

April 2, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Continued cold weather is putting the steelhead runs behind schedule. Conditions might start to improve by next week. Ice fishing on the inland lakes in the Lower Peninsula is pretty much done as conditions continue to deteriorate.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Is opening up. Any remaining ice is not safe. Walleye fishing was slow on the Michigan side but a few fish have been caught in Ohio waters, especially the Maumee River.

Detroit River: Is open. The lower river is clear right now however there is flow ice in the upper river. Ice flows continue to be a problem more so around the launches than in the open water though anglers would be wise to be mindful of flow ice at all times. Boat anglers are jigging for walleye but catch rates are extremely low. A few perch were caught in the canals. A couple anglers caught perch in Canadian waters and in Michigan waters near Mud Island. Keepers were 8 to 12 inches but many were throwbacks. These same anglers caught sub-legal pike along with a couple ranging 26 to 30 inches. Water temperatures were 32 to 34 degrees and need to warm up to improve the bite. The launches at St. Jean, Ecorse and Elizabeth Park remain closed as of this report.

Lake St. Clair: Still has some flow ice moving around. Conditions change daily depending on wind direction and speed. Some of the public boat launching sites are now open but most do not have the docks in yet so boat anglers should be prepared to launch without them.

St. Clair River: Has flow ice coming down from Lake Huron.

Harbor Beach: The marina was still iced in and Lake Huron still has ice flows.

Saginaw Bay: With gusty winds, the ice has broken up in the bay and the ice along the inner bay is gone. A few boat anglers fishing near Spoils Island did well for walleye. White bass were caught in the Hot Pond. Perch anglers from Kawkawlin to Sebewaing might want to get their shore-fishing gear and start hitting the cuts and rivers this coming weekend. Perch fishing was good around Rose Island and Geiger Road but the ice is now gone. Some anglers were using air boats to get around. Outside the Thumb, pier and boat anglers will want to start gearing up for the early-season trout and salmon fishing.

Saginaw River: Boat anglers on the lower river near the train bridge at Essexville took some nice perch on minnows.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boats out trolling were picking up some coho at and near the mouth of the river.

St. Joseph River: The recent cold spell slowed steelhead movement through the Berrien Springs fish ladder but the run is expected to pick back up with on the onset of warmer weather this week. Stream flows are below average for this time of year.

Holland: Has open water but the piers are still ice covered. There is still some flow ice out in Lake Michigan.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead action slowed at the Allegan Dam where anglers were still floating spawn or wax worms.

Grand Haven: Has open water. Anglers may still encounter some flow ice out in Lake Michigan. The piers still had some ice cover.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Overall, fishing was slow. The better steelhead fishing was below the 6th Street Dam and down to Johnston Park. Anglers are floating and drifting spawn and yarn. The occasional steelhead was caught at the Flat River Dam in Lowell. Catch rates should improve within the next week or two as temperatures start to climb and spring showers move into the region.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing lots of catfish. No trophy fish but good table size. Anglers are using crawlers, cut bait and chicken liver. Carp and suckers are also starting to hit. No steelhead reports as the fish have not made it up this far.

Muskegon River: The tailwaters below Croton Pond were still quite cold because the impoundment still had ice cover so water temperatures below the dam are cold. Fishing was good one day but shut down the next. As soon as the ice is gone from the impoundments temperatures will start to rise and catch rates will really heat up.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Thunder Bay River: The tailwaters below the Ninth Street Dam are quite cold because the impoundment still has ice cover and this prevents warming of the water below the dam. It could be another week or two before steelhead fishing gets started.

Houghton Lake: Still has ice but the shoreline ice is starting to break up. The North Bay is starting to open up. Anglers need to use caution near the inlets, outlets and canals. A fair number of crappie were starting to bite. Fish were caught out from the Cut River. The weed beds along the south shore are producing some bluegills.

Au Sable River: The tailwaters below Foote Dam are still quite cold. Combine the cold water temperatures and low flows due to an extremely dry spring thus far and anglers will see there has not been much of a “signal” to stimulate upstream migration or spawning steelhead. There are fair numbers of steelhead below Foote Dam and as soon as the ice is gone from the impoundments temperatures will start to rise and catch rates will really heat up. The water was low and clear so fishing tactics will be different than those years with usual high water.

Tawas: Ice was hanging on in the northernmost part of Tawas Bay, from Jerry’s Marina back north toward shore. A lot of perch were under the ice but most of them are quite small and not worth taking a swim for. A few walleye were caught in the evening near the artificial reef. Boat anglers starting to venture out caught a couple Atlantic salmon or lake trout.

Tawas River: There was not much activity at the mouth. Only a few suckers have been caught.

Au Gres: The ice is gone.

Au Gres River: The ice is gone from the mouth and those surfcasting are out trying their luck when the weather cooperates.

Rifle River: With rain in the forecast, the sucker run should start to pick up by this weekend.

Pine River: Near Standish is open near the mouth but shore anglers were not doing much yet.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The ice is slowly deteriorating and ice fishing is no longer recommended. While some ports may have open water the piers may not be accessible due to ice cover. Steelhead fishing remains slow. We need rain and warmer temperatures.

Traverse City: The West Bay had open water about three hundred yards out but the rest of the bay was still iced over.

Boardman River: Anglers were catching steelhead up near the Union Street Dam and near the weir. The mouth of the river is open.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Ice fishing is done. The lakes are still ice covered however it is not safe. There is open water around the edge as the lakes begin to open up. It is time to get ready for open water fishing.

Manistee: Pier anglers are catching a few brown trout on spawn.

Manistee River: Water levels were back up below Tippy Dam. The bite was slow due to cold water temperatures. Try a slow presentation in the deeper holes. Look for the bite to increase with warmer weather and rain in the extended forecast.

Ludington: Boats trolling the harbor and along the shoreline have caught steelhead and brown trout on orange and chartreuse body baits. Pier anglers caught a couple brown trout on spawn. The piers are still ice covered so anglers need to be careful. There is one dock in at the Loomis Street launch.

Pere Marquette River: Water levels are running a bit low for this time of year. The steelhead bite slowed with the colder weather.

UPPER PENINSULA

All of the lakes in the Eastern U.P. remain ice covered. A good number of rivers are open now and anglers are anxiously awaiting the steelhead run. The Two Hearted and the Sucker River would be the first areas for anglers to seek out steelhead. Those rivers have begun to open at the mouth which is a good sign of spring.

Keweenaw Bay: Fishing was slow however some reports were good. Splake fishing was good in 20 to 30 feet with spawn bags or minnows. A couple coho and the occasional chinook were also caught. Live smelt was the hot bait for chinook while coho were hitting on spawn, wax worms, smelt or minnows. Lake trout action was fair along the Center Reef. Remember, ice conditions can change quickly this time of year. The shoreline ice was not safe. There are a couple large pressure cracks that cross the entire bay between the Pump House and Pequaming.

Menominee River: Was producing some walleye along with brown trout and steelhead from the Hattie Street Dam down to Stephenson Island. The only landing open was at Stephenson Island. Ice was still blocking a good portion of the river between the Interstate Bridge and the mouth.

Little Bay De Noc: The southern Bay is open water from the Escanaba Lighthouse south. The rivers remain mostly frozen with patches of open water. The mouth of the Escanaba River to the 1st Dam is open. A few perch anglers had fair catches at Kipling. Most were fishing the East Bank with minnows or wigglers in 18 to 35 feet. If you travel on the ice be sure to use caution.

Marquette: Some were able to get boats out and those fishing the “bubblers” did catch a couple coho about 16 inches long. There were large schools of lake herring

at the “bubblers” but many were fowl hooked. Anglers are using a combination of ¼ ounce jigs tipped with twister tails, crawlers and gulp bait. Good colors were fluorescent pink or white jig. There is still large ice flows at the “bubblers” so ice moves in and out depending on wind direction. The main part of the lake remains frozen however it IS NOT SAFE due to shifting ice. The only other angler activity was at the mouth of the Carp River where fishing was slow. A few anglers picked up a couple steelhead. They also had a few hits on crawlers which they thought may have been some coho. Those using spoons had no hits.

Au Train: A few anglers ice fishing off the Brownstone launch caught one or two coho but catch rates were slow. The ice is still packed in tight along shore so anglers were ice fishing off the mouth of the Rock River where they caught a couple menominee and lake whitefish. Catch rates for coho and steelhead were poor. As a reminder, fishing is closed on the Rock River from the spillway below M-28 to the footbridge from April 1 to June 30. Those fishing off the mouth of the Au Train River had no luck. The Au Train River is about ¾ open with water levels increasing.

Munising: Had more anglers as catch rates increased. Ice conditions in the bay were holding but anglers still need to use caution this time of year. There was a layer of wet snow on top of the ice but walking conditions were still decent. Catch rates were fair in 15 to 70 feet between the Anna River and Sand Point. Splake were caught including more keepers for those using jigs with an egg or minnow. Catch rates for whitefish were up with most anglers keeping three to 10 fish. Try a single egg or wax worm on the bottom. If no fish are found, try further up in the water column as some of the fish were suspended. Anglers are still marking smelt but they would not bite. The coho action should only get better. A few were caught in open water at the mouth of the Anna River. Trout Bay still had fishable ice but catch rates were slow. Remember, ice conditions can change quickly this time of year.

Grand Marais: Lake Superior is producing some coho salmon and a couple steelhead through the ice.

St. Mary’s River: Still had ice at Munuscong but fishing was rated as poor.

Cedarville and Hessel: Ice fishing continues and those fishing Hessel Bay had a great time and a few harvested limit catches of perch when using wigglers in six to 12 feet. Musky Bay improved slightly for those fishing in 10 to 14 feet with wigglers or minnows.

April 9, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

When the ice melts and the winds increase, lakes and ponds go through a period called “turnover” which is the process of water turning over from top to bottom. When this happens, residents are apt to see some dead fish which is usually the result of “winterkill” caused by a harsh winter with thick ice. This type of fish kill typically does not affect the overall health of fish populations or the quality of fishing. For more information on fish kills click here:

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52259-119822--,00.html

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Nearly all the ice is gone (at least temporarily) from the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River but there is still a lot of ice left on the eastern shore of Lake Huron and the forecast for this week includes lots of east wind that will probably move that ice into the St. Clair River.

Lake Erie: No word on walleye fishing in Michigan waters however those trolling and jigging in Ohio waters are catching fish.

Detroit River: Was clear of ice flow and more anglers were out as catch rates increased. Almost all boats are targeting walleye and most anglers reported some measure of success. Several limit catches were reported but most boats were averaging 3 to 5 fish. The better catches came between Great Lakes Steel and Grassy Island though anglers also had some luck at most of the access sites. Those perch fishing in Canadian waters near the Cross Dike had good success. Keepers were 7 to 13 inches but many were throwbacks. Some caught the occasional pike, musky, carp or suckers. Water temperatures were running about 38 degrees. The launches are open. The St. Jean’s launch has 3 new ramps to improve access.

Lake St. Clair: The docks are in at the DNR launches but there’s not much fishing going on yet. Some good perch catches were reported near Geno’s.

St. Clair River: A few salmon and steelhead were caught by shore anglers at Port Huron and Marine City. Some good walleye jigging reports came from those fishing near the mouth of the Black River. It is possible that we could have flow ice moving through the system by the weekend. Anglers should call ahead or check webcams along the river to verify current conditions.

Lexington: Boat anglers out trolling caught a mix of coho, chinook, lake trout and even a walleye or two. Most are using body baits off planer boards. Pier anglers caught a couple trout and salmon when floating large minnows under a bobber. A nice perch was also caught in the harbor.

Port Sanilac: Has boats out trolling for trout and salmon. Fish have been caught on body baits. Pier anglers floating large minnows caught steelhead and coho.

Harbor Beach: Has open water. A few anglers were casting off the breakwall but not having much luck.

Saginaw Bay: Open water fishing is here. Anglers are looking for perch in the river mouths and cuts however it is still early. Sucker runs are underway and the fishing was good. Boat anglers caught walleye three miles off Linwood when trolling crank baits. Walleye were caught near Spoils Island and between the Saginaw River and the Kawkawlin River. Some were fishing east toward Finn Road but the Finn Road cut was still full of ice so boats are launching at the mouth of the Saginaw River. Those vertical jigging or using perch rigs with walleye minnows caught walleye just off the mouth of the Saginaw River. Over at the Hot Ponds, anglers caught white bass and carp. A couple fish were caught off Quanicassee. Perch fishing was still slow in the cuts near Unionville, Fish Point and near the Sebewaing River. Anglers are “cut-hopping” which is fishing one cut for a short time then driving to the next. Warm rain this week should get the bite going.

Saginaw River: Boat anglers fishing the lower river were getting some perch out of the Bay Aggregate Cut.

Quanicassee River: Shore anglers targeting perch reported slow fishing.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers are catching a few coho and brown trout. Fishing is spotty, but should improve. Most are using spawn on the bottom. Boat anglers haven't been able to get out because of ice. Most of it is gone now but there are still some large ice flows in the area so boaters should use caution.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead movement increased with the recent rain. Fish are being caught near the dam at Berrien Springs.

South Haven: Pier anglers have caught some decent numbers of trout and salmon when using spawn on the bottom. For boat anglers, the lake has opened up but some very large ice flows are still in the area so use caution.

Black River: Those fishing up river have been doing very well.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead action was fair near the Allegan Dam. Anglers are using spawn, spoons or spinners.

Grand Haven: Pier and shore anglers are doing well for steelhead, brown trout and the occasional coho. Most are using spawn. Both the north and south piers still have ice on them and there is still some ice along the shoreline. Boats have been able to troll around the pier heads but it is limited. Use caution because if there is ice in the lake it will come into the area around the piers making it difficult for boat and pier anglers.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Steelhead fishing picked up near the 6th Street Dam and some fresh fish were caught. Try spawn, spoons, spinners or yarn.

Grand River at Lansing: Continues to produce catfish, carp and suckers. No steelhead yet however some fish might make it up this far by the weekend.

Muskegon: Has less ice on the pier and along the shoreline. Pier anglers are catching steelhead and brown trout on spawn. Boat anglers are trolling the basin and out into Lake Michigan.

Muskegon Lake: The boat launches around the lake are open.

Muskegon River: Steelhead are being caught and the fishing should only get better. There should be some fresh fish moving into the system by the weekend.

Whitehall: There was no visible sign of ice on Lake Michigan however anglers need to be careful as there may still be some ice further out in the big lake. Boat anglers were leaving the channel but no word on fishing conditions. Pier anglers caught steelhead and brown trout when floating spawn. Suckers were starting to hit. On White Lake, the ice is gone.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan: Was producing steelhead for those casting lures, slip bobbers with a wax worm or artificial spawn bags.

Ocqueoc River: The ice has been gone for a couple weeks now but water temperatures were cold and angler activity was low. Try drifting artificial eggs and beads or floating spawn bags in the deeper holes until it warms up.

Rogers City: Everything is still iced up but anglers are hoping the ice will be completely gone by the weekend.

Presque Isle and Rockport: Were still iced in but could be open by weekend. Look for Atlantic salmon once everything opens up and boats are able to get out.

Alpena: The ice has finally left the river. The city boat launch is still iced up but the river launch is open and the dock is in. A few boats have been launching but no reports had come in.

Thunder Bay River: There has been very little run off from the winter and water levels were low. With the cold water temperatures, rain this week should help jump start the steelhead run. Those steelhead fishing were targeting the deeper holes with flies and beads or spawn.

Harrisville: The ice in the harbor is gone and there should be one dock in within the next week or so. Small boats have made their way out of the harbor but the water is cold and the bite was slow so only a limited number of steelhead or walleye were caught. Try spoons, body baits or spawn.

Oscoda: The mouth of the river is open to boat and pier anglers. There is one dock in with ample room to launch. Pier anglers caught steelhead, walleye and suckers.

Au Sable River: Those fishing up river had success when targeting steelhead. Fish the deeper holes and around the bends. Drifting spawn and body baits did best but anglers may also want to try small spoons or spinners.

Houghton Lake: Still has some ice however there is no safe ice and there is more open water every day. The canals are starting to open up. A few anglers were trying for crappie but water temperatures were still too cold.

Tawas: The ice is gone around the State Harbor. Pier anglers are casting outside the wall for whatever will hit and it was not much. A couple walleye and a pike were caught just off the mouth of the river.

Tawas River: Anglers caught steelhead and suckers in the lower river.

Au Gres: The bay is open but there was not much activity.

Au Gres River: Is open and there was a fair amount of activity on the East Branch with anglers catching steelhead near the Singing Bridge. Some were up to 4 pounds. Steelhead were reported along Turner Road.

Rifle River: Suckers are being caught by hook-and-line between Omer and the mouth. A couple steelhead were also caught.

Pine River: The boat launch is now open.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice fishing in this region of the state is done. There is still ice however it is not safe. Steelhead fishing in the rivers was slow because of cold temperatures and a lack of warm rain. A good number of steelhead remain in the big lake and are still being caught by those trolling and pier anglers. A few brown trout were also caught.

Charlevoix: Lake Michigan shows signs of thawing further out but is still frozen closer to shore.

Lake Charlevoix: Most of the lake is still ice covered and the boat launch is not accessible. There is open water on Round Lake and the part of Lake Charlevoix where it connects to Round Lake.

Traverse City: The ice is breaking up in the East Bay however the majority of the bay was still covered so boats will not be able to access open water. Fishing was slow in the Elk River as few fish were spotted. In the West Bay, the area in front of the Boardman River is open but the rest of the bay is pretty much ice covered. Those targeting steelhead from the pier at the Maritime Academy had limited success.

Boardman River: Fishing was slow but a couple steelhead and brown trout were caught by those drifting a jig and wax worm.

Frankfort: The ice has cleared from Betsie Bay and boat anglers are making their way out. They have caught steelhead, brown trout and walleye between the piers and along the shoreline. Pier anglers caught steelhead and brown trout off the north breakwall when using fresh spawn. Both piers are still iced over so anglers need to use extreme caution.

Onekama: Both piers had minimal ice build-up so caution needs to be used. Anglers caught steelhead and brown trout on fresh spawn. Ice flow in Portage Lake leaves boaters no access to Lake Michigan.

Portage Lake: Ice coverage was about 30 percent and windy conditions make ice movement very unpredictable.

Manistee: Pier anglers are catching steelhead and brown trout when using spawn. Boat anglers are catching a few brown trout on orange spoons and body baits. Two docks are in at the First Street launch.

Manistee River: Steelhead are being caught below Tippy Dam however the run is behind this year. Egg take operations at the weir on the Little Manistee won't start until next Monday at the earliest which is quite late compared to years past.

Ludington: Pier anglers are catching the occasional steelhead or brown trout when using spawn. Boat anglers trolling along the shoreline and around the piers caught steelhead and brown trout. Try spoons or body baits in orange and chartreuse. There are two docks in at the Loomis Street launch.

Pentwater: Anglers are taking steelhead and brown trout from the piers when still-fishing with spawn. There was no visible ice on Lake Michigan but keep in mind there may still be some ice further out. Boats were starting to head out when conditions allow. On Pentwater Lake, the ice is gone.

UPPER PENINSULA

Menominee River: Walleye and trout are being caught between the Hattie Street Dam and Stephenson Island when using jigs tipped with minnows and twister tails or rapalas. The dam has been partially open for the past week. Landings at Stephenson Island and the Mystery Ship were open. Angler pressure at the dam was moderate to heavy.

