

October 2, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

517-284-5830

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

If previous years are any indicator, fishing pressure from boat anglers will decline with the onset of the archery deer season. Anglers are reminded that lake trout season on Lake Huron and northern Lake Michigan closed on September 30 but remains open on the waters between Arcadia and New Buffalo until October 31. Splake season is open all year in Lake Michigan.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Perch fishing was good but the warm weather did slow the bite. The better fishing continues straight out from Stony Point in 24 to 26 feet. The fish are moving in slightly when the water cools and back out deeper by midday. The bite has been light and the fish are near the bottom especially where there are rocks. A small number of bigger fish were caught off the beach at Sterling State Park in 14 to 16 feet. Both large and small fish were taken near the E-Buoy, Turtle Island and the Raisin River Buoys 1 & 2. Anglers are still waiting for the walleye to move back into Michigan waters.

**Huron River:** Anglers are catching a steelhead or two near Labo Park.

**Detroit River:** Had good perch fishing around the islands. Walleye were still being caught on the front side of Sugar Island and near the Edison Plant. Most anglers were hand-lining.

**Washtenaw County:** Ford Lake was producing some bluegills. Devils Lake was producing a few crappies and some northern pike.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Bluegill fishing remains good. Anglers are doing well on the north end of Big Portage in 10 to 20 feet. Crickets and crawlers under a bobber worked best. Those getting limit catches were still sorting out the small ones. Bass fishing was hit-or-miss along the shallow flats. Pike fishing gets better as the water temperatures drop. Anglers trolling hard body crank baits are doing well on Strawberry and Portage Lakes. Try fire-tiger or white.

**Lake St. Clair:** Floating weeds have made it difficult for those out trolling for muskie but some nice fish have been caught. Good areas to try include the Dumping Grounds and along the shipping channel. Anglers reported good bass fishing in 12 to 15 feet. Perch fishing is improving with some decent catches taken along the Dumping Grounds and the shipping channel off Grosse Pointe. Look for perch and smallmouth bass to move into the shallows as water temperatures drop.

**St. Clair River:** The best walleye reports continue to come from the Bluewater Bridge area. Those trolling or jigging have taken limit catches after dark. Walleye fishing in the lower river continues to be slow. Sturgeon fishing was good but the harvest season closed on September 30. The catch-and-release season continues until the end of November. Sturgeon anglers caught some big channel cats.

**Lexington & Port Sanilac:** Those trolling were taking a good number of steelhead in the top 30 feet of waters 50 to 80 feet deep. Some were caught in over 100 feet but there is no need to go out that far. Pier anglers were catching a few walleye, pike, small perch and one Chinook salmon. Lake trout fishing is closed.

**Harbor Beach:** Is producing steelhead and the odd walleye. Steelhead were hitting on orange and black spoons about 25 feet down in 80 to 90 feet. Pier anglers fishing the north gap were starting to get the odd steelhead or walleye in the evening. Brown trout were surfacing in the harbor but would not bite. Lake trout fishing is closed.

**Port Austin:** A few walleye were caught on spoons in 55 feet around the lighthouse and the Green Can. A few bass and perch were taken inside the harbor.

**Saginaw Bay:** Fair to good perch reports in 10 to 15 feet around the Saganing Bar and the Pinconning Bar but anglers were doing a lot of sorting. Fish were caught west of Buoy 16 and the Spark Plug, off Linwood in 14 feet, near the sailboat buoys off Linwood and in eight to 10 feet and near the mouth of the Quanicassee River. On any given day, you may have to move around to find an active school of fish. Boats were staying out several hours. A few walleye were caught in seven feet off the Hot Pond and by those trolling Hot-n-Tots behind Spoils Island. Channel catfish were caught in the Hot Pond and smallmouth bass were taken in the marina basins at the mouth of the Saginaw River.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

The inland lakes are producing bluegill, perch and pike.

**St. Joseph:** Had good perch fishing with most anglers targeting 30 to 35 feet. Salmon anglers also had good success taking a mixed bag of trout and salmon in waters 150 feet or deeper. Pier fishing was slow.

**St. Joseph River:** Has a decent number of Chinook and coho based on fish passage at the ladders but angler activity was light.

**South Haven:** Also had good perch fishing in 30 to 35 feet and good salmon fishing in 120 feet. Most of the salmon were caught on spoons. Pier fishing was slow.

**Kalamazoo River:** A few coho and steelhead are being caught below the Allegan Dam.

**Grand Haven:** Steelhead and Chinook salmon were caught 30 to 80 feet down in 120 to 200 feet. Use spoons high or a spinnie/fly combo down low. Hot colors were green for spoons and flies and white for spinnies and paddles. Meat rigs also caught fish, try yellow and white with spots. Pier action was slow for salmon and steelhead. Anglers were using alewife or spawn.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Has a good run of coho. Anglers are doing well in Grand Rapids and Lyons.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Has reports of salmon up at the Webber Dam and even some at Moore's Park and the North Lansing Dam.

**Muskegon:** Chinook and steelhead were taken by those trolling in 120 to 220 feet with spoons or a spin/fly combo. Meat rigs also caught fish.

**Muskegon River:** Has salmon and some steelhead for the taking. Try casting small spoons and spinners or drifting spawn bags.

**Whitehall:** Seems to still have a fair number of fresh Chinook salmon in 60 to 80 feet. Boat anglers fishing the shallows ran into fresh salmon a couple miles to the north. Pier anglers are still catching a few fish. Northern pike were caught off the channel.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

Anglers are reminded that lake trout and splake season on the waters of Lake Huron closed on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Rogers City:** Had good catches but lake trout season is now closed. Anglers saw lots of baitfish in the area and are hoping they will draw in the younger Chinook and steelhead. Those fishing high in the water column caught a couple steelhead with 5 color leadcore and orange spoons. The younger Chinook salmon have not really shown up in any numbers yet which proves there is still plenty of fishing left.

**Alpena:** Had great fishing. Anglers caught a mix of trout, salmon and walleye out towards North Point and Thunder Bay Island. Target all depths and run lines throughout the water column. Spoons were the ticket and the hot colors were green, blue, black and white or glow early and late. Steelhead were caught up high on orange spoons.

**Thunder Bay River:** Has a few salmon but anglers had little success getting them to hit. Catch rates should improve once the water cools. Look for Atlantic salmon to show up soon.

**Harrisville:** Is finally showing signs of salmon in the area. Fish are jumping in the harbor but getting them to hit has not been easy. Spawn, spoons and body baits have produced catches while trolling and casting around the harbor. Steelhead did move in closer to shore but were in and out of the harbor. Walleye seem to be the most plentiful in the area. Anglers are doing well north, south and in front of the harbor in 12 to 30 feet with crawler harnesses and body baits.

**Oscoda:** Salmon are starting to show up at the pier and the fish are fresh from the lake. Spoons, stick baits, flies and spawn are working well. Steelhead are also coming in and were caught from the pier, in the river and just outside the piers. Those trolling on the lake are using spoons. Walleye were caught off the pier.

**Au Sable River:** Is producing some steelhead and walleye. Anglers are casting body baits or drifting crawlers. Anglers reported a good number of trout on the South Branch.

**Higgins Lake:** The perch and rock bass fishing slowed.

**Houghton Lake:** Had some walleye and panfish. Try crawlers and leeches along the edge of the weeds in eight to 10 feet.

**Tawas:** Pier fishing was slow with only a few smallmouth bass and small perch taken. Some perch were caught in 15 to 20 feet off Jerry's Marina but catch rates were still hit-or-miss and anglers had to do a lot of sorting.

**Tawas River:** Is giving up a few salmon in the early morning.

**Au Gres:** Perch fishing was spotty but some large fish 11 to 12 inches were caught. One hot spot was straight off the mouth of the river in 40 to 50 feet however boat anglers heading out of Eagle Bay Marina and fishing off the Saganing Bar did a little better. A few bass anglers fishing in 10 to 15 feet off the mouth of the river caught and released a good number rather large smallmouth bass.

**Au Gres River:** A couple steelhead were caught by those floating spawn bags at the Singing Bridge but catch rates were still pretty slow.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Lake trout season on northern Lake Michigan closed on September 30. The salmon run is nearing its peak in most of the rivers in this region. Inland lakes were producing some decent catches of perch.

**Petoskey:** Boats are going out and casting inside the breakwall where the salmon are staging. A couple Chinook and coho were picked up off the D Pier, the end of the clock dock, inside of the breakwall, and by those wading off the beach near the breakwall. Try spawn, crank baits or spoons. A lot of the salmon are ripe.

**Bear River:** A few salmon were still up near the dam. A couple small steelhead were also taken between the bridges below the dam. Spawn and artificial eggs worked best. There were reports of few lake trout running up to the dam. Lake trout season is still open in the river.

**Charlevoix:** The only boats having any luck were going out in the early morning and fishing in shallow waters 20 to 45 feet deep around the Cement Plant. Some fish are staging in the shallow waters 15 to 25 feet deep in front of Medusa Creek. Some are still catching some nice smallmouth bass when using crawlers or soft plastics on the bottom. Shore fishing in the slip slowed to a stop. All we need is some rain and windy conditions to get the fish moving again.

**Traverse City:** Lake trout season in both bays closed on September 30. Those fishing the East Bay caught a few salmon when trolling 50 to 70 feet down. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair near the drop-offs. In the West Bay, salmon fishing was slow. Anglers are marking a decent number of fish but the bite was not there. Smallmouth bass anglers reported fair catches on brown and green tube baits in 8 to 25 feet.

**Elk River:** A few salmon have been caught on spawn near the power dam.

**Boardman River:** Salmon and the occasional lake trout have been caught by those drifting skein under a bobber.

**Platte River:** Fishing activity has increased. Those fishing the upper stretch reported slow catches when fish are allowed to pass through the lower weir. The gate on the lower weir access road is closed at 8pm every night with no exceptions. Some fish were caught by those trolling in Loon Lake and Big Lake.

**Betsie River:** Has a good number of salmon, many of which are actively spawning. Anglers on the lower river are still catching adult kings on skein under a bobber and stickbaits.

**Manistee:** Those able to fish offshore caught young Chinook up to 12 pounds. Steelhead were caught on spoons in the top 50 to 80 feet in 150 to 300 feet. Green and orange spoons were best but a few were also caught on green flies or meat rigs. Pier fishing was slow.

**Manistee River:** Has a good number of Chinook and a few coho. The salmon run is nearing its peak as a good number of fish are actively spawning.

**Ludington:** Boats are catching decent numbers of young Chinook, coho and steelhead. The best action was in the top 70 feet of waters 100 to 250 feet deep with orange or green spoons. No salmon for pier anglers.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is producing salmon but the run is nearing the end. Try floating skein under a bobber or casting stickbaits and small spoons.

**Pentwater:** Anglers found steelhead and coho in the shallows between the pier and the dunes. Those fishing 150 to 200 feet caught good numbers of steelhead in the top 50 feet and some nice coho. Try blue rotators and meat rigs, fireball orange lures or glow lures early and late.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Ontonagon:** Fishing is good. Lake trout are showing up out in 50 to 60 feet and were caught throughout the water column. Good colors were green, silver, orange and yellow. Salmon fishing was slow.

**Keweenaw Bay:** The bite was slow but a few Chinook, coho and lake trout were caught by those willing to put in a lot of time while trolling spoons in 30 to 50 feet. Most were trolling the head of the bay, along the L'Anse and Baraga shoreline, up to Carla's Restaurant and near Pequaming. Some coho were caught in the Falls River near L'Anse and at the head of the bay at the bridge. For the South Portage Entry, the bite was hit-or-miss. On the good days, anglers caught lake trout in 40 to 80 feet at Big, Newton's and Farmers Reef. For Traverse Bay, fish were caught on Buffalo Reef or 5, 6 and 7 Reefs which are part of Big Reef.

**Lake Antoine:** Had more anglers out targeting panfish and they did well. Some nice bluegills and yellow perch were caught by those drifting or still-fishing with crawlers. Sunfish and rock bass were also caught. The fish were in close to shore. Bass were hitting on crank baits, rubber worms or crayfish when casting or trolling.

**Marquette:** Boat anglers did best when targeting lake trout. A few limit catches were reported but the bite did fluctuate. A few fish were caught near Granite Island and Granite Loma Farms in 120 to 150 feet. No salmon to report. Those fishing towards Shot Point and the Sand River caught brown trout and a couple coho with high-lines in 130 feet. Good colors were watermelon, silver and purple. Some were trolling from the mouth of the Carp River to the mouth of the Chocolay River but catch rates were poor.

