

October 1, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It looks like the weather has finally turned the corner and has moved into fall mode. Those targeting the rivers should find some fresh salmon after the much needed rain and cooler temperatures. Pier anglers and those surfcasting should also find some fish. Inland, cooler water temperatures will bring bass back into the shallows.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Easterly winds did lower the boat traffic but those able to get out and fish did well. Yellow perch were caught in 22 to 25 feet around the Raisin River Buoys 1 & 2. Anglers reported a lot of small ones that were throwbacks so be prepared to go through a lot of minnows. A few anglers were targeting walleye but success rates were minimal.

**Huron River:** Fishing was slow. A few perch were caught but no significant size or numbers.

**Detroit River:** Anglers on the lower river and upper Lake Erie are taking some yellow perch. Minnows are the preferred bait but some were caught on worms.

**Lake St. Clair:** Water temperatures are falling and fishing has been tough the past week. Anglers should find perch along the weed beds on the edge of the Delta Channels, near Grosse Point and off the 400 Club. Bass will begin moving back into shallower waters. Muskie fishing has been good for those trolling or casting.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing was slow but a few were caught up near the Bluewater Bridge. Sturgeon fishing in the North Channel has been good for those using worms and shiners. The sturgeon harvest season ended September 30 however the catch-and-release season continues until the end of November.

**Lexington & Port Sanilac:** Trollers caught a couple steelhead in 70 to 90 feet. Pier fishing was slow with only rock bass and smallmouth bass hitting on crawlers. One Atlantic salmon was caught in the harbor when casting a Cleo.

**Harbor Beach:** Steelhead were caught on bright colored spoons near the color line. For walleye, try casting small body baits off the wall in the evening. Perch colors should work well. A few were taken on small spoons or Hot-n-Tots in 90 feet. Perch were caught inside the harbor but they are small. Rock bass and smallmouth bass were hitting on crawlers off the breakwall.

**Grindstone City:** Boat anglers caught a couple steelhead and the occasional salmon in 130 to 160 feet northeast of the harbor.

**Saginaw Bay:** Perch fishing was on the slow side along the shipping channel and near the sailboat buoys. Fish were caught straight north or the river mouth at Quanicassee in eight to 10 feet. They ranged eight to 12 inches and while some reported 20 to 25 per boat some did much better than others. Decent catches were reported off Sebewaing and some pike in the Sebewaing River. Panfish were caught off Old State Road and in the marina at Sebewaing. A couple walleye were taken from the Slot and a few smallmouth bass were taken around the islands and at Caseville.

**Saginaw River:** Did produce some perch in the lower river near the mouth. Fishing here is a good option if it's too windy out on the bay.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Pier fishing was on the slow side but should pick up in the next week or two. Anglers are catching a few salmon on spoons. Boat anglers caught a few salmon in 45 to 60 feet but more fish were taken in waters 100 feet and deeper. Spoons and J-plugs worked best. Perch fishing was good south of the piers in 20 feet or to the north in 40 feet.

**St. Joseph River:** Salmon were caught recently but no big numbers yet.

**Paw Paw River:** Is producing some coho.

**South Haven:** Salmon fishing was tough for boat anglers but a few fish were found in waters over 100 feet deep when trolling spoons. Pier fishing was slow but those casting spoons did manage to catch a few salmon. Decent numbers of perch were caught south of the piers in 20 to 40 feet.

**Black River:** Was producing a few salmon.

**Kalamazoo River:** Anglers found some salmon and steelhead up near the Allegan Dam. They are using spawn, yarn, body baits, small spoons, and thundersticks.

**Allegan County:** Pike and bass were caught throughout the county.

**Crooked Lake:** In Barry County was producing some largemouth bass.

**Grand Haven:** Trout and salmon were caught 35 to 90 feet down in 160 to 250 feet with orange or green spoons and green flies. A few coho were caught off the piers by those using spawn, alewife or spoons.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Salmon activity picked up at the Sixth Street Dam. Anglers caught fish using spawn, flies, yarn, small spoons and spinners.

**Grand River at Lansing:** A few walleye were caught over at the Moore's Park Dam. The smallmouth bite was slow but those targeting catfish have done well. No word on trout or salmon in the Lansing area.

**Muskegon:** Boats trolling in 150 to 240 feet caught trout and salmon on orange and green spoons 30 to 90 feet down.

**Muskegon River:** Has salmon in the lower stretches and more fish were starting to show up. Anglers caught panfish and small trout at the Croton Dam. Those fishing the Hardy Dam Pond did well for bass.

**Whitehall:** Boat anglers said the fish were stacked up in 60 to 120 feet. Those fishing in waters up to 200 feet deep did catch a few Chinook about 80 to 90 feet down. Coho and steelhead were also caught.

**White River:** Had a push of Chinook salmon after the rain.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Cheboygan River:** Salmon activity was slow but a few more fish were starting to show up at the dam.

**Ocqueoc River:** Anglers were starting to catch salmon.

**Rogers City:** With lake trout season closing on September 30, angling activity slowed. A major shift in water temperature had surface waters in the upper 40's so anglers were fishing high in the water column. Steelhead, walleye and younger salmon were reported. Try 60 to 90 feet with spoons and J-plugs in green, blue, orange or anything that glows early and late near Adams Point or between the State Park and Forty Mile Point. A couple salmon were caught in the bay near the mouth when trolling or casting bombers.

**Alpena:** Anglers caught a mixed bag of Atlantic, Chinook, steelhead and walleye straight out in 35 to 60 feet. Good colors were green, orange, blue, silver or glow early and late. Thunder Bay Island may be a good spot to target.

**Thunder Bay River:** A couple salmon were caught recently. More fish should be showing up now that cooler weather is here.

**Harrisville:** Fishing was slow with only a few salmon coming into the harbor. Water temperatures were near 65 degrees but as they cool more fish will start marking their

way into the harbor. Those able to make it out were marking a lot of fish especially in 40 to 50 feet. Try floating spawn, trolling spoons or casting body baits.

**Oscoda:** A few salmon were caught. There were no reports of any steelhead in the area. Rough conditions have kept most anglers in the river but those able to get out were marking a lot of fish straight out in 12 to 40 feet.

**Higgins Lake:** Smallmouth bass and rock bass were caught near structure.

**Houghton Lake:** Was producing a few walleye and panfish for those drifting leeches and crawlers.

**Lake St. Helen:** Panfish were caught near the weed beds.

**Tawas:** A couple boats trolling for walleye off Jerry's Marina and out near Buoy #2 were still getting one or two fish. Pier fishing was slow.

**Tawas River:** Anglers fishing from about 4 a.m. until dawn were doing battle with some Chinook salmon and occasionally landing one. There are definitely fish in the river but they're hard to land in the close confines.

**Au Gres:** One boat trolling near Big Charity Island caught a few walleye. The spot for perch was just north of White's Beach at Eagle Bay Marina. Several good catches were landed in 15 to 24 feet off the Saganing Bar and the Pinconning Bar. One fish measured 14 inches but most were nine to 12 inches.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Petoskey:** Boat anglers targeting salmon were off to a slow start but some did catch a few Cisco. Pier anglers managed to catch a few Chinook and coho when using spoons and crank baits in the early morning.

**Bear River:** Anglers are waiting for cooler temperatures and rain to bring more salmon into the river. A few smaller steelhead were caught at the dam and downstream. Spawn bags were the ticket. The season to take brook trout, brown trout and Atlantic salmon closed on September 30.

**Charlevoix:** Anglers had a hard time finding salmon but they did pick up a few Cisco when trolling. A couple salmon were caught inside the breakwall at the cement plant when casting or jigging. Cisco were caught 70 to 115 feet down in 140 to 200 feet with spoons or spin-n-glow. Salmon anglers were wading out and casting spawn or stick baits into the slip. A reminder that the Medusa Creek weir is in operation and the creek is closed to fishing within 100 feet of the mouth. Some nice smallmouth bass were caught around the Pine River Channel. Try worms, leeches or soft plastics on the bottom.

**Boyne River:** Had rumors of salmon caught at the dam and down near the mouth.

**Platte River:** Had a good push of fish after the rain and cooler temperatures.

**Frankfort:** Those trolling in the top 50 feet of waters 200 to 250 feet deep did catch some steelhead, coho and Chinook on smaller spoons and J-plugs.

**Betsie River:** Fresh Chinook salmon are entering the river and the numbers should improve after the rain. Chinook and coho are moving throughout the area but this year's numbers are down.

**Onekama:** Those trolling out to 200 feet around the "Barrel" picked up a couple steelhead and lake trout.

**Portage Lake:** Anglers caught largemouth but they were working hard to get them.

**Manistee:** A few fish were picked up 60 to 90 feet down in 150 feet along the "Shelf". Those heading out to waters 300 to 400 feet deep caught a mixed bag of younger salmon, coho and steelhead. Spoons and J-plugs worked well.

**Manistee River:** The better salmon fishing has been in the early morning. Some of the fish were still in good shape but some were dark.

**Ludington:** A couple decent catches were reported off Big Sable Point when fishing 80 to 90 feet down in 150 feet. Anglers are hoping the rain, cooler temperatures and north winds will get some fish moving again.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is producing salmon. Look for fresh fish coming into the river this week. Anglers are casting crank baits and small spoons or drifting spawn under a bobber. The better fishing has been early morning or evening.

**Pentwater:** Had fish stacked up in 60 to 120 feet but the bite was slow. Those trolling in 190 to 200 feet caught Chinook salmon about 80 feet down. Coho and steelhead were also caught.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Gogebic:** The walleye and pike fishing are starting to pick up again. Anglers are finding more legal size walleye and some nice pike on the northern half of the lake. Those doing best were using slip bobbers with live bait. Good smallmouth action throughout the lake. Yellow perch fishing was still slow but a few were found on the north end. Those targeting walleye and perch have caught some nice black crappie.