Little Bay De Noc: Had a few perch anglers ice fishing near Kipling. Only a few keepers were taken as most of the fish were small. Anglers were walking out and using minnows or wigglers in 10 to 28 feet. Some of the rivers are starting to open up. Both the Rapid River and the Tacoosh River are open and flowing fast. The Whitefish River is open north of the 2nd bridge. The Day's River is partially open between US-2 and the mouth and northwest of the Golf Course. The Escanaba River is open to the dam but still iced over at the mouth. The Ford River is open west of Hyde. The flows are fast but not like last year. No steelhead reports yet.

Big Bay De Noc: Had no reports as it was still covered in ice. The Ogontz River is open but still had some ice flow. The Fish Dam Rivers are partially iced over. Locals who fished here this winter reported perch catches were down from previous years but the whitefish action was very good.

Marquette: The Upper Harbor is now ice free. Anglers can launch boats however the wind may blow ice back into the area. Anglers will find open water between the "Bubblers" and Picnic Rocks however there are large sheets of ice still floating in the area. The Lower Harbor is still ice packed. It could be a good two weeks yet before the area is ice free. A few boats trolling out near the "Bubblers" had poor results. Only the occasional chinook or coho was caught on crank baits or jigs tipped with spawn, crawlers and cut bait.

Carp River: Those casting spoons for trout and salmon down near the mouth had poor results. Others were using jigs with crawlers or spawn but had no luck.

Au Train Lake: Had no angler activity. The ice was holding except for a few areas along the shoreline and where the Au Train River flows in and out of the lake.

Detour: There was no fishing activity in Detour and the Drummond Island area. None of the boat ramps are open and there are no docks in. There is still a lot of ice however it is no longer safe.

Cedarville and Hessel: Musky Bay had excellent perch fishing. Limit catches came from Duck Bay and Rice Point in 10 to 12 feet. Ice fishing here could still be around for a few weeks.

April 16, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

New fishing regulations went into effect on April 9th. Full details are now online in the 2015 Fishing Guide. Changes include new hook restrictions, changes to the bass season, Great Lakes trout and salmon regulations for Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, and inland trout and salmon regulations regarding brook trout. To view these changes click here:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/New_Fishing_Regulations_for_2015-2016_-_additional_info_486671_7.pdf?20150414115801

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: More boats are getting out. Walleye catches have improved although individual success has varied.

Detroit River: Has seen a large increase in angler effort and catch rates for walleye. Limit catches were much more common during the week with the bite slowing on the weekend. Virtually all boats are targeting walleye with most anglers reporting some measure of success. During the week good catches including multiple limits were reported where the river starts all the way downstream into the Trenton Channel and the east side of Grosse Ile. Multiple fish over 10 pounds were caught but the average size was about 4 pounds. Hot spots were Great Lakes Steel, Mud Island, Grassy Island, and near the Ambassador Bridge. Water temperatures range between 40 and 42 degrees. Some caught musky, pike, carp and suckers.

Washtenaw County: Panfish activity was slow but some anglers did report a few decent catches.

Lake St. Clair: Had little activity. Crappie and sunfish were caught in the canals and marinas. Shore fishing at the mouth of the Clinton River has been slow.

Clinton River: Has steelhead and suckers.

St. Clair River: There is still a lot of ice up on Lake Huron and a northwest wind will blow that ice back down into the river. Anglers are encouraged to check with local bait shops to make sure the boat ramps are not iced in. Some walleye were caught in the upper river. A mix of trout and salmon were caught the length of the river however the better catches were between Port Huron and Marine City.

Lexington: Boat anglers have done well when trolling orange body baits off planer boards in 5 to 15 feet. Most had anywhere from 2 to 9 fish consisting of chinook, coho, lake trout, steelhead and Atlantic salmon.

Port Sanilac: A couple coho and steelhead were caught in the harbor by pier anglers and those trolling.

Saginaw Bay: Had some good perch action at the Palmer Road Cut. Those trolling body baits caught walleye in 18 feet off Linwood and 10 to 12 feet off the Bay City State Park. Walleye were also caught by those trolling or jigging near the mouth of the Kawkawlin River, Spoils Island and to the east off Finn Road. Quanicassee to Caseville was slow for perch because of the muddy waters. The odd lake trout was caught off the end of the pier at Caseville.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Fishing continues to be good with pier anglers catching coho and brown trout when using spawn on the bottom. The occasional whitefish was also caught. Boat anglers are doing very well north and south of the piers. They are taking a mixed bag of coho, brown trout, small chinook and steelhead. Body baits and small spoons are the ticket.

St. Joseph River: A lot of steelhead were seen moving through the fish ladder at Berrien Springs. Flows are well below normal for this time of year.

South Haven: Pier fishing has slowed with only a few coho taken on spawn fished on the bottom. Boat fishing also slowed but the fish caught were taken mostly south of the piers in waters between 8 and 60 feet deep.

Kalamazoo River: Anglers were doing well at the Allegan Dam. Fish are being taken on spawn, yarn flies and trout beads. Steelhead were caught near the Hamilton Dam on the Rabbit River.

Grand Haven: Pier and shore anglers are both taking steelhead and brown trout. Steelhead are hitting on fresh spawn and brown trout on orange body baits.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Anglers are still catching fair numbers of steelhead at 6th Street Dam but reported slower fishing with the recent rise of water. Those using spawn did best. Sucker catches increased over the last week. Anglers reported an increase in the number of steelhead showing up at the Flat River Dam in Lowell. Catch rates were fair for those using yarn and beads.

Grand River at Lansing: Word has it steelhead did not make it up past the Webber Dam so those looking for them will want to head downstream. Anglers are doing well for catfish when using crawlers or cut bait. A few crappie were caught but the panfish bite was still slow.

Jackson County: Fishing activity has picked up. Panfish are becoming more active as the waters warm.

Clinton County: Suckers have been caught in area streams. Inland lakes were slow due to cold water temperatures.

Muskegon: Has blocks of ice along the shoreline once again thanks to the west wind. Those venturing out have caught coho and brown trout on spoons and stick baits. Orange was a good color. Pier anglers also did well for steelhead with some limit catches taken by those fishing spawn on the bottom.

Muskegon River: Fresh steelhead were caught even though the river is stained. Anglers are using spawn, egg flies and body baits. Orange and chartreuse were good colors.

Whitehall: When the weather allows, a good number of pier anglers were targeting steelhead. The bite was slow however anglers were catching more brown trout. A good number of boat anglers caught brown trout when trolling close to shore. Try orange spoons or body baits.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Inland lakes in Otsego and Montmorency County were still ice covered. Some of the smaller lakes have opened up and the rest should follow by the weekend.

Cheboygan: Anglers were fishing near the locks and the dam but had no luck.

Ocqueoc River: Finally got some rain and run-off and hopefully this will help draw some steelhead in. Catch rates have been very slow. Anglers were drifting or floating spawn in the deeper holes.

Rogers City: Ice is gone from the launch ramp and one dock is in. Atlantic salmon should be out there so try trolling the shoreline and breakwalls with bright colored spoons or body baits. Good colors are orange, yellow, chartreuse and silver. Those casting from the breakwall will want to try spoons or body baits in chartreuse and silver or orange, gold and silver.

Presque Isle and Rockport: Ice was still blocking the launch ramp however it should be completely gone this week.

Alpena: A few boat anglers found Atlantic salmon. They are trolling bright colored spoons and body baits in front of the marina and near the Cement Plant. Orange, yellow, green and silver were the colors of choice.

Thunder Bay River: Had lots of anglers but catch rates were slow. Most are targeting steelhead when drifting or floating spawn and artificial egg patterns or when fishing along the bottom.

Harrisville: The harbor is ice free and one dock is in so boats can now launch. Steelhead and walleye are starting to show up. Body baits and spawn are working well. Atlantic salmon should be around the harbor soon.

Oscoda: Pier and boat anglers are catching walleye, steelhead and Atlantic salmon. Trolling and casting body baits were the most productive but fish were also caught by those drifting spawn or still-fishing with minnows. Early morning and late evening were best.

Au Sable River: Was producing some fresh steelhead. Spawn and body baits were the ticket.

Higgins Lake: Still had some large chunks of ice floating around. Boat anglers will have to wait a bit longer.

Houghton Lake: Has open water but not much in the way of fishing as water temperatures were still too cold. The only action reported was a couple panfish caught in the canals.

Tawas: Fishing was slow with only a few walleye caught by boat anglers.

Tawas River: Anglers caught the occasional steelhead on spawn. Suckers were also caught.

Au Gres: Boat anglers caught walleye off the mouth of the river.

Au Gres River: Steelhead have been caught in the East Branch near the Singing Bridge.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Now is the time for steelhead fishing as last week's rain pushed good numbers of fish up into the rivers. The warmer weather will ripen them fairly quick and they will be on the gravel soon. The Manistee and Pere Marquette should be good choices.

Harbor Springs: This side of the bay is starting to open up near shore. Ice in the harbor is starting to change color. There is no safe ice in the harbor.

Petoskey: Little Traverse Bay was still frozen over. The marina is starting to open up but ice remains.

Bear River: Water levels were a bit high. The mouth is open and there is now open water almost to the end of the breakwall. The rocks on the inside of the breakwall are fairly clear of snow and ice. Steelhead fishing is still a bit slow with only the occasional fish caught on spawn bags, wax worms and egg pattern flies. Most anglers are fishing at the mouth, off the D Pier or off the beach. A couple brown trout were caught and immediately released because the season is closed. Warmer temperatures this week should get the steelhead moving.

Charlevoix: The ice near shore blew out. The channel in Charlevoix is still open, along with most of Lake Michigan between North and South Points. Ice and snow were still packed in at the end of the piers but that should melt this week.

Lake Charlevoix: Still had some ice cover but no safe ice. The northwest end is fairly open with the exception of some thin ice out further. The docks at the Ferry Beach launch are not in yet.

Torch Lake: Still had ice cover.

Elk River: Fishing has been slow with only the occasional steelhead or brown trout caught below the dam. Try spawn or a jig and wax worm.

Traverse City: The East Bay is ice free. The docks are not in yet but boats have been out trolling. Lake trout were caught near the bottom in 80 to 100 feet. The West Bay has open water. Lake trout were caught when jigging in 120 to 150 feet.

Boardman River: Steelhead fishing has slowed. Try spawn bags or a jig and wax worm. Anglers are finding white suckers up at the Union Street Dam. Fresh planted trout were caught however they are sub-legal and cannot be harvested.

Frankfort: Pier anglers had good catches of steelhead and the occasional brown trout in the early morning when using fresh spawn. The North Pier was more active. Boat anglers trolling the shoreline and between the piers have picked up a few brown trout but the better numbers came to those trolling north to Platte Bay and looking for stained water. Small body baits worked best.

Onekama: Anglers fishing the north and south piers caught steelhead, brown trout and lake trout. The steelhead are hitting on fresh spawn but the brown trout and the lake trout were hitting Cleo's, wobblers and body baits.

Portage Lake: The ice is completely gone. Anglers are making their way out looking for perch however they did not have much luck.

Manistee: Boats trolling the shoreline are finding steelhead, brown trout and lake trout. Bright colored spoons and body baits have been working. Pier anglers have caught steelhead and brown trout. Try casting orange spoons or floating spawn.

Manistee River: Steelhead are being caught below Tippy Dam including a fair number of fresh fish. The DNR will be conducting the annual steelhead egg take on the Little Manistee River starting this week and will be passing some fish upstream.

Ludington: Is producing brown trout and lake trout for those trolling along the shoreline with orange spoons and body baits. Pier anglers caught a couple brown trout on spawn.

Pere Marquette River: Is still producing some steelhead.

Pentwater: Pier anglers reported slower steelhead fishing and more brown trout action. Boat anglers caught brown trout when trolling close to shore. Steelhead action in the river has slowed quite a bit.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Is ice free. Those fishing off the rock dock caught a mix of coho, splake and steelhead. Trout were caught at the head of the bay between L'Anse and Baraga. Unless ice blows back into the bay between now and this weekend, there should be several boats out trolling for salmon. A good number of steelhead were hooked in the Falls River.

Menominee River: Three gates were open at the Hattie Street Dam which made shore fishing difficult. Most boat anglers were concentrated around the Turn Basin. Those using a jig and minnow or a jig and plastics had good success. There are reports of brown trout being caught by those trolling stick baits at the mouth.

Little Bay De Noc: Was still ice covered but is breaking up fast and several days of warm weather should speed up the process. All the rivers are open and flowing fast. Steelhead anglers are out as the season gets started.

Big Bay De Noc: Still had ice for the most part however it is starting to break up and will continue to do so with the warm temperatures and strong winds. The rivers are open and fishable for those targeting steelhead.

Marquette: Received 6 to 10 inches of heavy wet snow and the run-off is increasing water levels on area streams and rivers. The Upper Harbor launch is open however flow ice can still be seen. Lake Superior has areas with open water so boat anglers can navigate to the Carp River and beyond but extreme caution needs to be used. Watch for submerged ice which is not visible but can make navigation treacherous. The Lower Harbor is ice free. Boats can launch however no docks are in yet. Catch rates were slow with only a couple coho taken near the "Bubblers".

Munising: Ice conditions in the bay are no longer safe! Pressure cracks around the shoreline are completely open and there are pockets of open water with shifting ice. Catch rates were fair. Keeper size splake were caught on jigs, eggs and minnows. Anglers caught whitefish ranging 10 to 15 inches with a single egg or wax worm on the bottom. Some fish were suspended. The bite has been very light so try extremely light rods. The coho action was just starting to pick-up with a few more fish caught near the Anna River. The ice in Trout Bay had slush and the honeycomb effect. Anglers are urged to stay off the bay and wait for open water fishing.

Grand Marais: Ice conditions are no longer safe! Large mounds of ice as high as 10 feet remain near the mouth of the Sucker River. These mounds are dangerous because anglers could fall through the weak spots. Most are fishing in the river near the access road. Coho were hitting on small orange jigs with a wax worm. The pier still had ice around it as well as mounds of ice covering the access walkway out to the Point. Stay off the ice because there a major changes in conditions and locations every day now.

Detour: The DNR boat launch was still ice covered and the docks are not in. On the north end of Detour Village, there's still ice around the marina and village area with no docks in. Over at Drummond Island, some perch were caught in Whitney Bay in 6 to 8 feet when using small light colored or chartreuse jigs with wax worms. A few perch were taken in Scott Bay and near Peck Island in 8 to 12 feet. Good catches on the south side of Harbor Island in 4 feet with minnows or wax worms.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing in Hessel Bay has been very slow with only a few fish caught along the east end. There was still some ice however it is melting quickly. The fishing in Muskellunge Bay has been marginal. The west end of Duck Bay had some good reports. Getting on the ice is becoming dangerous.

April 23, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This coming Saturday, April 25th marks the opening day of statewide trout season and the walleye, northern pike and muskellunge opener on the Lower Peninsula inland waters.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

The peak of the walleye spawn is about a week later than average so there should be a lot of males still in the rivers. The opener this weekend should be good as long as we don't get too much rain.

Detroit River: Continues to have high fishing pressure. Walleye fishing has been very good with lots of large fish caught. Wind and rain will muddy and make fishing more difficult. Good catches during the week were taken near Great Lakes Steel, Mud Island, Stoney Island, Trenton Channel, the Rouge River, Cobo Hall, Ambassador Bridge and in Canadian waters near Fighting Island. Average size was 3 pounds with some fish up to 8 or 9 pounds. At this point most of the bigger females caught have already spawned so most of the fish caught now are smaller males. Some caught suckers and the occasional smallmouth bass.

Lake St. Clair: Had a few reports of bass angling success. Windy conditions have muddied up the lake and it may still be a muddy mess for the weekend.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing at Port Huron has slowed. A few salmon and trout, along with some whitefish are being caught by shore anglers in Port Huron. Walleye were caught in the Algonac area, but overall fishing was slow. Water temperatures remain in the upper 30's.

Lexington: Boat anglers are taking a fair mix of coho, chinook, Atlantic, steelhead and lake trout. The fish were spooked easily in the clear water near shore. Best depths were anywhere from 35 to 65 feet from south of Lexington or between Lexington and Port Sanilac. Most are trolling downriggers with spoons. Pier fishing was slow at both ports.

Saginaw Bay: At Pine River and Palmer Road, the perch run is apparently over. The fish are spawned out and most of them are small. Good walleye fishing off Linwood in 13 to 20 feet and around Spoils Island when jigging or trolling crank baits. East of Bay City, boats launching at Finn Road are going back west and fishing around Spoils Island. White bass and catfish were caught at the Hot Ponds. Up the east side, walleye were caught in 5 feet off Quanicassee. Some are going as far as the Spark Plug. From Sunset Bay north to Caseville, not much for boat anglers; just cut anglers after perch though the run is over with only small fish in the cuts and rivers. Some very big smallmouth bass were caught and released off the end of the pier at Caseville and by shore and pier anglers at Port Austin and Grindstone City. Fish 4 to 6 pounds were caught and released by those casting jigs with assorted plastics.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat anglers had good success mainly south of the port when using small crank baits. Lake trout were caught on spoons fished deep. Pier anglers caught fish when using spawn on the bottom.

St. Joseph River: Recent rains decreased water clarity, but flows were still below average. A fair number of steelhead can still be seen moving through the Berrien Springs fish ladder. Suckers are also showing up.

South Haven: Boat anglers are catching a few coho in waters up to 30 feet deep when trolling small spoons. Pier fishing slowed.

Kalamazoo River: Still has a good number of steelhead and suckers. The walleye opener this weekend should be good.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers are doing well for steelhead and brown trout when using spawn. Boat anglers had success when trolling along the shoreline for steelhead, brown trout, coho and smaller chinook salmon. They are using 2, 3, and 5 colors of lead core and short coppers. Hot lures were body baits, jointed baits and small spoons in orange, red or gold. As for perch, anglers caught some one day and were skunked the next.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Had a good number of steelhead. Spawn was the bait of choice. Suckers are showing up in good numbers too.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing catfish for those using crawlers and cut bait. Bass anglers are catching and releasing a few fish. No word on steelhead this far up.

Muskegon: Pier anglers did well for steelhead and brown trout when floating spawn. Boat anglers heading out caught a mix of steelhead, brown trout, small chinook and coho when using between 2 and 5 colors of leadcore and short coppers. Try orange, red or gold body baits and small spoons.

Muskegon River: Water temperatures were in the low to mid 40's. The water was somewhat muddy after all the rain. Anglers are still taking a fair to good number of steelhead on spawn and body baits.

Whitehall: Pier anglers are catching a few brown trout and steelhead. The bite is slow and water flowing through the channel is cloudy. Those trolling in the shallows are catching brown trout and lake trout.

White Lake: Had reports of a few perch caught.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Ocqueoc River: Was slow. The water is still very cold. Those targeting steelhead are drifting spawn under a bobber through the deeper holes. Most are the darker hold-over and very few chrome fish.

Rogers City: A few boats have gone out but had little success. Atlantics and lake trout should be in shallow waters up to 40 feet deep. Try trolling spoons or body baits and use bright colors in the stained water. In clear waters, try green and silver or blue and silver. The fish should be up higher in the water column and around structure. The area from Calcite Harbor all the way south to Adams Point should be good for Atlantics and lake trout.

Presque Isle and Rockport: All the ice is gone. A dock is in at Presque Isle but not Rockport.

Alpena: Those trolling around the marina or casting from the breakwall have caught a mix of Atlantic, lake trout and walleye. Catch rates were decent. A few fish were taken behind the cement plant. Most are trolling. Walleye were caught near the mouth of the river when jigging or casting body baits at night.