**Dead River:** Had low angler pressure and poor catch rates. Water levels have dropped and flow from the power plant was lower. No Chinook or pink salmon were spotted in the river.

**Carp River:** Had a few shore anglers but catch rates were poor. Watch for trucks coming to or leaving the construction area.

**Chocolay River:** Shore and boat anglers launching from the marina reported a slight increase in catch rates but still slow. Many are frustrated with the lack of coho being caught. No real pattern as far as baits or lures. Some caught fish on crawlers or spawn bags while others used small spinners in orange or chartreuse. A few nice brown trout were caught.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had fair walleye catches along the “Black Bottom”, Second Reef and Center Reef in 10 to 24 feet. Fair to good perch off the mouth of the Day’s River in 10 to 12 feet with minnows. Several pike were caught in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when trolling spoons, crank baits or buck tails along the channel. Salmon anglers are fishing the rivers but high water makes it difficult to spot fish.

**Escanaba River:** For walleye, the mouth was best when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 12 to 20 feet. Anglers did well near the 1<sup>st</sup> Dam when casting spoons, plugs or crank baits.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Smallmouth anglers had fair catches off Garden Bluff and Snake Island. Water depths varied day to day. Some trolled but most were drifting or casting tube baits or minnows in 14 to 30 feet along the break. Fair perch fishing around Ansell’s Point and just inside the mouth of Garden Bay. Minnows worked best in 18 to 25 feet. No walleye reports.

**Au Train:** Lake trout anglers did well averaging five to ten fish from the Shelter Bay Flats. Most were caught right on the bottom in 130 to 160 feet. Those fishing towards Wood Island had fair success in 140 to 160 feet with spoons. Some are tipping them with sucker meat. Most fish averaged three to four pounds but a couple tipped the scales and were between 10 and 22 pounds. No Chinook or coho to report. Those shore fishing at the Rock River caught one or two small coho.

**Manistique River:** Salmon were starting to run.

**Big Manistique Lake:** Was producing perch and walleye.

**St. Mary’s River:** Waters at the Clover Land Power Plant are still producing four to seven pound Atlantic salmon. Anglers are drifting shallow running crank baits in four to six feet on the discharge side. Pink salmon are still being caught but the numbers are starting to decline. Perch were caught in the bays off Lake Nicolet. Try just off the weeds in six to eight feet. In Lake George, try half a crawler in eight to 10 feet. Raber Bay was slow for walleye. Fair pike action for those trolling chrome spoons with a red eye near Carlton Creek. Yellow perch were caught around James Island, off Maxton Bay, Scott Bay, Howard Island and Boulanger Island when using a pinch of crawler or minnows. Good pike action along the southeast side of Grape Island.

**Detour:** Those heading out are harvesting Chinook, coho and pink salmon when trolling. Hot colors were orange, yellow, green and gold, red or pink.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Perch fishing is fair in Middle Entrance, Musky Bay and off the pier in Hessel. Northern pike are hitting at the drop-off along the north shore of Government Bay. Try eight to 15 feet with chubs.

**Carp River:** Anglers are spotting fresh fish but getting them to hit has been difficult. A limited number of pink and Chinook salmon were caught on fresh spawn bags or spinners in yellow, green and gold, orange, pink or red.

October 9, 2014

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## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Cold and windy weather hampered fishing efforts and lowered angler participation which means fewer updates for the weekly report. Salmon runs are nearing their peak in some waters on the west side of the state. **Anglers are once again reminded that snagging is illegal.** It is unlawful to snag or retain any fish not legally hooked in the mouth.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Water temperatures continue to drop. The best perch fishing was still straight out in Stony Point in 26 feet. The key to locating perch is to find a rocky area and fish right on the bottom. Good numbers of perch are being caught at Turtle Island and the Raisin River Buoys 1 & 2. Many are still waiting for a decent number of adult walleye to return to Michigan waters. Those fishing the Hot Ponds caught largemouth bass on plastic worms when slow trolling or drifting.

**Huron River:** Is producing a few more steelhead. Anglers are using spawn, small spoons or spinners and flies.

**Detroit River:** Perch fishing continues around the islands. Some are using a piece of crawler but most are using minnows. Those trolling Hot-n-Tots or hand-lining have caught walleye.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Anglers are targeting bluegills in eight to 12 feet. Try crickets or small crawlers under a bobber. Lots of bass were seen in the channels. Pike are starting to be caught on a regular basis in Strawberry Lake and Gallagher Lake. Zukey Lake and Portage Lake were producing the most panfish.

**Lake St. Clair:** Water temperatures are dropping so catch rates for muskie, bass and perch should be improving.

**St. Clair River:** Continues to provide fair to good catches of walleye for those trolling or jigging after dark. Catch and release sturgeon fishing has been very good especially in the North Channel.

**Lexington:** Pier anglers caught a couple steelhead when casting spoons. Shore and pier anglers have caught walleye and steelhead here and there but that's about it. Water temperatures were 54 degrees. Not much going on at Port Sanilac, Harbor Beach or Grindstone City as the harbors were muddy with the wind and wave action.

**Port Austin:** Pier anglers took some walleye and smallmouth bass from the mouth of Bird Creek. They were casting fire-tiger crank baits.

**Saginaw Bay:** Boat fishing was almost non-existent because of the cold and windy weather. There were some rumors of perch near the Spark Plug and the sailboat buoys off Linwood. Not much happening off Quanicassee as most all the fishing is taking place in the river because it was too windy on the bay. A few boats that were able to get out from Sebewaing caught some perch at the end of the navigation channel and from the Slot.

**Saginaw River:** Some channel catfish were caught in the lower river.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Fishing was slow because of bad weather and large waves. When boat anglers can get out, they caught perch straight out from the pier in 30 to 50 feet and salmon when trolling in 60 to 130 feet.

**St. Joseph River:** Still has a good number of coho and steelhead going through at the Berrien Springs Dam. Chinook salmon movement increased somewhat.

**South Haven:** Large waves have kept anglers off the big lake. When they can get out, perch were caught in 30 feet. Those trolling did manage to catch a few salmon on J-plugs, spinners and flies in 80 to 150 feet.

**Kalamazoo River:** Enbridge has completed their work at Ceresco and Morrow Impoundment this season, so the river is open to recreational use. This does not imply that the Enbridge cleanup is complete. Salmon and coho are winding down. Flows are high with two of the flood gates open.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Had a good run of coho and now steelhead and the occasional brown trout are coming into the river. Try Cleo's, spinners and egg patterns. A few walleye were caught on Hot-n-Tots.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Coho are being caught from Lansing down to Lyons but catch rates were hit-or-miss. A few fish were taken at the Moore's Park Dam and below the Webber Dam.

**Reeds Lake:** Had bluegills hitting on leaf worms and wax worms. Crappie were hitting on minnows and wax worms.

**Muskegon River:** Has salmon and more fish are moving up into the river. Right behind the salmon anglers will find the occasional steelhead.

**Whitehall:** Has no salmon around the piers. The fish were in White Lake but have most likely moved into the river by now. If boats can get out, try trolling in shallow waters or heading out to waters 120 to 150 feet deep. Steelhead were hitting on orange spoons in the top 40 feet.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Cheboygan River:** Those fishing the mouth may find the occasional Chinook salmon.

**Rogers City:** Still had plenty of adult salmon in and around Swan Bay however getting them to hit has been difficult. Those trolling early morning or late evening did pick up a few fish. Try high-lining or casting with bombers and spoons. The younger salmon should be actively feeding so look for baitfish and structure. Try spoons in green, blue, black and white or anything that glows. Orange was still a good color up high for steelhead.

**Alpena:** The better salmon and steelhead fishing for younger fish has slowed but should pick back up once the weather improves. Try off North Point, Micheley's Point or around Thunder Bay Island. Depths varied however fish high in the water column with the same colors as Rogers City. Walleye are still around. Try straight out in 30 to 35 feet with crank baits or out towards Sulphur Island.

**Thunder Bay River:** Was slow. Water levels came up after all the rain but only a few salmon were caught. The run may be finished and it may just be a small run this year. Atlantic salmon and steelhead should be here soon.

**Harrisville:** Salmon are coming in but the numbers are low. Fishing was slow but anglers are reporting fish in the harbor. Best times were late evening or early morning until the sun comes up. Steelhead are starting and a few were caught outside the harbor. Walleye are in the area and were caught early or late. All fish are hitting on blue, green, orange or glow spoons or black and silver, blue and silver or black, gold and white body baits.

**Oscoda:** Was slow with only a few salmon caught. There has not been a run yet so the fish may be staging outside the river mouth. If the weather permits, anglers may want to try trolling spoons, body baits or natural baits near the mouth. Walleye were caught on crawlers and body baits early morning and late evening.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead should start to make their way up the river soon. Anglers will have to wait for the water to slow down as the spill gates on the dam have been open and the water was cloudy.

**Tawas:** A few walleye, catfish and freshwater drum were caught in the harbor. Virtually no boats were heading out.

**Tawas River:** Some walleyes were caught by those using various lures.

**Au Gres:** Had almost no boats heading out. Rumor has it some perch were caught off the Saganing and Pinconning Bars.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Petoskey:** Had very few boat anglers. Pressure was light as most were fishing in the river. A couple fish were caught off the breakwall. No word on steelhead yet.

**Bear River:** Had a good run of Chinook and coho however catch rates have since fallen. The river was very high after all the rain and landing a hooked fish was a challenge. Most of the females are now loose and turning dark. Try spawn, artificial eggs and yarn.

**Charlevoix:** The few boats going out were casting or still-fishing with spawn in the slip at the Cement Plant or in front of Medusa Creek. Catch rates were very slow. Windy conditions kept most from fishing the channel. A few smallmouth were caught on crawlers near the end of the pier. Even with the rain, hardly any salmon ran up Medusa Creek. Catch rates were still poor for those wading in the slip. The fish may be staging out in front near the rocks instead of in the slip.

**Traverse City:** Boat anglers in the East Bay have given up on trolling for salmon. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair in 10 to 30 feet. A few perch were caught but anglers had to sort through a lot of small ones. Salmon fishing was very slow in the West Bay. Smallmouth bass fishing was good around the first drop in 7 to 25 feet. Some caught a few perch.

**Elk River:** Salmon are still being caught on spawn below the power dam.

**Boardman River:** Salmon have been caught drifting spawn but catch rates and numbers are down this year. Some caught lake trout and the occasional steelhead.

**Platte River:** Fishing on the lower section is good near the lower weir where Chinook were caught on spawn bags and stream flies. Salmon are on the gravel and spawning at Kittendorph Landing and below El Dorado Park. There are fresh runs of coho at night and fish are arriving weekly.

**Onekama:** Salmon and steelhead action has been very good in the top 60 feet of waters 100 to 180 feet deep when using spoons that imitate baitfish.

**Manistee:** Windy conditions the last five or six days have prevented boat access to Lake Michigan. Pier and shore anglers are catching coho and steelhead when using fresh salmon spawn.

**Manistee River:** Has Chinook, a few coho and even some steelhead. Anglers will still find a few fresh salmon but many are turning dark.

**Ludington:** Boat anglers have been unable to access the big lake because of windy conditions. Pier anglers are catching a couple steelhead when using spawn or casting orange spoons.

**Pere Marquette River:** Has salmon and some steelhead but some of the salmon are turning dark. Water levels are up and water temperatures are dropping.

**Pentwater:** The only anglers targeting salmon were fishing the marsh just before the mouth of Pentwater Creek. When the weather allows, anglers may still find some coho in shallow waters about 60 feet deep or going out to waters 120 to 150 feet deep. Steelhead were caught in the top 40 feet.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Ontonagon:** Had poor weather conditions but for those that toughed it out, fishing was good. Lake trout are showing up throughout the water column in 30 to 60 feet. Silver, green, orange and yellow were good colors. Salmon fishing is still very slow.

**Keweenaw Bay:** The bite was still slow. Those trolling did catch a couple small Chinook, coho, lake trout and one splake.

**Falls River:** Is producing a few coho. At times, those fishing near the US-41 Bridge at the head of the Bay have done well.

**Lake Antoine:** Anglers were still catching some yellow perch however they had to keep moving around to find the bigger fish. Try drifting or still-fishing with crawlers. Bluegills and sunfish were also caught. Bass anglers caught some nice smallmouth however the number of fish caught per trip has gone down. Anglers are casting crank baits along the shoreline and the drop-off in front of the campground.

