nice largemouth bass. Bluegills were hitting on leaf worms and wax worms. Minnows caught crappie and perch. Pike anglers have done well.

Manistee: Salmon fishing has not been easy as the fish were scattered. Anglers did find fish 40 to 90 feet down in 80 to 180 feet when trolling green meat rigs or flies and orange spoons. Use glow spoons or plugs in the early morning. Pier fishing is slow. Those trolling near shore early or late have caught a few kings.

Manistee River: Decent numbers of Skamania steelhead were present at Tippy Dam. A few kings were mixed in but no big numbers yet.

Ludington: Catch rates for trout and salmon were hit-or-miss. Boat anglers found fish 40 to 100 feet down in 80 to 200 feet when trolling yellow or green meat rigs along with orange or green spoons. Pier fishing was slow.

Pentwater: Anglers are catching salmon out from the dunes at Silver Lake and a few miles north of the port. Some were shallow in the 50 to 80 feet range and hitting right along the bottom while others were caught 70 to 80 feet down in 200 feet or more. Meat rigs are still working the best.

UPPER PENINSULA

Black River Harbor: Is producing lake trout just outside the harbor in 40 to 100 feet. Some nice catches were reported. Some are trying for salmon in the early morning but had little success.

Ontonagon: Fishing has been good. Lake trout were caught in 12 to 30 feet outside the breakwall. Spin glows behind a dodger have produced as well as green and orange spoons. The lake trout are eating small smelt and stickleback minnows. A few salmon and brown trout were taken but catch rates were not consistent.

Keweenaw Bay: All ports had few anglers because of the weather. Those that did get out caught a few lake trout but overall, not a good week.

Lake Antoine: Boat and shore anglers are catching a lot of panfish such as bluegills, sunfish, yellow perch and rock bass. Drifting crawlers with slip bobbers worked best during the rain and high winds.

Marquette: Had very little salmon action and varying degrees of success for lake trout. Granite Island was pretty much the same but catch rates were fair north of White Rocks where anglers were fishing in 180 to 260 feet. Most of the fish were caught along the bottom but a few were hitting at 50 to 70 feet. Surface water temperatures were still around 60 degrees.

Carp River: A few anglers spotted some chinook salmon activity upstream. Shore angling remains slow with a few small rainbows caught at the mouth.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers were fishing in the south Bay near Round Island, Fishery Point and 11-Mile Shoal. Catch rates were fair. Fish were caught off the east bank of the Center Reef in 4 to 10 feet with crawlers or stick baits at night. The mouth of the Whitefish River produced a few fish for those trolling crawler harnesses in 12 to 14 feet but many were small. Fair catches reported along the south end of the Black Bottom in 18 to 24 feet and near Kipling in 8 to 14 feet. Yellow perch were out deeper in 14 to 25 feet between the Second and Third Reefs. Pike were active throughout the Bay for those trolling or casting crank baits, spoons or spinners in 10 to 14 feet. The Escanaba Yacht Harbor had fair to good crappie action for shore anglers using minnows after dark and in the Escanaba River for those using minnows or small crank baits in the deep hole near the old steel bridge. Smallmouth bass were quite active in shallow water. Try casting plastics or crank baits in 6 to 10 feet near Garth Point or in the Ford River in 5 to 12 feet. Some reported salmon 40 to 70 feet down in 80 to 120 feet south of the Ford River Can.

Big Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported slower catch rates. The better fishing was around St. Vitals Island. Perch fishing slowed but fair catches were reported in Garden Bay for those using crawlers 100 to 200 yards out from the Garden Launch in 8 to 12 feet. Fair to good smallmouth catches near Ogontz in 8 to 12 feet, Popular Point in 8 to 10, Kate's Bay in 12 to 18 or Garden Bay in 8 to 12 feet. Anglers are using crawlers, plastics, crank bait or spinners. Good salmon fishing off Fairport. Try 40 to 70 feet down in 80 to 120 feet with spoons near the "Gap" or meat rigs 60 to 80 feet down in 110 to 150 feet south of Poverty Island.

Au Train: Lake trout action was sporadic with most anglers using downriggers and spoons anywhere from 160 to 230 feet. Some days were good with five to eight fish while other days produced few fish.

Au Train River: Had few anglers and no salmon to report. There is a new canoe/kayak launch which is handicap accessible at the bridge off M-28. The launch will have a nice restroom however the parking lot is not yet completed.

Munising: Had fewer boats but those heading out were exclusively targeting lake trout and catch rates were fair. Most are still fishing Trout Bay and along the Wood Island Reefs. The bite was slow at Big Reef. Those trolling in the bay did catch a few splake. Pier anglers reported slow fishing and had no reports of keeper size splake.

Grand Marais: Had few anglers. Boat anglers were heading three to seven miles north and west and fishing in the shipping channels for lake trout. The fish range 2 to 5 pounds. Good catches were reported off the southwest bank near Caribou Island in 100 to 250 feet. Those trolling outside the bay caught a couple coho in 50 to 60 feet. Perch anglers were trying offshore at the marina but only a few small ones were caught. Pier angling effort was very limited with no catch reports.

Detour: Anglers are fishing from Frying Pan Island to the #3 Green Can, around the lighthouse and to the #2 Red Can near Drummond Island. Some are heading further south and targeting lake trout along the "Flats". Chinook and lake trout were hitting on spoons. Hot colors were watermelon, hammered silver with orange, green and white or yellow.

Cedarville and Hessel: Still has very good pike fishing in Hessel Bay, Middle Entrance and the north shore of Government Bay. Mackinaw Bay and Shepard Bay are excellent for bass and pike when casting in the shallows. Those using minnows or casting spinners caught perch.

Carp River: Anglers are seeing fish but success was limited. Pike have been caught near the mouth.

St. Ignace: Anglers fishing past the old fuel tanks and over to the southwest corner of Mackinac Island have caught chinook and lake trout in 55 to 80 feet. Try spoons in hammered silver and orange, green and white, yellow and orange.

September 4, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It's that time of year when the salmon and trout start to move in closer to shore as they prepare for the annual fall spawning runs. Salmon are starting to trickle into the river systems but no big numbers yet. Those fishing the inland lakes are doing well for panfish, pike, bass and even catfish.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had some good perch numbers when conditions were right. Anglers were fishing straight out from Stony Point in 24 to 26 feet and about a half mile south. Fish were caught near the E-Buoy but many were small. Try using bigger minnows to avoid the small perch. Fish were also caught near the Raisin River Buoys and Turtle Island. A few remaining walleye could be found as shallow as eight feet in the early morning or late at night in Brest Bay or in front of the Fermi Plant.

Detroit River: Anglers are still finding some perch near and south of Celeron Island. Try minnows in 12 to 14 feet. Walleye anglers were targeting the waters in the Trenton Channel.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Bass anglers are doing best in the areas with a current. In the morning, try the shallow flats and move deeper mid-day. Bluegills have been caught at various depths but the bigger ones seem to be suspended about halfway down in 15 to 20 feet. Try crickets and crawlers on small jigs.

Lake St. Clair: Smallmouth bass fishing has been very good in Anchor Bay and south of Huron Point with plastic baits or live minnows. Walleye fishing has been slow. Perch fishing was slowly improving with some decent catches coming from the Dumping Grounds and along the shipping channels. A few perch were also caught near the B-Marker in Anchor Bay.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing remains very good after dark around Port Huron. Daytime fishing was spotty with a few fish taken on crawler harnesses or jigs. Sturgeon fishing has been good for those using worms. Try the North Channel between Decker's Landing and Algonac.

Port Sanilac: Anglers caught Chinook and steelhead 60 to 70 feet down in 75 to 90 feet of water with 5 and 10 color lead core and orange or metallic spoons. The better fishing seems to come with a west wind. Perch anglers were out but no fish were caught.

Harbor Beach: Was a hot spot with anglers trolling north of the harbor and up near Port Hope where they caught a mix of lake trout, steelhead and even some walleye in 80 to 115 feet. Lake trout were 70 to 80 feet down and the steelhead were 20 to 40 feet down. Try orange or copper and green spoons. Pier anglers caught smallmouth bass.