Thunder Bay River: The occasional steelhead was caught up near the 9th Street Dam. Anglers are drifting spawn bags under a bobber or on the bottom. Artificial egg patterns have also caught fish. Some caught suckers or the incidental walleye. It looks like walleye will be in the river for the opener. Water temperatures were still on the cold side. Anglers are still waiting for a major push of steelhead to arrive.

Au Sable River: Anglers should find some steelhead and brown trout. Try spawn, wax worms and flies. With the cooler weather, try fishing the deeper holes.

Tawas: Boats trolling husky-jerks near the artificial reef and those jigging were getting some walleyes and quite a few lake trout. Pier fishing was spotty with only one Atlantic, and a couple walleye, pike and lake trout taken when casting or still-fishing. Minnows come and go inside the harbor.

Tawas River: Was producing mostly suckers and carp. A few walleye were taken off the mouth.

Au Gres: Boat anglers fishing around Whitestone Point and Point Lookout did well for walleye. Some are dipping smelt from boats at night with lights hung over the side to attract them. Pier anglers casting for walleye at end of breakwall at night were getting a few. A small number of smelt were taken by those with dip nets around the shoreline at Point Lookout and Point Au Gres.

Au Gres River: Most of the steelhead are apparently further upriver. Near the Singing Bridge, those surfcasting at night have caught some walleye. Sucker runs are winding down however there were still quite a few fish in the river.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Trout fishing should be decent this coming weekend, although it may be a little cold for insect hatches. Water levels should be good, slightly high but not raging. In the streams open to Lake Michigan, there should be a good number of steelhead available. The run this year has been very late due to cold temperatures. The walleye and pike opener should be very good in this area with fish on their post-spawn feeding binge.

Petoskey: Most of the ice in Little Traverse Bay blew out but there were a couple large ice flows still present. The marina is open, but the docks are not yet.

Bear River: Steelhead fishing improved somewhat. Females are starting to show up in the catch and many have eggs flowing. Anglers are fishing the dam, the mouth, off the inside of the breakwall, and off the end of the clock dock. Anglers did best with spawn bags, wax worms, and flies. Suckers were caught at the mouth and dam.

Kalkaska County: Manistee Lake is usually good for walleye.

Lake Charlevoix: The north end looked to be ice free. The docks at the boat launch were still not in.

Elk River: Fishing was slow. Anglers managed to pull a couple steelhead and brown trout while fishing spawn bags below the power dam.

Fife Lake: In Grand Traverse County is a good bet for walleye.

Traverse City: In the East Bay, those jigging had fair catches of cisco and lake trout and those trolling picked up lake trout along the breaks in 30 to 50 feet or deeper in 80 to 120 feet. In the West Bay, lake trout have been caught in 20 to 50 feet. Shore fishing was relatively slow near the mouth of the Boardman and the Maritime Academy with only a few lake trout and the occasional brown trout or steelhead taken on spawn or minnows.

Boardman River: Anglers are catching steelhead at the Union Street Dam. Most fish were caught on spawn bags. Fish are on the gravel behind the Post Office.

Frankfort: Windy conditions have made it difficult for both pier and boat anglers. Those trolling north or south along the shoreline caught steelhead, brown trout and lake trout in 9 to 12 feet. A few more bites were coming on spoons rather than body baits. Orange and green were the hot colors.

Benzie County: Try Upper and Lower Herring Lakes for walleye.

Lake County: Try Big Star Lake for walleye.

Onkama: Anglers are landing brown trout and lake trout off the north pier. Body baits worked best but fresh spawn was also taking brown trout.

Portage Lake: The docks are in at both launches. Anglers have been out but catch rates were slow due to cold water temperatures. No sign of perch yet.

Manistee: Boats trolling along the shoreline are catching a few brown trout and lake trout on black and silver, orange and gold or perch colored body baits. Pier anglers caught a few perch on wigglers and minnows. A few brown trout were taken by those casting spoons or still-fishing with spawn.

Manistee County: Try Manistee Lake, Bear Lake, Portage Lake and Tippy Dam Pond for walleye.

Ludington: Brown trout and lake trout have been caught while trolling the shoreline with orange spoons and body baits. Pier anglers and those surfcasting had slow results for steelhead and brown trout.

Hamlin Lake: Is usually a good bet for the walleye.

Pentwater: Pier anglers caught a few brown trout, steelhead and even a couple perch. Many are wrapping up the pier fishing and thinking about putting their boats in. The docks are not in at the launches yet but some are putting in smaller boats and catching a fair number of lake trout and brown trout in the shallows.

UPPER PENINSULA

Northern Luce and Alger County still have snow on the ground, between 1 and 2 feet. Some roads are passible, but a majority of the roads are not due to snowpack and ice cover. The only confirmed accessible roads at this point are County Road 500 towards Little Lake Harbor and County Road 414 to County Road 423 to the mouth of the Two Hearted River. A majority of the trout lakes will still be ice covered for the trout opener. The roads in Chippewa County should be open however the trout lakes near Lake Superior will most likely still have ice on them. The roads in Mackinac County should be open. Lakes to the south end of the Upper Peninsula should be open for the weekend. M-28 could be used as a divider for lakes open or not. Expect all streams and rivers to be high and muddy.

Copper Harbor: Fishing is very slow. The harbor was about half full of pack ice and strong winds keep moving it around. It was along the west end making it impossible to launch a boat. Eagle Harbor has no ice issues but steelhead fishing was slow.

Keweenaw Bay: Anglers fishing the Falls River in L'Anse did manage to catch a few fish. Those fishing off the rock dock caught a few coho, steelhead and splake when using spawn, crawlers, spoons or spinners. Boat anglers trolling near the head of the bay caught a mix of coho, chinook, brown trout, steelhead and splake. In the South Portage Entry, those jigging off the lighthouse in 120 to 180 feet caught lake trout.

Menominee: Brown trout were caught in good numbers off the Lighthouse Pier and north of the Menominee River when using #7 rapalas in various colors in 6 to 10 feet. Fish as large as 28 inches and 12 pounds have been caught.

Menominee River: Brown trout were caught on rapalas and stick baits. Most anglers are now concentrating on walleye in the lower river when using jigs and minnows. Walleye and brown trout were caught at the Hattie Street Dam.

Little Bay De Noc: Anglers have just started boat fishing. The docks are in at Rapid River, the Ford River and the Gladstone Yacht Harbor. There could still be some floating ice in the bay so boat anglers will still need to use caution. Perch anglers caught small fish on crawlers in 10 to 25 feet. Steelhead anglers fishing the Bark River, Days River and the Whitefish River are starting to catch some fish.

Big Bay De Noc: Had no reports. Garden Bay is still iced over but should break up any day now. The only launch open is at Ogontz. The Sturgeon River is very high and only being fished north of US-2. Many anglers are waiting for Garden Bay and the great perch fishery.

Marquette: For the most part the area is ice free except for shoreline ice that has blown towards the mouth of the Chocolay River. Catch rates were very slow with only a few anglers taking 1 to 3 fish which were mainly coho and chinook. Most of the fish were caught by boat anglers fishing the "Bubblers" at the Upper Harbor, outside the Lower Harbor breakwall and between the Carp River and the Chocolay River. Jig fishing produced more than trolling. A few lake trout were caught in 80 to 100 feet east of Marquette, towards the White Rocks and north towards Granite Island. Boats are trolling spoons and crank baits 20 to 30 feet down in 50 to 60 feet. The area towards the Sand River and Shot Point is ice free except for the shoreline. Ice is still present along Shelter Bay, Au Train Bay and the Rock River remains ice locked however there are pressure cracks.

Munising: Changing weather, strong wind and melting ice has limited angler activity. Ice conditions in the bay are still not safe! Around the shoreline there is open water however some thin ice still remains locked in the bay. Reports from around the bay indicate poor to fair catch results on a mixed bag of fish. Many in small boats are fishing in 20 to 30 feet near the mouth of the Anna River where the occasional steelhead, coho and splake were caught by those still-fishing or jigging spawn and worms.

Whitefish reports were down. Try spawn or worms on the bottom. Trout Bay has not been fished and efforts at Bay Furnace were low as 4WD is still needed to get for access to the road. No word on smelt.

Grand Marais: The ice was blowing out of the bay including ice near the boat launch and the channel so anglers can start launching boats. The ice is gone near the Sucker River as well.

Mackinac County: Smelt action has been nonexistent at this point. Water temperatures on the Carp River were 36 degrees and Nunn's Creek was 41 degrees. The cold nights and rain will lower those water temperatures. The Black River had some steelhead activity but the bite was slow. Water levels were high.

April 30, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

To clarify recent changes to bass fishing that went into effect April 9th, anglers will now be able to practice catch-and-immediate-release all year long instead of having to wait until the last Saturday in April to do so. The season to keep large and smallmouth bass will still open on the Saturday before Memorial Day on the inland waters and the Great Lakes or the 3rd Saturday in June on Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and the Detroit River and will close on December 31st.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Perch and walleye were being targeted near the Dumping Grounds off LaPlaisance Bay but few fish were seen. Anglers are looking for perch in Brest Bay.

River Raisin: From Dundee downstream, anglers are reporting perch, walleye, pike, catfish, bass and crappie.

Huron River: Was producing limit catches of trout near Proud Lake Recreation area. Walleye and white bass were caught near Ypsilanti.

Detroit River: Water temperatures were at 46 degrees. Despite challenges from the weather, walleye are still being caught. Catch rates were highly variable though several limit catches were reported over the course of the last week. Most are targeting walleye with good catches reported near Great Lakes Steel, the salt mines on the Canadian side, Stoney Island, Trenton Channel, Cobo Hall, the Ambassador Bridge, Fighting Island in Canadian waters and up near Lake St. Clair. Some caught smallmouth bass, musky, pike and suckers. A good number of white bass were caught near the Trenton power plant.

Belle Isle: Anglers on the island were catching crappie on minnows.

Lake St. Clair: Despite cold water temperatures, catch and release smallmouth bass fishing has been good, especially on sunny days when the shallow waters warm up quickly. Redhorse suckers are biting at the mouth of the Clinton River and a few rock bass have been caught.

St. Clair River: A few trout and salmon were caught between Marine City and Port Huron. Walleye fishing is starting to heat up between Algonac and Marine City.

Lexington: Anglers trolling between Lexington and Harbor Beach caught Atlantic, chinook, coho, lake trout and steelhead but no brown trout. They are using downriggers and planer boards with spoons and body baits in 15 to 30 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Anglers trolling and jigging in 10 feet around Spoils Island and about 4 miles out from Linwood caught good numbers of walleye. Boat anglers did fair for walleye between Quanicassee and Fish Point. No reports on perch. Some were targeting bass for the catch-and-immediate-release season but catch rates were slow with only a few smallmouth taken at Caseville.

Tittabawassee River: The walleye opener was very good however with warmer weather, the fish will be moving out to Saginaw Bay. Limit catches were taken near the Center Street launch as well as upstream and downstream when vertical jigging or trolling with jigs and body baits, but no live bait. The area upstream from Gordonville Road and up near the Dow Dam were slower but if anglers worked at it, limit catches were a possibility. Most were using gold, orange or fire-tiger twisters, body baits, rapalas, crawlers or minnow parts. Freeland was somewhat slower. The best action was around the bridge on Tittabawassee Road.

Saginaw River: Anglers caught walleye when trolling and jigging from the mouth to the Coast Guard Station and near the Independence Bridge. No perch to report.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Fishing slowed but those trolling small spoons caught fish in 40 feet. There is still some trout and salmon being caught off the piers. Spawn worked best but a few were also caught by those casting spoons.

St. Joseph River: Is producing steelhead and suckers. The walleye opener was very slow. Crappie were caught below the dams.

South Haven: Had good trout and salmon action. Boat anglers caught lake trout on spin glows in 60 feet and coho on small spoons in shallow waters up to 40 feet deep. Pier anglers caught trout and salmon with spoons or crawlers on the bottom.

Kalamazoo River: Was producing some nice catches of steelhead and brown trout. A good number of walleye were caught by those jigging or drifting with crawlers.

Grand Haven: Pier fishing has slowed. Anglers are using spawn and orange spoons for brown trout. Boat anglers are still trolling along the shoreline for steelhead and brown trout when using short coppers and lead core with jointed body baits and small spoons in bright colors. A limited number of perch anglers were fishing the hole just south of the south pier but catch rates were spotty.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Anglers reported some nice catches of walleye with the opener. The better steelhead fishing is below the 6th Street Dam when drifting spawn.

Jackson County: Panfish are being caught on local lakes. Many are enjoying the catch-and-immediate-release bass fishing.

Muskegon: Boat anglers continue to troll for steelhead and brown trout along the shoreline. Steelhead fishing off the piers has slowed but a few brown trout were caught on spawn and orange spoons. No word on walleye yet.

Whitehall: Boat anglers were targeting walleye in the channels but catch rates were slow. Pier anglers caught a couple steelhead or brown trout when floating spawn.

White Lake: Was producing northern pike in 10 feet. Black and gold lures were the ticket. Perch anglers fishing near the mouth of the channel were moderately successful though the fish were small.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Ocqueoc River: More steelhead entered the river but it is still slow. Some are drifting spawn bags or tiny jigs under a bobber while others are casting very small spinners of cleos. Water levels are low so try the deeper holes.

Pigeon River: Anglers caught a few brown trout and steelhead.

Rogers City: Had very little activity as it has been too cold. If it ever warms up there should be Atlantic salmon and lake trout available. Try shallow waters up to 40 feet deep but fish up high in the water column and head south towards Calcite Harbor and Swan Bay. Look for stained water from the rivers as it will be a few degrees warmer. Spoons and body baits usually work best and good colors are blue and silver, green and silver, orange, fire-tiger or silver.

Alpena: Most anglers are trolling near the marina or out by the cement plant for a mix of lake trout, walleye and the occasional Atlantic salmon. Try spoons and body baits and use bright colors in the stained water.

Thunder Bay River: More steelhead came into the river but the numbers seem to be way down. Try drifting spawn bags under a bobber. Those fishing the bottom with white, orange or chartreuse flies have caught fish. The river has been overrun with suckers. Steelhead anglers are incidentally catching 15 to 20 suckers a trip so walleye and trout fishing will be easier once the suckers are gone. A few walleye are in the river. Shore anglers are fishing crawlers on the bottom or casting body baits. Boat anglers are jigging from the foot bridge down to the mouth.

Harrisville: Steelhead started making their way into the harbor in good numbers. A few walleye and lake trout were also caught on body baits and spoons.

Early morning was best for trout but walleye anglers did best late evening and into the night. Dredging has not started but should be underway within the next week.

Oscoda: Pier fishing has started to pick up for steelhead, lake trout and walleye. Early morning and late evening were best but midday catches were also recorded. Body baits, spoons, minnows and crawlers are all working well.

Au Sable River: Steelhead made their way up river and the females are on the beds. Most of the fish are silver and fresh, and the males should follow. Try drifting body baits, fly's and spawn. Brown trout and some brook trout were also caught.

Houghton Lake: The walleye opener was slow but should pick up as the temperatures warm up. Other than a few crappie in the canals, fishing was slow.

Tawas: Was producing some limit catches of walleye for those trolling around Buoy #2. Walleye and lake trout were caught by those jigging off the artificial reef. Pier anglers caught Atlantic salmon or pike during the day and walleye at night. Smallmouth bass were caught and released.

Au Gres: Had good walleye fishing with limit catches reported by those using husky jerks and body baits in 18 to 20 feet.

Au Gres River: Anglers caught a few salmon, brown trout and steelhead. There were rumors of steelhead and walleye caught in the surf near the Singing Bridge.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: Ice has blown back into Little Traverse Bay and it was pretty well covered. The dock at the public boat launch has been pulled back out.

Bear River: Catch rates were very slow. Anglers continue to fish from the dam downstream, off the D Pier, and to the beach area. Depending on where the ice is blowing, anglers were fishing off the clock dock and inside the breakwall with spawn bags, wax worms, wigglers and egg pattern flies. They caught mainly steelhead, brown trout and suckers. A good number of steelhead were ripe.

Lake Charlevoix: Is ice free and the docks are in at the Ferry Beach launch.

Elk River: Fishing has been hit-or-miss with very few steelhead in the river. Some caught the occasional brown trout or Atlantic salmon. Most are using spawn bags or a jig and wax worm.

Traverse City: Lake trout and Cisco have been caught in the East Bay when jigging in 60 to 120 feet. In the West Bay, lake trout were caught at a variety of depths between 15 and 120 feet deep. Steelhead, brown trout and lake trout were caught near the Boardman River. Most are using spawn bags.

Boardman River: Few brown trout were caught between the Forks and the Brown Bridge. Steelhead are still being caught at the Union Street Dam. Suckers have moved into the river and up to the dam. Lake trout were caught near the mouth. A Hendrix hatch was in progress near the Brown Bridge.

Frankfort: Cooler temperatures slowed catch rates but anglers were still landing a few brown trout when trolling body baits in the harbor. Pier anglers caught steelhead on fresh spawn.

Onekama: Those casting spoons off the north breakwall have caught brown trout.

Portage Lake: Water temperatures are still a bit cool for bass activity but those working hard did manage to catch and release some smallmouth. Perch anglers have had very little activity.

Manistee: Boats are doing well for lake trout and brown trout when trolling along the shoreline. Orange spoons and natural color body baits work best. Pier anglers are catching a few perch on minnows or wigglers. Brown trout were caught by those casting spoons or still-fishing with spawn.

Manistee River: Fishing improved on the upper sections where anglers caught steelhead, brown trout and the occasional walleye.

Ludington: Is also producing lake trout and brown trout for those trolling the shoreline with orange spoons or body baits. Pier fishing was slow.

Pentwater: Pier anglers caught a few brown trout or a fresh steelhead on spawn. Those that did have fish have put in several hours of fishing. Walleye anglers are fishing the channels and from the piers but only a few were caught.

Pentwater Lake: Boat anglers hit the water for walleye and pike but most were unsuccessful. Anglers on Long Bridge and the channel caught and released smallmouth bass. They hit on crawlers and various spinner baits.

UPPER PENINSULA

Brook trout were caught on many inland trout lakes. Smelt were reported in both Lake Superior and Lake Huron rivers however the action is very sporadic. Those lucky enough to find some were in the right place at the right time.

Copper Harbor: Fishing is still slow. Suckers have come into the harbor and they should start running into Fanny Hooe Creek soon. There is word of smelt starting to run in some rivers.

Keweenaw Bay: Cold temperatures slowed the bite for those trolling for salmon. When the weather was overcast and blowing, a few anglers did very well when fishing off the rock-dock which is the lake ward edge of the north side of the L'Anse marina channel. They caught splake and coho on spawn bags.

A couple smelt were taken in Linden Creek and the Falls River but overall catches were poor. Anglers caught a couple steelhead in the Falls River. Those trolling out from the South Portage Entry did catch some lake trout ranging between 2 and 5 pounds. The fish were hitting on a variety of spoons in 120 to 150 feet. Traverse Bay had no anglers.

Menominee: Anglers reported on some large walleye being caught south of the river when using planer boards.

Menominee River: Panfish anglers caught perch and crappie from the Government Pier. Slip bobbers and minnows are the ticket. The spawning run is pretty much done so anglers are fishing Lake Michigan for post spawn fish.

Little Bay De Noc: All the boat launches are up and running. Perch fishing has picked up. Most were fishing the northern end but the Center Reef was the best when using minnows and crawlers in and around 30 feet. Several nice catches of jumbo perch were reported in the same area. Steelhead anglers reported good fishing in the Day's River from the Masonville Bridge to the Golf Course and on the Ford River. Smallmouth bass were caught and released around the mouth of the Ford River.