**Marquette:** Lake trout anglers fishing near Shot Point, north of the white rocks, up towards Granite Island and the "Clay Banks" did well with some limit catches of fish up to 15 pounds. Fish are being marked at all depths in waters less than 100 feet and were hitting on spoons. Chinook, coho and a few lake herring were also caught.

**Dead River:** Had a slight increase in fishing pressure. A few Chinook were spotted but anglers only caught a couple pink salmon. Anglers are fly fishing or casting small spoons, spinners and even crawlers but none were productive.

**Carp River:** Shore anglers can see salmon but catch rates were pretty much zero. A few splake were caught but they were only 10 to 12 inches. Construction near the mouth will continue through at least end of October.

**Chocolay River:** Shore and boat anglers are frustrated as catch rates were poor and most anglers reported no hits. Anglers have tried spawn, crawlers, small spoons and spinners but had no luck. No brown trout to report.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had few walleye catches over the last week. Most were fishing the reefs at the head of the Bay or south of the Escanaba River. At Kipling anglers were trolling from the mouth of the Day's River south to Second Reef with crawler harnesses in 10 to 25 feet. Those fishing off the mouth of the Escanaba River were trolling, jigging or drifting crawlers in 16 to 22 feet. Several nice perch catches were reported just north of the Day's River with minnows in 10 to 12 feet.

**Escanaba River:** Shore anglers fishing up near the 1<sup>st</sup> Dam caught salmon when casting spoons or crank baits.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had mostly smallmouth anglers fishing along the break between Garden Bluff and Snake Island. Weather affected catch rates for those using minnows or plastic baits 15 to 35 feet down. Shore anglers were salmon fishing the Big Fish Dam River with spoons or crank baits however most anglers in this area fish the Manistique River.

**Munising:** Boat anglers are targeting coho when trolling in the early morning. Catch rates were slow with one or two fish taken. There were no lake trout reports. Pier anglers had fair to slow results for coho and splake when using spawn or casting orange and pink lures. A good trip was one or two fish in three to four hours but many left empty handed. The coho appear to be running slightly bigger than last year.

**Grand Marais:** Pier angling was very limited with no catches reported. A few boat anglers were fishing in the Bay and near the Sucker River. Work to extend the boat launch has finished and will allow some boat anglers to get back out. Shore anglers caught coho and some of the first steelhead of the season near the mouth of the Sucker River on spawn or spoons.

**St. Mary's River:** At Sault Ste. Marie, the pink salmon run in the upper river and off the power plant has finally come to an end. Lake Whitefish were caught by those drifting brown and black or brown and beige fly baits on a small #12 hook on the discharge side off Portage Street. Those drifting spawn or red and chrome flat fish caught steelhead and whitefish at the Portage Street Canal Bridge. Lake George was slow for walleye however yellow perch were caught on the northeast side of Sugar Island in 8 to 12 feet along the weed beds. Try half a crawler or popcorn shrimp. Gem Island, below Hay Point in Lake George is producing 28 to 32 inch pike for those trolling red eye spoons or large black bucktail spinners. Raber Bay was slow for walleye but a few pike were caught on the northwest side at Burnt Island when trolling or casting dark colored buck tail spinners with gold blades.

**Drummond Island:** Perch anglers are using small worms or flathead minnows in eight to 12 feet around Ashman Island and Rutland Island. Even with the higher water levels, boat anglers are reminded to watch for rocks, rocky shoals, and reefs in the St. Mary's River and around Drummond Island.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Perch fishing is fair in the Middle Entrance, Musky Bay and off the pier in Hessel. Northern pike are hitting at the drop-off along the north shore of Government Bay. Chubs were best in eight to 15 feet.

**Carp River:** Those targeting Chinook reported slow catch rates with little to no return.

October 16, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Although fishing can be really good this time of year the weather can make it difficult to get out and this year has been no exception. The inland waters should be good for walleye, pike, bass and panfish.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Colder water temperatures were finally starting to cause the perch to school up and move into shallower waters. Fish could be found as shallow as 20 feet straight out in Stony Point in the early morning until moving back into deeper waters 24 to 26 feet by late afternoon. Larger perch can be caught straight out from the beach at Sterling State Park in 14 to 16 feet and around Turtle Island. Still not many walleye in Michigan waters but a few were taken in 22 to 24 feet straight out from the Fermi Power Plant on orange and green crawler harnesses.

**Huron River:** Is producing a couple steelhead for those fishing Labo Park and up near the dam at Flat Rock.

**Detroit River:** Anglers are getting some walleye when jigging or hand-lining on the Canadian side. Fair to good muskie action for those using large spinners, body baits and suckers around Fighting Island.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Anglers are catching good numbers of bluegill on various types of live bait throughout the lake system. The bigger fish seem to be in 8 to 12 feet. Those catching bass are fishing the weedy flats around the drop-offs. A few pike were caught by those trolling or casting fire-tiger crank baits.

**Lake St. Clair:** Bass fishing has been good with more fish showing up in shallower waters. Perch fishing is improving with good reports from the Grosse Pointe area and the Dumping Grounds. Walleye are moving into shallow waters after dark.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing is picking up in the lower channels. Try jigging with shiners. Sturgeon fishing continues to be good in the Algonac area.

**Lexington:** A couple steelhead and pike were caught in the harbor. Shiners are starting to come into all the harbors.

**Port Sanilac:** Fishing activity was slow but anglers may find some steelhead and brown trout in waters 30 to 70 feet.

**Harbor Beach:** Had rumors of walleye and steelhead near the north gap. Boat anglers might want to try trolling in waters up to 70 feet deep.

**Port Austin:** Pier anglers were getting some perch in the morning and a few walleye at night when casting spoons or crank baits off the north wall and the gas dock.

**Saginaw Bay:** Perch fishing picked up along the shipping channel at Buoys 18, 11 and 12, and the Spark Plug. Fish were caught off Linwood in 16 to 20 feet. Expect to do a lot of sorting but if you put in the time, you can get a mess of decent size perch. Walleye fishing has also picked up around Spoils Island for those casting spoons and rapalas. The east side of the Bay had mainly shore anglers catching small perch at Quanicassee, Sebewaing and Bay Port. Fishing was slow at Caseville.

**Saginaw River:** Has walleye hitting in the lower river around the Coast Guard Station and near the Independence Bridge. Try jigs with minnows.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

This is the time of year to fish the inland lakes. Anglers should do well for bass, pike, and panfish.

**St. Joseph:** Fishing overall is slow. When boats can get out, anglers have caught some decent catches of trout and salmon in waters 100 feet and deeper. Pier anglers caught the occasional steelhead on spawn.

**St. Joseph River:** The coho run is winding down and only a couple steelhead were seen on the fish cam. A fair number of Chinook salmon moved through the ladder over the last week.

**South Haven:** Fishing was slow. Anglers only caught a few trout on spawn.

**Kalamazoo River:** Those fishing near the Allegan Dam have caught steelhead on spawn or spinners.

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers caught very few steelhead when using spawn. Gizzard shad are around and could be used for bait but they are usually not the bait of choice.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Salmon are in the area however anglers are having little success. In Eaton County, salmon were observed up near the dam in Grand Ledge but the fish were turning dark.

**Looking Glass River:** A few panfish and bass were caught. Those fishing at Babcock's Landing have caught a good number of pike.

**Jackson County:** The inland lakes were producing bluegills.

**Calhoun County:** Fishing was slow however Duck Lake and Gang Lake were producing some nice panfish. Prairie Lake had some bluegills and a few perch. Gogouac is producing a small number of decent bass and some bluegills.

**Muskegon:** Anglers were just starting to fish off the pier with spawn but no word yet on any salmon or steelhead caught.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels are up after the rain and more fish were reported in the river. A decent number of steelhead and brown trout were also reported.

**Whitehall:** Pier anglers are bringing in a fair number of coho and steelhead when still-fishing with spawn. A couple brown trout were also caught.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Rogers City:** Most of the boat anglers are done for the season but a few are still giving it one last try. The fish are scattered including the schools of baitfish. Try anywhere from 40 to 120 feet. Spoons may be the best choice and fish summer patterns with green, blue, white and black. Try orange spoons up high for steelhead and Atlantic salmon. The Swan Bay fishery is done for the season as the fish are currently being harvested.

**Alpena:** The weather has been making it very difficult to get out on the big lake. If you can, good places to try are straight out in 30 to 35 feet or towards Sulphur Island, North Shore, North Point or Michelys Hole for chinook, steelhead and walleye.

**Thunder Bay River:** A few salmon are in the river but trying to catch them has not been easy. Try drifting spawn and flies or casting rattle traps and body baits. Steelhead should start to show up soon.

**Harrisville:** Salmon have been in the area but the numbers are low. Spoons, spawn, stick baits and wobble glows have produced catches. Steelhead and walleye seem to be moving into the harbor. Early morning and late evening were good for walleye. Try small spoons, body baits or crawler harnesses. Steelhead were caught in 20 to 30 feet between Sturgeon Point and Greenbush.

**Oscoda:** Was producing a good number of walleye for pier anglers.

**Au Sable River:** Boat anglers drifting spoons, body baits or crawlers have caught some walleye at night. Salmon are in the river but in low numbers. Those caught up river were in bad shape. Spawn and flies seem to work best. There are reports of steelhead and Atlantic salmon in the river, if so the number of fish should only increase as we move further into fall.

**Higgins Lake:** Some nice lake trout were caught in 90 to 100 feet.

**Houghton Lake:** Walleye and pike were caught along the edge of the weed beds.

**Tawas:** Had a large number of shiners moving into the harbor. Some perch and walleye were following them. Perch fishing picked up but anglers are still sorting out the small ones. Perch anglers caught the odd walleye when casting at night or when using perch rigs during the day. A few pike were caught in the harbor.

**Tawas River:** Still had some anglers fishing for salmon but success rates were not good. About the only thing caught was a few walleye.

**Au Gres:** Bass anglers continue to do well casting tube jigs. Perch fishing was spotty in 30 to 40 feet off the hotel but much better off the Saganing and Pinconning Bars in 10 to 15 feet. Those trolling for walleye got a few fish off Whitestone Point.

**Au Gres River:** Was producing a few perch.

**Holloway Reservoir:** Walleye and catfish were caught in the impoundment and below the dam.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Walleye fishing should be good on the inland lakes until ice up. Some lakes to target are Cadillac, Mitchell, Hamlin, Tippy Dam Pond, and the Hodenpyl Dam Pond.

**Petoskey:** Pier anglers are using spawn for steelhead but most of the fish caught were on the small side. One small coho was caught near the marina.

**Bear River:** The heavy rain brought a nice run of fish up to the dam in Petoskey. Mostly chinook with a couple steelhead mixed in. Water levels were high which makes it difficult to land a fish. Brown trout have been seen but anglers are reminded that brown trout season on the river closed on September 30th.

**Charlevoix:** Had a couple boats trying for salmon but they had no luck. Angler pressure in the channel was very low but for those looking for smallmouth bass, there may still be some fish. Shore fishing for salmon near Medusa Creek has slowed way down. There was really no run last week so it looks like the run is over. A couple anglers in the slip were trying for Menominee and steelhead when using spawn.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay had fair smallmouth fishing in 10 to 40 feet. Perch were caught on minnows in approximately 30 feet. Cisco and the occasional whitefish were caught by those jigging in 100 to 130 feet. In the West Bay, smallmouth fishing was fair near the first drop-off. Try working tube baits near the bottom. A few anglers targeting perch had limited success near Lee Point and Bowers Harbor.

**Elk River:** Salmon and the occasional lake trout were caught below the power dam. Most anglers are using pink and orange spawn bags.

**Boardman River:** The weir was to be pulled on October 15th. Salmon fishing has been slow. Lake trout and the occasional steelhead were caught on spawn bags, artificial egg patterns, or flies.

**Platte River:** Most of the fish are at the lower weir. Chinook were hitting on flies and steelhead on spawn. Chinook were on the gravel near El Dorado Park.

**Frankfort:** Pier and shore anglers caught some steelhead on fresh spawn. Several were 6 to 8 pounds with the occasional 11 or 12 pound fish.

**Betsie River:** Still had a good number of chinook salmon and the occasional fish still had good color and the eggs were tight.

**Onekama:** Pier and shore anglers caught fish on spawn but still hit-or-miss.

**Portage Lake:** Bass anglers are still catching good numbers working the drops. Those trolling small spoons along the west side near the Inn have caught a few coho.

**Manistee:** Anglers are catching chinook 100 to 150 feet down in 150 to 250 feet of water. Meat rigs are doing well along with green spoons. Pier and shore anglers are catching steelhead on spawn.

