

July 2, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The weather remains pretty much the same as last week with high water levels and windy weather around most of the state. Although the wet weather has slowed the fish catch in some areas, others are having good luck. A drier forecast is just around the corner for the 4th!

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: With muddy water from all the rain, anglers are reporting lower catch than usual, but walleye are being caught trolling 23 to 28 feet down using crawler harnesses. Pink and purple harnesses reportedly had better luck. Anglers were doing well around Stony Point and the West Sister Island. Channel catfish are being caught in the Hot Ponds using worms. Large and smallmouth bass numbers are low due to the muddy water. Few anglers are catching perch but those having luck are using minnows.

Lenawee County: Anglers are reporting water temps between 68-71 degrees on Devils Lake. With all the recent rain, wind and run-offs, water clarity is lower than normal and is making the fishing slower than usual. Panfish anglers are targeting bluegill and crappie in four to eight feet of water using worms or crickets. Bass and pike anglers are doing well around the weed beds during the mornings. A good number of anglers fishing on Lake Hudson are targeting musky with limited success. Those with success are putting in time and no real pattern for the bites have been established. Weather permitting, bass and panfish anglers continue to do well from boats as well as from shore. For bass, try top water along the shallow banks and scum filled bays.

Detroit River: Reported relatively light fishing pressure last week with most angling effort now confined to the early morning and late day hours. Weather continued its recent rainy and breezy trends further hampering efforts throughout the week. Anglers reported fair to poor results fishing between the Ren Cen and the Ambassador Bridge, around Grosse Ile and Mud Island and at the Lake Erie mouth. Most anglers are now targeting walleye by bottom-bouncing with crawler harnesses either trolling or drifting.

Harbor Beach: From Harbor Beach to Lexington, trollers were taking lake trout and steelhead from 85 feet of water at mid-week, with steelhead in the top 25 feet and lakers near the bottom. Fishing should pick up again as soon as the weather settles down.

Port Austin and Grindstone City: The cold water temperature is slowing walleye fishing at Port Austin and Grindstone City. Lake trout fishing was excellent off the tip of the thumb 10 days ago, but the wind has kept everyone ashore since.

Quanicassee River: The east side of the bay was lightly fished last week. Shore anglers fishing the Quanicassee took some bluegills and sunfish on worms.

Bay Port and Caseville: Trollers fishing after walleye were going to the area north of the shipping channel; some got a few fish and a couple of boats got limits.

Saginaw Bay: Most of the success for walleye came at mid-week, with boats going way out-, four to five miles north and east of Buoys 1 & 2. Some walleye action was reported near Sailboat Buoy A and also in 12 feet of water off Bay City State Park. Both harnesses and spoons were catching fish. Smith Park is open to shore fishing again after major renovations, and shore anglers there were catching drum, catfish, a few bass and walleye.

Saginaw River: During the windy part of the week, most anglers were not brave enough to ride the waves so they trolled in the lower Saginaw River and picked up a few walleye on harnesses.

Sanford Lake: Bluegill and crappie fishing remained pretty good on worms and crappies on minnows or tiny jigs. Two bass tournaments last week had generally good catches.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch fishing has slowed down a little this week. Anglers are still catching decent numbers of fish in 30 feet of water. Salmon fishing has slowed as well. Fish seemed to be scattered from 60 to 100 feet of water. Pier anglers are catching a few steelhead. Fish are being caught using spoons and shrimp fished on the bottom. Sheepshead are being caught in great numbers. Night crawlers and shrimp fished on the bottom is working best.

South Haven: Perch fishing has been very slow. The few fish being caught were in 20 feet of water. Salmon fishing is very spotty. The fish seem to be scattered from 50 to well beyond 100 feet of water. Meat rigs seem to be catching most of the fish. Pier anglers are catching an occasional steelhead. Shrimp fished under a bobber is the most productive method.

Grand Haven: Pier fishing has been fair. Fishers have been catching large alewives and a few perch.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Water levels are still well above normal. Fishermen are mainly catching carp especially on shredded wheat and corn. Channel and flathead catfish are being caught regularly on worms and bluegill. Some long nose gar also being caught. Plenty of bluegill and pumpkinseed sunfish being caught off

the wall using worms.

Grand River at Lansing: Fishing is quiet along the Grand River in Lansing. Those that are venturing out are catching rockbass and smallmouth bass. Pike fishing has been hit-or-miss. Catfish has been good however.

Muskrat Lake: Has seen some good bluegill and crappie catches using night crawlers and wax worms.

Sessions Lake: Also reports success with bluegill and crappie.

Muskegon Lake: More kings have started to show up. The majority of catches before have been lake trout. Anglers are fishing in 100 to 160 feet of water and 50 to 90 feet down for kings. Steelhead are being caught in the top 40 feet of water with orange spoons.

Whitehall: Essentially no action in Whitehall. Look for salmon and trout in the 100 foot range. Yellow and green lures may work well. No pier action to speak of.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Lake trout has slowed from its fast pace limits. Anglers are having to look around more as the fish are starting to transition from shallower to deeper water. The lake trout seem to be more suspended now more than earlier on. Anglers that are putting the time in are still coming in with limits. It is still very slow for salmon and steelhead. Try fishing waters 50 to 120 feet deep, running a spread throughout the water column for best results. Spoons in green, blue, orange, yellow and chartreuse are working well. Anglers targeting Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon and steelhead should see better results as the water continues to warm.

East & West Twin Lakes: Walleye fishing was really good this week for both lakes. Most anglers are trolling in the 10 foot holes with worms and leeches. The bass fishing was also great on both lakes. Most of the anglers are catching rock bass but there are many that are catching good size smallmouth bass too. The perch fishing is still slow but it is starting to pick up in West Twin in the six foot holes using worms.

Alpena: Walleye fishing continues to be great. Some really nice fish have come in over the last week ranging from three to five pounds. Many are fishing Grass Island, Scarecrow Island, North Shore and along the city beach front or straight out of the marina. Best depths have been in eight to 20 feet of water. Crawler harnesses have been the best but anglers are also using body baits. Anglers going out for lake trout are doing well around Thunder Bay Island in 60 to 120 feet of water fishing close to the bottom as well as suspended.

Thunder Bay River: Has some panfish activity. However, slow is the word. Walleye are being taken off the bridge with night crawlers or body baits.

Harrisville: Is producing good numbers of lake trout. Most anglers are having good success straight out, north and south, fishing in 80 to 130 feet of water. Lake trout are from the bottom to about half of the water depth being fished. Spoons, spin-n-glos and cut bait have all been working well. Anglers targeting lake trout have also caught some salmon and steelhead. Walleye are being caught north of the harbor between Sturgeon Point and Black River, and to the south around Greenbush. In both areas, the fish seem to holding in 12 to 25 feet of water, with body baits and crawler harnesses working well.

Oscoda: Lake trout are in the area in good numbers and anglers are having pleasing success. Fish in 90 to 150 feet of water, from the bottom to about two thirds up the water column. Spoons have been working the best but try a variety of baits with flashers as an attractant. Walleye fishing has been slow in and out of the river. Crawlers and body baits have been working the best. Catfish have started to show up in good numbers with late evening and early morning being the best times. Crawlers and minnows have produced the most catches.

Tawas: Not a lot of fishing effort in Tawas Bay proper last week. A few walleye were taken from 35 to 50 feet of water off the end of Tawas Point and down toward Alabaster in 25 to 30 feet of water. Pier angling is limited to a few smallmouth bass. The Tawas River is slow, producing just a few smallmouth bass and catfish.

Au Gres: Is generally getting good catches of walleye all over the place in 25 to 45 feet of water. Crawler harnesses are producing best. There was a big mayfly hatch off Au Gres late last week that may have suppressed the bite somewhat. Lots of catfish and drum and a few perch taken incidental to walleye. Also, a few boats went to the Charities after bass and did very well on smallmouth with catch & release. Limit catches of walleye were taken in 30 to 45 feet of water straight out or to the south towards the shipping channel when using crawler harnesses.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Lake trout fishing was still hit-or-miss in Harbor Springs but some success was had west of Harbor Point in 100 to 150 feet of water fishing near the bottom. Smallmouth bass anglers are still out targeting areas near shore inside the point, around the harbor to the area in front of and past Wequetonsing, casting and retrieving artificial baits.

Petoskey: No salmon reports out of Petoskey. Anglers are mainly focusing on the same area, between the breakwall and Bay Harbor. Some boats are headed even closer to 9 Mile Point. Lake trout are being caught in 80 to 100 feet of water near the bottom on spoons. A variety of species such as smallmouth, rock bass, bullhead, carp, drum, catfish, suckers and pike were caught from the mouth of the river down the beach to the breakwall in Petoskey. Most were caught off D Pier on worms, but casting crankbaits or spinners also worked.

Bear River: Not much activity if any here this past week.

Charlevoix: Angler pressure in boats has been pretty slow; a few caught lake trout south of the channel, fishing in 100 feet of water, 80 feet down and north of the channel in 150 feet of water, 60 feet down. Lakers seem to be more scattered now. Anglers were using spoons or spin-n-gloves with dodgers for lake trout. Smallmouth bass are around in the channel but are not hitting great. A couple of bass were caught last week on crank baits and spoons. The ones that were seen have been high up in the water column. There was a lake trout of two caught off the end of the piers and anglers have also reported a sheepshead or two. Cisco fishing in the channel seems to be slowing down a bit.

Sanford Lake: Bluegill and crappie fishing remained pretty good on worms, minnows or tiny jigs. Two bass tournaments last week had generally good catches.

Elk Rapids: Smallmouth bass fishing has been good below the power dam and out to Lake Michigan. Leeches and soft plastics are working well.

Traverse City: Lake trout and smallmouth bass fishing have been a fair catch in the East Bay. The bass are active in the shallows. Try trolling or jigging for lake trout in 60 to 115 feet of water. In the West Bay, smallmouth bass fishing has been good with many of the bass being fished in beds. Lake trout were caught trolling in depths anywhere from 60 to 120 feet.

Boardman River: Bass fishing at the mouth has slowed and mostly small fish are being caught. There have been a few steelhead that have been caught up near the Union Street Dam as well as a few pike. Carp fishing has slowed down a little but fishermen are still reporting a random catch. Brown trout also continue to be caught around dusk below Sabin Dam. Upper stretches of the Boardman River have had few fishermen lately but those out there have caught a few brown and brook trout.

Frankfort: Chinook have been hitting in the early morning in 250 to 400 feet of water and trolling 60 to 100 feet down. Fish are hitting on spoons, flies, and meat rigs with blues and pinks being a popular color. Lake numbers have slowed but anglers are still picking them up in 100 to 150 feet of water bottom-bouncing with cow bells and spin-n-gloves.

Onekama: Very nice lake trout are being landed in the barrel and in front of the golf course. Anglers are trolling in 100 to 125 feet of water bottom-bouncing with cow bells and spin-n-gloves.

Portage Lake: Anglers are landing fair numbers of panfish from several different areas on the lake with worms. After the recent Mayfly hatch Bass anglers are reporting low numbers of hits. Lake temperatures are still cooler for this time of year but moving up steadily.

Manistee: Boats going offshore looking for the temperature breaks are doing well on steelhead along with a few lake trout. Orange, chartreuse, and purple spoons have worked best in the top 25 feet of water. A few salmon have been caught in 100 to 200 feet of water. Meat rigs have been working deeper in the water column.

Ludington: Good numbers of steelhead have been caught offshore on the temperature breaks. Orange spoons have worked well. Boats targeting salmon have found the action to be slow with a few caught in 100 to 250 feet of water.

Pentwater: Anglers are catching salmon, steelhead, and lake trout in 90 feet of water surrounding Little Sable Point. Anglers are travelling several miles off shore to fish for lake trout. Pier anglers caught sheepshead and large and smallmouth bass.

UPPER PENINSULA

Copper Harbor: Fishing pressure is still down. The lake trout bite in Eagle Harbor is picking up. Trolling with spoons has been productive. Splake, rainbows and coho have been showing up outside of both ports.

Keweenaw Bay: Fishing here in the Bay was very slow and with that, angler participation is also slowing down some. One boat of anglers went out near the Huron Islands however, and limited out on lake trout. South Portage entry anglers here are starting to pick up some nice catches of lake trout trolling or jigging on or near Farmers, Newton's and Big Reefs. Traverse Bay reports anglers both trolling and jigging and also starting to pick up some nice catches of lake trout fishing straight out from the Traverse Bay Launch, Hermits Cove, Gay and Big Louie's Points as well as the 5, 6, and 7 mile reefs. Anglers are trolling in waters from 50 to 180 feet of water from one foot off of the bottom to 150 feet down.

Lake Gogebic: This week was busier than last but unfortunately the fishing was still slow. The mayfly hatch has dampened fishing success the last two weeks but things seemed to be getting back on track this past weekend. The most common method for fishing for walleye has been still-fishing with minnows or leeches. Those fishing with crank baits tend to catch fewer walleye overall, but a higher proportion of their catch is of legal length. A few boats did have success catching pumpkinseeds this week and there were also a handful of bluegill and black crappie hauled in.

Little Bay De Noc: Breezy Point is still producing the best walleye catches. Anglers mostly troll crawlers w/harnesses in eight to 14 feet of water. At night some had had good success trolling stick baits in the shallows in three to eight feet of water. Walleye anglers have reported catching a lot of drum this week. Perch anglers reported mediocre catches at best. A few jumbo perch were caught just south of the "Narrows" using minnows in and around 30 feet of water. Ford River smallmouth bass anglers reported mostly undersize fish but good numbers casting plastics, spinners and cranks.

Big Bay De Noc: Fair to good walleye catches reported just out from Kates Bay in 16 to 22 feet of water. Most trolled crawlers w/harnesses. Smallmouth anglers in Kates Bay also reported fair to good catches casting plastics and spinners in 10 to 12 feet of water. Also fair smallmouth catches reported in Ogontz and Puffy Bay using the same in 10 to 18 feet of water. Northern pike were active in Ogontz as bass anglers reported several incidental catches.

Fairport: There are still only a few anglers fishing here so far this season as there has been construction at the Marina. Fair catches reported with most trolling spoons

in the “Gap” in 100 to 150 feet of water and 30 to 90 feet down. Good steelhead catches reported also.

Marquette: Lake trout fishing has improved this past week. Best times appear mid-morning or early evening. A few lucky anglers have managed to limit out for lake trout with most fish averaging three to four pounds. Lake trout fishing has been best in deeper waters from 180 to 250 feet of water with anglers having some of the better luck near Granite Island and Little Presque Isle fishing the humps on the drop off. Best colors – no real pattern but anglers were most happy with silver/watermelon colors. Salmon fishing has been virtually nothing with only a few steelhead reported this week. Stannard Rock anglers are having great action jigging and trolling with fish of all sizes being caught. Anglers reported fishing in the shallow reef areas and along the deep edges with both areas producing fun fishing.

Au Train Lake: Anglers fishing the lake with most targeting northern pike. Most of the pike are undersize with catches of 10 to 20 pike over a period of three or four days is not uncommon. Most anglers having best success using sucker minnows and bobbers. There were very few walleye fisherman this past week with no report of any catches. A few small perch were caught and released due to their size. The mayfly hatch is on the tail end with a large dragonfly hatch this past week. Anglers are still catching an occasional sucker while walleye fishing using either crawlers or leeches.

Munising: Munising bay reports poor levels of fishing activity over the past week. Catch rates still remained generally low. Reports from around the bay indicate low catch results on coho with a few Chinook. Anglers are focused on water depths from 60 to 200 feet of water trolling all around trying to find fish. Many small splake are being caught and released near the Anna River with a few keeper splake showing up occasionally.

Grand Marais: In Grand Marais most fishermen are still-fishing off the end of the pier while others are trolling out about five miles from the pier for lake trout. Minimal effort was seen at the mouth of the Sucker River with no reported catches. Whitefish are hit-or-miss this week with some days catch rates being good and other days very slow. Whitefish are primarily getting caught on single eggs. Catch rates are good on lake trout with fishermen bringing fish in on every trip.

DeTour: This past week the salmon and lake trout have been hit-or-miss. The few fish harvested were mixed boxes of lake trout, steelhead, and a few small Atlantic salmon. As we approach the 4th of July, warmer day and nighttime temperatures are forecasted. This will help warm up the water and improve the bite.

Drummond Island: This past week the walleye bite has slowed down a little due to the heavy mayfly hatches around the islands of Scott Bay. However, anglers trolling late in the evening between Rutland and Peck Islands have been catching walleye in the 17 and 20 inch class. Try planner boards and use chartreuse and white, or chrome colored four-inch crank baits set at seven to nine feet deep. The mayfly hatch has brought some success for anglers targeting lake herring. A few limits were taken last week in 14 to 17 feet of water on the south side of Harbor Island and the

south side of Howard using swedish pimples tipped with waxworms or mayflies. Northern pike have been good during the evening hours just off the DNR Access boat launch on Maxton Bay in four to six feet of water trolling brown and orange rubber twister tails.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike fishing has been very slow. Best chances for catching pike or bass is by casting in the shallow bays. Perch is good in Moscow Channel but not every day. Perch are also in the Hessel Marina and along the east side of Mertaughs Docks. It looks like the herring will be starting very soon as a few have been caught.

July 9, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Salmon in the Great Lakes were moving to deeper waters. Rivers in some areas had higher water levels so catch rates were slow. The inland lakes are producing some walleye, pike, bass, crappie, perch, bluegills, bullhead and gar.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Fishing improved with more anglers reporting walleye catches in 23 to 28 feet around Stony Point, the Banana Dike, off Fermi and the around the E-Buoys. Fish were also caught in Brest Bay. Most are using pink, purple and margarita crawler harnesses. Those using spoons and divers did not have as much luck. Better perch fishing was reported by those using minnows in 15 to 20 feet.

River Raisin: Had high water levels. The Dundee Dam has been overflowing for weeks, and the fishing pier has been underwater for much of the season.

Lenawee County: Bluegills are starting to make their way to deeper water in Devils Lake. Try slip bobbers and worms near the weed beds in 6 to 12 feet. Bass fishing was decent around the drop-offs and the flats when casting soft plastics and crank baits. Pike anglers trolling in 6 to 8 feet had good success. Lake Hudson has good bass fishing for those using top water baits and artificial worms. Muskie anglers are trying but most are only catching bass and channel cats.

Detroit River: Catch rates for walleye dropped on the northern half of the Canadian side. Catch rates on the Michigan side were fair to poor between the Renaissance Center and the Ambassador Bridge, around Grosse Ile, Mud Island, Great Lakes Steel and at the mouth near Lake Erie. Most are fishing deeper in 25 to 40 feet when bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses, trolling, drifting or hand-lining with spoons and stick baits. Some fishing the Canadian side were jigging. The river had walleye, bass and muskie anglers. Those targeting walleye caught a fair number of rock bass, freshwater drum, a few white bass or muskie. Bass anglers had fair to good results for both large and smallmouth around the islands, cuts and canals. A few white bass were seen around Elizabeth Park. Water temperatures were up near 68 degrees. Anglers should be aware that high water levels at many of the boat launches have the docks partially underwater.

Lake St. Clair: Water temperatures are up near 70 degrees and the mayfly hatch is in full swing. Anglers may find good surface action for large and smallmouth bass on calm days when the mayflies are hatching and the bass are feeding. The better reports have come from deeper water so try 10 to 16 feet where there is vegetation. Muskie anglers had some success in Michigan waters over 12 feet deep. Perch fishing has been spotty, but some good reports have come from Goose Bay and Muscamoot Bay. Walleye fishing in Michigan waters was spotty. Shore fishing for carp remains very good at the mouth of the Clinton River.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was better after dark at Port Huron and Algonac where anglers are whipping and wire-lining. Those fishing during the day did catch some fish in the lower river including the North, Middle and South Channels. White bass are still in the lower river and the channels and can often be seen chasing shiners on the surface along the banks. The water temperature was 61 degrees.

Black River: Had slow catch rates due to stained water after all the rain. White bass are in the mouth and some bigger smallmouth bass were caught off the wall.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: A few boats have been out for perch but the weed beds are not up far enough yet to attract schools of fish.

Harbor Beach: Steelhead were caught using bright colored spoons off downriggers and lead lines. Try some 2, 4, 8 and 10 colored lines with offshore boards. Some nice lake trout were caught straight out and north of the harbor with clean spoons as well as dodgers with spin-glo's in the bottom 60 feet of waters 120 to 140 feet deep. Bass were caught by those casting spoons or body baits close to shore.

Grindstone City: Anglers fishing around Burnt Cabin Point in about 45 feet have caught some very large walleye and some nice whitefish. They are running lead core and green and black or pearl crank baits. Lake trout have moved deeper as the waters near shore have warmed up. Try depths up to 120 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Most boats caught walleye and a few managed to get limit catches though they were working pretty hard to get them. They did well in the Slot between Quanicassee and Bay Port, along the Bar, and out near the Spark Plug. Also notable are the weed beds off the Callahan Reef and the mouth of the Kawkawlin River which are very good producers of walleye in the early morning. The bite tapers off as the sun gets higher and the fish move back out to deeper water. Boats are fishing north and northeast of Buoys 1 & 2 in 28 to 32 feet with crawler harnesses, crank baits and spoons. Best spinner colors were pink, purple, chartreuse, silver, gold and red. For crank baits, use a crayfish pattern. Those trolling out of Caseville are going northeast of the Charity Islands and up near Oak Point however northeast of the Charities was producing more fish.

Sanford Lake: Limit and near-limit catches of black crappie were taken on live minnows in shallow water or pinkie jigs in deeper water. Bass fishing was good and bluegills were hitting on worms. A few pike and a couple walleye were caught.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch fishing was good with fish taken in 20 to 35 feet. Pier anglers are still catching the occasional steelhead when using shrimp under a bobber. Salmon fishing was very spotty with only a few fish taken from 60 to well over 100 feet. Meat rigs worked best. Freshwater drum are still being caught in large numbers. Try shrimp or alewife on the bottom.

South Haven: Catch rates were not consistent for boat anglers targeting salmon because the fish were scattered in 80 to 100 feet. Pier anglers are getting the occasional steelhead when floating shrimp under a bobber. The fish seem to be there one day and gone the next. Perch fishing was slow.

Kalamazoo River: Was producing a limited number of fish as the water was high and dark. Shore anglers have caught channel catfish.

Grand Haven: The salmon were moving to deeper water. Perch fishing was slow.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Water levels were down significantly. Flathead and channel catfish continue to be caught on worms and bluegills. Carp fishing has slowed compared to the last few weeks. Walleye and smallmouth bass have been caught off the wall by those using live bait. Bluegills were caught in the backwaters.

Grand River at Lansing: Those fishing near the dams have caught catfish, carp, smallmouth bass and rock bass.

Muskrat Lake: Crappie were caught early or late. Bluegills moved to deeper water and were hitting on crawlers, wax worms, and leeches.

Lake Ovid: Anglers caught small bluegills and a couple catfish.

Montcalm County: Large pike 35 to 39 inches and some bass were caught on Big Whitefish Lake. Crystal Lake was producing some walleye and large bluegills. Tamarack Lake had a lot of small perch.

Muskegon: Lake Michigan anglers are taking the most fish in 100 to 130 feet. Salmon were caught on dipseys and dodgers 50 feet down and steelhead were caught in the top 25 feet.

Muskegon River: Undersized walleye and trout are plentiful in the upper and lower portions near Hardy Dam and Croton Dam.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Burt Lake: Was producing some walleye. Bass have been caught but catch rates were slowing.

Rogers City: Boat anglers need to use caution and watch for trap nets that have been set just south of Hammond Bay and along the slide which is in 60 to 80 feet. Lake trout were caught in good numbers with limit catches possible. The fish are now suspended more than ever so run your lines throughout the water column. Dodgers and cowbells with spin-glo's along with green, blue, yellow or white spoons have caught fish over the rocky areas. Try 50 to 70 feet towards Forty Mile Point or south towards Adams Point. The occasional Atlantic, chinook, coho and steelhead were also caught. It is still slow but a few more are coming in. Try 60 to 120 feet and look for baitfish while running green, blue and orange spoons up high in the water column. We need stable weather to set up a thermocline.

East & West Twin Lakes: Walleye fishing was slow on East Twin but West Twin was good with fish ranging 15 to 19 inches. Anglers are trolling natural baits or using deep diving rapalas in 10 feet. Good bass fishing on both lakes. Lots of rock bass in 4 to 6 feet near the boat launch on West Twin. Bluegill and perch fishing were good.

Alpena: The better walleye fishing will be found in warmer water. Before the cool spell, fish were caught out from the marina and around Grass Island in 8 to 20 feet with crawler harnesses and body baits. Lake trout can still be found around Thunder Bay Island but fewer will be seen as the water warms. Try out near the wreck or head for the "Humps". A few trout and salmon could hit on spoons fished higher in the water column.

Thunder Bay River: Remains slow for the most part with only a few small rock bass or freshwater drum caught on worms. The occasional walleye was caught off the 9th Street Bridge in the late evening.

Harrisville: Fishing is good with lake trout the most abundant followed by chinook and steelhead. Boats are fishing 20 to 30 feet off the bottom in 80 to 150 feet. Start shallow in the early morning and head deeper as the day goes on with spoons and wobble glo's or spin-glo's behind dodgers and cowbells. Walleye fishing is up and down with most fish taken in 12 to 25 feet between Sturgeon Point and the Black River. Work the drops and rock shoals with crawler harnesses and body baits.

Oscoda: Pier fishing picked up for walleye, channel catfish and smallmouth bass now that the freshwater drum slowed. Anglers are using body baits, stick baits, crawlers and minnows. Lake trout were hitting on spoons and spin-glo's in 90 to 150 feet. Some reported steelhead on the scum lines so fish the surface on calm days.

Au Sable River: Anglers reported the hex hatches were happening and trout were being caught. The fish were decent size but low numbers. Anglers were taking nice catches of brown trout on the South Branch.

Houghton Lake: Walleye and northern pike fishing were good. Try crawler harnesses and leeches along the weed lines when trolling or drifting.