**Keweenaw Bay:** Salmon anglers had another slow week. Those that did get out picked up a few coho and lake trout. Anglers are seeing a lot of fish in 70 to 80 feet on their electronics but the bite was slow. Most are trolling north to Old Mission. Those fishing the South Portage Entry caught a few coho and lake trout when trolling in 40 to 70 feet near the lighthouse. In Traverse Bay, those jigging in 240 to 260 feet off Big Louie's Point had some good catches of lake trout. Of those trolling some did well while others did poorly near Hermits Cove, Gay Point, Big Louie's Point, straight

off Big Traverse Bay Pier and near 6 and 7 Mile Reefs in 100 to 150 feet. Anglers trolling north or south of Big Traverse Bay picked up a mix of lake trout, steelhead and coho in 30 to 60 feet.

**Lake Antoine:** Anglers were taking a mixed catch of walleye, bass, pike and bluegills.

**Menominee River:** Is producing walleye, smallmouth bass and catfish. A few Chinook and brown trout were caught near the mouth but the action upstream was still slow.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported fair catches near the “Black Bottom” when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 18 to 26 feet. Fewer catches were reported at the “Narrows” and Kilping when trolling stick baits in 14 to 38 feet and down near Round Island in 10 to 27 feet. Perch anglers reported spotty catches in the northern Bay but good catches between the Day’s River and Brach’s Cabins when using minnows in 10 to 17 feet. Fair to good pike action when trolling or casting crank baits near Kipling or spoons between Butler Island and the power plant at Gladstone in eight to 20 feet. Pike were caught near the Day’s River, the ship docks in Escanaba and in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when casting spoons, spinners or crank baits. A few salmon have been spotted in the Escanaba River but no catches reported. The Ford River will be hard to access this year because of the high water levels and heavy vegetation growth near the mouth.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had walleye anglers but no catches were reported. Fish were marked in 20 feet near Round Island but no catches. Most of the anglers were targeting smallmouth but catch rates were down from previous years. Water temperatures are warmer and the bass seem to be in limbo from the fall migration. Reports were mixed with some doing better in the shallows around Puffy Bay and Kate’s Bay and others finding them on the break around Snake Island about 15 to 20 feet down. Many start using minnows with slip bobbers this time of the year but those fishing shallow reported pumpkin colored salamanders working well. A few perch were reported in Garden Bay using minnows in eight to 14 feet but anglers say the better fishing is yet to come.

**Marquette:** Had good lake trout fishing near the White Rocks and Partridge Island. Pink salmon are running in the Dead River and most anglers are using spinners near the dam. Anglers are still waiting for a run in the Chocoday and Carp River. A few coho were harvested in the Chocoday River but fishing was still slow.

**Au Train Lake:** Is producing pike near the boat launch on the south end just east of Buck Bay. Perch were caught in four to 10 feet in the “walleye hole” along the northwest shoreline. A good number of walleye were also caught but many were undersize.

**Munising:** The past week improved slightly for coho salmon with a few boats getting two or three fish. A few coho caught in the Bay were five to six pounds. Some were trolling in 70 feet or less in front of the Anna River but shore anglers using spawn only caught small splake. Construction on the Anna River dock continues and should be

completed in a few weeks. Lake trout anglers did well in Trout Bay, near White Rock and the flats near Au Train Island when using high-lines in 130 to 150 feet. Surface water temperatures were 60 to 62 degrees. Murray Bay produced a couple nice smallmouth bass.

**Grand Marais:** Boat anglers and those shore fishing on the Sucker River had no reports or coho caught. Anglers tried Cleo's, spoons and spawn but had no hits. Night anglers fishing off the pier, the harbor area and shore fishing on the Sucker River had no luck. Lake trout anglers did well about four miles out in 150 feet. A few limit catches of fish averaging three pounds were reported.

**Manistique River:** Had a lot of anglers but the majority of fish had not made it here yet. With the cooler temperatures, fishing should pick up in the next few weeks.

**DeTour:** A few yellow perch were caught off the old dock pilings on the north side of the DNR Harbor Marina in 12 to 14 feet when using small worms and shiner minnows. A few coho were caught by those trolling a four-inch gold and white hammered spoon from the red buoy on the southwest side of Drummond Island to the DeTour Lighthouse. Try 55 feet down in waters over 90 feet deep.

**Drummond Island:** Yellow perch fishing improved and fish eight to 10.5 inches were caught on the northeast side of Ashman Island. Recommended baits were spreaders with pink, red or gold beads tipped with shiner minnows in 12 to 15 feet. Harbor Island was producing a few perch off the weed beds in four to five feet in the early afternoon hours. Walleye fishing was fair for those trolling planer boards between Paw Point and Peck Island in five to six feet in the early morning. A few fish were also caught between Rutland Island and Peck Island when using bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses in eight to 12 feet. Some pike were taken in Maxton Bay when trolling chrome spoons with a red eye and black bucktail spinners with yellow spots off the weed beds in four to six feet.

**Cedarville & Hessel:** Had good pike fishing all through the islands, especially Muskie Bay from Middle Entrance to Duck Bay when still-fishing with chubs. Perch fishing picked up in Muskie Bay for those drifting worms or crawlers. Pumpkinseed sunfish were also caught. Don't neglect Snows Channel or Viking Channel as both can be quite productive. Splake season closed on September 30.

**Carp River:** Had some activity on pink, Chinook and coho salmon at the mouth and at the rapids. Pink and Chinook salmon were reported in Nunn's Creek. Fishing pressure was slow but should pick up soon.

October 8, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Reports are down this week as fewer anglers were out. Fishing along the east side of the state slowed after strong northeast winds churned up the waters of Lake Huron. Catch rates should improve as the waters clear up. Those fishing the inland lakes are doing well for pike and bass. These fish are now on a feeding frenzy as they prepare for the cold months ahead.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** DNR Fisheries staff will conduct its annual walleye assessment in the west basin of Lake Erie near Monroe, beginning Oct. 12th and continuing through Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. The DNR reminds anglers and boaters to avoid navigating in between the staff buoys to prevent entanglement in the nets. Boaters are also asked to give the research vessel the R/V Channel Cat plenty of room to maneuver while it is actively lifting and setting the gear. Anglers were still finding the majority of perch in 22 to 25 feet off the River Raisin Buoys 1 & 2. Many are small and there are white perch in the area so be prepared to go through a lot of minnows. A couple boats were trolling for walleye in shallow waters but had not luck. Lots of catfish and gar were caught in the "Hot Hole" which is the warm water discharge south of the River Raisin.

**Detroit River:** Yellow perch were caught in the lower river and also around some of the islands. Minnows are the preferred bait but some were caught on worms.

**Lexington & Port Sanilac:** Boat anglers were heading out and trolling for salmon and steelhead. The fish were scattered after the strong northeast winds. Try shallow in the early morning and move deeper as the day goes on.

**Harbor Beach:** Had few anglers as most have pulled their boats out for the winter. Those fishing inside the harbor were targeting walleye when fishing off the wall in the evening. Perch colors work best.

**Grindstone City:** The waters were muddy after the wind and wave action. A few more boats are heading out but the fish seem to be scattered. Try straight out in 30 feet or deeper for salmon and steelhead.

**Saginaw Bay:** Has only had a few boat anglers since strong northeast winds churned up the bay. Fishing will be difficult until the water settles back down.

**Saginaw River:** Anglers found some perch between the mouth and the Independence Bridge.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Pier anglers are still catching a few salmon when casting spoons. Fishing overall was still slow. Boat anglers targeting salmon inside 40 feet of water reported slow fishing. Perch fishing was also slow.

**St. Joseph River:** Continues to get a steady run of coho and a few chinook salmon going through the Berrien Springs ladder.

**South Haven:** Boat anglers caught a few salmon when trolling spoons in waters about 40 feet deep. Pier anglers managed to catch the occasional salmon when casting spoons. Perch fishing slowed with the bad weather however anglers are back out and targeting them.

**Black River:** Had fair to good salmon action at the dam. Those casting spinners near the mouth caught a few fish as well.

**Kalamazoo River:** Anglers are taking a few salmon and some steelhead when casting spinners, crank baits and glow spoons up near the Allegan Dam. Those floating spawn have also taken some fish.

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers caught coho on spawn, alewife and orange spoons. Those trolling around the piers have found salmon but the bite was slow.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Water levels are low but water temperatures have cooled down. Coho have been caught at the Sixth Street Dam and near the Rogue River.

**Grand River at Lansing:** A few coho were caught at Lyons. About 30 fish were reported in the ladder at the Webber Dam. Anglers may also find bass, catfish, walleye, pike and panfish in the area.

**Muskegon:** Pier fishing was slow for salmon and steelhead. Some tried still-fishing with spawn but had no success. Those trolling in the harbor reported slow action.

**Muskegon River:** Has salmon however the run is behind this year. Anglers are hoping for more fish as we move further into October. Those fishing the ponds have caught panfish and bass.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Cheboygan River:** Anglers were catching a few more fish up near the dam.

**Ocqueoc River:** Had a small push of salmon that moved into the river. Those casting spinners down near Hammond Bay caught a few fish.

**Rogers City:** The big lake was stirred up after the strong winds. Those heading out this week should expect to see a big change in water temperatures. Look for baitfish and anglers should find some younger chinook salmon along with steelhead, Atlantic salmon and possibly some walleye. Try green, blue, orange or black and white spoons from Calcite to Adams Point. Target 35 to 120 feet however the deeper water may be better as it will be less stirred up. At Swan Bay, most of the adult salmon are now up in the river and fishing for them is pretty much done for the season.

**Alpena:** Strong winds rolled the lake over and water temperatures should be much cooler in Thunder Bay. Look for younger chinook, Atlantics and walleye off North Point or straight out 3 to 5 miles. Try spoons for the trout and salmon and body baits for walleye. Pier anglers at the mouth of the river caught walleye when casting deep diving body baits.

**Thunder Bay River:** A few chinook have entered the river. Most anglers were drifting spawn or casting spoons and body baits at night.