Big Bay De Noc: Perch fishing in Garden Bay is on. Anglers reported good to excellent catches over by Hermes Fishery when using minnows in 6 to 8 feet. This is a bit unusual because the area is very small but packed with fish. The average size was 8 to 9 inches although some nice jumbo fish were also reported right along with some limit catches.

Marquette: Water temperatures are still very cold at 36 degrees. Most boat anglers fished out of the Lower Harbor to the Carp River but catch rates were between 0 and 2 chinook or coho. Shore anglers at the mouth of the Carp River had little luck with only the occasional steelhead or coho caught in the early morning by those using spinners, spawn or crawlers. No fish were caught off the Lower Harbor breakwall. Water levels on the rivers were still a bit high but dropping.

Munising: Cooler weather with wind and shifting ice still has limited some effort and catch rates remained low. A few coho were caught by those jigging or still-fishing from small boats near the Anna River. Try spawn or worms. Those trolling caught a few coho. No word on splake, whitefish or steelhead. Smelt have shown up in some of the rivers but catch rates were poor. The snow on Bay Furnace Road is gone.

Grand Marais: The ice is shifting daily. It can make fishing impossible in the morning but blow out so anglers can fish in the afternoon. It has been very unpredictable so boat anglers need to be especially careful. Ice mounds covering the pier are not safe to cross. Anglers are fishing open water off the wall near the parking lots. No whitefish to report yet. Large mounds of ice about 8 feet high remain near the mouth of the Sucker River. Anglers are fishing the river and Carpenter Creek.

Two Hearted River: The road to the mouth has been plowed. The water was high and dirty however a couple steelhead were caught.

Detour: The ice is gone from the smaller DNR launch off M-143 and across from the DNR Field Office. Anglers can now launch boats however the dock was not in as of this report. Anglers are gearing up Atlantic salmon fishing which was the best ever last year.

Drummond Island: The ice is currently gone from Maxton Bay at the mouth of the Potagannissing River. The boat launch is open at the DNR Access Site off Maxton Road however the dock was not in yet. The ice has finally moved away from the steel breakwall off Tourist Road. Anglers will soon be yellow perch fishing off the Monahan Dock which is just southwest of Sportsman's Club Point.

Cedarville and Hessel: A few boats were heading out of Cedarville and looking for perch. Anglers are also fishing from the Hessel pier. Splake season opens May 1st.

Carp River: Had reports of smelt but for how long no one knows.

May 7, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Fishing continues to pick up as the weather improves. Inland lakes are starting to produce more bluegill, crappie, perch, walleye, pike and bass. Walleye and pike season on the Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary waters opened on May 2nd.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye anglers are trolling crawler harnesses in Brest Bay. Boat anglers trolling or jigging in Ohio waters reported fair to good catches. Perch anglers are targeting the Dumping Grounds and Brest Bay. Bass anglers are fishing the shallows and the weed beds.

Lenawee County: Lake Hudson is producing a few perch and crappie. A couple musky were caught and released. Devils Lake was producing pike and bass along the drop-offs. A few limit catches of crappie were reported. Surface water temperatures were between 59 and 62 degrees.

Detroit River: While catch rates were variable, limit catches were reported. Most are targeting walleye but activity has also increased for white bass. Good catches still remain near Great Lakes Steel, the salt mines and the "Cow Pasture" on the Canadian side, near the Ambassador Bridge and up near Lake St. Clair. Average size continues to fall below 3 pounds but a few were up around 6 pounds. Anglers had some luck at most access sites. Several white bass were caught between Trenton and Wyandotte. Some caught the occasional smallmouth bass, musky, northern pike and suckers. Water temperatures were near 50 degrees.

Lake St. Clair: Had some good bass fishing reports coming from the Mile Roads. Anglers caught good numbers of crappie and sunfish in the canals and marinas. Rock bass are hitting in the Clinton River. Water temperatures in Anchor Bay ranged 52 to 55 degrees.

St. Clair River: Water temperatures were in the mid-40's. Walleye fishing is picking up in the Algonac area and should improve further north as water temperatures rise. A couple steelhead and brown trout were caught.

Lexington: Those trolling caught a mix of steelhead and coho in waters between 8 and 50 feet deep. Pier anglers caught fish when casting small Cleo's with minnows.

Port Sanilac: Those trolling for coho north of the port in 12 feet were getting the occasional walleye or lake trout. Most are using planer boards and rapalas.

Harbor Beach: Boat anglers caught steelhead and Atlantic salmon in various depths. There were rumors of chinook salmon caught as well but no word on size.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye were caught off Linwood in 16 to 18 feet, Gambils in 17 feet, the Spark Plug in 17 to 20 feet, Spoils Island in 17 feet and off Jones Road in 6 feet. Some are still jigging while others are switching to crawler harnesses. When the winds allowed, walleye fishing was very good off Quanicassee with limit catches reported in 7 to 9 feet in the morning or in 12 feet on the Coryeon Reef and 15 feet in the Slot. Sebewaing had no boat activity but shore anglers at both Caseville and Sebewaing caught the occasional walleye, catfish, freshwater drum or smallmouth bass. At Port Austin, catch rates were slow for those trolling. Pier anglers caught a few Atlantic and one coho when casting Cleo's. Smallmouth bass were caught and released. At Grindstone City, a few lake trout were caught on cut bait in 50 feet.

Tittabawassee River: Is still producing some walleye including a few limit catches even as the action slows. Most of the fish caught were males. Anglers did well upstream of the Center Road launch, the Railroad Bridge, Coty's Landing and Imerman Park when using body baits or jigs and crawlers with light line.

Mott Lake: In Genesee County has boat anglers trolling for walleye but catch rates were slow. For crappie, anglers are bobber fishing in the shallows. Shore anglers are using minnows.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Fish are still being caught in 20 to 40 feet but in fewer numbers. Pier fishing has slowed with only a couple brown trout and coho caught by those fishing spawn on the bottom.

St. Joseph River: Walleye fishing was slow. Anglers are still getting the occasional steelhead and some suckers.

South Haven: Boat anglers have done well for lake trout when using spin-gloves in 60 feet. Pier fishing has slowed.

Black River: Walleye fishing was slow.

Grand Haven: Pier angling slowed for steelhead and brown trout. Anglers are using spawn or casting spoons. Perch fishing is getting better, but not every boat is getting limit catches. They are fishing all 3 holes south of the pier and not one seems to be out fishing the other.

Use minnows, wigglers or spikes and look for all the boats. Anglers caught chinook, lake trout, brown trout and steelhead when trolling between the shoreline and 100 feet of water when using short coppers and lead core with jointed body baits and small lures in spring colors.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Steelhead continue to be caught but in fewer numbers. Most are drifting spawn below the 6th Street Dam. Catch rates for walleye and catfish were still slow but lots of suckers and more smallmouth bass have been caught.

Muskegon: Pier and shore fishing slowed. Spawn is still the bait of choice. Those trolling caught salmon and trout along the shoreline and in between the north and south piers with short lead core and coppers with spoons in blue veggie, UV, orange or gold. No perch to report.

Muskegon River: Continues to produce some chrome colored steelhead. Try spawn, artificial eggs or a piece of crawler.

Whitehall: Pier anglers caught northern pike and walleye in the early morning hours. The occasional brown trout was caught on minnows. Water temperatures are still cold so anglers should still find fair catches in the shallows.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Ocqueoc River: Anglers reported empty beds as it seems the last rain must have brought some fish in, they spawned and left. The few being caught are stragglers. Try drifting spawn bags or flies and jigs in the holes.

Rogers City: Water temperatures are still very cold. Those out trolling are targeting lake trout south towards Calcite Harbor, Swan Bay and Adams Point. Try shallow waters out to about 60 feet and fish just off the bottom when using cowbells with spin glows or dodgers. Try spoons or body baits up high for Atlantic salmon.

Alpena: Boat anglers are trolling spoons and body baits for Atlantic salmon, lake trout and walleye near the mouth of the river, the cement plant and around the island. Pier anglers casting at night have caught the occasional walleye, lake trout or Atlantic salmon.

Thunder Bay River: Is still being overrun with suckers. A few more steelhead entered the river but the numbers are way down and most likely due to little or no run off this spring. Most are drifting artificial flies or egg patterns up at the 9th Street Dam.

Harrisville: Lake trout are being caught near the harbor. Those trolling for walleye with planer boards and body baits or spoons are picking up lake trout. Walleye are in the area but seem to have lockjaw which might be because the surface water temperature is only 48 degrees.

Oscoda: Pier fishing has started to bring in a mix of steelhead, lake trout, walleye and suckers. Anglers are using body baits, spoons, jigs and worms. Walleye are starting to come in, in good numbers and fish are being caught at all times of the day and night.

Au Sable River: Look for steelhead to be up on the beds. Over the last week fish have started to move up river and look very fresh.

Houghton Lake: Fishing continues to be slow most likely because of temperatures dropping at night. A couple bluegill and crappie were caught but the fish appear to have lockjaw for now.

Tawas: Those trolling have caught Atlantic salmon, brown trout and walleye when using husky jerks and rapalas in 20 to 40 feet. Pier anglers reported no minnows so no perch. A few walleye and Atlantic salmon were caught in the evening.

Tawas River: Was slow with only the occasional walleye, sucker or catch and release smallmouth bass reported.

Au Gres: Had lots of boating activity. Some caught walleye in 15 to 40 feet off Pinconning or Palmer Road when trolling husky jerks, bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses.

Au Gres River: Those fishing near the Singing Bridge were casting for the steelhead and walleye.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Trout streams were low and clear which makes it easier to wade but the fish are not as eager to bite. Inland lakes are producing crappie, bluegill, walleye, pike and bass.

Petoskey: The boat launch area in the marina still had ice and the docks are not in. Windy conditions blew the ice to the east end of the bay which opened up the breakwall and the clock dock. Pier anglers continue to pick up a few fish. They caught steelhead, brown trout or lake trout on spawn bags.

Bear River: Steelhead fishing is still slow as water levels are low. The few caught were taken on spawn bags. A couple brown trout were hooked up near the dam. The river is full of suckers.

Charlevoix: Fishing was slow. Boat anglers heading out for perch had no luck but a few lake trout were caught in shallow waters south of the port.

Elk River: Still has some steelhead below the dam along with plenty of suckers and a few smallmouth bass. Those using spawn bags had limited success for steelhead.

Traverse City: In the East Bay, lake trout have been caught along the first drop-off in 15 to 35 feet or out deeper in 90 to 120 feet. Those jigging caught cisco. Some have started to target smallmouth bass in the shallows. Try locating baitfish and areas of warmer water and you should do well. In the West Bay, lake trout were caught by those trolling in waters as shallow as 10 feet and by those jigging out deeper in 185 feet. Pier anglers caught the occasional fish on minnows or spawn bags.

Boardman River: Steelhead fishing has been very slow due to dry weather and a low number of fish. There are plenty of suckers in the river as well as the occasional walleye or smallmouth bass.

Frankfort: Those trolling the harbor and the outside walls caught brown trout on spoons and small body baits. Black, gold and orange were good colors. Steelhead are still in the area and chrome fish have been caught.

Onkama: Anglers casting spoons off the north pier caught brown trout and the occasional lake trout. Walleye were reported around the rocks.

Portage Lake: The perch are biting though anglers are sorting through the small ones to find keepers. The fish are hitting on minnows and wigglers in the early morning. The perch bite will only last 4 or 5 days so anglers need to get out there. Walleye anglers trolling crawler harnesses have also caught a few perch.

Lake Cadillac: Anglers are starting to catch panfish and the occasional walleye. Catch and release bass fishing should be good soon.

Lake Mitchell: Those fishing in Big Cove were catching crappie.

Manistee: Boats trolling the shoreline with orange body baits and spoons are catching brown trout and lake trout. Pier anglers caught a few perch on wigglers. Those casting spoons or floating minnows caught the occasional brown trout.

Ludington: Brown trout and lake trout have been caught by boat anglers trolling the shoreline. Orange spoons and body baits were the ticket. Pier fishing was slow.

Pentwater: Lake trout along with the occasional brown trout have been caught in 30 to 40 feet. Anglers ventured a good distance north and south of the piers. Green flies and blue or watermelon spoons worked best.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The bite has been slow but those trolling at the South Portage Entry caught some nice lake trout on spoons in a variety of colors in 120 to 150 feet. Those jigging caught lake trout in 130 to 150 feet between Farmers Reef and the Mud Banks. In Traverse Bay, lake trout were caught by those trolling in 120 to 160 feet and those jigging in 140 to 180 feet near Big Louie's Point. Steelhead were caught in the Falls River in L'Anse.

Menominee River: Walleye are being caught in the Turn Basin by those using jig heads and live bait. Those trolling at the mouth and beyond are getting some walleye and brown trout.

Ford River: Was producing a good number of bass for those taking advantage of the catch and release season.

Marquette: Catch rates picked up slightly with a few more coho caught by boat and shore anglers. Most are targeting salmon and steelhead and some caught one or two lake trout. Boat anglers trolling in 40 to 60 feet outside the Lower Harbor and up to the Carp River caught salmon and the occasional steelhead or brown trout. Shore anglers at the mouth of the Carp River had little success when using crawlers or spawn. Surface temperatures are still in the 30's but were upper 30's to 40 degrees near the mouth of the Carp River and the Chocolay River.

Au Train Lake: The dock at the public launch was not in yet.

Munising: Depending on wind direction, ice still remains and is being pushed around in some areas. Boat anglers were targeting coho in 15 to 30 feet near the mouth of the Anna River when the ice was absent. Most were using worms. Those still-fishing or jigging from small boats caught coho on spawn and worms. Only a few splake and whitefish were caught and steelhead fishing was minimal. Smelt were in some of the rivers but catch rates were low. Rain by the weekend could help.

Grand Marais: Still has some ice moving around in the bay and is very unpredictable. Anglers need to pay close attention to wind direction. The pier is not safe due to mounds of ice still covering it so anglers are fishing off the wall near the parking lots. Mounds of ice about 5 feet high remain near the mouth of the Sucker River. Catch rates exploded over the last week for boat anglers trolling in 15 to 40 feet near the mouth of the Sucker River. Small spoons and rapalas were the ticket. Limit catches were reported with fish ranging 15 to 23 inches. Coho were caught in the Sucker River.

Detour: The ice is off the St. Mary's River at Detour Village. All the access sites are open and clear of ice however the docks may not be in yet. As the smelt run begins Atlantic salmon should be available so target the rocky points and feeder creeks. A chrome colored crank bait with a blue back should work well for Atlantic salmon.

Drummond Island: The yellow perch run has started in Maxton Bay. Anglers were catching fish 7 to 9.5 inches with the occasional 11 or 12 inch fish. They were drifting minnows with red beaded spreaders in 6 to 8 feet off the Sportsman's Club.

Cedarville and Hessel: Splake season is open and anglers were doing well off the marina pier at Hessel when using minnows or smelt. Harvest from boats is a bit slower than the pier, with anglers fishing Hessel Bay and Wilderness Bay. A few perch were caught inside the marina.

Carp River: Anglers have left as the smelt run has wrapped up.

May 14, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Walleye, pike and muskellunge season for the Upper Peninsula inland waters, Great Lakes and the St. Mary's River will open on Friday May 15th. Cooler temperatures may slow catch rates.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Is producing some walleye and white bass.

Lenawee County: A majority of anglers on Lake Hudson are targeting crappie and musky however success was limited. Perch and a few catfish were caught along the peninsula and campground. Live bait is the ticket. On Devils Lake, those targeting panfish have done well with minnows and wax worms along the weed beds in 4 to 10 feet. Anglers did well trolling and casting for pike and bass.

Detroit River: Walleye anglers reported that the morning bite was slowing down around 10 AM. Most of the better catches this past week came from waters in the northern half on the Canadian side. Catch rates were variable though some reported limit catches. Those fishing the waters in the southern half had more difficulty getting their bait to the bottom because of all the white bass. Most are still walleye fishing near the casino, the salt mines and "Cow Pasture" on the Canadian side, the Ambassador Bridge and up near Lake St. Clair. Some catches were reported on the Michigan side around Grosse Ile, Belle Isle and near Great Lakes Steel. Average size was 2 or 3 pounds. Good white bass fishing from the River Rouge down through the Trenton Channel. Smallmouth bass, musky, pike, suckers and freshwater drum were also caught. Water temperatures were 55 degrees.

Lake St. Clair: Clear water has dominated the lake, especially in the Anchor Bay area. Bass fishing has been good off the Mile Roads and the west side of Anchor Bay. DNR trap nets near the Salt River have been catching good numbers of legal-sized northern pike. A few walleye have been caught between Huron Point and the 400 Club. Water temperatures in Anchor Bay have been in the low to mid 50's.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been good near Marine City and Algonac. Schools of walleye are moving through the area and best fishing locations can change quickly. Jigging and whipping have been producing good catches. Water temperatures have been in the mid-40's and extremely clear.

Lexington: Has steelhead in the harbor. Boat anglers working 40 to 100 feet have caught steelhead and chinook salmon on spoons in the top 20 feet. Lake trout are at the bottom and hitting on dodgers and spin-glow.

Port Sanilac: Steelhead have moved into the harbor.

Harbor Beach: Salmon and steelhead were caught in 70 to 100 feet north of the harbor when using spoons off downriggers and also on 2,3, 5, and 10 color lines with offshore boards.

Hot colors were orange and black, white and black, blue and silver or green. Lake trout were north or straight out in 70 to 120 feet. Try dodgers with spin-glow or clean spoons. Steelhead are in the harbor.

Saginaw Bay: Weather has been the limiting factor. Walleye anglers are fishing crawler harnesses off Linwood in 18 to 22 feet, Gambil's in 12 to 14 feet and around Spoils Island in 17 feet. Walleye fishing was fair between Quanicassee and Caseville. Fish were caught on crawler harnesses and body baits at Bay Port and Wildfowl Bay. Those fishing the Slot did well in 14 to 18 feet with crawler harnesses and crank baits. Good colors were purple, brass or pink. Channel catfish and white bass have also been caught. At Sebewaing, catfish were hitting on crawlers in the channel. At Port Austin, a few walleye were caught by pier anglers at night. The minnows were in and so were the steelhead and coho.

Tittabawassee River: The walleye run is winding down. A few are still being caught by those trolling near the Center Launch Train Bridge and Imerman Park. They are starting to catch white bass near the Train Bridge and Green Point Nature Center when casting or trolling artificial lures near shore. Gold was a good color. Those fishing down from the Dow Dam caught white bass or smallmouth bass.

Saginaw River: Walleye fishing slowed as the river was muddy.

Mott Lake: In Genesee County had high angler pressure for crappie but catch rates have slowed. They are using crawlers and minnows. A couple sub-legal walleye were caught on artificial baits. Catch and release fishing for large and smallmouth bass has been good.

Flint River: Activity has been slow on the river and its tributaries. Walleye fishing is down as most of the fish caught were undersize.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Fishing has slowed. Pier anglers are catching a few freshwater drum and catfish when using crawlers on the bottom. Boat anglers are catching a few trout and salmon but the fish are scattered in 40 to 180 feet.

St. Joseph River: Is producing crappie and the occasional walleye.

South Haven: Pier fishing was slow for all species. Boat anglers are still catching lake trout in waters 60 feet and deeper.