**Manistee River:** The chinook salmon run will be on the downslide from here on out, with most fish actively spawning on the gravel. Steelhead numbers should start to build, as long as we continue to get rain and temperatures stay relatively warm.

**Pere Marquette River:** A few fresh coho were still being caught between Ludington and Scottville. They were hitting on red and white spinner baits in the fast water near the holes and log jams.

**Pentwater:** Is producing a small number of coho and steelhead. Anglers are still-fishing with spawn. A few brown trout have also been caught. There were no boat anglers on Lake Michigan.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Antoine:** Rain and wind made it difficult for anglers but a few were still able to catch some smallmouth bass when casting crank baits or trolling crawlers and plastics.

**Marquette:** Boat anglers did better catching a combination of lake trout, chinook, coho, steelhead and brown trout. Surface water temperatures were in the upper 40's to near 50 degrees. The better fishing was in the morning or early evening near the White Rocks, Partridge Island, Shot Point and the lower harbor with spoons in 60 to 80 feet. A few limits of lake trout were observed along with a mixed bag of one or two salmon and brown trout. Lake trout were up to 15 pounds, brown trout 5 to 7 pounds, steelhead 4 to 6 ½ pounds, and coho 3 to 4 ½ pounds. Anglers tried fishing the end of the lower harbor breakwall but had no luck.

**Dead River:** The gates have been open at the Tourist Park Dam. Fishing pressure has been very low with little success for chinook salmon.

**Carp River:** Shore anglers did see small trout surfacing and they may have been undersize splake. Only one or two salmon were reported but fishing pressure was low mainly due to the sewer construction project near the mouth.

**Chocolay River:** A few more coho salmon and some nice brown trout were reported. The fall coho run has increased slightly with a few more reports of anglers catching one or two fish. Those seen were still chrome colored and the males are becoming ripe. Try orange spinners, crawlers or spawn bags.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported fair catches at best with most fishing the Second and Third Reefs. They were trolling crawler harnesses and crank baits in 12 to 30 feet but most of the fish were sub-legal. Pike were active throughout the Bay with fair to good catches near the mouth of the Day's River in 8 to 16 feet, the Escanaba shipping docks in 8 to 12 feet and the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when trolling in the channel. Most used crank baits or spoons but some preferred minnows. Perch catches were spotty with the best action from those using minnows in 12 to 18 feet near the Day's River. Salmon were caught in the river.

**Escanaba River:** Salmon anglers reported several catches at the 1<sup>st</sup> Dam when using Cleo's and crank baits.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Smallmouth bass anglers reported fair to good catches in the Snake Island area. Most were fishing right on the break with minnows or plastics 12 to 30 feet down. Anglers are reporting a high number of sub-legal fish. Several pike catches were reported off Ansell's Point in 10 to 12 feet and near Nahma in 10 to 14 feet with minnows or crank baits. Perch anglers didn't have much to show for their efforts but keep looking. Last week they were deeper but they do move in the fall.

**Manistique Lake:** Perch fishing is steady with some nice fish caught right along with many small ones.

**Munising:** Boat anglers are trolling for coho in the Bay but average catch rates were zero to one fish. No lake trout to report this week. Pier angling was steady but catch rates were slow for coho and splake. Those caught were taken by those casting as opposed to those still-fishing with spawn. Pink and orange lures worked best. While some are leaving with fish others are going home empty-handed. The coho were three to 3 to 3 ½ pounds which is bigger than last year.

**Grand Marais:** Pier anglers were targeting menominee, trout and salmon but efforts were limited and no catches reported. Boat activity was light with most trolling within the bay and near the Sucker River. Catch rates were slow with only the occasional coho or steelhead landed even though some were marking good numbers of fish. Shore anglers were out but catch rates were poor. Those fishing near the mouth of the Sucker River were lucky to catch a rare coho or steelhead when casting spoons or using spawn.

**Two-Hearted River:** Anglers are catching coho at the mouth and further up river.

**Tahquamenon River:** Had a number of anglers fishing for muskie and catch rates were steady.

**St. Mary's River:** Some 8 to 9 inch yellow perch were caught at the north end of the Rock-Cut at 15 Mile Road. Try early morning up until 11 a.m. when using shiners or worms in 8 to 12 feet. Good walleye action below the Rock-Cut at Moon Island with 21 to 24 inch fish taken by those using crank baits and crawler harnesses with planer boards in 8 to 14 feet. Best color was a blue back with a chrome belly. A couple muskie were caught around Moon Island. Smallmouth bass have finally started to bite. Anglers are jigging brown and dark green tube jigs in 4 to 8 feet off the rock piles and breaks around Moon Island. Walleye, pike and smallmouth action was slow in Raber Bay and around Lime Island.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Perch fishing has improved considerably. Anglers are fishing off Connors Point in Musky Bay and around Dollar Island in Snows Channel. Pike fishing was good for those trolling or still-fishing with chubs along the south shore in Musky Bay.

**Carp River:** Those targeting chinook in the river and in Nunn's Creek reported very slow fishing.

October 23, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

With the salmon runs winding down, anglers are now turning their attention to the fall steelhead run. Fish are being caught however it will take a good amount of rain over the next several weeks to ensure a good fall run. This is a great time of year to fish the inland lakes as the fish tend to go on a feeding frenzy before winter arrives.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Perch fishing remains the best around Stony Point in 20 to 26 feet with the fish in shallow and moving deeper in the afternoon. Fish were also caught at the Raisin River Buoy #1 as well as around Turtle Island. They seem to be holding tight to the bottom especially near the rocks. A few walleye were caught trolling crawler harnesses and husky jerks near the Fermi Plant in 24 feet and on minnows when perch fishing at Stony Point. Good bass fishing at the Hot Ponds.

**Huron River:** Anglers were catching more steelhead especially up near the dam at Flat Rock. Most were using spinners.

**Detroit River:** Perch anglers are fishing around Celeron Island and Rat Island. A few walleye were taken by those jigging near Celeron Island.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Anglers continue to do well fishing for bluegill around the river mouths and canals. A few crappie are also starting to hit. Bass fishing was fair but many were sub-legal. Little Portage and Strawberry Lake are producing good numbers of pike for those trolling or casting bright colored lures.

**Lake St. Clair:** Panfish action is heating up in the canals and marina basins. Good catches of bluegill, sunfish and crappie when using live bait. Some walleye, along with a couple pike and musky were caught by shore anglers after dark between Grosse Pointe and the Clinton River. Perch fishing was spotty, but anglers should find schools of fish moving into the shallows any day.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing has improved in the Marine City area and in the Delta Channels. Walleye fishing remains very good at Port Huron for those jigging or trolling. Catch-and-Release sturgeon fishing continues to be very good in the North Channel with best action after dark when using crawlers.

**Lexington:** Pier and shore anglers casting hardware were getting some steelhead along with the odd Chinook or brown trout. Some small perch were taken on minnows off the docks. A few pike and bullhead were also caught.

**Port Sanilac:** Fishing pressure was very light.

**Harbor Beach:** Walleye were hitting at night. Those fishing off the north breakwall were casting outside the harbor.

**Port Austin:** Was producing walleye for those fishing off the end of the breakwall at night when casting rapalas. Fish were caught off the gas dock and at the mouth of Bird Creek. Perch anglers are getting fish but sorting a lot of small ones.

**Saginaw Bay:** They're getting some perch in 14 feet of water off Linwood, along the shipping channel at the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12) and at Buoys 17 & 18. Some perch were also caught in the old shipping channel not far from the mouth of the river. Walleye were caught around Spoils Island. Perch fishing from Quanicassee to Caseville is spotty. Anglers are catching a lot of small ones in the Quanicassee River and the marina at Sebewaing. Figure about 20 throw-backs for every keeper.

**Saginaw River:** Walleye have been caught in the lower river. Perch were also caught in the lower river near Bay Harbor Marina and Aggregate Cut.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Pier anglers have been catching good numbers of whitefish. Try a single egg on the bottom. Fishing for all other species was slow.

**South Haven:** Pier anglers have been catching steelhead. Small spawn bags fished on the bottom has worked best. Fishing for all other species is slow. Few boats were out because of the weather.

**Kalamazoo River:** Continues to produce the occasional steelhead for those casting spawn or spinners up near the Allegan Dam.

**Grand Haven:** No boats have been out. Anglers are fishing both the north and the south piers for steelhead but few were caught. Spawn is the bait of choice. One or two menominee were caught off the north pier when using spawn. The docks at the Harbor Island launch have been taken out.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Is producing some steelhead. Try spawn bags with 4 to 6 eggs. The salmon run is pretty much done however some have caught the occasional coho. A few walleye were caught on body baits, white twister tails or bucktail jigs.

**Grand River near Lansing:** With few anglers out, the only report was the occasional salmon caught near the Webber Dam.

**Muskegon:** Anglers are trying for steelhead off the south pier but there were no reports of any fish caught.

**Muskegon River:** Still has a few salmon on the gravel. Anglers are seeing steelhead and brown trout however the season to take brown trout closed on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Rogers City:** Windy conditions had the fish scattered so anglers were having a hard time locating them. Look for baitfish and structure in 40 to 120 feet and try fishing spoons in summer patterns for steelhead and young salmon.

**Alpena:** Those able to get out were trying for salmon and steelhead around North Point, North Shore and Thunder Bay Island. Whitefish should start showing up around the reefs any time now. A few walleye should still be around if anglers put in the time. Try trolling around Sulphur Island or straight out from the marina in 10 to 30 feet with body baits or crawler harnesses.

**Thunder Bay River:** Still has the occasional Chinook salmon but anglers were having a hard time getting them to hit. Try drifting spawn on the bottom or under a bobber. Some are casting with rattle traps and rapalas. Steelhead should start showing up anytime. Anglers will want to drift spawn under a bobber or just off the bottom. A few perch have shown up but they are very small.

**Harrisville:** Salmon have been coming into the harbor late in the evening and before sunrise. Numbers are still low but fish seem to be in the area. Body baits seem to be working best. There have been a lot of minnows in the harbor so black and silver were good colors. Walleye have also been coming into the harbor and were caught at all times of the day and night. Steelhead were moving through the area but catch rates were slow. There have been reports of Atlantic salmon being caught.

**Au Sable River:** Has a few salmon but the numbers are low and anglers are having a hard time getting them to hit. Steelhead should be moving in soon but no reports of any numbers yet. Walleye are still in the area but the catch has slowed. Anglers seem to do better at night. Most were caught on body baits.

**Tawas:** Had mostly pier and shore anglers but one boat did pick up a couple walleye when fishing the artificial reef. At the State Harbor, those casting at night were taking good numbers of walleye including a few limit catches. Fish were also caught during the day when it was cloudy. Perch fishing inside the harbor slowed because the shiners moved back out into the lake temporarily. Near the State Police Post, those casting jigs around the pilings caught walleye.

**Au Gres:** Had few anglers but those heading out did catch some fish off the hotel in 20 feet or near the shipping channel in 40 feet. Those fishing in the Eagle Harbor Marina at the end of Sagatoo Road caught eight to 12 inch perch and some had 30 to 40 fish per trip.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The salmon runs are pretty much over in this part of the state. Attention is now switching to steelhead fishing. On the inland lakes, walleye fishing is excellent this time of year, though few pursue them. Trolling or casting stick baits at night is the most popular and effective technique.

**Harbor Springs:** Had one boat that caught and released smallmouth bass around Harbor Point.

**Petoskey:** Had few anglers on the piers. A couple small steelhead were caught on spawn. Steelhead fishing should start to improve (weather dependent) over the next week or so.

**Bear River:** Had a decent run of fish after the last rain. There were Chinook, steelhead, lake trout and even some brown trout however brown trout season is closed. Fish were caught at the dam when using spawn or artificial eggs.

**Charlevoix:** One angler targeted smallmouth bass in the channel but never had a bite. The best bet is fishing the slip at the cement plant with spawn for menominee or steelhead this time of the year.

**Traverse City:** A few anglers caught perch on live bait in 30 to 50 feet in the East Bay. Cisco were caught when jigging in 60 feet or deeper. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair in 20 to 40 feet. The few boats that were out in the West Bay caught some perch in 30 to 45 feet.

**Elk River:** Fishing was relatively slow with the odd salmon or occasional steelhead caught below the power dam.

**Boardman River:** The salmon run is all but finished. Lake trout and the occasional steelhead have been caught on spawn bags and a variety of artificial tackle.