Tawas: Those trolling south of Tawas Point caught walleye in 50 to 70 feet when using crawler harnesses and spoons. Limit catches were taken further south off Whitestone Point in 30 feet. Pier and river fishing were both slow with only catfish, smallmouth bass and freshwater drum taken.

Au Gres: Had lots of walleye anglers taking fish just about everywhere. Some were heading northeast or Big Charity Island and some were going 8 to 10 miles south of Pointe Au Gres. In general, anglers caught walleye everywhere in 20 to 50 feet. Limits were not common but everybody was getting some fish.

Au Gres River: Shore anglers were getting some catfish.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Lake trout are scattered from Harbor Point to 7 Mile. Fish were caught on spoons and spin-glo's 60 to 90 feet down in a variety of depths. Rumor has it a couple salmon were taken around the Point. Few bass anglers were out.

Petoskey: Also has scattered lake trout with fish caught 20, 60 and 90 feet down. Most are fishing between the breakwall and Bay Harbor but a few had luck in front of the waste water treatment plant. Spoons were the ticket. A few smallmouth bass were caught near Bay View but no fish were on the beds. They were seen in large groups and not interested in hitting any kind of bait. Those fishing between the mouth of the river and the breakwall caught smallmouth bass, rock bass, bullhead, carp, suckers, pike and freshwater drum.

Bear River: Higher water levels recently did produce a couple steelhead and brown trout. Anglers use spawn bags and cut bait this time of year.

Charlevoix: Lake trout are still scattered throughout the water column. Most anglers are using spoons and spin-glo's. A small chinook was caught off Fisherman's Island State Park in the middle of the water column so anglers are hoping a few more will start showing up. Those fishing the channel caught both sub-legal and keeper size smallmouth bass. Lots of freshwater drum will keep anglers busy as they are hitting on just about anything. Not many walleye or Cisco were seen.

Elk River: Is producing smallmouth bass, rock bass, and the occasional brown trout. Most anglers are using live bait or tube baits.

Traverse City: The East Bay is producing lake trout and a few whitefish. The lake trout were in 80 to 120 feet. Smallmouth bass fishing has slowed even though there were still some fish on the beds. The West Bay is producing lake trout along with the occasional Cisco or whitefish. Lake trout fishing was steady in 95 to 120 feet. Smallmouth bass were caught in waters 5 to 20 feet deep.

Boardman River: Rock bass, carp, and a few smallmouth bass have been caught between the mouth and the Union Street Dam.

Frankfort: Cooler waters have set in. Those heading offshore for steelhead were trolling orange spoons in the top 50 feet.

Onekama: Anglers trolling the Barrel had some luck for lake trout when bouncing cowbells and spin-glo's off the bottom. Meat rigs 60 to 80 feet down in 150 to 180 feet were getting the most action for chinook salmon.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers were picking up good numbers of largemouth bass when working the drops and shallow areas with structure. Panfish were hitting on worms in 15 to 20 feet but many were small.

Manistee: Anglers venturing offshore looking for temperature breaks are finding steelhead along with a few lake trout and coho salmon. Try the top 30 feet with orange spoons. A few salmon were caught 20 to 80 feet down in 120 to 240 feet with green and blue spoons or green and red meat rigs.

Manistee River: A fair number of salmon were already making their way up the Little Manistee. Anglers are getting a couple steelhead mixed in with some planted trout on the Big Manistee.

Ludington: Boat anglers here are also looking for the temperature breaks and taking steelhead and lake trout in the top 30 feet. Orange and gold colored spoons are working well. Trout and salmon were also caught 25 to 100 feet down in 100 to 220 feet with orange and green spoons or yellow and red meat rigs. Those bottom bouncing for lake trout have done well with dodgers and spin-glo's.

Pentwater Lake: Had a good number of anglers fishing along the shoreline and the channel however most of them caught freshwater drum.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Gogebic: This week was much better for fishing and in the hunt for legal walleye; although an abundance of small 13 inch walleye were the most common. Anglers are still-fishing with minnows or leeches.

Menominee River: Walleye, catfish, and smallmouth bass were caught by boat and shore anglers using spoons, spinners, crank baits and live bait.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported some action down at Breezy Point when trolling or drifting crawlers and stick baits in 8 to 16 feet. A few catches were reported at the mouth of the Escanaba River in 12 to 22 feet and at Kipling in 18 to 30 feet. Perch anglers had very little action with only small fish caught on worms in 6 to 24 feet around Kipling. Smallmouth bass fishing was slower than normal throughout the Bay. Most were casting spinners or plastics near the mouth of the Ford River. Salmon anglers are not marking very many fish but the freshwater drum and the channel cats are very active. Those targeting walleye have caught a lot of catfish near the mouth of the Day's River and the Escanaba River when trolling crawler harnesses.

Big Bay De Noc: Has a similar scenario with anglers reporting a lot of freshwater drum. Smallmouth bass anglers have struggled all year. The water in the northern Bay is stained and the fish have been very illusive. Ogontz Bay and Kates Bay both reported catches but fewer than previous years. Walleye anglers had a few catches when trolling crawlers in 14 to 17 feet in Ogontz Bay. At Fairport, salmon anglers are struggling as most reported few or no catches 30 to 60 feet down in 130 feet.

Marquette: Had fair to good catch rates for lake trout in the Upper and Lower Harbors. Try the White Rocks, Granite Island and the Sand Hole in 180 to 225 feet or deeper. The flying ants are out and the black flies are increasing with the warmer weather. Success for lake trout was fair near Shot Point. High-lines were not producing salmon. No steelhead or brown trout to report.

Au Train Lake: Numbers of surfacing fish were observed feeding on forage and surface insects the past week – possibly smallmouth bass or northern pike. Anglers did poorly for walleye and northern pike but did manage to catch several undersize pike averaging 16 to 20 inches. No perch to report.

Munising: Had low catch rates with only a couple undersize splake reported. Boat anglers were trying to find fish when trolling in waters 60 to 200 feet deep. Those using fresh spawn caught small splake off the dock of the Anna River.

Grand Marais: Whitefish are hit-or-miss as catch rates were good some days and not so good on others when using a single egg. Those trolling were heading out five to ten miles for lake trout. Catch rates were good with most ranging 18 to 30 inches.

South Manistique Lake: Bluegill and pike activity is on the rise. Pike were reported in the first cove north from Wolf Bay and were caught by those trolling bright colored spinners. Brotherton Bay had bluegills moving on the beds. Anglers are using artificial spiders and poppers on fly rods. Walleye fishing is down but a good number of largemouth bass were reported near the boat launch adjacent to Sunset Pines Resort.

Newberry: Bass fishing has been good in a number of area lakes. Anglers are finding them in the near shore areas as spawning and bedding comes to an end.

DeTour: Lake trout have been caught along the DeTour Reef. Currently, try the flat directly two miles south of the lighthouse in 80 feet with hammered gray or silver colored spoons. Fish were also caught 35 to 40 feet down in 60 to 80 feet between the green can and the lighthouse. On the island side of the light, troll from the red can back to the lighthouse. Salmon fishing was slow. The thermocline was holding at 52 degrees in waters 45 to 50 feet deep.

Drummond Island: Lake herring were caught on the south end in the Third Bay which is east of Whitney Bay. Swedish pimples tipped with wax worms or mayfly skins with 4 to 6 pound test works best where fly hatches are occurring. If they will not bite, move away from the fly hatch and fish 35 to 40 feet deep because herring stage in deeper water adjacent to the fly hatches.

Walleye and smallmouth bass are still fair on the north shore of Scott Bay when trolling or casting orange and chartreuse crank baits early morning and evening. Bruce Point is producing some nice smallmouth 17 to 19 inches for those jigging dark brown and green tube baits 4 to 6 feet near the rock piles.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing was slow in Hessel Bay but good towards the east end of Cedarville Bay. The Moscow Channel is very good but not every day. Pike fishing is good all through the islands when still-fishing with chubs. Try casting in the shallow bays for bass. Herring have started to bite with many limit catches reported.

Carp River: Try fishing the mouth for walleye, pike or bass.

Brevoort Lake: Is producing panfish and pike.

July 16, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Sturgeon season opens July 16th on Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. Anglers will need to have a free lake sturgeon fishing permit and harvest tag before they go sturgeon fishing, both are available at all license vendors.

Harvested lake sturgeon must be registered with the Michigan DNR within 24 hours. Anglers can easily report a tagged sturgeon on the tagged fish web page at: <http://www.michigandnr.com/taggedfish/> or by calling the new toll-free number 1-844-345-3474. Please provide the following information – anglers name, address and phone number, length, weight (if weighed) and waterbody where it was caught.

Anglers can assist the DNR's management of the lake sturgeon fishery in Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River by reporting tagged sturgeon that they catch. Please record all the information you can from the tag (write it down or take a clear digital close-up photo of the tag) and release the fish with the tag still attached. Sturgeons are long-lived fish and some have been caught and released multiple times since the tagging studies started in 1996.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye and yellow perch fishing picked up with more anglers reporting limit catches of walleye when trolling crawler harnesses in 20 to 25 feet around Stony Point, the Fermi stacks and the Banana Dike. Some did well when trolling crank baits and spoons. Perch numbers are on the rise with more anglers reporting luck in 15 to 22 feet while jigging with minnows. Freshwater drum are everywhere.

Lenawee County: Panfish anglers were doing well in Devils Lake when drifting crawlers for bluegills suspended in 4 to 8 feet. A few pike and bass were caught on spinner baits and crank baits along the drop-offs. With the recent rains and runoff, Lake Hudson was very cloudy and the bite was slow with only a handful of bass and some panfish caught. With the weeds getting thicker, try fishing the deeper channels with bright colored baits.

Detroit River: Anglers reported a decrease in catch rates for walleye on the northern half of the Canadian side. The better fishing was still found near the whiskey plant, casino, salt mines and the cow pasture. Walleye fishing on the Michigan side was rated as poor even as they look deeper in 25 to 40 feet. Most were bottom bouncing crawler harnesses or hand-lining with spoons and stick baits.

A few yellow perch were caught downriver around the islands and the Cross-Dike. No muskie to report. Bass fishing was fair to poor for those fishing around the islands or in the cuts and canals. Boat anglers continue to target or catch walleye, bass, freshwater drum, rock bass, white bass, white perch, muskie or pike. Boat anglers are advised to bring waterproof footwear to use while launching and trailering vessels because a lot of the launch docks are partially underwater.

Lake St. Clair: Surface water temperatures are in the low 70's. Mayfly and caddis fly hatches were heavy over the last week. Walleye fishing was slow except for a few whipping after dark. Bass fishing was good with most fish caught in waters at least 12 feet deep. Muskie fishing remains good in Canadian waters.

St. Clair River: Surface waters temperatures were in the low 60's. Walleye fishing was slow. Bass fishing was good. Muskie fishing was good in Canadian waters but only fair in Michigan waters.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Lake trout and steelhead are moving to deeper water. Try fishing near the bottom in 100 to 140 feet. Boats are marking lots of fish but the bite was slow. Perch fishing was very slow.

Harbor Beach: Steelhead have been caught out near the scum line. Try the top 25 feet in 60 feet with bright orange, green and yellow spoons with 2, 3, 5, and 10 color lead lines with offshore boards. Lake trout were caught in 100 to 120 feet north of the harbor with downriggers and clean spoons or dodgers and squid off the bottom. Blue, green, orange or yellow with black dots were good colors.

Grindstone City: Walleye, bass and whitefish were caught in 40 to 48 feet when trolling crank baits on 6 colors of lead core off Burnt Cabin Point. Fire-tiger and crayfish (anything with orange on it) were the best colors. Charters out of Grindstone were getting lake trout in 120 to 130 feet straight north of the harbor.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye fishing remains good but it is slowing down. Walleye show signs of moving to deeper water as do the lake trout as the weather warms up. Good walleye action five miles north of Buoys 1 & 2, northwest of the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12) in 28 feet, and near the Sailboat Buoys G, A, and B. Near the mouth of the Kawkawlin River, the early morning bite was best over the weed beds in 12 to 14 feet when trolling un-weighted or very light crawler harnesses. The trick is to keep them above the weeds. They are still taking walleye off the Callahan Reef, Finn Road, along the Slot and off the Bar when using crawler harnesses, crank baits and spoons. Best spinner colors were purple, pink, chartreuse and brass. The deeper areas of Wildfowl Bay were producing some walleye. Off Caseville, most boats are either fishing north of Big Charity or off Oak Point. At Port Austin, walleye anglers headed west toward Hat Reef in 35 to 38 feet or northwest of Big Charity in 40 to 60 feet.

Sanford Lake: Has excellent crappie fishing on small pink jigs with a white twister-tail or minnow. Bluegills and sunfish were also caught. Pike fishing picked up and the old reliable red and white Daredevil spoon worked best. Bass fishing was good.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch fishing continues to be good in 30 to 40 feet. Salmon fishing was not consistent as the fish are scattered. The few caught were taken in 75 to 100 feet. Pier fishing for steelhead slowed with only a couple fish taken on shrimp or alewife.

South Haven: Pier anglers are catching the occasional steelhead on alewife. Perch fishing was very slow. The few caught were scattered in 18 to 45 feet. Salmon fishing was also slow with only a few boats catching fish in 60 to 100 feet and deeper.

Kalamazoo River: A few walleye were caught near the Allegan Dam. Bass anglers have done well with artificial worms and grubs. Look for panfish in the backwaters.

Grand Haven: Windy weather has turned the water continuously so water temperatures were consistent throughout, Water in the 40's brought a large number of steelhead close to shore. Boat anglers had decent catches for steelhead and chinook salmon. A few perch were caught in shallower water. Pier angler did well when using shrimp and alewife. A couple chinook and brown trout were caught.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Channel and flathead catfish are being caught off the wall when using worms and bluegills. More walleye are being caught when using minnows off the wall or when drifting. Summer steelhead are beginning to make their way to the dam with about a half dozen landed in the last week by those drifting yarn and beads.

Grand River at Lansing: Catfish are being caught near the dam at Moore's Park. Try crawlers, small bluegills or cut bait. Smallmouth bass were hitting on tube baits near the Brenke Fish Ladder.

Muskegon: Boat anglers did best up and down the water column as the fish were scattered. Catch rates were slow with meat rigs out fishing spoons 2 to 1. Try running gold spoons.

Muskegon River: Anglers are catching good number of brown trout and a few more Skamania. Catch rates were good throughout the river including the Hardy Dam and Croton Dam. Bass anglers are doing well with top water lures and soft plastics. Those fly fishing have also done well for trout and bass.

Whitehall: Had a few boat anglers that set lines when out on a pleasure cruise and were surprised when they caught chinook salmon. Baitfish are inside the channel. Boat anglers will want to try 80 to 100 feet. Pier anglers took steelhead, coho and brown trout after netting alewife for bait.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Lake trout fishing is still good. Most anglers are still catching anywhere from 1-4 fish per boat but some are taking limit catches. A few more chinook, coho and steelhead were in the mix. The lake trout are both suspended or near the bottom in waters 50 feet or deeper. Try cowbells or dodgers with spin-glo's and spoons in bright colors like green or yellow. A very large mayfly hatch was underway. Scum lines were starting to form. Anglers are trolling around them with orange and green spoons. A few chinook were caught in 55 to 125 feet but the fish are scattered. Try green, blue, black or white spoons. Glow spoons work best first and last light.

East & West Twin Lakes: Walleye were caught in the 10 foot holes on West Twin. Bluegill fishing was great along the shoreline. Perch fishing picked up in the 8 foot holes. Try natural baits. East Twin was slow for all species.

Alpena: Walleyes are still being caught with some boats doing real well and others struggling to find them. They are starting to move out to deeper water. Try 12 to 18 feet down in 20 to 40 feet with body baits or crawler harnesses near the Red Can, Grass Island, behind Sulphur Island and around Thunder Bay Island. Lake trout were caught straight off the "Humps", around Thunder Bay Island and out towards the wreck in 60 to 120 feet. They are just off the bottom or suspended throughout the water column. The occasional salmon or steelhead were caught up high.

Thunder Bay River: A few walleye were caught on crawler harnesses or body baits near the draw-bridge. Shore anglers had slow fishing with only a few rock bass or freshwater drum taken on worms.

Harrisville: A variety of fish are coming in good numbers. Lake trout have been the most abundant with the occasional steelhead, chinook, Atlantic and walleye. Lake trout are near the bottom in 80 to 150 feet. Watch out for nets, and check locations before fishing this area as the nets seem to be in waters 130 feet and deeper. The nets are marked very well as long as you don't have a lot of wave action you will be able to see them. Steelhead, chinook and Atlantic salmon were caught north of the harbor toward Sturgeon Point. These fish are 10 to 25 feet down in 70 to 90 feet and hitting on orange and blue spoons. Walleye are still north of the harbor between Sturgeon Point and the Black River. Crawler harnesses and reef runners are best.

Oscoda: Pier fishing has been up and down. Walleye have been caught throughout the night but seem to shut down before sun up. Catfish are also being caught throughout the night and into early morning on crawlers and leeches. Look upriver for walleye as some were reported at Foote Dam. Lake trout were scarce. The fish that were caught were in 70 to 150 feet of water and suspended. Spread your baits throughout the water column.

Higgins Lake: Was producing some perch but anglers had to do some searching to find them. Try 30 to 40 feet with minnows or wax worms. Some lake trout were caught in 80 to 100 feet by those jigging or trolling with body baits and cowbells with spoons. A couple pike were caught on sucker minnows under a slip bobber near the Main Island. Rock bass are everywhere.

Lake St. Helen: Was producing bluegills and pumpkinseed. A few walleye were caught by those drifting crawlers and leeches.

Tawas: Those trolling for walleye did very well in 50 feet out past Tawas Point and off Whitestone Point in 40 to 45 feet. Some limit catches were reported. Pier fishing was slow with only a few catfish or freshwater drum caught.

Tawas River: Shore anglers in the lower river were catching the odd catfish, freshwater drum or pike.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing was still good and the port was busy. Many were going over to the Charity Islands or fishing in 30 to 45 feet between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres. A few were heading south and fishing north of Buoys 1 & 2 which has been a universal hot spot for the past couple weeks. Limit catches have been common and pretty much everyone is getting some fish.

Au Gres River: Shore anglers caught a few catfish, freshwater drum and bass.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Boat anglers were fishing north of Harbor Point. Bass anglers were disappointed as only a couple small fish were caught.

Petoskey: Boat anglers are fishing off the water treatment plant and around Bay Harbor for lake trout. The "Bobber Hole" near the mouth of the Bear River was slow but anglers did manage to catch rock bass, freshwater drum, bullhead, a few small perch or bass. Try worms without a bobber. Pier anglers caught small bass.

Bear River: Anglers fishing the dam caught a lot of smaller rock bass and some bullhead. Try worms and artificial eggs.

Charlevoix: Anglers are doing well for lake trout. The channel has been a bit slow. Anglers are catching mostly undersize smallmouth bass. Worms and leeches work best. Cisco, freshwater drum and rock bass were also caught.

Elk River: Smallmouth are hitting tube baits, leeches, crawlers, or minnows.

Traverse City: The East Bay had fair lake trout fishing in 70 to 120 feet. Some were suspended about 70 feet down while others were near the bottom. Those jigging caught a few whitefish. Smallmouth bass action was decent in 10 to 20 feet. In the West Bay, lake trout were fair with most caught while trolling or jigging in 90 to 115 feet. There have been rumors of a few chinook salmon caught.

Boardman River: Fishing was good. Those fishing upstream near the two forks caught some large brown trout on flies at dusk. Morning hatches of Trico's and Blue Wing Olives are getting some fish to rise. Some good size browns were caught below Sabin Dam.

Steelhead and smallmouth bass were caught at the Union Street Dam. Carp are still in the river. Smallmouth bass and walleye were caught near the mouth on live bait.

Frankfort: Chinook salmon are hitting and good catches were reported by those trolling north and targeting the top 80 feet in waters 120 to 150 feet deep with J-plugs, spoons and meat rigs. Steelhead and lake trout were caught in the top 40 feet. South winds are warming the water which was up near 64 degrees. Brown trout are still being caught in the channel between the piers.

Onekama: The Barrel is still producing good catches of lake trout for those bouncing cowbells and spin-glo's on the bottom. Those heading out in the early morning caught chinook on meat rigs in 120 to 200 feet.

Portage Lake: Is producing a good number of largemouth but fewer smallmouth bass. Most fish were caught along the shoreline and the drops in deeper water.

Manistee: Those fishing the temperature breaks are doing well for steelhead and lake trout. Try the top 30 feet with orange spoons. A couple salmon were caught 30 to 90 feet down in 120 to 240 feet. Pier anglers caught brown trout when using alewife or casting spoons.

Manistee River: Anglers are catching steelhead and brown trout.

Ludington: Boats anglers are finding steelhead and lake trout but the salmon action was slow. The few caught were taken 25 to 100 feet down in 100 to 250 feet with orange spoons and green flies. Lake trout were caught bottom bouncing with dodgers and spin-glo's.

Pentwater: Fishing has turned on with nice catches reported. Some fishing close to port limited out but most were fishing in 100 feet. Baitfish are in the channel. A couple steelhead and redhorse suckers were caught by pier anglers.

Pentwater Lake: Shore anglers caught bullhead in the evening. Boat anglers caught smallmouth bass and pike.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Fishing was very slow with only a few lake trout taken. A couple limit catches were taken in the South Portage Entry. Anglers tried several different depths and did not catch anything until they jigged in 315 feet. Fishing in Traverse Bay was slow.

Lake Gogebic: Walleye have been caught by those using a range of methods including still-fishing with minnows, jigging minnows off the bottom and trolling crank baits. Walleye were found both shallow and in deep water. Perch anglers were few and those out reported poor catch rates. Those fishing from the public pier in Berglund were catching sunfish and rock bass on worms.

Marquette: Those trolling for lake trout in the Upper and Lower Harbor had mixed results and were getting anywhere from three to a limit catch in a five hour trip. Some did make trips over to Shot Point and had fair results in 200 to 250 feet. Most are fishing north and east from the Sand Hole, north of the White Rocks, the “humps” off Granite Island, near Little Presque Isle and the Clay Banks. Concentrate near the bottom in 200 to 250 feet. Stannard Rock was producing excellent results with fish ranging 3 to 15 pounds when jigging with spoons, flies and cut bait. Surface water temperatures were in the mid 50’s.

Au Train Lake: Boat anglers targeting pike did catch a couple legal size fish on minnows. Those using spinner rigs and crawlers caught smaller fish. Walleye anglers had some action but catch rates were still slow. Try leeches, crawlers or trolling small crank baits. The weeds are becoming increasingly dense. Smallmouth bass were seen along the shoreline.

Munising: Reports indicate low catch rates with only a couple splake and lake trout caught in 100 to 200 feet. They are trolling all over to find fish including Trout Bay and Sand Point. Fresh spawn has been the bait of choice off the dock of the Anna River. Many small splake were caught and released.

Grand Marais: Anglers are fishing off the end of the pier and trolling deep about 5 to 10 miles out. Whitefish were hit-or-miss. The fish were averaging 13 inches but a few bigger fish were also caught on a single egg. Catch rates for lake trout were good with anglers bringing in fish every trip.

Bodi Lake: Which is in the Bodi Lake State Forest Campground in northeastern Luce County has reopened the boat launch. Improvements to the launch have been completed. Anglers should find it much easier to launch and retrieve their boats.

South Manistique Lake: Bluegills are beginning to make their way out to deeper water. Large numbers of fish have been caught near Sherman Road but most were small. Pike numbers increased with most hitting on crawler harnesses. Walleye numbers were down but catch rates were good on Big Manistique.

DeTour: The Cadis Fly hatch improved. Anglers have switched from salmon and trout fishing to lake herring. The few targeting salmon did catch a couple Atlantic salmon about 15 feet down in 50 feet when long-lining purple and chrome spoons. Dark brown flies are producing Atlantic salmon for those trolling about halfway down in 40 feet west of the lighthouse.

Drummond Island: Fly hatches were helping anglers take limit catches of lake herring. Good catches were reported in 20 feet at Harbor and Howard Island. Try three cranks off the bottom with brown and red tear drop lures tipped with a wax worm. Just east of Fairbank Point, herring were good just off the bottom in 21 feet. Anglers caught walleye at Arrow Island when trolling chrome and chartreuse crank baits in 18 feet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Have excellent pike fishing from Hessel Bay through Government Bay. Anglers are casting, trolling, or still-fishing with chubs. The shallow bays are producing as well. Good perch fishing in Moscow Channel and Hessel Bay. A good number of herring were caught in Prentice Bay, McKay Bay and the east end of Moscow Channel.

July 23, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Heavy rain and strong winds over the last few weeks have many of the inland lakes and rivers high and muddy. Those out fishing may have to change their techniques, bait and lures to catch more fish. If what you always use is not working, time to try something different because changing weather conditions are not making it easy.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: With walleye season winding down anglers are reporting lower catch rates but a few were still caught when trolling in 20 to 25 feet with crawler harnesses, spoons or crank baits. Try a mile or two out from Stony Point and Fermi or near the Banana Dike and the E-Buoy. Perch numbers are on the climb as anglers are catching fish out of Brest Bay and Bolles Harbor when jigging in 15 to 22 feet using minnows with pink or purple beads.

Lenawee County: Devils Lake seen fair to good bluegill fishing by those putting in their time. Most fish were caught in 6 to 12 feet when using crawlers and wax worms. Those trolling for pike did well using deep divers and spinner baits along the weed lines. A few good catches of crappie were taken on minnows. On Lake Hudson, fishing was hit-or-miss depending on the day. Bass anglers are doing best throwing top water baits or Senkos. Panfish were caught in good numbers but the keepers were hard to find. A few walleye are starting to trickle in for those trolling or casting.

Detroit River: Walleye anglers are jigging around the islands or trolling crawler harnesses near the mouth. Perch fishing was slow but anglers are finding them in the open areas around the weed beds. Smallmouth bass are being caught around the islands and some musky were caught on the east side of Grosse Ile.