**Black River:** Anglers may want to check for coho and steelhead moving in and out of the river. Look for fall walleye in the area as well.

**Harrisville:** A few salmon have been reported, but the numbers are low. Those that caught fish were using spawn, body baits and small spoons. This area should start to see some fall steelhead moving in soon.

**Oscoda:** Pier fishing was slow. Anglers were using spoons, spinners, body baits or floating spawn. Fall walleye should be moving through the area soon.

**Au Sable River:** Fishing was slow and very few salmon have been spotted. Some reported steelhead making their way up into the river but few were targeting them.

**Houghton Lake:** Anglers are catching a good number of pike. Some walleye were caught by those drifting leeches but many were too small. Those targeting smallmouth bass have caught some good size fish.

**Tawas River:** A few chinook salmon were caught in wee hours of the morning.

**Au Gres:** The water was really churned up after the strong winds. It could very well take several days for the water to settle back down and fishing to improve.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Petoskey:** Salmon fishing was better from the “Bobber Hole” at the mouth of the river and into the marina than it was at the dam. A few chinook and coho were caught, mainly off of the piers and docks, but some while surfcasting. Crankbaits, spoons, and spawn all worked. Early morning or later in the evening typically were the best fishing times.

**Bear River:** Fishing was slow. The water level and the number of anglers were quite low. A couple small steelhead were caught at the dam but the salmon were few and far between.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers fishing inside the breakwall near the cement plant were looking for salmon in shallower water, both trolling and casting. Those wading near the cement plant both in the slip and off shore outside the creek have caught a few salmon but the bite is still very slow. Anglers were casting spoons and crank baits or floating spawn under a bobber. The smallmouth fishing slowed but anglers are hoping the fish will return in the next week or so.

**Elk River:** Has trout and salmon however fishing has been slow. Anglers are catching a few juvenile steelhead, coho salmon, and the rare chinook salmon. Spawn worked best but a few fish were taken on crawlers or minnows as well.

**Traverse City:** Boat anglers in the East Bay did very well for cisco along with the occasional salmon or whitefish. Most were caught in around 100 feet. Changing conditions have the fish scattered so target a variety of depths. In the West Bay, cisco and whitefish were taken in 115 feet. Anglers are reminded that lake trout season closed on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Boardman River:** Fishing has been very slow. A couple steelhead and brown trout were caught on flies and worms all the way up to Sabin Dam. Anglers at the Union Street Dam caught steelhead and coho on skein. Fishing below the weir downtown has been poor with only a fish or two taken on spawn in the hole located behind the Hamberg Restaurant. There were fish on the gravel behind Fustinies and the Captains Quarters. A few fish were caught at the mouth.

**Manistee:** Some fish were picked up 60 to 90 feet down in 150 feet along the Shelf. When conditions allow, some were heading to waters 300 to 400 feet deep where they caught a small mixed bag of younger chinook, some steelhead or coho. Most are using artificial baits. Surface water temperatures were in the low 40's with not much change in the water column. Those surfcasting and those fishing from the piers reported slow catch rates. Many caught small chinook or steelhead so they were throwing them back.

**Manistee River:** Has salmon and some fish are on the gravel. Anglers are fly fishing, casting small spoons and crank baits or floating spawn. Fresh steelhead are also starting to trickle in.

**Ludington:** Boat anglers were lucky to bring in 1 to 4 fish consisting of coho and steelhead. With the extreme changes in temperature, catch rates were hit-or-miss.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is also producing a few more salmon. Anglers have found fish between US-31 and the Indian Bridge. Some are drifting spawn while others are casting small spoons and crank baits. Those fly fishing have done well.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Angler numbers were down and the bite was slow. A few coho were caught by those surfcasting along the head of the bay in the early morning. There are some coho in the Falls River. Fishing will be tricky as the fish seem to be easily spooked.

**Menominee River:** Boat anglers caught a few walleye when trolling rapalas and shore anglers hooked into a few when using jigs with live bait. Anglers were still waiting for salmon to show up.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Northern pike anglers were still reporting good catches especially near the Day's River, off the north edge of Saunders Point, the "Black Bottom" and in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor. Anglers are casting or trolling spoons, crank baits and spinners in 8 to 16 feet. At the "Black Bottom" the fish were deeper in 25 feet. Walleye catches were fair at best with crawler harnesses in 14 to 35 feet between the First and Third Reefs. A few fish were also caught in 20 to 30 feet near the "Black Bottom". Perch catches were spotty but a few good reports did come from the head of the bay when using minnows in 10 to 14 feet.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had smallmouth bass anglers. Catch rates were fair to good when drifting minnows with slip bobbers 20 to 35 feet down along the break near Snake Island. Catch and release anglers are using mostly plastics. The bass season is at its peak and anglers are reporting a lot of undersize fish caught this fall.

**Marquette:** The harbor is still producing lake trout, coho and the occasional chinook in 100 to 130 feet. The pink salmon run ended in the Dead River however those fishing near the dam were still finding a few pink and coho's. The Chocolate River is slow with only the occasional coho caught at the mouth or in the deeper holes. Anglers are casting spinners. Those using worms or spawn bags had no luck.

**Au Train Lake:** Walleye anglers are drifting and casting artificial bait in 6 to 12 feet on the north side of the lake. The fish caught were between 15 and 19 inches. Perch fishing was slow but those using natural baits did catch a few in the Southwest Bay. A good number of pike were hitting both natural and artificial baits in the Southeast Bay near the boat launch but many were sub-legal.

**Munising:** Surface water temperatures have cooled into the mid to upper 50's. When boats can get out they are trolling for coho with the best action in less than 30 feet of water near the White Rocks, Grand Island or from the city docks to the Anna River. Several fish surfaced off the mouth of the river. Anglers caught anywhere from 0 to 4 fish per trip and the majority measured 18 to 25 inches.

Most are trolling dodgers, assorted spoons and stick baits. Those surfcasting near the mouth of the river caught the occasional steelhead and coho. Salmon and splake were seen in the river. Spawn was not working so try Cleo's or spoons.

**Grand Marais:** Winds were unfavorable for boat and pier anglers. Shore anglers casting Cleo's and stick baits in the Sucker River caught a couple steelhead. Catch rates for the most part were slow for those surfcasting but should pick up soon. No lake trout to report this week.

**DeTour:** Water temperatures were beginning to cool down. The cooler water should cause the perch to begin schooling which will enable anglers to catch more fish.

**Drummond Island:** Yellow perch fishing improved along the south end of Rutland Island in 12 to 14 feet. Anglers were using spreaders with tony gold spinners and shiners. Those fishing the west side of James Island caught perch ranging 8 to 12 inches. Large minnows are catching the bigger perch. Good smallmouth action on the north side of Harbor Island. Try jigging crawlers just off the green buoy in 6 to 8 feet.

**Cedarville & Hessel:** Pike fishing slowed except for those fishing the Middle Entrance and along the south shore of Musky Bay. Perch fishing was relatively good in Musky Bay, the Viking Channel, and out near Buoy 11 in Cedarville Bay. Worms or crawlers worked best.

**Carp River:** Has seen a few chinook and steelhead however harvest is extremely slow. Nunn's Creek is the same, very few salmon. Anglers may want to try the Pine River for walleye.

October 15, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

**Attention Anglers:** The combined possession limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye and flathead catfish which limited the daily possession limit to five fish has been removed effective immediately. Anglers are now be able to possess up to five (5) bass (largemouth and smallmouth combined), up to five (5) walleye, up to five (5) flathead catfish, and up to two (2) northern pike in their daily possession limit. These species will no longer be managed under a combined possession limit and now will be managed under separate possession limits resulting in more fish for anglers to keep in a day's fishing.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Weather has been the biggest factor for the past week. Anglers are targeting yellow perch at various depths and locations but catch rates were hit-or-miss for the most part. A large pack of boats were fishing in 22 to 25 feet out from the Raisin River. Some good reports came off Toledo Beach and Brest Bay in 12 to 15 feet. Few boats were targeting walleye and haven't reported any catches. The Hot Hole is producing good numbers of bass and catfish.

**Detroit River:** The new daily possession limit for northern pike has increased to (5) fish effective immediately.

**Lake St. Clair & St. Clair River:** The new daily possession limit for northern pike has increased to (5) fish effective immediately.

**Lexington & Port Sanilac:** Anglers caught the occasional steelhead in the harbor at Lexington. They were floating crawlers or minnows under a bobber or casting small spoons. A few pike were caught on large minnows or by those casting. Minnows have come into the harbor at Lexington and outside the wall at Port Sanilac.

**Harbor Beach:** A few boats were venturing out for walleye, steelhead and the occasional coho when the winds allowed. They were fishing in 70 to 100 feet.

**Port Austin:** Anglers caught some walleye off the main breakwall when casting body baits in the late afternoon or evening. A few smaller minnows were coming in around the docks. Anglers had fair catch rates in Bird Creek.

**Saginaw Bay:** *Attention Anglers:* New walleye and yellow perch regulations are now in effect for Saginaw Bay and the Saginaw River up to the Center Road Bridge. These new regulations went into effect after approval from the Natural Resources Commission on Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>. For walleye, the daily possession limit is increased from (5) to (8) fish and the minimum size limit is reduced from 15 to 13 inches. For yellow perch, the daily possession limit is reduced from (50) to (25) fish. A couple walleye were caught those trolling crank baits around Spoils Island, near Caseville and in the Pigeon River. Anglers were casting artificial baits. A few perch were caught straight north of the Quanicassee River in 8 to 9 feet with minnows. A few crappie were caught in the canals around the airport near Sebewaing but the fish were small. Most were using minnows.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

The inland lakes were producing good catches of panfish that were suspending near the drop-offs and feeding heavily. Crickets and waxworms under a float were producing some big fish.

**South Haven:** Those targeting the shallow area along the beach and pier heads had the most success as fish migrate into the river mouths and upstream.

**Kalamazoo River:** Had a fair amount of salmon in the upper and lower stretches. Spawn and spinners are the top choices for bait.