**Frankfort:** Had good steelhead activity off the Frankfort and Elberta piers and shoreline. Fresh spawn is working well with most fish landed between the elbows and the shore. Young coho are also hitting. Anglers were going through several spawn bags.

**Betsie River:** Salmon are slowing down and activity at the Homestead Dam has slowed to a crawl.

**Manistee:** Anglers are catching steelhead and a few coho off the piers and the beach. Salmon spawn is working best. When the weather allows, boat anglers found steelhead and salmon 60 to 100 feet down in 120 to 250 feet. Orange and green spoons or meat rigs worked well.

**Manistee River:** Is producing a couple steelhead but anglers are still waiting for a major push of fall fish. A good amount of rain will be needed in the next several weeks to ensure a good fall run.

**Ludington:** Pier and shore anglers are finding a couple coho and steelhead when using spawn.

**Pere Marquette River:** Stream anglers are catching one or two steelhead but no big push has happened yet.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** The bite was slow but a few coho were caught by those putting in a lot of time when trolling in 30 to 50 feet with a variety of spoons. Try from the head of the bay northward along the L'Anse and Baraga shoreline and up to Old Mission. Some coho were caught in the Falls River in L'Anse and at the Head of the Bay at the bridge. Those trolling the South Portage Entry were lucky to get a few lake trout in 50 to 80 feet on Farmers Reef and Newton's Reef.

**Lake Antoine:** High winds have kept boats off the lake. A couple shore anglers were targeting bass when casting cleo's but no fish were caught.

**Marquette:** There was no salmon reported from boat anglers however a few parties did report catches of lake trout in waters less than 60 feet deep. The areas producing a few fish were outside the lower harbor near the green can, the mouth of the Carp River and near the mouth of the Chocolay River. Surface water temperatures dropped to the mid to upper 40's. A few anglers fishing from the lower harbor breakwall caught a couple lake trout when casting spoons.

**Dead River:** Fishing pressure has been very low and no luck on salmon.

**Carp River:** Had a slight increase in coho action at the beginning of the week. The males are fresh and silver in color. Anglers caught one or two fish in the 4 to 6 pound range. Water levels were high and the current was strong so try spinners.

**Chocolay River:** Water levels were bank high making it difficult for shore and boat anglers. Fishing pressure was very low. A few coho salmon and brown trout were caught but most anglers reported no catches. The salmon observed were not ripe.

**Little Bay De Noc:** With weather a factor, walleye anglers reported very few catches with most fishing the head of the Bay from Garth Point south to the "Narrows". Those trolling crawlers or stick baits in 14 to 30 feet reported better catches off the Second and Third Reefs. It appears the fall push north hasn't arrived yet. Perch anglers reported good catches just off Butler Island with minnows in five to eight feet and fair to good catches out from Brach's Cabins in 10 to 14 feet. Northern pike were very active throughout the Bay and were caught by perch anglers. Those targeting pike had fair to good catches off the mouth of the Day's River in nine to 16 feet and south of the Escanaba ship docks in eight to 12 feet when trolling crank baits or spinners. Anglers reported fair catches of black crappie in the many coves surrounding Kipling.

Try minnows in 10 to 16 feet. Walleye anglers near the Day's River reported good numbers of salmon staging near the mouth. With the rivers running so high this year salmon have been difficult to locate but the signs show they're still running.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had no walleye reports. Fair to good perch catches reported off Garden Bluff in and around 40 feet when still-fishing with minnows. Good smallmouth bass fishing between Fayette and Snake Island when using minnows or plastics in 15 to 30 feet right on the break. Northern pike are active with most caught by those perch fishing. Those targeting pike were trolling off Ansell's Point and in the mouth of Garden Bay with spinners or crank baits in 10 to 26 feet.

**Munising:** Had very few boat anglers however a couple were targeting coho in the bay but catch rates were very slow. No lake trout to report. For pier anglers, catch rates were between slow and fair for coho, splake and steelhead. Those casting spoons and spinners did better than those still-fishing with spawn but catch rates were slow. Pink and orange were the hot colors.

**Grand Marais:** Pier angling effort was limited with no catch reports. Only a couple of boats were trolling near the mouth of the Sucker River and to the east. Catch rates were very slow with only the occasional coho, steelhead or pike taken. No lake trout to report. Very few shore anglers as catch rates were poor. Those fishing near the mouth of the Sucker River were lucky to catch a steelhead or coho when casting spoons or drifting spawn.

**St. Mary's River:** Anglers looking for musky had success trolling nine inch crank baits around Moon Island at the north end of Munuscong Bay. A few musky were caught when trolling upstream towards the Rock-Cut just off the shipping channel at Tea Pot Island. Use perch colored or fire-tiger crank baits in eight to 12 feet just off the weed beds. As for walleye, those fishing around Moon Island in Munuscong Bay caught some bigger fish 19 to 23 inches when trolling crank baits and crawler harnesses in six to 12 feet. Try large red and blue crank baits with a chrome belly. The discharge side of the Power Plant is still producing whitefish and Atlantic salmon. Anglers are drifting artificial fly baits with a #12 hook and slip bobber about six feet down. Hot colors were copper and red. Walleye and smallmouth bass are slow in Raber Bay and near Lime Island. Duck hunters have occupied Raber Bay.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Perch are being caught at Connors Point in Musky Bay and around Dollar Island in Snows Channel. Try 10 to 14 feet with minnows. Pike fishing is still good in Musky Bay when trolling or still-fishing with chubs.

**Carp River:** Those targeting coho may want to try gold colored lures.

October 30, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Though angler participation is dropping, this is still a great time of year to go fishing especially if you want to avoid the crowds. Target bass, pike, walleye and panfish.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Perch were hard to locate but once found were caught near the mouth of the Raisin River, Buoys 1 & 2, the Dumping Grounds and Turtle Island. A lot of small throwbacks were mixed in with the keepers. Anglers can also try near Stony Point. A few walleye were caught on minnows by those perch fishing in 24 feet off the Fermi Power Plant however not many were caught on crawler harnesses or crank baits.

**Huron River:** Is producing a steelhead here and there for those fishing between the mouth and Flat Rock. Most are fishing off the parks with a spinner.

**Detroit River:** Perch fishing continues to get better for those fishing around Celeron Island and in front of Rat Island. The fish moved in and were caught in eight to 10 feet but move deeper to 14 feet if you do not locate any. Anglers are using perch spreaders with silver blades and minnows.

**Portage Chain-of-Lakes:** Bluegill fishing remains good on the entire lake system. Canals and near the mouth of the rivers seem best. Anglers targeting pike and bass did well on Portage and Little Portage Lake when casting spinners or deep divers. A couple crappie were caught on the north end of Portage Lake.

**Lake St. Clair:** Strong winds muddied up the lake. Water temperatures have dropped to the low 50's. Perch fishing was slow but the panfish action has been good in the canals and marinas. Fishing should improve once the lake clears up.

**St. Clair River:** Was also muddy after the rain and strong winds. Walleye fishing was good at Marine City. A couple steelhead and lake trout were also caught. Catch-and-release sturgeon fishing continues to be good in the Algonac area. When the water clears up, muskie fishing should be excellent for those casting or jigging along the edge of the delta channel.

**Lexington:** Pier anglers casting spoons, spinners and crank baits were taking some steelhead. Those using minnows caught some perch but had to sort out the small ones. A couple bullhead were caught.

**Port Sanilac:** Pier anglers caught a couple steelhead and the odd brown trout.

**Harbor Beach:** Pier anglers caught walleye off the north breakwall when fishing at night. Spoons and rapalas in fire-tiger were the hot bait.

**Grindstone City:** Was producing some walleye at the mouth of the channel. Try spoons or rapalas at night.

**Port Austin:** Walleye were hitting at night at the mouth of Bird Creek and at the end of the north wall.

**Saginaw Bay:** Some perch were taken along the shipping channel just north of Spoils Island by the few boats that ventured out there. Perch were caught in the Bay Harbor Marina and Bay Aggregate Cuts however the action was not red hot and anglers had to sort out the small ones. Perch fishing from Quanicassee to Caseville was slow and spotty. Almost no boats were out and shore anglers were again sorting through the small ones to find a few keepers. A couple small crappie and a pike were caught in the marina at Sebewaing.

**Saginaw River:** Walleye fishing in the lower river was very good from Bay City down to the mouth. Most boats were vertical jigging with minnows. Further upstream in Saginaw, they're also getting some walleyes, but the bite was not as hot as it was in Bay City.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Had slow fishing for all species.

**St. Joseph River:** The salmon run has ended but still no big push of steelhead through the Berrien Springs ladder yet.

**South Haven:** Had slow fishing for all species.

**Grand Haven:** Steelhead fishing improved somewhat over the last couple of days. Pier and shore anglers caught fish on spawn but one was also taken on shrimp. Menominee action was hit-or-miss off the piers. No word on any whitefish caught.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Is producing some steelhead and the occasional brown trout however brown trout season is closed. Many are floating or bouncing spawn off the bottom but some are using Hot-n-Tot's, #4 spinners or a jig and wax worm. Walleye anglers are getting a few fish here and there.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Salmon fishing activity is low due to a lack of mature salmon in the river and streams. A few walleye and catfish were caught.

**Looking Glass River:** A few anglers were out looking for pike but no fish were caught.

**Muskegon:** Pier anglers were unsuccessful for steelhead. Most were using spawn. Boat anglers were trolling around the piers for steelhead but they had no luck. Most were using stickbaits.

**Muskegon River:** Salmon fishing is done. Any remaining fish were in pretty rough shape. Steelhead are being caught but anglers are still waiting for the big push of fish. Try spawn or egg flies.

**Whitehall:** Pier fishing picked up but the action was still hit-or-miss. Those still-fishing with spawn caught some steelhead and the odd menominee. Those casting body baits caught some walleye but the bite was not consistent.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Rogers City:** Fishing has come to a standstill as the weather has made it virtually impossible. A couple anglers did make it out but the only thing they caught was a lake trout and that season is closed.

**Alpena:** If the weather ever improves, anglers should start catching whitefish around the shoals and islands.

**Thunder Bay River:** Anglers are fishing for steelhead of which are starting to show but in very low numbers. Most are floating spawn under a bobber or drifting it close to the bottom. Artificial flies that look like an egg pattern were also productive. Anglers are casting fire-tiger body baits and rattle traps. A few perch were caught but most were small.

**Harrisville:** Salmon are pretty much done but a light number of steelhead were reported outside the harbor. Those casting outside the wall caught a couple walleye or steelhead. Walleye seem to be in the area between Oscoda and the Black River. Anglers were casting or trolling small spoons and body baits. Hot colors were blue, orange, black, silver or fire-tiger.

**Au Sable River:** Walleye were still coming into the river and catch rates were consistent over the last week. Most are casting blue and silver, fire-tiger or black body baits. Walleye were hitting on spoons intended for salmon and steelhead. Only a few salmon are up in the river and they were in pretty bad shape. Some steelhead were hitting on spawn, flies and spinners between the mouth and the dam. Pier anglers were still-fishing with spawn.

**Tawas:** Walleye continue to be caught at night off the pier, near the State Police Post and out of the Tawas River. A few limit catches were taken which is some good fishing for pier and shore anglers. Perch fishing off the pier was slow.

**Au Gres:** Fishing was slow with almost no boats getting out. Down at Eagle Bay Marina which is at the end of Sagatoo Road, a fair number of perch were caught inside the marina basin.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Still had a couple boats going out. Those looking for smallmouth went out to Harbor Point but had no luck. A few perch were caught straight out from the launch and off Wequetonsing.

**Petoskey:** Had a couple pier anglers targeting steelhead. They were using spawn bags but no fish were caught.

**Bear River:** A couple Chinook salmon were still hanging around below the dam however they were in pretty rough shape. A light number of steelhead started moving into the river but many were on the small side. The fish were hitting on spawn and worms.

**Charlevoix:** Angler pressure was very low with only a couple people trying for smallmouth bass or walleye in the channel. There have been no reports of any fish caught, including from the slip at the cement plant.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay was producing a few smallmouth bass in 40 to 50 feet and a few perch were caught along the southeast portion of the bay. Few boats were able to get out because of windy conditions on the West Bay. Those that did only caught a few perch and a couple smallmouth in 30 to 50 feet.

**Elk River:** Fishing continues to be slow. Anglers were lucky if they caught the occasional salmon, steelhead or lake trout near the dam.

**Boardman River:** Anglers reported very few lake trout or steelhead caught when floating spawn or casting spinners and body baits.