St. Clair River: Was producing some limit catches of walleye along the wall in Port Huron.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Lake trout fishing picked up as the thermoclines settled down. The fish were caught on bright green lures near the bottom in 100 to 140 feet. Steelhead and the odd chinook were caught on bright orange spoons about halfway down. Perch fishing was very slow.

Harbor Beach: Lake trout are being taken in 100 to 120 feet north of the harbor when using spoons off downriggers and dodgers with spin-glo's off the bottom. Blue, green, glow or white with pink dots worked well especially when trolling a little faster. Steelhead and the occasional salmon were caught out near the scum line in the top 25 to 70 feet. Good colors were bright orange, green and yellow.

Grindstone City: The walleye action was spotty but some boats did well about 4 miles south when fishing in 35 to 48 feet off the New River. Anglers are fishing around the reefs with lead core and crawlers, crank baits or spoons.

Saginaw Bay: A good number of walleye were still being caught beyond Buoys 1 & 2 in 25 feet or more, off the Pinconning Bar and off Linwood in 20 feet. There was also an early morning bite off the mouth of the Kawkawlin River and the Callahan Reef in 6 to 9 feet along the weed beds. Most are trolling unweighted or very light crawler harnesses off planer boards so they ride just over the top of the weeds. This is a pre-dawn until about 10AM bite and then the fish go deeper. Those trolling up the east side are taking a few walleye from the Slot, off the Bar and along the shipping channel when trolling harnesses. The fish are scattered so if you find some, circle back through them. Success off Caseville was limited so try northeast of Big Charity Island. Walleye fishing was slow off Port Austin but the lake trout action has picked up.

Saginaw River: Walleye catches were spotty with the better action near the bridge supports. Smith Park in Essexville is open after renovations. Shore anglers there were catching the occasional bass, catfish and freshwater drum.

Sanford Lake: A recent bass tournament had mixed results with some taking limits while others were skunked. Crappie fishing slowed but some were caught on pinkie jigs, minnows or worms. Warmer water made it more difficult to find active fish.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boaters should use caution as there was a lot of debris floating around because of the recent storms. Perch were caught in good numbers in 35 feet. Salmon fishing was slow as the fish were scattered. The most consistent water seemed to be 90 to 120 feet. Pier anglers are still catching a couple steelhead when floating shrimp or alewife under a bobber.

St. Joseph River: Flows are high and turbid and there are a lot of logs and debris moving downstream. Boat anglers will need to use caution. A fair number of steelhead moved upstream through the Berrien Springs fish ladder. Water temperatures were in the mid 70's so those fish will need to find colder water near springs or in the tributaries.

South Haven: Also has debris coming down into the lake. Boat anglers will want to use caution. Those targeting salmon found fishing was starting to improve in 80 to 100 feet. Pier anglers caught the occasional steelhead when using shrimp under a bobber. Perch anglers were starting to catch a few fish in 20 to 60 feet but overall the fish were scattered.

Saugatuck: Pier anglers are catching summer steelhead.

Kalamazoo River: Flathead and channel catfish are being caught in good numbers. Steelhead were caught at the Allegan Dam.

Holland: Pier anglers are catching summer steelhead.

Grand Haven: Pier anglers had some success when the alewives were in close. They caught chinook and some had limit catches of steelhead when using shrimp or alewife for bait. Boat anglers caught fish 40 to 90 feet down in 70 to 140 feet with green spoons and meat rigs.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: A few summer steelhead making it up to the dam were caught by those drifting flies, yarn and beads. Channel and flathead catfish are being caught on worms and bluegills. Carp were hitting on worms, corn and shredded wheat. Those fishing off the wall caught bluegills. Crappie and a few walleye were also caught on minnows.

Grand River at Lansing: Catfish are being caught near the dams. Try crawlers, bluegills, cut bait, or shrimp. Some crappies were also caught.

Lake Lansing: Was producing a few bass.

Livingston County: Bass and bluegill were caught in Woodland Lake and a few panfish were taken in Lake Chemung.

Muskegon: Catch rates were slow with most boats going at least fifteen miles out and searching for better fishing waters. Those that did catch chinook did so when fishing throughout the water column in 120 feet with J-plugs and meat rigs.

Whitehall: Boat anglers were taking some chinook, coho, lake trout and steelhead. Pier fishing for steelhead and salmon died off but a few bait fish remain in the channel.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Fishing continues to pick up for chinook and steelhead with the occasional coho or Atlantic salmon mixed in. There has not been one spot better than another however the better fishing was in the evening in 45 to 120 feet with downriggers, dipseys, lead core and copper. Most fish were caught in the top 40 feet with green, blue, yellow and chartreuse spoons. Glow spoons work best at first and last light. Steelhead were caught on orange spoons up high. Lake trout are still abundant and those targeting them have done very well when using cowbells with spin-glo's near the bottom or suspended. Conditions are changing continuously with the different wind directions.

East & West Twin Lakes: Fishing was slow on East Twin but the walleye fishing on West Twin was very good with fish ranging 15 to 18 inches. Those trolling reported fish over 20 inches. Rock bass fishing was easy on West Twin when using crawlers or artificial worms in the 6 to 8 foot holes. Perch fishing was also good with fish ranging 8 to 14 inches. Bass fishing was moderate with most fishing along the shallows and near structure off Eagle Point.

Alpena: A mixed bag is beginning to show up with mostly lake trout along with a couple salmon and steelhead. Lake trout can be found near the bottom but the salmon and steelhead were hitting in the top 50 feet. Try around Thunder Bay Island or the "Humps" with orange, green or blue spoons. The walleye fishing has been great with most boats catching fish near the North Shore and Red Can, behind Grass Island, between Sulphur Island and Grass Island or around Thunder Bay Island. Most fish were taken on crank baits, body baits and crawler harnesses. The fish have moved deeper and were anywhere from 8 to 15 feet down in 20 to 40 feet.

Thunder Bay River: The water has warmed significantly and slowed the bite for most species but some young anglers caught rock bass and some undersize smallmouth bass.

Harrisville: The water temperature has been up and down making it hard to find the breaks. Lake trout, salmon and walleye seem to be in the same area north of the harbor between Sturgeon Point and the Black River in 10 to 30 feet. Lake trout and salmon were caught in 70 to 170 feet. Those fishing top to bottom caught a variety of fish with downriggers, planer boards and long-lining. Spoons, wobble glows and spin-glo's behind cowbells, flashers and dodgers are working well.

Oscoda: Pier anglers have caught channel cats but they were not biting until very late at night. Walleye have slowed. Lake trout are out deep and staying close to the bottom. Try 80 to 150 feet with dark colored spoons, spin-glo's and cut bait.

Au Sable River: A few walleye were caught just below Foote Dam. Early morning and late at night were the best times.

Houghton Lake: Is producing panfish and walleye.

Tawas: Had a lot of boats out trolling for walleye. They did best in 50 to 60 feet outside Tawas Point when using crawler harnesses. A few limit catches were reported. Some boats were going south toward the "crib" off Alabaster and fishing in 40 to 50 feet. Pier and river fishing were "summer slow" and producing the occasional bass, catfish or freshwater drum.

Au Gres: Remained very busy with lots of walleye action between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres in 35 to 45 feet and northeast of the Charity Islands. Harnesses and some body baits were the main lures.

Au Gres River: Fishing was slow with only the occasional catfish taken.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Inland lakes in the area are producing a mixed bag of panfish, pike and walleye.

Harbor Springs: Anglers did very well for lake trout 50 to 70 feet down in 60 to 80 feet. Many were traveling up the coast to fish around 5 Mile Point. Spin-glo's and dodgers worked best. The occasional salmon was also caught. Smallmouth bass fishing was slow with only a few smaller fish caught.

Petoskey: Anglers did well for lake trout but no salmon were reported. Most boats are fishing the area from the breakwall to Bay Harbor with spoons in 50 to 70 feet or deeper. Some tried cut bait, but didn't catch anything. Fish were also marked mid water in 130 to 150 feet. Pier anglers caught undersize smallmouth bass in the rocks. Fishing was still slow at the "Bobber Hole" near the mouth of the Bear River. Those using worms with or without a bobber and small spinners or crank baits caught freshwater drum, bullhead, rock bass and smallmouth.

Bear River: The water level is very low and fishing pressure was low. A few smaller brown trout were seen jumping in the falls at the dam. Those using spawn bags and worms up near the dam have caught bullhead and rock bass.

Charlevoix: The charter boats heading out were picking up a few chinook. Anglers may want to try from the cement plant to the south. Those fishing the channel caught mainly undersize smallmouth bass when using crawlers or leeches on the bottom. Freshwater drum are also in the channel and can provide some action for those using crawlers, leeches, spoons or crank baits.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass fishing has slowed but anglers were still catching a few on leeches.

Traverse City: The East Bay is producing lake trout and the occasional whitefish or cisco. For lake trout, try near the bottom in 90 to 130 feet. Anglers are marking a few salmon but few had success catching them. In the West Bay, lake trout were found in 85 to 140 feet. Anglers reported salmon north of Elmwood Marina but few were caught. Look for the fish to be suspended about 60 feet down in 100 to 200 feet.

Boardman River: Fishing near the mouth has been slow. Undersize smallmouth and some rock bass seem to dominate the catch however a few walleye were caught on occasion. Carp fishing has slowed. Below Sabin Dam, a few brown trout continue to be caught at night, mostly on flies. Very few anglers were upstream of Sabin Dam.

Frankfort: Is producing chinook salmon 40 to 110 feet down in 175 to 250 feet when trolling blue spoons and meat rigs. Those heading offshore caught steelhead and lake trout in 33 to 35 feet. Brown trout are still in the harbor and the channel and were hitting on jointed body baits.

Onekama: Boat anglers trolling 40 to 80 feet down in 120 to 150 feet caught chinook in the early morning and after dusk. Spoons and flies were the ticket. Lake trout can be found around the “Barrel” and were caught with cowbells bouncing the bottom.

Portage Lake: Had another Mayfly hatch so bass anglers were having a rough time catching fish. Water temperatures were climbing so most were fishing 14 to 22 feet down. The bite did improve with the warmer weather.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: Have good bass fishing for those using crawlers, spinners, crank baits and top water baits in shady areas. Crappie are hitting in the shallows early and deeper as the day goes on. Pike have been caught but many are undersize. Walleye fishing was slow.

Manistee: Boat anglers are catching a mix of chinook, lake trout and steelhead.

Manistee River: A fair number of salmon are making their way into the Little Manistee and the Big Manistee is producing some steelhead.

Ludington: Boat anglers are catching a mix of chinook, lake trout and steelhead.

Pentwater: The better salmon fishing was found on the south side of Little Sable Point where anglers caught lake trout, steelhead and coho in 75 to 100 feet. Those bringing in more fish were traveling 10 to 15 miles offshore and fishing in waters 400 feet deep. Pier fishing slowed but a few baitfish remain in the channel. Pier anglers caught some nice smallmouth bass.

UPPER PENINSULA

Brook trout fishing has been excellent and any stream with brook trout is worth fishing. The lack of rain and steady weather is producing the ability to take limit catches.

Keweenaw Bay: Had fewer anglers but those getting out did catch a mix of chinook, coho, splake, lake trout and brown trout. A few limit catches were also reported.

Lake Gogebic: Is producing walleye and the best reports came from those trolling crank baits or still-fishing with minnows, leeches and crawlers. Walleye were found in both deep and shallow water. Those fishing from the public pier in Bergland caught sunfish, rock bass and the occasional perch.

Lake Antoine: Was producing small perch and some bluegills.

Menominee: Brown trout fishing has been consistent with an average of 2 to 3 fish per boat. Walleye and perch fishing efforts were minimal.

Menominee River: Is producing walleye, catfish, freshwater drum and smallmouth bass. The best time to fish is early morning or evening when trolling crawler harnesses and stick baits.

Little Bay De Noc: Salmon anglers reported steady catches. Most were fishing north of the Ford River Buoy however catches were also reported in the deep channel just off Aronson Island when trolling spoons 35 to 60 feet down. Further south, anglers did best 30 to 60 feet down in 60 to 80 feet. Very few walleye or perch were caught. Those fishing off Breezy Point were marking a moderate number of fish however few were caught. A couple walleye were taken by those trolling crawler harnesses in 30 feet near Kipling and out from the Terrace Bay Inn in 30 to 40 feet. Pike were active with several areas producing fair to good catches but most were undersize. Try the mouth of the Escanaba River and near the ship docks when trolling spinners or crank baits in 8 to 20 feet. At Kipling, most were trolling daredevils or spinners in 10 to 24 feet and those near the Day's River were trolling crawler harnesses or crank baits in 16 to 20 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Smallmouth bass anglers reported much better catches. The best area was to the south near St. Vitals Island when casting plastics or crawlers and leeches on jigs in 10 to 12 feet. Fish were also caught in Kates Bay and just off Garden Bluff in 10 to 18 feet. Walleye fishing slowed but a few fish were still caught from Big Bay Shoals to Kates Bay when trolling crawler harnesses in 12 to 25 feet. At Fairport, salmon anglers are still taking fish in 130 to 150 feet however some have also taken fish in 90 to 110 feet. The fish were 50 to 60 feet down in both areas. Spoons and artificial cut bait were the ticket and colors varied.

Marquette: Lake trout anglers in the Upper and Lower Harbor had slower catch rates with most having a tough time catching one or two fish. They were fishing on the bottom at various depths between 150 and 225 feet or deeper. A few chinook were caught but no coho. Target the waters north of the white rocks, to the east near the "sand hole" and north of Granite Island when trolling spoons or flies.

Au Train Lake: A few more anglers were out and mainly targeting northern pike and walleye. Results were poor with only a few fish caught on crawlers. Some were targeting yellow perch but most of the fish were released as they were only 6 to 7 inches. There appears to be a possible turnover of the lake with surface water temperatures up near 70. Visibility was close to ten feet and very clear.

Munising: Those heading out reported a few splake and lake trout taken in 100 to 200 feet when trolling in Trout Bay and off Sand Point. Those fishing off the dock of the Anna River continue to catch good numbers of small splake.

Grand Marais: Strong winds have kept many in the bay. The occasional whitefish was caught on a single egg and very few lake trout were caught. No coho were caught. There were no anglers fishing the mouth of the Sucker River.

South Manistique Lake: Northern pike action remains hot all over, with a massive 38 inch fish caught near the south end. Anything from inline spinners to crawler harnesses were taking fish. Walleye numbers have improved, but overall catches were still slow. The largemouth hits were especially good for those using soft plastics near Sunset Pines Resort.

Tahquamenon River: Perch, walleye and musky fishing is picking up with the steady weather and warmer temperatures.

DeTour: Lake trout anglers had good success trolling along the 80 foot flat directly south of the lighthouse when using chrome and orange spoons 50 to 60 feet down. Hammered silver, chartreuse and white spoons caught lake trout from the red buoy east of the lighthouse and northwest to the green buoy. Those trolling lead core with 3 inch purple and white spoons caught Atlantic salmon 12 to 15 feet down in 60 feet. Anglers may want to try using fly type baits for Atlantic salmon while the Caddis hatch is underway.

Drummond Island: Had good lake herring action on the south side of Harbor Island just off the bottom in 20 feet when using gold tear drops tipped with a wax worm or natural fly. Catch rates were also good at Howard Island which is the small island on the south side of Harbor Island with dark red or brown tear drops. Noodle rods with 4 to 6 pound test worked best. Walleye were still holding in 14 to 18 feet for those trolling bottom bouncers with a 32 inch leader and crawler harness on the back side of Rutland Island in Scott Bay. The evening hours were good off Paw Point when trolling shallow running crank baits in 4 to 6 feet. Look for pike along the weed beds off the DNR boat launch.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike fishing was very good in the early morning or late evening off the Hessel pier. Pike fishing is very good all through the Les Cheneaux Islands. Perch fishing is best in Hessel Bay, Cedarville Bay and Moscow Channel. Fishing for herring is about done except for Prentice Bay. Bass fishing is very good in the shallow weedy bays.

July 30, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The extremely warm weather is making fishing a little more difficult. The walleyes are moving to deeper water. Panfish such as bluegills and crappie were suspended along the weed beds in deeper water. Good bass fishing continues on the inland lakes and along the Great Lakes.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Is producing some walleye for those trolling in 18 to 25 feet with crawler harnesses, spoons and crank baits although crawler harnesses worked best. Fish were caught near the E-Buoy, Banana Dike, Fermi and Stony Point. Perch fishing actually picked up and those using minnows with purple or pink beads while anchored in 15 to 20 feet off Brest Bay, Bolles Harbor and Stony Point caught fish.

Lenawee County: Devils Lake had good fishing. Bluegill anglers did best fishing deep in 15 to 25 feet with crickets and wax worms. Bass anglers did well at various depths and locations. Pike were caught by those trolling along the weeds. Surface water temperatures were near 80 degrees. Lake Hudson was slow. Bass anglers caught a few with top water and weedless baits along the shorelines and lily pads. A couple walleye were caught by those casting for bass. Few musky were caught. Shore anglers caught small bluegills and the occasional bass or catfish near the boat ramp.

Detroit River: Fishing pressure was very light with the hot weather. Those heading out usually did so in the early morning. A few walleye were caught on the northern half of the Canadian side with the better fishing near the whiskey plant, casino, salt mines and up near the mouth toward Lake St. Clair. Walleye fishing on the Michigan side was slow with the exception of a few caught around Grosse Ile and down near Lake Erie. Some caught up to 5 fish but most were lucky to get 2 in waters 15 to 40 feet deep. They are bottom bouncing crawler harnesses or hand-lining with spoons and stick baits. Some fishing the Canadian side were jigging. A few boats targeting muskie had fair results with fish ranging 40 to 50 inches. Bass fishing is fair with a mix of both large and smallmouth around the islands, cuts and canals. The bigger fish were 3 to 4 pounds but many were sub-legal.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Good numbers of lake trout were caught near the bottom in 100 to 130 feet. Steelhead and the odd chinook were also caught about halfway down. A scum line was starting to form and that may bring the steelhead up closer to the surface. Anglers were starting to catch some perch off Port Sanilac. Try minnows or wax worms in 20 to 30 feet around the weed beds. Pier fishing was slow but anglers were catching some 10 and 12 inch white bass.

Harbor Beach: Is producing a good number of lake trout just off the bottom in waters up to 130 feet deep. Some caught the odd chinook or steelhead as well.

Grindstone City: Had excellent walleye fishing with limit catches reported. Walleye were taken in good numbers in 20 to 45 feet or 20 feet in the evening with crawler harnesses, crank baits and spoons. Those trolling off Burnt Cabin Point reported very good catches of lake trout in 100 to 155 feet.

Port Austin: Had excellent walleye fishing. Anglers are heading west to Hat Point and Flat Rock Reefs or east and fishing Eagle Bay. Some walleye and a good number of smallmouth bass were caught around the Port Austin Light. Try 20 to 45 feet or 20 feet in the evening with spoons, crank baits or crawler harnesses. Pier anglers fishing along the rocks at night caught walleye on fire-tiger rapalas.

Saginaw Bay: Hot weather is driving the walleyes to deep water and toward the tip of the Thumb but anglers are still getting a few. Limit catches are no longer common and those trolling are working hard for their fish. They are fishing in 20 feet off Linwood, early morning off the Kawkawlin River, the Dumping Grounds and off Finn Road and the Callahan Reef in 6 to 8 feet. Most are using crawler harnesses but a few are running crank baits or spoons. Catfish anglers are doing well in the Hot Pond with crawlers and shrimp. On the east side, fishing was spotty and ranged from poor to good. The better action out of Caseville was northeast of Big Charity Island, around the Steeples, off Oak Point and further to the northeast to the Hat Point Reef. Harnesses are still the predominant bait, with chartreuse, pink, purple, brass and orange spinners. Fishing in the Slot was hit-or-miss. Lake trout fishing is very good in deep water.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers fishing the lower river at Smith Park are catching catfish, freshwater drum and the occasional smallmouth bass.

Sanford Lake: Fishing slowed but crappie anglers were still taking fish on pinkie jigs with a white twin twister-tail, minnows and wax worms. Bluegills were also caught. Some walleye were taken on a variety of artificial baits and a couple muskie were also taken. Bass anglers have done well.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing was slow as the fish appear to be scattered. Pier fishing for steelhead has slowed as most only caught freshwater drum and catfish when using crawlers or shrimp on the bottom. Perch fishing was good with a fair number of nice fish caught in 30 feet.

South Haven: Perch fishing improved quite a bit with a good number of fish caught south of the pier in 30 to 40 feet. Salmon fishing is slow with only a few caught in 100 feet. Pier fishing slowed but the occasional steelhead was taken. Shrimp under a bobber worked best.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead fishing was slow during the warm spell however those targeting channel and flathead catfish continue to take good numbers when using crawlers, cut bait, shrimp and chicken liver.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers found a few trout and salmon 30 to 90 feet down in 70 to 180 feet. They are using green or orange spoons and green or yellow meat rigs. Pier fishing for steelhead was slow with the increase in water temperature but anglers still caught freshwater drum and catfish in the channel with worms and cut bait.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Very few summer steelhead were caught over the last week and none were reported above the 6th Street Dam. Channel and flathead catfish are still being caught on worms and small bluegills. A few crappie were taken on minnows. Walleye, smallmouth bass and bluegills were caught off the wall. Walleye and smallmouth were caught below the dam when using live or artificial bait.

Grand River at Lansing: Was producing some crappie above the Moore's Park Dam. They were hard to find but when anglers did they caught some nice fish. Those targeting channel cats have done well with crawlers, small bluegills, cut bait and even shrimp when fishing the holes.

Red Cedar River: Is producing smallmouth bass but anglers will have to sort out the small ones.

Looking Glass River: Has very good pike fishing especially around the DeWitt area. Anglers can also be found near Babcock's Landing.

Muskegon: Boat anglers are catching trout and salmon 35 to 80 feet down in 70 to 150 feet with green, orange and yellow spoons or green meat rigs.

Whitehall: Fishing has picked up. Boats have moved 3 to 7 miles north and were fishing in 85 to 150 feet. The early morning catch came primarily in the 85 foot range. Others fished deeper in the 250 foot range and brought in a few more fish with lines running 55 feet down with lead core and copper. A lot of fish were taken on meat rigs and artificial baits. Hot colors were green, blue and orange.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: The thermocline has been up high some days and deeper on other days. When cold water is present and up higher a good mix of chinook, coho, steelhead, lake trout and walleye were caught. The fish are scattered throughout in 170 to 220 feet but the steelhead were in the top 40 feet. They are fishing them with 1, 2, 3, and 5 colors of lead with orange the hot color.

Those fishing closer to shore also caught fish including a few walleye on a regular basis. Spoons worked best in the colors green, blue, orange, yellow, black and white or anything that glows early and late.

Alpena: Is producing mostly lake trout but some have caught salmon and steelhead in the top 50 feet with orange and blue spoons. Lake trout are near the bottom. Most are fishing around Thunder Bay Island or the "Humps". Walleye fishing continues to be very good with most boats catching fish near the North Shore, Red Can, the backside of Grass Island or between Sulphur Island, Grass Island and Thunder Bay Island. Most are using crank baits, body baits and crawler harnesses about halfway down in 20 to 40 feet.

Thunder Bay River: Had warm water temperatures and slow catch rates.

Harrisville: The lake trout are moving in and out. Start shallow in the morning, fishing 60 to 70 feet, follow the fish to deeper water then reverse in the evening. Steelhead and a few chinook seem to be in the same area as the lake trout. Spoons are working best behind flashers. Use dark colors for the lake trout and orange or blue for steelhead, chinook and Atlantic salmon. Walleye are north of the harbor between Sturgeon Point and the Black River in 12 to 35 feet. Anglers are trolling body baits and crawler harnesses.

Oscoda: Pier fishing has finally picked up with anglers catching mainly channel cats, smallmouth bass and few walleye. Late evening, throughout the night and early morning were best. The bass and catfish were hitting on crawlers and minnows. Walleye were hitting on body baits off the end of the pier. Boat anglers caught lake trout in 150 to 200 feet with spoons, wobble glows, and body baits.

Higgins Lake: Has lots of rock bass throughout the lake. This is an excellent fishery especially for kids. A few perch were caught off Big Creek and the Sunken Island. Anglers are using minnows out of the lake or wax worms in 30 to 40 feet or deeper. Lake trout were caught by those trolling just off the bottom in 100 to 120 feet with spoons or body baits. Gold was the hot color.

Houghton Lake: Is producing some bigger bluegills and some walleye. Anglers are using a jig with a leech or trolling along the weeds in 11 feet. A good number of pike have also been caught.

Tawas: Had a lot of fishing activity but many of those trolling are crossing the bay and fishing northeast of Big Charity Island in 25 to 45 feet. Boats fishing deeper waters outside of Tawas Point are picking up a few lake trout and the odd steelhead or chinook. Pier and river fishing continue in the slow summer mode with only the odd bass, freshwater drum or catfish.

Au Gres: Fishing pressure slowed but there are boats fishing north of Big Charity Island and between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres in 35 to 45 feet. They're still getting fish out there, but they are working to get them.

Au Gres River: Remains slow with shore anglers getting a few catfish, freshwater drum, rock bass, smallmouth bass and lots of gobies.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Boat anglers fishing north around 5-Mile Point caught lake trout in 100 to 150 feet. Rumor has it a couple salmon were also caught.

Petoskey: Lake trout were hit-or-miss. Some boats caught their limit while others were skunked. Strong winds pushed the warmer water down and many were fishing too shallow. Of the fish caught, most were taken 100 to 110 feet down near the bottom at Bay Harbor and to the west when using spoons. The "Bobber Hole" at the mouth of the Bear River was slow. A few rock bass and sub-legal smallmouth were caught on worms and soft plastics off the D Pier.

Bear River: Is still experiencing low water levels. Fishing is slow except for rock bass and chubs caught near the dam.

Charlevoix: Lake trout fishing was good. Anglers also picked up one or two chinook and steelhead south of the channel and higher in the water column. Lake trout were 60 to 100 feet down in 100 to 300 feet near the can at the cement plant or 70 to 80 feet down in 100 feet at North Point. Spin-glo's, spoons and flies were working well. Those fishing the channel caught smallmouth bass but few were keepers. Try crawlers, leeches or soft plastics on the bottom. The random walleye was caught in the evening. Freshwater drum are still in the channel.

