

January 8, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The cold weather is helping to shore up ice conditions around the state. Anglers are actively fishing in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. Anglers in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula should be ice fishing by the weekend.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Ice anglers are getting some perch in the Metro Park Marina.

**Huron River:** Those bobber fishing with a jig and wax worm are still taking some steelhead but watch for flow ice coming down the river.

**Detroit River:** The marinas are freezing up. Some reported seeing ice shanties in Airport Bay which is at the south end of Grosse Ile. Anglers will need to watch for flow ice coming down the river.

**Lake St. Clair:** Had some ice in the canals and marinas and bluegill fishing has been very good. Some perch and crappie were also mixed in at some locations. There should be some ice fishing on the lake by the weekend. The Selfridge Boat Access Site is under construction, but remains open for ice fishing access.

**St. Clair River:** Shore anglers have been catching brown trout and steelhead between the Blue Water Bridge and the Black River.

**Saginaw Bay:** Has some ice. People are out fishing however no reports have come in yet.

**Saginaw River:** Continues to produce some walleye for shore anglers casting stick baits in open water.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice is forming in the region and a few anglers have been venturing out to fish the shallow bays and channels. Ice thickness should improve by the end of the week.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead fishing has slowed. A few fish were caught by those drifting spawn or skein and those casting plugs.

**Kalamazoo River:** Steelhead fishing slowed. Those fishing below the Allegan Dam had some luck casting plugs or when drifting spawn and skein.

**Grand River near Grand Rapids:** Is still producing some steelhead but catch rates have slowed. Anglers are having some luck with plugs and drifting spawn and skein.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Walleye and pike were hitting on minnows and crawlers at the North Lansing Dam. At the Portland, Webber and Lyons Dam, steelhead were hitting on beads, pike and walleye on minnows. Closer to Eaton Rapids, some nice pike were taken on minnows, spinners or spoons at the Smithville Dam.

**Ingham County:** Fishing activity on the area lakes and rivers is minimal.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels were good and the water is clear. Steelhead fishing was steady in Newaygo County.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Conditions are still quite variable from lake to lake but improving for foot traffic.

**Grand Lake:** Anglers are ice fishing however there was still some open water so extreme caution needs to be used.

**Long Lake:** Should have some ice fishing however ice thickness may not be consistent. For bluegill and crappie, try jigging minnows, wax worms or spikes. For pike, try tip-ups in the coves.

**Clear Lake:** In Montmorency County has started to produce some splake. Catch rates for panfish and pike were mixed.

**Fletchers Pond:** Should be in good shape but anglers will still need to use caution especially where there is a current. Try jigs with minnows and wax worms for bluegill, crappie and perch. Pike will hit on tip-ups with sucker minnows.

**Hubbard Lake:** Anglers are ice fishing however rumor has it a snowmobile went through the ice. Anglers would be wise to travel by foot only. For perch and pike, target the North Bay and the East Bay.

**Higgins Lake:** Has iced over however it was not safe. Anglers would be wise to wait until the weekend before they start venturing out. Strong winds broke up the ice on the north end of the lake so even though the ice is rebuilding, extreme caution needs to be used. Be sure to use a spud to check the ice ahead of you.

**Houghton Lake:** Ice fishing is on but not all of the lake was frozen. With snow on the ice, anglers will need to be careful and watch for open water in the North Bay and the East Bay. Pike were very active and hitting on tip-ups with sucker minnows or goldens. The walleye bite slowed with the onset of the cold front but the bite is coming back. Try blues, jigs and spoons. Some decent perch were caught by walleye anglers. For bluegills, try spikes and wax worms.

**Lake Margrethe:** Ice anglers caught bluegill, perch, pike and walleye.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Ice conditions were still variable from lake to lake with only foot traffic on most. Panfish and northern pike action has been steady.

**Grand Traverse County:** Some walleye were caught on Long Lake and bluegills were hitting on Fish Lake near Kingsley. Those fishing Duck Lake caught pike.

**Manistee Lake:** In Kalkaska County was producing some bluegill, perch, pike and walleye.

**Lake Cadillac:** Ice fishing is on and shanties are on the lake. Those using tip-ups have caught some nice pike.

**Lake Mitchell:** Has ice and those fishing the coves are catching bluegill, crappie and the occasional perch. Jigs and wax worms seem to work best.

**Portage Lake:** Ice anglers are heading out and catch rates for panfish were fair.

**Manistee River:** Still has steelhead for the taking. With the cold weather, fish the slow water with spawn, jigs and wax worms, plugs or flies.

**Hamlin Lake:** Ice anglers can be found targeting bluegill, crappie and perch in Indian Pete's Bayou, the North Bayou, Middle Bayou and the South Bayou.

**Pere Marquette River:** Steelhead fishing remains consistent.

## **UPPER PENINSULA**

Ice conditions keep improving with the colder weather. Most lakes are now seeing ORV and snowmobile traffic however anglers need to use caution.

**Menominee:** Ice in the bay was extremely rough due to windy conditions.

**Menominee River:** Those fishing open water below the dam caught walleye and some brown trout.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Has ice and those out fishing have taken some nice catches of walleye, perch and pike. Anglers need to use caution especially near the pressure cracks.

**Indian Lake:** In Schoolcraft County had slow fishing with a mix of brown trout, and perch caught.

**Manistique Lake:** Fishing has been steady, with low numbers but a decent number of quality fish being taken. Anglers are targeting walleye, pike, and perch.

**St. Mary's River:** Before ice impedes commercial navigation, several icebreakers have been assigned to the region. The Coast Guard would like to advise all recreational ice users there are currently no channel closures, and to plan their activities carefully, use caution on the ice, and stay away from the shipping channels.

January 15, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Once again, a cold blast is producing ice however freezing on the inland lakes has not been uniform this year so anglers need to use caution. Some lakes still have areas with open water, very thin ice and/or dangerous pressure cracks. Be sure to check the ice ahead of you before you take that next step.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Perch are being caught in the Metro Park Marina. Anglers are sorting out the small ones but still getting enough for a meal. Ice was reported at the Banana Dike. Anglers are heading out on the lake however no reports have come in.

**Detroit River:** Airport Bay was producing some nice perch. For access, anglers will have to walk about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile down Frenchman Creek. Smaller perch were caught in Brownstown Creek which is just north of Cherry Island off South Gibraltar Road.

**Lake St. Clair:** Has fishable ice at all the usual locations such as Fairhaven, Selfridge, Metro Beach, the Spillway south of Metro Beach and off Geno's. There has been a lot of fishing and recent reports were good for perch anglers. Most are using minnows and plastic baits on various jigs. With the good water clarity, some were spearing perch. Bluegills and sunfish were hitting in the canals and marinas.

**St. Clair River:** Those fishing off the wall have caught steelhead and brown trout on shiners. A few whitefish were also caught.

**Port Austin:** Had a couple ice shanties in the harbor but no reports yet.

**Saginaw Bay:** Has ice along the west side and in select areas on the east side. Walleye fishing was pretty good from Linwood to White's Beach. A few perch were caught at multiple sites including near shore at Pinconning, in the marina at Linwood, the Quanicassee River, and the Sunset Bay Marina. Ice on the east side of the bay was still questionable. Many stayed close to shore or fished inside the marina basins.

At Sebewaing, ice fishing was confined inside the Municipal Marina where anglers are getting a few perch or spearing the odd pike. Anglers are venturing out from Geiger Road. Wildfowl Bay had a lot of fishing off the Mud Creek access site where anglers caught a few walleye and perch or speared the occasional pike. At Caseville, a couple lake trout were taken in the lower river and along the breakwall however the ice is not uniform so use extreme caution.

**Saginaw River:** Had lots of fishing activity from Saginaw to the mouth. The walleye bite was good until the cold snap. Smaller fish were caught further up river but the keepers were caught near Bay City. Hot spots were the mouth of the river, off the Karn-Weadok Plant, near the Cement Plant at Essexville, near the Independence Bridge, downstream of the Liberty Bridge off the Omni Source salvage yard, and across from Veteran's Park. Fishing was slower from the Cass Avenue boat launch to Saginaw. A lot of fish were measured and released for each keeper taken. Some decent perch were caught in the Yacht Club basin. Anglers are reminded to still use caution as ice thickness on the river can vary. There was no fishing around the Zilwaukee Bridge because of ice conditions.

**Tittabawassee River:** Had no fishing activity. Ice conditions were poor and there was still open water.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Most of the small and medium size lakes in the region had ice fishing however the bigger and deeper lakes were still developing safe ice so anglers need to use caution. Bluegills were hitting on wax worms and spikes fished near the bottom in 8 to 20 feet. A few northern pike are being caught on tip-ups with minnows. The rivers are froze-up or have flow ice making it difficult to fish.

**Gull Lake:** In Kalamazoo County was producing some pike and crappie. The bite slowed with the return of arctic temperatures but should rebound by the weekend. Anglers need to use extreme caution as the lake is very deep.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Has open water however there is shelf ice and moving ice downstream. The best place to fish right now would be below any of the dams.

**Park Lake:** Anglers were catching crappie on spec minnows and wax worms. A nice channel cat was also caught.

**Muskrat Lake:** Was producing bluegills. Try wax worms or white spikes.

**Portage Lake:** In Jackson County is producing crappie, bluegill, the occasional walleye and a few perch.

**Muskegon River:** The water is clear and cold and catch rates for steelhead have slowed. The bite should pick back up once it warms up.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Grand Lake:** Has ice cover on most if not all areas however some of the ice appeared as recently as last weekend. Anglers need to use extreme caution. Catch rates were good for perch and walleye.

**Long Lake:** Ice conditions are still questionable in some areas and there was still some open water near some of the access sites.

**Fletchers Pond:** Has anglers targeting pike and panfish.

**Hubbard Lake:** Assume ice conditions are similar if not more variable than Long Lake and Grand Lake. Extreme caution needs to be used.

**Higgins Lake:** Those fishing off Big Creek were taking pike on sucker minnows and perch on wax worms and perch minnows in 45 feet. Ice was forming over the deep hole off Big Creek. No lake trout yet as anglers have not made it out that far. A couple ice shanties were starting to pop up at the south end of the north basin. Anglers are starting to jig for lake trout on the south end between the two points. The ice was not consistent along the south end of the lake near Lincoln Avenue. Anglers need to use caution and check the ice often because the freezing process has not been consistent.

**Houghton Lake:** Has good ice on most of the lake **however the North Bay has thin ice and open water and the East Bay has open water.** Anglers will want to stay away from these areas and where there are inlets or outlets as well as pressure cracks. Some are taking sleds and 4-wheelers out but driving a full size vehicle on the ice is not a good idea. Walleye anglers took limit catches with the warmer weather so fishing should be good by the weekend. A good number of pike have been caught and bluegills were hitting in water 12 feet or deeper.

**Lake St. Helen:** The narrow areas between the three lakes had open water and were just starting to freeze so anglers should avoid these areas for now. After the strong west winds, anglers will need to watch for large snow drifts along the east side of the lake. Fishing was good with crappie hitting on perch minnows in the late afternoon and some walleye. Good pike action for those using tip-ups with goldens or sucker minnows. The bluegill bite was slow.

**Tawas:** Walleye anglers were doing well in 15 feet off Jerry's Marina with most taking at least a couple fish. A few incidental brown trout or pike were also caught. Not many perch anglers and there was little activity inside the harbor as anglers reported few minnows and fewer perch. No activity on the Tawas River.

**Au Gres:** A lot of anglers were out fishing down near Palmer Road and the Pine River area. They did catch a few perch and the odd walleye in three to six feet.

**Au Gres River:** Those fishing the lower river are getting a few perch and sub-legal walleye. On the East Branch, there was no activity at the Singing Bridge due to bad ice conditions.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Lake Bellaire:** Those heading out from the launch at Fisherman's Paradise Road will find thin ice near the shoreline but thicker beyond that. Anglers will need to use caution where there is river flow especially on the north end of the lake. Those out fishing have caught a few pike.

**Lake Cadillac:** Has a lot of anglers. The pike action has been good for those using tip-ups or spearing. Travel on the ice is difficult due to snow and deep slush.

**Lake Mitchell:** Has lots of ice anglers targeting bluegill, crappie and perch when using jigs and wax worms. Catch rates for pike were good with tip-ups.