**Platte River:** Fishing on the upper stretch was very slow so try below the lower weir. A few salmon were caught on flies and steelhead on spawn. Some fish were on the gravel upstream from El Dorado Park. Those surfcasting at the mouth have taken a couple fish on spawn.

**Frankfort:** Anglers fishing the both the Elberta and Frankfort piers have caught steelhead on spawn bags. Fish are hitting throughout the day with a little more activity in the mornings. With the recent storms, more weeds are moving into the area which makes shore fishing a little more difficult.

**Manistee:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting have done well for steelhead when using spawn.

**Manistee River:** Anglers are definitely seeing steelhead moving up into the river. Some limit catches were taken in the Big Manistee.

**Ludington:** Pier and shore anglers have done well catching steelhead on spawn.

**Pentwater:** Pier anglers limited out with a mixed bag of coho, steelhead and brown trout however some days the fishing was great while other days saw no fish caught.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** The bite was very slow. Anglers were trolling spoons in 30 to 50 feet from the head of the Bay and up to Old Mission when the weather allows. Some coho were in the Falls River and at the head of the Bay but fishing was still very slow. A couple lake trout were caught on Farmers Reef, Newton's Reef, and along the US-41 shoreline. In Traverse Bay, a few anglers picked up some lake trout on or near Buffalo Reef and Gays Point when trolling in 30 to 60 feet or jigging in 120 to 150.

**Lake Antoine:** Had low angler effort. One boat was trolling plastics in 13 to 15 feet for walleye but no fish were caught. Shore anglers were casting for bass but catch rates were low.

**Marquette:** The lake trout have moved in and the spawn was in full swing. Anglers reported good action off the end of the Lower Harbor breakwall. Boat anglers had mixed results. Catch rates ranged from none to limit catches. A few menominee and whitefish were caught. As for coho, fewer fish were caught over the last week.

**Dead River:** Catch rates have been poor this fall. Very few anglers have been fishing. Water levels have dropped and the gates on the dam are now closed.

**Carp River:** Catch rates were very slow and most anglers were not getting any strikes. Only a couple coho were taken on orange spinners. Water levels dropped to normal levels but the water was somewhat turbid.

**Chocolay River:** Water levels have dropped over the last week. Catch rates were very slow with only the occasional coho or brown trout taken. Spoons and spinners seem to work better than crawlers or spawn bags.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported fair to good catches. Most were trolling crank baits or crawler harnesses in 10 to 28 feet, but the best bite was after dark. Perch anglers reported fair catches off the mouth of the Day's River when using minnows in 16 to 24 feet. Some fish were also caught at the southern end of Butler Island in five to 10 feet. Good northern pike action throughout the Bay with the better reports from the mouth of the Day's River in 10 to 20 feet, off the coal piles at Gladstone in 12 to 14 feet, the shipping docks in Escanaba in 12 to 20 feet and in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when trolling the channel with crank baits, spoons or spinners.

**Escanaba River:** Anglers have seen salmon up near the 1<sup>st</sup> Dam but few catches were reported. Most were using spoons or crank baits in the rapids.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Smallmouth anglers reported fair to good catches from Fayette north to Garden Bluff. Some used plastics but most were drifting sucker minnows along the break and 15 to 30 feet down. Bass anglers reported catching a few walleye in 30 feet off Garden Bluff. Perch anglers reported fair to good catches between Garden Bluff and Ansell's Point. Try minnows in 19 to 40 feet.

**St. Mary's River:** The Portage Street Canal Bridge just above the Clover Land Electric Power Plant was producing a variety of fish including juvenile Chinook, steelhead, and lake whitefish. Anglers are drifting spawn with a 4 ounce sinker and a 3 foot leader with a #12 treble hook. On the discharge side of the plant, anglers had success for whitefish and Atlantic salmon when drifting a slip bobber 4 to 6 feet down with copper or red fly baits on a #12 treble hook. Lake George on the northeast side of Sugar Island was producing yellow perch for those using a pinch of worm or shiners in 12 to 18 feet. A couple nice walleye were taken around Moon Island when trolling planer boards with blue and chrome crank baits. Those drift fishing or vertically jigging also caught fish. Tea Pot Island at the south end of the Rock-Cut was good for big muskie when trolling a 6 inch fire-tiger or perch colored crank bait. A slower trolling speed between 1 and 1.5 mph worked best until water temperatures drop to 45 degrees or colder. Water temperatures in Munuscong Bay were at 49 degrees.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Anglers are perch fishing around Connors Point in Musky Bay. Try 10 to 13 feet with minnows. Good pike action in Musky Bay. Anglers are trolling or still-fishing with chubs along the south shore.

November 6, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It's that time of year! As the days grow shorter so does the fishing report. Many have put away the boats and fishing gear and are now concentrating on hunting. Updates are harder to come-by as fewer anglers are out and about. Most of the Creel Clerks are done for the season. Some will return in January but others will not return until April 1.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Was stirred up after the strong winds but is still producing a few walleye for those fishing at night. As for perch, anglers are still getting a few keepers around Turtle Island, the Dumping Ground and near the Raisin River. Catch rates should improve once the waters clear up.

**Detroit River:** Perch anglers are still taking fish including some up near 10 inches. Muskie anglers will want to target the weed beds along the shoreline when casting or jigging with large baits.

**Lake St. Clair:** Gusty winds have not only stirred up the lake but have also slowed fishing activity. It's that time of year when fewer anglers head out but there is still some good bass, walleye, muskie and perch fishing to be had if weather conditions allow. For muskie, target the weed beds in Anchor Bay. Perch anglers should find some fish moving into shallower waters once the lake clears up.

**St. Clair River:** The water was turbid. Walleye anglers should try jigging minnows in the Lower Delta Channels when the water clears up. Muskie anglers will target the weed beds along the edge of the channels.

**Harbor Beach:** The docks were still in at the boat launch. Those fishing off the north breakwall could find some walleye when casting spoons or rapalas throughout the night.

**Saginaw Bay:** Windy conditions have kept anglers off the Bay. When they can get out, they will be targeting perch. Look for pike and panfish in the marinas.

**Saginaw River:** Boat and shore anglers are trying for walleye. The better action was in the lower section. Boat anglers were vertical jigging with minnows. Be sure to watch for tagged fish.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Strong winds are making it impossible for boat anglers to get out and pier anglers have been limited because of high waves. The inland lakes are producing some bluegill, walleye and the odd bass.

**St. Joseph:** Is producing some whitefish. Pier anglers are using a single egg on the bottom. Some have caught steelhead and the occasional brown trout.

**St. Joseph River:** Has some steelhead in the lower river up to Berrien Springs Dam. Not much movement through the Berrien Springs fish ladder though.

**Kalamazoo River:** Is producing a decent number of steelhead between the mouth and the Allegan Dam. Try fresh spawn, spinners, spoons or plugs. Those fishing below the Allegan Dam caught a few walleye.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Had some fresh steelhead moving up into the river. Try spawn, a jig and wax worm, spinners or spoons. Some were fishing the deeper holes in the early morning or evening. A few walleye were caught. Those fishing the backwaters caught bluegill.

**Grand River near Lansing:** A couple walleye and bass were caught near the Brenke Ladder. A few pike were taken throughout the river. Check out the backwaters for panfish.

**Muskegon River:** Rain this week should push some fresh steelhead up into the system. Boat anglers were drifting while others were wading with spawn, wax worms or flies in egg patterns.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Alpena:** Surface water temperatures in Thunder Bay were in the mid 40's. Colder weather in the next few weeks could bring some whitefish into shallow waters as they prepare to spawn.

**Thunder Bay River:** Had a couple steelhead but no big numbers yet. Try drifting spawn bags or floating spawn under a bobber. Flies have also have been working. A few perch were caught on minnows but anglers will have to sort out the small ones.

**Oscoda:** Anglers should start to see more steelhead in and around the piers. Those fishing at night should still find some walleye when casting.

**Au Sable River:** Is still producing some walleye in the lower stretch. Anglers are casting body baits. Good colors were blue and silver, orange and silver or fire-tiger. Fresh steelhead were caught between the mouth and Foote Dam by those drifting or floating spawn under a bobber and casting small spoons or spinners. Those fishing further upstream have done well when fly fishing.

**Au Gres River:** Those fishing the East Branch were targeting steelhead near the Singing Bridge. Try floating or putting spawn on the bottom, spinners or spoons.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Platte River:** Fishing pressure has slowed and fewer anglers were out. The lower weir which is keeping fish back will be in place until November 14. Chinook, coho and steelhead were at the weir. Chinook were on the gravel downstream. Steelhead were holding in the deeper holes all the way down to the mouth. Those surfcasting at the mouth caught coho and steelhead on spawn.

**Frankfort:** No boats were out. Pier and shore anglers caught fish however it was still hit-or-miss. Rain and cooler temperatures are needed to get the run moving.

**Lake Cadillac:** Was producing a few walleye for those fishing at night.

**Manistee:** Steelhead fishing remains on the slow side. Pier fishing and surfcasting were very good one day but slow the next.

**Manistee River:** With the lack of rain, the river had not seen a large push of steelhead but fish are in the river. Catch rates were fair with the better fishing reported by boat anglers in the lower stretches. Some have caught the occasional coho.

**Ludington:** Pier and shore anglers caught steelhead when casting spawn when the weather allowed.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is producing some steelhead and the occasional brown trout but catch rates were still on the slow side. Look for more fish by the end of the week.

## UPPER PENINSULA

Strong wind and dangerous seas have kept anglers off the Great Lakes. The so-called "Gales of November" started early this year.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported fair catches with most fishing from the “Narrows” north to the Day’s River. Evenings were best when trolling stick baits or crawler harnesses in 20 to 30 feet. Anglers marked good numbers of fish in 10 to 14 feet but few were caught. Water temperatures remain in the mid to high 40’s. Those fishing the deeper water were using leadcore. Perch anglers reported fair catches at best. Some jumbo perch were caught in 16 to 20 feet near the mouth of the Day’s River. Perch were also caught in 12 to 18 feet straight out from Brach’s Cabins. Minnows worked best.

**Big Bay De Noc:** This will be the last report for the season. A few smallmouth anglers are still launching out of Fayette and fishing along the break in Snail Shell Harbor. Most were drifting minnows 15 to 25 feet down. Anglers reported a lot of sub-legal fish this fall but a good number of large fish were also caught. Perch anglers reported fair to good catches out by the mouth of Garden Bay when using minnows in and around 25 feet. Some limit catches were reported.

November 13, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Very few anglers have been out because of the rain, wind and snow! Those heading out for the opening day of gun season are reminded to take along a fishing pole. This is the time of year where you can hunt early then target steelhead and whitefish in the evening. Late fall and early winter can offer some prime fishing on the inland lakes as well.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** A few anglers were starting to throw bombers for walleye in Brest Bay. The better fishing is usually at night for those wading. A few perch were caught in front of Metro Park.

**Huron River:** Is producing a fair to good number of steelhead. Most anglers are using a jig and wax worm. Some caught fish near the I-75 Bridge.

**Detroit River:** Anglers were getting a few perch around Sugar Island. Those looking for bluegills were fishing in the marinas.

**Lake St. Clair:** Fishing activity has been pretty light because of the poor weather, turbid water and high winds. The serious muskie anglers continue to chase the big ones. The marinas and canals around the lake should continue to produce panfish as the water cools down.

**St. Clair River:** Water temperatures were in the upper 40's but will cool down quickly with the colder temperatures. If the water clears up, walleye fishing should be good in the Delta Channels through freeze up.

### SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph:** Pier anglers caught steelhead and the occasional whitefish.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead were hitting below the first dam. Not much movement through the fish ladder at Berrien Springs yet.

**Kalamazoo River:** Is producing steelhead mostly below the first dam. Chrome colored fish were hitting on spawn, spinners, spoons and plugs.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Has steelhead hitting on spawn, spinners, spoons, plugs or even a crawler. Most are fishing up near the dam. With the cold weather, check out the deeper holes.

**Muskegon River:** Steelhead fishing picked up especially with the rain and colder weather. Some nice chrome fish were caught up past Newaygo.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Alpena:** This is the time of year when the whitefish action peaks for those fishing the reefs in Thunder Bay. Whitefish numbers in Lake Huron are quite low compared to 10 years ago but these spawning congregations can still hold large numbers of fish and the average size seems to be larger this year.

**Thunder Bay River:** Also sees a peak in the whitefish action for anglers fishing below the dam in Alpena.

**Oscoda:** Pier anglers caught steelhead when casting spoons or floating spawn. For walleye, try fishing at night while casting spoons or body baits.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead are moving into the river at Oscoda. Anglers reported a good number of fresh, bright silver fish being caught. Some whitefish are also being caught in the river and off the breakwalls at the mouth.