Elk River: Had only sub-legal smallmouth and a few rock bass hitting on crawlers and leeches.

Traverse City: The East Bay had fair lake trout fishing in waters about 95 feet deep. Anglers are marking and hooking into a few salmon, but not many were landed. In the West Bay, boat anglers were targeting chinook near the white walls but fishing was slow. Lake trout fishing was fair near the bottom in 85 to 115 feet.

Boardman River: Fishing was slow. Catch rates for smallmouth bass were hit-or-miss near the mouth. Some had luck with minnows. Those fishing near the Union Street Dam caught the occasional steelhead on crawlers. Water temperatures were in the mid 70's. Some brown trout were caught below Sabin Dam when using crawlers or flies. Upstream near Ranch Rudolph, those fly fishing caught brook and brown trout.

Frankfort: Reported very nice catches of chinook salmon 40 to 80 feet down in 160 to 180 feet with meat rigs and flies. Purple and blue spoons or J-plugs also worked well. Lake trout were caught by those bouncing the bottom with cowbells and spin-glo's in 80 to 120 feet.

Onkama: Had good lake trout action in 80 to 120 feet around the "Barrel" when bouncing the bottom with cowbells and spin-glo's. Chinook salmon were starting to

hit better in the early morning. Anglers are trolling in the top 80 feet of waters 140 to 160 feet deep.

Portage Lake: Panfish including perch were deeper in 18 to 25 feet with the warmer temperatures. Bass anglers were working hard along the drops in deeper water.

Manistee: Salmon fishing remains fair. Anglers are catching a mixed bag of chinook, lake trout and steelhead. No large numbers of fish but enough to produce some decent catches.

Ludington: Catch rates slowed a bit however boat anglers are still taking lake trout, chinook and steelhead. The lake trout are just off the bottom and the chinook and steelhead were hitting on orange and green spoons or meat rigs about halfway down.

Pentwater: Fishing has finally improved with nice catches of chinook, steelhead and lake trout. Most were fishing off the Silver Lake sand dunes or on the south side of Little Sable Point. Salmon tend to start schooling in this area in August. Anglers were starting shallow in the early morning and moving to waters 250 feet or more as the sun comes up. Some reported salmon in the channel late at night and in the early morning hours. Anglers are still-fishing with spawn.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Had few anglers as most were just out playing during the hot weather. More were fishing in Big Traverse Bay. Anglers were trolling or jigging from Hermits Cove to 7-Mile Reef. Those trolling between 1.8 and 2.5 mph picked up lake trout and coho. Those jigging out from Big Louie's were in 180 to 260 feet. The action was not fast and furious but it is picking up.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported fair catches at best. Fish were caught in the flats near Kipling when trolling crawler harnesses in 25 to 30 feet, off Gladstone in 30 to 40 feet, off the Escanaba River and near the "Black Bottom" in 14 to 28 feet. Boat anglers had fair to good results when bass fishing near Round Island. Perch fishing was fair in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when using worms in the channel. Northern pike were very active throughout the bay. Shore anglers along the Ford River reported good smallmouth action when casting crank baits, plastics, spinners or crawlers.

Big Bay De Noc: Walleye fishing slowed however the occasional catch was reported in Kates Bay or between Porcupine Point and Big Bay Shoals when trolling crawler harnesses in 18 to 22 feet. Smallmouth bass were caught in the same areas in 10 to 14 feet but Martins Bay and St. Vitals Island were best in 10 to 12 feet with plastics, crank baits, spinners or crawlers. Good pike action near Ogontz in 10 to 14 feet. At Fairport, catch rates for chinook were down but the lake trout action was good for those trolling 30 to 80 feet down in 110 to 150 feet with spoons or artificial bait. Good catches of steelhead were reported off Point Detour when trolling spoons or flies about 30 feet down.

Marquette: Most are targeting lake trout and the best action was north and east of the port. The common areas where fish were also caught were the "Sand Hole", north of the white rocks, Little Presque Isle or the humps and drop-offs north of the islands. Most anglers were getting anywhere from one fish to a limit catch when using spoons, flies or cut bait. A few chinook, steelhead and splake were caught. Stannard Rock continues to produce good action for lake trout but most fish averaged 3 to 4 pounds and were caught when jigging twister tails and cut bait.

Au Train Lake: Surface water temperatures warmed into the low 70's. In general anglers had poor success with a few legal walleye reported and several undersize pike. Anglers targeting perch were using small spinner rigs for panfish with worms but the fish caught were only 6 to 7 inches. Good weed beds with large schools of minnows were observed throughout the lake. Walleye anglers were drifting or trolling crawler harnesses or small crank baits. Those targeting pike and smallmouth were casting or trolling spinners and crank baits.

Munising: Had low catch rates with only a couple splake or a few lake trout taken by those trolling in 100 to 200 feet. Surface water temperature was about 66 degrees. Trout Bay and Sand Point were slow even though anglers were marking a few fish. A select few that made the trip out to Big Reef caught lake trout. Fresh spawn was the bait of choice by those fishing off the dock of the Anna River. They caught splake but many were small.

Grand Marais: Has very few pier anglers however boat anglers were heading out 5 to 10 miles for lake trout. Catch rates picked up with fish taken by those trolling spoons along the bottom in 120 to 200 feet. Coho have started to show up and those casting off the pier have caught a few. Boat anglers trolling suspended lines in deep water have caught a mix of coho, steelhead and lake trout.

South Manistique Lake: Those targeting largemouth bass reported excellent numbers along the southern end of the island. Buzz baits and plastics worked best. Walleye action improved slightly with more hits on crawler harnesses. Try trolling the ridge extending from the west end of the island. The afternoon bite was slow as the fish went deeper with the heat wave.

St. Mary's River: Those fishing Raber Bay caught a few lake herring and whitefish 100 yards straight out from the Lime Island boat docks in 18 to 25 feet. Anglers are reporting good fly hatches around Lime Island. The walleye in Raber Bay are bigger this year with fish 16 to 19 inches caught by those trolling crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers in 14 feet along the weed beds just south of the boat launch.

DeTour: Target lake trout straight south of the lighthouse and the DeTour Reef. Two miles south, there is an 80 foot flat that always seems to hold lake trout as well. Anglers have done well trolling anywhere between 50 feet down and along the bottom with cowbells and silver or purple hammered spoons. Most of those fishing south of the lighthouse along the flat were taking limit catches.

A couple Atlantic salmon were caught near the green buoy west of the DeTour lighthouse with chartreuse and white 3 inch spoons. A few yellow perch were caught in the early morning hours just north of the DNR launch off the old slab piling on the north side of the blue hand rail in 14 to 18 feet when using minnows and worms.

Drummond Island: Fly hatches were still underway at Butterfield Island, Macomb Island, and Maple Island and there are still reports of lake herring being caught at all three islands. Walleye were caught in the early morning along the backside of Rutland Island and towards Peck Island when trolling planer boards. Smallmouth bass and pumpkinseed were caught by those still-fishing or casting off the Monahan dock in Maxton Bay.

Cedarville and Hessel: Continue with good pike fishing for those trolling, casting or still-fishing. Perch fishing was also very good especially in Hessel Bay, Cedarville Bay and Moscoe Channel. Good bass fishing in the shallow bays.

St. Ignace: Fishing was very slow. Try the mouth of the Carp River or look for lake trout on the east side of Mackinac Island.

August 6, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Once again the weather has affected fishing conditions and catch rates as thermoclines and fish were all over the place in the Great Lakes. If fishing the inland lakes, look for fish in shallower waters after the cold front.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye numbers are on the decline but fish are still being caught by those trolling in 17 to 25 feet near the E-Buoy, Fermi, Stony Point and Brest Bay. Anglers are trolling between 1.4 and 1.6 mph with crawler harnesses, spoons or crank baits. Yellow perch were caught in Brest Bay and La Plaisance Bay. Anglers are using minnows while anchored in 20 to 25 feet. The public access site at Bolles Harbor is closed until September 4th due to construction. The next closest DNR launch is located at Sterling State Park.

Lenawee County: Bluegill anglers on Devils Lake did well fishing near the bottom with crickets and wax worms in 20 to 30 feet. Bass anglers did well throughout the lake. Pike were hitting deep divers along the weed beds and points. Lake Hudson had a few good catches of bluegill but all other species were slow.

Detroit River: Walleye fishing was slow on the Canadian side and poor around Mud Island on the Michigan side. The occasional fish was caught on the east side of Grosse Ile and down near Lake Erie in 15 to 40 feet. Try bottom bouncing crawler harnesses, hand-lining with spoons and stick baits or jigging crawlers. The fish caught weighed 1 to 7 pounds. Anglers also caught bass, channel cats, rock bass, white bass and white perch. Those targeting large and smallmouth are fishing around the islands, the cuts and near the walls.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Boats trolling in 100 to 160 feet did well for lake trout. They also managed to take the occasional salmon. A few perch were caught in the weed beds south of Port Sanilac. Pier anglers and those fishing inside the harbor caught pike and white bass when casting small spoons or body baits.

Harbor Beach: Deepwater trollers did well in 110 to 160 feet when using a variety of lures including spoons. They caught lake trout, steelhead, coho and the occasional chinook.

Port Austin: Walleyes were caught between here and Port Hope. Crawler harnesses worked best in 25 to 45 feet but some were using spoons and artificial baits. Pier anglers caught few smallmouth bass.

Saginaw Bay: The weather has caused major hiccups with the fishing, the ability to get out there and then trying to find fish as most days they were scattered. Some walleye and channel cats were caught near the G-Buoy off Linwood. Walleye were still being caught off the Pinconning Bar but the action was starting to slow. The east side of the Spark Plug was producing a few for those using spoons in 20 to 25 feet. Those fishing off Quanicassee reported poor catch rates. The better action was from Sebewaing to Caseville when fishing around Oak Point and the Charity Islands. A few limit catches were taken in 25 to 40 feet with crawler harnesses but some were also using spoons or crank baits. The incidental trout or salmon were caught out deeper.

Saginaw River: Those using worms and minnows at Smith Park were catching channel cats and freshwater drum.

Sanford Lake: Pink is still the color for bluegill and crappie. Try a pink jig with a wax worm for bluegills or a minnow for crappie. Cooler temperatures should improve the bite for bass, walleye and pike.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch fishing slowed some over the last week. Anglers are still targeting 30 feet of water but the fish were scattered. Salmon fishing is slow. Pier anglers are catching catfish and freshwater drum but the steelhead fishing was slow. Most are using crawlers or shrimp.

South Haven: Perch fishing slowed here as well as the fish seemed to be scattered in waters 20 to 60 feet deep. Most of the fishing pressure was south of the piers. Salmon fishing was slow. A couple steelhead were caught but the fish are scattered. Pier fishing for steelhead was slow.

Van Buren County: The inland lakes had good bass fishing. The panfish action was fair but should improve.

Saugatuck: Pier anglers caught catfish and freshwater drum.

Kalamazoo River: The occasional steelhead was caught up near the Allegan Dam but no big numbers of fish. The catfish action has been very good for flathead and channel cats.

Kalamazoo County: The inland lakes are producing a good number of largemouth bass.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers caught trout and salmon 40 to 100 feet down in 80 to 180 feet with orange, green and yellow spoons as well as green meat rigs. Pier anglers casting spoons caught freshwater drum.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: There were no reports of any summer steelhead caught but smallmouth bass were taken on live bait, jigs and wax worms. Those drifting below the dam caught walleye on minnows. Flathead and channel cats were hitting on crawlers and bluegills. Those fishing off the wall caught bluegills.

Grand River at Lansing: Continues to produce channel cats. A few bass were caught in the shallows early morning or evening. No word on walleye however some panfish were caught in the backwaters.

Ingham County: Anglers are catching bass and panfish in area waters.

Muskegon: Trout and salmon were caught 35 to 90 feet down in 70 to 140 feet with green meat rigs and orange or green spoons.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Burt Lake: Was producing some walleye right along with crappie, perch, rock bass and smallmouth bass.

Mullett Lake: Anglers were catching walleye. Try trolling crawler harnesses in 20 feet off the mouth of the Cheboygan River. Look for smallmouth off the State Park.

Rogers City: Boat anglers were running lines up and down the water column in 120 to 180 feet. Steelhead were hitting orange spoons up high. Coho, chinook and lake trout were also caught. Try blue, green and white spoons or glow spoons first and last light.

West Twin Lake: Had good walleye fishing just before dark and the first hour after.

Alpena: When they can get out, anglers caught steelhead, lake trout, walleye and the occasional salmon near the "Humps", Thunder Bay Island and towards Rockport and the wreck in 60 to 120 feet. Target the entire water column with spoons. Good colors were orange, green, black and white or anything that glows early and late. Walleye are starting to leave the bay and head out towards deeper water. Try the turn basin, North Shore, Rockport, or around Thunder Bay Island and Sulphur Island with crawler harnesses and body baits. Some are switching to smaller spoons or body baits.

Thunder Bay River: Was not producing much except for the occasional smallmouth bass, rock bass or freshwater drum.

Fletchers Pond: Was producing some large bluegills. Bass anglers were doing better now than earlier in the season.

Harrisville: Anglers reported steady catch rates for lake trout and walleye with the occasional Atlantic, chinook or steelhead also caught. Lake trout were targeted in 70 to 150 feet. The fish were suspended between 10 feet off the bottom and 20 feet from the surface. Anglers are using lead core, copper, longlines and downriggers with spoons, wobble glo's, spin-glo's and body baits. Walleye seem to be north of the harbor in good numbers. Anglers are launching from Harrisville and the Black River and fishing between Sturgeon Point and the mouth of the Black River. They are trolling crawler harnesses and body baits in 12 to 30 feet.

Oscoda: Pier anglers caught smallmouth bass and channel cats. There have been a few reports of the occasional walleye caught. Lake trout were in abundance north, south or straight out from the river. The fish were suspended throughout the water column in 90 to 160 feet. Spoons, flies, cut bait and wobble glows worked well.

Higgins Lake: Is producing some perch and lots of rock bass. Try 30 to 40 feet for the perch. Rock bass have been caught throughout the lake.

Houghton Lake: Walleye were hitting on crawlers and leeches. Panfish were deep but should have moved in shallower after the cold front.

Tawas: Most of the fishing success is coming from deeper water near the Gravelly Shoals, the Steeples, or near and past the Charity Islands in 15 to 35 feet. Some are still fishing inside Tawas Point in 10 to 25 feet, Buoys 4 through 6 and near Jerry's Marina. They are using lindy rigs and casting. No reports from the Tawas River.

Au Gres: Anglers here were going deeper and fishing out past the Charity Islands and around the Steeples.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: The boats are mainly fishing Harbor Point or up at 5-Mile Point. Lake trout were deeper and caught just off the bottom in waters over 100 feet deep. There were reports of a salmon or two caught on this side of the bay as well. Spoons, peanuts and spin-glo's worked well. Those on the courtesy dock at the marina saw smallmouth bass and freshwater drum around the docks.

Petoskey: Lake trout were still hit-or-miss. Water temperature at the weather buoy was 68 degrees all the way down with only a slight change at 100 feet. Lake trout anglers were targeting fish over 100 feet down with spoons and spin-glo's. No salmon to report. Smallmouth bass, rock bass and bullhead were caught off the D Pier when using soft plastics. The breakwall is still busy with swimmers during the afternoon. Those that tried fishing in the early morning did not have any luck.

Bear River: Water levels were still low even after the rain. A couple small steelhead or brown trout were caught on spawn and worms near the dam.

Charlevoix: Had reports of a couple salmon caught near the cement plant and towards Fisherman's Island. A couple steelhead were caught up high. Lake trout

were caught 60 to 100 feet down in 100 to 300 feet near the can at the cement plant and south. Spoons, spin-glo's and flies worked well. Fish were also caught at North Point, 70 to 80 feet down or right on the bottom in 100 feet. Those fishing the channel continue to catch sub-legal smallmouth on crawlers, leeches or soft plastics on the bottom. Anglers may still find a few walleye or freshwater drum in the channel.

Traverse City: Lake trout fishing was fair in the East Bay. Anglers were fishing 90 to 120 feet but the fish were scattered. Run lures behind dodgers or cowbells near the bottom. Those targeting salmon had little success. The West Bay was a little better with the occasional salmon hitting on meat rigs, rotators and flies. The few chinook actually caught ranged 12 to 17 pounds. Lake trout fishing was fair in 85 to 130 feet.

Boardman River: Those fishing the upper stretches in Grand Traverse County have caught brook and brown trout when using worms or flies. A couple steelhead were caught on worms at the Union Street Dam. At the mouth, anglers are still catching sub-legal smallmouth and rock bass.

Manistee River: Is producing smaller brown trout, smallmouth bass and the odd pike. The trout are hitting on dry flies. Those fishing below Tippy Dam have caught summer run steelhead.

Pere Marquette River: Is also producing brown trout, smallmouth bass and the odd early salmon.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Morning anglers jigging in 180 to 260 feet for lake trout have caught fish out from Whirl-I-Gig Road and Pequaming. Some were picking up a mix of lake trout, splake and salmon. Those trolling from the entrance of Huron Bay to the Huron Islands caught lake trout, chinook and coho. The salmon were 150 feet down in 200 feet. Fishing picked up in Traverse Bay. Anglers are either jigging or trolling from Hermits Cove south to 7-Mile Reef. They caught coho and lake trout. Those jigging were in 180 to 260 feet out from Big Louie's Point.

Menominee River: Those trolling crawler harnesses and stick baits caught walleye, catfish and freshwater drum. The better fishing was in the evening.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers in general reported very little action this week. Kipling reported modest catches for those trolling crawler harnesses in 23 to 30 feet. The better catches came from Gladstone Beach and Terrace Bay Inn when trolling crawler harnesses or jigging minnows in 18 to 40 feet. Good to excellent smallmouth bass catches in the Ford River area and south to Round Island in 4 to 8 feet. Most are casting plastics, spinners or crank baits. The best perch catches were near the green buoy by the Day's River with minnows or worms in 16 to 24 feet. Northern pike were very active throughout the Bay although many were undersize. Salmon anglers reported fair catches in the southern Bay when trolling spoons 30 to 60 feet down in 100 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers were fishing between Round Island and St. Vitals Island and over to Big Bay Shoals with crank baits and harnesses in 20 to 30 feet. Bass anglers reported fair to good catches in Kate's Bay, Porcupine Point and north of St. Vitals Island. Most fish were in 6 to 12 feet. Try plastics, spinners or jigs with crawlers. Fairport anglers caught mostly lake trout. A good number of the chinook salmon were younger fish. Anglers are trolling spoons, flies or artificial cut bait 30 to 90 feet down in 90 to 150 feet. Various colors are being used and water temperature is the primary focus for most.

Marquette: The Upper Harbor public launch at Presque Isle Park is closed for renovation but the Lower Harbor launch is still open. Lake trout were caught up near Granite Island. The fish were suspended at various depths and averaged 3 to 4 pounds. Those fishing north of Granite Island found fish in waters 200 feet or deeper. The mouth of the Carp River has had major road construction along with a gas line project off Lake Street making access to fishing somewhat limited.

Au Train Lake: A few walleye and pike were caught by those drifting crawler harnesses. Perch anglers reported fair action but most of the fish were small.

South Manistique Lake: A good number of bluegills were caught south of Norton Island by those bouncing leaf worms off the bottom. Catch rates for walleye were back down with only a handful of legal size fish caught. Largemouth and pike have slowed during the day, but the action was hot with the cooler temperatures in the morning and evening. Weed less top-water frogs, buzz-baits, and soft plastics have been catching fish along the weeds between Pavlica's South Shore and Lakeshore Resorts. Try a slower presentation.

DeTour: Fishing effort was limited due to high winds. A few Atlantic salmon were caught while trolling from Fry Pan Island in DeTour and southeast to Crab Island and the red buoy on the Drummond Island side. Try dipsey divers and lead core with blue, white and chrome spoons about halfway down in 80 to 100 feet.

Drummond Island: Anglers looking for fly hatches and the lake herring that follow should target Butterfield, Maple and Macomb Islands. Herring and whitefish were caught on gold tear drop jigs and wax worms in 25 feet, about three cranks off the bottom. A few walleye were reported near Picnic Island which is the first island straight north of Drummond Island Township Park. They are using slip bobbers and minnows along the weed beds in 12 to 14 feet in the early morning or late evening. Smallmouth bass are very good on the north side of Scott Bay, off Paw Point and Bruce's Point when jigging dark green and brown tube jigs in 5 to 8 feet. Rock bass and pumpkinseed were caught in good numbers around the mouth of Harbor Island.

Cedarville and Hessel: Very good pike fishing continues for those trolling or casting. Perch fishing was good especially in Moscoe Channel, Hessel Bay and Cedarville Bay. Bass fishing was good in the shallow bays for those casting. Try spinners or soft plastics.

August 13, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Windy conditions are not making it easy for those fishing on the Great Lakes and the large inland lakes. Fish were scattered throughout the water column. Those fishing the smaller inland lakes and rivers are catching bass, bluegills, pike, walleye and a good number of catfish.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had a significant decline in walleye numbers over the last week. A few anglers managed to find fish in Brest Bay, off Stony Point, the Fermi Stacks, and near the Dumping Grounds when trolling crawler harnesses, crank baits or body baits. Yellow perch numbers were good for those still-fishing in 20 to 25 feet in Brest Bay, off Stony Point and around Turtle Island. They are using spreaders with minnows. Emerald shiners worked best. Anglers should note that Bolles Harbor is closed until sometime around Labor Day because of road construction at the entrance into the harbor.

Lenawee County: Devils Lake is producing bluegills in 25 to 30 feet. Use crickets or wax worms near the bottom. Some are getting limit catches. Those trolling for pike have done well in the deep weed lines and points. On Lake Hudson, overall catch rates were down except for bass caught on top-water lures in the early morning or evening.

Detroit River: Most of the fishing activity was taking place early to mid-day but not much has changed. The better walleye fishing on the Canadian side continues to be near the casino, whiskey plant, salt mines and the Canadian side of Belle Isle. Fishing was poor around Mud Island and near the Wyandotte Golf Course but a little better on the east side of Grosse Ile and down near Lake Erie. Most anglers reported zero to two fish. Try 15 to 35 feet when bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses or hand-lining with spoons and stick baits. Boat anglers are targeting walleye, bass, muskie and channel cats but have also caught a few pike, rock bass, white bass and freshwater drum. Catch rates for muskie were slow. Anglers did manage to catch a few large and smallmouth bass. Water temperatures were near 70 degrees.

Lake St. Clair: Bass reports are good with larger fish coming from deeper waters. No reports on walleye or muskie. The mayfly hatch has really dropped off so perch fishing should improve. Try the bulrush beds in Goose Bay and Muscamoot Bay.

St. Clair River: Bass anglers should try all three channels as the fish are looking for cooler water. Target the deeper waters with spinners, plastics or crank baits.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Those trolling for salmon and lake trout were heading way out to waters 110 to 160 feet deep off Lexington. That is about 25 miles out. Anglers were catching steelhead, lake trout and the occasional Chinook or coho on spoons about 50 feet down. Hot colors were green, blue and silver. Perch fishing was slow at both ports.

Harbor Beach: Those trolling for walleye were heading north towards Port Hope and doing well in 20 to 40 feet. Try hot-n-tots and worm burners with crawlers and spoons. The wind and the cooler water temperatures had the fish scattered. A couple steelhead were taken in the top 20 to 80 feet out near the scum line with clean spoons off downriggers and 5, 7, and 10 color lines with offshore boards. Try straight out and north for lake trout in 85 to 140 feet with spoons and dodgers with spin-glo's or spin doctors with flies off the bottom. Hot colors were blue, green with a red head or anything that glows.

Port Austin: To Grindstone City was the walleye hot spot with lots of fish including limit catches taken in 20 to 40 feet. Both crawler harnesses and spoons were taking fish. South of Grindstone, the area off the mouth of the New River was also very good. Pier anglers caught a couple smallmouth and the odd walleye at night.

Saginaw Bay: As a general rule, for walleye, lake trout, or whatever, the fish are out deep. They're still getting some walleye over the weed beds along the inner bay in the early morning, but otherwise go deep. Walleye were caught by those trolling crawler harnesses over the weed beds off the Bay City State Park, the Kawkawlin River and over the Callahan Reef in the early morning. As the sun rises, the fish move out to about 25 feet on the east side of the Shipping Channel. This would put them between the Red Spark Plug (Buoys 11&12) and the Green Spark Plug (Buoys 1&2). Fishing in the Slot was slow with only a few fish picked up along the east side. At Caseville, walleye were caught northeast of the Charity Islands, off Oak Point, Oak Beach and off the Hat Reef. Some perch were caught straight out from Quanicassee in 10 feet.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers fishing the lower river were catching a few smallmouth bass, rock bass, channel cats and freshwater drum.

Sanford Lake: Was still producing good numbers of bluegill and crappie for those fishing the deep edge of the weed beds with small pink or white jigs with twister tails or perch rigs with wax worms over the side of the boat. Good areas were off the Sanford Marina or south of the campground along the flats.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing was good but then slowed. The most productive water was about 100 feet deep. Pier fishing is slow for all species. Perch fishing was good with a decent number of fish caught north and south of the piers in 30 feet.

St. Joseph River: Had few trout but good numbers of catfish have been caught.

South Haven: Salmon fishing was good in 110 feet. Anglers are using meat rigs and flasher/fly combos. Pier fishing was slow for all species. Good perch fishing was reported south of the piers in 35 feet.

Kalamazoo River: Those fishing below the Allegan Dam caught the occasional steelhead. A few walleye were also caught. Those targeting catfish have done very well with crawlers, shrimp, chicken liver or bluegills.

Grand Haven: Has not changed. Boat anglers have caught salmon and trout 40 to 100 feet down in 70 to 140 feet with meat rigs and flies. Pier anglers are catching freshwater drum when casting spoons.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Just one summer steelhead was caught recently but the catfish action continues to be good. Channel and flathead have been caught on crawlers, live or cut bluegills fished off the wall or below the dam. Smallmouth bass were hitting on jigs and live bait in the same area. Some keeper size walleye were caught below the dam. Try artificial baits or live minnows. Bluegills were hitting on crawlers fished off the wall.