**Lake Missaukee:** Has lots of ice anglers targeting walleye and panfish.

**Bear Lake:** In Manistee County **currently has open water about a 1/4 mile south of and east of Big Bay along the north end. The area of open water is approximately 100 to 200 yards wide and 600 to 1000 yards long.** This is very uncommon for the lake which has been frozen since the end of November and normally freezes completely. Anglers need to use extreme caution and stay away from the area of open water.

**Manistee River:** Has steelhead but the bite has slowed with the cold weather and fishing was a little more difficult because of ice flow.

**Pere Marquette River:** The water is clear and cold so the steelhead bite was slow. Catch rates will improve as it warms up.

## **UPPER PENINSULA**

Inland lakes on the western end of the Upper Peninsula are covered in heavy snow and layers of slush which makes travel and fishing a little more difficult.

**Keweenaw Bay:** Despite the recent cold weather, the Bay is still not frozen.

**Portage Lake:** Is good for walleye and the occasional pike.

**Lake Gogebic:** Is producing walleye and perch for ice anglers.

**Lac Vieux Desert:** Is good for bluegill and crappie.

**Menominee River:** Ice is just now starting to form below the dams but anglers need to use extreme caution. A couple portable ice shanties were seen near the Dam at Hattie Street.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Ice conditions improved throughout the bay **however the shipping channels in Escanaba have remained open with commercial ships coming and going on a regular basis. This area is considered dangerous and should be avoided. Several anglers were out fishing the area around Portage Point but this area is also dangerous.** Travel on the Bay is good because of light snow cover and many are taking snowmobiles and 4-wheelers. Use caution north of the "Narrows" as pressure cracks have formed in the usual areas and the one that crosses Butler Island in Kipling is always the most hazardous. Catch rates for walleye and perch were fair with the better walleye catches reported from the "Narrows" in Gladstone south to the Terrace Bay Inn when using jig raps and minnows in 27 to 35 feet. Fair to good fishing in the Kipling Flats in 23 to 30 feet. Perch anglers reported fair catches with the best reports from Kipling when using minnows or wigglers in and around 27 feet. Lots of smaller fish were caught right along with the keepers. Whitefish were caught on perch minnows in 35 to 40 feet off Gladstone.

**St. Mary's River:** Ice anglers on Munuscong Bay reported fair to good perch and walleye fishing on the west end towards Grassy Island. Anglers need to use extreme caution if they plan on heading out to the deeper parts of the bay as the ice may not be safe.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Have ice however angler activity was slow.

January 22, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice fishing on the inland lakes is pretty much in full swing for the most part. Caution still needs to be used on the deeper lakes which take longer to form safe ice. Use caution near the pressure cracks on all bodies of water. Safety is a must when ice fishing, so always take a buddy and never fish alone.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Is producing some perch in the marinas. Bluegill and crappie were caught off Sterling State Park. A few walleye were taken in Brest Bay however anglers need to pay close attention to a west wind which will blow out the ice beyond the pressure crack.

**Lenawee County:** Finally had enough ice for anglers to get out on the lakes. A few panfish were caught on Wampler's Lake but overall the bite was slow. Anglers are urged to use caution when venturing out.

**Detroit River:** Word has it Airport Bay was still producing some yellow perch. For access, anglers will have to walk about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile down Frenchman Creek. Those fishing the canals around Gibraltar have caught a handful of bluegills. Pike have been caught around Belle Isle.

**Lake St. Clair:** Had mixed reports all over the lake. Lots of small perch as the bigger fish were not as active. Those spearing perch had the best luck because fish would come in to investigate but would not bite. Some perch were caught near Geno's and the Metro Park. Good reports were coming from the marinas and shallow weed beds where pumpkinseed were hitting on teardrops and spikes. A lot of anglers were fishing Anchor Bay off the Palms Road access site.

**Port Austin:** Had a few shanties in the harbor.

**Saginaw Bay:** A few perch were caught off White's Beach however beware of the ice past the first pressure crack. Perch were caught off Newman Road just south of Pinconning. Walleye fishing was pretty good three miles off Linwood with a fair number of limit catches but use extreme caution beyond the first pressure crack.

Walleye fishing was good and some perch were caught near Spoils Island. Along the east side of the bay, most anglers were after perch near shore. A few were caught off Vanderbilt Park however there was still some open water out there so anglers need to use extreme caution. Crappie were caught in Sunset Bay Marina. Walleye were caught out in the Slot in 15 feet however be very careful beyond the first pressure crack. Perch fishing from Sebewaing to Caseville was slow and spotty throughout much of the area including the marina at Sebewaing and off Geiger Road. Most of the activity was off the Mud Creek access site in Wildfowl Bay where catch rates range from getting "skunked" to maybe 25 taken by the luckiest anglers that found a school of active fish. Success rates declined with all the noise from anglers traveling across the ice.

**Saginaw River:** Had a lot of anglers but catch rates were slow. There are a lot of sub-legal walleyes in the river this time of year so anglers at all locations have to do a lot of sorting. Jigging rapalas are the standard however spoons also work and hot colors are blue and silver, perch or fire-tiger. The slowest action was down in Saginaw and as far north as the Zilwaukee Bridge as the water was muddy after the snow-melt. Most of the walleye caught between the Zilwaukee Bridge and Bay City were sub-legal. Those fishing around the U.S.S. Edson only caught the occasional keeper. Watch the ice near the mouth as there were some areas with open water and some thin ice close to shore.

**Tittabawassee River:** Was not fishable at the time of this report. There was too much ice for open-water fishing but the ice was not safe to walk on. The current increased after the weekend thaw.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Warmer weather opened up river fishing again, so anglers are back out on the St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, and the Grand. The launches are snow covered and icy, so come prepared. Ice conditions are better towards the middle of the state near Lansing because the west side of the state had much more snow cover. Anglers need to be extremely careful.

**Gull Lake:** In Kalamazoo County was producing some smelt.

**Gun Lake:** In Barry County is producing a few perch and bluegills. For walleye, try east of Murphy's Point.

**Kalamazoo River:** Has anglers targeting steelhead below the Allegan Dam.

**Lake Macatawa:** Had some decent reports for bluegill and perch.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Is still producing some steelhead. Try a jig and wax worm, spinners, wobble glows or flies. Good colors are usually blue and silver.

**Grand River near Lansing:** Catch rates dropped right off during the cold spell and have not rebounded.

**Lake Lansing:** Is producing some bluegill and crappie. Some are using tip-ups for pike while others are spearing. The bite is slow, try light line and very small tear drops with very small bait.

**Livingston County:** A fair number of panfish have been caught in Lake Chemung, Upper Chilson Pond, or Appleton Lake.

**Jackson County:** Had lots of anglers but catch rates were slow.

**Clinton County:** Ice fishing was in full swing though anglers were having little success. Most caught small bluegills.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice conditions are improving on all water bodies in this region however anglers should still use caution.

**Lake Avalon:** Is producing a few splake.

**Grand Lake:** Continues to produce perch in good numbers. A few pike and walleye were also caught.

**Long Lake:** Was good for walleye with a few perch and pike mixed in. Try jigging.

**Hubbard Lake:** Try the North Bay or the East Bay for perch.

**Au Sable River:** There are steelhead below Foote Dam but fishing pressure has been light. Try casting plugs while drifting downstream from the dam to the mouth.

**Higgins Lake:** Perch were hitting wax worms, wigglers or minnows in 20 to 60 feet around the Sunken Island and the Main Island. Pike were caught on sucker minnows near Big Creek. Those spearing have taken fish up to 40 inches near Sam-O-Set Park which is in the north basin. Lake trout were caught in the north basin by those jigging spoons near the bottom or using tip-ups with minnows. Most of the fish caught were not big but legal size. Rainbow trout were caught on wigglers in shallow water near Big Creek and the Conference Center. A few smelt were taken along the west side of the lake.

**Houghton Lake:** Still had open water in the North Bay off Long Point. The East Bay has iced over however the ice was thin. Catch rates slowed with all the traffic on the ice however the walleye bite was starting to come back. Some of the fish caught were sub-legal but anglers are still taking some keepers.

**Lake St. Helen:** Is producing panfish and pike were caught on tip-ups.

**Tawas:** Had good walleye fishing in 15 to 20 feet in the Bay. Some limit catches were reported. Perch fishing was also good with a fair number of 7.5 to 10 inch fish caught. Fishing inside the harbor was slow.

**Au Gres:** The best walleye fishing was off Booth Road at Point Au Gres in 15 feet. At Palmer Road, walleye fishing was good with some limits reported. Perch fishing was spotty but the fish range seven to nine inches.

**Au Gres River:** Was producing mostly sub-legal walleye.

**Genesee County:** Panfish are being caught at Holloway Reservoir but no big numbers. Pike and small numbers of panfish were caught in Byram Lake.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

The inland lakes are producing pike, walleye, perch, and panfish. While most lakes are in good shape anglers will still need to use caution on the deeper ones.

**Lake Cadillac:** Ice fishing continues to be good. Pike are being taken on tip-ups and spears and panfish were hitting on minnows, spikes and wax worms.

**Lake Mitchell:** Is producing bluegills, crappie and even some perch in the coves. A good number of pike have been taken.

**Lake Missaukee:** Was producing walleye and smaller panfish.

**Portage Lake:** Had reports of walleye and yellow perch being caught.

**Manistee River:** Continues to produce steelhead and brown trout. Fish have been caught below Tippy Dam and by those wading above or below the coffer dam.

**Hamlin Lake:** Is producing a fair number of bluegill, crappie and perch. Try fishing the bayous with minnows, wax worms or spikes.

**Pere Marquette River:** Steelhead fishing has been good for those drifting or wading. Be sure to watch for shelf ice.

## **UPPER PENINSULA**

**Keweenaw Bay:** Ice has finally developed. Anglers are finding access on the southern end of the bay along US-41 and fishing the drop-off located about 100 yards offshore. They have caught lake trout, splake, whitefish, and the occasional brown trout. Catch rates were light with the most fish caught at daybreak.

**Otter Lake:** In Houghton County was producing a light number of pike and crappie.

**Lake Gogebic:** Is producing a moderate number of walleye and perch.

**Menominee River:** Walleye are being caught below the dam at Hattie Street. Anglers are jigging rapalas or small spoons tipped with a minnow. Good colors were fire-tiger or blue and silver.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Warmer temperatures caused problems with ice conditions in the Escanaba shipping channel. Anglers have been fishing this area but it is considered DANGEROUS. Please use caution at all times when navigating the southern areas of the Bay. Ice conditions were favorable north of the "Narrows" where catch rates for walleye and perch were up. In Kipling, most were jigging rapalas with minnows in 24 to 30 feet or 27 to 35 feet in Gladstone. Some were using tip-ups or jigging rapalas between the shipping docks and the river in Escanaba. Perch anglers reported fair catches with the Kipling area the best for those jigging minnows or wigglers in 10 to 30 feet or 17 feet straight out from the first Masonville access site. Several pike were speared from the Escanaba Yacht Harbor in 8 feet when using live decoys. Whitefish anglers were marking good numbers of fish but few catches were reported out from the Terrace Bay Inn in 35 to 40 feet. Although many are driving their vehicles out on the Bay it is not recommended for safety reasons.

**Au Train Lake:** Was producing some pike and small perch. Anglers were heading out from Forest Lake Road and the access site in Buck Bay.

**Munising:** The bay is frozen from Christmas to Sand Point and there was fishing pressure in all the usual locations. Splake up to 20 inches were caught on occasion but many were under the 15 inch size limit. Anglers were taking good catches of whitefish but they are also running small. Some lake trout anglers were venturing out to the west side of Grand Island however the ice is variable out there and extreme caution needs to be used.

**Schoolcraft County:** Thunder Lake and Round Lake were slush covered and the bite was not good. Pete's Lake was producing some small perch and pike. Fishing slowed on Indian Lake after the cold spell.

**St. Mary's River:** Munuscong has slowed down. Very few walleye and perch have been caught.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Activity picked up some in Hessel Bay. Some days anglers are reporting good catches in 12 to 14 feet when using minnows. Musky Bay and Cedarville Bay were slow.