Grand Haven: Fishing has slowed. The water is cold and fishing pressure has been slow because of the weather. Pier anglers are casting spawn for steelhead and brown trout. Some are throwing cast nets for alewife to use as bait however few were caught. Boat anglers were trolling in 25 to 75 feet of water with short coppers and lead core with small spoons in orange or gold. Perch fishing has slowed as the fish are beginning to spawn. Try the 60 foot holes with spikes, wigglers and minnows.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: The steelhead run has slowed however the fish run off and on during the spring depending on water temperatures. Smallmouth bass and suckers are dominating the daily catch. More catfish are being caught as well. No reports of any walleye caught at the 6th Street Dam.

Lake Lansing: Is producing some crappie.

Jackson County: Many anglers are catch and release bass fishing. Panfish activity picks up with the warmer weather and some anglers were getting near limit catches.

Clinton County: Lake Ovid is producing some crappie. A few catfish are being caught in the Maple River.

Muskegon: Very few anglers have been fishing the piers. Boat anglers reported slow catch rates as the water is too cold. Most are trolling between the piers with small spoons. No perch to report.

Muskegon River: The steelhead run is starting to come to a close but the brown trout fishing has picked up. Small walleye have been caught right along with a fair to good number of bass.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Walleye fishermen had success shortly after the opener and reported good success for about a week but catch rates have slowed on most of the inland lakes. Suckers are still in the rivers but the numbers are dropping.

Rogers City: Water temperatures reached 40 degrees near shore but were colder out deep. A few more lake trout were caught between Calcite Harbor and Adams Point in 40 to 60 feet however those trolling higher in the water column in waters as shallow as 20 feet also caught fish. Run lures within 10 feet of the bottom for lake trout and higher for Atlantic salmon and lake trout that are suspended. Use cowbells or dodgers with spin-gloves. Hot colors were orange and silver, blue and silver, green or fire-tiger. Pier anglers casting small spoons or body baits caught a couple walleye. The midge hatch is not too bad right now but once they start look for Atlantic salmon.

Alpena: Anglers are heading out for lake trout, chinook, Atlantic salmon, steelhead and walleye. Most are trolling spoons and body baits close to the harbor, behind the cement plant or towards Thunder Bay Island and North Point for lake trout and Atlantic salmon. Use bright colors in the stained water and basic green, blue, silver and orange in clean water. The lake trout are both close to the bottom and suspended. Walleye haven't moved into the area but anglers willing to take a long boat ride may be able to pick up a couple towards South Point and Scarecrow Island when trolling body baits. The breakwall in the channel or by the Yacht Club has been descent for walleye in the late evening. Try large body baits that look like smelt.

Thunder Bay River: Anglers are catching the occasional steelhead up at the dam when drifting spawn bags or artificial fly patterns that imitate fish eggs. Walleye fishing in the river is very slow right now. For those interested in the early catch and immediate release bass season, the smallmouth action has been great in the river and the marina. Try casting tube baits or body baits.

Harrisville: Dredging has begun in the harbor. Work will be concentrated on the south side of the harbor around the city docks and channel leading to them. The pumping hardware is well marked with floating drums and buoys marking the channel. Fishing in and around the harbor is picking up for walleye, lake trout, steelhead and a few Atlantic salmon. A good number of walleye seem to be in and around the harbor where anglers are trolling or casting small spoons and body baits. Lake trout were caught in 40 to 60 feet with spoons off downriggers, planer boards and lead core. Atlantic salmon were caught on small spoons in the harbor.

Oscoda: Pier fishing picked up with a good number of walleye entering the river. Try floating crawlers or casting body baits and twister tails. A couple lake trout were caught off the pier however they will be moving out to deeper water.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are still making their way up to Foote Dam. Anglers are still seeing fish on the beds. Try spawn, wax worms, spinners or small spoons.

Tawas: Those trolling caught walleye, lake trout, steelhead or brown trout out past Buoy #2. Most are using spoons or crank baits. A few boats were working the waters around Buoys 4 and 6 near the reef. Pier anglers caught a few walleye and the rare Atlantic salmon. Those casting artificial baits caught and released bass.

Tawas River: Did not have much to report.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing was slow. Those heading north and fishing deeper in 30 to 50 feet off Point Lookout were getting a few with crank baits and bottom bouncers but most were heading south and fishing Buoys 1 and 2 in the shipping channel or to the Saganing Bar off the Pine River and fishing in 8 to 10 feet.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: The ice in Little Traverse Bay is finally gone. The dock was not in yet at the boat launch.

Petoskey: Anglers continue to pick up steelhead when using spawn bags in the early morning. Those surfcasting with spawn have also caught fish. Reports say the lake trout are as shallow as 10 to 15 feet in front of the marina and out deeper in 100 to 120 feet. Look for pike and smallmouth bass around the breakwall.

Bear River: Steelhead fishing picked up at the end of last week and continued to be good as rain does seem to bring more fish in. Water levels were fairly high. A good number of big fish have been caught on spawn bags, flies and rubber eggs. A few suckers are still in the river.

Charlevoix: Angler pressure is still low with only a few people trying the channel during daylight hours. A couple boats out for lake trout have picked up a few fish. More anglers are going out after dark and targeting walleye in the channel. Walleye fishing is still slow, but anglers have been picking up a few lake trout on crank baits and soft plastics after dark.

Elk River: Fishing has improved but is still relatively slow. Steelhead and the occasional Atlantic salmon or brown trout have been caught on spawn bags below the power dam.

Traverse City: Those fishing the East Bay caught cisco when jigging in 80 to 90 feet. Lake trout were also caught by those jigging out deeper in 150 feet or when trolling in shallow waters 10 to 40 feet along the first drop. Smallmouth bass have been caught near the mouth of the creeks where the water is warmer. In the West Bay, lake trout were caught by those trolling long lines in 8 to 35 feet but those jigging were much deeper. A couple small ciscos were caught by those jigging near the brush grounds in 40 to 60 feet.

Boardman River: A variety of species can be found below the Union Street Dam including steelhead, northern pike, smallmouth bass, walleye, carp, and suckers. Anglers are reminded that it is catch and immediate release on bass until May 23rd. Most anglers are targeting steelhead with spawn bags. Lake trout are being caught at the mouth. Mayflies have started to hatch along the river.

Frankfort: Boats trolling in between the piers caught some brown trout and a couple drop back steelhead. Small jointed body baits were the ticket and the hot color was black with gold or silver.

Onekama: Pier anglers caught brown trout when casting small spoons and body baits.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers have picked up a few large and smallmouth but water temperatures were still on the cool side. Perch anglers say the number and the size is down this year. A few were caught near the mouth of the canal.

Lake Cadillac: Is producing some bluegills, crappie and bullhead. Bass anglers are practicing catch and immediate release.

Lake Mitchell: Is also producing panfish and bass.

Manistee: Anglers are catching a few brown trout, lake trout, and chinook salmon when trolling orange spoons along the shoreline. Pier fishing is slow for perch and brown trout.

Manistee River: Steelhead are still being caught but in lower numbers. Anglers are getting brown trout and a couple walleye.

Ludington: Boat anglers reported hit-or-miss for chinook, brown trout and lake trout. Most are trolling orange spoons or body baits. Pier fishing is slow.

Pere Marquette River: Some fly hatches are just getting started. Anglers are still catching brown trout and the occasional steelhead.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The bite did pick up over the last week and those trolling did ok between the Baraga Marina and the L'Anse Marina when trolling 15 to 40 feet down in 20 to 60 feet. They caught chinook, coho, steelhead and the occasional splake.

Lake Antoine: Was producing some decent size perch. Bass anglers were starting to target largemouth around the weed beds.

Menominee River: Was producing steelhead and a good number of crappie.

Little Bay De Noc: Fishing was slow except for the smallmouth bass anglers. Perch anglers had mixed results with most reporting few fish being caught. They are fishing the head of the bay from the Day's River south to the Third Reef. The better catches were in 24 to 35 feet with minnows or crawlers. Bass fishing was good at both ends of the bay including 4 to 10 feet off Garth Point when casting crank baits or plastics and near the Ford River for boat and shore anglers casting crank baits, spinners or plastics in 3 to 12 feet. The catch and keep bass season opens on Saturday May 23rd. The walleye opener is May 15th and both look to be good. Good areas to fish are usually the mouth of the Whitefish River, the Center and Third Reefs, the "Narrows", the mouth of the Escanaba River and between the Ford River and Breezy Point. Trout fishing on the Escanaba River has been slow up near Boney Falls.

Big Bay De Noc: The perch catches in Garden Bay have tapered off. The perch do stay in the area and those willing to spend the time to find them will be rewarded. Those smallmouth bass fishing in Ogontz Bay caught good numbers of fish. Up near the Fish Dam River should also be good for smallmouth.

Marquette: Salmon anglers reported mixed results with a few taking one or two coho and chinook. Best areas have been outside the Lower Harbor and trolling to the Carp River in about 60 feet. Slightly better catch rates were reported towards the Sand River and Shot Point where anglers caught chinook and lake trout in 60 to 80 feet and in the Upper Harbor north of the white rocks, towards Little Presque Isle and east of Marquette in 150 feet.

Shore fishing was slow with a few fish caught on crawlers near the mouth of the Carp River. Shore fishing has been somewhat restricted due to road construction on the Carp River Bridge.

Munising: The ice is finally gone! Catch rates for coho were fair for those trolling in 20 to 60 feet in Trout Bay and near Sand Point. Those using fresh spawn off the Anna River dock caught a variety of fish. Catch rates were poor for splake and whitefish. A few smelt have shown up in area rivers but catch rates were very low.

Grand Marais: No longer has ice. Anglers are trolling around West Bay or still-fishing off the pier. Catch rates for steelhead were low but whitefish have shown up and catch rates were excellent for those using a single egg or worm. Others are trolling in 15 to 40 feet near the mouth of the Sucker River with small spoons and rapalas. Limits of coho and whitefish were taken off the pier. The whitefish range 11 to 20 inches and the coho were 15 to 19 inches.

Two Hearted River: Steelhead fishing has been slow.

Detour: All the docks and buoys are in the water now. A couple Atlantic salmon and one lake trout were caught using sliders with blue and silver fly type baits in 45 feet.

Drummond Island: The spring run for yellow perch is just about done however anglers are still catching the occasional 7 to 9 inch fish in 3 to 5 feet off Sportsmen's Club Point when using spreaders with a piece of worm or minnows. A couple pike measuring 28 to 30 inches were caught in Maxton Bay however pike season does not open until Friday May 15th. As water temperatures warm up bullhead and pumpkinseed will begin moving into the shallows to spawn.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing remains good in the Hessel Marina off the pier and the finger docks. Splake fishing remains excellent when trolling stick baits and spoons or casting off the pier.

Carp River: Anglers are targeting steelhead at the mouth and upstream to the bridge and the McDonald Rapids. They are using spawn bags, green and pink yarn, or casting with lures.

May 21, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This coming Saturday, May 23rd is the opening day of large and smallmouth bass season on the Great Lakes and all inland waters except Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and the Detroit River which do not open until the 3rd Saturday in June. Those participating in catch and release have caught a good number of fish so the opener should be good.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Fishing was slow with the chilly weather but walleye were still being caught around Stony Point and the River Raisin buoys when trolling crawler harnesses in 18 to 22 feet. The perch are few and far between but the white bass were everywhere and hard to keep off the lines. Water temperatures were up near 58 degrees.

Huron River: Is producing white bass and catfish.

Lenawee County: Devils Lake is producing bluegill in 2 to 6 feet along the shoreline. Anglers are using crickets and leaf worms. Crappie are starting to move to deeper water but anglers were still catching a decent number of fish. Bass could be found along the drop offs and the weed beds. Lake Hudson had a few musky anglers but success was limited. Bass and perch were active but few targeted them.

Detroit River: Walleye are still being caught south and east of Grosse Ile but they were hard to find because large numbers of white bass have taken over the river including the Trenton Channel. Anglers are jigging minnows and crawlers or hand-lining with pencil plugs in the evening. Perch fishing was slow and only small fish were caught in the canals.

Lake St. Clair: The Selfridge Boating Access Site is closed for construction and is expected to be completed by mid-June. Boaters are being redirected to the Harley Ensign Memorial Access Site which is located at the far eastern end of South River Road in Harrison Township. Bass fishing has been very good as water temperatures were at 58 degrees. The DNR trap net survey in Anchor Bay showed good numbers of legal size pike and large channel cats. Shore anglers at the mouth of the Clinton River were catching rock bass and freshwater drum.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was still very good near Marine City and Algonac. Trolling, jigging or whipping were the most productive.

Lexington: Had excellent lake trout fishing for those using spin-gloves and spoons in 40 to 80 feet. Salmon and steelhead were hitting on spoons and body baits about 20 feet down in waters up to 60 feet deep.

Port Sanilac: Also had good lake trout fishing.

Harbor Beach: Some limits of lake trout have been taken to the north or straight out of the harbor. Most are using dodgers with spin-gloves or clean spoons 70 to 120 feet down. Hot colors were white, white with pink dots or bright yellow with green and orange spin-gloves. A few salmon and steelhead were caught 30 to 55 feet down in 75 to 100 feet with blue, green, yellow or white spoons. Try minnows or crawlers in the harbor for perch. A few walleye were caught off the breakwall at night.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye fishing in the Slot from Sunset Bay up to Thomas Road was very good with many limit and near-limit catches reported. Walleye fishing was very good in Wildfowl Bay and around Sand Point. Most are using crawler harnesses with spinners in purple, pink, brass and chartreuse. There's a fair amount of catch and release bass fishing in Wildfowl Bay, around the islands and off Port Austin and Grindstone City however the bass opener will depend on the weather and how cold the water is especially around the Thumb. Everything is running about a week later than normal this year. Some walleye were caught off the breakwall at Port Austin at night. Chinook, steelhead and lake trout were caught in 40 to 60 feet in the area of Alaska Bay and Burnt Cabin Point located between Port Austin and Grindstone City.

Quanicassee River: Anglers are still getting a few walleye and some catfish out of the lower river.

Mott Lake: In Genesee County is producing a few crappie for those using wax worms. Those trolling caught the occasional walleye.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Streams are producing good numbers of brown trout. Anglers are casting spinners or small plugs. Bluegills are starting to bed on the smaller lakes but are still staging on the bigger ones. Try flies on the surface or leaf worms under a bobber. Inland bass fishing reports have been good for Coldwater Lake in Branch County, Klinger Lake in Barry County, Gun Lake in Barry County, Gull Lake and Austin Lake in Kalamazoo County, Lake Ovid in Clinton County and Lake Macatawa.

St. Joseph: Boat anglers are catching a few trout and salmon in 60 to 100 feet when trolling spoons or body baits. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum and catfish when using minnows or crawlers on the bottom.

St. Joseph River: Smallmouth bass and catfish action is picking up.

South Haven: Boat anglers are finding a few trout and salmon when trolling in waters up to 90 feet deep. Those trolling along the shoreline between South Haven and Holland were still picking up some brown trout.

Kalamazoo River: Look for decent smallmouth bass action for the opener this weekend. Catfish are hitting on crawlers and cut bait.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers are fishing from the pier heads out to 130 feet however the better catches did come 20 to 30 feet down in 50 to 70 feet with small spoons. Gold, orange and mixed veggies were good colors on the bright days but darker colors worked better with overcast skies. Pier anglers were struggling to get alewife for bait. No word on perch.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Those targeting steelhead by drifting spawn and flies are catching mostly smallmouth bass and suckers. Smallmouth were hitting on grubs and swim baits. Catfish were caught off the wall when using live bait.

Grand River at Lansing: A couple walleye were caught at Moore's Park. A fair to good number of catfish have been caught on live bait. Bass were caught on crawlers and spinners.

Muskegon: The wire fence has been put up on the south pier which will shut down the pier for fishing. Dredging has started in the basin. Boat anglers have caught salmon and trout in waters 50 to 70 feet deep when trolling small spoons.

Muskegon River: Has a decent number of steelhead below Croton Dam. Boat and shore anglers caught fish when drifting spawn under a bobber.

Whitehall: Had a few anglers fishing the pier and the channel for panfish but it is still early. Boat anglers were few but those heading out did catch chinook in 65 feet.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Some good bass fishing lakes to try this weekend would be Fletcher Floodwaters and Grass Lake in Montmorency County for largemouth bass. For smallmouth bass try Grand Lake, Long Lake or Hubbard Lake.

Ocqueoc River: Had a good push of steelhead. Many are drop backs or post spawn. Try drifting with spawn bags or artificial egg patterns under a bobber in the holes or on gravel beds.

Rogers City: Boat anglers are picking up lake trout. Look for surface temperatures at 44 degrees for the best results right now. Fishing is not on fire but it is picking up especially south towards the Calcite breakwall, Swan Bay and Adams Point. Try 10 feet within the bottom in waters out to 60 feet deep. Try cowbells or dodgers with spin-gloves. Those shallow water fishing are high-lining. Add a little weight to get close to the bottom.

Pier anglers casting bombers and body baits at night have caught a couple walleye. Atlantic salmon were caught on small spoons and body baits in the early morning or evening.

East & West Twin Lakes: In Montmorency County were starting to pick up. West Twin is producing a lot of walleye ranging 15 to 18 inches but East Twin had the bigger walleye ranging 15 to 21 inches. Both lakes have been hit-or-miss. Natural bait was working better than artificial bait. West Twin is producing smallmouth bass.

Alpena: Most anglers are trolling close to the harbor, behind the cement plant or towards Thunder Bay Island and North Point for trout and salmon. Many are using spoons and body baits in green, blue, orange or silver. A few walleye were caught off the breakwall at night.

Thunder Bay River: Had a great push of fresh steelhead move into the river though it does seem to be a late run this year. Anglers are drifting spawn bags on the bottom or under a bobber at the 9th Street Dam. Artificial egg or fly patterns also caught fish. A good number of smallmouth bass have been caught so the opener should be good. Try body baits, spinners or tube baits. Few walleye were caught.

Harrisville: Dredging is ongoing and should continue through the end of the month. Fishing is really picking up with walleye in 10 to 15 feet and hitting on body baits, stick baits, crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers. Early morning and evening are best. Steelhead are still in the area and seem to be coming in and out of the harbor. Try small spoons or body baits. Lake trout are in 40 to 60 feet.

Oscoda: Pier fishing has been steady for walleye and steelhead moving in and out of the river. A good number of walleye are moving in. Anglers have done well when drifting crawlers and stick baits in the early morning and throughout the night.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are still coming up into the river and were on the beds. This has been a late run, but the fish are still coming in good numbers. Flies, wax worms, small spoons and spinners are working well.

Houghton Lake: Anglers are catching walleye along the weed line in 7 to 8 feet. Most are just dropping a leech over the side of the boat. The crappies are spawning and the bluegills are getting the beds ready. A fair number of bass have been caught so the opener this weekend should be good.

Tawas: Boat anglers were trolling the point and beyond but the walleye action was slow. Pier anglers caught the occasional Atlantic salmon, pike and catfish.

Tawas River: Was producing pike.

Au Gres: Stained water from the Au Gres River was limiting success so boat anglers were going south and fishing off the Pine River. They reported some limit catches of walleye early or late in the day in 6 to 10 feet or at the Catfish Hole in 18 feet. A few boats were heading way out to the Steeples which is north of Big Charity Island.

Au Gres River: Those surfcasting body baits near the Singing Bridge caught walleye in the evening. One Atlantic salmon was also caught.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Michigan anglers continue to catch a mixed bag of chinook, lake trout and brown trout when trolling both shallow and deep. Fish are being caught in the harbors and off the piers. The bass are starting to hit the beds, and crappie are in the midst of spawning but no sign of bluegill beds yet.