Grand River at Lansing: Water levels were higher after the recent storms. Smallmouth bass fishing will improve when the water levels come back down. Those fishing below the dams are catching catfish.

Lake Lansing: Is producing some panfish along with the occasional pike.

Morrison Lake: Was producing a few walleye early morning or late evening. For bluegills, try leaf worms or crickets.

Muskegon: Anglers are finding salmon and trout 45 to 90 feet down in 80 to 150 feet with green meat rigs and flies. Glow spoons are working well in low light conditions.

Whitehall: Fishing slowed but anglers were still bringing in a mix of steelhead, lake trout and salmon including some coho that have started to show up. While it was a little harder to find fish, once anglers did the fish were hitting on almost everything including flies, spoons, meat rigs and copper fished about 55 to 60 feet down in 100 to 150 feet. Blue and green were the hot colors. There was no pier fishing.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Water temperatures have been changing constantly. The good news is a few salmon have been trickling in but the fish are scattered. The better fishing was 35 to 60 feet down in 40 to 90 feet depending on the thermocline. Spoons worked best and the hot colors were blue and silver, green, blue, black and white or anything that glows early and late. Steelhead were taken on orange spoons in the

top 30 feet of waters 145 to 225 feet deep. The tribal nets around Forty Mile Point were removed.

East and West Twin Lakes: Fishing has been slow on East Twin for all species. A few perch over eight inches were caught on natural bait. A few bass were caught in four to six feet. The walleye fishing on West Twin was moderate for those trolling natural baits in 10 to 14 feet. Rock bass and perch were found along the weed beds in four to six feet. Smallmouth were caught around Eagle Point and the weed beds near the canal.

Alpena: Offshore winds have prevented boat anglers from heading out too far. When they can, they found a mix of lake trout, steelhead and even a few salmon at the "Humps", around Thunder Bay Island and out towards the Nordmere Wreck. Spoons seem to work best. Look for walleye in the usual places this time of year like North Shore, Thunder Bay Island, Rockport or south towards Sulphur Island.

Thunder Bay River: Water temperatures are still very warm and not much has been caught. Anglers may find smallmouth bass, rock bass or freshwater drum.

Harrisville: Walleye fishing has been good to the north from Sturgeon Point to the Black River in 12 to 25 feet of water. Anglers are using crawler harnesses or small spoons and body baits in the late evening or early morning before the sun rises. Lake trout were spread throughout in 120 to 160 feet so run your lines from top to bottom. Spoons, spin-glo's, wobble glo's and cut bait were producing fish.

Oscoda: Lake trout are scattered throughout in 70 to 170 feet. Anglers reported a good number of walleye south towards Au Sable Point. Late evening was the best time to fish with crawler harnesses, body baits or small spoons. Pier fishing slowed with only a few channel cats and the odd smallmouth caught.

Au Sable River: Had good smallmouth action further upstream. Not only were the fish bigger but a good number were caught.

Higgins Lake: Perch are being caught near the Sunken Island and along the drop-off in 40 feet. Those trolling caught lake trout on gold spoons or body baits. Some brown trout and rainbow trout were also caught up high in the water column. Rock bass can be found throughout the lake.

Tawas: Fishing of all sorts was pretty slow in the bay but the one bright spot was several boats picked up walleye out in 60 feet. Those trolling were marking lots of fish but the bite was not there. Pier fishing was slow with only a couple smallmouth, rock bass or small pike taken.

Au Gres: Catch rates were spotty. A lot of boats were crossing over to fish north of the Charity Islands and around the Steeples but some are also fishing between Point Au Gres and Point Lookout. Either way, success rates were mixed.

Au Gres River: Shore anglers were catching a few pike, freshwater drum and a lot really big channel cats.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Most boats are still fishing at Harbor Point or up at 5-Mile Point. They are looking for salmon but catching mainly lake trout which were as shallow as 30 feet down or as deep as 90 feet down in 150 feet.

Petoskey: Had a thermocline about 50 feet down. Anglers are searching for salmon but only catching lake trout. Boats heading towards Bay Harbor and East Park caught lake trout on spoons and J-plugs 70 to 85 feet down. The "Bobber Hole" is still pretty slow. A few smallmouth, rock bass, and bullhead were caught on worms and soft plastics off the D Pier. Smallmouth were caught off the breakwall when using worms, jigs and soft plastics.

Bear River: Water levels were still pretty low. A few small steelhead and rock bass were caught on flies and worms. Smallmouth bass fishing was decent below the power dam for those using minnows or leeches but many were sub-legal.

Charlevoix: Most boats are coming in with lake trout and very few salmon. The lake trout were about 50 feet down in waters over 100 feet deep. Many are fishing North Point, around the can at the Cement Plant or towards Fisherman's Island with spoons, flies and spin-glo's. Some reported a few salmon caught north and south of the channel. Boats fishing the channel caught lots of sub-legal smallmouth bass but a few more nice ones were starting to show up. Freshwater drum were also caught. A couple rock bass and smaller perch were taken near the lighthouse when using crawlers, leeches or soft plastics on the bottom.

Traverse City: Lake trout were scattered in the East Bay. Fish were marked anywhere from 60 to 110 feet. Salmon were reported 50 to 80 feet down in 90 to 200 feet but very few were caught. In the West Bay, lake trout were near the bottom in 80 to 100 feet. Salmon fishing was slow but a few were reported along the White Walls.

Boardman River: Brown trout fishing up near Sabin Dam was hit-or-miss for those using flies. Further upstream, those using worms and flies caught brook and brown trout between the "Forks" and Brown Bridge. Some are looking for summer steelhead but few have been caught.

Frankfort: Anglers were heading north and trolling anywhere from 80 to 140 feet down in 150 to 250 feet. They were using spoons and meat rigs in the top 80 feet. The numbers are low but the Chinook are there and the average size was 15 to 17 pounds. Good numbers of lake trout are hitting just off the bottom near Betsie Point.

Onkama: Those trolling the west side of the "Barrel" are landing good numbers of lake trout when using cowbells and spin-glo's off the bottom. Chinook were hitting meat rigs and spoons 90 to 120 feet down in 180 to 250 feet in the early morning. Boats were heading straight out and north of the port.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers are picking up largemouth along the edge of the weed beds and the deeper drop-offs throughout the day. Panfish including perch were hitting on worms off the piers and docks and also in 18 to 22 feet.

Manistee: Boats are everywhere but the common fishing was 60 to 130 feet down in 80 to 200 feet. The average was between one and three fish for a few hours on the lake.

Ludington: Had no thermocline so boat anglers were traveling all over to find fish. A few charters came in with Chinook and steelhead. Most were fishing 60 to 80 feet down in 120 feet about six miles south to the "Project" or 60 to 120 feet down in 80 to 200 feet up near Big Sable Point. Some caught fish straight out from the pier in 100 feet. Cut bait seemed to be working better than spoons or plugs.

Pentwater: Was somewhat slow as the fish were scattered. Once those trolling found fish they did manage to catch trout and some salmon. They are using spoons, flies, copper and meat rigs and the hot colors were green and blue. Orange was a good color for steelhead. Try 50 to 60 feet down in 100 to 150 feet.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Anglers are picking up a mixed bag in the early morning from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. when trolling 25 to 35 feet down in 35 to 50 feet between the Baraga Marina and the Head of the Bay. They caught Chinook, coho, splake, lake trout and browns. Those fishing in the evening between 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. caught Chinook, coho and lake trout from the red can south of Sand Point and north towards Old Mission 30 to 50 feet down in 40 to 70 feet. Anglers are also seeing baitfish. Lake trout and coho were caught by those trolling or jigging from Hermits Cove south to 7-Mile Reef and off Big Louie's Point. Those trolling 1.8 to 2.5 mph caught coho and lake trout. Those jigging were out in 180 to 260 feet off Big Louie's. Lake trout were caught near the South Portage Entry as well as between the lighthouse and the Mud Banks in 60 to 90 feet.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported fair catches in the northern Bay with the Second and Third Reefs producing fish in 10 to 20 feet with crawler harnesses or stick baits at night. Excellent catches were reported south of the Ford River near No-See-Um Creek when using crank baits or stick baits in 16 to 20 feet. Most of the walleye here were bigger ranging four to eight pounds. Good catches of perch were reported between First and Second Reefs with minnows in 13 feet, off the Escanaba River in 20 to 25 feet and south to Portage Point fishing 10 to 18 feet down along the break with minnows or crawlers. Walleye anglers were also catching a lot of pike. Salmon anglers reported spotty catches out by the Ford River Buoy and just northeast of it when trolling spoons 30 to 60 feet down in 70 to 110 feet. The best smallmouth fishing was just south of the Ford River near Round Island when casting plastics in 12 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Had fair to good walleye catches with those fishing well into the night reporting the best fishing. Most are trolling stick baits in 10 to 22 feet between

Stoney Point and Kates Bay. Smallmouth anglers reported good catches around St. Vitals Island in 10 to 14 feet, Kates Bay in 12 feet or around Ansell's Point in 14 to 18 feet when casting plastics and spinners or jigging with crawlers. Salmon anglers off Fairport did best at dusk. Those fishing during the day caught mostly lake trout. Many have traveled south to St. Martins Island where good catches of Chinook were reported 40 to 60 feet down in 80 to 120 feet.

Marquette: The Upper Harbor at Presque Isle Marina remains closed for renovation so the Lower Harbor is the main public launch at this time. Most are targeting lake trout with some using high-lines for a possible salmon. Success has varied with some managing to get a limit of lake trout while others caught nothing or only a few. Many are heading north and east and fishing the "white rocks", Little Presque Isle, Partridge Island, the "Sand Hole" east of Marquette or the "Humps" out near Granite Island. Fish were caught flies and spoons tipped with cut bait in 140 to 180 feet. A few coho were caught off the Lower Harbor area. Those jigging in 50 to 80 feet near the reef out by Stannard Rock had good success.

Big Shag Lake: The boating access site located off Marquette County Road 557, along Knudsen Road will be closed beginning Monday, August 17 through Friday, August 21 for installation of a new concrete ramp. There is no alternate boat launch in the area.

Au Train Lake: Fishing improved slightly with several large smallmouth bass up to 20 inches and 4 pounds caught and released. A few more legal pike were also caught. Bass and pike anglers are casting spinners and small crank baits. Those targeting perch are using worms or small spinner rigs but most of the fish were less than 8 inches. Walleye fishing improved with a couple more legal size fish caught when trolling crawler harnesses and crank baits. Schools of minnows and small perch were seen near shore. The weed beds are dense. Surface water temperatures were right around 70 degrees.

South Manistique Lake: Water levels are down and lake temperatures are warm. Continue to fish deeper than usual for walleye and perch. The walleye were scattered but north of Norton Island continues to be the hot spot. On windy days, try drifting crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers along the deeper parts. On the calm days, use the same setup with pink blades and purple beads for monster perch. Pike fishing remains hot.

DeTour: Was producing a few more steelhead, Chinook and Atlantic salmon in the five to eight pound class. Anglers are trolling upstream of the lighthouse with 5 color lead core and three inch spoons for Atlantic and steelhead. Blue, white and chrome colored spoons worked best. Lake trout fishing was excellent for those trolling from the green buoy west of the lighthouse and back to the red buoy on the east side. Use chrome spoons 35 to 40 feet down in waters over 80 feet deep.

Drummond Island: Walleye fishing slowed in Scott Bay. Those trolling early morning and late afternoon caught a few along the west side of Rutland Island in 12 to 14 feet. In Maxton Bay, anglers are drifting and jigging crawlers in eight to 10 feet from Bay Island east to the old Drummond Island Sportsmen's Club. Northern pike

fishing was fair on the southeast side of Grape Island when trolling or casting chrome spoons with red eyes in six to eight feet along the weed beds. Those fishing the mouth of Harbor Island caught sunfish and rock bass in three to five feet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike fishing is good all throughout the Les Cheneaux Islands. Those casting in Moscoe Channel did best but fish were still caught by those trolling or still-fishing with chubs in all other locations. Perch fishing was excellent in Moscoe Channel and Hessel Bay. A few Chinook and lake trout were caught out of Hessel.

August 20, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures on the inland lakes, rivers and streams were in the 70's. The better fishing has been early morning or later in the evening. Steelhead fishing in the rivers was slow and there have been no reports of salmon movement because of the extremely warm waters.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye fishing was light as not many anglers were targeting them. Those that were used crawler harnesses or crank baits when trolling in 17 to 25 feet. The lake had a lot of perch anglers and the ones having the most luck were using minnows on spreaders in 20 to 25 feet off Stony Point, the Fermi Stacks, in Brest Bay and around Turtle Island.

Lenawee County: Devils Lake had good bluegill fishing for those using wax worms or crickets near the bottom in 20 to 30 feet. A couple good catches of pike were taken by those trolling in 15 to 25 feet. Lake Hudson had one success story, the angler that caught a muskie. Those looking for bass will want to try fishing around structure and the lily pads in the early morning and late evening.

Detroit River: Walleye fishing was slow on the Canadian side. A few smaller fish were taken near the casino, whiskey plant, salt mines and the east side of Belle Isle. Fishing was slow in Michigan waters with only a few caught around Sugar Island, Stony Island or the Trenton Channel. Most are bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses or hand-lining with spoons and stick baits. The walleye downriver ranged one to three pounds. A few did manage to catch a couple yellow perch ranging seven to nine inches. Anglers caught pike, rock bass and freshwater drum. Those targeting channel cats did well in the Trenton Channel. Catch rates for bass were slow. Water temperatures were up near 72 degrees.

Lake St. Clair: Had slow fishing for walleye and perch but good fishing for bass and muskie. Bass anglers should also try the St. Clair River Channels because smallmouth movement from the warm lake into the river is typical this time of year. Overall perch fishing was slow but a few good reports came from the area around Grassy Island in Anchor Bay, the shipping channel and the Dumping Grounds.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been slow. Water temperature in the lower river was 70 degrees. Only a few were caught in the Delta Channels. Anglers there were trolling crawler harnesses.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Charters after lake trout are still getting them in 140 to 160 feet. Those fishing in the harbor at Lexington caught a few pike and a couple catfish after dark.

Harbor Beach: Lake trout have been taken in 80 to 120 straight out and north of the harbor using clean spoons off downriggers and dodgers with spin-glo's or spin doctors with flies off the bottom. Try chrome and green with a red head or blue and green with white wings. Anything that glows should also do well. A couple steelhead were caught in the top 25 to 80 feet near the color lines. Use spoons off downriggers and 5, 7, or 10 color lines with offshore boards. A few walleye were caught straight out and north of the harbor when using Hot-n-Tots and worm burners with crawlers and spoons in 40 to 100 feet.

Grindstone City: Walleye fishing was good but slowed over the last week. A couple fish were caught early morning or late evening.

Port Austin: A few walleye were taken on crawler harnesses in 20 to 28 feet near the lighthouse.

Saginaw Bay: Hot weather, very warm water temperatures and a murky inner bay because of windy conditions did slow fishing to almost a standstill. A few walleye were taken on spoons in 25 feet northeast of the Spark Plug. Some were starting to try for perch but the average catch per trip was only five to eight fish per boat. Anglers may want to try the "Black Hole" off Pinconning. One bright spot was the good bass fishing around Spoils Island. Anglers were casting spinners and crank baits. Fishing along the east side was very slow.

Saginaw River: Catfish and freshwater drum are still being caught in the lower river.

Sanford Lake: For bass anglers, some were getting limit catches while others were getting skunked. Most of the bass were caught on soft plastic baits. Bluegills were hitting on worms or very small white jigs tipped with wax worms. Crappies were still hitting on pinky jigs with white double twister tails. A few pike were caught.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Fishing has not been consistent as it is good one day and slow the next. Perch anglers caught fish in 30 to 50 feet. Salmon fishing has been similar but fish were caught in 75 to 120 feet. Pier fishing was slow. A couple freshwater drum were taken on crawlers.

South Haven: Perch fishing was decent with most anglers finding them south of the piers in 40 feet. Salmon were caught in 80 to 100 feet and most fish were taken on dipsey divers with spoons or J-plugs. Pier fishing was not consistent. A couple steelhead were caught but the water warmed up and the fish moved out.

Kalamazoo River: A few walleye were caught below the Allegan Dam. The catfish action has been fair to good. Look for channel cats below the dams and flatheads in the deeper holes.

Grand Haven: Boats were finding salmon 40 to 100 feet down in 70 to 120 feet. Glow plugs, green or white meat rigs, and green flies were taking fish. Pier anglers are catching the occasional steelhead on shrimp.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Several steelhead were caught at the 6th Street Dam. Walleye and smallmouth bass continue to be caught below the dam. They are hitting on artificial and live bait. Channel and flathead catfish are being caught with crawlers or small bluegills fished off the wall and below the dam.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing a few scattered walleye below the North Lansing Dam and the Moore's Park Dam. Try live bait or a white twister tail grub. Those targeting catfish or carp should find some fish.

Morrison Lake: Was good for bluegill and crappie.

Jordan Lake: Was producing a good number of nice bluegills.

Muskegon: Salmon were caught 40 to 90 feet down in 70 to 130 feet. Glow spoons and green glow plugs are working in low light conditions. Green meat rigs and flies were also working well. Pier anglers are catching smallmouth bass.

Muskegon River: Is producing some nice brown trout and smallmouth bass.

Whitehall: Catch rates were fair for those trolling in 90 to 160 feet with dipsey divers, copper and meat rigs. The fish have finally set up. Pier anglers had hopes of catching salmon however the fish are not in yet.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan River: Those fishing near the Foot Bridge caught a good number of smallmouth bass, walleye and pike but most were sub-legal. Anglers were using crawlers and wax worms off multiple fishing piers.

Rogers City: Continues to produce a mixed bag of Chinook, steelhead and lake trout. The Chinook are here but in low numbers. Some are getting a few while others struggle to find them especially south towards Swan Bay and Adams Point in 40 to 90 feet. Try 20 to 25 feet down with spoons or J-plugs and attractors with flies or squid. Good colors were green, blue, black and white or glow.

East and West Twin Lakes: The fishing was slow on East Twin. Anglers were trolling and jigging with artificial and natural baits for walleye but they had no luck. Perch fishing was slow. Surface water temperature was between 70 and 74 degrees and the weeds are starting to come up around the island. Try six to eight feet for smallmouth. Walleye fishing on West Twin was moderate but most of the fish caught

were sub-legal. Anglers are trolling in six to 18 feet with both artificial and natural baits. The lake provides easy fishing for rock bass but most are caught in the perch holes and off Eagle Point. Perch fishing was moderate in four to six feet.

Alpena: It seemed like the walleye left the bay because those targeting them came in with one fish. Lake trout are still being caught off the "Humps" and the deeper water off Thunder Bay Island and the Nordmere Wreck.

Thunder Bay River: Had very little to report with only a few smaller panfish caught.

Harrisville: Walleye were being caught in good numbers. Evening and very early morning was best but some did report the occasional midday catch. Body baits worked best but also try wobble glo's, spin-glo's and small spoons in 12 to 15 feet. Lake trout moved in slightly. Try fishing throughout the water column in 80 to 120 feet with spoons, spin-glo's and wobble glo's behind dodgers.

Oscoda: Pier fishing seems to be getting better as anglers were catching walleye, channel cats and smallmouth bass. Catfish are being caught on crawlers and minnows throughout the night. Walleye are hitting throughout the day but evening may be a touch better when drifting crawlers or casting body baits. Lake trout are out deep in 150 to 180 feet and hitting on spoons, body baits, spin-glo's and wobble glo's. The fish were suspended about 20 feet from the bottom.

Au Sable River: Spinners and body baits are being used to catch bass.

Higgins Lake: Those looking for perch are using minnows and wax worms. Rock bass are everywhere and provide a great fishery for young anglers. Those trolling for lake trout are fishing along the bottom in waters 80 feet and deeper. Those fishing higher in the water column may find a couple brown trout or rainbow trout. Try black and gold, black and silver or perch colored body baits.

Houghton Lake: Walleye fishing has been tough but a few were caught early morning or evening in about nine feet. Some are using purple or chartreuse harnesses but those trolling small crank baits have caught some nice bluegill and crappie. Large and smallmouth bass fishing was good but the pike fishing was slow. Those fishing the canals caught crappie. Pike, bass and bluegills were caught on the upper side of the Reedsburg Dam.

Lake St. Helen: Had good fishing. Largemouth bass were hitting soft plastics on the bottom during the day and top water lures in early morning or late evening. Panfish including bluegills, sunfish and rock bass were caught by those drifting a piece of crawler. No walleye or crappie to report.

Tawas: Walleye fishing was slow.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing was slow. Some fish were caught in 60 feet or more along the weed beds off the Pine River but the action was not hot by any means. Most anglers were working extremely hard to get one or two fish per boat

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: A couple lake trout and a nice salmon were caught 90 to 120 feet down in 140 to 150 feet around Harbor Point.

Petoskey: Anglers had a hard time getting lake trout or salmon into the boat. The thermocline keeps changing but was significantly deeper and down over 100 feet. Fishing at the “Bobber Hole” and off all the piers was slow. A couple smallmouth bass were caught off the D Pier.

Bear River: Angler pressure is still low at the dam and the water level was still very low. Predicted rain this week might bring in some trout or salmon.

Charlevoix: Anglers are lake trout fishing off North Point and around the Cement Plant. The fish were on the bottom or suspended 70 to 100 feet down in 100 to 150 feet. Only a few salmon were caught. Those fishing the channel caught smallmouth, freshwater drum and rock bass when using crawlers, leeches or soft plastics.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass fishing was fair below the power dam and out to the mouth. Anglers were using a variety of live baits or plastic tube baits.

Traverse City: Salmon fishing was slow in the East Bay but the lake trout action was good in 60 to 100 feet. A few anglers are targeting smallmouth bass in 10 to 40 feet. In the West Bay, anglers are marking salmon on their electronics but fishing has been slow with only a couple Chinook were caught 50 to 60 feet down in 90 feet or deeper. They are using glow spoons or plugs early morning and around dusk. Lake trout and the occasional cisco were caught in 50 to 100 feet.

Boardman River: Rock bass and sub-legal smallmouth bass have been caught on crawlers and leeches at the mouth and near the Union Street Dam.

Glen Lake: The boat launch has reopened following repairs after the storm.

Frankfort: Those heading north and trolling 40 to 80 feet down in 120 to 160 feet were starting to land better numbers of Chinook when using J-plugs in the early morning and meat rigs after the sun comes up. Coho, lake trout and steelhead were hitting on spoons in the same area.

Onekama: Boats trolling 40 to 90 feet down in 160 to 250 feet reported the majority of hits were in the morning when using green, blue or white J-plugs. Meat rigs on 10 to 14 colors caught some nice Chinook salmon.

Portage Lake: A few coho were caught in 30 feet near the mouth when trolling smaller body baits. Anglers working the cooler waters near the drop-offs caught a few largemouth bass.

Pentwater: Catch rates were fair for those targeting trout and salmon. Cooler temperatures will be needed to get the fish moving into their spawning mode.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Anglers did catch a few Chinook, coho and lake trout. At Big Traverse Bay, anglers were jigging or trolling from Hermits Cove to 7-Mile Reef and picking up some coho and lake trout. Those jigging are in 180 to 260 feet out from Big Louie's Point. Baitfish were reported near Big Louie's and some managed to pick up coho, Chinook and steelhead in waters as shallow as 35 feet.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported catches throughout the Bay but the better catches were taken south of the Ford River where anglers were trolling stick baits between Round Island and No-See-Um Creek in 10 to 20 feet. Northern pike have been showing up in good numbers this year. So much so that some are now pursuing them and reporting good catches near the Day's River, the west bank in Kipling near Brach's Cabins, the north side of Saunders Point, the mouth of the Escanaba River and in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor. They are trolling crank bits, spinners, buck tails or spoons in eight to 20 feet. Several good catches of perch were reported in Kipling using minnows or worms in 10 to 18 feet. Smallmouth bass anglers reported the best catches just south of the Ford River when casting plastics in eight to 12 feet. Salmon anglers had fair catch rates between the Ford River Buoy and the shoals when trolling spoons 30 to 75 feet down in 65 to 110 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported the best catches down by Round Island when trolling stick baits or crawler harnesses in and around 20 feet. For smallmouth, the best areas continue to be Kate's Bay and over to Ansell's Point, Porcupine Point and St. Vitals Island when casting plastics, crank baits and spinners or jigging and drifting crawlers in eight to 18 feet. Off Fairport, catch rates for Chinook were fair 40 to 90 feet down in 100 to 130 feet. Some are still traveling to St. Martins Island for salmon. Day anglers are still taking good numbers of lake trout in the area.

Marquette: The Upper Harbor remains closed for renovation so the one in the Lower Harbor is the only public launch for Lake Superior. Surface water temperatures remain in the low to mid 60's. Lake trout success improved. Some were only getting a few fish but the majority came in with four to five fish when using flies, spoons and cut bait. They are fishing north and east of the port and targeting the White Rocks, the Sand Hole, the Clay Banks and north of Granite Island. A few did try east of the Chocolate River towards Shot Point and caught fish up to 10 pounds. Anglers reported a few more Chinook salmon with younger fish caught in 17 to 18 feet.

Big Shag Lake: The boating access site located off Marquette County Road 557, along Knudsen Road will be closed through Friday, August 21 for installation of a new concrete ramp. There is no alternate boat launch in the area.

Au Train Lake: Angler success improved slightly with more quality size walleye up to 25 inches reported but most were still reporting poor catch rates with only one or two fish caught in the evening when trolling crawler harnesses or small crank baits. A couple 18 to 20 inch smallmouth bass were caught and released. The perch action was fair but most fish were released due to the small size.

South Manistique Lake: Fishing slowed but bluegills and pike were caught in good numbers. Warmer weather has surface water temperatures in the mid 70's so most of the fish were deeper than usual. For bluegills, try early morning along the north side of Long Point with worms or flies and a bobber.