Port Austin: Windy weather made for difficult fishing however when boats can get out they did get some lake trout in 140 feet.

Saginaw Bay: A few walleye were taken in 11 to 14 feet off the Pinconning Bar and near the Black Hole but those trolling had to work hard to get them. They are still getting the occasional walleye out from the Slot in 12 to 14 feet. A few perch were caught however anglers will need to sort out the small ones. Catfish were caught from the Hot Pond and shore anglers at Essexville were still taking a few bass, catfish and freshwater drum.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The inland lakes continue to provide good bluegill fishing in deeper waters. Anglers are using crickets, leaf worms, or a wax worm and fly combination.

St. Joseph: Salmon anglers have done well in 80 to 110 feet. The better fishing was early in the day and most were caught on spoons. A few perch were caught in 40 to 50 feet. Pier fishing was slow for trout and salmon however anglers caught freshwater drum and catfish.

South Haven: Was producing lake trout and salmon in 70 to 120 feet. Anglers are using spoons and meat rigs. Both perch fishing and pier fishing were slow.

Kalamazoo River: Has good smallmouth bass fishing in Marshall, Comstock, Kalamazoo, and Plainwell.

Port Sheldon: Chinook salmon fishing is picking up. A thermocline is finally setting up for the first time this summer. Fishing was good in 120 to 135 feet when using J-plugs, spoons and meat rigs.

Grand Haven: Anglers were fishing 60 to 110 feet down in 115 to 175 feet. Some had 300 feet of coppers working well for them but the best bite was on a spin/fly combo up high or a paddle/fly combo deeper. Hot colors were white and UV followed by green or green and white. Some are using anything that glows or meat rigs in any color. Pier fishing was slow.

Grand River near Lansing: The fish ladders are open which will allow the fall steelhead and salmon to migrate to the Moore's Park Dam.

Muskegon: Pier anglers were casting or jigging for salmon but had no luck. Boat anglers were fishing 60 to 110 feet down in 120 to 170 feet with a spin/fly combo up high or paddle/fly combo down low. Those using meat rigs caught fish as well as those using anything that glows.

Muskegon River: Continues to provide good smallmouth bass fishing.

Whitehall: Anglers found fish 70 feet down in 150 to 200 feet. Meat rigs worked best. Downriggers may start working better as the fish were no long near the top of the water column. Pier anglers caught a couple salmon but no big numbers yet. Walleye action in the channel was good one day and cold the next.

White Lake: Was producing some large panfish.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan River: Anglers caught large and smallmouth bass near the mouth.

Rogers City: Is producing a mix of Chinook, steelhead, lake trout, pink salmon and the occasional walleye. Start shallow early and then move out deeper. Run lines up and down the water column for best results. Spoons, J-plugs, and attractors with squid, flies and cut bait are working. Smaller fish were caught up by the lighthouse at Forty Mile Point. No big numbers yet but a few salmon were caught around Swan Bay.

Alpena: A few anglers heading out for walleye found fish when trolling crank baits in 30 to 35 feet near Grass Island, Sulphur Island and North Point. Good lake trout fishing with the occasional steelhead or pink salmon taken in the area known as the "Humps".

Thunder Bay River: Is producing a few catfish and panfish. Anglers are using live bait such as crawlers and leeches.

Harrisville: Salmon should be in the area soon. Steelhead, lake trout and walleye have been moving closer to the harbor. Start shallow and head deeper. Fish were holding at 20 to 75 feet straight out and north of the harbor. Use dark colored baits.

Oscoda: Pier fishing was just starting to heat up as a few salmon and steelhead seem to be moving in closer. Pier anglers are using glow spoons or body baits. Boat anglers are fishing the upper half of the water column in 40 to 80 feet with spoons, dodgers and flies, squid and stick baits.

Au Sable River: Seems to have a good number of walleye between the mouth and the dam. They are hitting on crawlers, leeches and body baits. Early morning and late evening were best however don't rule out the mid-day catch.

Tawas: Those trolling had to work a little harder to find walleye. A few fish were taken off Buoy #2, inside the bay near Buoys 4 and 6 and down near Alabaster.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing slowed with only a fish or two taken per trip. Many were fishing in 25 to 40 feet south of Pointe Au Gres. Those trying for perch had little success.

Au Gres River: A couple catfish were caught in the lower river however dredging continues to hamper fishing.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Most boats are still fishing on the Petoskey side but the lake trout were too small. Those heading further into Little Traverse Bay caught some bigger fish in 40 to 60 feet.

Petoskey: Is still producing a good number of lake trout and the occasional salmon. Most were fishing about 50 feet down but a few salmon were taken 15 to 70 feet down in 80 to 130 feet. Try spoons, plugs, cut bait or a flasher/fly combo. Lake trout were between 40 and 120 feet down in 75 to 130 feet and hitting on spoons, peanuts, plugs and meat rigs. The thermocline dropped 25 feet in one day. Smallmouth bass were caught near the mouth of the river on worms or soft plastics. Pier anglers casting in the early morning caught a limited number of salmon.

Bear River: Recent rain did bring a couple small salmon runs up to the dam. Many anglers were out and most were using spawn.

Charlevoix: Salmon fishing is still hit-or-miss but a few were caught 55 to 70 feet down in 90 to 130 feet with downriggers and dipseys. They may be higher in the water column. Salmon and lake trout were caught on spoons and dodger/fly combos near the cement plant. Salmon may be starting up the channel into Lake Charlevoix and on their way to the Boyne River and the Jordan River. Sub-legal smallmouth bass are hitting in the channel but some caught keepers using crawlers or leeches on the bottom. A couple walleye were caught just before dark. Medusa Creek was blocked off last week. This means the creek is now closed to fishing within 100 feet of the mouth.

Traverse City: Salmon fishing was hit-or-miss in the East Bay. Try spoons or flies 50 to 70 feet down. Good lake trout fishing in 80 to 100 feet and smallmouth bass fishing was good in the shallows. In the West Bay, salmon were caught in the hole and northward. The majority of fish were hitting on spoons or flies 55 to 80 feet down. Lake trout were found in 85 to 100 feet and smallmouth bass were hitting on tube baits, crank baits and crawlers in the shallows.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass and panfish were caught below the power dam.

Boardman River: A couple steelhead were caught by those using spawn. Salmon were still not running in any numbers but anglers can expect to see them soon.

Platte Bay: Most of the coho run is in the East Bay. Warm water has pushed the fish below 60 feet. Try spoons and J-plugs in light blue or wonder bread.

Platte River: Fishing is still slow. Those using small dry flies up near the hatchery caught small rainbow trout.

Frankfort: Those trolling the harbor and between the piers caught Chinook and coho on spoons and J-plugs. Pier and shore anglers caught salmon on spawn and glow spoons in the morning.

Betsie River: Has king salmon. Anglers reported lots of fish running up river with only a few holding in the holes.

Onekama: Those heading out to 120 feet and trolling 70 feet down have caught a few Chinook in the mornings when using meat rigs and flies. Chinook, coho and lake trout were also caught in the Barrel.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are landing some nice large and smallmouth but they are working hard to get them to bite. Panfish action was slow.

Manistee: Boats are targeting salmon 100 to 150 feet down in 100 to 200 feet with a flasher/fly combo or plugs. Those trolling around the pier caught a few Chinook on plugs and pier anglers caught a few on glow spoons.

Manistee River: Is still producing summer steelhead for those using streamers, spinners and rapalas. Salmon are starting to show up but no big numbers yet.

Ludington: Boat anglers are targeting trout and salmon 40 to 100 feet down in 100 to 250 feet. The best bait was still green meat rigs and plugs. Pier anglers are catching a few salmon when casting glow spoons.

Pentwater: Anglers are catching Chinook salmon on meat rigs in 60 to 80 feet. The fish seemed to be biting in 60 degree water. Catch rates were spotty as changing wind directions affected catch rates. Pier anglers using live bait caught a couple smallmouth bass.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Anglers at all ports had good days and bad days. Lake trout were caught between Witz Marina and the Huron Islands in 50 to 90 feet. The occasional salmon was caught in the evening from Sand Point north to the Keweenaw Bay Red Rocks in 60 to 90 feet.