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers are catching a few coho and steelhead when using spawn or alewife. Boat anglers found the trout and salmon were scattered in 150 to 300 feet. Try the top 75 feet with orange or green spoons. Perch were taken on minnows or cut bait.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Continues to produce a few salmon and most were coho. Some are also targeting walleye.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Had a couple salmon caught in the area but no big numbers of fish by any means. Try spawn or spinners.

**Jackson County:** The few anglers out reported small bluegills and perch being caught on minnows and crickets.

**Muskegon:** Pier anglers targeting steelhead have been unsuccessful. Boats going out reported slow catch rates with only a couple salmon or trout found in the top 60 feet of waters 120 to 240 feet deep. Orange, yellow and green spoons worked best.

**Muskegon River:** Salmon are slow but some were reported in the area. The better runs seem to be taking place in the northern rivers.

**Whitehall:** Pier anglers have started catching the occasional steelhead or brown trout. One angler caught a pink salmon.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Cheboygan River:** Had salmon but catch rates were still generally slow.

**Ocqueoc River:** Salmon continue to be caught but the numbers are still low.

**Rogers City:** Had just a couple anglers as most have put their boats away. Those heading out reported plenty of baitfish but few predator fish. Lake trout season is closed but they did manage to catch a couple steelhead, Atlantic salmon or some younger chinook salmon. Try the top 40 feet of waters 50 to 120 feet deep.

**Alpena:** Windy conditions have made it difficult for late season anglers. There should be steelhead, walleye and Atlantic salmon available. Try North Shore or out in front of the marina. Go with body baits for walleye and spoons up high for trout and salmon.

**Thunder Bay River:** Had a few chinook salmon but many were in rough shape. Most were caught very late at night when casting spoons or body baits. Anglers are now waiting for colder weather and the steelhead to show up.

**Harrisville:** Had slow fishing in and around the harbor. Anglers targeting salmon, steelhead and walleye had limited success. Those fishing inside the harbor were floating spawn or casting spoons and body baits. Most fish were caught late evening on anything that glows. As the water cools, look for steelhead to start making their way into the harbor and heading to the entrance of Mill Creek.

**Oscoda:** Most anglers are pier fishing for trout and salmon however there are very few fish in the area. Look for steelhead to start making their way in as the water begins to cool.

**Au Sable River:** Only a few salmon were caught up near Foote Dam. Most anglers are using glow spoons and body baits in the early morning or very late at night.

**Houghton Lake:** Anglers caught walleye and panfish while drifting leeches and crawlers.

**Lake St. Helen:** Panfish were caught near the weed beds in deeper water.

**Tawas:** Pier anglers are catching a few small perch and some walleye were taken in the evening by those casting lures. Near the old dock by the State Police Post, anglers were casting lead head jigs and lures for walleye.

**Tawas River:** Anglers are getting a few chinook near the mouth.

**Au Gres:** When they can get out, boat anglers had some nice catches of perch off Pt. Lookout and Pt. Au Gres in 35 feet. Some reported good smallmouth bass fishing. Try out near the Charity Islands.

**Au Gres River:** Those fishing the East Branch were surfcasting for steelhead near the Singing Bridge. Some are floating spawn.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Petoskey:** Anglers are still salmon fishing from the end of the piers and docks in the early morning and late evening. Anglers were fishing the "Bobber Hole" at the mouth of the river. Though the fish did not bite, they were rolling and jumping in the area.

**Bear River:** Anglers did catch a few chinook, coho, lake trout and steelhead. Most were using spawn bags but artificial eggs and flies also caught fish.

**Charlevoix:** Had no boats going out. A few anglers wading for salmon near the cement plant did catch the occasional chinook in the early morning. Anglers typically cast spoons and crank baits or float spawn under a bobber. Pier anglers fishing the channel did find some nice smallmouth bass but they were putting in their time.

**Elk River:** Fishing was slow with only the occasional brown trout or salmon caught on spawn.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay had good cisco fishing for those trolling or jigging small spoons 90 feet down. A few smallmouth bass were caught. In the West Bay, boats have not been out. Some perch were caught on live bait but most were throw backs.

**Boardman River:** Fishing was still slow near downtown Traverse City but anglers did find the occasional chinook willing to bite on large chunks of skein from the closure to the mouth. Chinook were also caught on flies behind the Traverse City Record Eagle and below the Union Street Bridge. A few lake trout were caught on flies at the mouth.

**Frankfort:** A couple steelhead were caught off the north pier when using fresh spawn.

**Betsie River:** Late run chinook were being caught on spawn at the mouth. Some fish are still making their way up and several were in the closed waters above Thompsonville.

**Portage Lake:** Bass and panfish were hitting in 12 to 18 feet. The lake is beginning to cool down and fish numbers are picking up.

**Manistee River:** Salmon are finally making an appearance in most of the major tributaries in Manistee County and Mason County, as well as portions extending into Lake County. Fish were seen and caught at Tippy Dam, near the mouth of the Pine and below High Bridge.

**Hamlin Lake:** Beginning October 26, Ludington State Park in Mason County will begin the annual process of lowering Hamlin Lake to its winter water level. The lake lowering is expected to take four to eight weeks depending on precipitation during that time period.

**Pere Marquette River:** Had a push of fresh king salmon. Anglers are fly fishing, drifting spawn or casting small spoons and crank baits. The rain and much cooler temperatures finally have the fish moving. Fish were on the gravel.

**Pentwater:** Pier anglers were beginning to catch a couple steelhead or brown trout when using spawn or silver spoons and body baits. Those fishing the channel caught a couple walleye and catfish on rapalas.

**Pentwater River:** Those salmon fishing caught dark fish however some did report a fresh run of chrome fish in the river.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Copper Harbor:** Splake fishing has been very slow with the occasional sub-legal fish here and there and few keepers. The fall colors were at their peak.

**Menominee River:** A recent survey of the river did show a few chinook salmon along with some pink salmon, brown trout, steelhead, walleye and smallmouth bass but catch rates were low.

**Little Bay De Noc:** *Attention Anglers:* **The zone where only one walleye greater than 23-inches may be retained in the daily possession limit has been expanded south from the Ford River to the Bark River. Therefore effective immediately, no more than one walleye over 23-inches may be possessed in the daily limit north of a line drawn from Peninsula Point Lighthouse to the mouth of the Bark River.** Walleye anglers reported few catches even in the southern waters. Some fish were caught around the "Black Bottom" when using stick baits or crawler harnesses in 20 to 30 feet from the "Narrows" to Gladstone Beach in 14 to 28 feet. Perch anglers reported good catches when they could find them. Most were fishing near the Day's River with minnows in 10 to 25 feet. Good pike action at Kipling, the Day's River, Gladstone Beach, "Black Bottom", Escanaba ship docks and the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when using spinners, crank baits and spoons in 8 to 22 feet. Smallmouth bass anglers reported fair catches off Hunters Point with plastics in 10 to 20 feet.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Has smallmouth bass fishing. Strong winds have kept many from fishing the Garden Bluff area, out by Snake Island and Snail Shell Harbor. Catch rates were good at times but a good number of fish were undersize. Anglers are using minnows or plastics 15 to 35 feet down along the break. A handful of perch anglers reported a few catches off Garden Bluff when using minnows in and around 40 feet.

**Manistique River:** Has a few chinook salmon here and there.

**Marquette:** Many anglers had luck catching coho in the Chocolay River. They were using spinners from the step hole and the platform off M-28. The mouth of the Carp River is also good fishing spot for coho and steelhead. Anglers are using spawn bags or casting spinners out from the rocks. Fishing was slow on the Dead River.

**Au Train Lake:** Had slow walleye fishing but anglers were still out using crank baits and artificial minnows along the West Bay. There was some good perch fishing along the south end of the West Bay. Anglers were drifting or jigging with live bait. A good number of pike are still being caught on artificial baits along the north end. Construction at the boat launch area will start on October 19<sup>th</sup> until the first week of November.

**Munising:** Had few anglers and few reports. A couple splake and coho were reported by shore anglers casting spoons. Construction on the Anna River dock has been completed.

**Grand Marais:** Had no report as few boat and shore anglers were out.

**Drummond Island:** Anglers were finally able to get out and target Maxton Bay and Scott Bay for yellow perch. Those that had the most success used minnows near the weed beds on the southwest side of Rutland Island in 12 to 14 feet and in Maxton Bay when drifting worms or shiners in 12 to 15 feet. Some say the bigger perch 9 to 11 inches were only hitting the bigger minnows. Good pike action on the southeast side of Grape Island. Try just off the weed beds in 6 to 8 feet with hammered 4-inch red and silver spoons in the early morning. Walleye are still being caught around Peck Island and Scott Island in 12 to 14 feet when trolling bottom bouncers with crawler harnesses.

**Cedarville & Hessel:** Pike fishing picked up once again off the dock in the Hessel Marina, Viking Channel, Snow Channel and Musky Bay from the Middle Entrance west to Duck Bay. Chubs worked best. Perch fishing was quite good in Snows Channel, Middle Entrance, Viking Channel and out near the #11 Green Can in Cedarville Bay.

**Carp River:** Had a very slow salmon run which is just about over for this year. Nunn's Creek was the same way. One might want to try the deeper holes for river run rainbow trout. Anglers should enjoy the new boat launch. A few walleye were caught in the Pine River.

October 22, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It is important that anglers check the online version of the 2015 Michigan Fishing Guide for the most up-to-date information. There have been a lot of changes which are not listed in the printed version that anglers need to be aware of. The guide can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/fishingguide](http://www.michigan.gov/fishingguide).

Strong winds have kept anglers off the big waters especially the Great Lakes. Trout fishing has been decent on some of the inland lakes.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Perch fishing was still hit-or-miss. Anglers found good numbers around Stony Point and the River Raisin in 17 to 25 feet. Those doing the best were using minnows on or near the bottom. A few walleye were caught in 12 to 17 feet but walleye reports were still poor. Good bass and catfish action near the Hot Ponds which is the warm water discharge.