DeTour: Warmer temperatures helped set the thermocline at 45 feet along the river. A few more Chinook were caught by those using flashers and spin-glo's about 42 feet down in waters 100 feet or deeper. Both Atlantic and Chinook salmon seemed to be staging from the red buoy to the back of the lighthouse off Crab Island. Atlantic salmon were caught using fly type baits or small three-inch spoons. Good lake trout action when trolling blue, white and chrome spoons in 60 to 80 feet between Fry Pan Island and the green buoy west of the lighthouse. Good reports of baitfish off Crab Island could keep the salmon staging in this area.

Drummond Island: Had good reports of walleye at Picnic Island which is just out from Drummond Island Township Park. The fish were caught early morning or late evening when using slip bobbers with minnows just off the weed beds in six to 10 feet. Northern pike have been fair just off the weed beds on the southeast side of Grape Island when fishing with chubs or when casting and trolling chrome spoons with a red eye. Rock bass were caught around the docks at Yacht Haven when using worms in the early morning or evening. Smallmouth bass fishing was fair on both sides of the entrance to Harbor Island when using dark brown tube jigs or still-fishing minnows with a bobber in six feet.

August 27, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Strong winds have made fishing much more difficult especially for those taking boats out on the Great Lakes. Water temperatures were unstable making it hard to find a thermocline. Inland, the fish moved into shallower waters with the onset of cooler temperatures. Reports were slim this week as few anglers have been out because of the weather.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had a good number of anglers catching yellow perch in 17 to 27 feet in Brest Bay, off Stony Point, in front of the Fermi stacks and out near the E-Buoy and the S-Buoy. They are anchored while using minnows on spreaders. Most of the fish were averaging seven to eight inches. Walleye pressure was low with only a couple anglers reporting any catches. The Bolles Harbor road construction continues but the harbor remains accessible to the public.

Lenawee County: Bluegill fishing was still good on Devils Lake. Anglers are fishing crickets and wax worms just off the bottom in 25 to 30 feet. On Lake Hudson, fishing improved for bass anglers when targeting the shaded banks along the shoreline. A couple catfish were caught on live bait in five to 10 feet.

Detroit River: Catch rates for walleye were low on the northern half of the Canadian side with anglers getting zero to three fish. The better fishing in Canadian waters was around Belle Isle. On the Michigan side, catch rates were poor. The few fish that were caught were taken in the Trenton Channel, near Mud Island and Grassy Island or on the east side of Grosse Ile. The vast majority of anglers had zero to two fish. They are bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses, hand-lining or jigging in 15 to 35 feet. A few caught yellow perch ranging seven to nine inches. Those fishing the Trenton Channel caught channel catfish. Those targeting muskie caught a few fish up to 30 inches. Bass fishing was starting to improve with smallmouth up to three pounds caught around Belle Isle and Grassy Island.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Some boats were going out up to 25 miles and fishing in 110 to 160 feet where they caught a mix of lake trout, coho, steelhead, walleye and white bass. They are fishing half of the lines about halfway down and the other half at the bottom. Green and blue were the hot colors. No perch to report and pier fishing was slow.

Harbor Beach: High winds coupled with waterspout warnings were keeping boat anglers off the lake. Anglers can try off the wall or the pier for bass, perch or walleye in the early morning or late evening. When conditions allow, most were heading

north and fishing 50 feet down in 135 feet. They caught lake trout, coho and steelhead. Some large rock bass were caught on crawlers off the breakwall.

Grindstone City: Had good fishing with lake trout and walleye caught on spoons in 120 to 130 feet straight north of the harbor.

Port Austin: Had good lake trout fishing with the occasional steelhead or coho and a fair number of walleye taken on spin-n-gloves in 95 to 115 feet. Walleye anglers trolling crawler harnesses in shallow waters 20 to 40 feet deep were not getting any walleye but they did catch some smallmouth bass.

Saginaw Bay: Some walleye were caught northeast of Linwood in 22 to 24 feet when using harnesses. Perch were caught west of the Spark Plug in 18 to 25 feet and around sailboat buoys A and H. A few perch were taken east of Spoils Island. The fish were running eight to 12 inches but anglers will still have to do some sorting. Perch fishing picked up off Quanicassee in eight to 14 feet straight off the end of the channel. Catch rates varied anywhere from 15 to 25 fish per boat. Most of the keepers were seven to eight inches but a few bigger fish were also taken. A few walleye were caught in the Slot and off the Bar when trolling.

Saginaw River: Is producing mostly freshwater drum or catfish but some caught the occasional smallmouth bass. They were hitting on crawlers.

Sanford Lake: Had another slow week. A handful of bluegills and crappie were taken on pinkie jigs or white jig heads with white twister tails in nine to 15 feet along the deep edge of the weed beds. A few bass were taken on soft plastics. Very little walleye or pike action to report.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Weather has hampered fishing efforts. When they can get out, boat anglers did catch a couple steelhead and brown trout when trolling in 100 feet and deeper. Perch fishing and pier fishing were slow. If and when the lake calms down, the fish will most likely be scattered. Pier anglers caught the occasional steelhead. Try early morning or late evening.

St. Joseph River: Had no word on trout or salmon but those targeting catfish have done well when using live or cut bait.

South Haven: Fishing effort here was also hampered. Boat anglers reported decent fishing when they could get out. They were fishing very deep as most fish were caught well in excess of 100 feet and deeper. The few fish that were caught were hitting on J-plugs. Perch fishing slowed however some were caught in 50 to 70 feet. Pier anglers have caught the occasional steelhead.

Kalamazoo River: Walleye fishing slowed but those targeting catfish have done well for channel and flatheads.

Grand Haven: Chinook salmon were found 80 to 140 feet down in 100 to 150 feet.

Green or white flies worked well and glow plugs were the ticket in the early morning. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum on minnows and worms.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: A couple steelhead were caught when drifting flies and yarn below the dam. Walleye and smallmouth bass were also caught below the dam. Those looking for catfish have done well for both channel and flathead when using crawlers or bluegills for bait.

Grand River at Lansing: Few were out but anglers should still be able to find some carp and catfish or try upstream of the Moore's Park Dam for bluegills and crappie.

Muskrat Lake: Was good for crappie though anglers will need to sort through the small ones.

Morrison Lake: Was still producing some crappie.

Muskegon: Those trolling 70 to 120 feet down in 100 feet or more caught Chinook salmon. They are using green flies and meat rigs behind white paddles. Glow plugs work best in low light conditions. Pier anglers caught a few smallmouth bass.

Whitehall: Strong winds have kept most anglers at shore. Those that were able to get out were only putting one or two fish in the box. Strong winds blew in warm water which was recorded at 70 degrees about 95 feet down. No reports of salmon taken from the piers or in the channel.

White Lake: Had good bluegill fishing.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Salmon fishing has finally picked up with most boats catching at least one right along with lake trout, steelhead and the occasional walleye. Best areas were straight out of the harbor, a little west towards Seagull Point and south towards Adams Point and Swan Bay in 40 to 90 feet while looking for the baitfish. Put downriggers close to the temperature break or lead core and dipseys higher up. A lot of the salmon were not in the temperature break but were caught up higher. Spoons, J-plugs and attractors with flies, squid or herring were all working. Good colors were bright or dark greens and blues, yellow or silver. Black and white glow was good early, late or on overcast days. Orange was good up high or in shallow water.

East and West Twin Lakes: The fishing on East Twin was still slow. Many were trolling natural baits in eight to 14 feet for walleye. A few bass were caught near the island and in the shallows in four to six feet. Catch rates were moderate on West Twin and most of the walleye caught were undersize. They were trolling in six to 10 feet or drifting in 17 feet with natural baits. Perch and rock bass were still near the weed beds in four to six feet. Smallmouth bass were caught in four feet near Eagle Point.

Alpena: Had little activity. Lake trout are still being caught off the “Humps” or around Thunder Bay Island when fishing near the bottom with large attractors. An occasional steelhead or salmon can be caught higher up on spoons. Walleye seemed to have moved out towards Rockport and Presque Isle. Most anglers have switched from walleye to salmon and trout. Those fishing at Rockport and Presque Isle caught a mixed bag of salmon, steelhead, lake trout and walleye.

Thunder Bay River: Had slow fishing with only a few smallmouth, rock bass or freshwater drum caught. No salmon to report.

Harrisville: Lake trout are starting to move in a little and were found in shallower water. Try 10 to 20 feet off the bottom in 70 to 100 feet with spoons, flies, wobble glows, spin-n-glows or body baits. Salmon and steelhead seem to be north of the harbor in 60 to 80 feet and hitting on spoons. Hot colors were green, blue and silver in mixed combinations. Walleye could be found in 12 to 20 feet around the harbor. They were hitting on crawler harnesses, small spoons and body baits.

Oscoda: Lake trout were scarce as anglers had a hard time finding them. Last reports were 80 to 120 feet from top to bottom so run a wide spread of bait throughout the water column. By doing so, you may also pick up a Chinook, steelhead or Atlantic salmon.

Au Sable River: Had reports of walleye up to the Rea Road launch. For easier access try the new finger piers directly below the dam; this area should be holding some fish as well.

Higgins Lake: No one is fishing because of the cooler and wet weather. Fishing activity and catch rates should pick up by the weekend.

Houghton Lake: Also had slow fishing activity because of the weather. Those heading out were still getting some walleye and bluegills. The fish moved back in with the cooler temperatures and were caught in five and six feet.

Tawas: Those trolling were getting walleye on the bottom in 70 to 90 feet. They are using in-line weights to get the bait down. Walleye were also caught in 30 to 40 feet off Tawas Point. Pier anglers are catching very small perch and the odd smallmouth.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing was slow but a few anglers heading down and fishing the Pinconning and Saganing Bars caught some perch in 15 feet. A couple walleye were caught off the end of the shipping channel.

Au Gres River: Was producing a few good catches of channel cats.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Anglers had trouble finding trout and salmon because of water temperatures and strong winds. There was one report of a lake trout caught 50 to 60 feet down in waters over 200 feet deep near 5-Mile Point.

Petoskey: With the bad weather fishing was tough. Lake trout were caught 50 feet or so down in 170 to 220 feet but some also caught fish much deeper at 150 feet down so the fish are scattered. The occasional salmon was caught 50 to 60 feet down in front of the breakwall and one of the fish was already turning dark. Those fishing off the piers and breakwall reported slow fishing with only a few undersize smallmouth bass and a couple small perch taken.

Bear River: Angler pressure is picking up at the dam. A few salmon showed up late last week after some heavy rains but for the most part they were few and far between. Anglers were using spawn bags and flies from the dam downstream.

Charlevoix: Boats are fishing close to the cement plant. They are targeting salmon that are moving closer to shore and staging before the run. Those fishing the channel caught mainly undersize smallmouth bass when using crawlers, leeches or soft plastics on the bottom.

Elk River: A fair number of smallmouth bass were caught below the power dam when using leeches.

Traverse City: Salmon fishing was hit-or-miss in the East Bay. Fish were caught on spoons 50 to 70 feet down at various depths. Lake trout action was decent in 70 to 115 feet. Smallmouth bass were targeted in 30 to 40 feet. In the West Bay, salmon were caught in the hole near the mouth of the Boardman River. Try running glow plugs 50 to 60 feet down at first and last light. Lake trout were also caught but most are targeting kings.

Boardman River: Fishing has been relatively slow. A few rock bass and sublegal smallmouth bass have been caught on live bait below the Union Street Dam.

Frankfort: When they can get out, boat anglers caught Chinook 50 to 80 feet down in 120 to 220 feet when using J-plugs. Steelhead and lake trout were also caught. Windy conditions moved warmer water back in. Chinook have started moving into the Betsie River and were caught off the old car ferry landing.

Onkama: Those trolling the Barrel caught the occasional Chinook and lake trout. They were using J-plugs and meat rigs in 100 to 200 feet.

Manistee: Had some decent reports. With the strong winds, most were fishing in 130 feet straight out from the pier. Chinook were the main catch along with the occasional coho, steelhead or lake trout 80 to 130 feet down in 120 to 200 feet. Only a couple fish were caught off the piers.

Portage Lake: Was producing some very nice catches of both large and smallmouth bass. The fish were caught both in shallow water and along the deeper drop-offs.

Ludington: Had good catch rates with a few charters reporting mostly Chinook and steelhead being caught. Strong winds are changing the water temperature. Boats are fishing about six miles south to the project and 60 to 80 feet down in 120 feet or north to Big Sable Point at 60 to 120 feet down in 80 to 200 feet. Many caught fish straight off the pier in 100 feet as well. J-plugs seemed to work better than spoons or cut bait. Many were averaging between two and five fish per trip. No report on pier fishing.

Pentwater: Persistent high winds have kept most anglers from leaving port. Those that did were lucky to come back with a fish or two. Water temperatures were very warm with anglers recording 70 degrees at 95 feet down. Most fish were taken 50 feet down in 100 to 150 feet. There have been no salmon taken from the piers or the channel.

Pentwater Lake: Anglers caught smallmouth bass, channel cats and bullhead. The catfish and bullhead were taken after dark.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Angler participation and fishing were both slow over the past week. The few that did get out picked up the occasional coho or lake trout. Anglers are finding fish but cannot get them to bite. The South Portage Entry and Traverse Bay had bad weather and no date was recorded.

Lake Gogebic: Fishing was good over the last few weeks. Anglers caught lots of yellow perch, pumpkinseed, walleye and smallmouth bass with a fair percentage of legal size fish harvested. The perch and sunfish were caught all over the lake but those fishing the north end caught more. Walleye were caught deeper during the warm weather. Anglers were either trolling or drifting the deep drop-offs with crawler harnesses or jigs tipped with a crawler or leech. Smallmouth bass fishing picked up with more anglers starting to target the rocky shoreline on the east side of the lake.

Menominee: Boat anglers caught some steelhead, brown trout and even a few salmon when trolling off the mouth of the river.

Little Bay De Noc: It's been a good year for northern pike anglers and the last week was no exception with fish caught throughout the bay and excellent fishing reported from Butler Island north to the Day's River and off the west bank. Most were trolling or casting spinners and crank baits in eight to 12 feet. Several fish were 40 inches and bigger. The best walleye fishing was still south past the Ford River when trolling stick baits in 10 to 28 feet between Round Island and No-See-Um Creek as well as out to the "Fingers". Good perch fishing in the northern bay between the First and Third Reefs with minnows in eight to 24 feet. Salmon anglers were still reporting catches out by the Ford River buoy when trolling spoons 30 to 60 feet down in 70 to 100 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Mostly smallmouth anglers here although some walleye catches were reported near Round Island when trolling stick bait in 18 to 24 feet. Bass anglers did well off southern Kate's Bay and south to Garden Bluff when casting spinners, crank baits and plastics or using jigs with crawlers in 12 to 25 feet. Off Fairport, a few anglers traveling to St. Martins Island reported fair catch rates 60 feet down in 100 to 140 feet.

Big Shag Lake: Construction on the boating access site has been completed and the new launch is now open.

Munising: Surface water temperatures remain between 60 and 62 degrees. A few boats fishing out at Big Reef caught lake trout up to 12 pounds but the trips were short-lived due to high winds. One small Chinook was caught by those trolling high-lines. Those fishing near the Anna River dock had slow action. A few splake were reported however the fish were not in close at this time.

Grand Marais: Strong winds are restricting fishing opportunities. Those fishing in the harbor had slow results but did manage to catch a few pike.

St. Marys' River: A few nice walleye ranging 18 to 21 inches were caught near Big Hart Island. Anglers were trolling bottom bouncers with crank baits or crawler harnesses in 22 feet along the "humps" and rock piles.

DeTour: Anglers reported a few yellow perch caught on the north side of the Harbor Marina in 14 feet with shiners around the old dock pilings. When the winds allowed, anglers caught a mix of salmon and trout including pink salmon, lake trout and the occasional coho or Chinook. They are trolling green and gold hammered spoons 45 feet down in 80 feet from Frying Pan Island southwest to the green buoy. This area has good structure and baitfish for trout and salmon.

Drummond Island: Anglers are searching for yellow perch. A few eight to 10 inch fish were caught around Quarry Island and Grape Island with shiners in 14 feet. The walleye action was fair. Anglers were trolling along the weed beds on the west side of Rutland Island and over to Peck Island in 14 to 18 feet. Rock bass were caught at the entrance to Harbor Island in four to six feet. Use worms in the early morning.

Cedarville & Hessel: Pike fishing is good throughout the Les Cheneaux Islands. Anglers casting in Moscoe Channel are having the best results; while those trolling or still-fishing with chubs in all other locations had good results. Perch fishing was excellent in Moscoe Channel, Cedarville Bay and Hessel Bay. A few Chinook and lake trout were caught out of Hessel.

St. Ignace: Fishing was slow. The mouth of the Carp River has produced a few salmon. Anglers could try the waters surrounding Mackinac Island for lake trout.

September 3, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The last big weekend of the summer is going to be a hot one! While light numbers of salmon did start to move into some of the river systems that will change with the warmer temperatures. Inland, there should be plenty of opportunities for panfish, pike, bass, and catfish.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had a good number of anglers targeting yellow perch. Those anchored in 20 to 27 feet caught fish when using minnows on spreaders in Brest Bay, off Stony Point, Fermi, Bolles Harbor and around the E Buoy and the C Buoy. Most of the perch were still seven to eight inches. The bigger ones were few and far between. The walleye fishing pressure was the lowest it has been all summer.

Lenawee County: Anglers on Devils Lake were marking and catching a good number of bluegills in 20 to 35 feet with crickets and wax worms however they are sorting out the small ones. Bass and pike fishing were fair along the weed beds when casting or trolling deep divers and spinners. On Lake Hudson, bass were caught along the weed beds. Some reported a good number of crappie and bluegills. Shore anglers caught a few panfish, bass or catfish.

Detroit River: Walleye anglers were putting in long hours. Catch rates were very low in the northern half when bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses. Those fishing at night had fair to good success when hand-lining from the Renaissance Center all the way up to the mouth of Lake St. Clair. A few had luck in the Trenton Channel, near Mud Island and on the east side of Grosse Ile when bottom bouncing crawler harnesses, trolling, drifting, hand-lining or jigging. A few six to nine inch perch were caught but not much worth keeping. Anglers are catching channel catfish and freshwater drum. Bass anglers are doing a little better with smallmouth up to three pounds taken around Belle Isle, Grassy Island and off Alter Road. Water temperatures were in the low 70's.

Lake St. Clair: Walleye fishing was spotty but a few were caught by those trolling in 17 to 19 feet. Overall, perch fishing was slow but a couple decent reports did come from the Dumping Grounds and the channel area near the Grosse Point Yacht Club. Smallmouth bass fishing has been very good. Target the deeper areas. Good numbers of largemouth bass can be found in the canals and the marinas.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was slow with most anglers only catching one or two fish per trip. Even night fishing has slowed. Bass fishing was good. Some of the biggest fish caught were taken up near Port Huron or just above the Bluewater Bridge. Water clarity was very good and water temperatures were hovering around 70 degrees. Sturgeon fishing in the North Channel was fair.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Lake trout, coho, steelhead and the odd walleye were caught 40 feet down in 90 to 135 feet. Even the lake trout were suspended. The fish appear to be gorging themselves on young of the year emerald shiners. Anglers at Lexington are heading north to Port Sanilac and fishing straight east or northeast of the harbor. Pier fishing was slow.

Harbor Beach: Lake trout and steelhead are still being caught in 80 to 120 feet straight out and north of the harbor. Try spoons or some dodgers with spin-n-gloves between 40 feet down and the bottom. Also try 3, 5, 7, and 10 color lines with bright colored spoons and offshore boards to get them out and away from the boat. Walleye were caught in 50 feet. Try small Hot-n-Tots or worm burners with crawlers. Pier anglers might want to try casting small body baits in the evening.

Grindstone City: Was producing trout and salmon including the occasional Atlantic.

Saginaw Bay: Perch fishing is picking up as walleye fishing winds down at least along the inner bay. While not as good as in years past, it appears they are getting enough nice ones to get people out looking for them. The key to success is finding shiner minnows for bait. Unfortunately, this is the hardest time of year to get shiners as most wholesalers have run out and the emerald shiners don't move inshore until the middle of October. Perch have been caught at many locations including west of the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 and 12) in 20 feet, the sailboat buoys A and H off Linwood, near Spoils Island and in 10 to 12 feet straight out or slightly west of Quanicassee. Lots of sorting is necessary at all locations. Most of the fish were six to 11 inches and twenty to thirty fish per boat is a good catch right now. A few bass were caught off Bay Port.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Decent numbers of salmon and trout were caught in 100 feet when trolling J-plugs and spoons. Perch fishing slowed but a few were still being caught in 40 to 50 feet. Pier fishing is slow.

St. Joseph River: Had a light number of steelhead moving past the Berrien Springs Dam.

South Haven: Salmon fishing was slow with only a few caught on spoons in 80 to 100 feet. Perch anglers caught some fish in 45 feet but the fish seem to be scattered. Pier fishing is slow for all species.

Black River: Had reports of a couple salmon caught.

Kalamazoo River: Was producing smallmouth bass.

Grand Haven: Salmon fishing was tough with only a few caught 70 to 130 feet down in 100 to 160 feet. Anglers were using plugs, meat rigs and flies.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Cooler weather and rain last week did bring in some Chinook and coho which were caught on spawn, flies, beads and yarn in the drift below the dam. Steelhead were also caught. The catfish action remains good for those using crawlers, liver and bluegills. Smallmouth bass were taken on crawlers.

Grand River at Lansing: A few smallmouth bass were caught by those drifting just above the weeds. Walleye action over at Moore's Park was sporadic.

Muskegon: Boats were finding salmon 70 to 150 feet down in 110 to 160 feet. Glow plugs, green meat rigs, and green flies were producing fish. Freshwater drum were caught off the piers by those casting spoons.

Muskegon River: A good number of steelhead and brown trout were caught below Croton Dam.

Whitehall: Had salmon holding in 60 to 80 feet and most were caught about halfway down. Depending on water temperatures, fish may still continue to move in. We may have another week for boat anglers wanting to fish the shallows before the main run starts. Pier anglers may find some fish early morning or late evening. In the channel, anglers should find some northern pike when still-fishing with large minnows.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Is producing a mixed bag of salmon, steelhead, lake trout and walleye. Boats are heading south towards Swan Bay and trolling throughout the entire water column in 30 to 90 feet. Spoons, J-plugs, bombers, attractors with flies and squid were all working and the hot colors were greens, blues, yellows, gold, black and white and orange early or late. There are lots of baitfish mostly young of the year smelt that are present so go with lures that imitate them.

East and West Twin Lakes: Catch rates were slow on East Twin. Walleye anglers were trolling in 10 to 14 feet or jigging in 10 to 15 feet. Bass were caught along the shoreline and near the island in four to eight feet. Perch and bluegill fishing were slow. On West Twin, walleye anglers were trolling in six to eight feet or jigging in eight feet. Fish were caught but many were small. The perch and bluegill action was starting to slow but some found fish near the weed beds in six feet.

Alpena: Lake trout are still being caught just off the bottom out near the "Humps". A stray salmon or steelhead can be taken higher in water column. Not much to report on walleye except for a couple taken around Thunder Bay Island.

Thunder Bay River: Smallmouth bass fishing picked up but many were small. Try casting artificial baits or drifting leeches and crawlers.

Harrisville: Most were targeting walleye when heading north and fishing in 12 to 25 feet between Sturgeon Point and the Black River. Late evening and early morning were best with small spoons and body baits. Lake trout were scattered so few were caught. This is the time of year when these fish are usually working their way back to shallower waters.

Oscoda: Pier fishing was fair. Salmon anglers are starting to make their way out however there were no reports of any fish caught. Lake trout were scattered so boat anglers were having a hard time finding them. Walleye were north of the river and out from the Wurtsmith water tower in 15 to 25 feet.

Au Sable River: Steelhead should be starting to make their way up into the river but warmer temperatures this week will slow movement.

Higgins Lake: Perch anglers found fish around the Main Island and the Sunken Island, in front of the North State Park, off B&B Marina, Flag Point and along the drop-off on the west side. Use minnows and wax worms in 20 to 45 feet. For lake trout, anglers are trolling just off the bottom in 80 to 100 feet or jigging heavy spoons in 85 to 100 feet. Brown trout and rainbow trout were caught in the thermocline between 20 and 40 feet. Try black and silver, blue and silver or perch colored body baits and blue and silver or chrome colored spoons. Smallmouth bass were caught in 20 feet around the Main Island. Don't forget the good rock bass fishing.

Houghton Lake: Is producing a few walleye. Anglers are still-fishing with leeches or trolling them over the top of the weed beds. Pike fishing was good but many were on the small side. Anglers were catching lots of bluegills about a foot off the bottom in six to eight feet. The fish were running eight to 10 inches but a few were up to 12.

Lake St. Helen: Fishing was slow but should pick up by the weekend. Look for panfish in five to seven feet with. Largemouth bass can be found in the shallows or lily pads. Walleye anglers will want to fish early morning or late evening. For pike, try spinners.

Tawas: Pier anglers walking the wall and trolling fire-tiger rapalas in the deeper water at night or casting rapalas at night did pick up some walleye. Boat anglers caught walleye along the weed beds off Jerry's Marina and some reported limit catches. They are trolling or casting Lindy Rigs, crawler harnesses or crank baits. Those trolling deeper in 30 to 55 feet off Tawas Point caught steelhead and walleye.

Au Gres: Fishing was very slow with only a couple walleye taken from scattered locations. There were rumors of some perch taken off Pointe Au Gres in 25 feet and off the Saganing Bar and Pinconning Bar in 14 feet.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

No salmon to report in the Boyne River or the Jordan River.

Petoskey: Water temperatures were very warm in the 60's over 100 feet down and no thermocline to report. Those heading out caught few or no salmon. Rumor has it a few salmon were caught 80 feet down in 120 feet around Bay Harbor and a couple lake trout were taken 160 feet down. Some good size smallmouth were caught in 10 to 15 feet in Little Traverse Bay. Pier anglers caught a couple salmon in the early morning and overnight.