Lake Antoine: Anglers are still catching smaller bluegills, yellow perch, sunfish and rock bass when drifting crawlers. Bass anglers are taking a good number of fish when casting crank baits.

Marquette: The few anglers able to get out caught a few small Chinook and lake trout out towards Shot Point and Granite Island. Those fishing the mouth of the Carp River had no luck when casting spoons or using spawn and crawlers. Water levels were high and turbid after all the rain.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye fishing was pretty good considering the weather but perch fishing was the main target for many. Fair to good catches were reported in 12 feet off Garth Point and eight to 17 feet around the Second and Third Reefs. Crawlers and minnows worked best. Pike were active throughout the Bay. Fish were caught in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor, mouth of the Escanaba River, at Kipling near the power plant and the Day's River. Most are trolling or casting spoons, spinners and crank baits in eight to 14 feet. Salmon anglers caught fish 40 feet down in 70 to 80 feet north of the Ford River Can.

Big Bay De Noc: Anglers targeting smallmouth bass had mixed results. Ogontz was fair to good for those using crawlers, crank baits or tube baits in eight to 12 feet or six to 30 feet in Kate's Bay and Garden Bluff. Catch rates for perch in Garden Bay slowed and most of the fish were too small. Pike action was fair to good in eight to 16 feet from Kate's Bay to Ansell's Point. Those fishing off Fairport had fair to good catches of salmon 40 to 60 feet down in 80 to 110 feet near the "Gap" and 60 to 90 feet down in 120 to 150 feet south of Poverty Island.

Au Train: Those targeting lake trout had fair success as some reported five to 10 fish in six hours of fishing off the Shelter Bay Flats and the Wood Island Reef. Try spoons within 20 feet off the bottom in 150 feet. No activity at the Rock River because of high water levels.

Munising: Boat anglers are targeting lake trout when they can get out but some are starting to shift toward salmon. Catch rates for lake trout were fair to good around Trout Bay, the Wood Island Reefs and east of Grand Portal. A few trolling for salmon and splake within the bay had no success. Pier fishing was very slow.

Grand Marais: Boats targeting lake trout were still heading north and west out to the shipping channels. They caught fish ranging between two and five pounds. Catch rates were good off the southwest bank near Caribou Island and some reported limit catches of three and four pound fish taken in 100 to 200 feet. No salmon to report. Some were still trying offshore at the Marina but had no luck.

St. Mary's River: Pink salmon have arrived in good numbers and anglers did well trolling large pink spoons. Shore and pier anglers are also catching fish on the same spoons when casting near Valley Camp, the dock at the Locks boat tours and from the blue hand rail next to Clover Land Power Plant. Limit catches of Atlantic salmon were taken on the discharge side of the power plant when drifting brown or cream colored flies. Some bigger fish were caught on streamer type flies. A couple rainbow trout were caught above the power plant on Portage Street when drifting burgundy colored flat fish with a chrome belly. The whitefish bite slowed.

Moving downstream to Lake Nicolet, walleye were caught off 4 and 6 Mile Roads when trolling bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses just off the shipping channel in 18 to 20 feet. A few yellow perch were taken at the lower end of the Rock-Cut near the red buoy in eight to 14 feet. Pike were caught at the mouth of the Munuscong River where anglers are trolling dark colored bucktail spinners just off the weed beds in six to eight feet. Good smallmouth action off the Raber launch and the pier. Most are still-fishing crawlers or casting tube jigs in four to eight feet off the old dock pilings and rocks.

Detour: Anglers are catching lake trout and pink salmon however the harvest for Chinook salmon was slow. They are trolling from the city launch to Frying Pan Island, to the #3 Green Can, around the lighthouse and to the #2 Red Can. Yellow perch were caught at Sweets Point and a few walleye were taken off Drummond Island near Dix's Point.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing was good out of Hessel at the first cut in 10 to 12 feet and on the east side of the docks in eight to nine feet. Those targeting pike have done very well in Hessel Bay, Musky, Bay, Government Bay and the Middle Entrance when using chubs. Perch fishing in the Middle Entrance and the east end of Cedarville Bay was starting to pick up.

Carp River: Chinook salmon are starting to bite at the mouth.

St. Ignace: Anglers caught Chinook, lake trout and pink salmon between the fuel tanks and the southwest corner of Mackinac Island. Most are using spoons. Green and gold, white with colored strips or silver and blue were the most popular colors.

September 11, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Rain and strong winds have once again hampered fishing conditions. Boat anglers had limited success as the days shorten and the temperatures cool. Catch rates should only get better from here on out. More salmon will be moving into the river systems but landing those fish may be a little more difficult if the water levels are up.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Surface water temperatures in the mid 70's caused the perch to stay in deeper water however they are starting to move in gradually. Fish were caught off Stony Point in 24 to 26 feet. Start at 20 feet and work your way out. Perch were also caught about a mile and a half out from Toledo Beach, around Turtle Island, near the E-Buoy and the Edison Stacks. Many were too small to keep. No walleye reports were coming in. Anglers may want to try minnows off Stony Point.

Detroit River: Perch have been caught around Celeron Island, Rat Island, Grassy Island, and off Grosse Ile. No limit catches but they are catching a few nice ones. Walleye fishing was slow but muskie fishing was good in both the upper and lower river. Walleye anglers have started jigging with crawlers at the mouth.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Bluegill fishing improved and a good number of fish were caught on Zukey Lake and near the island on Strawberry Lake. Try six to 10 feet of water. Bass anglers are finding fish in the shallow flats in the morning and moving to the weeds in deeper water during the day. Try a soft plastic bait that mimics a crayfish or salamander mid-day and top water lures in the early morning.

Lake St. Clair: Had good bass fishing in Anchor Bay and south of Huron Point in deeper water. Perch fishing was spotty, but some bigger fish were caught along the shipping channel and the Dumping Grounds. A few walleye were caught by trolling crawler harnesses along the shipping channel and north of the St. Clair Light.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was slow for most of the river however those trolling at night near the Blue Water Bridge have caught fish. Bass and perch were caught along the weed beds at the lower end of the North Channel, Sni Bora and the Middle Channel. Try using live shiners. Muskie were caught in the same areas by those casting or jigging large baits.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Lake trout were caught just off the bottom in 80 to 115 feet. Steelhead were caught 40 feet down. Orange and blue spoons worked best. Pier fishing along the Thumb was slow.

Harbor Beach: Lake trout, steelhead and the odd walleye were caught straight east and northeast of the harbor in 135 feet.

Port Austin: Those trolling off the tip of the Thumb caught lake trout within 10 feet of the bottom or steelhead in the top 40 feet of waters 120 to 170 feet deep. Medium-size spoons in fluorescent green worked well. Anglers from Port Austin and Grindstone City are heading straight north.

Saginaw Bay: Anglers did find a few walleye in 14 feet off the Saganing Bar and out near Buoys 1 & 2 but they are still working hard to find fish. One boat trolling off Finn Road caught a couple walleye. A few perch were caught south of Pinconning off Gambil's Marina and near the mouth of the Quanicassee River however be ready to sort out the small ones. Fishing was slow from Quanicassee to Caseville. Goose and teal hunters outnumbered fishing boats.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers in the lower river caught catfish, freshwater drum and a few bass.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Brown trout anglers are having success on the southwest trout streams. To look at the stocking records and find brown trout in streams in your area click here:
<http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock/>

St. Joseph: Boat anglers reported consistent fishing. No limit catches however they are coming back with fish. Most are using spoons and meat rigs. Perch fishing was hit-or-miss as the fish were scattered. A few were found in 40 feet. Pier fishing was slow.

South Haven: Salmon anglers reported tough fishing conditions. Most are targeting 110 feet and some reported fish staging in 50 feet. Perch fishing is slow so try 20 to 60 feet as they are scattered. Salmon fishing in the Black River was slow.