**Brevoort Lake:** Was producing a fair to good number of yellow perch for those using minnows or cut bait in 10 to 12 feet.

January 29, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Anglers are ice fishing statewide but safety should always be an angler's first concern. While the lakes and some rivers are iced over, anglers will still need to use caution on the deeper ones, where there are pressure cracks and where there is water flow under the ice. It is also a good idea to wear a flotation device; it could save your life!

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Be careful around the pressure cracks. Some perch have been caught in the marinas. A few walleye were caught on Swedish Pimples or jigging rapalas in 18 to 20 feet in Brest Bay but the better walleye fishing was in Ohio waters. Anglers are heading out about three miles off Camp Perry which is just north of Port Clinton and straight out from Crane Creek which is just south of Reno Beach and fishing out towards West Sister Reef.

**Detroit River:** Is frozen. The only fishing observed was some perch caught at the south end of Grosse Ile in Airport Bay.

**Lake St. Clair:** Perch fishing was spotty with success varying from day to day. Some of the bigger fish are still being taken by those spearing. Anglers are using quads and snowmobiles however use caution.

**St. Clair River:** Anglers are still catching steelhead and brown trout off the wall in Port Huron when ice flow allows. A few coho and whitefish were caught.

**Harbor Beach:** Had a couple shanties in the harbor however there was open water along the rock wall and a lot of pressure cracks.

**Port Austin:** Has more ice shanties popping up around the marina.

**Saginaw Bay:** Conservation Officers have reported some machines going through the ice. Anglers need to use caution as the ice was variable. A good number of walleye and a few perch were caught in 22 feet off Linwood. Caution: The ice was bad along the shore where people have parked and some vehicles did go through the ice.

A few pike were taken near the Hot Ponds but be careful out near Spoils Island because a truck went through the ice. A few perch were caught in six feet off Vanderbilt Park. Off Thomas Road, limits of walleye were caught about eight miles out. Sebawaing had little action and perch fishing off Geiger Road was poor. Lots of anglers perch fishing off Mud Creek but they had little success with maybe five to 10 fish per group of anglers. At Caseville, a big wide pressure crack off the end of the breakwall had opened up. It is very wide and heads south towards Sand Point. This is the area where anglers were targeting lake trout so those contemplating fishing at Caseville need to be extremely careful.

**Saginaw River:** Had a few dark spots in the ice so be careful. Walleye fishing was slow north and south of the Zilwaukee Bridge and off Wickes Park. Catch rates were fair near the Airport where a few keepers were reported. Those fishing near the Boys and Girls Club in Bay City caught a few when jigging rapalas. Hot colors were perch, fire-tiger or blue and silver. Bay City to the mouth was slow.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

The recent warm weather melted some of the snow and has allowed for better ice on most lakes. Anglers should still use caution around inlets and outlets and on deeper lakes that take longer to form safe ice. Bluegill fishing slowed but anglers were still catching fish in eight to 20 feet on most lakes. Try a smaller jig with a spike or wax worm just off the bottom.

**St. Joseph River:** Anglers are catching steelhead. Try the slow water and the deeper holes with plugs, spawn or wax worms.

**Gun Lake:** In Barry County is producing bluegill and crappie. For walleye, try night fishing east of Murphy's Point.

**Kalamazoo River:** Continues to produce steelhead for those braving the cold weather. Come prepared as the boat launches will be slippery. Those fishing below the dam should try plugs, spawn or a jig and wax worm.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Steelhead continue to be taken. Typical winter conditions exist, so be prepared for slippery trails and boat launches. Anglers fishing plugs, back bouncing spawn, and bobber fishing with a jig and wax worm did best.

**Lake Lansing:** Is producing some pike. While many are small a few keepers have also been caught. For bluegill and crappie, target the weed beds in five to 10 feet.

**Muskegon Lake:** Is producing perch in 35 to 40 feet near the channel and off the Sand Docks. Always use extreme caution near the channel. Bluegill and some crappie were caught off the Yacht Club. Pike have been caught on tip-ups with sucker minnows but those spearing have also taken some nice fish.

**Muskegon River:** Catch rates for steelhead and brown trout improved with the small spike in temperature. With another cold snap on the way, try fishing the slow water and the deeper holes.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Grand Lake:** Had good walleye and perch fishing during the warm spell. Try Whiskey Bay or the reefs along the north end. Pike were caught by those using tip-ups or spearing.

**Long Lake:** Had good walleye and perch fishing. For walleye, many fish the east end "Narrows" at night. A few pike have also been caught.

**Thunder Bay River:** Has ice anglers on the river and in the boat harbor targeting perch, walleye and pike.

**Hubbard Lake:** Is producing walleye and a few perch. For walleye, try after dark.

**Au Sable River:** Fishing for steelhead on the lower river was pretty good though angling pressure was very low. The river was pretty much ice-free and a good number of fish have already moved in from the lake. Anglers drifting spawn at Foote Dam are hooking some fish and those downstream are finding fish in typical, winter holding areas where the water is of moderate depth and slow. Hardware is working along with flies downstream.

**Higgins Lake:** Perch fishing slowed along the north end so anglers were going out deeper to 60 feet. Perch anglers are fishing around the Sunken Island and the Main Island in 20 to 50 feet. Lake trout anglers are fishing along the drop-off in 80 to 110 feet with blues and golden shiners just off the bottom. Some are using tip-ups while others are jigging Swedish Pimples. Rainbow trout were hitting on wigglers in shallow water about a foot deep near Big Creek and the Conference Center. A few pike were taken on sucker minnows or golden shiners in 40 to 50 feet.

**Houghton Lake:** Had good fishing but the return of cold weather will once again slow the bite. The North Bay is starting to freeze but the ice was thin and the East Bay still has areas that are not safe because of moving water in the area. Walleye anglers did well throughout the night in 10 to 12 feet. Bluegills were caught near the bottom in 12 to 16 feet.

**Lake St. Helen:** Those using tip-ups are taking a good number of pike and some walleye. Crappie action was best in the evening. Some found bluegills above the weed beds in four to six feet. A few lucky anglers caught the occasional 12 inch perch however very few were taken.

**Tawas:** Had good walleye fishing in 18 to 20 feet. Evenings were best and some limit catches were reported. Perch were slower. Anglers were generally fishing in 15 feet and sorting out the small ones. No report on pike spearing.

**Au Gres:** Walleye and whitefish were caught in 10 feet off Booth Road. Try spoons or jigging rapalas tipped with minnows. Those heading out from Pine River and Palmer Road caught some walleye in 18 feet however ice conditions are variable and anglers need to use caution especially around the pressure cracks. Some fishing in 10 feet for perch caught the occasional walleye in the early morning. Perch anglers are doing a lot of sorting.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice fishing is in full force. Depending on what lake, anglers are getting crappie, pike walleye and some decent perch. Steelhead fishing is doable and there are fish in the rivers although few anglers are going.

**Lake Charlevoix:** Had a large pressure crack forming around the drop-off at 95 feet.

**Lake Cadillac:** Pike fishing continues to be good for both spear and tip-up anglers. Some caught a few walleye and a couple decent size perch. The bluegill and crappie bite was slow.

**Lake Mitchell:** Is producing bluegill, crappie, perch, and pike. For perch, try moving around to find a school of active fish. With fish looking at the bait then moving on, try light line and a very small teardrop.

**Lake Missaukee:** Was producing some nice panfish.

**Manistee River:** Steelhead fishing is doable but few anglers have been out. This is a good time of year to get away from the crowded lakes and fish the river.

**Hamlin Lake:** Was giving up a fair number of panfish including bluegill, crappie and perch.

**Pere Marquette River:** Catch rates for steelhead increased with the warmer weather but once again colder temperatures will slow the bite.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Gogebic:** Had about 12 inches of new snow and the occasional slush pocket. Walleye and perch have been caught in 22 to 27 feet by those jigging or using tip-ups with wigglers, perch minnows or sucker minnows. For walleye at night, target seven to 12 feet. A good number of pike have been caught on large minnows.

**Menominee River:** The ice below the dam got smaller during the warm spell but walleye anglers were still present. Those jigging rapalas tipped with minnows or a minnow head were catching fish in the early morning or evenings.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Ice conditions remain about the same but ice in the southern Bay is still considered DANGEROUS throughout the shipping channel. Walleye anglers reported spotty catches throughout the northern Bay. The better fishing was around Gladstone and out from the Terrace Bay Inn when using rapalas and minnows in 30 to 34 feet. Similar results were reported near the Escanaba Power Plant in 28 to 35 feet. Perch anglers had fair catches when using wigglers, minnows or spikes in and around 17 feet straight out from the first Masonville access gate and just off the southwest end of Butler Island in six to 12 feet. Several jumbo perch were reported. Whitefish anglers had fair to good catches at Gladstone with minnows or spawn in 35 feet. Some were starting to target whitefish off Sandpoint in Escanaba however this area should be considered DANGEROUS and extreme caution needs to be used. Pike spearing was better in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor in 6 to 10 feet and around Butler Island in six to 12 feet. Anglers say live decoys work best.

**St. Mary's River:** Catch rates were still slow in Munuscong Bay. Those out for walleye and perch caught a limited number of fish.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Catch rates in Hessel Bay continue to improve with anglers reporting good catches in 12 to 14 feet on certain days. Try minnows or wax worms. Musky Bay is producing a large number of small pike in 10 to 13 feet. Cedarville Bay was slow.

February 5, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The 2014 Fisheries Division Annual Report is now available online. This report provides a way for citizens to learn about the state's fisheries and the work our staff completed during the Fiscal Year 2014. Click here to view the report:  
<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-345704--,00.html>

The 2015 lake sturgeon fishing and spearing season on Black Lake (Cheboygan County) will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 7.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Monroe County:** Had fair to good action for panfish at the marinas adjoining Lake Erie.

**Washtenaw County:** Ford Lake is producing some white bass. Whitmore Lake was good for crappie and pike. On Independence Lake, anglers caught bluegill and pike.

**Detroit River:** A few perch were caught however anglers report slow fishing.

**Oakland County:** A few perch were caught in the inland lakes. Those fishing Pontiac Lake did catch some pike.

**Lake St. Clair:** Perch fishing in the US waters has been spotty. The best reports came from Metro Beach and Geno's in less than five feet of water. The storm deposited a lot of snow and the strong winds created large drifts on the lake. Anglers should expect slushy conditions that could make it difficult for quads.

**St. Clair River:** Flow ice has been a reoccurring problem for those fishing along the wall. Steelhead, brown trout and coho have been caught when conditions allow. Some did well with large shiners.

**Harbor Beach:** Ice conditions were extremely variable so anglers need to use extra caution. Catch rates were on the slow side.

**Saginaw Bay:** Changing ice conditions are putting anglers at risk. The winds have caused the ice to move and have created several areas of open water on both sides of the bay. Those riding machines need to be extremely careful and make sure you can see what is ahead of you especially during the periods of low light. Snowmobilers have run into open water and had to be rescued from the Hot Pond Channel and about two miles off Linwood. **CAUTION NEEDS TO BE USED.** Perch fishing was hit-or-miss off Newman Road and Townline Road. Walleye were taken about three miles off Linwood however you need to avoid the open water about two miles out. Walleye were caught about three miles off the Bay City State Recreation Area however there is a bad pressure crack out there. On the east side, they did pretty well for perch between Vanderbilt Park and Tietz Drain early in the week but it tapered off. Walleye anglers on the east side were three to eight miles west of Thomas Road and eight miles north of Callahan Road. Perch fishing was spotty at Geiger Road and Mud Creek. Walleye anglers were heading out from Geiger Road and fishing the Slot in the evening. Walleye anglers going out beyond North Island need to use caution due to a large pressure crack in the area. Those fishing the marina at Sebawaing and Caseville did not do so well.

**Saginaw River:** Catch rates slowed along the river. Many of the walleye were small but a few keepers were reported. Those with fish finders and cameras say the fish are down there but it seems they do not want to bite. Fish were caught around the mouth but again success rates were hit-or-miss.