Petoskey: A couple small brown trout were caught off the breakwall. Try spawn in the early morning. Boat anglers were trolling close to the breakwall in front of the marina. Smallmouth bass were starting to move into the mouth of the river.

Bear River: Steelhead were jumping below the dam but not many were caught. Those fishing spawn downriver between the two bridges had much better luck. Most of the fish caught were ripe. Suckers were also caught.

Charlevoix: Lake trout were still shallow around the pier and were caught by those casting. Boat anglers caught brown trout and lake trout in shallow waters south of town. More anglers are going out after dark targeting walleye in the channel and catch rates were starting to pick up. Try crank baits or soft plastics near the bottom.

Lake Charlevoix: Had reports of good smallmouth bass fishing in the South Arm.

Elk River: Steelhead were caught on spawn bags below the power dam. Smallmouth bass are showing up so it should be busy for the opener.

Traverse City: Cisco and lake trout were caught in a variety of depths in the East Bay. Smallmouth bass anglers were targeting the mouth of the creeks. In the West Bay, lake trout fishing was good for those trolling in 10 to 40 feet.

Boardman River: Anglers in the upper stretch are catching sub-legal brook trout on spinners. A brown trout was caught on spawn below the Sabin Dam. Steelhead are on the gravel behind the post office and weir in Traverse City. A couple smallmouth bass were caught on spawn. The biting flies have started to hatch along the river.

Frankfort: Brown trout are still being caught by those trolling between the piers. Jointed body baits work best. A couple chinook were caught by those trolling in 25 to 40 feet along the shoreline in the early morning. Spoons were the ticket.

Portage Lake: Anglers are picking up large and smallmouth bass throughout the lake. Warmer temperatures had some fish moving onto the beds.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: Cooler weather slowed the bite but anglers are still finding the occasional bluegill, crappie, bullhead or pike.

Manistee: Boats anglers reported spotty trout and salmon action. A few brown trout were caught by those trolling along the shoreline. Some are starting to head out further for salmon but catch rates were minimal. Pier fishing was slow.

Manistee River: Still has steelhead and brown trout for the taking. Check the deeper holes during the cold spells. Walleye and smallmouth bass have been caught.

Ludington: Anglers trolling along the shoreline reported slow catch rates for lake trout and brown trout. Pier fishing was slow.

Pentwater: Those fishing the channel caught pike when still-fishing with frozen smelt. Boat anglers caught a good number of chinook in waters up to 65 feet deep.

Pentwater Lake: Anglers fishing from long bridge caught good numbers of crappie on wax worms.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Anglers trolling for salmon are picking up a mix of chinook, coho, splake and lake trout between Baraga and L'Anse and south to the head of the bay. Fish were still caught 15 to 40 feet down in 20 to 60 feet with gold, orange and green spoons. Best trolling speeds were between 1.9 and 2.3 mph.

Lake Gogebic: Walleye anglers were catching a lot of fish however most were undersize at 13 and 14 inches. Many reported catching 25 to 30 fish but only had 1 or 2 keepers. Those having the most success were drifting or jigging with minnows and leeches in 10 to 15 feet in Bergland Bay. Many have also caught northern pike and smallmouth bass. The perch anglers had moderate success with each catching about 10 fish.

Menominee River: Anglers are catching a few walleye at the Hattie Street Dam. Most are using a jig and minnow. Boat anglers fishing the entire river have caught and released some nice smallmouth bass when casting spoons and stick baits.

Little Bay De Noc: Had a good start to the walleye season. Most anglers were fishing the head of the Bay up to Garth Point and caught good numbers of fish although many were undersize. Anglers were trolling or drifting crawlers in 16 to 24 feet. Fair to good action was reported between the Center Reef and the Second Reef for those drifting or trolling crawler harnesses in 18 to 26 feet or trolling stick baits with lead core and planer boards in 30 to 35 feet. Catch rates were fair at the "Narrows" trolling crawler harnesses in 28 to 32 feet and when jigging lead heads with minnows in 30 to 34 feet. Walleye were caught at the mouth and in the channel of the Escanaba River in 15 to 22 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Had a good start to walleye season with some of the better catches coming from Ogontz where anglers were trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 8 feet. Near the Fishdam Rivers, anglers reported fair to good catches in 10 to 14 feet when trolling and drifting crawlers.

Smallmouth bass fishing was excellent near Ogontz, Fishdam Rivers, South River, Garden Bay and Kates Bay. Anglers are casting crank baits, spinners or plastics in 3 to 8 feet. The bass opener should be good.

Marquette: Those trolling have done better for chinook and coho including a few limit catches on the right day in 60 feet of water outside the Lower Harbor to the Chocolay River, towards the Sand River and Shot Point. Those looking for lake trout are primarily targeting Shot Point and east of the harbor with spoons, flies or cut bait. Shore anglers fishing the mouth of the Carp River caught a couple but anglers were few because of construction on the bridge.

Au Train Lake: The opening of walleye season had fair catch rates. Those targeting walleye and pike were mainly drifting crawlers or minnows. Some of the walleye were legal size but many of the pike were sub-legal. Surface water temperatures were in the low to mid 50's. No perch to report.

Munising: Had low to fair catch results on coho with a few chinook and one brown trout caught as well. They are fishing 20 to 60 feet near Sand Point and Trout Bay. Coho were caught by those still-fishing or trolling and a couple splake were caught near the Anna River. Those fishing off the dock of the Anna River were using fresh spawn. Smelt fishing has been minimal with no reports this week.

Grand Marais: Most anglers are trolling around West Bay or still-fishing off the pier. Steelhead effort and catch rates were low. Whitefish have shown up and catch rates were excellent. Most fish were caught on a single egg or wax worm. Those trolling in 15 to 40 feet in the West Bay and near the mouth of the Sucker River did well with small spoons and rapalas. Catch rates for coho were fair. Limit catches of whitefish were taken off the pier. The fish were mainly 11 to 15 inches but a few were over 20.

Two Hearted River: Steelhead fishing has been slow.

Tahquamenon River: Anglers may find some walleye below Newberry. Try minnows or crawlers.

Munuscong Bay: A few walleye and pike were caught when trolling quarter ounce crank baits about 6 feet behind the boat in 4 to 6 feet of water between Gull Island and Barbecue Point. Orange and gold were the hot colors.

Drummond Island: A few yellow perch were caught off the docks in Scotts Bay when using shiners. Walleye and pike were caught at the south end of Ashman Island when drifting and jigging in 5 to 7 feet and on the east side when using a small split shot 18 inches above a red hook tipped with a crawler. Pike were caught at the south end of Ashman Island and the north end of James Island when using chubs or shiners. Catch and release smallmouth bass fishing was good along the south end of James Island in 3 to 6 feet when using dark green and brown tube jigs.

Cedarville and Hessel: Good perch fishing off the Hessel pier for those using worms on clear days. Splake were active in Hessel Bay but they will be moving out once the water warms up.

Northern pike fishing was very good in Hessel Bay, Snows Channel, Musky Bay and Cedarville Bay. Anglers are casting or trolling with planer boards and stick baits.

Carp River: Anglers are still targeting steelhead between the McDonald Rapids and the mouth. They are casting lures and using spawn bags or yarn.

May 28, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

While fishing was off to a slow start it appears we are finally nearing summer mode. Water temperatures are warming and the bite is starting to improve so we are ahead of last year's conditions.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye fishing picked up as anglers reported limit catches by those out trolling crawler harnesses in 20 to 22 feet around Bolles Harbor, the River Raisin Buoys and near the Edison Plant. It is still a bit early for perch but anglers will find lots of white bass and freshwater drum. With water temperatures about 60 degrees and warming, the walleye will be moving to deeper water in the coming weeks.

Lenawee County: On Devils Lake, the bluegills are starting to bed along the shoreline. Crickets and crawlers have worked best. Bass anglers have done well when casting soft plastics and spinners along the weed beds in the shallows. On Lake Hudson, those targeting bluegills have done well along the shoreline and the canals. Bass anglers have done well throughout the lake. No musky to report.

Detroit River: Better walleye catches were from the northern half of the Canadian side in the early morning or at sunset. Those fishing the southern half on the Michigan side had difficulty getting their bait to the bottom because of all the white bass. Water clarity was good on the Michigan side and more anglers are bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses. A few limit catches were reported on the Canadian side near the casino, the salt mines and the Ambassador Bridge. Fish were also caught on the Michigan side near Grosse Ile, Great Lakes Steel, Mud Island and Fighting Island. Average size was 2 to 3 pounds but some were in the 6 pound range. White bass fishing has been very good throughout the entire river. Anglers have also caught smallmouth bass, musky, suckers and freshwater drum. Water temperatures were 58 degrees.

Lake St. Clair: Bass fishing has been good. The fish seem to be moving into deeper waters where some good reports were coming from 8 to 10 feet off the Mile Roads. White bass were hitting off 9 Mile Road.

St. Clair River: Water temperatures were 48 to 50 degrees. Night fishing for walleye has been better than daytime fishing although a few fish were still caught by those using jigs and crawler harnesses.

Lexington: Trout and salmon fishing was good at all depths. Boat anglers trolling 60 to 80 feet did well for lake trout, steelhead and the occasional chinook. They are fishing the bottom for lake trout and 20 to 30 feet down for steelhead and salmon. Orange spoons worked best. Smallmouth bass fishing was slow but should pick up as the waters warm.

Port Sanilac: Boat anglers are getting trout and salmon. Fish the bottom for lake trout or 20 to 30 feet down for steelhead and salmon. Orange spoons worked best. Inside the harbor, smallmouth fishing was still slow. A couple coho were caught by those casting spoons.

Harbor Beach: Walleye are being caught off the breakwall at night. Salmon and steelhead are hitting straight out and north of the harbor. Try spoons 30 to 60 feet down in 50 to 95 feet. Hot colors were black and orange, yellow and white, green or blue. Try spoons on 3, 5, and 10 color lines with offshore boards. Some caught limits of lake trout 65 to 110 feet down in 70 to 110 feet of water. Use dodgers with spin-gloves or clean spoons.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye were caught in 12 feet off the Pinconning Bar and Gambil's Marina, 17 to 20 feet off Linwood and 21 to 24 feet near the Spark Plug. At Finn Road, walleye were caught shallow in 4 to 6 feet in the early morning but they move out deeper as the sun comes up. Crawler harnesses are working best at all locations. The hot spinner colors were chartreuse, purple, brass and pink. A few walleye along with a lot of white bass and freshwater drum were caught at the Hot Pond by those casting crank baits. At Quanicassee, some boats were skunked while others had limit catches along the Slot between Sunset Bay and the tip of Fish Point. At Bay Port, a decent number of walleye were caught in Wildfowl Bay. A few bass were caught in the marina basins and around the islands. Bass anglers were out but it appears that the late spring and cold water has delayed the spawn because the fish have not moved closer to shore in large numbers yet.

Tittabawassee River: Lots of white bass have been taken from the lower river near the Center Street launch in Saginaw Township. Some large pike and a few walleye were also caught. Fishing was slow up near Gordonville Road.

Sanford Lake: In Midland County had a good bass opener. A good number of pike were also caught. Crappie anglers did well in the cuts and canals.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing was a bit slow for boat anglers but a few fish were taken in 60 to 100 feet. Pier anglers continue to do well for freshwater drum and catfish when using live bait on the bottom. A few reports of perch came in but not many anglers are targeting them.

St. Joseph River: Had good smallmouth action for those using tube baits and crawlers. Catfish are hitting on crawlers, bluegills and cut bait.

South Haven: Salmon are being caught in 80 to 100 feet. Fishing is a little on the slow side but most anglers are catching a few. Some are targeting perch but catch rates were not good. Pier fishing for all species was slow.

Grand Haven: Catch rates have been on the slow side as the water is still cold and if the fish are there, they are scattered. Boat anglers are fishing 30 to 50 feet down in 100 to 200 feet. The further out the more kings were caught but many were 12 to 14 inches. Try spoons and meat rigs. Pier fishing was slow and no perch were caught.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Several steelhead and walleye have been caught over the past week by those drifting yarn, flies, and spawn at the 6th Street Dam. Smallmouth bass and redhorse suckers continue to dominate the catch. Those fishing of the wall took catfish on crawlers, small bluegills and liver. Pike were caught at Riverside Park.

Grand River at Lansing: Catfish are being caught below any of the major dams. Try crawlers on the bottom, bluegills, cut bait or liver.

Sessions Lake: Is producing crappie and bluegills. Anglers are working to find them but when they do, some good size fish were caught.

Muskegon: Catch rates were slow. A few bigger fish were caught close to shore but most were taken in waters 200 feet and deeper. Spoons and meat rigs are the ticket.

Muskegon River: Is producing some steelhead. Fly hatches have started and those fly fishing are taking fish on the gravel.

Whitehall: Had no pier action. The only boat anglers that appeared to be successful were running lines in the top 60 feet of waters 250 feet deep. They caught a fair number of two year old salmon.

White Lake: Anglers caught good numbers of panfish in 12 to 15 feet.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Lake trout fishing is picking up between Calcite and Adams Point. Fish were caught in 60 to 70 feet. Fish were also caught off Forty Mile Point and the State Park. Pier anglers are still getting the occasional walleye when casting body baits.

East & West Twin Lakes: In Montmorency County had slow walleye fishing in both lakes. East Twin had fish averaging 17 to 24 inches and West Twin had fish ranging 15 to 18 inches. Bass fishing was really good on West Twin. Anglers caught smallmouth bass and rock bass.

Alpena: Lake trout were caught 10 feet off the bottom in 30 to 80 feet straight out and towards Thunder Bay Island with dodgers or cowbells with spin-gloves in blue or green. A few walleye were caught by those trolling body baits around North Point and by those casting off the wall at night.

Thunder Bay River: Should still have some steelhead as we near the peak of the run. Try drifting spawn bags on the bottom or under a bobber near the 9th Street Dam. Artificial egg or fly patterns also caught fish. Anglers report good smallmouth action for those using body baits and tube baits.

Harrisville: Fishing has picked up. Trout, salmon and walleye were caught but the fish are scattered from the Sturgeon Point Light to Greenbush. Lake trout, salmon and steelhead are being caught in 80 to 120 feet with spoons, flies, and cut bait off downriggers, lead core and planer boards. Walleye are in shallow in the early morning and evening but move to deeper water throughout the day.

Oscoda: Had very good fishing. Boat and shore anglers have come in with limit catches. Good numbers of salmon, steelhead, lake trout and walleye are in the area. Most were caught in 80 to 100 feet. The fish seem to be from the top to the bottom so spread your bait throughout the water column. Spoons, body baits, cut baits and flies are all taking fish. Pier anglers have done well for walleye in the early morning or late evening when drifting crawlers and leeches under a slip bobber or casting small spoons, body baits and stick baits.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are still being caught. Those fly fishing have done well but fish were also caught on crawlers, wax worms, and small spoons.

Higgins Lake: A few lake trout have been caught but not many anglers are going out and targeting them yet. A few perch were taken on minnows and wax worms around the Sunken Island and the Main Island. Rock bass should also be hitting.

Houghton Lake: Anglers caught walleye along the weed line in 8 to 9 feet. Most are jigging a leech over the side of the boat. Bluegills were caught in 6 feet and crappie were hitting in 8 to 12 feet.

Tawas: Boat anglers are taking some lake trout, steelhead and a couple walleye in 50 feet. A few walleye were caught from the weed beds off Jerry's Marina.

Tawas River: Bass and pike were caught in the lower river.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing picked up straight out in 25 to 30 feet but the better fishing was to the south near the Pine River and Catfish Hole in 15 to 20 feet and out near Buoys 1 & 2.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The bass have started bedding but the bluegills had not quite gotten there yet. Pier and boat anglers on Lake Michigan are catching a mixed bag of chinook, lake trout, and brown trout.

Harbor Springs: The docks are in at the boat launch. Anglers should find some lake trout around Harbor Point. The water may still be a bit cold for smallmouth.

Petoskey: Boat pressure was light but some did catch lake trout near the bottom in 80 to 100 feet around Bay Harbor. Try spoons and spin-gloves. Surface water temperatures were 43 degrees and climbing. Smallmouth bass, pike and carp were reported between the mouth of the river and the breakwall. A couple brown trout were still being caught off the breakwall in the morning.

Bear River: Was low and slow. A couple steelhead were taken on spawn bags.

Charlevoix: Had very good lake trout fishing with limit catches reported. Most anglers are focusing around North Point in 25 to 50 feet with spoons, spin-gloves, and flasher/fly combos. Fish were also caught off the end of the piers in the early morning and evening. Try spoons and jigs with soft plastics. Walleye are still being caught in the channel after dark. Try jigs with soft plastics and crank baits. There is a large midge hatch going on right now.

Lake Charlevoix: Catch rates for smallmouth bass varied. Some reported fish on the bottom in 18 to 20 feet while others did well fishing in 4 to 5 feet. The South Arm seemed to have the warmest surface temperature at 57 degrees.

Elk River: A couple steelhead and brown trout were caught on spawn bags below the power dam. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair.

Traverse City: Lake trout were caught by those trolling in 90 to 115 feet in the East Bay. Cisco were caught by those jigging in 40 to 60 feet. Smallmouth fishing was slow for most but there was some pre-spawn activity in the shallows especially near mouth of the creeks. In the West Bay, lake trout were caught at a variety of depths. Try the breaks in 10 to 40 feet or all the way out to waters 90 to 110 feet. Cisco were caught by those jigging in 60 to 80 feet. A few perch were taken along the southwest end of the bay. Walleye were spotted in the harbor in Northport.

Boardman River: Still has some fallback steelhead. A decent number of carp and smallmouth bass are showing up near the Union Street Dam. Those fishing the upper stretches near Two Forks have caught brook trout and brown trout on spinners.

Frankfort: Brown trout were hitting black and silver jointed body baits between the piers after 9am. Chinook salmon were also caught. Lake trout are hitting on cowbells in Platte Bay and around the Herring Hole. The alewife moved in and anglers are taking advantage of it.

Onekama: Those trolling 70 to 90 feet down in 100 to 125 feet caught a few chinook salmon in the early morning.

Portage Lake: Bass are moving onto the beds but anglers have to work hard to hook them. Water temperatures are still on the cool side for panfish.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: Anglers are still catching crappie, northern pike and a few walleye.

Manistee: Boat anglers caught a few trout and salmon in 80 to 160 feet with orange or green spoons. Pier anglers caught a few brown trout while casting spoons or still-fishing with alewife.

Ludington: Salmon fishing has been slow. A few were caught in 50 to 100 feet by those using orange, green and chartreuse spoons. Pier fishing is slow.

Pentwater: The salmon are still scattered and water temperatures vary dramatically by location. Some anglers reported surface waters at 39 degrees. Lake trout were reported in 40 feet while salmon were 40 feet down in 100 feet. When boats got out to 160 feet they stopped marking fish.

Pentwater Lake: Action was slow. A few anglers caught small perch, large rock bass, large and smallmouth bass.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The salmon bite has been up and down over the last week. Those trolling caught a mix of chinook, coho, rainbow trout, brown trout and splake 15 to 40 feet down in 30 to 60 feet. Most were going from the head of the bay to Sand Point but a few ventured further north of Old Mission Road. Trolling speeds were 1.9 to 2.4 mph with spoons in a variety of colors. Those jigging for lake trout caught a few in 180 to 240 feet off the Whirl-I-Gig and Jentoff's Dock. At the South Portage Entry, those trolling did well for lake trout in 100 to 150 feet along the Mud Banks, Farmers Reef and Newton's Reef. The green dolphin was a very good lure.