**Tawas:** November 15 usually kicks off the start of whitefish being caught by pier anglers and this year should be no exception. Most anglers use a jig and wax worm or a jig with a single egg.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Not much to report this week. Very few anglers have been out and the so-called polar vortex will make fishing a little more difficult. The diehard anglers will still head out and pursue steelhead in the rivers and off the piers while others will settle in and wait for ice fishing season.

**Manistee:** When they can get out, pier anglers and those surfcasting were still trying for steelhead.

**Manistee River:** Steelhead action should have picked up with the recent rain however the ongoing arctic blast is going to make fishing difficult. Those heading out have caught some nice fish on spawn and flies.

**Pere Marquette River:** Was producing a few more fish after the rain. Try spawn, flies or a jig and wax worm.

## **UPPER PENINSULA**

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported moderate catches even though participation is down from previous years. Night anglers did best off the First and Second Reefs when trolling crank baits or stick baits in eight to 14 feet. Those fishing during the day did better in deeper water when trolling crank baits or crawler harnesses in 28 to 35 feet just north of the "Narrows". With the higher water levels, many are docking their boats at the resorts where they are staying which makes it a little more difficult to obtain information. Just a couple perch anglers were out fishing near the Day's River. The better catches came in 18 to 20 feet with minnows. Water temperatures are dropping with the extremely cold weather.

November 20, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

If they can brave the cold, steelhead anglers will still find fish in the rivers. As for the inland lakes, fishing is now in between seasons especially with the freezing temperatures and lake effect snow. Boat launches will be covered in snow in many areas making it impossible to launch. A slight warm-up by the end of the week could help angler participation and catch rates.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** This is the time of year walleye anglers wade out from the beaches of Sterling State Park and cast bombers at night. A few perch were caught at the Metro Park Marina. No boats have been out on the lake.

**Huron River:** Steelhead were caught up near the golf course and a couple walleye were taken down near the mouth.

**Lake St. Clair:** Did not have much fishing activity with the bad weather. Those targeting muskie have caught some fish over 40 pounds. Though skim ice is starting to form in the canals and marinas and there is some flow ice in the lake, there is no safe ice.

**St. Clair River:** Rumor has it some walleye and steelhead were caught off the wall at Port Huron. Muskie fishing has been good.

**Saginaw Bay:** A few perch were caught up in the cuts, canals and rivers.

**Saginaw River:** A few boat anglers were targeting walleye near the Zilwaukee Bridge.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph:** Pier anglers were taking a fair to good number of whitefish and a couple steelhead.

**St. Joseph River:** Boat anglers caught steelhead up near Berrien Springs. Those wading caught a few fish when casting small spoons, body baits or wobble glows.

**South Haven:** When the weather permits, pier anglers floating a single egg or wax worm have started to catch some whitefish. Be sure to use a small hook.

**Kalamazoo River:** Continues to produce some steelhead for those fishing below the Allegan Dam. Try spoons, spinners, plugs or a jig and wax worm.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Anglers caught steelhead on white jigs tipped with a wax worm. Fish were caught near the Post Office and off the east side wall.

**Ingham County:** Fishing activity has slowed dramatically on area lakes and rivers.

**Muskegon River:** Water temperatures are dropping but steelhead can still be found in the river. Fishing was fair up near Croton Dam.

**Muskegon Lake:** Before the snow, walleye anglers found a few fish when casting body baits or bucktail jigs at night. A couple whitefish were caught in the channel.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Thunder Bay River:** Had very little to report. Some are still trying for the occasional steelhead below the Ninth Street Dam. A few perch were reported in the marina. Skim ice is starting to form in the river and marina however there is no safe ice.

**Oscoda:** When the weather allows, pier anglers continue to catch the occasional steelhead, whitefish or walleye. Remember, the piers can become very slippery this time of year.

**Au Sable River:** Is still producing some steelhead and the occasional walleye. Whitefish were also caught by those willing to brave the elements.

**Higgins Lake:** Had no anglers. Boats are put away for the winter.

**Houghton Lake:** The North Bay had skim ice along the shoreline. No anglers have been out.

**Tawas:** A few walleye were caught in and around Tawas. Look for whitefish near the Tawas State Docks in East Tawas.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Betsie River:** Has a fair number of steelhead however arctic conditions have kept most anglers from pursuing them.

**Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell:** Had skim ice starting to form around the shoreline.

**Manistee:** When the weather allows, those surfcasting have caught some steelhead if you're there on the right day. Pier anglers are casting or floating spawn however use caution and watch for icy conditions.

**Manistee River:** Has a moderate number of steelhead but arctic conditions have prevented most from pursuing them. Steelhead can also be found in the Little Manistee River.

**Ludington:** Pier and shore anglers did catch some steelhead. Try casting orange spoons or plugs or floating spawn and wax worms.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is also a good place for fall steelhead fishing. Look for brown trout between US-31 and the Indian Bridge. Falling water temperatures did produce some fresh fish.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Menominee River:** With the cold and snowy weather perch fishing has been suspended until the ice is thick enough to walk on. The only fishing activity observed over the last week was near the Hattie Street Dam. Walleye and a few brown trout were caught on a jig and crawler, small spoons or rapalas. Whitefish have been caught by those using small jigs and a bobber however ice-up on the lines has been a problem. Those putting in the time have caught fish ranging 17 and 22 inches.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had very winter-like conditions and extremely cold temperatures over the last week. Ice is starting to form and the only launches that were open were Kipling and the Gladstone Yacht Harbor. Angler participation is very low but a few heading out for walleye reported fair to good action. They are trolling crank baits or stick baits from the "Narrows" north to the Center Reef. Those fishing during the day reported catches in 29 to 35 feet while evening anglers did best in 12 to 24 feet. Water temperatures were in the high 30's to low 40's and dropping. If this weather pattern holds, we could be ice fishing soon.

**Manistique River:** Those fishing the lower stretch below the dam were targeting steelhead.

**Manistique Lakes:** Were producing a few perch and walleye before the extreme cold and snow.

November 27, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This will be a tough week for fishing especially after all the rain and snowmelt. Water levels are up on many rivers and streams. Those wading or shore fishing will need to be extra careful.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** When the weather permits, anglers will wade in at Luna Pier and Sterling State Park and use shiners or cast bombers at night for walleye. For perch, try off Luna Pier and the Metro Park Marina.

**Huron River:** Continues to produce some steelhead. Try a jig and wax worm, crank baits, spoons or even a big minnow. No particular color for the spoons and crank baits.

**Lake St. Clair:** Although much of the ice has melted, some of the ramps were still iced in. The docks have been pulled from the water at the DNR boat launches so anglers will find it much easier to launch and retrieve boats if they bring waders. There is no fishable ice and based on the forecast it's going to be while.

**St. Clair River:** Had a lot of boats and it looked like most were muskie fishing. Still getting reports of good shore fishing at Port Huron with steelhead and walleye caught along the wall.

**Lexington and Port Sanilac:** Fishing activity has been slow to non-existent since deer season opened. Windy conditions have the water stirred up.

**Harbor Beach:** Still had two docks in at the boat launch.

**Saginaw Bay:** Anglers caught a few perch but the weather has made it too difficult for anyone to go out.

**Saginaw River:** Is producing some perch. Walleye tag returns indicate anglers are catching fish.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph:** Windy conditions have kept anglers off the piers.

**St. Joseph River:** The online fish cam at the Berrien Springs fish ladder has been shut down for the winter. Past monitoring has shown that very few fish move through the ladder when the water temperature is below 40 degrees. When the camera was turned off last Friday, the water temperature was 36 degrees. It may have been slightly higher with the warm weather but will drop again soon. The fish that already moved upstream will remain in the river throughout the winter and new fish will not move in until March.

**Kalamazoo River:** Has high water levels so fishing will be difficult.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Those wading went 5 for 7 on steelhead when casting small plugs however rain and snowmelt have caused high water levels and strong flows. This should bring more fish in and move those already in the river further up the system. Fishing without a boat is going to be difficult and dangerous until the water levels recede, which could take a couple weeks.

**Grand River near Lansing:** High water levels should bring some steelhead up to the Lansing area. Anglers will want to try small spoons, plugs or a jig and wax worm.

**Muskegon River:** Has high water levels and will be difficult to fish. Anglers should still find a fair to good number of steelhead. Water temperatures were near 40 degrees.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Thunder Bay River:** Those fishing off the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge are getting some whitefish.

**Oscoda:** Pier anglers continue to catch steelhead, whitefish and a few walleye.

**Au Sable River:** Anglers are catching steelhead and whitefish. Water levels were up some after the rain and snow melt.

**Tawas:** Is producing whitefish for those fishing off the State Dock. Evening and night fishing is usually better and you might even hook a walleye.

**Au Gres River:** Look for steelhead on the East Branch. Try surfcasting near the Singing Bridge with spoons, plugs or spawn bags on the bottom.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Fishing reports were consistent on the Big Manistee, Little Manistee and Pere Marquette Rivers with water temperatures falling and good fishing success for steelhead.

**Betsie River:** Can be a good steelhead fishery during the months of November and December. Try casting spinners, Wiggle Warts and Hot-n-Tot's or float small spawn bags, a single egg or wax worms.

**Manistee River:** Has high water levels. No doubt fresh fish did come in but the river is now way up and will be difficult to fish until the levels come back down. Shore anglers will need to use caution as the banks may be unstable.

**Ludington:** When they can get out, pier anglers and those surfcasting should still find some steelhead or even the odd brown trout when casting spoons or plugs.

**Pere Marquette River:** Has high water levels. Shore anglers targeting steelhead and brown trout will need to use caution. Try casting plugs, spoons and spinners or floating spawn bags and wax worms.

## UPPER PENINSULA

Most of the inland lakes had ice starting to form but no safe ice especially with the high volume of snow. Access sites on the Great Lakes are iced up and ice was forming along the shorelines making it impossible to get a boat out.

**Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters:** Anglers are reminded that the season to take large or smallmouth bass and muskellunge on all the boundary waters will close on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Menominee River:** Had open water below the Dam at Hattie Street. When the weather permits, anglers still caught some very nice whitefish. Most were using small jigs tipped with a minnow head or piece of crawler. Those fishing from the cement platform on the Wisconsin side caught whitefish, walleye and the occasional brown trout. Try small spoons or jigs with crawlers or minnows.

December 4, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

A number of smaller lakes in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula are iced over however the ice is still not safe in most areas. Deep snow will slow the freezing process. Anglers are reminded that first ice is dangerous ice and those thinking about heading out are urged to use extreme caution.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Had few anglers but a lot of duck hunters. Those fishing did manage to catch some perch. Try fishing the marinas for panfish.

**Huron River:** Still has steelhead for the taking. Shore anglers usually target the waters off Huron Park. Try a jig and wax worm, crank baits, spoons or small plugs.

**Lake St. Clair:** The shoreline ice and the flow ice melted. The canals and marinas had open water but it was muddy. The boat ramps were ice free but the docks have been pulled at the DNR ramps. Not much fishing activity, but panfish should be in the canals and marinas. Those heading out for muskie fishing should bring waders for launching their boats.

**St. Clair River:** Was dirty for much of the past week due to windy conditions. There have been a few reports of good walleye and steelhead fishing for shore anglers at Port Huron. The ramps were ice free but not many boat anglers were out.

**Harbor Beach:** Still had the docks in at the boat launch however ice flow was starting to build around the docks. One of the docks in the marina collapsed so use caution.

**Port Austin:** The docks at the boat launch have been pulled from the water. Flow ice was visible but no safe ice.

**Saginaw River:** Rumor has it anglers are doing well for walleye. Shore anglers were casting while boat anglers were vertical jigging.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph:** Pier anglers were taking the occasional steelhead or whitefish. Those surfcasting also caught steelhead.

**St. Joseph River:** Water levels were still a bit high however steelhead are still being caught. Try bright colored plugs or spinners when the water is muddy.

**Kalamazoo River:** Also has a good number of steelhead in the system. Those fishing near or below the Allegan Dam caught fish on spawn and plugs. Water levels were receding but the river was still muddy.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Steelhead anglers are shore fishing or boat fishing as wading was difficult with the higher water levels.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Anglers were picking up a few walleye and pike over at Moore's Park and the North Lansing Dam. No word yet but anglers should be looking for steelhead.