**Detroit River:** Fishing pressure was slow in the lower river. Those that did go out had limited success for perch and walleye. A few perch were caught around Rat Island in 10 to 15 feet and up near Sugar Island in 10 to 18 feet. Most were 7 to 9 inches but anglers were still sorting and throwing back the smaller ones. Many had 6 to 12 fish per boat so the numbers were not great. Minnows were preferred. A couple muskie were caught around Celeron Island. In the upper river, anglers were fishing around Belle Isle and up towards Lake St. Clair. A few smallmouth bass were caught but no perch or walleye. Weather continues to hinder fishing effort and catch rates.

**Lexington & Port Sanilac:** Did not have much activity. The only place to fish was Lexington which was somewhat protected from the strong winds. A few perch were caught on minnows but they had to sort out the small ones. Schools of steelhead were seen but none were caught.

**Saginaw Bay:** Windy conditions made fishing more difficult. A few perch were caught inside the marina at Eagle Bay. Small perch were caught in the Pine River. Some are still getting out to the Saganing Bar and the Pinconning Bar but all they found was duck hunters.

A walleye was caught in the Hot Ponds. Shore anglers and those in small boats caught small perch on minnows and worms near Quanicassee. At Sebewaing, the cuts were slow. Anglers caught small perch. Caseville was quiet.

**Saginaw River:** Was producing the odd walleye. Earlier in the week, a couple limit catches were reported by those jigging minnows. This is a good place to fish if the Bay is not accessible.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

The inland lakes are producing bluegills and crappie. Pike fishing has been good in the rivers and the inland lakes.

**St. Joseph:** Pier fishing was slow for salmon and trout. Strong winds have hampered fishing conditions. Those that were able to make it out caught no fish.

**South Haven:** Had the same weather and the same fishing conditions. The few boats that did make it out struggled to find salmon or perch.

**Grand Haven:** Pier and surf anglers were starting to catch a couple steelhead when using spawn. Boat anglers found steelhead up high in 50 to 120 feet. Orange spoons and body baits worked best.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Continues to produce a few coho salmon. Some are targeting walleye and a few were caught upstream. Most are waiting for the fall steelhead runs to get underway. Water levels were extremely low.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Had fair to good pike action for those using spinners or large minnows. Walleye were hitting on leeches, shiners and crawlers.

**Muskegon:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting reported no steelhead.

**Muskegon River:** Had few salmon anglers. Bass fishing was good up at Hardy Dam Pond.

**Whitehall:** Some pier anglers are catching steelhead and brown trout when using spawn but most of them had no fish. When they can get out, boats were fishing just past the channel.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

Trout fishing has been decent on the inland lakes.

**Mullett Lake:** Had fair yellow perch fishing.

**Rogers City:** Big water anglers have just about given up. Strong winds and rough seas have kept anglers at bay.

**Alpena:** Bad weather including strong winds have not allowed boat anglers to get out. When conditions improve, anglers might find some steelhead, Atlantic salmon and walleye. Try body baits for walleye and spoons for Atlantics and steelhead.

**Thunder Bay River:** A few salmon were caught but the fish are not in very good shape. Those drifting spawn caught fish up at the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. A stray steelhead has also been caught. As the water continues to cool, steelhead should become more common. A few walleye were caught off the stones at the mouth. Try casting deep divers or rattle traps.

**Black River:** Had reports of coho coming into the river. Anglers were casting body baits and spoons between the mouth and the bridge.

**Harrisville:** Anglers are still targeting Chinook salmon and walleye with limited success. Salmon anglers are mainly casting body baits and spoons or floating spawn. Anything that glows is working well early morning or late at night. Those floating spawn during the day had some success. Rough seas were keeping most within the walls of the harbor.

**Oscoda:** Pier fishing is very slow and angler pressure has dropped off except for a few fishing late in the evening.

**Au Sable River:** There have been reports of a few salmon caught up river and at the dam when floating spawn or casting spoons and spinners. As the weather cools and rain increases the flow, anglers should start to see steelhead.

**Tawas:** Pier anglers caught a few small perch and mostly sublegal pike inside the pier. A few walleye were caught by those casting rapalas in the evening on the outside.

**Tawas River:** The salmon run is done. No fish were seen.

**Au Gres:** Had perch up to one half mile straight out in 20 to 30 feet. Catch rates were fair. Bass anglers caught fish. Those trolling near Whitestone Point caught a few walleye.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Petoskey:** The marina has pulled the dock out at the boat launch. A couple anglers were still fishing off the end of the piers and the docks in the early morning and late evening. A few lake trout were caught near the mouth of the river however lake trout season in Lake Michigan is closed but the river is still open.

**Bear River:** Had salmon up near the dam however the number of fish in the river has declined yet again. A few Chinook were caught but overall the action was slow.

**Charlevoix:** Angler effort continues to be low. This is the time of year boats start heading out and looking for perch between North and South Points.

Pier fishing was slow with only a couple anglers targeting smallmouth bass. It seems anglers have given up on salmon fishing near the cement plant. The fish cleaning station is now closed for the season.

**Boyne River:** Had rumors of lake trout caught near the mouth.

**Elk River:** Fishing has improved with the cooler water temperatures. Brown trout, lake trout, steelhead, and the occasional salmon have been caught below the dam. Try fresh spawn or casting spinners.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay had excellent cisco fishing for the few boats that were out. Most fish were caught 90 to 100 feet down when trolling small spoons or jigging. Very few boats were out on the West Bay. A couple perch were caught but most of the fish were small.

**Boardman River:** Fishing improved. Chinook and coho were caught on spawn below the weir. Spinners and flies also caught a few fish. Chinook were on the gravel behind Fustini's and the Captains Quarters. Those fishing upstream of the boat launch caught a few fish on skein. Lake trout were caught at the US-31 Bridge. Steelhead and coho were also present.

**Frankfort:** Steelhead and young coho were caught off both piers when using spawn. The numbers were still low. The steelhead are not even close to spawning.

**Betsie River:** Salmon have stopped moving into the river.

**Portage Lake:** Had no fishing activity but the duck hunters are doing well.

**Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell:** Walleye fishing should be starting to heat up as lake water temperatures drop. Boat anglers were out casting in the evening.

**Manistee:** There have been a few coho and steelhead taken off the pier but strong winds have really hampered fishing for boat and pier anglers.

**Manistee River:** The number of Chinook salmon in the river is on the downslide. There is still a fair number of coho and Skamania being caught at Tippy Dam. Low water levels are delaying the fall steelhead run. We need significant rainfall before the run will start.

**Pere Marquette River:** Had better numbers of Chinook salmon last week. The fall steelhead run will not happen if we don't get significant rainfall.

**Pentwater:** Strong winds are keeping boat anglers at bay. Those that did go out were fishing the channel for trout and salmon. Pier anglers have caught the occasional steelhead or brown trout but most anglers had none.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Salmon fishing was slow. Those trolling did pick up a few coho, brown trout and splake. Pier anglers in L'Anse and at the head of the bay near the cement bridge did catch a mix of coho and splake. The South Portage Entry had few anglers but some lake trout were caught by those trolling in 60 to 150 feet off Newton's Reef and Farmers Reef as well as along the south end of Big Reef near the lighthouse. Traverse Bay was producing a few lake trout and the odd steelhead for those trolling near the Gay Stacks and straight out from the Big Traverse Bay Pier. Most were trolling in 30 to 150 feet.

**Menominee River:** Anglers are targeting trout and salmon but mostly brown trout. Try flies, spoons or spawn between the Interstate Bridge and the dam. A few salmon were caught behind the Library near Stephenson Island. Walleye and panfish were caught by shore anglers fishing near the Mystery Ship Landing.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had lower than normal angler participation. Walleye reports were better at the head of the Bay where day anglers were trolling or drifting crawler harnesses and stick baits in 14 to 28 feet while the night anglers used mainly stick baits when trolling in 6 to 20 feet. Perch anglers reported fair catches in 10 to 25 feet near Gladstone or 12 to 28 feet near the Day's River. Most were using minnows. Shore anglers caught a few salmon up by the 1<sup>st</sup> Dam on the Escanaba River. They were casting spoons, crank baits or flies. Surface water temperatures are dropping.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had all smallmouth bass anglers and the break out near Snake Island was the best area to fish as the action was at its peak. Many could not get out there because of the strong winds. Several limit catches were reported by those using minnows while drifting 30 to 40 feet down along the break.

**Marquette:** Coho are running in the rivers. Many are using a size 2 or 3 spinner bait with crawlers. The Dead River has coho and fish were caught on spawn or spinners at the dam. In the Carp River, the fish are sitting in pockets near the bridge. Anglers are using spawn bags, crawlers, and spinners to catch coho and steelhead in the holes. No kings to report. Coho and brown trout were caught in the Chocolate River off M-28.

**Au Train Lake:** Had no reports. Construction on the ramp and dock starts this week and should wrap up the first week of November.

**Munising:** Few boat anglers were out. Most anglers were shore fishing off the dock at the Anna River. Try spawn bags or casting spoons and stick baits. Catch rates were poor in general with only a couple coho or small splake taken. The first measurable snowfall had 3 inches on the ground but has since melted. Surface waters temperatures were in the low 50's.

**Grand Marais:** Had very light activity. A few boats trolling Cleo's and crank baits in the harbor had no luck. Shore anglers did manage to catch a few chinook near the mouth of the Sucker River. A small steelhead was caught on a spoon.

**DeTour:** Sunshine and beautiful fall colors have brought anglers to the area however strong northwest winds have kept the walleye and yellow perch anglers off the St. Mary's River.

**Drummond Island:** Schools of yellow perch are still in Maxton Bay. On days when the wind is from the north and northwest, anglers can still fish on the south side of Rutland Island in 12 to 14 feet. Most are using spreaders with worms or shiners. Drift fishing from Bay Island to the Sportsman Club in Maxton Bay has produced a few walleye and perch for those using both minnows and crawlers. A few pike were caught by those trolling black buck tail spinners with yellow spotted blades in 6 to 8 feet just off the weed beds on the southeast side of Grape Island.