Menominee River: Musky anglers had some impressive catches with fish over 50 inches caught around the Interstate Bridge down past the Turn Basin. Walleye anglers had success trolling and jigging from Stephenson Island to the mouth. They are using jigs with minnows or crawlers along the breaks or trolling purple and fire-tiger stick baits in the evening. Smallmouth bass are being caught in good numbers.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye catches were down as high winds have kept angler participation down. Most were fishing the northern bay between Garth Point and the Second Reef. The better catches were in 18 feet when using crawlers with harnesses. Those fishing down near the Ford River caught walleye when trolling stick baits and crawler harnesses in 10 to 16 feet. Fair to good smallmouth action was reported near the mouth of the river when using crank baits, spinners and plastics or between Strawberry Island and Garth Point when casting crank baits and plastics in 3 to 8 feet. It appears the fish are just starting to spawn.

Big Bay De Noc: The best walleye catches were still just south of the Ogontz River when using reef runners in 8 feet. The bass opener was fair to good near Ogontz, Fish Dam River, Porcupine Point, Kates Bay, Garden Bay and in Puffy Bay.

Ogontz and Puffy Bay reported the best action when using spinners or crank baits in 3 to 8 feet. Northern pike were active in Ogontz and the area of South River however most of the catches were incidental by bass anglers.

Marquette: Surface water temperatures have started to rise and were about 40 degrees near shore. Warmer water and better catches can be found near the mouth of the Carp River and the Chocolay River and east to Shot Point. Anglers caught chinook and coho. Some caught lake trout using dipseys and downriggers with spoons in assorted colors. More anglers are heading out for lake trout which were caught east towards the "Sand-Hole", north of the white rocks or towards Shot Point in 200 feet. Some are using spoons and flies with cut bait.

Au Train Lake: Anglers caught several undersize pike and walleye. Many were drifting a jig with a crawler or leech but a few were using small spinners and crank baits. Smallmouth bass fishing was slow. No anglers were specifically targeting perch. Fly hatches were observed.

Munising: Catch rates were slow with only a few chinook and coho caught by those trolling in 20 to 60 feet near Sand Point and Trout Bay. Fresh spawn was the bait of choice for splake and whitefish off the dock of the Anna River for those trolling or still-fishing. The warmest water in the area was 41 degrees.

Grand Marais: Many are still fishing off the end of the pier or trolling around West Bay. Catch rates for whitefish have slowed with only a few fish caught on a single egg. A couple coho were caught on worms. Those trolling were in 15 to 40 feet near the Sucker River. Most were using small spoons or rapalas. Surface water temperatures were in the high 30's.

South Manistique Lake: Walleye fishing has been hit-or-miss. Most fish were caught in shallow water in the bays. Pike have been plentiful and were hitting on both artificial and natural baits. Large and smallmouth bass were reported in shallow waters in Wolf Bay.

Two Hearted River: Has steelhead but the bite has been slow.

Newberry: Anglers have done well on some of the walleye lakes in the area. Most are using leeches.

DeTour: Is producing some Atlantic salmon. Anglers are trolling orange and chrome colored spoons 12 to 25 feet down in 50 feet from the DeTour Lighthouse northwest to the green buoy. Two miles straight south of the lighthouse has been successful for lake trout. Anglers are trolling shiny chrome spoons over the shelf in 80 feet.

Drummond Island: Those targeting walleye in Scott Bay were fishing from Paw Point to Peck Island in 4 to 6 feet. They are long lining crawler harnesses with orange blades 20 feet behind the boat.

For deeper walleye, black and chrome crank baits caught a few fish in 12 feet over the rocky ledges around Ashman Island and Peck Island. The smallmouth action was good for those casting and jigging chartreuse colored tube baits in 2 to 4 feet off Bruce Point in the north end of Scott Bay. When it's too windy, try the south end of James Island for smallmouth bass.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike fishing has slowed some. Those fishing off the pier in Hessel reported fair to good catch rates for pike. The Hessel Marina still has perch and splake.

June 4, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Last weekend was a bust! Few anglers got out and fishing slowed with the cold front. Muskellunge season opens Saturday June 6th on Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and the Detroit River.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Some walleye were caught in 22 to 25 feet off Monroe. Anglers are trolling or drifting crawler harnesses.

Lenawee County: Bluegill fishing was great on both Hudson and Devils Lake for those using worms or insects. Bass fishing was good on Devils Lake for those casting soft plastic worms and imitation baits such as crayfish. Lake Hudson had fair to good bass fishing. Hudson is getting plenty of effort by muskie anglers but most had limited success.

Detroit River: Heavy rains resulted in very muddy water and stronger currents. Anglers reported the Canadian side of the river was too muddy to fish. Walleye anglers continue fishing the northern half of the Canadian side but those fishing the southern end near the mouth reported slow fishing. Those fishing the Michigan side after the rain reported some luck between the Renaissance Center and the Ambassador Bridge and the east side of Grosse Ile. Anglers are taking 1 to 3 walleye when bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses or hand-lining with spoons and stick baits. Boats are split 50/50 between targeting white bass or walleye. There are still a lot of white bass throughout the river. Smallmouth bass, muskie, suckers, freshwater drum and white perch were also caught.

Lake St. Clair: The Selfridge Boat Access Site remains closed for improvements but the launch at Brandenburg Park has re-opened. Bass fishing reports have been very good from the Mile Roads and also from the Selfridge area. Muskie season opens on Saturday. Anglers are reminded that recent flooding has pushed a lot of wood and other debris out into the lake, so caution is advised.

St. Clair River: Runoff from the all the rain has stained the water a bit. Higher water moved a lot of debris out of the tributaries, so anglers should be cautious and keep watch for drifting wood and other debris. Walleye fishing has been spotty during the day, but some good reports have come from night anglers.

Lexington to Port Sanilac: Lake trout, steelhead and the occasional chinook were still hitting in 60 to 80 feet. Lake trout are just off the bottom and the steelhead and salmon were 20 to 30 feet down.

Harbor Beach: Shore anglers fishing behind the Edison Plant caught some steelhead when casting small rapalas.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye were caught northeast of the Spark Plug in 24 to 26 feet. Off Linwood, those using orange and silver or orange and gold spinners on harnesses caught fish in 20 feet. Walleye were still in shallow waters 4 to 6 feet off Finn Road in the early morning but were moving north and east of the Spark Plug when the sun comes up. Walleye were caught in the Slot between Oakhurst and Fish Point when using purple and chartreuse spinners on harnesses. Those bow fishing are taking carp and longnose gar.

Tittabawassee River: They were still getting a few walleye along with a good number of white bass in the lower river between the Center Street launch and M-46 however the river turned high and muddy after all the rain.

Sanford Lake: In Midland County is producing some good size pike, large and smallmouth bass for those casting. The crappie are pretty much down spawning and the bluegills were starting to come into the shallows.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat anglers targeting salmon had good success. Most fish were caught on spoons in 100 feet or deeper. Pier anglers caught some freshwater drum and catfish with crawlers on the bottom. Perch fishing was slow.

South Haven: Boat anglers targeting salmon reported slow catch rates. Most are catching a fish or two but few are catching more than that. They are targeting waters 100 feet and deeper.

Grand Haven: Salmon anglers are fishing in 80 to 150 feet. Dipsey divers are back 100 to 150 feet with orange and blue meat rigs. Coppers are between 100 and 225 feet with orange spoons. Pier anglers trying to catch alewife with cast nets have only taken a few. The fish are large, spawning size. Very few salmon have been caught off the piers. No perch to report.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Those wading have caught steelhead when drifting yarn and flies. Walleye were caught near the dam in the predawn hours.

Those fishing off the wall caught walleye on minnows. Smallmouth bass and redhorse suckers are being caught in large numbers and a few catfish are showing up. Carp were hitting on bread and shredded wheat.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing carp and catfish. A few bass have been caught by those fishing around structure.

Muskegon: Salmon anglers are fishing 80 to 150 feet but the better catches were reported at 40 feet down in 90 feet. Anglers are using blue and orange meat rigs and orange spoons.

Muskegon River: Brown trout are hitting on streamers. Water levels were a bit high after the rain.

Whitehall: Had no pier action. Anglers caught the occasional chinook or lake trout in 60 to 90 feet but most came back with no fish as they appear to be scattered.

White Lake: Some are still catching the occasional bass however most of the fish have moved off the beds.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Lake trout fishing is great. Anglers may have to spend time finding the fish but once they do its good fishing. Try 10 feet off the bottom in 25 to 60 feet with cowbells or dodgers and spin-glos. Look for chinook and Atlantic salmon as the water warms up. Walleye were caught at night off the breakwall by those casting body baits.

East & West Twin Lakes: Fishing was slow as both lakes will need to rebound after the cold temperatures, rain and strong winds. One angler did catch a 26 inch pike and a 16 inch walleye in West Twin.

Alpena: Lake trout have been center stage. Hot spots were Northshore and Thunder Bay Island when the weather permits. Fish were caught on cowbells, dodgers and hoochie mammas with spin-glos, squid or plain spoons. Good colors were green, blue and orange up high for a stray steelhead or chinook. Walleye are finally starting to hit. Not consistent but getting better. Northshore was the hot spot when trolling green, purple and orange body baits in 10 to 20 feet.

Thunder Bay River: The steelhead are pretty much done except for the occasional fish caught by those drifting spawn bags or putting artificial eggs on the bottom. Smallmouth bass have been caught when casting body baits, tube baits or spinners up at the dam and around structure.

Harrisville: Dredging is still on-going. The pumping hose is in the channel leading out of the harbor but is clearly marked with orange buoys. Anglers need to be cautious. It seems the sediment being churned up is bringing baitfish into the harbor and the large fish are following. Walleye are in the area in good numbers.

The cold front slowed the bite however it should be back on by the end of the week. Crawler harnesses, body baits and stick baits have caught fish. Chinook, lake trout and steelhead were caught in 80 to 120 feet. The fish are scattered from top to bottom so spread your baits out. Most fish are coming on spoons but cut bait, squid and flies were also working.

Oscoda: Walleye are still trickling in and the fish are decent size. Pier anglers are drifting crawlers with slip bobbers, casting body baits or jigging. Trout and salmon were caught in 80 to 100 feet. Lake trout seem to be the most abundant but a few chinook were also caught. Steelhead were running near the top of the water column and hitting on spoons, cut bait, body baits and wobble glows.

Houghton Lake: Shore anglers are catching a few walleye and bass in the canals. Boat anglers are taking walleye in 8 to 9 feet around the Middle Grounds with leeches and crank baits. Walleye chasing minnows at night were caught by shore anglers. For bluegills, boat anglers caught some nice fish 1 to 4 feet down in 6 feet of water. Bass fishing has been good. Carp were taken by those bow fishing.

Tawas: Pier fishing was slow with only a few catfish, pike and smallmouth bass caught in the bay. Night anglers might be getting a few walleye. Those trolling spoons in 35 to 50 feet did find some lake trout.

Au Gres: Some walleyes were caught right off the river mouth in 25 to 35 feet but most boats were running south of Pointe Au Gres to fish around Buoys 1 & 2 and along the "Humps" northeast of the buoys.

Au Gres River: Was slow except for a few catfish, carp and freshwater drum caught on crawlers or cut bait. On the East Branch, a few anglers were surfcasting for walleye at night.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The panfish are very close to hitting the beds, and probably will by the weekend. Chinook, brown trout, and lake trout continue to be caught by trollers on the big lake. Conditions vary from day to day. Some days, the fish are still in the harbors chasing the alewives that are in to spawn. On those days, pier anglers have done well when using alewife for bait. Fly anglers are anticipating a good hex hatch, which may start soon if the nice weather holds. The rivers are dropping after last week's rain.

Petoskey: Boat anglers trolling in 80 to 100 feet caught lake trout near the bottom. Spoons and spin-glo's worked best. Smallmouth bass are being caught off the D Pier when using crawlers and soft plastics with jigs. Carp have been seen around the beach area.

Charlevoix: Is still producing lake trout for boat anglers. Pier anglers were still catching lake trout and walleye when casting spoons or crank baits. Smallmouth bass are starting to show up in the channel. Try crawlers or leeches.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass fishing has been fair. Leeches or plastic baits worked well. Steelhead fishing is winding down.

Traverse City: Cisco were caught in good numbers in the East Bay. Most were taken in 40 to 80 feet. Lake trout were hitting in shallow waters 25 to 45 feet and out deeper in 90 to 110 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing was slow with the cooler weather. In the West Bay, lake trout were caught by those trolling spoons and body baits in 15 to 40 feet. Those jigging caught cisco in 30 to 80 feet.

Boardman River: Has plenty of carp up near the Union Street Dam. Anglers were using shredded wheat. Smallmouth bass and rock bass were caught on live bait.

Frankfort: Brown trout are hitting in between the piers. There are reports of a good number of alewife around the piers and out in deeper water. Chinook are hitting spoons in 60 to 80 feet in the Herring Hole. Surface water is still on the cool side.

Portage Lake: Cooler water temperatures are keeping the bass off the beds. Those working the drop-off have caught some largemouth.

Manistee: Pier anglers are getting a few brown trout on alewife and when casting spoons. Orange and green were good colors. Boat anglers reported slow catch rates. The fish were scattered throughout the water column in 40 to 250 feet. A few were caught near the surface or 75 to 150 feet down when using meat rigs.

Manistee River: Is producing brown trout and a few left over steelhead. Anglers are using streamers, small rapalas and spinners. The Little Manistee was a bit high and discolored but anglers were still catching some trout.

Ludington: Pier fishing was slow. The fish here are also scattered throughout the water column in 40 to 120 feet. A few were caught on orange and green spoons.

Pere Marquette River: Is producing some nice brown trout. Fly hatches are underway but stalled a bit during the cold spell. Conditions should be good by the end of the week.

Pentwater: Is producing the occasional chinook or lake trout but most anglers were coming back with zero fish.

Pentwater Lake: Anglers are bass fishing. A few fish were still on the beds however most have moved off.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Is producing a mix of trout and salmon from the head of the bay up to Sand Point for those trolling 20 to 45 feet down in 30 to 60 feet. Spoons and body baits worked best. Those jigging for lake trout found a few fish off the Whirl-I-Gig and Jentoff's Dock. Try jigging cut bait in waters between 20 and 260 feet deep. The bite was hit-or-miss for the South Portage Entry.

Those trolling caught a few chinook, coho and brown trout near the lighthouse and from the breakwall south along the shoreline. Try 15 to 40 feet down in 20 to 50 feet with spoons and body baits. Trolling speeds were between 2.0 and 2.5 mph.

Menominee River: Is producing a fair share of muskie with fish over 50 inches caught. The hot spot was Boom Island to the 41-Bridge. Walleye anglers are catching fish in the evening when trolling stick baits and jigging from Stephenson Island to the mouth.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers had mixed results. Those fishing the head of the bay reported lots of undersize fish and several legal size fish caught when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 18 feet. Fish were caught by those trolling stick baits or crawlers in 30 to 35 feet off the Center and the Second Reefs. Some did well in this area while others struggled. Fair to good catches were taken between Breezy Point and the Ford River in 12 to 18 feet and also at the mouth of the Escanaba River when trolling or drifting crawlers in 18 to 24 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair to good for those casting crank baits, plastics or spinners in the shallows near the mouth of the Ford River, around Garth Point, Strawberry Island and along the head of the bay.

Big Bay De Noc: The dock in Snail Shell Harbor at Fayette State Park has been closed for repairs because of damage over the winter. A few walleye catches were reported in an area called the "Boot" which is straight east off Valentine Point in 18 to 21 feet of water with crawlers on harnesses. Most anglers pursued smallmouth bass near Ogontz. They caught fish in 3 to 12 feet when casting crank baits, plastics, spinners or crawlers along the weed lines. Good catches were reported in Puffy Bay in 3 to 6 feet as well as near Porcupine Point and the Fish Dam Rivers in 3 to 10 feet.

Marquette: Boat anglers in the Lower and Upper Harbor had varying degrees of success when targeting chinook and coho. Best areas for salmon were trolling outside the Lower Harbor and near Shot Point in 60 feet or less. Surface water temperatures were still in the low 40's. Lake trout were caught but many were lost at the boat. Those fishing the mouth of the Carp River had few bites. The water levels were high after all the rain.

Munising: Catch rates were low for coho and chinook. Most anglers were fishing waters between 60 and 200 feet near Sand Point and Trout Bay. Catch rates were slow off the dock of the Anna River for those using spawn. Water temperatures were in the mid 40's.

Grand Marais: Anglers are fishing off the end of the pier or trolling around West Bay. A couple boats did well for lake trout about 5 miles out. Not much on steelhead and the coho and whitefish action was slow. Some were trolling spoons and rapalas in the West Bay and near the mouth of the Sucker River. Atlantic salmon were caught off the pier and by those trolling.

South Manistique Lake: Walleye catches were up with most caught in 10 feet of water when jigging leeches and crawlers. Largemouth bass have steadily increased as they move to the shallows to spawn. The bluegill and yellow perch bite were down slightly. The hot spots were along the south end of the lake.

DeTour: Water temperature along the DeTour Reef was still cool at 48 degrees. Anglers caught Atlantic salmon, lake trout or the occasional 10 to 15 pound chinook. They are using orange and chrome colored spoons 18 to 25 feet down in waters over 60 feet deep off the southwest side of Drummond. Target the rocky ledges below the red can.

Drummond Island: Walleye measuring 18 to 20 inches have been caught in Scott Bay when trolling a small 2 inch black and chrome crank bait between Paw Point and Rutland Island. Those fishing on the east side of Rutland Island caught 26 to 30 inch pike in 6 feet along the rocky ledge. Smallmouth bass fishing was excellent along the north shore between Bruce Point and Paw Point when casting brown tube jigs and small crayfish baits.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike fishing has slowed but those putting in the time did catch some fish. Pier anglers at Hessel had fair to good results for pike. The Hessel marina still has a lot of perch and some splake.

June 11, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It's here! Michigan's annual "Summer Free Fishing Weekend" will be observed this Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 14th. Both residents and non-residents can fish without a license however all regulations still apply. This is a great opportunity to introduce someone new to the sport of fishing so don't miss out, call a family member, friend or neighbor and share the experience.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye fishing was slower than normal but fish were caught by those trolling crawler harnesses in 22 to 25 feet. White bass numbers are significantly lower and water temperatures were nearing 70 degrees.

Lenawee County: On Devils Lake, bluegills can be found in 2 to 6 feet along the shoreline and sandbars. Anglers did best using light tackle tipped with wax worms or leaf worms. Bass have been caught along the weed beds when casting soft plastics and spinner baits. A few pike were caught by those trolling in 6 to 12 feet. On Lake Hudson, boat and shore anglers are doing well for crappie and bluegills. Bass anglers continue to do well using slow presentations along the points and coves.

Detroit River: The water cleared up enough that anglers were fishing on the Canadian side. Catch rates were fair to good along the northern half including some limit catches. The better fishing was near the casino, whiskey plant and salt mines on the Canadian side. Fair to good fishing between the Renaissance Center and the Ambassador Bridge, around Belle Isle, the east side of Grosse Ile and near the mouth of Lake Erie. More anglers are bottom bouncing crawler harnesses or hand-lining spoons and stick baits. Those targeting muskie caught 0-3 fish per boat. Those fishing off the Trenton Rotary Park and Belanger Park caught a good number of white bass right along with some large or smallmouth bass, muskie, freshwater drum and white perch.