**Muskegon Lake:** Is producing a few whitefish for those fishing at night.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels are receding but the river was still a bit muddy. Those fishing throughout the system have caught steelhead including a fair number of chrome fish.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

The inland lakes are icing over however most of the ice out there is not safe yet. Those anxious to get out would be wise to target the shallow waters only.

**Thunder Bay River:** Continues to produce some steelhead. Most are fishing up near the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Try spawn or wax worms.

**Oscoda:** Pier anglers caught steelhead, whitefish and even the occasional walleye. Most were night fishing.

**Au Sable River:** The water was still a bit high and muddy. Catch rates will improve as the water clears up. Anglers are catching steelhead and brown trout.

**Higgins Lake:** Is completely open, no ice. The occasional boat angler has been seen but no catch reports to pass on.

**Houghton Lake:** Ice anglers are venturing out and fishing along the southern shoreline in the East Bay but caution needs to be used. They have caught some walleye, pike and a couple bluegills. Those with tip-ups are using blues and those jigging are using wax worms.

**Tawas:** Traditional patterns would have whitefish tapering off. Those targeting them can be found on the State Dock at night.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Fishing on the inland lakes is in-between open water and ice fishing season. Most of the smaller lakes had ice however with freezing and thawing there is a good chance the ice is not safe.

The large lakes such as Charlevoix, Elk and Torch had open water with some ice starting to form in the bays and shallow areas. The extreme southern end of the South Arm of Lake Charlevoix was ice covered but opened up with the rain and warmer weather. If temperatures stay below freezing, ice anglers will be out testing the smaller lakes. River steelhead fishing remains an option, as does surfcasting.

**Manistee River:** Water levels were high and muddy. Those wading need to be careful. Steelhead were caught below Tippy Dam for those floating spawn or flies with trout beads. Try the deeper holes.

**Ludington:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting caught steelhead and brown trout. Early morning was a good time to target them.

**Pere Marquette River:** Water levels were receding and the river has a decent number of steelhead. Anglers are finding some nice chrome fish in the lower river. Try egg flies or spawn.

## UPPER PENINSULA

Has had some ice on the inland lakes but heavy snow in the northern portions will slow the freezing process. Those looking to head out on the smaller lakes will need to use extreme caution.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Ice was forming mostly at the head of the bay. No word if any anglers were out but those thinking about it need to use extreme caution. Temperatures below freezing will certainly help to shore up the ice conditions.

**Two Hearted River:** Still had some steelhead but heavy snow in the area will make angling extremely difficult.

December 11, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Anglers are reminded that muskie season on Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and the Detroit River closes on December 15. Northern pike and muskie spearing opened on December 1 for all waters except Designated Trout Lakes, Designated Trout Streams and the Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Perch anglers were fishing off the docks at the Metro Park Marina.

**Huron River:** Is still producing steelhead. Some boat anglers are back trolling with Hot-n-Tots.

**Detroit River:** Had a few boat anglers perch fishing near the Cross Dike.

**Lake St. Clair:** Has open water for the most part. There was a little skim ice in the canals and some of the marinas but nothing close to fishable. There has been a lot of muskie fishing activity over the last week as water clarity has improved. Muskie season closes on December 15 however the end of the season is usually when the biggest fish of the year are caught.

**St. Clair River:** Shore anglers have caught steelhead and brown trout off the wall at Port Huron. A few whitefish were also mixed in. With the warmer temperatures, there are no ice flows coming down the river so fishing conditions are good.

**Saginaw Bay:** Had some anglers fishing the first ice near shore however anglers be warned, the ice is not very thick.

### SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

No safe ice in southern Michigan, in fact, most of the lakes have opened back up. Steelhead fishing was just alright on rivers in the area.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead fishing was fair with most anglers picking up one or two fish per trip. Water levels were still a bit high.

**Black River:** Was producing some steelhead and a few brown trout.

**Kalamazoo River:** Steelhead fishing was fair with anglers usually getting a couple fish per trip. Water levels are still coming down and have started to clear up. Try drifting spawn and wax worms or casting crank baits and plugs.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Is still producing some steelhead. Some days are better than others.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Pike and walleye anglers can be found near the dams. Most are using live bait such as sucker minnows. A few reports came in regarding steelhead at Portland. Try floating a jig with spawn, minnows or crawlers.

**Muskegon:** Piers anglers caught whitefish when jigging a single egg.

**Muskegon Lake:** Was also producing a few whitefish for those fishing at night.

**Muskegon River:** The higher waters levels did bring fresh steelhead into the river system. Those fly fishing have done well with egg patterns. Anglers are catching steelhead, some brown trout and even the occasional lake trout.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Grand Lake:** Ice anglers were fishing in the shallow bays only.

**Long Lake:** Also had ice anglers fishing in the shallow bays.

**Thunder Bay River:** The number of fish has dropped but anglers were still taking a couple steelhead up near the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Dam.

**Otsego Lake:** Ice anglers were fishing in shallow waters along the shoreline.

**Oscoda:** Pier anglers fishing at night were still picking up some whitefish and the occasional walleye.

**Au Sable River:** So far, the launch ramps are fine and steelhead are being caught. Water temperatures were in the mid 30's. The forecast for the weekend looks to be very good for river fishing but it might be a good idea to pack some rock salt or sand just in case the ramps ice up.

**Lake Margrethe:** Ice fishing is underway however anglers need to use caution.

**Houghton Lake:** Ice anglers can be found off Harvey's Marina in the East Bay. The ice is clear with no snow so be sure to bring cleats for easier travel. Some are using tip-ups while others are jigging. For walleye, try blues and perch minnows and for pike use anything that has some flash to it.

**Lake St. Helen:** Was producing some nice northern pike.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Anglers are ice fishing on some lakes. Those heading out are reminded to use extreme caution and be sure to use a spud to check the ice as you go. The rivers are open at fishable levels and have steelhead just not many anglers are fishing for them.

**Torch Lake:** Those spear fishing did well for whitefish.

**Elk River:** Was producing steelhead at the dam.

**Manistee Lake:** In Kalkaska County had ice anglers. Foot travel was best as the ice was not safe for machines. Most of the fish caught were on the small side.

**Betsie River:** Is producing some steelhead.

**Lake Cadillac:** Has ice. Anglers have done well when spearing for pike. Try jigs and wax worms for panfish. Bring your cleats and be sure to check the ice first.

**Lake Mitchell:** Ice fishing has started. Those heading out caught mostly small pike and panfish. The ice had no snow so be sure to bring your cleats.

**Lake Missaukee:** Ice fishing has started but not all the ice is safe. Most anglers were seen on the northeast side of the lake.

**Manistee River:** Water levels were fishable once again. The river still has a good number of steelhead and other trout.

**Ludington:** Pier and surf anglers were still catching steelhead.

**Pere Marquette River:** Water levels were good and the river still has a fair to good number of steelhead.

## **UPPER PENINSULA**

Ice was forming on the inland lakes but snow will slow the freezing process. Those anxious to get out and start fishing need to use extreme caution and avoid the deeper lakes.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Commercial vessel traffic will be utilizing the port of Gladstone beginning Saturday, December 13 and are expected to transit into and out of Little Bay De Noc through December 18. Recreational users of the ice should plan their activity carefully, use caution, and stay away from the shipping channels and other areas where there is vessel traffic. Ice anglers were fishing above Saunders Point. They caught a few perch, walleye and pike. Anglers need to use caution and watch for pressure cracks with open water.

**Indian Lake:** In Schoolcraft County was producing some perch and walleye.

**Manistique Lake:** A few ice anglers were starting to venture out however it is still early and ice conditions need to be checked carefully.

December 18, 2014

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This will be the last report for 2014 as there will be no updates for the next two weeks due to the holidays. Anglers are reminded that large and smallmouth bass season will close on all waters of the state on December 31. Those to the north may find some ice fishing however the southern half of the Lower Peninsula had no ice.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** The only reports were a few decent perch caught in the Metro Park Marina.

**Huron River:** Anglers are still catching steelhead. Shore anglers are floating jigs with wax worms and boat anglers were back bouncing with Hot-n-Tots.

**Detroit River:** Anglers were going out but no reports were coming in. Those heading out are usually targeting walleye or perch. Muskie season is closed.

**Lake St. Clair:** Had no fishable ice anywhere. Much colder temperatures should start producing ice by the weekend. Muskie season closed on December 15.

**St. Clair River:** Muskie season is closed. Shore anglers fishing off the wall at Port Huron were still picking up some steelhead and the occasional brown trout.

**Saginaw Bay:** If the weather allows, boat anglers may find some fish when trolling or drifting.

**Saginaw River:** Anglers caught walleye at Bay City when casting from shore. Lots of small ones but anglers did take home some keepers.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The lakes in Southwest Michigan had open water. Any ice out there would not be safe. Thanks to the rain and above normal temperatures, it is going to be a while before anglers here are ice fishing.

**St. Joseph River:** Has steelhead in the system but the numbers are slightly below average. The better fishing is usually below Berrien Springs. Try spawn, wax worms or plugs.

**Kalamazoo River:** Is still producing some steelhead. Like the St. Joseph, the number of fish is slightly below average this year. The better fishing this time of year is usually below the Allegan Dam.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Is still producing some steelhead. A few were caught off the wall at the Post Office when using a white jig tipped with a wax worm. Near Fulton Street, anglers were back bouncing with spawn bags. The occasional walleye was caught on bucktail jigs and white twister tails.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Was still producing some pike and walleye for those fishing below the dams. Shiners seem to work better than sucker minnows. No steelhead to report in Lansing however fish were caught near Portland. Try spawn, beads and small spinners.

**Muskegon River:** Recent rain should not affect the river too much. Anglers are still catching some steelhead and brown trout. Many are drifting streamers, plugs, small spinners or spoons. Blue and silver were a good color.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice fishing has been put on hold until ice conditions improve.

**Oscoda:** Few anglers have been out however pier anglers may still find the occasional steelhead or walleye.

**Au Sable River:** Anglers are still getting some steelhead throughout the river system. Boat and shore anglers are using spawn or a jig and wax worm. No word on walleye, they seem to be gone.

**Higgins Lake:** Had open water, no ice. Boat anglers were still heading out and targeting whitefish and lake trout.

**Houghton Lake:** As of this report, the ice was no longer safe. With the return of cold weather, the ice might shore back up by the end of the week. Those heading out will need to use extreme caution. Before the big thaw, walleye anglers were doing very well.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The inland lakes still had ice but it was deteriorating with the extremely warm weather. Anyone venturing out now needs to use extreme caution. Shoreline ice was thin and some reported water running down the holes which will only weaken the ice more. Much colder air by the end of the week should restart the freezing process. On Lake Michigan, a couple boats were out trolling along the shoreline and in the harbors. They caught steelhead, brown trout and a couple small chinook salmon.

**Frankfort:** Surf and pier anglers are still getting a few fish.

**Betsie River:** Steelhead fishing is still viable, although few are doing it. Reports have not been great but fish are being caught.

**Lake Cadillac:** Still had ice however it was deteriorating. Anglers need to use extreme caution until colder weather has a chance to shore the ice back up. Be sure to use a spud to check the ice in front of you. Those that have been out reported good fishing.

**Lake Mitchell:** Still had some ice however it was melting. Extreme caution needs to be used. Those jigging or using tip-ups have caught fish.

**Lake Missaukee:** Is producing some pike and walleye.

**Manistee:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting are getting a few fish.

**Manistee River:** Steelhead are still available in both the Big and Little Manistee even though it has not been a banner fall run. Try spawn, wax worms or plugs.

**Ludington:** Surf and pier anglers are still getting a few fish.

## UPPER PENINSULA

In the northern sections, the recent warm weather did weaken the ice. Heavy snow added weight and caused ponding on the surface. Anglers are reminded to use extreme caution and don't forget the traditional safety gear such as a spud, ice pics, a throwable flotation device, a rope and the buddy-system.

Anglers in the eastern half of the Upper Peninsula were ice fishing on the inland lakes however no sleds were heading out, foot traffic only. Lakes around Newberry with yellow perch and panfish are being targeted. The next couple weeks are showing temperatures that will slowly improve ice conditions.

**Portage Lake:** In Houghton County was producing a good number of walleye and pike.

**Lake Gogebic:** Was also producing a good number of walleye and pike. Anglers are jigging and using tip-ups.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had enough ice north of Gladstone that anglers were traveling on ORV's and snowmobiles. The warmer weather and rain made conditions sloppy. Anglers have been fishing for yellow perch in the Butler Island area and walleye in the central and northern parts of the Bay including the First, Second and Center Reefs. There was some ice but more open water south of Gladstone.