**Cedarville & Hessel:** Except for the undersize fish, pike fishing has slowed. Smallmouth bass fishing is still a good bet along the reefs and shoals. There are plenty of perch, but very few anglers have been going out because of the bad weather. Viking Channel, Musky Bay and Snows Channel are still the areas of choice for perch.

**Carp River:** The salmon run is over but the Carp is still a good place to try for steelhead.

November 5, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This report is intended to give anglers an idea of the latest fishing conditions around the state. The updates come from a combination of creel clerks and DNR staff around the state and reflect past fishing conditions over the last seven days. Due to the nature of the Great Lakes, fishing conditions on them can change daily if not hourly based on wind and rain events.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Perch fishing was great over the last week. Limit catches were coming from 26 feet straight out from Sterling State Park however anglers are still sorting out the smaller ones. Catch rates were still hit-or-miss in 12 to 15 feet off Toledo Beach and in 22 to 25 feet near the River Raisin buoys. Emerald shiners on spreaders or basic perch rigs right near bottom seem to be working best. The “Hot Hole” is still producing a good number of bass and catfish. Water temperatures were in the low 50’s so walleye fishing remains slow. Once those temperatures reach the high 40’s, anglers should try stick baits in 15 to 17 feet off Stony Point.

**Huron River:** Had the occasional steelhead but no big numbers yet.

**Detroit River:** Yellow perch were caught on the south end of Celeron Island however the action was still light. Try 12 to 15 feet with emerald shiners. Catch rates were light up around Sugar Island. No perch or walleye reports from the upper river. Those fishing Belle Isle caught a few small panfish and channel cats.

**Lake St. Clair:** Perch fishing has been spotty, but those using emerald shiners did best. Water temperatures are dropping quickly. MDNR electrofishing in Anchor Bay found good numbers of northern pike and largemouth bass in waters less than 6 feet deep. Shocking in the marinas off Anchor Bay produced large crappie and bluegills.

**St. Clair River:** Anglers have caught walleye from shore when casting after dark in the Port Huron and Marysville area. Fish were also found in the Delta Channels. Best results have been for those jigging with minnows. Sturgeon anglers have been catch and release fishing in the North Channel near Decker’s Landing, Sassy Marina, Pearl Beach, and Algonac. Water temperatures were in the mid to low 50’s.

**Lexington & Port Sanilac:** Were slow with only one Atlantic salmon caught.

**Harbor Beach:** Had rumors of walleye caught at night when casting body baits.

**Saginaw Bay:** Was windy and slow fishing overall. Some yellow perch were caught near Spoils Island and the Spark Plug. The east side had mostly duck hunters as perch fishing dropped off. Those fishing from shore were picking up a few smaller fish. Quanicassee, Sebewaing and Bay Port had slow perch fishing. Caseville had rumors of walleye caught at night when casting body baits.

**Saginaw River:** A few walleye were caught between the Independence Bridge and the Train Bridge in Essexville. A few perch were caught down near the mouth.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Windy conditions continue to hamper fishing efforts. Pier anglers caught a few whitefish but fishing has slowed. For whitefish, anglers were using a single salmon egg on the bottom.

**South Haven:** Pier and boat anglers found slow fishing for all species.

**Grand Haven:** Pier and surf anglers are catching a couple steelhead on spawn. When boats can get out, they were trolling orange spoons up high.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Anglers are getting a few more steelhead but the action was still on the slow side because of the low water levels. Most are using spawn. Some walleye were caught below the Sixth Street Dam.

**Rogue River:** Is producing some steelhead for those using a jig and wax worm.

**Grand River at Lansing:** One small salmon was caught over at the point where the Grand meets the Red Cedar. Anglers may find the occasional fish however they were small. Good pike action for those using spinners. Smallmouth bass are also being caught.

**Looking Glass River:** Is producing pike even with the low water levels. Try bright colored spinners near Babcock's Landing.

**Muskegon:** Steelhead fishing was slow off the piers. Boat anglers are out trolling when the winds allow.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels were low which makes it easier for those wading. The salmon run has slowed and the occasional steelhead has been caught when floating spawn or fly fishing. Good bass fishing continues.

**Whitehall:** Some pier anglers had luck when fishing spawn close to the shoreline. Catfish were also caught. Those fishing the channel caught a fair number of walleye when casting artificial lures. Surface water temperatures at the mouth were 54

degrees.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Ocqueoc River:** Was producing salmon but the numbers remain low.

**Rogers City:** Fishing for the season is pretty much done. Windy conditions have made it impossible. The marina, the cleaning station and the restrooms are now closed for the season but there was still one dock in.

**Alpena:** The weather has made it miserable for those wanting to fish. When anglers can get out, they are targeting steelhead, Atlantic salmon, small Chinook and walleye. As we move into November, anglers will be trying for whitefish along the reefs as they tend to move in closer to shore for spawning.

**Thunder Bay River:** The 9<sup>th</sup> Street Dam continues to see a few salmon but they were near the end as most were dark and beat up. Look for steelhead as water temperatures drop. Try drifting salmon eggs near the bottom.

**Harrisville:** As the weather cools steelhead should start to show up in the harbor. There were reports of walleye in the harbor but the number of fish was limited. Most anglers are catching walleye when casting small spoons or body baits for salmon at night. Good colors are blue and silver, orange and silver or anything that glows.

**Au Sable River:** A few salmon were spotted on the beds upriver. Boy Scout Run and High Banks had a fair to good number of fish. Steelhead have not made their way up for the most part but a few early fish were seen near the mouth where anglers were using spawn, spoons and body baits. Use anything that glows early morning or late at night.

**Higgins Lake:** Was producing smallmouth bass and rock bass near structure.

**Houghton Lake:** Walleye and panfish were caught by those drifting crawlers and leeches.

**Lake St. Helen:** Was producing panfish near the weed beds.

**Tawas:** A few small perch were caught off the floating docks along the inner harbor. A couple walleye were caught by those casting body baits from the outer pier in the evening.

**Tawas River:** Was extremely slow with pretty much no one fishing except for a few behind the State Police Post but yet again no catches were recorded.

**Au Gres:** Had the occasional boat trolling off Whitestone Point. A few walleye were caught on body baits.

**Au Gres River:** Was producing a few small perch but anglers are sorting. Along the East Branch, there was no activity near the Singing Bridge.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Harbor Springs:** Had no anglers to talk to. The boat launch is still in and a few boats usually go out this time of the year for yellow perch. They usually fish in the harbor and around Wequetonsing.

**Petoskey:** Had no report as no boats have gone out.

**Bear River:** Lake trout were near the mouth and between the bridges. Drifting spawn bags worked best. Anglers are reminded that lake trout season in the waters of Lake Michigan is closed but the river is still open. The steelhead are a bit late this year.

**Charlevoix:** Had few anglers. A couple boats were out looking for yellow perch between the points but there were no reports of any fish being caught. There were no salmon anglers near the cement plant and few anglers fishing the piers.

**Elk River:** Catch rates were fair with juvenile steelhead, brown trout, lake trout and the occasional coho taken on spawn bags below the power dam.

**Traverse City:** Cisco fishing was fair in the East Bay. Trolling was more effective than jigging with fish on the move. They were caught 50 to 90 feet down in various depths. The West Bay had a few boats out perch fishing or targeting steelhead near the mouth of the Boardman. Perch were caught on minnows in 30 to 40 feet near the weed beds but most were throw backs.

**Boardman River:** A good number of lake trout were caught on minnows, spawn and spinners at the Union Street Dam. Some coho and lake trout were caught at the mouth and a couple steelhead were taken up from the weir.

**Frankfort:** Pier anglers caught a couple steelhead when using spawn. Those trolling body baits around the piers caught coho and steelhead but no big numbers.

**Portage Lake:** Those bass fishing have caught a few largemouth when working the drops out in deeper water.

**Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell:** Anglers are targeting walleye at night. Most are casting crank baits.

**Manistee:** Pier and surf anglers did well catching a good number of steelhead and the occasional coho.

**Manistee River:** Fishing was slow because of the lack of rain and low water levels. A couple steelhead were caught in the lower stretch but no big numbers yet.

**Pere Marquette River:** Has slow fishing because of the low water levels. There are still a few salmon around but the kings are just about done. From here on out, anglers will be catching mostly coho and steelhead.

**Pentwater:** Pier fishing was slow but a few did manage to catch some steelhead on spawn. The morning bite seemed to be better. Some were targeting pike at the end of the channel facing Pentwater Lake. A few fish were caught by those still-fishing with frozen smelt.

## UPPER PENINSULA

The fall perch bite has been fair to good on the inland lakes. Anglers were starting to pick up more walleyes.

**Keweenaw Bay:** Fishing was very slow for those trolling. Anglers did pick up a mix of coho and splake off the pier and at the head of the bay near the cement bridge. The South Portage Entry had few anglers but a couple steelhead were caught by those trolling in 30 to 60 feet near the lighthouse. In Traverse Bay, a couple lake trout and steelhead were caught near the Gay Stacks and straight out from the pier in 30 to 150 feet.

**Portage Lake:** Was producing decent catches of walleye.

**Menominee River:** Anglers have caught a few brown trout, walleye and smallmouth bass between Stephenson Island and the Hattie Street Dam. Spoons, spinners, and plastics are being used.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Northern pike catches are still good throughout the Bay. Not as many anglers are targeting them so most were caught by walleye anglers. Most of the walleye anglers were fishing the northern half between the First and Second Reefs and trolling primarily stick baits. Day anglers did best in 14 to 30 feet and the night anglers in 8 to 12 feet but catch rates were fair at best. Several good catches of perch were reported around Butler Island when using minnows in 10 to 26 feet. Fish were also caught in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor in 8 to 12 feet. Some were targeting salmon at the dam in the Escanaba River but the numbers were few as the run seems to be over.