**Genesee County:** Panfish are being caught at Holloway Reservoir but no large numbers. Some crappie were starting to bite in the evening on Potter Lake. Lake Fenton was hit-or-miss with limit catches one day and no fish caught the next.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Access sites and boat launches will create challenges as most of the area received between 12 and 20 inches of snow. Travel on the inland lakes will also be a challenge in the deep snow and slush. Bluegill fishing was a bit slower but some anglers managed to catch 10 to 15 per trip. Wax worms and spikes are best on smaller jigs.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead fishing is still going on; however, the snow and cold weather will make it more difficult for boats to get out.

**Gun Lake:** In Barry County is producing bluegill and crappie however the bite slowed with the colder weather. Some nice pike were caught recently.

**Kalamazoo River:** Steelhead are still in the river. Fish the deeper holes and the slow water while using a slow presentation until it warms back up.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Has shelf ice starting to form along the banks. Few anglers have been out as the cold water temperatures have slowed catch rates.

**Lake Lansing:** Those using tip-ups for pike have caught fish. Though many are small anglers are still getting the occasional keeper.

**Muskrat Lake:** Is producing some bluegills. Deep snow will make travel across the ice more difficult.

**Muskegon River:** Continues to produce steelhead for those fly fishing below Croton Dam. Egg patterns worked best. Brown trout were also caught.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Black Lake:** The 2015 lake sturgeon fishing and spearing season will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 7. All anglers must register with the DNR to participate and must also possess a lake sturgeon tag, which can be obtained for free at any license vendor.

**Grand Lake:** Had good perch and walleye fishing.

**Thunder Bay River:** Ice anglers were still targeting walleye, pike and perch.

**Higgins Lake:** Had some snow but the ice was clean further out. Perch fishing was good in 50 to 60 feet with wax worms, wigglers and minnows. Rainbow trout were caught in shallow waters with wigglers. More anglers are targeting lake trout in 80 to 110 feet.

**Houghton Lake:** Anglers still need to use caution in the East Bay where there is usually open water. In the North Bay, it has frozen off Long Point but extreme caution needs to be used. Fishing was a bit slower. Walleye anglers did best at night. The pike were less active but the perch and bluegills were starting to hit.

**Tawas:** Perch fishing was really slow right along with the walleye bite. Anglers are going out to 20 feet and getting a few, but no limits. Those spearing pike also reported slower catch rates.

**Au Gres:** Most of the action was off Booth Road along the drop-off but some were going south to the Catfish Hole which is off White's Beach. Perch fishing was fair off Palmer Road. Try eight to 10 feet for perch or 12 to 20 feet for walleye. The perch were hitting between dawn and 11 a.m. while the better walleye fishing was early or late.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Kalkaska County:** Bear Lake has been producing brown trout up to 24 inches. Starvation Lake reported good trout fishing and some say the best in years for

rainbow and brown trout. Manistee Lake is slower this year but some are still targeting walleye. Those putting in the time are taking one or two fish per night.

**Green Lake:** In Grand Traverse County was producing a few smelt. Most anglers can be found off the Music Camp.

**Portage Lake:** Was giving up some perch and panfish.

**Lake Cadillac:** Pike are still actively hitting but the cold front will once again slow the bite for bluegills, walleye and crappie.

**Lake Missaukee:** Had some catches of pike and crappie. Walleye fishing slowed.

**Manistee Lake:** Was producing some limit catches of yellow perch. A couple steelhead were taken through the ice.

**Manistee River:** Steelhead are in the river however few anglers were out targeting them. Shelf ice could make fishing a little more difficult. Those fishing below Tippy Dam have caught fish.

**Hamlin Lake:** Anglers are catching perch and panfish.

**Haymarsh Lake:** In Mecosta County had reports of good bluegill action.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Gogebic:** Was producing perch and a lot of 14-inch walleye.

**Menominee River:** Is still producing walleye near the Hattie Street Dam but the lack of ice is making fishing a little more difficult.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had fair to good walleye fishing with the better catches coming from Gladstone south to the Escanaba shipping docks. In Gladstone, anglers jigging rapalas with minnows in 30 to 35 feet reported some limit catches. Fish were caught just south of the Escanaba River in 30 feet. Several reported fair to good perch catches in the same area when using minnows in 28 to 32 feet. Fair to good catches with minnows or wigglers in 20 to 30 feet off Gladstone Beach. Kipling had a high number of small fish but some jumbo perch were also caught in 17 to 30 feet. Whitefish anglers reported fair catches off Sand Point when jigging minnows or spawn in 78 to 85 feet. **Anglers need to use EXTREME CAUTION in this area and do not cross the shipping lane.** Northern pike anglers caught mostly sub-legal fish on tip-ups near the Escanaba docks. Travel on the Bay was good with just enough snow. The ice south of Aronson Island is still considered **DANGEROUS** even though some were fishing out there.

**Au Train Lake:** Is producing a few perch and pike.

**Indian Lake:** Catch rates were spotty but some managed to catch a few nice perch and the occasional walleye or pike.

**Manistique Lakes:** Had very thick ice but the fishing has slowed. A few anglers did have some luck for walleye and perch.

**St. Mary's River:** Had quite a few anglers out on Munuscong Bay however walleye and perch reports were limited. Most anglers were fishing four to six feet but the larger walleye came from waters 20 to 25 feet.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Catch rates for perch were fair in Hessel Bay but some nice fish have been caught. Try 10 to 14 feet with minnows and wax worms. Musky Bay has a lot of small pike along with a fair number of perch. Try 10 to 12 feet with wigglers.

**Brevoort Lake:** Is still producing some yellow perch for those jigging. A few pike were still hitting on tip-ups.

February 12, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It's here! Michigan's annual "Winter Free Fishing Weekend" will be held this Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>. No fishing license is required however all regulations still apply. This is a great time to introduce someone new to the world of ice fishing. Special events will be held statewide. For a list of registered events, click here: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364\\_52261\\_50497-343251--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52261_50497-343251--,00.html)

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Anglers caught walleye in Brest Bay but once the traffic picks up, the fish scatter. Most anglers are heading to Ohio waters where catch rates were good. Those fishing the Metro Park Marina have caught bluegill and perch while Lake Point Marina which is just south of Metro was producing bluegill, perch and the occasional steelhead.

**Detroit River:** Perch anglers putting in their time have taken some fish in Airport Bay and south of Stony Island. Those fishing the canals around Gibraltar have caught perch but most of the fish were on the small side.

**Lake St. Clair:** Heavy snow and slushy conditions hampered travel on the ice but colder weather this week should help improve conditions. Fishing success has been spotty. Perch fishing has been slow with mostly small fish caught. Pike spearing has been good in the area near the Spillway which is just south of Metro Beach.

**St. Clair River:** Is producing the occasional steelhead, brown trout and a couple small salmon for those fishing along the wall at Port Huron. Flow ice continues to affect fishing when winds are out of the north or east.

**Saginaw Bay:** Still has some pressure cracks around the Bay. Anglers will need to use caution and be sure to watch where they are going; especially in the dark. Walleye were caught off White's Beach but watch the ice out there. The fish were caught just short of the pressure crack in eight to 10 feet.

Those fishing off Pinconning, Newman Road and Townline Road caught a few perch in the early morning and walleye after dark. Off Erickson Road, a few walleye were taken in the Black Hole but use caution out there. Walleye anglers found fish between one and one and a half miles off the Bay City State Park. Walleye were hitting off the mouth of the river along the Shipping Channel. Some went north eight to 10 miles off Finn Road and reported limit catches. Look for perch off Vanderbilt Park and up towards Tietz Drain. Fish very early morning before everyone else gets there. Walleye anglers heading three to four miles out from Sunset Bay and Thomas Road and fishing the middle of the Slot did well. Nothing at the Hot Ponds and if your ice fishing; stay clear of the channel. Perch fishing at Mud Creek and Geiger Road was spotty but a few nice catches were reported when it warmed up. Most fish were six to eight inches with a few up to 10. Walleye anglers fishing the Slot between Fish Point and the islands were heading out very late in the evening.

**Saginaw River:** From Wickes Park downstream past the Zilwaukee Bridge was slow and spotty with lots of smaller fish caught for every keeper. Most are using silver and blue or fire-tiger jiggging rapalas. During the warm spell, anglers did well in the area off M-13, Veteran's Park and James Clements Airport. A few walleye were taken near the Appledore in Bay City but the action was slow from the Independence Bridge downstream to the mouth.

**Tittabawassee River:** Is currently not fishable.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Most lakes in the region had clear ice with about a foot of slush and snow. Colder weather this week should help freeze the slush which will make travel much easier. Anglers can still find a fair to good number of bluegill. Try small jigs tipped with a spike or wax worm in 10 to 25 feet in the early morning or evening. Northern pike are becoming more active. Try tip-ups with large minnows set up along the edge of the weed beds.

**St. Joseph River:** Has a fair number of steelhead but the snow and cold weather have made it difficult for boat and shore anglers.

**Kalamazoo River:** For steelhead, fish the deeper holes and the slow water until it warms back up.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Had shelf ice along the banks. Those braving the cold might find a steelhead or walleye near the Sixth Street Dam. Those fishing the backwaters need to be extremely careful on the ice.

**Lake Lansing:** The pike are on the move so those using tip-ups with sucker minnows should catch some fish along the weed beds.

**Morrison Lake:** Is producing bluegill and crappie along the east end of the lake.

**Muskegon Lake:** Was producing some perch near the Sand Docks. Bluegills were deeper in 10 to 12 feet. Some have caught crappie.

**Muskegon River:** Access sites are icy as the slush has frozen once again. Catch rates were hit-or-miss for those steelhead fishing. Water temperatures were extremely cold.

**White Lake:** Anglers were taking bluegills. Try a white jig with a minnow or spike. For perch, try off Sylvan Beach or Long Point.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Mullett Lake:** Was producing some perch and the occasional walleye. Large lakes can be difficult to fish so anglers may want to try off the State Park.

**Burt Lake:** Anglers will find walleye and perch. Try 20 to 30 feet in Maple Bay or along the south end of the lake.

**Grand Lake:** Was producing some nice perch and the occasional walleye.

**Higgins Lake:** Rainbow trout are still hitting on wigglers in shallow waters off Big Creek. For perch, try minnows, wigglers or wax worms off Flag Point and Gerrish Park which is located on the northeast corner of the lake. For perch around the Main Island try 40 to 60 feet, the Sunken Island 20 to 50 feet or straight out from Big Creek in 40 to 60 feet. Lake trout were taken on tip-ups with blues or golden shiners in 80 to 110 feet. Northern pike were also hitting on tip-ups with sucker minnows along the drop-offs in 30 to 50 feet. No word on whitefish or smelt.

**Houghton Lake:** Anglers have caught walleye and some nice crappie. Bluegills were starting to hit out deeper in 10 to 12 feet.

**Tawas:** Some perch were taken in 18 to 20 feet from Tawas Bay. Walleye fishing slowed but a few were taken in 20 to 22 feet. A couple lake trout were also caught.

**Au Gres:** Most of the fishing activity was off Booth Road or Santiago Road. Anglers caught some walleye right along with the occasional lake trout or whitefish in 10 to 20 feet. Perch fishing was slow off Pine River and Palmer Road but the walleye anglers did well before the arrival of arctic air.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Ice fishing is the rule in this area! Conditions are good for the upcoming weekend however a drop in temperatures will slow the bite. Steelhead fishing is possible in the Pere Marquette, Manistee, and Betsie River but few anglers have been out.

**Skegemog Lake:** Was producing some bluegills. Perch anglers caught fish but there were moving around to locate them.

**Lake Leelanau:** Those fishing the south lake did catch some bluegills, a few walleye and even some rock bass. The better fishing is usually off the south shoreline.

**Green Lake:** In Grand Traverse County was still producing light numbers of smelt. For pike, try using tip-ups off the State Park. Some caught bluegill and perch but many were small.

**Portage Lake:** Near Onekama was producing some yellow perch. Pike were active and hitting on sucker minnows.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Are producing bluegill, perch and a few crappie for those using jigs with wax worms or spikes. Both lakes give up some nice pike for those using tip-ups.

**Lake Missaukee:** Has bluegill, crappie and perch for panfish anglers. For bluegills, try 10 to 12 feet on the east side of the lake. For walleye and crappie, fish the weed beds in the early morning or late evening. Pike anglers are spearing or using tip-ups.