Kalamazoo River: Anglers are reporting salmon in the river. No big numbers yet but fish have been seen below the Allegan Dam. Bass anglers continue to do well.

Holland: Anglers have found Chinook salmon and lake trout in 75 feet.

Grand Haven: Anglers are fishing 25 to 80 feet down in 40 to 80 feet in the morning then heading out to waters 70 to 80 feet deep later in the day. Chinook and a small number of coho are starting to stage. Anglers are using green, chrome or glow plugs. No perch to report.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is starting to get some Chinook salmon and more will be coming in with the cooler weather. The better fishing will be from the mouth up to the 6th Street Dam.

Muskegon: Pier fishing was slow. Those targeting trout and salmon were fishing 20 to 80 feet down in 30 to 80 feet with green, chrome or glow plugs. Coho are also hitting more on short lead core or copper. Meat rigs also did well with green and yellow the hot colors.

Muskegon Lake: Anglers were trolling J-plugs for Chinook salmon but catch rates were very slow.

Whitehall: Anglers fishing in the early morning found mature salmon in 110 feet. A fair to good number of younger fish were caught 70 feet down in 150 feet or more. Pier anglers have caught the occasional salmon when casting spoons or still-fishing with spawn.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Anglers are catching trout, salmon and the occasional walleye when running lines up and down the water column in 40 to 90 feet. They are using a variety of lures including spoons, J-plugs, bombers and flashers with squid, flies or cut bait. Fishing was good up towards the State Park and Forty Mile Point. The few salmon caught in Swan Bay were quite dark.

Alpena: Walleye were caught out towards North Point and North Shore or straight out from the marina in 30 to 35 feet. A few lake trout, steelhead and pink salmon were caught at the "Humps".

Thunder Bay River: Had little activity but rain and cooler temperatures this week should help to bring the salmon in. Panfish were caught on crawlers or leeches.

Harrisville: Salmon and steelhead are starting to come into shallow waters so anglers are starting there and heading out deeper while fishing the entire water column. Dark colors seem to work best. Some were caught on sliders. Lake trout were suspended or on the bottom in 60 to 80 feet. Walleye were coming into the harbor in the early morning or late evening. Those trolling outside the wall are using body baits or crawler harnesses while those casting in the harbor are using body baits.

Oscoda: Fishing was a bit slow but anglers should start to see salmon and steelhead around the piers. Boat anglers will want to start shallow and work their way out. Long lines, planer boards and lead core should work along with spoons, squid, and body baits.

Au Sable River: Look for salmon to start heading up into the river. Walleye can be found between the pier head and the dam. Crawlers and stickbaits worked best.

Houghton Lake: Catch rates were spotty as the fish seem to be scattered. When they can find them, boat anglers caught bass, walleye and bluegills.

Tawas: Is producing the occasional walleye in 20 to 30 feet along the outer bay and down near Alabaster. A couple steelhead were caught about 40 feet down in 70 feet. Pier anglers caught mostly rock bass, a few small perch or the odd walleye.

Tawas River: Is producing a few catfish. Try crawlers, bluegills or cut bait.

Au Gres: The few anglers chasing walleyes had no limit catches but they were catching enough fish to keep the trip interesting. Try crawler harnesses in 30 to 35 feet straight off the mouth of the river and southwest towards Pointe Au Gres. Some were looking for perch near Pointe Au Gres but few were caught.

Au Gres River: Was producing a few catfish and some small perch.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Those fishing the Petoskey side of the bay did poorly with only one lake trout caught.

Petoskey: Had no thermocline. Fishing was better before the storms rolled in. Fish were being marked but none were caught. Earlier, salmon were caught 50 to 65 feet down in 90 to 115 feet and lake trout were 90 feet down in 130 to 150 feet. Boats were trolling fairly close to the breakwall with meat rigs and squid. Smallmouth bass were caught outside the breakwall during the day. Those casting off the end of the breakwall and the end of the clock dock after dark did manage to catch a few salmon on spoons or crank baits.

Bear River: Had more salmon and quite a few were caught at the dam. There was quite a bit of angling pressure but high water levels made landing any fish a challenge. Spawn and flies worked best. Anglers are reminded that there is a gear restriction of one single pointed, unweighted hook no larger than 3/8 inch from point to shank when fishing from the mouth to the Lake Street Dam.

Charlevoix: Lake trout fishing has dropped off. Most boats were still focusing on the area around the "Can" near the cement plant. Salmon were caught anywhere from 40 to 80 feet down in 75 to 130 feet. Meat rigs worked best but spoons also caught fish. Those moving in shallow were trying for the salmon staging near Medusa Creek. A few were caught 20 to 25 feet down. The weir in Medusa Creek is up and running. Fishing is closed in the creek as well as a radius of 100 feet off the mouth. Smallmouth bass are still being caught in the channel and some were keepers. A large northern pike was also caught in the channel. Pier anglers fishing after dark caught one or two salmon when casting spoons or crank baits.

Traverse City: The East Bay has good lake trout fishing 70 to 95 feet down in 90 to 120 feet. Salmon fishing was still hit-or-miss. Good smallmouth action in 10 to 30 feet. In the West Bay, lake trout were taken in 85 to 120 feet. Salmon anglers fishing near “the hole” had very limited success. Good smallmouth action for those using tube baits along the drop-offs.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass were caught on crawlers or tube baits. Salmon have not yet arrived in big numbers.

Boardman River: The weir is in place. A few Chinook salmon were in the river and some actually jumped over the weir and continued upstream during high water. Those drifting skein under a bobber had limited success.

Platte Bay: The lake water is still cold and the river water at 70 degrees. Most fish are still in the East Bay off Peterson Road.

Platte River: Fishing was slow but should pick up soon. Coho were moving up into the river. The lower weir is in place and is holding back fish. There are fish all through the lower river.

Frankfort: Still has fresh chrome Chinook and coho out front of the breakwalls. The better bite was in the early morning in 150 to 180 feet.

Betsie River: A large number of Chinook salmon were heading upstream in a big rush. Very few were holding in the deeper holes along the way.

Onekama: Those fishing the “Barrel” caught coho and lake trout.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are having a good year on the lake and in the channel. Both large and smallmouth have been caught.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: Cooler temperatures will bring the bluegill, crappie and perch back into shallow waters. Those targeting bass continue to do well with largemouth caught in the shallows early morning or evening.

Manistee: Boat anglers found trout and salmon 80 to 120 feet down in 120 to 200 feet. Most are using green flies or meat rigs and glow plugs. Those trolling around the piers had minimal success.

Manistee River: Anglers are catching salmon but some of the fish are dark. More anglers are showing up at Tippy Dam. With the cooler temperatures, look for more fish to move into the river system.

Ludington: Anglers found a decent number of salmon and trout 50 to 100 feet down in 200 to 400 feet. Most are using orange or green spoons along with green or yellow meat rigs. Fishing around the pier was slow but should improve soon.

Pentwater: Was producing salmon in 70 to 110 feet in the early morning. Spoons and flies were the ticket. A few salmon were caught from the pier, Long Bridge on Pentwater Lake and from the marsh beyond Long Bridge at the mouth of Pentwater River. No real numbers as most of the mature fish are still out in the big lake. Pier anglers caught a couple nice pike when salmon fishing.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Had low angler participation at all ports. The lake trout bite picked up for those trolling or jigging near Farmers, Newton's and the Big Reef as well as the Mud Banks. Lures with green, orange and gold worked well when trolling 50 to 80 feet down in 60 to 90 feet. Best speeds were between 2.3 and 2.6 mph. Those jigging were targeting waters 160 to 260 feet deep.

Lake Antoine: Anglers caught bluegills, sunfish, yellow perch and rock bass from shore or still-fishing and drifting from boats. Lots of small ones with some bigger ones mixed in. Bass anglers are still catching smallmouth but the numbers have declined. No walleye to report.

Marquette: Catch rates were not so good. Lake trout were taken only after several hours of fishing near Little Presque Isle, the Sand Hole and the White Rocks. A few small Chinook were caught in both the Upper and Lower Harbor when using spoons.