**Big Bay De Noc:** This will be the last report coming from the creel clerk for the season. Angler participation was very low. Windy conditions have not made it easy for anglers to get out but those that did were mostly bass anglers. Catch rates were good for those drifting minnow rigs 25 to 40 feet down along the break from Garden Bluff to the Fayette area.

**Marquette:** Had no boat activity out on the big lake. Catch rates for coho were slow in the Dead River for those using spinners at the dam. The coho action slowed in the Carp River but the steelhead are moving in. The fish caught were between 21 and 26 inches and were hitting on spawn bags in the holes under the bridge. Fishing in the Chocolay River was steady off the M-28 platform. Anglers caught steelhead,

brown trout and coho on spawn bags, crawlers, spinners and rapalas. Hot colors were blue and silver, orange and pink.

**Au Train Lake:** Had no reports. Construction on the ramp continues and will not be completed until sometime the first week of November.

**Munising:** Had few anglers and fishing was slow. The only activity was shore fishing at the Anna River dock where anglers were casting spoons. Orange and gold or blue and silver were good colors. Splake were hitting on small hammered spoons and spawn sacks but many were undersize. A few coho were caught on spoons.

**Grand Marais:** Had good fishing for those surfcasting near the mouth of the Sucker River as some reported limit catches of fish up to and over 28 inches. Spawn worked best but fish were also caught on green and silver or orange and gold spoons. Some nice brown trout and some coho were caught. A few boats trolling the harbor caught steelhead over 8 pounds. Coho were running about 22 inches but a series of smaller coho 12 to 14 inches were caught which is a good sign for future fishing.

**St. Mary's River:** Walleye anglers had success from DeTour to Barbeau when trolling crank baits or crawler harnesses in 8 feet around Moon Island and west to the mouth of the Munuscong River. Some caught 21 to 24 inch fish.

**Drummond Island:** Most have put their boats in storage for the season however walleye anglers were still catching fish when using planer boards with blue and chrome crank baits in 8 to 10 feet between Peck Island and Rutland Island. Orange, green and yellow 6-inch crankbaits are working as is long lining for those that do not have planer boards. Musky fishing was fair on the east side of the channel across from Conley's Point in 6 to 8 feet. Most were using dark green and yellow split body baits with a flat nose.

**Cedarville & Hessel:** Has an excellent population of nice perch but few anglers were getting out. When they can, try Cedarville Bay, Musky Bay, Little Joe Island, Viking Channel, Rice Point, Middle Entrance or Snows Channel. These areas should also produce pike especially the Middle Entrance.

**Carp River:** Is still fair for a few left over salmon and some steelhead. Anglers are casting spinners or floating spawn bags.

November 5, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The rain did help move some steelhead into the harbors and up into the rivers. As the days grow shorter so does the fishing report. Updates are harder to come-by as fewer anglers are out. Most of the DNR Creel Clerks are done for the season. Some will return in January but most will not return until April 1, 2016.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** The waters were stirred up a bit after the rain and windy conditions. Those perch fishing found fish in 24 feet. Try shiners with perch rigs near the bottom.

**Huron River:** Is producing the occasional steelhead. Anglers were using blue and silver or orange and silver little Cleo's.

**Detroit River:** The few walleye caught were taken by perch anglers mainly near the mouth. Perch anglers caught fish off the docks in the marinas. Look for panfish in the cuts and canals.

**Lake St. Clair:** Perch reports have been slow. Panfish are moving into the canals. Move around until you find them as they seem to be concentrated. Some have found walleye in shallow waters when trolling or casting crank baits at night. DNR Parks and Recreation Division is planning to keep the docks in at the ramps until December 1<sup>st</sup> or until first ice.

**St. Clair River:** Water temperature was 51 degrees with excellent water clarity. Walleye fishing has improved throughout the river with the best spots between Marysville and Port Huron. Anglers were catching fish after dark when casting or whipping. Fish were also caught by those jigging during the day. The Delta Channels are also producing walleye for those jigging with minnows.

**Lexington & Port Sanilac:** Had some trout in the harbor. Try small spoons, crawlers or spawn. Some perch were caught on minnows.

**Saginaw Bay:** Did not have much activity on the west side. A couple boats fishing out near Spoils Island did catch a few perch. Boat anglers in 6 feet straight off the mouth of the Quanicassee River caught perch ranging 8 to 11 inches. Reports say the perch are in big time!

**Saginaw River:** Perch were taken in the lower river and off the Yacht Club.

**Quanicassee River:** Shore anglers fishing the lower river caught perch but had to do a lot of sorting for a few keepers.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Bluegill fishing slowed on the inland lakes. Pike and bass fishing were still good for those slow trolling or casting.

**St. Joseph:** Pier anglers caught a few whitefish when using a single egg on the bottom. Fresh steelhead were caught by pier anglers and those surfcasting. A few perch were caught on minnows in 30 feet.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead are all the way up to Berrien Springs and moving through the fish ladder. Some lake trout were also reported.

**Kalamazoo River:** Anglers found some walleye below the Allegan Dam. Some fresh steelhead were in the lower river.

**Grand Haven:** Steelhead have been caught by pier anglers and those surfcasting.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Received a fresh batch of steelhead after last weekend's rain. Try spawn, crawlers or small spoons. Walleye fishing was spotty. Most fish were caught at night.

**Rogue River:** Anglers caught steelhead between the Grand River and the Rockford Dam. Try spawn, crawlers, jig and wax worm, small spoons, spinners or rapalas.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Anglers were catching smallmouth bass on the north end near the Brenke Fish Ladder. Those targeting pike have caught one or two fish.

**Muskegon Lake:** Was producing a few yellow perch but catch rates were still spotty.

**Muskegon River:** Had some fresh steelhead move in after the rain. Those perch fishing in the Hardy Dam Pond caught very few fish.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

This is a good time of year to try fishing trout lakes in the area. Be sure to check the Inland Trout and Salmon Regulations to make sure the lake is open to fishing and did not close on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Burt & Mullett Lake:** Yellow perch fishing was hit-or-miss. Anglers will need to be mobile to find them.

**Thunder Bay River:** Steelhead came in with the rain but catch rates were still on the slow side. Try flies, salmon eggs near the bottom or small Cleo's.

**Au Sable River:** Had some steelhead in the lower river. Anglers are using spawn on the bottom, fly fishing or casting small spoons. Some have caught the occasional walleye when casting body baits. Blue and silver, orange and silver or fire-tiger are usually good colors.

**Higgins Lake:** Those seeking lake trout will want to try trolling in 80 to 100 feet. For rainbow trout and brown trout, try fishing along the drop-offs. No word on perch.

**Houghton Lake:** Had few anglers going out. Those that did caught a few pike, walleye and bass. Crappie were caught in the canals.

**Tawas:** Had a few anglers trolling for walleye. They were using crank baits and each boat was getting a couple fish. A few walleye were caught by pier anglers casting crank baits in the evening. Perch fishing off the pier was hit-or-miss with lots of sorting. The water was all stirred up from all the wind.

**Au Gres:** The boats trolling rapalas caught a few walleye in 18 to 20 feet off Whitestone Point. Not much to report on perch. There have been some shore anglers fishing off the docks in Eagle Bay Marina but they are sorting through a lot of small ones to get a few keepers.

**Au Gres River:** Had reports of some steelhead in the East Branch. The fish were bright chrome and fresh. Look for more as the weather cools.

**Rifle River:** Anglers may find some steelhead as fresh fish did move in after the rain.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Walleye fishing on the inland lakes picked up especially for those trolling or casting body baits at night. Fair to good pike and bass fishing were also reported.

**Petoskey:** Steelhead were starting to show up in the harbor. There are a lot of lake trout as well but the season in the waters of Lake Michigan is closed. The docks at the boat launch have been pulled for the season.

**Bear River:** Steelhead are moving into the river. Lake trout are also being caught but anglers need to be careful on where they are keeping them. The mouth upstream to the dam is open to keep lake trout but Little Traverse Bay is closed. Windy days are the best when using spawn bags or spinners.

**Boardman River:** Continues to produce lake trout up near the Union Street Dam. Salmon were few and far between but more steelhead were starting to show up.

**Frankfort:** Pier fishing was good when anglers could safely access the pier. Strong winds have kept most of the boat traffic at bay. Those surfcasting have also caught steelhead.

**Betsie River:** Much needed rains did help push some fresh steelhead into the river. The salmon are done and any leftover fish are pretty dark.

**Manistee:** Pier and surfcasting for steelhead was good depending on wind and wave action.

**Manistee River:** Steelhead fishing picked up after the rain. Some are still catching the odd salmon however the fish are spent. Steelhead were found in the Little Manistee River.

**Ludington:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught steelhead when the weather allows. A few boats were heading south when the winds allowed.

**Pere Marquette River:** Anglers were catching steelhead especially after the rain. Try spawn or small spoons.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** Anglers were still picking up a mix of coho and splake off the pier in L'Anse and at the head of the bay near the cement bridge. From the South Portage Entry, lake trout and a couple steelhead were caught by those trolling in 70 to 100 feet between the lighthouse and Farmers Reef. In Traverse Bay, lake trout and steelhead were caught straight out from the pier and down near the Gay Stacks.

**Menominee River:** Whitefish were starting to show up and the next couple weeks could bring some very good fishing. Walleye were caught on rapalas and plastics near the Hattie Street Dam. A few brown trout were caught between Stephenson Island and the Hattie Street Dam. Anglers were casting small spoons, rapalas and plastics. Shore anglers found perch and walleye near the Mystery Ship landing and the Lighthouse Pier. Try minnows on the bottom.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers did best when trolling stick baits with boards at night along the Center Reef and the Third Reef in 12 to 30 feet. Day anglers were trolling the same in 24 to 34 feet between the "Narrows" and the Center Reef. Perch fishing was spotty. Most anglers could be found along the Second Reef and the Center Reef where fish were caught on minnows in 8 to 20 feet. Northern pike were still active throughout. Smallmouth anglers did best just south of Hunters Point when using minnow rigs or spinners in 12 to 25 feet.