**Hamlin Lake:** Anglers are catching bluegills, perch and a few walleye. Those using tip-ups or spearing are taking a few pike.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Little Bay De Noc:** Travel on the Bay was good even after several inches of new snow. Walleye catches were down with anglers reporting fair catches at best between Gladstone Bay and the Terrace Bay Inn when using rapalas with minnows in 25 to 35 feet or around the shipping docks in Escanaba when jigging or using tip-ups with sucker minnows in 28 to 35 feet. Some nice pike were also taken. Anglers were walleye fishing between Aronson Island and Portage Point but this area is considered DANGEROUS! Perch fishing was fair at Kipling with wigglers and minnows in 17 to 24 feet and south near the ship docks in 30 feet. Fewer fish were caught but some did manage to find jumbo perch. Whitefish anglers had fair catches off Sand Point when jigging minnows in 80 to 90 feet. A good number of rock bass were caught by perch anglers near Kipling. Ice conditions overall were good but anyone fishing south of the Escanaba ship docks need to use EXTREME CAUTION when venturing out.

**Munising:** Had a fair number of anglers fishing the Bay. With six to 12 inches of snow on the ice, walking was a little more difficult. Catch rates were between poor and fair with most fishing in 40 to 60 feet. Some legal size splake up to 20 inches were caught. Whitefish reports slowed but anglers were still keeping up to six fish ranging 10 to 13 inches. Try a single hook with one egg or wax worm. Bigger whitefish were reported on the west side of the Bay. No reports on coho or smelt. Those in the spearing shacks had fair action for herring in the early morning. Burbot were also caught. Trout Bay had fishable ice and catch rates were fair to good for coho.

**St. Mary's River:** Munuscong Bay was very slow for walleye and perch. There are a few pockets and when anglers locate them, harvest rates increased. Try jigs with minnows in four to seven feet. Recent snow caused drifting and numerous vehicles became stuck. If driving on the ice, anglers need to use caution.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Anglers fishing Musky Bay are catching limited perch and undersized pike in 12 to 14 feet. Hessel Bay is seeing the most action for perch, and harvest numbers keep improving! Fish 10 to 12 feet with a white jig with wigglers or wax worms.

February 19, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Fishing has been a bust with the arctic temperatures and it looks like we're facing another week of the same kind of weather. Very few anglers have been out so updates for this week are limited. A warm-up on Saturday may be the best chance to get out and fish. Anglers are reminded that ice shanties on Lake St. Clair must be removed by sunset on Sunday, February 22.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Only a few perch were caught in the Metro Park Marina. Walleye anglers have done well in Ohio waters. Many are heading out from Crane Creek and fishing out near West Sister Island. Those staying in Michigan waters have caught fish in Brest Bay but the action was still hit-or-miss. Anglers need to pay close attention to wind direction because a west wind can break the ice up quickly.

**Detroit River:** Had very few anglers except for the few that were perch fishing in Airport Bay.

**Washtenaw County:** Whitmore Lake was producing small perch and a few pike. Anglers on Ford Lake are catching panfish and white bass. Lake Independence was giving up some pike and bluegills.

**Lake St. Clair:** Severe cold and drifted snow has hampered fishing activity. Perch fishing was slow but some were caught off the Fair Haven access site. The crappie bite was good with fish ranging 11 to 14 inches.

**St. Clair River:** Continues to produce some trout and salmon when conditions allow for shore fishing.

**Saginaw Bay:** Before the storm and arctic temperatures, some nice catches of big perch were taken very early in the morning off Vanderbilt Park in six to eight feet. Some fish measured 12 to 14 inches. Walleye were taken north of Spoils Island. A lot more pressure cracks developed along the west side especially from Pinconning south to Erickson Road so be careful out there! Some anglers are still heading out seven to eight miles but fishing has just not been that good.

Perch anglers from the Sebewaing area were going down to Quanicassee to fish Vanderbilt Park. At Mud Creek, fishing pressure was light and perch catches were averaging six to eight fish per angler if they kept any. Pike spearing on the east side of the bay is really slow this winter. A few lake trout were caught in the Caseville area.

**Saginaw River:** Fishing on the river was uniformly slow from the mouth all the way through Saginaw. Those using underwater cameras off Wickes Park in Saginaw could see walleye however they either ignored the bait or followed it briefly then swam away. While the fish are in no mood to bite, try this weekend as the warmer weather may entice them.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Fishing has slowed including the bluegill, crappie and yellow perch bite. Anglers fishing deeper water with small and light tackle are doing best.

The Grand, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph River have a lot of shelf ice making it more difficult for those targeting steelhead from a boat.

**Gull Lake:** Was giving up some smelt for those fishing at night. Bluegills were slow but a few were caught. Pike were taken on tip-ups or when spearing.

**Lake Lansing:** Had some crappie starting to hit once again. Best time to fish is very early morning or late afternoon until about 10pm.

**Morrison Lake:** Has bluegill and crappie however getting them to bite has not been easy. Anything big and bright seems to spook the fish so try suspending very small ice flies.

**Jordan Lake:** In Barry County was producing bluegill, crappie and even some perch.

**Muskegon River:** Access sites will be a challenge under current conditions and steelhead fishing will not be easy with the cold water temperatures.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Burt Lake:** Had fewer anglers than usual for this time of year. Those braving the cold usually target walleye along the south end or in Maple Bay.

**Otsego Lake:** Anglers reported occasional catches of pike and walleye.

**East Twin Lake:** In Montmorency County was producing sub-legal walleye.

**Fletchers Pond:** Was giving up some pike and a fair number of bluegill, crappie and yellow perch.

**Higgins Lake:** Was still producing some rainbow trout in shallow waters near Big Creek and the Conference Center. Wigglers work best. Some managed to find a few perch around the Main Island and the Sunken Island when using wax worms, wigglers or minnows. Lake trout can be found in 80 to 90 feet when using blues or golden shiners. Pike anglers are using suckers.

**Houghton Lake:** Is iced over however anglers on the south east end should stay away from Denton Creek because there is always open water in that area. Anglers are getting bluegills in 10 to 12 feet. Walleye anglers are getting some keepers when using Do-Jiggers along the north shore.

**Lake St. Helen:** Was still producing some pike but everything else was slow. Few anglers have been out because of the weather. Not much snow on the ice however the ice is a bit bumpy at this time.

**Tawas:** Fishing was between slow and non-existent due to weather conditions. A few walleye and small perch were caught in 22 feet off Jerry's Marina.

**Au Gres:** Anglers were not able to head out from Booth Road because of problems with snow drifts. Access is still possible off Santiago Road where a few walleye were caught in 20 feet. A few walleye and a couple nice perch were taken off Palmer Road in 10 feet. Rumor has it some nice catches of perch were taken off White's Beach.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Traverse City:** The East Bay had a few portable shanties out. The West Bay had ice but there is still open water as well. Anglers need to use caution as they venture out. Anglers caught a few whitefish and burbot.

**Green Lake:** Those targeting smelt were out after dark. Pike were caught on tip-ups when the weather allowed. The bluegill and perch bite were slow.

**Portage Lake:** Was still giving up some yellow perch when anglers can find a school of fish. Pike were active and hitting on sucker minnows.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Did produce some perch and crappie for those braving the cold. Try very small flies or very small jigs with wax worms or spikes.

**Lake Missaukee:** Anglers caught crappie and bluegill and some were lucky enough to take a northern pike 30 inches or more. Walleye fishing was slow.

**Manistee River:** Those braving the cold and putting in the time have caught steelhead. The water is cold so use a slow presentation in the deeper holes. Fishing should be good by the weekend.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Catch rates were slow but those targeting smelt did good when fishing at night between Baraga and Bucks Marina. Those fishing out from the Falls River, Perch Corner in L'Anse and off Sand Point picked up a few lake herring, coho, splake and the occasional brown trout. The Whitefish Hole east of the Baraga Marina was slow over the last week. A few lake trout were taken out from Jentoft's Dock, the Whirl-L-Gig, Old Mission and off Pequaming.

**Menominee River:** Walleye anglers fishing near the Hattie Street Dam had success when jigging rapalas or small spoons tipped with a minnow head in the very early morning or late evening.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had low angler participation with the cold weather. Snowfall and drifting made travel a bit more difficult in some areas. Walleye anglers reported fair catches at best with no one area better than another. Most were jigging rapalas with minnows in 23 to 35 feet. Perch anglers had similar results when using minnows or wigglers in 10 to 30 feet. Several jumbo perch were reported near the ship docks in Escanaba when using minnows in and around 30 feet. Whitefish anglers reported fair catches with minnows or spawn in 80 to 90 feet off Sand Point.

**St. Mary's River:** Had no change from last week. Those fishing Munuscong Bay reported slow catch rates for walleye and perch.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Those fishing Musky Bay are catching perch and undersized pike in 10 to 13 feet. Little Joe Island was producing some nice fish in four to six feet. Hessel Bay is seeing the most action for perch and catch rates just keep improving. Try 10 to 12 feet with wigglers, wax worms or minnows.

February 26, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Fishing reports have been hard to come by as snow, blowing snow and bitterly cold temperatures are not making it easy for anglers to get out. Those with ice shanties placed upon waters in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula are reminded that all shanties must be removed from the ice by midnight on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** The Metro Park Marina was spotty for perch. Those fishing Brest Bay for walleye had slow to fair catch rates. Anglers need to use caution out past Stony Point. The wind blew the ice out a couple weeks ago and it has just started to refreeze. Do not go east beyond the Point. Walleye anglers are still targeting Ohio waters.

**Detroit River:** Had slower perch fishing in Airport Bay however a couple anglers did manage to catch a few nice ones.

**Lake St. Clair:** Bitter cold and drifting snow has cut fishing activity. Snowmobiles had no trouble getting around, but quads have gotten stuck on occasion. Those walking and pulling shanties have found travel easiest by sticking to trails broken by snowmobiles. Fishing was slow overall but an occasional good catch of perch has been reported. The area near Metro Beach, Geno's, and Crocker Road seems to be better than the northern areas of the lake. Anglers are reminded that Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup> is the last day of perch spearing. Northern pike spearing is open through March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**St. Clair River:** Those fishing along the wall in Port Huron are still catching the occasional coho, steelhead or brown trout although flow ice is a problem some days. Large shiners have worked best.

**Saginaw Bay:** Walleye and perch were caught off White's Beach. The walleye anglers were going about 5 miles out while the perch anglers were heading north towards Palmer Road. Some perch were caught in 6 to 8 feet off Newman Road and Townline Road. They had to do a lot of sorting but a few keepers were mixed in. Anglers were heading out about 5 miles off Erickson Road and fishing in 18 to 20 feet. The hot ticket was a Wonderbread spoon tipped with a minnow head.

At Linwood, they were heading out 3 to 4 miles and fishing in 18 feet however watch out for the first pressure crack which is very active and about 4 feet wide. Walleye were caught in the evening about 4 miles off the Bay City State Park, in 14 feet northeast of Spoils Island, and 6 to 7 miles north of Finn Road. Vanderbilt Park is still the best spot for perch with some fish measuring up to 14 inches. A few even reported limit or near limit catches. For the best success, fish early to mid-week and get out there very early in the morning. Those fishing out of Sunset Bay and off Thomas Road are going all the way out to Buoys 1 & 2 which is 12 miles out and there are all kinds of pressure cracks out there. Fishing pressure from Sebewaing to Caseville was slow. A few walleye anglers were fishing the Slot from Fish Point up to the islands. For those wanting to fish close to shore, some lake trout were caught near the pier at Caseville.

**Saginaw River:** Has been slow from one end to the other. A few nice perch were caught near the Cement Plant in Essexville in the evening. Walleye anglers were fishing off Wickes Park but catch rates were slow.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Fishing continues to be slow when the temperature drops. Warmer weather by the weekend should help increase the bite for bluegills, crappie and perch. Stick with the small tackle and deeper water until temperatures rebound.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead anglers braving the cold have found fish holding in the deeper holes.

**Kalamazoo River:** Boat anglers have caught a couple steelhead below the Allegan Dam. Try small flies or crank baits. Boat launches will be icy.

**Gull Lake:** Anglers found a few perch along the southeast end near Island Park. Try 20 to 30 feet with minnows or wigglers. Those targeting smelt were still taking fish in 50 to 70 feet after dark.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Is producing steelhead. Try a jig with small flies and spawn or very small spoons.