Bear River: A few Chinook, brown trout, and small steelhead were caught with spawn bags and flies at the dam and the mouth however with the warm weather not many fish were still around. Look for more fish when cooler temperatures and rain return.

Charlevoix: Salmon and trout fishing were slow as water temperatures were still in the upper 60's with no thermocline. A couple Chinook were caught near the cement plant. The fish were either shallow or 80 to 90 feet down near the red can. Flies worked best. Lake trout were hard to find as well but a couple were taken 110 to 200 feet down in 120 to 300 feet. Smallmouth fishing in the channel was slow and the few caught were sub-legal. Try worms, leeches or soft plastics on the bottom. Those casting from the pier managed to catch a few salmon.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass were caught on live bait however most were not keepers. Anglers were targeting brown trout at the dam but the bite was slow. A few Chinook salmon were beginning to show up.

Traverse City: Catch rates for salmon were zero to three fish per outing in the East Bay. Most are trolling 70 to 90 feet down in 80 to 160 feet with spoons, plugs, meat rigs rotators and flies. Lake trout were caught trolling or jigging in 90 to 100 feet. Salmon fishing was about the same in the West Bay. The few caught were hitting on plugs. Most were targeting the deep hole adjacent to the mouth of the Boardman or when trolling along the west side north of Elmwood Marina. Very few Chinook over 15 pounds were caught.

Boardman River: Anglers are looking for salmon but few have entered the river so far. Anglers did catch steelhead, rock bass or undersize smallmouth when using live bait.

Frankfort: Chinook and the occasional coho were caught 100 to 130 feet down in 180 to 250 feet with J-plugs and meat rigs. Jigging and trolling in the harbor as well as Betsie Bay was producing good numbers of Chinook. Most are using Swedish pimples or plugs.

Betsie River: Had a good number of fresh Chinook. Most were hitting on skein.

Onkama: Those trolling in 180 to 220 feet caught Chinook on plugs and meat rigs. No word on the hot colors. The Barrel is still producing good numbers of lake trout for those fishing off the bottom.

Portage Lake: Boat anglers trolling the west side caught a few coho on spoons and spinners. Bass anglers caught largemouth in deeper water.

Manistee: Catch rates were up and down. Warm water was pushed in and surface water temperatures were 69 degrees. The better fishing was south of the piers where anglers caught mainly Chinook followed by coho, lake trout and steelhead 80 to 130 feet down in 100 to 300 feet. Boats are running a mix of J-plugs, spoons and cut bait. The good days were producing six to eight fish or more and the slow days were maybe two fish.

Manistee River: Few salmon have appeared up near Tippy Dam however fish were in the middle sections. Try the deeper holes. The Little Manistee is now closed to fishing downstream of the weir however anglers can view fish from the platform. Not many there yet but some.

Ludington: The lake is finally starting to settle down but water temperatures are still fairly warm so catch rates were hit-or-miss. Boats are fishing about six miles south to the project and 60 to 80 feet down in 120 feet or north to Big Sable Point at 60 to 120 feet down in 80 to 200 feet. Cut bait was best with blue flies and flashers but a few were also taken on J-plugs and spoons. On the good days, anglers were averaging five fish per trip, on the bad days it was zero to two fish. They caught mainly Chinook but a few more coho were showing up. Some reported the occasional steelhead or lake trout.

Pere Marquette River: Had salmon near the Twin Bridges at US-31, Scottville and the Indian Bridge but no big numbers yet.

Pentwater: Boat anglers reported salmon stacked up in 60 to 70 feet and were caught 35 feet down. Those fishing close to the piers did just as good as those traveling north or south of the port. The bite was slow but most anglers were getting a couple fish when using primarily cut bait.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Salmon fishing was slow but anglers did pick up some lake trout. Some reported finding baitfish with bigger fish mixed in however they would not bite. Those jigging in 180 to 240 feet off the Township Park caught lake trout. At the South Portage Entry, lake trout were caught by those jigging in 150 to 280 feet off Newton's and Farmers Reef as well as off the south end of Big Reef in 260 feet. For Traverse Bay, those jigging in 240 to 260 feet off Big Louie's Point had some good catches of lake trout. Those trolling had a tough time but did manage to get a few lake trout and the odd coho.

Ellen Lake: In Iron County had decent splake fishing. Bluegills were caught here and there.

Little Bay De Noc: The better walleye fishing was still down near Round Island where anglers were trolling stick baits in 10 to 20 feet. Several fair to good perch catches were taken between the First and Third Reefs when jigging minnows or crawlers in eight to 22 feet. Some decent bluegills were caught in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when using worms next to the docks. Good northern pike action

throughout but the better catches were coming from the Second Reef when casting or trolling crank baits, spoons or spinners in 10 to 12 feet along the west bank.

Big Bay De Noc: Smallmouth bass anglers reported fair catches between Ansell's Point and Garden Bluff when using minnows in 14 to 28 feet. Off Fairport, the better salmon fishing was the southern end of the "Gap" which is closer to Big Summer Island. Try 90 to 110 feet down in 140 to 160 feet.

Munising: Surface water temperatures were in the upper 50's. Anglers were fishing Trout bay and the Wood Island Reef in 120 to 200 feet but the action was slow. Some were using high-lines for coho but no fish were caught. Those trolling in the bay caught a few small splake. No coho were caught at the Anna River dock. A few small splake 14 to 20 inches were caught. No shore activity at Bay Furnace.

Grand Marais: Had good lake trout fishing four to five miles straight out from the harbor in 200 feet. Anglers reported limit catches in about a three hour period. The fish were averaging 19 to 22 inches with a few fish four to five pounds. Some did try for coho but had no luck.

Manistique Lake: Was producing walleye and a few perch.

Tahquamenon River: Had good walleye and muskie fishing.

DeTour: Pink salmon, lake trout and a few coho salmon were caught by those trolling from the lighthouse east to the first red buoy on the Drummond Island side. They were trolling 50 feet down in over 80 feet with three to four inch chrome or green and white spoons. Lake trout action was fair in waters over 90 feet deep between Fry Pan Island and the first green buoy west of the lighthouse. Silver hammered spoons were the ticket.

Drummond Island: The month of the September gets the attention of yellow perch anglers. A few seven to nine inches were caught on the south side of Ashman Island when using spreaders with shiners in 12 to 14 feet. A few small perch were caught on small worms and shiners off the Monahan Dock in Maxton Bay. Walleye fishing was fair with 17 to 19 inch fish caught around Picnic Island with shiners and a slip bobber along the weed beds in 12 to 14 feet.

Cedarville & Hessel: Pike fishing was good at both locations however Musky Bay was best when still-fishing with chubs. Casting and trolling were also working well. Excellent perch fishing continued in Moscoe Channel when using worms. Perch have started at Connors Point in Musky Bay. Smallmouth bass fishing was good off the Hessel Pier.

St. Ignace: Is producing a few salmon. Lake trout can be found on the east side of Mackinac Island, and Round Island. Those fishing the mouth of the Carp River have seen a couple salmon but it was walleye that were caught in the evening.

September 10, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Rain and cooler temperatures should help jump start the salmon runs. Anglers are reminded that the season to take snapping turtles and softshell turtles will close on Tuesday, September 15.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had a good number of perch anglers and those catching fish were using shiners on spreaders in 20 to 27 feet in Brest Bay, off Stony Point or Fermi, and around the E-Buoy, C-Buoy or Turtle Island. Walleye fishing pressure was very low and only those fishing in the deeper waters of Ohio caught fish.

Lenawee County: Bluegill anglers on Devils Lake continue to do well in waters 20 feet and deeper. Crickets and wax worms worked best. Pike and bass fishing were fair. On Lake Hudson, a couple anglers did well but overall the fishing was poor. Water temperatures were still up near 80 degrees. Those heading out caught a few bass and crappie along with the occasional perch or channel cat. Top water lures were best for bass fishing.

Huron River: Is usually a good bet for those targeting catfish.

Detroit River: Walleye reports were few and far between. Most are perch fishing. Some have done very well while others especially when fishing around the islands. Shiners with perch rigs were the ticket. Fair to good bass fishing was reported. Catfish were also caught.

Lake St. Clair: Bass fishing was very good in water over 15 feet deep. Perch fishing should pick up with cooler water over the next couple weeks. Good areas to check for perch include the Dumping Grounds, along the shipping channel, off the Grosse Point Yacht Club, and the 400 Club.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was slow. Water temperature was up near 70 degrees. Sturgeon fishing has been good after dark and those targeting them have also caught channel catfish and the occasional walleye.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: Those trolling spoons caught steelhead, lake trout, a few walleye in 90 to 115 feet. Hot colors were green and purple. Pier anglers caught white bass, a few smallmouth bass and some pike.

Harbor Beach: Some limits of lake trout were taken straight out and north of the harbor in 100 to 120 feet. The fish are sitting tight to the bottom so anglers will need to get their dodgers and spin-n-glows down there as well. Try bright colored spoons with offshore boards and 3, 5, 7 and 10 colored lines for steelhead. Those fishing off the wall might want to try casting small body baits for walleye in the early morning or late evening. Perch colors would be good. A few perch were caught inside the harbor but they were small.

Port Austin: Boats trolling 50 feet down in 115 to 130 feet straight north of the lighthouse did well. They got at least one Atlantic salmon, some steelhead, a couple walleye and the odd lake trout. Pier anglers caught a few smallmouth bass.

Saginaw Bay: Had good perch fishing off Gambil's Marina near Pinconning. Perch were also caught near sailboat buoys A, B, and H, near the Spark Plug (channel buoys 11 & 12), off Spoils Island, and straight out of Quanicassee. The fish range seven to 12 inches and those that did well had 20 to 40 fish per boat. A couple good catches of walleye were taken from the Slot off Sebewaing and out of Caseville however it took several hours of fishing to get them.

Quanicassee River: Shore anglers were catching some decent size perch.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Perch fishing was very inconsistent with anglers catching fish one day but none the next. They were scattered in 30 to 55 feet. Salmon fishing was also inconsistent and ranged from very good to terrible. J-plugs worked best in 90 to 100 feet. Pier fishing was very slow for all species.

South Haven: Had good perch fishing south of the piers in 30 to 40 feet. Salmon fishing was fair with fish taken in 80 to 100 feet with J-plugs and flasher/fly combos. Pier fishing was very slow for steelhead and salmon.

Kalamazoo River: Those fishing below the Allegan dam have caught a few walleye. Catfish were also taken on live bait.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers caught salmon and steelhead 65 to 130 feet down in 90 to 180 feet when using white flashers with green or white flies or glow plugs. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum and catfish when using minnows in the channel.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Fishing slowed with the warmer weather however Chinook, coho and steelhead were still caught below the dam by those using flies, yarn and spawn bags. Trout and salmon anglers seem to catch more smallmouth bass and suckers. Channel and flathead cats were caught in the drift below the dam and off the wall when using live bait. Anglers report lots of gizzard shad.

Grand River at Lansing: Was producing a few crappie above Moore's Park. A few scattered walleye were also caught. Down near Jackson, some nice pike were caught on chartreuse and bright pink spinners or plugs near Rives Junction.

Muskegon: Anglers found salmon and steelhead 60 to 120 feet down in 100 to 200 feet. Orange spoons, green meat rigs, green or white flies and glow plugs worked best. Pier anglers caught a few smallmouth bass and freshwater drum.

Muskegon River: Continues to provide some good smallmouth bass fishing. A light number of salmon were reported at the mouth and should be moving further upstream now that the weather has cooled.

Whitehall: Had two groups of anglers that caught salmon. Some fish were grouped in 80 feet but few were taken by those fishing 35 to 50 feet down. Those trolling in the 200 foot range caught more fish with lines about halfway down.

White Lake: There does seem to be some fish stacked up just past the channel however they would not bite.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: Was producing a good mix of salmon, steelhead, lake trout and walleye north or south towards Swan Bay. A good number of salmon were taken in shallow water eight to 30 feet with J-plugs and bombers off planer boards. Plenty of fish were also caught throughout the water column in 40 to 80 feet with spoons, J-plugs, meat rigs or attractors with flies or squid. Good colors were green, orange, black and white, blue, purple or glow early and late.

Alpena: A few boats had success around Thunder Bay Island or towards Middle Island and the wreck. They were getting walleye when trolling body baits. Lake trout were still hitting near the bottom out near the "Humps".

Thunder Bay River: Anglers caught smallmouth bass but not much else.

Harrisville: The fish were scattered. A few walleye, salmon and steelhead were found north of the harbor to Sturgeon Point. The fish were suspended from top to bottom. Anglers are reporting large schools of baitfish in the areas where they are catching the most fish with body baits or small spoons. Blue, orange and yellow were good colors. Lake trout are moving throughout the area, and seem to be coming into shallower waters. Again the fish are from top to bottom so running a wide spread of baits throughout will increase your chances.

Oscoda: Anglers caught a few salmon and some lake trout in 70 to 100 feet. The lake trout were in the bottom third of the water column but the salmon and steelhead were suspended. Anglers are using sliders and dipseys, spoons, body baits, cut bait, flies and squid. Pier fishing was slow.

Tawas: Anglers were trolling in 35 to 50 feet out near Buoy #2 and around the weed beds off Jerry's Marina but catch rates were not good. Perch anglers were marking a lot of fish near the weed beds but they would not bite. Pier fishing was slow with only the odd walleye taken by those walk-trolling off the wall at night.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing was slow with only the occasional fish coming from 15 to 40 feet. Most of the perch fishing was down off the Saganing Bar or the Pinconning Bar but the bite was very slow. One boat did manage to catch some fish south of the Pinconning Bar in 18 feet.

Au Gres River: Murky water after the rain was good for catfish and bullhead.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Anglers did well for lake trout with fish caught 100 to 140 feet down in waters up to 200 feet deep.

Petoskey: Water temperatures finally began to cool with a break reported about 100 feet down. Lake trout were caught 90 to 150 feet down at Bay Harbor and south as well as inside Little Traverse Bay where a small coho was also taken. Spoons and meat rigs were taking lake trout. One Chinook salmon was caught in shallow water just outside the breakwall.

Bear River: Has Chinook salmon up at the dam. A few fish were seen jumping in the falls. Anglers did manage to catch a couple steelhead and brown trout when using spawn, flies or artificial eggs. Water levels were up.

Charlevoix: Salmon and trout fishing were slow. A couple Chinook and coho were taken 75 to 90 feet down in 100 to 120 feet between North Point and the cement plant. A couple salmon were also caught in shallow waters 20 feet deep near the cement plant. For Medusa Creek, the fence to divert fish into the weir is now in place. The creek is now closed to fishing within 100 feet of the mouth. Smallmouth fishing picked up with fish over 14 inches caught in the channel when using worms, leeches, or soft plastics on the bottom.

Lake Charlevoix: Boats are starting to fish for salmon near the Belvedere Club which is where the fish begin their run to the Boyne and Jordan Rivers.

Elk River: Smallmouth bass and the occasional Chinook or brown trout were caught below the power dam. Try fresh skein or spawn bags for the trout and salmon.

Traverse City: Lake trout fishing was fair in the East Bay in 90 to 110 feet. Salmon fishing was inconsistent for those running gear 60 to 90 feet down over 80 to 160 feet. Cisco and a few yellow perch have been caught. Salmon fishing was slow in the West Bay. Try running plugs near the mouth of the Boardman where fish were starting to stage. Lake trout fishing was fair in 85 to 120 feet.

Boardman River: Salmon are beginning to run but the fishing was slow. Most anglers are drifting skein under a bobber.

Frankfort: Chinook are staging outside the breakwalls and small numbers are entering the river. Fresh fish are being caught around the Herring Hole and by those jigging in the bay. Coho salmon were caught on spoons in Platte Bay.

Onekama: Anglers trolling the Barrel have caught Chinook on J-plugs and some of the fish have been good size. Lake trout are also in the area and were hitting on cowbells.

Portage Lake: Bass and panfish were caught in 20 feet. Bluegills were hitting on worms.

Manistee: Fishing here had good days and bad days. Boat anglers were heading in all directions but those heading south about halfway to Ludington caught more fish. Surface water temperatures were 69 degrees. Anglers caught mainly Chinook but coho, steelhead and lake trout were also taken 80 to 130 feet down in 100 to 300 feet. Most are running a mix of cut bait, spoons, and J-plugs.

Ludington: With warm water in the area, catch rates were up and down. Anglers were still trolling 80 to 100 feet down in 130 feet south to the project or north to Big Sable Point at 80 to 120 feet down in 120 to 300 feet. Most fish were taken about halfway between Ludington and Manistee. J-plugs and cut bait worked best with most catching Chinook followed by the occasional coho, steelhead and lake trout. On the good days, anglers were averaging five to eight fish but the bad days were zero to two. Those coming in with more fish said trolling in a certain direction has helped.

Pere Marquette River: Rain and cooler temperatures will help push salmon up into the river.

Pentwater: Boat anglers did best when trolling in the waters around Little Sable Point. Fish were taken 100 feet down in 200 feet. There was no pier action to report.

Pentwater River: Rumor has it a few salmon were caught.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Salmon anglers had a slow week. Those heading out did pick up a few lake trout when trolling near Pequaming and those jigging off the Township Park in 180 to 240 feet. Boat anglers are still finding baitfish with bigger fish mixed in but they would not hit. The South Portage Entry had a few more anglers jigging in 150 to 280 feet off Newton's Reef and Farmers Reef or the south end of Big Reef in 260 feet for lake trout. In Traverse Bay, those jigging in 240 to 260 feet off Big Louie's Point had some good catches of lake trout. Anglers also fished Hermits Cove, Gay Point, 6 and 7-Mile Reefs, or straight out from the Big Traverse Bay Pier when trolling in 100 to 150 feet. A mix of lake trout, coho and steelhead were taken north or south of the pier in 30 to 60 feet.

Menominee River: Fishing improved with the recent rain. Shore anglers caught perch, walleye, panfish, catfish, smallmouth bass and freshwater drum. Live bait on the bottom worked best. Boat anglers fishing off the mouth caught a few trout and salmon about 40 feet down in 60 feet with J-plugs.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported better catches in the northern Bay as some of the larger fish have migrated in. Catch rates were fair for those trolling stick baits in the late evening in 10 to 14 feet between the Second and Third Reefs or day anglers drifting and trolling crawler harnesses in 22 to 35 feet between the "Narrows" and the Center Reef. Fair to good catches south near Round Island when trolling stick baits in 12 to 25 feet. Several good perch catches were reported in the Kipling area when using minnows in and around 10 feet. A couple brown trout were caught off the mouth of the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when casting rapalas. Northern pike anglers reported slower catch rates but fish were still taken out from Brach's Cabins in 10 to 12 feet, the Gladstone coal pile in eight to 14 feet and the mouth of the rivers. Bass anglers caught fish on plastics in 12 to 18 feet south of the Ford River.

Big Bay De Noc: The better smallmouth action was in the shallows off Garden Bluff. Anglers used slip bobbers with crawlers or plastics in four to eight feet. Perch anglers marked fish off the mouth of Garden Bay but only a few catches were reported.

Munising: Boat anglers were light this past week with no luck for coho. Surface water temperatures were in the low 60's and will stay that way until winds turn from the north. The salmon were suspended in deep water and were not hitting. Shore anglers fishing the Anna River dock had little success. Catch rates were slow out near Big Reef with only a few lake trout taken.

Grand Marais: Anglers were mainly targeting lake trout. The better action was straight out about four miles with spoons 180 to 220 feet down. Lake trout averaged 3 pounds. Most anglers are waiting for winds out of the north to bring in cooler water.

DeTour: Pink salmon and lake trout were caught in and around the Detour Lighthouse when trolling flashers and sliders 55 to 60 down in 80 feet. A few coho were caught 55 to 60 feet down in over 90 feet between the green buoy and the lighthouse. The occasional Atlantic was caught when trolling the 80 foot flat straight south of the lighthouse about two miles. Use sliders 60 feet down in over 80 feet of water. The fish seem to favor three to four inch spoons in chartreuse and white.

Drummond Island: Perch anglers had very little success. Most were targeting 12 to 14 feet around Ashman Island. Anglers might want to try the weed beds in five to six feet. Walleye fishing was fair for those trolling from Paw Pointe to Peck Island with planer boards and stick baits in the early morning or late evening. Good smallmouth action around Bruce Point when jigging brown or dark green tube jigs in five to seven feet on the downwind side of the rock piles. Northern pike were caught just off the weed beds at the DNR boat launch in Maxton Bay when trolling black and yellow bucktail spinners in four to six feet in the early morning, late afternoon or evening. Good rock bass fishing off the old dock pilings on the west side of the parking lot. Try small spinners with white twister tails and worms.

Cedarville & Hessel: Still had good pike fishing around the Les Cheneaux Islands. Anglers are casting, trolling or still-fishing with chubs. The Hessel Marina is also good for pike. Perch fishing in the Moscoe Channel has slowed but was good on the east end of Cedarville Bay and Conner's Point in Musky Bay. Large and smallmouth bass fishing was good from Cedarville to Hessel. Good lake trout action in the deeper waters off Hessel. Salmon fishing was slow.

St. Ignace: Angling pressure was low. Some are fishing the Carp River from the mouth to Mackinac Trail. Catch rates were slow during the mid-day so try crawlers and lures early morning or late evening.

September 17, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Windy conditions on the Great Lakes are preventing boat anglers from heading out and this week has been no exception. Salmon runs are just getting started in the major river systems however it will take cooler temperatures and rain like last week to get more fish moving.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had yellow perch fishing. Angler's had luck using minnows on spreaders when anchored in 20 to 25 feet out of Brest Bay, off Stony Point, Fermi, Toledo Beach, around the E-Buoy, C-Buoy, and Buoys 1 and 2 at the mouth of the Raisin River. No walleye catches were reported.

Lenawee County: The bluegills were scattered on Devil's Lake. Anglers were still targeting fish in waters 20 feet and deeper but fishing at different depths. Crickets and wax worms worked best. Pike fishing remains good for those trolling the drop-offs. Bass anglers are doing well. On Lake Hudson, water temperatures were starting to drop and that should help those targeting muskie. Panfish anglers did well for bluegill and crappie but keepers were hard to come by. Bass anglers did best along the deeper shorelines.

Detroit River: The majority of fishing activity continues to take place early to mid-day. Those targeting walleye are bottom-bouncing with crawler harnesses either trolling or drifting as well as hand-lining and jigging. A few reported very low catch rates on the north half of the river when bottom-bouncing with crawler harnesses. Those hand-lining at night caught fish but were putting in long hours to do so. Those jigging near the casino on the Canadian side had a fair amount of luck but most of the fish were small. Mid-river anglers had good success in the evening around Mud Island and Grassy Island. The fish caught averaged 20 inches. Success rates downriver were variable around the mouth and up along the east side of Grosse Ile. Boats seem to be averaging zero to two walleye though a few limit or near-limit catches were reported. Bass anglers had better action with smallmouth up to four pounds caught when casting and drop-shotting. Good bass fishing in the Trenton Channel and in the upper river off Alter Road and around Belle Isle. A few bass anglers were running into the occasional walleye when casting lures in shallow water. Downriver most anglers are targeting the east side of Grosse Ile, around the smaller

islands in that area and near the southern river mouth. Those targeting yellow perch caught fish five to nine inches but still not much worth keeping yet. The better catches were five to 15 fish per angler in front of the Whittier Building and near Mud Island. Musky anglers caught a few fish in 30 inch range.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: When they can get out, boat anglers have managed to catch a few trout in 80 to 110 feet. Pier fishing was tough with the wind.

Harbor Beach: Constant windy conditions are keeping boats on shore. The few that have been out caught a couple lake trout and some steelhead in 80 to 120 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Good perch fishing continues around the Sailboat Buoys off Linwood (specifically Buoys A, F, and H) with catches of 40 to 50 per boat and the size ranging eight to 10 inches. Good perch fishing off both the Saganing and Pinconning Bars, in the Black Hole and near Spoils Island. Depths vary so look for other boats. Fishing on the east side of the bay was slower but some perch and a couple walleye were taken off Quanicassee and in the Slot. The best perch fishing was in the morning from dawn until about 11 a.m.

Quanicassee River: Shore anglers took a few decent perch in the lower river.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers caught coho and a few Chinook salmon when casting spoons. Some caught the occasional steelhead when floating shrimp under a bobber. Boat anglers reported slow fishing due to rough lake conditions.

St. Joseph River: Had a fair number of steelhead moving through the Berrien Springs ladder.

South Haven: Pier fishing was slow. The occasional salmon was caught by those casting spoons.

Kalamazoo River: Was producing a few Chinook and coho. Fish were caught on spoons; crank baits or spawn under a bobber. Good pike and bass fishing.

Grand Haven: Boats trolling in front of the piers and in the channel are catching salmon on chrome or glow plugs. Pier anglers caught salmon on alewife or when casting glow spoons.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Chinook, coho and steelhead continue to be caught by those using flies, spawn and yarn in the drift below the dam however the run has not picked up yet. Channel and flathead catfish were also caught below the dam and off the wall when using live bait. More suckers were starting to be caught which is similar to spring fishing.

Grand River at Lansing: Was slow except for the hot pike action that continues closer to Jackson near Rives Junction. Anglers are using artificial baits such as spoons and spinners.

Looking Glass River: Is producing some pike and bowfin.

Muskegon: Chinook and coho have been caught by those trolling the harbor and the channel. Glow and chrome plugs were the ticket. Pier anglers caught salmon when casting glow spoons.

Muskegon River: Has a few salmon being caught in the lower stretches. The odd walleye was found below the dams. Catch rates for smallmouth were good.

Whitehall: Pier anglers casting body baits caught salmon. The bite has slowed as the week has progressed.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Burt Lake: The DNR will be assisting with a lake sturgeon survey from September 14 through October 2 with six large-mesh gillnets fished at short intervals throughout the lake each of the following days: Sept. 14-18, 22-24, 28-30 and Oct. 1-2. There will be no survey gear deployed at night, and nets will be pulled from the water by 6 p.m. each day. Each line will be marked with two staff buoys with an orange float, a staff and flag held in place by a large anchor. The buoys on a single gillnet are approximately 365 yards apart. The DNR recommends anglers avoid fishing between the floats, since they could potentially snag their hooks on the survey gear. All lines are fished in depths of 15 feet of water or more, so the survey gear poses little threat to boat activity.