Carp River: Had few shore anglers. They tried crawlers, spawn, small spinners and crank baits but had no luck.

Chocolay River: Boat anglers were fishing the mouth while shore anglers were wading. Most are targeting coho but catch rates were not good.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers had fair catches along the Second Reef, Third Reef and the Center Reef with crawler harnesses in 14 to 26 feet. Northern pike were caught throughout the Bay but Kipling was the hot spot. Try 8 to 14 feet with crawlers, crank baits, spinners or spoons. Catch rates for perch were slow with only a few fish taken in 8 to 10 feet near Garth Point or in 10 to 17 feet just west of the Center Reef with minnows and crawlers. Salmon are showing signs of staging at the rivers mouths but no significant numbers as of yet.

Big Bay De Noc: Had no walleye reports but a few perch were caught in 18 to 23 feet off Ansell's Point with minnows or crawlers. Smallmouth bass anglers are starting to concentrate on fall fishing. Most are targeting 15 to 25 feet along the drop-off near Garden Bluff with minnows, crawlers or plastics. Large rock bass were caught by those drifting crawlers in 6 to 12 feet along in Garden Bay.

Au Train: Had no angler activity. Water levels were high in the Rock River.

St. Mary's River: Anglers are still catching pink salmon near the power plant in Sault Ste. Marie. Try spoons in pink, orange or anything half gold. Some caught four and five pound Atlantic salmon when casting three inch crank baits with a black back and a grey or chrome belly. In Lake Nicolet, anglers caught walleye between 4 Mile Road

and 6 Mile Road when trolling bottom bouncers and crawler harness in 12 to 18 feet just inside the shipping channel. A few musky were caught near Tea Pot Island and along the south end of Neebish Island. Try large black spinners. A few walleye were taken in Raber Bay near the mouth of Carlton Creek by those trolling smiley blades with crawler harnesses. Many were sub-legal but a few keepers were reported. Some eight to 10 inch yellow perch were reported near Howard Island. Shiner minnows worked best at Grape Island and LaPoint Island during the mid-day.

Detour: Those fishing from the city launch to Frying Pan Island, around the lighthouse and to the #2 Red Can near Drummond Island said the salmon bite was slow but the lake trout action was good. Yellow perch could still be found at Sweets Point and walleye off Drummond Island near Dix's Point.

Cedarville and Hessel: Catch rates slowed as storms stirred the waters up. Perch fishing out of Hessel was fair in 10 to 12 feet and along the east side of Murtough's dock in eight to nine feet. Pier anglers at Hessel caught lots of pike but a limited number of perch. Excellent pike fishing remains in Hessel Bay, Middle Entrance, Musky Bay and Government Bay when using chubs.

Carp River: Anglers are targeting salmon at the mouth.

St. Ignace: Anglers caught Chinook, lake trout and pink salmon between the fuel tanks and the southwest corner of Mackinac Island. Try green and gold, blue and silver or white spoons.

September 18, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Cooler temperatures did move salmon in closer to shore and into some of the major river systems especially on the west side of the state. Another warm up and thunderstorms by the weekend will most likely slow catch rates. Anglers are reminded that the season to take snapping turtles and softshell turtles closed on September 15th.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Surface water temperatures dropped to the 60's which contributes to a more consistent perch bite. Some nice fish were caught straight out from Fermi and just south of Stony Point in 26 feet. Perch are starting to move into shallower waters and can be found about a mile and a half straight out from Toledo Beach as well as the E-Buoy. Both large and smallmouth bass were moving in and were caught near Bolles Harbor and the Dumping Grounds. Many are still waiting for the walleye to return to Michigan waters in good numbers.

Detroit River: Most anglers are targeting yellow perch. The south end of Grosse Ile has been a hot spot with 7 and 8 inch fish taken.

Washtenaw County: Fishing was slow. A few panfish were taken on Ford Lake and Belleville Lake.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Bluegill fishing improves each week. A few limit catches of 7 to 9 inch fish were taken in Strawberry Lake and good catches were reported in Little Portage Lake. Anglers are fishing both deep and shallow as the bigger panfish seem to be suspended about 10 feet down in 20 feet. Bass fishing has also improved in the canals and near the river mouths.

Lake St. Clair: Perch fishing remains spotty. Schools of fish seem to be scattered and on the move. Weed beds that produce a good catch one day seem to be vacant the next. Some good reports came from the Grosse Point Yacht Club and the shipping channel. Smallmouth bass fishing remains very good across the lake. Water temperatures are cooling down, so look for bigger fish to start moving into shallower waters.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing remains slow for most of the river, but excellent reports continue to come in from Port Huron. Water temperature was 64 degrees at Algonac. Sturgeon fishing will continue to improve as temperatures drop. The harvest season ends on September 30th but the catch and immediate release season extends through November 30th.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: There was more fishing activity off Port Sanilac. Those trolling caught steelhead and lake trout 50 to 60 feet down in 60 to 90 feet. Pike, catfish and a few white bass were caught inside the harbor at Lexington.

Harbor Beach: Salmon and steelhead were caught north of the harbor in 70 to 100 feet. Try spoons off downriggers and also 2, 3, 5 and 10 color lines and offshore boards. Bright orange and black, silver and blue, black and white or green were good colors. It's time to start putting out a few J-plugs for fall salmon. The fish are scattered so keep trolling until you find them. Lake trout were taken north and straight out of the harbor 90 to 120 feet down. Try dodgers with spin glows or clean spoons. For walleye, try crawler harnesses, small spoons or Hot-n-Tots in 70 to 100 feet. Hot colors were lime green, copper, mixed veggie, black and white, black and orange or glow. Shore anglers are casting off the north wall.

Port Austin: Had little activity. Pier anglers were taking a few walleye at night. Boat anglers were still getting some lake trout in 135 feet north of the Port Austin Reef.

Saginaw Bay: Not much was happening on the west side. Perch anglers going out of the Saginaw River mouth reported slow fishing. On the east side, perch anglers out of Quanicassee caught a few in 8 to 10 feet off the weed beds, in the Slot and in 16 feet off Sunset Bay Marina. Catch rates were still hit-or-miss. Anglers had trouble finding an active school of fish so it pays to move around. Fair walleye catches from the deep side of the Bar, the west side of the Slot off the islands and in 20 feet off Caseville. They are using mainly Hot-n-Tots in gold, orange and purple.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier fishing was slow. A few salmon were caught when casting spoons or spinners but overall the action was slow. Boat anglers caught salmon and lake trout in 80 to 100 feet. Perch fishing was slow.

St. Joseph River: Cooler weather and cold water near the piers pushed salmon and steelhead into the river system. The occasional salmon was caught in the lower river.

South Haven: Had good pier fishing for chinook and the occasional steelhead. Boat anglers had good success trolling spoons in waters up to 50 feet deep. Perch fishing was slow.

Kalamazoo River: Salmon and steelhead were caught near Calkins Dam.

Grand Haven: The salmon are scattered because of water temperatures. Boat anglers had better luck out deeper between 90 and 200 feet deep. The only consistency seems to be most fish were caught 30 to 45 feet down on spoons, flies or meat rigs. Try green spoons and flies with white or UV spinnies and meat rigs. Pier fishing was slow.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing some chinook, coho, brown trout and even a few lake trout. Anglers are using spawn bags, Cleo's, fire-tiger thundersticks and spinners. Walleye have also been caught. Those fishing near the Fulton Street Bridge are back bouncing spawn or using Hot-n-Tots.

Grand River near Lansing: Anglers have caught suckers. No word yet on salmon this far up. A few pike were caught in the early morning near Jackson.

Maple River: Is producing some bass.

Muskegon: The fish are scattered. A few chinook and coho were caught when trolling around the piers with green, yellow or chrome J-plugs. Those fishing deeper did better. Try waters up to 200 feet deep with green spoons and flies or UV spinnies and meat rigs. Pier fishing was slow.

Muskegon Lake: Anglers are trolling and jigging but catch rates were slow.