Lake St. Clair: Bass fishing has been good in Anchor Bay and along the Mile Roads in 3 to 10 feet. White bass fishing has been very good in the Grosse Point area and off the point at the Lake St. Clair Metro Park.

Shore anglers at the mouth of the Clinton River are catching a mixed bag of freshwater drum, carp, rock bass, northern pike, some large channel catfish and a few white bass. The Selfridge Boat Access Site improvement project is expected to be completed by this weekend.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been good after dark for those whipping between Marysville to Algonac. Daytime walleye fishing was hit-or-miss. A few salmon and trout are still being caught by those targeting walleye.

Lexington: The best fishing was for lake trout but steelhead, chinook and coho were also caught in 60 to 90 feet. Anglers are using spoons, downriggers, lead core and dipsey divers. Pier anglers caught large and smallmouth bass or rock bass.

Port Sanilac: Also had good fishing for lake trout, steelhead and salmon. They are trolling in 60 to 90 feet with spoons off downriggers, lead core and dipsey divers. Pier anglers casting artificial baits or floating minnows caught bass.

Harbor Beach: A few salmon and steelhead have been caught in 40 to 80 feet straight out and north of the harbor. Anglers are using clean spoons off downriggers and offshore boards 40 to 75 feet down. Hot colors are still bright greens and yellows, black with orange, silver and blue. Limits of lake trout are still being caught north of the harbor on spoons off downriggers, dodgers and spin-glo's near the bottom. Start in 60 feet and work your way out until you find them. A couple steelhead were caught behind the Edison Plant.

Grindstone City and Port Austin: Shore and pier anglers were targeting large and smallmouth bass.

Saginaw Bay: Is producing walleye at Buoys 1 and 2, the Spark Plug in 23 feet, Pinconning Bar in 14 to 16 feet and off Finn Road in 20 feet when trolling crawler harnesses. Channel cats were caught on worms and perch rigs off Essexville. Quanicassee was fair for walleye, catfish, and freshwater drum. Crawlers worked best but fish were also taken on Hot-n-Tots and spoons. Anglers fishing off Sebewaing and Bay Port had fair walleye catches and they were working hard to get them. Most are using crawler harnesses. Catfish were caught in shallow water.

Sanford Lake: In Midland County, the crappies are done spawning and moving out to deeper water. Bluegills are moving in to spawn. Bass pressure has intensified and anglers are catching both large and smallmouth. Not much going on for walleye, pike or muskellunge.

Genesee County: Lake Fenton was producing 6 to 8 inch bluegills for those using wax worms. Mott Lake was producing walleye, crappie, bluegill and yellow perch.

Holloway Reservoir: In Lapeer County was good for channel catfish.

Livingston County: Small numbers of panfish were caught on Crooked Lake and Lake Chemung.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Panfish are biting on the inland lakes. Bluegills and bass are more active. The crappies are done spawning and have moved to deeper water. More catfish are starting to show up for those using shrimp, crawlers and cut bait.

St. Joseph: Pier anglers have caught a good number of freshwater drum on shrimp and crawlers. Pier fishing for steelhead was slow. The weather has hampered fishing conditions.

South Haven: Salmon fishing was steady with anglers targeting 70 to 100 feet. Most were caught on spoons. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum and catfish with crawlers on the bottom. Perch fishing was slow.

Grand Haven: Salmon fishing is good but difficult as factors seem to be changing daily. Water temperatures seem to be affecting the chinook salmon at this time. Anglers are fishing in 110 to 165 feet of water and using spoons up high but spin/fly combos and meat rigs deeper. Blue, green and purple spoons were good on cloudy days. Meat rigs were purple. Pier fishing was slow but anglers are getting some alewife with cast nets as they are in close and spawning.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Anglers are catching a good number of steelhead when drifting flies and yarn near the dam before sunrise. Walleye were caught off the wall when using minnows. Catfish are hitting on crawlers, cut bluegill and chicken liver.

Grand River at Lansing: Anglers caught panfish, a few catfish and a couple pike.

Lake Ovid: Anglers have caught a few bass and small bluegills.

Jackson County: The inland lakes are providing anglers with panfish and bass.

Muskegon: Chinook salmon were in 70 to 150 feet. Try blue, green and purple spoons up high. There is a good meat rig bite 40 to 70 feet down in 150 feet. 200 coppers and lead core are working well. Steelhead were out in 280 feet and hitting on orange spoons.

Muskegon Lake: Anglers are catching walleye, large and smallmouth bass, crappie and bluegills.

Muskegon River: Continues to produce some steelhead for those using spawn or flies. Those targeting smallmouth bass have done well.

Whitehall: Boat anglers are taking chinook 60 feet down or steelhead 10 feet down in waters 100 to 160 feet deep. They are trolling with spoons and crank baits.

White Lake: There were substantial catches of panfish especially bluegills.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Lake trout fishing continues to be very good with plenty of limit catches. Once the fish are found they have been easy to catch. The best area was between Calcite and Adams Point in waters out to 60 feet deep. Fish the entire water column as some were caught within 10 feet of the bottom while others were suspended. Use cowbells or dodgers with spin-glo's or bright green, blue and silver or yellow tail spoons. Atlantic salmon were in the same area and were caught on high-lines or 1 to 3 colors of lead core. Try orange and silver or blue and silver spoons. Water temperatures were still very cold in the mid to upper 40's. Salmon fishing was very slow. Pier anglers caught the occasional walleye, lake trout or Atlantic salmon when casting spoons and body baits.

East & West Twin Lakes: A few walleye were caught on East Twin but it is still hit-or-miss. There have been a few perch taken but the water is still too cold. West Twin had good walleye fishing with fish ranging 15 to 20 inches. Most anglers are jigging crawlers in the 10 foot holes. The bass fishing was also good using tube baits for smallmouth and rock bass. A pike was caught in the canal.

Alpena: Had great lake trout fishing. Thunder Bay Island has been a great place to try. They are suspended or within 10 feet of the bottom. Cowbells or dodgers with spin-glo's have taken fish and they seem to like big flashers. Walleye fishing continues to pick up. The fish have been moving around a lot depending upon water temperature and baitfish. Good places to try have been Sulphur Island, Grass Island, Partridge Point and just outside of the marina. Try trolling body baits or crawler harnesses in green, purple or fire-tiger.

Thunder Bay River: Was slow for walleye but anglers can still find a lot of smallmouth bass at the dam. A few rock bass and sunfish have been caught.

Harrisville: The harbor is still being dredged but access has not been impeded. Boat anglers have done well for lake trout in 80 to 120 feet. The fish are spread throughout the water column so fish top to bottom with flies, body baits and cut bait. The walleye action has slowed but should pick up as the water warms.

Oscoda: The walleye bite slowed in the river and out in the big lake. A few fish were still being caught in the early morning and late evening for those using body baits, crawlers and leeches. Lake trout have been caught in good numbers in 75 to 110 feet. Fish the entire water column as a good number of fish were suspended and hitting on spoons, body baits and cut bait.

Higgins Lake: Those targeting perch were using minnows or wax worms in 20 to 40 feet. Anglers are starting to catch some nice rock bass.

Houghton Lake: Is having a mayfly hatch. Bluegills and sunfish are being caught along the weed beds. Walleye were along the drop-offs in 8 feet. Anglers have caught a good number of pike and bass.

Lake St. Helen: Bluegills are making their way to the shallows to spawn. The crappie are done and have moved to deeper water. Both pike and largemouth bass have been very active.

Tawas: Those trolling in 20 to 40 feet caught a few walleye. The occasional lake trout was caught in 50 to 70 feet. Pier anglers caught a few smallmouth bass, carp, catfish and small perch.

Tawas River: Is producing a few stray walleye, some smallmouth bass and some small perch.

Au Gres: Had good walleye fishing straight out from the harbor in 30 to 35 feet.

Au Gres River: Anglers are catching channel cats, freshwater drum and the occasional perch.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Chinook fishing is decent around the piers. Alewives are spawning in the harbors so the salmon and brown trout are chasing them. Panfish are spawning on the inland lakes.

Harbor Springs: Had good lake trout fishing around Harbor Point. Fish were caught near the bottom or 50 to 60 feet down. Try spoons and spin-glo's. Smallmouth bass fishing was good. Anglers are casting along the shoreline from the east end to inside Harbor Point. Depending on the location, surface water temperatures were 49 to 54 degrees.

Petoskey: Water temperatures were about 48 degrees which is still cold. Lake trout fishing has been hit-or-miss with most boats targeting Bay Harbor and east to the breakwall. Fish were caught on spoons near the bottom in 60 to 80 feet. Smallmouth bass, rock bass, pike, bullhead, carp and suckers were caught from the mouth of the river to the breakwall when using worms, flies, jigs and soft plastics or crank baits. Those fishing the D Pier caught bass and bullhead.

Bear River: Steelhead fishing is very slow but a couple were caught on spawn bags. Water levels should be back up after the rain. A lot of chubs were moving in around the dam.

Charlevoix: Anglers should find lake trout in waters 30 feet and deeper when using spoons, spin-glo's and flasher/fly combos around North Point. A few fish were still being caught off the end of the pier in the early morning or evening with spoons or jigs with soft plastics. A few walleye were caught in the channel after dark with jigs and soft plastics or crank baits. Cisco were hit-or-miss in the channel. Try spinners or spoons. Smallmouth bass fishing should start picking up in the channel.

Elk River: Had fair catch rates for smallmouth bass. Try leeches or tube baits.

Traverse City: The East Bay has good Cisco and lake trout fishing. For Cisco, try jigging spoons in waters between 20 and 80 feet deep. For lake trout, try 30 to 45 feet or deeper in 90 to 110 feet. The smallmouth action is picking up as the surface water temperatures climb slowly. In the West Bay, smallmouth bass were caught near the mouth of the Boardman. Lake trout and Cisco were caught by those trolling in 20 to 50 feet.

Boardman River: Smallmouth bass, rock bass, and carp have been caught downtown. Try live bait for smallmouth.

Frankfort: The brown trout bite is still good for those using jointed body baits between the pier heads. Alewives are in the area. A few chinook and lake trout were caught around the Herring Hole in the early morning. The chinook are hitting in the top 75 feet and the lake trout were caught by those bouncing cowbells off the bottom.

Onekama: Those heading out and trolling the top 80 feet of waters 180 to 220 feet deep have caught a few chinook salmon on spoons or meat rigs 60 feet down.

Portage Lake: The mayfly hatch has begun with hundreds around the light posts in Onekama. Bass are on beds and very active. Panfish including some perch were caught along the weed beds in 12 to 20 feet.

Manistee: Salmon and trout have been caught in 100 to 250 feet. Use orange spoons higher up and meat rigs down deep. Pier anglers caught some brown trout when casting spoons or using alewife.

Ludington: Boat anglers caught trout and salmon when trolling in 100 to 200 feet. Orange or green spoons have worked well on short coppers or lead cores. Red or green meat rigs worked well. Pier fishing is slow.

Pentwater: Boat anglers caught chinook and steelhead in 100 to 160 feet. The salmon were hitting 60 feet down and steelhead about 10 feet down. Baitfish moved into the channel and steelhead were caught by those trolling.

Pentwater Lake: Those fishing at Long Bridge caught a fair number of bullhead.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The bite is once again up and down. Those trolling are working hard for a mix of chinook, coho, lake trout and splake. They are trolling 15 to 40 feet down in 30 to 60 feet from the head of the bay north to Old Mission and both the east and west sides of the bay. Trolling speeds were between 1.9 and 2.5 mph with spoons and body baits in a variety of colors. Those jigging for lake trout did well out from Jentofts Dock, the Whirl-I-Gig and Pequaming in 220 to 260 feet. In Traverse Bay, those jigging for lake trout did well with jigs and cut bait in 180 to 240 feet.

Lake Gogebic: The majority of anglers are targeting walleye. While there were a handful of boats that were still catching a good number the last week has been slow for many others. Those using crank baits caught fewer fish however they also caught more keepers. Smallmouth bass fishing was good with most anglers casting lures into the rocky shoreline. Yellow perch anglers targeting Bergland Bay have also caught some pumpkinseed.

Menominee River: A few muskie were caught near Boom Island. Walleye anglers caught fish in the evening when trolling however a strong current made fishing more difficult. Shore anglers are catching a few walleye, catfish, and freshwater drum when using live bait in the slow water. Bass anglers had good success.

Little Bay De Noc: For walleye, those fishing Garth Point reported good catches of undersize fish with the occasional keeper when trolling or drifting crawlers in 18 to 20 feet. The mouth of the Escanaba River reported several good catches drifting crawler harnesses in 14 to 23 feet and Breezy Point 18 to 24 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair to good in the Ford River. Try casting plastics, spinners or crank baits along the banks and at the mouth. Perch fishing was spotty. A few were caught on minnows around the green buoy near the Ford River in 22 feet or the "Narrows" and off Gladstone Beach when using crawlers and wigglers in 14 to 33 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Walleye catches were reported at the head of the bay when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 16 to 18 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing was spotty with most targeting the waters near Ogontz, Puffy Bay, South River Bay, Porcupine Point and near the Fish Dam Rivers. Try casting crank baits, plastics or spinners in 3 to 10 feet.

Marquette: Surface water temperatures were between 40 and 44 degrees. More anglers are targeting lake trout but catch rates were slow. They fished the Sand Hole, and along the outside of the Lower Harbor towards Sand River and Shot Point. Most caught no fish but a few lucky anglers did manage to take a limit of five at various depths anywhere from less than 100 to over 200 feet. The fish are eating sticklebacks and smelt. Anglers are using spoons but some had better luck with spoons and flies tipped with cut bait. A couple chinook were also caught in less than 60 feet. Fishing near the mouth of the Carp River was slow with only a few hits on spawn or crawlers. Water levels in the river have dropped but there was still a strong current.

Au Train Lake: Anglers targeting walleye had fair success. Most were small but a few legal-size fish were caught. Pike were caught but most only averaged 20 inches. Anglers were using worms and leeches or trolling crank baits. Weeds have started to come up in areas and a small mayfly hatch was observed. Water temperatures were in the upper 50's.

Munising: Catch rates were low for those trolling for chinook and coho. Boats were targeting 60 to 200 feet of water near Sand Point and Trout Bay. Fresh spawn was used by those fishing off the dock of the Anna River but few fish were caught. Water temperatures were in the mid to high 40's.

Grand Marais: Many are still fishing off the end of the pier but most are trolling about 5 miles out for lake trout. Catch rates are good on lake trout with anglers bringing in fish ranging 18 to 30 inches every trip. Whitefish average 14 inches with a few 20 inches or more.

South Manistique Lake: Walleye were caught by those trolling the drop-off between De Shelter Road and the island. Catch rates for bluegill and pumpkinseed have increased as the water warms up. Those using wax worms and red wigglers did well near the Wolf Road public access site.

Newberry: Walleye lakes and rivers in the area are producing some fish. Many are using crank baits and live bait in waters such as the Tahquamenon River, Nawakwa, Pike, Culhane, and Bodi Lakes. For largemouth bass, try Twin, Kaks and East Lake. Twin and East Lakes are located off of M-28 west of Newberry and Kaks Lake is located off M-117 just west of Newberry. The Dollarville Flooding is a great place for muskie this time of year. Try artificial lures or trolling with suckers.

Munuscong Bay: Anglers caught good numbers of small walleye near the mouth of the river.

DeTour: Cold water temperatures have slowed the salmon and trout fishing along the DeTour Reef but anglers were still getting a mix of chinook, Atlantic salmon and lake trout. They are trolling lead core with orange and chrome colored spoons 12 to 18 feet down in 45 to 60 feet between the green can and the lighthouse.

Drummond Island: The walleye bite slowed because of the cold clear water in Scott Bay. Fish were caught by those trolling around Peck Island with bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses with orange or copper blades in 9 to 12 feet. Trolling speed was 1.2 mph. Smallmouth bass are still good at the south end of James Island using green or brown tube jigs in 2 to 3 feet.

Cedarville and Hessel: The water is still cold. Northern pike are biting, but harvest has been very slow. Perch in the Moscoe Channel were hitting on minnows and worms in 5 to 6 feet. Smallmouth bass are starting to move onto the beds.

St. Ignace: Had a handful of anglers but fishing was slow.

Big Bay De Noc: Had a large fly hatch and no walleye reports. The smallmouth bite was fair at best as the fish have been unpredictable because of the weather. The better catches were from Ogontz to Martins Bay with minnows or tube baits in 4 to 10 feet or Porcupine Point and Kate's Bay in 3 to 12 feet. Many of the pike caught have been undersize. Fair to good catches were reported in Garden Bay, Kate's Bay and near Ogontz. At Fairport, boat anglers have started to head out for salmon and steelhead. Chinook were caught on spoons 30 to 60 feet off the bottom in 100 to 150 feet. Anglers are looking for slightly warmer water. Several nice steelhead were caught 20 to 30 feet down.

Marquette: Surface water temperatures remain cool at 42 degrees. Anglers were fishing from Shot Point all the way up to Little Presque Isle and the Garlic River but all they caught was a few lake trout, chinook and coho. The lake trout had lake herring and sticklebacks in their stomachs. Shore anglers fishing near the mouth of the Carp River had little to no action.

Au Train Lake: Fishing in general has been up and down. Some reported fair walleye catches with fish up to 23 inches while others caught none. Pike anglers casting spinners in the weed beds or trolling small crank baits reported slow action and any fish that were caught were undersize. Smallmouth bass anglers did fair when casting spinners and power baits. Surface water temperatures were just about 60 degrees and most of the weed beds are starting to evolve. Perch fishing was slow with only a few small ones caught.

Munising: When anglers can get out, catch rates were slow for chinook and coho. Anglers are trolling in 60 to 200 feet near Sand Point and Trout Bay. Fresh spawn was the bait of choice off the dock of the Anna River where a couple small splake were caught and released. Water temperatures were in the 40's.

Grand Marais: Anglers are pier fishing or heading out about 5 miles for lake trout where the action has been good as anglers are bringing in fish every trip. Average size was 18 to 30 inches. There has been no effort near the mouth of the Sucker River. The whitefish action has slowed. Those caught were taken on a single egg. Most were around 11 inches but a few 20 inches or bigger were also showing up. Water temperatures in the bay were in the 40's but only the high 30's out deeper.

South Manistique Lake: The largemouth bass are biting heavily along the shallows at the southern end west of South Shore Resort. Try top water lures and spinner baits. Walleye catches were up along the north end near the town of Curtis. Anglers are using red jigs with crawlers in 13 to 16 feet.

DeTour: Boat anglers are taking a mix of Atlantic, lake trout and a few chinook when trolling from the De Tour Reef east to the Red Buoy and back west to the Green Buoy. Orange and chrome spoons worked best 12 to 20 feet below the surface in waters 80 feet deep. Atlantic salmon and lake trout were hitting chartreuse spoons high in the water column at just 12 to 25 feet down.

Drummond Island: Cold water temperatures in Scott Bay have slowed the morning walleye bite. As the water warms in the afternoon, the trolling or drifting in the evening caught fish between the south end of James Island and the old sportsman's club point where water temperatures reached 62 degrees. Copper hammered crawler harnesses worked best. A few pike measuring 28 to 32 inches were caught when trolling or casting a chrome red eye mouse lure in 4 to 6 feet on both sides of the DNR access site in Maxton Bay.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch are in the Hessel marina however they are not hitting in big numbers. Pier anglers are targeting pike and smallmouth bass with minnows or chubs. Those trolling the deeper water are getting a few pike. The water is high and still very cold. Casting in the shallow bays has been more productive. Fly hatches are starting and should pull the herring in.