**Muskegon Lake:** Anglers have caught bluegill, crappie, walleye and a few perch. Be sure to watch for pressure cracks and stay clear of the shipping channel.

**Muskegon River:** Water temperatures were at or near the 32 degree mark. Catch rates for steelhead and brown trout will be hit-or-miss. The better bite will be during the warmest part of the day.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Fletchers Pond:** Pike anglers are still taking fish on tip-ups. Panfish are hitting on minnows, wax worms and spikes.

**Higgins Lake:** Has little snow but there are some drifts that anglers will need to watch out for. Travel was good for snowmobiles and ATV's. Even with the cold weather, a few perch were caught off the North State Park, B & B Marina and near Treasure Island and Sunken Island. Try 40 to 60 feet with minnows, wax worms or wigglers. Lake trout were hitting in 80 to 110 feet. Try blues, goldens or small suckers just off the bottom. Some nice rainbow trout up to 28 inches were caught in shallow waters near Big Creek.

**Houghton Lake:** While catch rates have not been steady, anglers are still getting a few walleye, pike and panfish. Bluegills were caught in 10 to 12 feet out near the Middle Grounds.

**Tawas:** Fishing was generally slow with only a few small perch taken in 18 feet and a couple walleye found in 22 feet.

**Au Gres:** Some were fishing the river and the end of the breakwall, but not really catching anything. Those fishing off Palmer Road were getting some walleyes and a few bigger perch in waters 10 to 22 feet deep.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Traverse City:** The East Bay has a large pressure crack that parallels Old Mission Peninsula. Those heading out have caught a few whitefish.

**Green Lake:** Is producing smelt after dark.

**Crystal Lake:** In Benzie County is also producing some smelt.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Had decent pike fishing along with some panfish.

**Manistee River:** The water is cold and clear. Those using spawn, jigs and flies are still catching fish as the river continues to hold a good number of steelhead.

**Ludington: Attention Anglers:** Commercial vessel traffic will utilize the port February 26 through March 5<sup>th</sup>. A tug boat will take the barge the Spartan II from Lake Michigan to the Port of Ludington utilizing the docks near the S.S. Badger. All ice anglers should remove their shanties and other equipment from these areas. Snowmobilers, ATV operators and other users of the ice should avoid the area.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is producing some nice steelhead and brown trout. As the days grow longer the fish tend to bite during the warmest part of the day. Try small jigs with flies or spawn.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Anglers should use caution when driving out on the bay. There are fields of pack ice which are sharp and sticking up and could damage ones ORV or ATV. Those lake trout fishing off Jentofts Dock, Whirl-I-Gig, Old Mission and Pequaming have picked up a few fish but overall catch rates were slow. Smelt fishing is still good around the bay.

**Sturgeon Bay:** Anglers need to be aware of ice breaking activities February 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. The vessel will enter the Ship Canal from Lake Michigan on its way to Bay Ship Building in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Recreational users of the ice should avoid the immediate area and use extra caution near it.

**Menominee River:** Ice anglers have been targeting walleye near the Hattie Street Dam. Early morning or late evening is usually best.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Still has ice fishing and travel conditions were good although some drifting has occurred. The cold weather has lowered angler participation and catch rates for all species. The best walleye catches were in Gladstone Bay when jigging rapalas with or without minnows in 28 to 35 feet very early morning or after dark. Those fishing around Portage Point caught fish however this area is considered DANGEROUS so anglers must use extreme caution at all times. Very few perch were kept as many were too small. The Center Reef and the Second Reef produced most of the catches when using wigglers or minnows in 8 to 24 feet. Several whitefish were caught on minnows in 30 to 35 feet in Gladstone Bay. The best whitefish action was off Sand Point near Escanaba when using a minnow or spawn in 80 to 90 feet. This cold February has started to take a toll on anglers. Many are no longer participating and several have removed their ice shanties.

**Munising:** Has good ice however deep snow cover and pockets of slush make walking difficult. Few anglers have been out been out. Reports indicate generally poor catch rates. Many are fishing in 40 to 70 feet and most of the splake were sub-legal with only a few ranging 16 to 20 inches. Try jigging lures, eggs and minnows. Whitefish reports continue to slow with anglers keeping very few fish in the 10 to 13 inch range after several hours of fishing. Try a single egg or wax worm on the bottom. Anglers reported marking schools of smelt within the bay. Those in the spearing shacks had poor to fair results for herring. Trout Bay has ice but fishing was limited by poor weather. Anglers caught a mix of coho, lake trout, herring and burbot.

**St. Mary's River:** Fishing in Munuscong Bay remains very slow; however those fishing the northwest end of the bay near Grassy Island may see some perch and walleye

**Cedarville and Hessel:** With the extreme cold weather, fishing has been slow for perch and pike. There is a lot of snow on the ice making travel difficult. A limited number of perch were caught in 22 feet in Government Bay.

March 5, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The 2015 licenses went on sale March 1. This gives anglers one month to purchase their new license before they are required to have one on April 1. The 2015 Fishing Guides are also available at all license vendors so be sure to ask for your copy!

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** A few perch are being caught in the Metro Park Marina. A couple walleye were taken in Brest Bay but some anglers are still heading out and fishing in Ohio waters. Those fishing the lagoons at Sterling State Park have taken a few panfish on wax worms.

**Detroit River:** A few perch were caught in Airport Bay and the canals around Gibraltar.

**Livingston County:** Northern pike have been caught in the shallows of Crooked Lake. A small number of bluegill and crappie were caught in Lake Chemung.

**Oakland County:** Those fishing Seven Lakes at the State Park have caught some bluegills and other panfish.

**Lake St. Clair:** Perch fishing reports have been spotty and most of the fish were small. Perch spearing season has closed, so anglers are now waiting for the bite to pick-up as things start to thaw out. Anglers are reminded that warming conditions will result in rapid loss of ice in areas with currents such as near the mouth of creeks and rivers. Use extreme caution as warmer weather starts to move in.

**St. Clair River:** Nearly all the river is jammed up with ice so there's very little fishing at this time. Some open water is still present at the Bluewater Bridge.

**Saginaw Bay:** Walleye fishing picked up a bit. It seems after a few weeks of lockjaw, the fish were finally hungry! Success was spotty though. If you were in the right place you caught a good number of fish but if not, you went home empty handed. Some of the better walleye action was along the west and south shore. Anglers did well off Erickson Road, Linwood Road, Boutell Road, Bay City State Park, Killarney Beach, the trailer park near the mouth of the Saginaw River, northeast of Spoils Island and in the Slot off Sunset Bay and Thomas Road. Vanderbilt Park remains the lone perch hot-spot for the entire bay. Catch rates were good in two to five feet very early in the morning. The perch bite is basically over by 10 a.m. There was little activity between Sebawaing and Caseville.

**Saginaw River:** Little has changed over the last month. Fishing for walleye was slow and sporadic at best. Those with cameras are seeing a lot of fish but they just will not bite. Warmer weather might just help. A couple fish were taken near the train bridge in Essexville when fishing the middle of the navigation channel. Those contemplating fishing this week might want to try the lower end at the Independence Bridge and downstream at dusk.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Fishing continues to be slow when the temperature drops. Warmer weather by the weekend should help increase the bite especially for bluegills, crappie and perch.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead should become more active as temperatures rise to the 30's and 40's over the next week.

**Gull Lake:** Was still producing some smelt for those fishing at night. Anglers are reminded that the possession limit is two gallons.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Anglers will need to watch for flow ice coming over the dam. Steelhead are hitting on jigs with wax worms or pink and chartreuse spawn bags. Walleye were caught downriver between Johnston Park and Fulton Street. Try bucktail jigs, white twister tails and body baits. Those fishing off the west side of Fulton Street were using ¾ ounce bucktail jigs and three inch paddle tails.

**Jackson County:** Anglers fishing the inland lakes indicated little success and the panfish were small.

**Clinton County:** Ice fishing activity has been slow with limited catches.

**Reeds Lake:** Pike were hitting on sucker minnows. Crappie were 10 to 15 feet down in 30 to 40 feet. Perch were caught off the bottom with wax worms, minnows or spikes.

**Muskegon River:** Has steelhead but catch rates were spotty. Look for bite to improve over the next week.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Higgins Lake:** Had good perch fishing off the North State Park, B & B Marina, near the Sunken Island, Treasure Island and off Flag Point in waters up to 70 feet deep. Lake trout fishing was good in 80 to 120 feet with some limit catches reported. Rainbow trout are still hitting in the shallows off Big Creek. A couple smelt reports have come in for those fishing at night. Not many but a few were caught off Big Creek in 40 to 50 feet and south of the west side boat ramp off Birch Lodge in 50 feet.

**Houghton Lake:** While fishing has been slow anglers are still picking up some crappie along with a few perch and the occasional walleye. The better bite has been very early morning or late afternoon into the evening. Some bluegills were also caught.

**Lake St. Helen:** Had a good crappie bite for those using wax worms, mousies or minnows. Fish were caught all day however the better bite was from late afternoon until dark. Some bluegills were also caught and the pike action was still good.

**Tawas:** Perch fishing was slow with a lot of sorting and few keepers coming from 15 to 18 feet off Jerry's Marina. Only a few walleye and a couple lake trout were caught in 20 to 22 feet. Ice anglers fishing outside the rock wall caught a couple lake trout. Those spearing managed to take a couple pike.

**Au Gres:** Some walleye were caught straight off the mouth of the river in 12 to 22 feet. Booth Road and Santiago Road had light walleye activity but more anglers were fishing off Palmer Road where some limit catches were taken in five to 20 feet. These anglers were also getting two or three nice perch when targeting walleye.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Not a whole lot to report this week. Pike fishing remains good but not much to report on panfish or walleye. There is interest in steelhead fishing however there is a lot of ice covering the streams right now.

**Traverse City:** Has plenty of ice and pressure cracks. Bring a spud and be careful. Cisco were hitting big spoons like a Swedish pimple. The fish are suspended in 50 to 70 feet. A good number of lake trout have been caught off the bottom in 100 to 125 feet with jigging spoons. Whitefish and burbot were also caught.

**Bear Lake:** In Kalkaska County is producing rainbow and brown trout.

**Starvation Lake:** Is also producing some rainbows and brown trout.

**Green Lake:** Has smelt for those fishing after dark. For northern pike, try tip-ups along the shallows off the State Park.

**Crystal Lake:** In Benzie County is producing some smelt and burbot.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Tip-ups and pike fishing go hand-in-hand on both lakes and a good number of fish have been caught. The crappie bite was fair to good and a few perch were taken. Try a very small jig with minnows, wax worms, or spikes.

**Ludington:** Commercial vessel traffic will utilize the port through March 5. A tug boat will taking a barge into port and utilizing the docks near the S.S. Badger. All ice anglers, snowmobilers, ATV operators and other users of the ice should avoid the area.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Fishing has slowed once again. Anglers are hoping catch rates will improve with warmer temperatures. A few coho and splake were caught out from the Falls River. A couple lake trout were taken in 60 to 150 feet off Old Mission. Smelt fishing was slow.

**Menominee River:** Walleye are still being caught at the Hattie Street Dam. Anglers are using jigs and minnows.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Travel on the bay is good although some vehicles have gotten stuck in snow drifts. Walleye anglers had little to report. The better fishing was 20 to 30 feet at the Center Reef and along the "Hump" off Gladstone in 28 to 35 feet with rapalas and minnows. Those fishing around the shipping docks in Escanaba were using rapalas or tip-ups with minnows in 30 to 35 feet. Those thinking about fishing down near the Ford River need to use extreme caution. For perch, reports show fewer than a dozen fish taken in 10 to 27 feet near the Second and Center Reefs. No whitefish to report.

**Indian Lake:** Anglers caught very few walleye or perch.

**Munising:** Snow cover on top of the ice remains substantial though walking conditions improved some with the snow settling. Deep slush pockets may still be present especially around the shoreline. Reports from around the bay indicate poor to fair catch results on a mixed bag of fish. Most are fishing 40 to 70 feet. The splake were small but a few keepers ranging 16 to 20 inches were caught on jigging lures, eggs and minnows. Whitefish reports were slow. Try a single egg or wax worm on the bottom. Anglers are marking schools of smelt within the bay and a couple catches were reported. A few coho have started to trickle in. Those spearing had poor to fair results for herring. Trout Bay had fair to good catch rates for coho, lake trout, herring and burbot.