Muskegon River: Has salmon but no big numbers yet. Those fly fishing caught trout. There is currently an ongoing blue winged olive and caddis hatch.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: A few more salmon are beginning to show up around Swan Bay but they are coming in slow. Anglers are trolling shallow in 8 to 20 feet and high-lining with bombers and spoons. Those fishing out deeper caught a mix of young salmon, steelhead, lake trout, a few pink salmon and the occasional walleye. The key is to find baitfish. Best depths were 40 to 120 feet while fishing up and down the entire water column between Calcite Harbor and Adams Point, straight out of the marina or west towards the State Park and Forty Mile Point.

Alpena: Walleye were caught straight out from the marina in 30 to 35 feet and towards Sulphur Island. North Shore and North Point were also producing fish. Most are using crank baits. Lake trout can still be caught along the "Humps". Look for young salmon and steelhead up high when fishing for lake trout.

Thunder Bay River: The salmon run hasn't really started yet. Some fish were jumping but few were caught. Atlantic salmon should start showing up soon.

Harrisville: Dredging is still going on in the harbor. Anglers should have no problem launching boats and fishing from shore. Water temperatures have been up and down and even though fish are being marked they are not taking the bait.

Stick with it as salmon, steelhead, lake trout and walleye will be moving into shallow waters soon. Try early morning or evening with lead core, long lines and downriggers with spoons, body baits or live bait in shallow waters.

Oscoda: Salmon are slowly starting to come in and around the mouth of the river. Steelhead were caught in 20 to 40 feet. Lake trout are moving in closer to shore. They are hitting on spoons and body baits in 30 to 80 feet. Hot colors were orange, black and silver or blue and silver. Walleye were caught off the pier.

Au Sable River: No reports yet of salmon in the river but walleye were caught on crawlers and body baits.

Lake Margrethe: Had a few 8 to 10 inch perch but catch rates were spotty.

Higgins Lake: Is producing good catches of rock bass. Perch were caught in 25 to 30 feet.

Houghton Lake: Was giving up some walleye and panfish.

Tawas River: A few anglers were casting for salmon and trout. None were caught however a few walleye were taken in the lower river.

Au Gres: Perch anglers caught a few fish in 15 to 25 feet off Pointe Au Gres. They caught some big perch up to 14 inches. Walleye anglers caught fish straight out from the mouth of the river and off Point Au Gres in 25 to 35 feet. Most are using crawler harnesses.

Au Gres River: At the Singing Bridge, anglers caught a couple steelhead when casting or still-fishing with spawn bags.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Most are still fishing the Petoskey side of the bay. The few boats that were out were focusing inside of the Bay, in front of Wequetonsing.

Petoskey: The water now has a temperature break around 75 feet down. Salmon were caught 90 feet down and lake trout were caught 130 to 150 feet down. Try spoons and spin glows for lake trout or spoons for salmon. A few boats casting crank baits inside the breakwall caught a couple fish including a smallmouth bass that was 80 feet down. A few salmon were caught on spoons and crank baits off the breakwall and the city dock. Those surfcasting near the river caught a few fish.

Bear River: Had a good run of fish with the high winds and rain but has since slowed. Anglers caught mainly chinook followed by steelhead below the dam. Most were using flies and spawn.

Charlevoix: Salmon were caught on spoons 60 to 80 feet down around North Point but more boats were fishing shallower near the Cement Plant while casting glow lures. Those trolling did well in 20 to 30 feet and out deeper near the Can. Spoons, plugs and crank baits caught fish. Pier anglers had limited success after dark and before sunrise at the end of the pier. Those wading were using spoons and crank baits. Anglers trolling for salmon have done well where Round Lake and Lake Charlevoix meet, especially near the Coast Guard boat. Angling pressure for smallmouth bass was down but some fish are still being caught on worms and leeches. A few salmon were caught in the Boyne River.

Traverse City: The East Bay has good lake trout fishing in 80 to 110 feet. Some are suspended and some are near the bottom. Salmon fishing was slow. Smallmouth bass were taken in 15 to 50 feet. In the West Bay, fish are being marked in “the hole” and are staging to go up river but the bite was slow. Lake trout fishing was good in 80 to 120 feet to the north and smallmouth fishing was good near the drop-offs.

Elk River: A few chinook can be found below the power dam, but fishing was slow.

Boardman River: Is producing a few salmon for those drifting skein under a bobber. Both coho and chinook were caught, but the fishing is still pretty slow.

Platte Bay: Had a new batch of coho showing up in the surf. Anglers were casting green and white squid. Anglers in the East Bay were not having the same luck as anglers in the West Bay. When the big lake was too rough, boat anglers caught fish in both Platte Lake and Loon Lake when trolling spoons or wiggle warts.

Platte River: Fishing was slow even though there are salmon in the river. Chinook and coho were backed up by the lower weir. Those using stream flies and rubber eggs have caught a few fish.

Frankfort: No big numbers yet but chinook salmon were caught in the harbor, around the piers and out in 130 to 450 feet. Hot lures were green and white J-plugs and body baits. Coho are hitting in the same areas and were caught off the pier in the early morning. The run is not over as anglers are still catching silver kings in the big lake.

Onkama: Pier anglers have caught coho in the early morning. Boat anglers also caught fish in 75 to 120 feet. Orange Cleo’s worked best.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: Are producing bass, bluegill, crappie, and pike.

Lake Missaukee: Anglers are catching panfish and smallmouth bass.

Manistee: Boats trolling around the harbor reported slow catch rates. A few trout and salmon were found in the top 80 feet of waters 100 to 200 feet deep and were hitting on bright colored spoons or green flies. Pier anglers casting spoons also caught a few salmon.

Manistee River: Salmon runs are ongoing but not on fire by any means. Very few fish were reported at Tippy Dam. Pier fishing has also been hit or miss. A few kings are being caught, but it has not been on fire by any stretch.

Ludington: Fishing has been difficult because of the wind. Anglers caught salmon in the harbor when trolling chrome or glow plugs. Steelhead and salmon were caught in the top 60 feet of waters 150 to 300 feet deep on orange or green spoons. Those surfcasting at the State Park reported slow catch rates.

Pere Marquette River: Salmon are being caught but not in large numbers yet. Those fly fishing have caught brown trout.

UPPER PENINSULA

Ontonagon: The last storm pushed mud from the river all the way out to 140 feet of water and there was a lot of debris in the harbor. The river still had a fast current.

Keweenaw Bay: The few anglers able to get out picked up a few lake trout from the South Portage Entry and a couple lake trout, splake and salmon in Keweenaw Bay. A few pink salmon and brown trout were spotted in the Fall's River.

Lake Antoine: Was still producing a good number of perch, rock bass and bluegills but the fish were smaller. Anglers are drifting crawlers. A fair to good number of smallmouth bass were caught by those casting crank baits in the weeds.

Marquette: Those able to get out had poor results for salmon and lake trout. Surface water temperatures near shore were in the 50's. One boater found a warm pocket of water about 20 feet down. Boat anglers need to watch for floating logs and debris when heading out.

Dead River: Had low angler pressure and no luck. The gates were open with all the rain but are now closed. No pink salmon were observed and they normally come in before the chinook and coho.

Carp River: Had a few shore anglers but no luck. Water levels are bank high with poor clarity. There will be ongoing construction on a city sewer project at the parking lot near the mouth for the next two months. Anglers will need to watch for construction equipment when using the parking lot.

Chocolay River: Angler pressure increased this past week. Water levels were bank high with a strong current. Boat and shore anglers fishing the mouth did catch a few brown trout but were frustrated because no coho were caught. Most are using crawlers or casting small spinners. With the higher water levels, boat anglers had a much easier time launching at the Chocolay Township Marina.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers had fair catches along the Second Reef, Third Reef and the Center Reed with crawler harnesses in 14 to 26 feet. Northern pike were caught throughout the Bay but Kipling was the hot spot.

Try 8 to 14 feet with crawlers, crank baits, spinners or spoons. Catch rates for perch were slow with only a few fish taken in 8 to 10 feet near Garth Point or in 10 to 17 feet just west of the Center Reef with minnows and crawlers. Salmon are showing signs of staging at the rivers mouths but no significant numbers as of yet.