Rogers City: Continues with a mixed bag fishery containing Chinook, walleye, steelhead, lake trout and Atlantic salmon. As fall approaches, these younger fish start to feed heavily as they prepare for winter so this is an excellent time to fish. The key is to find structure and look for baitfish. Boats are fishing south towards Swan Bay or north towards Forty Mile Point. Fish the entire water column in 40 to 90 feet with spoons. Good colors are green, blue, black and white, purple, orange or glow early and late. Those caught were stuffed with young of the year smelt. There were no salmon at the weir as most fish were staging off Swan Bay. Try shallow water using bombers and J-plugs off boards.

Alpena: The bay cooled off and anglers were taking a mixed bag of lake trout, walleye, steelhead, Atlantic salmon and the occasional Chinook off North Point, around Thunder Bay Island or three to four miles straight out of the harbor in 25 to 70 feet. Spoons are taking most of the trout and salmon. Good colors were green, blue, purple, black and white or glow early and late. Deep diving body baits were taking most of the walleye.

Thunder Bay River: Had reports of a couple salmon jumping however anglers fishing for them had no luck. Catch rates were still extremely slow as water temperatures were still too warm for any major run.

Harrisville: Fishing is starting to pick up with anglers reporting walleye, steelhead, lake trout, Chinook, coho and Atlantic salmon. Most are fishing north of the harbor in

40 to 70 feet with spoons and body baits. Spread your baits out while using planer boards, long lines and downriggers to get them placed throughout the water column.

Oscoda: Pier anglers are fishing early morning and late evening with Cleo's, wobblers and spoons. Popular colors were blue and silver, orange and silver or glow. Those able to get out on the lake were trolling around the mouth in 12 to 40 feet with spoons, wobble glows and body baits. They caught salmon, steelhead and walleye.

Au Sable River: Fishing was still on the slow side.

Houghton Lake: Was giving up some walleye and panfish. Most anglers were using crawlers and leeches. Crickets were also taking panfish.

Tawas: Pier fishing was very slow. A few walleye were caught near the weed beds off Jerry's Marina and the odd salmon was caught near the buoys on the outside of the bay.

Au Gres: Had slow fishing however there were reports of better perch fishing down off the Saganing and Pinconning Bars. There were rumors of steelhead caught by those surfcasting.

Au Gres River: Construction on the boat launch at the mouth of the river is underway. There will be partial ramp closures until construction is completed sometime in November. The ramps will be reduced to one pier with two launch and retrieve lanes. Shore anglers took a mix of small perch, freshwater drum and some bluegills. On the East Branch, those fishing near the Singing Bridge caught a few smallmouth bass.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Catch rates were hit-or-miss. One angler did well fishing 80 feet down in 120 feet inside the bay toward Wequetonsing.

Petoskey: Salmon fishing was very slow but anglers did well with lake trout. They are fishing 80 to 120 feet down in 115 to 130 feet from the breakwall to Bay Harbor. Spoons, spin-n-gloves and peanuts worked well. Some caught the odd Cisco and steelhead. A couple salmon were caught off the D Pier at the mouth of the river and by those surfcasting with spoons near the breakwall.

Bear River: The number of salmon caught was dwindling especially after the warmer weather returned. A couple small steelhead and brown trout were caught below the dam by those using spawn, flies and artificial eggs.

Charlevoix: Anglers are reminded that the weir in Medusa Creek is in operation so the creek is closed to fishing within 100 feet of the mouth. Fishing activity increased near the cement plant. Anglers are wading in the slip or trolling and casting from boats inside the breakwall. No word on catch rates.

Elk River: Anglers using spawn have caught a few brown trout and salmon but overall fishing remains slow.

Traverse City: In the East Bay, anglers caught lake trout, cisco and the occasional salmon when trolling or jigging in 90 to 110 feet. A lot of fish were 65 to 75 feet down. Smallmouth bass fishing was slow in 20 to 30 feet. A few perch were found in 35 to 40 feet. In the West Bay, boats were trolling near the mouth of the Boardman but catch rates were slow. Lake trout were taken in 80 to 110 feet and a few perch were caught on wigglers or minnows in 30 to 40 feet.

Boardman River: A few salmon were caught on spawn, but numbers are still relatively low. The weir is in place.

Frankfort: North winds turned the lake over and anglers were having a hard time finding consistent temperatures. Those trolling in the bay and the harbor have caught very few Chinook salmon. Most are using J-plugs and flies.

Betsie River: Had good activity for those fishing spawn or a single pink egg in the early morning. The spawning closure in the lower portion of the river from Betsie Valley Trail Bridge west to a line in Betsie Bay between the westernmost dock of the Northstar Marina and the westernmost dock of the Eastshore Marina was lifted on Thursday, September 10. Recent weather patterns have resulted in water levels returning to normal conditions, therefore the spawning closer placed on the Betsie River mouth is no longer necessary and the area is now open to fishing.

Onekama: Anglers were trolling 60 to 80 feet down in 100 to 120 feet straight out or north to the "Barrel". Fish were hitting on J-plugs and flies.

Portage Lake: Bass anglers have been struggling to land fish in both shallow and working the drop-offs. Water temperatures are still warm so even the panfish were slow to bite on worms.

Manistee: Those fishing north about eight miles were catching more fish. A north wind blew colder water back in and was recorded at 40 feet down. Most are catching mainly Chinook followed by the occasional steelhead and lake trout. More coho were starting to be caught. Most are fishing 80 to 130 feet down 100 to 300 feet with a mix of spoons, cut bait, and J-plugs. Pier anglers found fish just before daylight when using a size 6 Cleo off the south side of the south pier. A wide range of colors were working well including yellow and white.

Manistee River: Had salmon in the lower stretches including Tippy Dam. While fish are there, we still need rain and cooler temperatures to bring additional fish in. Anglers are drifting spawn under a bobber or casting crank baits.

Ludington: Catch rates were still hit-or-miss. The water were fairly warm with surface temperatures in the high 60's and low 70's but a north wind did turn the lake over. Anglers are still fishing about 6 miles south to the project at 80 to 100 feet down in 130 feet or off Big Sable Point in 120 to 300 feet. Most of the fish caught

were taken about halfway between Ludington and Manistee when using J-plugs and cut bait. Anglers caught mostly Chinook followed by coho, steelhead and lake trout.

Pere Marquette River: The fall like weather did push a fair to good number of salmon into the river. Anglers have caught fish when drifting spawn under a bobber or when casting crank baits.

Pentwater: Pier anglers are catching salmon but the bite is slow. Try early morning with glow spoons or J-plugs or floating spawn under a bobber. Boat anglers found salmon in shallow waters 50 to 60 feet deep with blue spoons and body baits.

Pentwater Lake: Some brown trout have been caught from the Long Bridge.

Pentwater River: Is producing some salmon.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those trolling reported a mix of coho, lake trout and brown trout. Five anglers jigging for lake trout out from the pine tree off Pequaming picked up 25 lake trout in 260 feet. At the South Portage Entry, those jigging caught lake trout in 150 to 280 feet off Newton's and Farmers Reef or in 260 feet along the south end of Big Reef. Good lake trout fishing off Big Louie's Pont when jigging in 240 to 260 feet. Of those trolling, some did well while others did not. They fished Hermits Cove, Gay Point, straight out from the Big Traverse Bay Pier, Big Louie's Point, 6-Mile and 7-Mile Reefs in 100 to 150 feet. Those trolling north or south of the Big Traverse Bay Pier picked up a mix of coho, steelhead and lake trout in 30 to 60 feet.

Menominee River: Shore anglers caught some perch, bluegills, catfish, walleye, smallmouth bass and freshwater drum when using minnows and crawlers on the bottom. Boat anglers caught walleye and smallmouth bass when trolling stick baits or when casting tube baits and jigs.

Little Bay De Noc: The walleye action was fair to good between Gladstone and the Third Reef when trolling stick baits or drifting crawlers in 14 to 30 feet. Catch rates were fair along the "Black Bottom" and off the mouth of the Escanaba River when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 12 to 25 feet. Several good perch reports just south of the Day's River with minnows in about 10 feet and throughout the Escanaba yacht Harbor when using worms or minnows. Good pike action in the Yacht Harbor as well when casting or trolling spoons, spinners and crank baits.

Big Bay De Noc: Had good smallmouth bass fishing from Puffy Bay to Garden Bluff. Use minnows, crawlers or plastics in six to 18 feet. The last report had some perch caught near the mouth of Garden Bay.

Marquette: Many anglers are successfully catching lake trout off Little Presque Isle when using spoons in 100 to 130 feet. The mouth of the Chocolay River is also a good spot to catch some lake trout with spoons and peanuts. No reports of salmon being caught.

Au Train Lake: Catch rates were moderate. Pike were taken by those casting natural baits or crank baits along the weed beds. Many were jigging natural baits in 10 feet for walleye and perch. Good smallmouth fishing along the west shoreline when using artificial baits.

Munising: Windy conditions on Lake Superior have limited boat access. Surface waters temperatures dropped to the upper 50's. A couple boats did fish Trout Bay however all they caught was one or two lake trout after a four to five hour trip. A few fish were also caught around Wood Island. Shore fishing at the Anna River dock was limited due to high winds and white caps.

Grand Marais: Strong north winds have made fishing difficult for boat anglers. Water levels were high in the Sucker River. Local anglers started fishing the river and have caught a few Chinook or coho when casting spoons. A few boats tried trolling the river but no fish were caught.

DeTour: When they can get out, boat anglers caught lake trout, coho and pink salmon near the DeTour Reef. The hot baits were black and gold spoons 60 feet down in 80 to 100 feet for lake trout. For coho and pink salmon, try green glow spoons or plugs behind flashers and sliders when trolling from Crab Island to the red buoy and west to the lighthouse. North of DeTour Village at the old coal dock, a couple nice pike were caught along the weed beds off the west bank when casting chrome spoons with a red eye or black and yellow bucktail spinners.

Drummond Island: Perch anglers are targeting the waters around all the islands of Maxton Bay and Scott Bay but there were no good reports. The only perch caught were very small six to seven inches and were found in 12 to 14 feet on the south side of Ashman Island and the north side of James Island. Good walleye action for those trolling planer boards from Paw Point in Scott Bay to Peck Island in five to six feet and those trolling bottom bouncers with crawler harnesses in 10 to 12 feet between Ashman Island and Rutland Island in the early morning hours. A few perch eight to nine inches were caught on minnows and worms in five to seven feet along the weed beds inside Harbor Island. This is a good place to fish when anglers want to get out of the wind.

Cedarville & Hessel: Pike fishing slowed a bit but was still good throughout the islands. Muskie Bay was producing the most pike. Perch fishing is good on the east end of Cedarville Bay, while Musky Bay, Middle Entrance, and Conner's Point were fair. The north end of Snows Channel is producing some perch as well. Bass is good from Cedarville to Hessel while casting. Some splake were seen inside the Hessel Marina.

St. Ignace: Those putting in the time have caught some Chinook salmon. Those fishing the Carp River between the mouth and Mackinac Trail have seen some steelhead and more should be arriving soon.

September 24, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The fall trout and salmon runs are off to a slow start. The fish move in with the rain and cooler temperatures but then some are turning around and heading back out to the big lake when it warms back up. Lake trout and splake fishing on Lake Huron will close on September 30. Lake trout season in the northern section of Lake Michigan down to Frankfort will also close on September 30.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Had heavy yellow perch fishing especially out of Brest Bay, off Stony Point, Fermi, and Toledo Beach. Those that caught fish were using minnows on spreaders while anchored in 20 to 25 feet. Fish were also caught around the E-Buoy, and the C-Buoy as well as Buoys 1 & 2 at the mouth of the Raisin River. No walleye to report this week.

Lenawee County: Bluegill anglers fishing Devils Lake reported slow catch rates. Those that did catch some say the fish were suspended in 20 to 30 feet and were hitting on wax worms and crickets. Crappie fishing was starting to pick up for those using minnows. For Lake Hudson, anglers were putting in more time looking for muskie with the cooler water temperatures. Bass anglers were starting to do better especially in shallow waters.

Detroit River: Boat anglers are targeting walleye, bass, muskie, channel catfish and yellow perch. Walleye anglers are bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses, hand-lining or jigging. Those hand-lining at night did catch a few fish. Fishing slowed around Mud Island and Grassy Island. Success rates downriver were variable at the mouth and up along the east side of Grosse Ile. Those fishing around Celeron Island averaged zero to two walleye though a few limit or near limit catches were reported. Most of the fish were 16 to 18 inches but a few were up to 25. Catch rates were fair for large and smallmouth bass but many were sub-legal. Anglers are casting and drop-shotting along the east side of Grosse Ile and around the smaller islands. Yellow perch anglers were getting a few more keepers. The better fishing was near Hennepin Point and Sugar Island. Catch rates should pick up as minnows become more plentiful. Muskie anglers reported light action with a few fish in the 30 inch range. Water temperatures were 68 to 70 degrees.

Lake St. Clair: Smallmouth bass fishing remains very good. Water temperatures are starting to drop and anglers should see bass to begin moving into shallower waters again. Perch fishing continues to be slow with anglers reporting lots of small fish, but few finding any number of keeper size. Walleye fishing has been slow but should improve as the fall migration from Lake Huron to Lake Erie gets underway.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing remains slow with only a few fish caught in the upper river near the Bluewater Bridge. As temperatures cool, fishing should improve as walleye that have been roaming Lake Huron begin to filter south into the St. Clair River on their way back to Lake Erie. Sturgeon fishing has been steady with some large fish in the mix. Those looking for sturgeon should focus on the Delta Channels. Sturgeon anglers have also been catching some nice catfish.

Lexington & Port Sanilac: A few lake trout and steelhead were caught in 60 to 70 feet. Pier anglers managed the occasional bass or pike.

Harbor Beach: Had rumors of walleye taken at night by those fishing off the breakwall. Some lake trout were caught north of the harbor in 100 to 120 feet. Try dodgers with spin-n-gloves right on the bottom or spoons off downriggers. Digging the bottom with dodgers worked best. For steelhead, try fishing near the color line with bright colored spoons. A few perch were caught inside the harbor. They are small but will entertain the kids.

Port Austin: Produced a nice limit of lake trout for one boat trolling straight north of the lighthouse and using spin-n-gloves in 130 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Run-off from the last heavy rain did murk up the water near the mouth of the rivers which put a damper on fishing success. Some boats were out fishing the dead shipping channel in the early morning most likely for perch.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: A few salmon were caught from the piers by those casting spoons. Fishing was not great but it was consistent. Perch fishing was slow.

St. Joseph River: Had steelhead and a light number of salmon. Try spawn.

South Haven: Pier fishing for salmon was slow but a couple were caught by those floating shrimp under a bobber. Fishing was slow for boat anglers targeting salmon. The few caught were taken on spoons in 110 feet.

Kalamazoo River: Had a few Chinook and coho. Try fishing the deeper holes during the day. For those fishing early or late, try spawn or anything that glows.

Grand Haven: Boats trolling in front of the piers caught coho and a few Chinook on glow plugs and orange spoons. Pier anglers caught a couple coho on spawn and alewife or when casting glow spoons.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Had a nice run of coho, Chinook and steelhead that made it up to the 6th Street Dam. They were caught on spawn, flies and yarn. Channel and flathead catfish along with some suckers were also caught by those targeting salmon and those fishing off the wall with live bait.

Grand River at Lansing: Had a few coho caught near the Lyons Dam and the Webber Dam. The bite was best in the very early morning. Try spawn or spinners. Smallmouth bass were hitting on tube baits.

Muskegon: Those trolling around and near the piers are finding a few Chinook salmon. Glow plugs worked best. Those heading out further found trout and salmon 40 to 100 feet down in 150 to 250 feet with orange or green spoons and green meat rigs. Pier anglers casting for salmon did not have much luck.

Muskegon River: Has a few salmon and steelhead being caught in the lower stretches. Target the deeper holes until conditions change. Bass anglers are doing well for smallmouth.

Whitehall: The mature salmon are pretty much spread out between the big lake, White Lake and the river. The bite was slow but those trolling in 50 to 70 feet did manage to catch a few. No fish were caught by pier anglers.

White Lake: Boat anglers caught a few salmon when casting green, orange and yellow double jointed body baits.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Rogers City: The fish were scattered so look for baitfish and structure. Lake trout and splake season is still open through September 30. A few salmon were caught along the inner section of Swan Bay by those trolling bombers from boards. Those fishing in waters up to 70 feet deep in front of Swan Bay had limited success with adult salmon but did catch younger salmon, steelhead, lake trout and the occasional Atlantic or walleye. They are using an assortment of spoons and J-Plugs or attractors with flies, squid or cut bait. Best colors were green, blue, black and white, orange, white or glow early and late. Forty Mile Point should be a good bet for younger salmon, steelhead and lake trout especially as we move towards the end of the month. There has been a lot of young smelt in the area so imitate them with smaller lures.

Alpena: Anglers are pretty much targeting anything from salmon to walleye. The better action was straight out from the harbor in 40 to 70 feet or try North Point and around Thunder Bay Island. The "Humps" were good for lake trout weather permitting. The salmon and trout were hitting on spoons fished throughout the water column. Steelhead were hitting up high on orange spoons with between 1 and 5 colors of lead core. Lake trout are near the bottom but some were suspended. Walleye were hitting on deep diving crank baits and reef runners.

Thunder Bay River: Had rumors of a few salmon caught very late at night otherwise it has been slow because the water is still too warm. A few smallmouth were caught but none were keepers. There appears to be many species in the river but they are small in size.

Harrisville: Salmon were coming in but no big numbers yet. Those still-fishing in the harbor with spawn under a bobber or casting spoons and body baits did manage to catch a few fish. Boat anglers heading north and targeting walleye did catch some fish on body baits in the early morning or late evening.

Oscoda: Pier fishing was slow with only a few salmon caught. Boat anglers were trolling the mouth of the river and north of the bay. Most were staying in 12 to 30 feet and using spoons, wobble glows, peanuts or body baits.

Au Sable River: Had very few salmon. As with the steelhead this spring the salmon run may be running late.

Houghton Lake: Those targeting walleye picked up a few small fish when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses. They were also hooking into some good size bass at the same time. A fair to good number of pike were also caught.

Lake St. Helen: Had good bass fishing for those using surface baits. Bluegills, pumpkinseed and rock bass were hitting on leaf worms, wax worms and crawlers. Try minnows for crappie.

Tawas River: The occasional Chinook salmon was caught in the lower river.

Au Gres: Boat anglers reported slow fishing. Those launching from Eagle Bay Marina which is at the end of Sagatoo Road did fair for perch with most fish caught off the Saganing Bar or the Pinconning Bar in 10 to 40 feet. The fish averaged 7 to 10 inches. There were rumors of a decent number of perch caught by shore anglers in the lower Pine River but lots of sorting was necessary.

Au Gres River: Was producing a few catfish and small perch. On the East Branch, there was no activity at the Singing Bridge.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: Lake trout were caught 115 to 130 feet down in front of the harbor. There has been a lot more angler pressure on the shore and piers. A few salmon were caught off the clock dock and the breakwall in the early morning by those casting crank baits. A couple fish were also taken when surfcasting near the breakwall.

Bear River: Water levels were high again after the weekend rain and a lot of fish ran during that time period however the fish seem to move in and then return back to the big water very quickly this year. Those fishing did catch a few small steelhead and brown trout when using spawn or artificial baits.

Charlevoix: Lake trout were caught 100 to 150 feet down on flies and spoons. Some fish were marked about 100 feet down at North Point. The water temperature is constant from the surface to 100 feet down. A few boats caught the odd salmon when casting near shore by the cement plant, mainly after dark but anglers are working hard to get them. The Medusa Creek weir is in operation so the creek is closed to fishing within 100 feet of the mouth. Those targeting salmon by wading out and casting into the slip reported slow catch rates. Most were using stick baits. Some bigger smallmouth were caught in the channel but anglers had to put in their time. Use worms, leeches or soft plastics on the bottom.

Elk River: Fishing has been relatively slow with the occasional coho, brown trout, or Chinook caught below the dam when using spawn.

Traverse City: The East Bay had good lake trout and cisco fishing in 80 to 110 feet. Most of the lake trout were near the bottom and the cisco were 50 to 75 feet down. A few anglers are getting perch. The smallmouth bass and the salmon fishing were slow. In the West Bay, the lake trout and cisco action was fair in 80 to 100 feet. Those trolling for salmon were near the mouth of the Boardman. They are marking fish on their electronics but very few were caught. Perch were taken in 30 to 40 feet.

Boardman River: Coho and Chinook salmon are showing up in the weir. Fishing has been slow with fewer anglers and fewer fish than average. Most are using spawn, crank baits, or fly patterns like an egg-sucking leech. Anglers did find brook trout and brown trout below Two Forks and some were caught on worms. Up at the Union Street Dam, anglers using skein caught younger coho. Those fishing 300 feet below the weir caught coho, Chinook and steelhead on spawn. Some Chinook salmon were stacked up at the mouth.

Platte River: Is producing a few salmon up near the lower weir. Try spawn or egg flies. The river is closed to fishing within 300 feet of the weir.

Frankfort: Fresh Chinook salmon were entering Betsie Bay and a small number were moving up into the river. Those jigging and trolling had some luck in the early morning hours and caught Chinook, coho and steelhead 30 to 50 feet down in 100 to 120 feet. Green J-plugs were the ticket.

Manistee: Fishing off the pier and in the channel has been extremely slow. Those fishing out on the Shelf did manage to catch a small mix of Chinook and steelhead when trolling spoons and J-plugs. Surface water temperatures were in the mid 60's. No word on the thermocline but most are fishing 40 to 60 feet down beyond the pier.

Manistee River: Has salmon but the warm water temperatures are not helping. Try early morning when floating spawn or artificial eggs. During the day, fish the deeper holes.

Ludington: Fishing in the channel was slow but anglers are picking up a fish here and there when using orange and yellow spoons or body baits. Pier fishing was also extremely slow. Boat anglers were lucky to catch a fish when heading out beyond the pier.

Pere Marquette River: Has salmon but anglers are still waiting for the big push. Fish were caught by those drifting spawn or casting small spinners or spoons.

Pentwater: The mature fish are spread between the big lake and the river. The bite is slow for the most part no matter where you are. There are essentially no fish coming in from the piers. Boat anglers have caught mature fish in 50 to 60 feet. A small number of boats did very well 50 to 60 feet down in 125 feet off Little Sable Point. They had near limit catches of steelhead and salmon. The better catches came on green flies and green flashers.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Gogebic: Had a lot of anglers but few were finding fish. Walleye were still the number one target however a small number of yellow perch and smallmouth bass have been caught as well. Those doing the best were drifting or trolling with crawler harnesses or jigs tipped with a crawler. The walleye and smallmouth were scattered all over the lake while perch were caught on the north end.

Menominee River: Jigging was producing some very nice smallmouth and some catfish for those fishing around structure. Trolling stick baits especially in the evenings has been very productive for walleye. Shore anglers are catching a mixed bag of fish using crappie rigs tipped with live bait. A few brown trout and Chinook salmon are starting to show up near the mouth and were hitting on spoons.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported fair catches trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 10 to 35 feet from the Second Reef to the "Narrows" and in 20 feet near the "Black Bottom". Several nice catches of jumbo perch were taken off the green buoy near the Day's River and over to the East Bank. Use minnows in 10 to 18 feet. Northern pike were active with catches reported throughout the Bay. Salmon anglers have been checking the rivers but not seeing much yet.

Big Bay De Noc: Bass anglers have started looking for fish migrating south off Garden Bluff in the deeper water but good catches were still reported in shallow water six to 12 feet. Some are using minnows with slip bobbers while others are using pumpkin colored plastics.

Marquette: Shore anglers are getting ready for salmon runs in the Chocolay River. A few coho were caught. Pike and bass were caught on the east side of the ore dock near the Carp River. No reports yet for the Dead River or the Carp River.

Au Train Lake: Had no reports on walleye or keeper size perch. The smallmouth bass fishing is good using either natural or artificial baits along the west side of the lake and up near the mouth of the Au Train River.

Munising: Re-construction of the Anna River dock is to begin this week so fishing will be limited to shoreline areas until the construction is completed. Shore anglers reported slow action with only a few undersize splake caught off the pier. There has been some activity at Bay Furnace with one small coho caught on a Cleo. Surface water temperatures were in the mid to upper 50's.

Grand Marais: A coho was caught near the lighthouse when casting a Cleo. Shore anglers on the Sucker River reported slow fishing with only a couple coho and a small rainbow caught. Try orange or orange and gold spoons.

DeTour: Water temperature at the lighthouse was 55 degrees at 25 feet down. A few coho and lake trout were caught on white flashers with green and white spin-n-gloves 80 feet down in 100 feet between the green buoy and the lighthouse. On the north side of DeTour Village, a few yellow perch were caught in 10 to 18 feet off the old dock pilings when using spreaders with shiner minnows.

Drummond Island: Those targeting yellow perch should focus their attention inside Harbor Island when using shiner minnows and worms just off the weed beds in six to eight feet in the mid-morning hours. Walleye were good in Maxton Bay when trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits from the south side of James Island to the Sportsmen's Club in late afternoon. Good smallmouth action for those jigging brown and green tube jigs in eight to 15 feet off Bruce Point which is on the northeast side of Scott Bay.

Cedarville & Hessel: Pike fishing has slowed but some fish were still being caught off the pier in the Hessel Marina. Perch fishing is good in Musky Bay, the east end of Cedarville Bay, and the east end of Hessel Bay going into Snows Channel. Splake season will close on September 30. Try the Hessel Marina for one last push of fish.

St. Ignace: Is slow with only the odd steelhead spotted. The Carp River is beginning to see a few pink salmon at the mouth and up to Mackinac Trail. A couple steelhead were harvested at Mackinac Trail.