**St. Mary's River:** No change from last week. Catch rates remain slow for perch and walleye.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** No change from last week. Deep snow makes for difficult travel on the ice. The only reported catches were a few perch taken from 22 feet in Government Bay.

March 19, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Elevated water levels will continue on streams and rivers through the weekend as runoff from melting snow continues. Caution is urged when walking the river banks.

Anglers are invited to attend "Conversations & Coffee" with the DNR Fisheries Division. The public will have a chance to meet with managers and fisheries biologist to discuss local and statewide fisheries management activities and concerns as well as get specific questions answered. For meeting dates, times and locations click here: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-349640--,00.html>

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Will not be usable to anyone as the ice is in poor shape but there is still enough to prevent boat anglers from going out. A few were ice fishing for perch at the Metro Park Marina but those days are numbered.

**Huron River:** Continues to produce the occasional steelhead.

**Detroit River:** Has quite a bit of flow ice coming down. Boat anglers will need to keep watch. Some were jigging for walleye in the Trenton Channel. A few perch were still being caught in the canals around Gibraltar.

**Lake St. Clair:** Still had ice but it was deteriorating quickly especially in the areas with a current. The top layer of ice was honeycombed and granular with hard ice underneath however with temperatures above freezing this week conditions will be very dicey by the weekend. It appears time to hang up the ice fishing gear and start preparing for open water fishing.

**Clinton River:** Anglers have caught a couple steelhead.

**St. Clair River:** Patchy ice flows can restrict shore fishing however when the waters open up anglers have caught steelhead and coho on large shiners fished near the bottom or when casting spoons near the surface.

**Saginaw Bay:** Warm weather over the past 10 days coupled with strong wind is causing ice conditions to deteriorate quickly. This is the time of year when ice becomes extremely unpredictable and dangerous. **Anglers need to use extreme caution!** The shoreline ice is getting bad. Watch out for pressure cracks and think twice before crossing them. Anglers have been rescued near Pinconning and the mouth of the Saginaw River. Those fishing off Palmer Road caught walleye including some limit catches. Most of the activity was about 1 ½ miles out in seven to eight feet inside the first pressure crack. Some nice perch were also caught. Decent size perch and a few walleye were taken in eight feet near White's Beach. Down off Cody-Estey Road and Pinconning Road, walleye were taken in 14 feet however be extremely careful around the pressure cracks as the ice was not good. A lot of anglers were fishing off the Bay City State Park. Some were going out three miles for walleye while others stayed close to shore and caught fish in four to five feet. The bite was best before 9:30 a.m. The ice is getting bad near the mouth of the river so avoid the area. Those heading out from Finn Road caught some walleye toward the north end of Spoils Island however stay away from the Hot Pond Channel! Bluegill and crappie were caught inside the marina basin at Sunset Bay. Walleye fishing in the Slot has slowed due to questionable ice conditions. At Sebewaing, the river is getting dirty and those fishing the marina said it was slow. Mud Creek was spotty. Those fishing the east side of the bay need to watch out for large areas of open water near the islands.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Anglers were still getting out on some lakes but extreme caution needs to be used because last ice is dangerous. Shoreline ice was extremely soft.

**St. Joseph River:** The fish ladders are open and steelhead have started moving through at Berrien Springs. The river is turbid due to all the runoff during the past week. Stream flow is within normal range for this time of year. A lot of anglers were fishing below the dam.

**Black River:** At South Haven was producing a couple steelhead or brown trout.

**Kalamazoo River:** Anglers are reporting good catches of steelhead below the Allegan Dam.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** The fish ladders are open. Anglers are reporting good catches of steelhead below the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. Movement through the ladders will increase as water temperatures get above 39 degrees.

**Grand River at Lansing:** All the fish ladders are open.

**Muskegon River:** Steelhead fishing is slowly improving and will only get better as water temperatures warm up. Most of the river is free of ice flow but snowmelt has the water stained

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Although many lakes still have fishable ice, anglers still need to use caution. Rivers and streams are beginning to open up.

**Grand Lake:** Perch fishing started to pick up.

**Long Lake:** Was producing perch on the south end. The size was smaller but a good number were caught.

**Grass Lake:** In Montmorency County was producing a good number of hand size bluegills.

**Fletchers Pond:** Is producing a good number of bluegills but many were small.

**Higgins Lake:** The ice is holding but the shoreline ice was starting to go especially along the west side. Anglers were heading out from the North State Park and the launch on the west side. Perch were caught on the north end and along the shelf that runs out to the Sunken Island in 40 to 60 feet and in shallow waters 15 to 20 feet. Lake trout action slowed as most anglers are perch fishing. Those with cameras have seen smelt out from Big Creek in 20 feet however they will not bite.

**Houghton Lake:** Still has ice and anglers are targeting bluegill and perch. Most are fishing along the weed beds a couple hundred yards offshore. Try wax worms or spikes for bluegill and perch minnows or wax worms for perch.

**Tawas:** Those spearing pike in the bay took several fish 30 inches or more. Perch fishing was slow. A few walleye were taken off Jerry's Marina and the mouth of the Tawas River, but success was spotty. A couple lake trout were caught by those targeting walleye.

**Au Gres:** A couple anglers going out just north of the breakwall caught a few walleye along with a couple whitefish or lake trout in seven to 10 feet. The water was muddy out from the Rifle River and the Pine River because of snow-melt.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice fishing is still going, but anglers really need to be cautious. Even with lots of ice if it doesn't get cold at night, the ice can change quickly. Steelhead fishing is slow because water temperatures are still cold from the snowmelt. Once the snowpack is gone, the spring run will begin.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Anglers are still fishing however extreme caution needs to be used. Safety is always a concern on first and last ice. Some bluegills and crappie were caught just under the ice.

**Lake Missaukee:** Ice anglers were getting panfish. Be careful and pay close attention to temperatures and wind direction.

**Manistee River:** Anglers are starting to catch more steelhead and the catch rates will only improve as the water temperatures rise. Melting snow has water levels up.

**Hamlin Lake:** Anglers were catching a mixed bag of fish including a fair number of bluegill.

**Pere Marquette River:** The ice is pretty much gone. Snowmelt will stain the waters and raise the levels. Those targeting steelhead will want to try spawn in the deeper holes until the water warms up.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Marquette:** The ice is deteriorating out near the “bubblers” and there are pressure cracks near shore on both the Upper and Lower Harbors. The ice is no longer safe and several miles out you can see stretches of open water with ice flow. Water levels at the mouth of the Carp River and the Dead River have started to rise slightly because of runoff. Those fishing the Carp River have caught the occasional steelhead on spawn or crawlers.

**Au Train:** The mouth of the Rock River and the Au Train River are slowly starting to open up. There was no activity at the Brownstone launch. The bay remains frozen with some pressure cracks near shore.

**Menominee River:** The dam at Menominee has two gates partially open so anglers are now open water fishing. A couple dozen anglers were fishing near Hattie Street.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye season ended much the same as last year. Ice conditions have deteriorated quickly and shoreline ice has opened up in many locations. Although some anglers were still driving out on the Bay, the ice is getting dangerous and driving on it is no longer safe. Extreme caution needs to be used near the rivers, Sand Point, Saunders Point and the entire southern sections. Perch anglers had fair catches but most of the fish were small. The better catches were between the Second and Center Reefs with wigglers or minnows in 17 to 28 feet.

**Munising:** Warmer weather equals more anglers but catch rates were slow. Walking conditions are slick so bring your cleats. Ice conditions in the bay were still good, the snow cover is gone but there were pockets of slush near shore. Pressure cracks are beginning to show up around the shoreline at Sand Point and small open water pockets are beginning to pop up. A couple keeper size splake were taken on jigging lures, eggs or minnows. Catch rates for whitefish did improve some after several hours of effort. Try a single egg or wax worm on the bottom. Anglers were marking schools of smelt but none were caught. A few coho were taken and catch rates should pick-up soon. Those in the spearing shacks had poor to fair results for herring in the early morning. Trout Bay continues to have fishable ice though catch rates were slow for a mixed bag of chinook, coho, lake trout, herring and burbot.

**St. Mary's River:** Walleye season is closed so anglers are now targeting perch which were scattered in Munuscong Bay. The better fishing was up in Fowlers Bay when using minnows in four to six feet. The ice has water and slush on top.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Pike season is closed but perch fishing is starting to improve in Musky Bay and Hessel Bay. Fish were caught on wigglers and wax worms in six to 10 feet of water.

March 19, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Elevated water levels will continue on streams and rivers through the weekend as runoff from melting snow continues. Caution is urged when walking the river banks.

Anglers are invited to attend "Conversations & Coffee" with the DNR Fisheries Division. The public will have a chance to meet with managers and fisheries biologist to discuss local and statewide fisheries management activities and concerns as well as get specific questions answered. For meeting dates, times and locations click here: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-349640--,00.html>

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Will not be usable to anyone as the ice is in poor shape but there is still enough to prevent boat anglers from going out. A few were ice fishing for perch at the Metro Park Marina but those days are numbered.

**Huron River:** Continues to produce the occasional steelhead.

**Detroit River:** Has quite a bit of flow ice coming down. Boat anglers will need to keep watch. Some were jigging for walleye in the Trenton Channel. A few perch were still being caught in the canals around Gibraltar.

**Lake St. Clair:** Still had ice but it was deteriorating quickly especially in the areas with a current. The top layer of ice was honeycombed and granular with hard ice underneath however with temperatures above freezing this week conditions will be very dicey by the weekend. It appears time to hang up the ice fishing gear and start preparing for open water fishing.

**Clinton River:** Anglers have caught a couple steelhead.

**St. Clair River:** Patchy ice flows can restrict shore fishing however when the waters open up anglers have caught steelhead and coho on large shiners fished near the bottom or when casting spoons near the surface.

**Saginaw Bay:** Warm weather over the past 10 days coupled with strong wind is causing ice conditions to deteriorate quickly. This is the time of year when ice becomes extremely unpredictable and dangerous. **Anglers need to use extreme caution!** The shoreline ice is getting bad. Watch out for pressure cracks and think twice before crossing them. Anglers have been rescued near Pinconning and the mouth of the Saginaw River. Those fishing off Palmer Road caught walleye including some limit catches. Most of the activity was about 1 ½ miles out in seven to eight feet inside the first pressure crack. Some nice perch were also caught. Decent size perch and a few walleye were taken in eight feet near White's Beach. Down off Cody-Estey Road and Pinconning Road, walleye were taken in 14 feet however be extremely careful around the pressure cracks as the ice was not good. A lot of anglers were fishing off the Bay City State Park. Some were going out three miles for walleye while others stayed close to shore and caught fish in four to five feet. The bite was best before 9:30 a.m. The ice is getting bad near the mouth of the river so avoid the area. Those heading out from Finn Road caught some walleye toward the north end of Spoils Island however stay away from the Hot Pond Channel! Bluegill and crappie were caught inside the marina basin at Sunset Bay. Walleye fishing in the Slot has slowed due to questionable ice conditions. At Sebewaing, the river is getting dirty and those fishing the marina said it was slow. Mud Creek was spotty. Those fishing the east side of the bay need to watch out for large areas of open water near the islands.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Anglers were still getting out on some lakes but extreme caution needs to be used because last ice is dangerous. Shoreline ice was extremely soft.

**St. Joseph River:** The fish ladders are open and steelhead have started moving through at Berrien Springs. The river is turbid due to all the runoff during the past week. Stream flow is within normal range for this time of year. A lot of anglers were fishing below the dam.

**Black River:** At South Haven was producing a couple steelhead or brown trout.

**Kalamazoo River:** Anglers are reporting good catches of steelhead below the Allegan Dam.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** The fish ladders are open. Anglers are reporting good catches of steelhead below the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. Movement through the ladders will increase as water temperatures get above 39 degrees.

**Grand River at Lansing:** All the fish ladders are open.

**Muskegon River:** Steelhead fishing is slowly improving and will only get better as water temperatures warm up. Most of the river is free of ice flow but snowmelt has the water stained

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Although many lakes still have fishable ice, anglers still need to use caution. Rivers and streams are beginning to open up.