Big Bay De Noc: Had no walleye reports but a few perch were caught in 18 to 23 feet off Ansell's Point with minnows or crawlers. Smallmouth bass anglers are starting to concentrate on fall fishing. Most are targeting 15 to 25 feet along the drop-off near Garden Bluff with minnows, crawlers or plastics. Large rock bass were caught by those drifting crawlers in 6 to 12 feet in Garden Bay.

Au Train: Gusty winds and several inches of rain hampered fishing efforts. Waves averaged 10 to 20 feet. Lake trout were suspended in 80 to 160 feet. Debris and water fleas were clogging lines and reels. A few small lake trout were taken on spoons out near Big Reef where surface temperatures were 48 degrees. The fish were still deep in 170 to 180 feet. Water levels were very high at the Rock River. A few shore anglers were out but had no luck. A strong current below the spillway is making fishing difficult. Boat anglers need to watch for floating logs and other debris.

Munising: Had an increase in fishing effort. Severe storms destroyed the Anna River fishing pier so anglers may want to consider shore fishing or bringing a small boat. Catch rates were slow. More anglers are trolling for coho within the bay or heading out to Trout Bay. Lake trout fishing was poor after the storms. Surface water temperatures dropped to the mid 50's. Pier and shore anglers caught a fair number of splake but no coho.

Grand Marais: Lake trout anglers are fishing to the north and out to the shipping channel and 200 feet of water. Some are targeting coho but none were caught. A couple shore anglers caught the occasional coho.

St. Mary's River: Atlantic and pink salmon are still being caught at the Glover Land Electric Power Plant on Portage Street. Atlantics can be caught on the discharge side using 3 to 4 inch crank baits drifted or trolled 4 to 6 feet below the surface. Best colors are black backs with a grey or chrome belly. On Lake George, catch rates for walleye were very good off Hay Point. Anglers have switched from bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses to perch colored crank baits. Most are trolling just off the weeds in 8 to 12 feet. Gem Island is producing some nice northern pike in the 26 to 30 inch range. Try chrome spoons with a red eye or black and yellow bucktail spinners in 6 to 12 feet. Yellow perch fishing was fair to good across from the Neebish Island Ferry Dock in 12 feet with worms and minnows. Target the weed beds near the shipping channel. Musky have started to bite around Tea Pot Island which is upstream and across from Conley's Point. Try black and grey rubber bodied shad baits or black and white spotted bucktail spinners. Off Drummond, yellow perch were caught in 12 to 15 feet near Howard Island which is northeast of Yacht Haven Marina. Perch were also found along the south end of Grape Island and the west end of Maxton Bay. The better bite was early afternoon.

Detour: Is producing pink salmon, lake trout and chinook salmon. Walleye were harvested in Maud Bay, Raber Bay and Dix Point off Drummond Island. Combinations of green were popular colors. A few chinook salmon were reported by those trolling J-plugs out from the old coal dock about 3 miles from Detour Village.

Cedarville and Hessel: The Moscoe Channel, Middle Entrance and Musky Bay were fair for perch but excellent pike fishing continues in Hessel Bay, Middle Entrance, Musky Bay and Government Bay when still-fishing with chubs.

Carp River: Anglers are trying several locations but chinook were hard to catch. Some pink salmon were harvested on fresh spawn bags, or multi colored lures.

St. Ignace: Catch rates slowed but pier anglers have caught some yellow perch.

September 25, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Improved weather should make it easier for anglers to get out on the Great Lakes. As we move further into fall anglers will start to see some of the last opportunities to get out and fish the big water. Inland, the rivers are producing trout and salmon however some areas are experiencing a much slower return so far.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Hopefully the weather this week will produce some good perch fishing. Water temperatures were beginning to cool into the low 60's and some fish were moving into shallower waters. Perch were caught consistently from late morning through the afternoon about half a mile north and straight out from Stony Point in 24 to 26 feet. Fish were also caught from the Raisin River Buoys 1 & 2, near the E-Buoy, around Turtle Island and a mile and a half straight out from Toledo Beach. No big numbers but some nice large perch were caught in 12 to 16 feet in Brest Bay.

Huron River: Had good pike fishing. Some caught the occasional bass. Steelhead are just getting there so very few fish were caught so far.

Detroit River: Is producing some yellow perch at the mouth and along the weed lines around Celeron, Sugar and Rat Island. Most are using shiners. Shore anglers caught perch off Trenton and Wyandotte. Those fishing in Canadian waters caught fish in 20 to 30 feet near the Colchester Reef. As for walleye, no limits but a few fish were caught in the lower Trenton Channel. Try a jig and worm.

Portage Chain-of-Lakes: Some anglers reported near limit catches of bluegill on Portage Lake, Little Portage Lake and Strawberry Lake. Try eight to 12 feet. Bass were caught along the weeds and drop-offs. Warmer weather this week should bring the bass back into the shallows.

Lake St. Clair: Water temperatures are falling and smallmouth bass were moving into shallower water again. Perch fishing continues to be spotty as the schools seem to be on the move and difficult to locate from day to day. A few good reports have come from the Dumping Grounds and from the Grosse Pointe area. Carp fishing was hot at the mouth of the Clinton River.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing remains excellent near the Blue Water Bridge but was rather slow in the rest of the river. Sturgeon fishing has been good in the North Channel with crawlers. Remember, the season to harvest sturgeon ends on September 30, but the catch-and-release season runs through the end of November.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Fishing was slow. Anglers are still waiting for steelhead and brown trout to move in closer to shore. No sign of minnows moving in closer to shore.

Port Austin: Boat anglers were heading back out but fishing was slow along the outside of the Thumb. Steelhead and brown trout have not moved in close to shore yet. No sign of emerald shiners however they normally start coming in around the second week of October. That is when the perch and other predators follow. Decent smallmouth action off the breakwall.

Saginaw Bay: A few walleye were caught off the Hot Pond by those trolling Hot-n-Tots in five to seven feet. Perch fishing off Quanicassee was hit-or-miss around the weeds in eight to 10 feet. The ratio was one keeper to three throw backs. Some of the better fishing was inside the marina at Sebewaing. Shore anglers caught largemouth bass, pike and bluegills.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers are catching a few salmon when casting spinners but overall, fishing was slow. Boat anglers trolling in 90 to 100 feet caught a few salmon.

St. Joseph River: Had a strong run of coho. Some are using spawn up near the dam at Berrien Springs but more fish were caught by those trolling or casting lures.

South Haven: Pier anglers caught Chinook and steelhead either early morning or late evening. Boat anglers caught fish when trolling in 80 to 120 feet with spoons, spinners and glow plugs.

Kalamazoo River: Is producing Chinook and coho salmon up near the Allegan Dam. Anglers are using spoons, spinners and spawn. A few brown trout were also caught.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has a strong run of coho. Most are shore fishing or wading. Try spawn sacks, Cleo's, jointed thundersticks in fire-tiger, spoons, plugs, spinners, wobble glows and even crickets. Steelhead, brown trout and walleye were also caught.

Grand River near Lansing: No big numbers yet but a few salmon were caught near the dam at Moore's Park. Anglers may also find a few walleye.

Looking Glass River: Is producing a few pike. Try casting or drifting with large minnows or lures. Look for bass near the brush piles.

Muskegon River: Salmon are moving up into the river however no big push as of yet. Try spawn, small spoons like Cleo's, plugs, spinners, spawn bags or flies. Bright colors were a good choice.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Had plenty of adult salmon in and around Swan Bay but getting them to bite was difficult. Try running bombers off planer boards far away from the boat in five to 20 feet. Pearl or white were good colors. Some anchored and were casting or drifting so they would not spook the fish. Try Cleo's or bombers. Young salmon, steelhead and lake trout could be found out deeper. Look for baitfish and structure and run lines up and down the water column. Try green, blue, black and white or glow spoons.

Alpena: Was still producing a mixed bag of walleye, steelhead and young salmon. For walleye, try straight out in 30 to 35 feet while trolling towards Sulphur Island. For those trolling near Thunder Bay Island, spoons were good for trout and salmon or body baits for walleye.

Thunder Bay River: A few salmon are starting to show up at the 9th Street Dam but catch rates were limited. Try natural bait like salmon eggs or artificial baits like Cleo's, rattle traps, and flies. Some caught the occasional steelhead and hopefully the Atlantic salmon will show up soon.

Harrisville: The dredging is done and the equipment north of the harbor should be removed from the shoreline this week. The channel and the mouth of the harbor are now around 15 feet deep. Anglers have caught salmon but it seems the fish have lock jaw! Steelhead and lake trout were hitting on spoons. Orange, blue and pearl were good colors. A lot of fish were marked outside the harbor which could mean they are starting to stage for the run. Steelhead were caught in 20 to 40 feet. Lake trout were moving in closer and were found in 40 to 80 feet. Walleye were in and around the harbor, try crawlers or body baits.

Oscoda: Fishing is slow as far as the salmon numbers and there are only a few making their way up into the river. Steelhead were still out in 20 to 50 feet. A lot of fish were marked but it seems they do not want to bite. This may be due to the weather patterns we are having. Lake trout moved in and were caught off the pier. Walleye were caught off the pier by those using spoons and body baits in the early morning or late evening.

Houghton Lake: Anglers are targeting walleye, bass and panfish.

Tawas: A few small perch were caught off Jerry's Marina. Boats should be able to get back out on the big water now that the winds have died down.

Tawas River: Those casting in the lower river caught a few Chinook and walleye.

Au Gres: A few perch were caught straight out from the river and in 25 to 40 feet off Pointe Au Gres. There were rumors of better perch fishing in 18 to 25 feet off the Saganing Bar.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: For boat anglers catch rates were slow with only a couple salmon taken 60 feet down in 100 feet and lake trout near the bottom in 80 to 120 feet. Salmon were caught off the end of the docks by those using glow spoons before sunrise and spawn after. Those using spawn bags and skein on the D Pier and the “Bobber Hole” did well when a northwest wind and higher water levels pushed a lot of fish up into the river. A few smallmouth bass were caught around Bay View.

Bear River: Had a lot of salmon moving in. The rain and windy conditions had Chinook, coho and a few brown trout on the move. Anglers did best with skein and spawn bags.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers were focusing on shallow water around the Cement Plant. A few salmon were caught when trolling plugs and crank baits in 25 to 40 feet. Some were casting but few fish were caught. Pier anglers casting off the end of pier after dark had limited success. A few bass were caught on crawlers in the channel. Hardly any fish ran up Medusa Creek. Those wading at the Cement Plant slip had limited success with spoons or crank baits after dark. Most fish caught during the day were taken on spawn. Overall, fishing is still slow.

Traverse City: The East Bay had good lake trout fishing in 100 feet of water but salmon fishing was slow. Smallmouth bass action was fair in 15 to 45 feet. The West Bay had good lake trout fishing in 80 to 115 feet. Salmon fishing was slow but a few Chinook were caught near the mouth of the Boardman River.

Elk River: Some anglers caught coho and Chinook up near the power dam when using spawn bags. Catch rates were still relatively slow.

Boardman River: A few more salmon were running after all the rain but catch rates were still hit-or-miss. Those drifting skein under a bobber caught a few Chinook.

Platte River: Fishing started to pick up with salmon caught up near the lower weir. Anglers are reminded that the river is closed to fishing within 300 feet of the weir. Water levels are high and the fish are not holding. Try stone or egg flies. The fish are running at night and in the early morning.

Frankfort: Is producing fresh coho and Chinook. No big numbers but fish were caught between the piers. Those casting Cleo’s in the early morning caught a couple coho off the pier.

Betsie River: Chrome Chinook salmon are moving into the river every day. Those fishing have been quite happy with the run so far.

Portage Lake: As water temperatures start to drop, perch and other panfish will be heading towards shallow water. For bass, catch rates were hit-or-miss.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: Were producing some walleye and bluegill.

Manistee: Anglers trolling in the top 80 feet of waters 150 to 300 feet deep caught salmon and steelhead on bright colored spoons. Pier anglers casting spoons caught salmon.

Manistee River: Water levels are up after all the rain. Those targeting salmon caught Chinook throughout the river. The cooler weather had fish on the move and not holding in the holes.

Ludington: Boats trolling in 120 to 240 feet caught coho, steelhead and young Chinook. Try the top 80 feet with orange or green spoons. Pier fishing was slow.

Pere Marquette River: Anglers are catching salmon on fresh spawn.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Antoine: Panfish anglers are still taking a good number of fish including a few yellow perch 11 inches or more. Most are still-fishing or drifting with crawlers. Boat and shore anglers are still getting some nice smallmouth when casting crank baits.

Marquette: Boat anglers should be able to head out with improved weather conditions this week. Some fishing in the lower harbor and near the mouth of the Chocolay River caught a few coho and those fishing in 40 to 60 feet did find a couple lake trout.

Dead River: Had few anglers at the Tourist Park Basin. Those targeting salmon did not have any luck. Water levels were still high and most of the beach area near the mouth was underwater.

Carp River: Had few anglers and catch rates were poor. On-going construction at the mouth will continue through October.

Chocolay River: A few more coho salmon were caught but anglers are still waiting for a good run. Water levels were still on the high end. Try spawn, crawlers, small spinners or spoons.

Little Bay De Noc: A few walleye were taken between the Second Reef and the Center Reef when trolling crawler harnesses in 12 to 28 feet. Perch fishing was fair in 10 to 20 feet at Kipling. River anglers looking for salmon have started to show up but the fish haven't. The rivers were high and fast and will be a bit more challenging than previous years. Anglers caught smallmouth bass when they could out.

Big Bay De Noc: Bass anglers caught fish near Garden Bluff and Snake Island.

Au Train: More anglers are hoping to get out as the weather improves this week. A couple fishing the Rock River caught the occasional coho on spawn.

Munising: Boat anglers continue to target primarily coho salmon. Most were trolling in Munising Bay but catch rates were poor. Those heading out to Trout Bay caught a couple Chinook in the four pound range but few coho. Catch rates for pier anglers improved slightly for those using spawn. More splake than coho were caught. Those that did find coho reported bigger fish this year. Those leaving with a couple fish in two to three hours of fishing had a good trip because many have left empty-handed.

Grand Marais: Pier angling was limited with no fish caught. Boat anglers were trolling around the bay and off the mouth of the Sucker River. No lake trout to report and catch rates for coho were slow. A few were caught by shore anglers casting spoons or using spawn near the mouth of the Sucker River. Some got one or two fish during several hours of effort while most others caught none.

St. Mary's River: The discharge side of the Clover Land Power Plant is producing pink salmon for those casting 3-inch pink spoons. Boat anglers are landing a mix of Atlantic salmon, pink salmon and some whitefish. The pink salmon still have good color at this time, so the run could last into October. Those fishing the waters of Lake George reported excellent yellow perch fishing in 30 to 40 feet just off the northeast side of Sugar Island. A few pike were caught near the mouth of the Charlotte River by those drifting chubs. Raber Bay is producing a few musky on the east side of Lime Island near Bass Reef. Walleye anglers caught a few musky when trolling large crank baits in six to eight feet. Blue and silver were good colors. Perch were caught in six to eight feet in Maxton Bay around James Island by those using flathead minnows in the early morning. Smallmouth bass were taken on the north end of Scott Bay when jigging off Bruce's Pointe. Green and brown were good colors.

Detour: Boat anglers were harvesting Chinook, coho, pink salmon and lake trout near the Green Can when using yellow, orange, pink, red or gold and green lures.

Cedarville and Hessel: The north end of Snows Channel, Middle Entrance and Musky Bay are fair for perch. Excellent pike fishing continues in Hessel Bay, Middle Entrance, Musky Bay and Government Bay. Most are still-fishing with chubs.

Carp River: Anglers are seeing fish but the bite is slow. Most are trying multiple spots from McDonalds Rapids and downstream. A couple Chinook and pink salmon were caught on fresh spawn bags or spinners.