**Grand Lake:** Perch fishing started to pick up.

**Long Lake:** Was producing perch on the south end. The size was smaller but a good number were caught.

**Grass Lake:** In Montmorency County was producing a good number of hand size bluegills.

**Fletchers Pond:** Is producing a good number of bluegills but many were small.

**Higgins Lake:** The ice is holding but the shoreline ice was starting to go especially along the west side. Anglers were heading out from the North State Park and the launch on the west side. Perch were caught on the north end and along the shelf that runs out to the Sunken Island in 40 to 60 feet and in shallow waters 15 to 20 feet. Lake trout action slowed as most anglers are perch fishing. Those with cameras have seen smelt out from Big Creek in 20 feet however they will not bite.

**Houghton Lake:** Still has ice and anglers are targeting bluegill and perch. Most are fishing along the weed beds a couple hundred yards offshore. Try wax worms or spikes for bluegill and perch minnows or wax worms for perch.

**Tawas:** Those spearing pike in the bay took several fish 30 inches or more. Perch fishing was slow. A few walleye were taken off Jerry's Marina and the mouth of the Tawas River, but success was spotty. A couple lake trout were caught by those targeting walleye.

**Au Gres:** A couple anglers going out just north of the breakwall caught a few walleye along with a couple whitefish or lake trout in seven to 10 feet. The water was muddy out from the Rifle River and the Pine River because of snow-melt.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice fishing is still going, but anglers really need to be cautious. Even with lots of ice if it doesn't get cold at night, the ice can change quickly. Steelhead fishing is slow because water temperatures are still cold from the snowmelt. Once the snowpack is gone, the spring run will begin.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Anglers are still fishing however extreme caution needs to be used. Safety is always a concern on first and last ice. Some bluegills and crappie were caught just under the ice.

**Lake Missaukee:** Ice anglers were getting panfish. Be careful and pay close attention to temperatures and wind direction.

**Manistee River:** Anglers are starting to catch more steelhead and the catch rates will only improve as the water temperatures rise. Melting snow has water levels up.

**Hamlin Lake:** Anglers were catching a mixed bag of fish including a fair number of bluegill.

**Pere Marquette River:** The ice is pretty much gone. Snowmelt will stain the waters and raise the levels. Those targeting steelhead will want to try spawn in the deeper holes until the water warms up.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Marquette:** The ice is deteriorating out near the “bubblers” and there are pressure cracks near shore on both the Upper and Lower Harbors. The ice is no longer safe and several miles out you can see stretches of open water with ice flow. Water levels at the mouth of the Carp River and the Dead River have started to rise slightly because of runoff. Those fishing the Carp River have caught the occasional steelhead on spawn or crawlers.

**Au Train:** The mouth of the Rock River and the Au Train River are slowly starting to open up. There was no activity at the Brownstone launch. The bay remains frozen with some pressure cracks near shore.

**Menominee River:** The dam at Menominee has two gates partially open so anglers are now open water fishing. A couple dozen anglers were fishing near Hattie Street.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye season ended much the same as last year. Ice conditions have deteriorated quickly and shoreline ice has opened up in many locations. Although some anglers were still driving out on the Bay, the ice is getting dangerous and driving on it is no longer safe. Extreme caution needs to be used near the rivers, Sand Point, Saunders Point and the entire southern sections. Perch anglers had fair catches but most of the fish were small. The better catches were between the Second and Center Reefs with wigglers or minnows in 17 to 28 feet.

**Munising:** Warmer weather equals more anglers but catch rates were slow. Walking conditions are slick so bring your cleats. Ice conditions in the bay were still good, the snow cover is gone but there were pockets of slush near shore. Pressure cracks are beginning to show up around the shoreline at Sand Point and small open water pockets are beginning to pop up. A couple keeper size splake were taken on jigging lures, eggs or minnows. Catch rates for whitefish did improve some after several hours of effort. Try a single egg or wax worm on the bottom. Anglers were marking schools of smelt but none were caught. A few coho were taken and catch rates should pick-up soon. Those in the spearing shacks had poor to fair results for herring in the early morning. Trout Bay continues to have fishable ice though catch rates were slow for a mixed bag of chinook, coho, lake trout, herring and burbot.

**St. Mary's River:** Walleye season is closed so anglers are now targeting perch which were scattered in Munuscong Bay. The better fishing was up in Fowlers Bay when using minnows in four to six feet. The ice has water and slush on top.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Pike season is closed but perch fishing is starting to improve in Musky Bay and Hessel Bay. Fish were caught on wigglers and wax worms in six to 10 feet of water.

March 26, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

On Wednesday April 1, all anglers 17 years of age and older will be required to have a 2015 fishing license. Be sure to pick up a copy of the 2015 Fishing Guide when you purchase your license. Ice fishing is pretty much limited to the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. The piers along Lake Michigan are ice covered and dangerous.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** A few perch were caught by ice anglers around the Banana Dike but the majority of ice on the lake is no longer safe.

**Huron River:** Anglers are catching steelhead. Some of the better fishing can usually be found near Labo Park.

**Detroit River:** Is open however boat anglers will need to watch as quite a bit of flow ice is still coming down and will be for a while. A couple nice walleye were taken near the warm water discharge at the power plant in the Trenton Channel.

**Lake St. Clair:** Has a lot of shelf ice and flow ice in the connecting waters. Status on the boat launches and shore fishing areas can vary day to day depending on the wind. As a result, fishing activity has been light.

**St. Clair River:** Had some good trout and salmon reports when ice conditions allowed shore anglers to fish.

**Saginaw Bay:** Ice conditions continue to deteriorate so a good number of anglers are putting away their ice fishing gear and starting to get their boats ready. The die-hards were still going out and crossing active pressure cracks however **extreme caution needs to be used!** Watch for areas of open water. Shoreline ice is getting bad all around the bay. At Palmer Road, anglers crossing two major pressure cracks and fishing in 18 feet caught walleye. Closer to shore, fishing was spotty but a few were taken. Some perch were caught off White's Beach.

Walleye were caught from the Bay City State Park south to the trailer park near the mouth in five feet. The bite was best from dawn until about 9:00 and in the evening after 7:00. Those wading and casting off the mouth of the Hot Ponds had no luck. A few crappie were caught in Sunset Bay Marina. North of Sebewaing at Rose Island and Geiger Road, perch fishing was spotty but a couple limit catches were reported. Most were six to eight inches with the occasional 12 inch fish.

**Bad River:** At St. Charles is producing some suckers.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Inland lakes in the southern part near the Indiana border are ice free. Lakes towards Kalamazoo, Jackson, Lansing, and Grand Rapids still had some ice however no safe ice. The rivers have steelhead and more fish will continue to move in. The piers are still ice covered. Some boats were starting to troll between the piers, but there is still ice out in Lake Michigan.

**St. Joseph:** For those trolling, coho were biting at the mouth of the river.

**St. Joseph River:** Has a decent run of steelhead as a lot of fish had been moving through the Berrien Springs fish ladder over the last week. The live streaming Fish Cam at the ladder is back in operation and can be viewed at:

[http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364\\_52259\\_19092---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52259_19092---,00.html)

**Holland:** Has open water but the piers are still ice covered.

**Kalamazoo River:** Steelhead are hitting below the Allegan Dam. Anglers were floating spawn and wax worms.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** The fish ladders are open and steelhead are being caught below the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. Try spawn, wax worms or plugs.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Few anglers have been out. No reports of any steelhead this far up.

**Muskegon:** Has open water in the harbor.

**Muskegon River:** Steelhead have been caught however water temperatures were still a bit cold. A stonefly hatch was just getting started.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Some of the inland lakes are still producing panfish however those heading out need to use extreme caution. First ice and last ice are the most dangerous.

**Higgins Lake:** Ice fishing season is pretty much done. Much more of the shoreline ice has opened up and there are several pressure cracks starting near the shoreline and heading out into the lake. Rain, wind and warmer temperatures this week will only make conditions worse. Anglers are advised to wait for open water fishing.

**Houghton Lake:** Still had ice for those not ready to hang up the ice fishing gear. Anglers would be wise to use caution and be careful along the shoreline especially near the Cut River, Denton Creek or any other inlets or outlets. A fair number of bluegills and crappie were caught off Songer's Point which is just north of the boat launch on the east side.

**Tawas:** A lot of ice has blown out of the bay but there was still some near Jerry's Marina and that is where ice anglers were concentrated. Yellow perch were caught but many were small and anglers were putting in considerable time. A few walleye were caught.

**Tawas River:** The ice at the mouth was gone. Anglers were wading and casting but no reports came in.

**Au Gres:** Some anglers were still going north of the breakwall and catching a few walleye but there is no telling how long that ice will last.

**Au Gres River:** Down at the Singing Bridge, steelhead were caught in the lower river and in the surf though fishing was difficult with the piles of shore ice.

**Rifle River:** Sucker fishing is just barely starting to get underway.

**Pine River:** Is starting to open up and may soon be a good bet for open water perch and sucker fishing.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Steelhead fishing remains slow due to cold temperatures. A nice warm rain would really get the fish moving. There is no pier fishing or trolling on Lake Michigan yet because of abundant ice in the area.

**Traverse City:** Both bays still had ice however it is no longer safe. Anglers should just stay off and wait for open water fishing. The shoreline ice is gone in both bays. Those looking to fish just off shore will need to bring waders.

**Boardman River:** Has open water. Anglers have caught the occasional steelhead when floating spawn or wax worms.

**Betsie River:** Is producing the occasional steelhead.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** The ice is holding and anglers were still heading out. Most are catching crappie right under the ice in the early morning and evening. Try minnows, wax worms and spikes.

**Lake Missaukee:** Ice anglers were still taking a mixed bag of panfish.

**Manistee River:** Anglers are catching steelhead but it needs to warm up. Once the ice is gone from Tippy Dam Pond and we get some warm rain, the fish will be more active. A good number of brown trout were caught but most were too small.

**Pere Marquette River:** More anglers are heading out as the steelhead and brown trout bite continue to improve.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Anglers are still ice fishing however proceed with caution! There is no snow on the ice so bring cleats for your boots and anchors for your shack. The cool evenings tend to firm up the ice so mornings are better. When the sun has been out for a while, ice conditions can change a lot in a few hours. Melting snow is the reason for more water in the bay. Be careful in front of the creeks and rivers as well as areas where water is running down a hillside. The ice in front of Carla's looks to be very poor. Lake trout fishing was spotty but a few catches were reported from the Center Reef. The occasional splake was caught in 15 to 40 feet. Coho fishing was fair in front of the Falls River however ice conditions there can change quickly.

**Marquette:** The ice in the Upper Harbor and the Lower Harbor is no longer safe and the "bubblers" are ice free. Ice flow can move in quickly depending on wind direction. The only fishing activity was at the mouth of the Carp River where anglers were targeting steelhead and coho but catch rates were slow. They are using crawlers and spawn or drifting flies and small spoons. Catch rates will remain slow until air temperatures warm up causing runoff from snow and ice melt.

**Au Train:** Few anglers were out as most are waiting for open water fishing. The Rock River beneath the spillway is open with some flow just beyond the foot bridge however fishing season here will close on April 1 and reopen on June 30. The Au Train River was open between the mouth and the M-28 Bridge. The Brownstone public launch has been plowed. Those targeting coho had poor results.

**Munising:** Still has good ice in the bay with a light layer of snow cover. Walking conditions are still slick so bring cleats and use caution. Some of the pressure cracks around the shoreline tightened back up. Catch rates were just fair. A couple splake ranging 16 to 21 inches were caught. Whitefish activity was up so more fish were caught. Some are using a single egg or wax worm on the bottom while others said the fish were suspended. The bite is very light so anglers are using extremely light rods. Anglers are still marking schools of smelt but none were caught and many are waiting for the coho bite to get started. Spearing was still slow. Catch rates in Trout Bay are still slow. Those fishing near Wood Island did manage to catch some lake trout.

**St. Mary's River:** Still had good ice at Munuscong. Those perch fishing in Fowlers Bay had some good days when using minnows in four to six feet.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Musky Bay in Cedarville and Hessel Bay are very sporadic for yellow perch. Try minnows or wigglers in 10 to 12 feet.