**St. Mary's River:** Should still have some walleye for the taking. Try trolling crank baits or crawler harnesses.

November 12, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The report this week is much shorter as most anglers now have their sights set on hunting season. After a relatively dry week, rain is needed to bring water levels up and improve steelhead fishing in the rivers. Those fishing the inland lakes have caught bluegill and crappie but this is also the time of year when pike go on a feeding frenzy. The season to take frogs, toads, salamanders and mudpuppies will close on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Shore anglers were catching yellow perch off the docks in the Metro Park Marina but many were small. Bluegills were also caught. This is the time of year when walleye anglers start to wade out from the beaches of Sterling State Park. They usually cast bombers at night.

**Huron River:** Anglers were catching a fair to good number of large and smallmouth bass between the Mast Road Bridge and Barton Pond. Those fishing below the Ford Lake Dam at North Hydro Park caught bass and a few walleye.

**Detroit River:** Boat anglers were catching perch. Shore anglers caught perch around Grosse Ile.

**Lake St. Clair:** Had cleared up but with rain and strong winds in the forecast Thursday and Friday, anglers should expect muddy conditions for the end of the week. Perch fishing improved but muddy conditions will not help. Muskie fishing has been good for those casting, trolling or jigging.

**St. Clair River:** Lake sturgeon fishing remains very good in the North Channel. Walleye fishing was good with fish caught both night and day when jigging, casting or whipping. Water temperatures at Algonac were 51 degrees.

**Port Austin:** Still had one dock in at the boat launch.

**Saginaw Bay:** Boat anglers were still heading out for perch. It won't be long before anglers start finding a few perch up in the cuts, canals and rivers.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting continue to catch some steelhead.

**St. Joseph River:** Had good steelhead movement with a fair to good number of fish moving through the fish ladders. Expect continued movement of steelhead through the ladders until the water temperature is consistently below 45 degrees. Smallmouth bass and a few walleye were caught near the dam at Three Rivers.

**Kalamazoo River:** Is producing steelhead. Try using spawn with light line. A few walleye were taken below the Allegan Dam. Try crank baits, stick baits or spoons.

**Grand Haven:** Is still producing steelhead for pier anglers and those surfcasting.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Water levels are down some. A couple steelhead were caught by those floating spawn. Very few walleye were caught.

**Rogue River:** Anglers caught the occasional steelhead up near the Rockford Dam. Some big brown trout were caught and released because the season is closed.

**Muskegon:** Has some whitefish starting to show up around the piers. Try putting a single egg right on the bottom.

**Muskegon Lake:** Was producing a few walleye and perch.

**Muskegon River:** Has steelhead but the fish seem to be scattered. Try fishing the deeper holes until we get more rain.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Otsego Lake:** Was producing some panfish.

**West Twin Lake:** In Montmorency County was producing a few walleye. Try crank baits, stick baits, small spoons or leeches.

**Alpena:** Whitefish are most likely on the reefs however it is rare to see anyone on the big water this time of year. Colder weather is needed before whitefish will come into the shallows to spawn.

**Thunder Bay River:** Had light fishing activity up at the Ninth Street Dam where anglers are targeting fall run steelhead, Atlantic salmon and the odd Chinook salmon. Some have caught walleye or whitefish.

**Au Sable River:** Should have steelhead especially in the lower river. Look for more fish to start moving in after the rain this week.

**Tawas:** Walleye were starting to become active in the shallows of Tawas Bay. The fish move in closer to shore when chasing the baitfish.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Traverse City:** Cisco were caught in the East Bay. Anglers were using primarily Swedish Pimples.

**Frankfort:** Had little boat traffic. Depending on the day and the weather conditions, pier anglers were still getting some steelhead. Most are using spawn. Some are surfcasting with spawn or small spoons.

**Portage Lake:** Was producing some large perch.

**Long Lake:** In Missaukee County was producing some crappie.

**Manistee:** Pier fishing and surfcasting for steelhead was still good on certain days, depending on wind and waves. Spawn was still the best bait.

**Manistee River:** Dry weather caused water levels to drop once again. The low and clear water makes steelhead fishing much more difficult. Fish are around but anglers will need to be patient and use light line.

**Ludington:** Steelhead have been caught by pier anglers and those surfcasting. Catch rates were dependent on wind and wave action. Most are using spawn.

**Pere Marquette River:** Has steelhead but the water was low and clear. The fish will spook easily so use light line. Anglers are reminded that possession limits are put into place for a reason and to help prevent overharvest.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Menominee River:** Fishing pressure increased at the Hattie Street Dam. Whitefish were caught from the fisherman's walkway to the dam. Evenings were best. Fish ranging 16 to 22 inches were caught by those floating a jig and minnow in the current. Some walleye and pike were caught by boat and shore anglers in the lower stretches when using jigs tipped with live bait or stick baits.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported results similar to last week. Those fishing during the day had fair catches when trolling stick baits in 35 to 40 feet at Kipling or 20 to 30 feet near the Black Bottom. Night anglers did best trolling stick baits along the edge of the First and Second Reefs in 10 to 22 feet. The best perch catches were taken by those fishing off the dock in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor. The boat slip docks were a good place to try jigging minnows and worms. A lot of walleye anglers reported incidental pike catches throughout the bay.

November 19, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

**Attention Anglers:** Because DNR Fisheries staff will not be available next week, the fishing report will not be updated the first week of December. Those looking to head out may want to check with local bait and tackle shops to get the latest on conditions around the state.

A lot of would-be anglers are deer or duck hunting and the weather has made it difficult for those wanting to fish. Between the strong winds, rain, snow or cold there is not much to report for the last week. The Catch and Release sturgeon season on the Great Lakes and Connecting Waters will close on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Had good perch fishing in front of the Metro Park Marina and the Banana Dike. Most are using minnows on perch rigs. Catch rates were also good in the marinas however; anglers may have to sort out the small ones.

**Huron River:** Is producing a few trout. Anglers were fishing in the lower river between Rockwood and the mouth.

**Detroit River:** The upper river has been good for muskie fishing. Perch anglers are still getting some fish when the weather allows. Conditions were muddy after the windy conditions.

**Lake St. Clair:** Water temperatures fell quickly with the cold spell. High winds have kept the lake muddied up and fishing reports have been slow. Those targeting muskie have done well on both sides of the lake. The Catch and Immediate Release sturgeon season closes on Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>. Based on the weather forecast, it looks like DNR access sites will remain open through at least the first weekend in December. These sites will have at least 1 skid pier in the water for boaters to use for launching and retrieval.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing has been fair with fish caught in the lower river channels by jigging and in the upper river when hand-lining or whipping at night. Walleye were caught at night near the Bluewater Bridge. The Catch and Immediate

Release sturgeon season closes on Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>. The boat access site in the North Channel near Algonac will close on Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Harbor Beach:** Still had one dock in for launching boats.

**Port Austin:** Still had one dock in at the boat launch.

**Saginaw Bay:** When they can get out, boat anglers were getting a few yellow perch when using minnows. Those fishing near the Hot Pond caught a few catfish.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph:** When the weather allowed, pier anglers were taking steelhead and whitefish. Try a Swedish pimple with a single egg for the whitefish.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead fishing slowed but should pick back up with rain and cooler temperatures in the forecast. Most fish were caught on spawn. Those fishing near the dams have caught the occasional walleye or bass.

**Kalamazoo River:** Is producing steelhead below the Allegan Dam. Anglers reported fair to good walleye action as well. Try crank baits or stick baits.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Some good size pike have been caught near the North Lansing Dam by those floating a sucker minnow or using spoons and spinners. Crappie were caught near the Waverly Road Bridge. Near Lyons, anglers caught walleye on minnows and crawlers.

**Looking Glass River:** Those targeting pike have caught some nice fish near Babcock's Landing. Try bouncing sucker minnows or golden shiners along the bottom. A few pike were also caught at the city parks in DeWitt.

**Muskegon Lake:** The better perch fishing is usually between Hartshorn Marina and the Muskegon Yacht Club. Anglers should also find a few walleye in the same area.

**Muskegon River:** Had good steelhead fishing with a good push of fish after the wet snow. Those willing to brave the cold have caught fish when floating spawn.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Burt Lake:** Was producing some bass and panfish including some yellow perch.

**Alpena:** Whitefish were caught but the numbers were low. Look for catch rates to pick up by the weekend as much colder air moves in.

**Thunder Bay River:** Had few anglers. A handful of anglers fishing in the very early morning did manage to catch a few trout. Whitefish were still slow but should pick up by the weekend.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead were caught in the lower river in the early morning and at night. Warm daytime temperatures have slowed the bite. A few walleye were caught between the mouth at the first dam.

**Houghton Lake:** Had snow on the ground and no fishing activity.

**Tawas:** Those braving the cold are fishing off the State Docks. Try a small hook with a wax worm, wiggler or a single egg for whitefish. Use a slip bobber to keep the bait just off the bottom.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Charlevoix:** Pier anglers were hooking into some steelhead.

**Frankfort:** Pier anglers caught a fair number of steelhead when floating spawn.

**Manistee:** Had fair to good steelhead fishing for pier anglers and those surfcasting, of course, it all depends on wind direction. Pier anglers are floating spawn while those surfcasting are throwing orange spoons and spinners.

**Manistee River:** Those fishing the Big Manistee have caught steelhead between the mouth and Tippy Dam however the better numbers were coming from the lower end of the river.

**Ludington:** Pier and shore fishing has been fair to good depending on wind direction. Anglers caught steelhead and the occasional brown trout.

**Pere Marquette River:** Had steelhead throughout the river. Some nice silver bullets were hitting on spawn under a bobber, live bait or flies.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Gogebic:** Is producing the occasional walleye for those especially for shore anglers.

**Menominee River:** Whitefish have arrived. Anglers are reporting fish 16 to 21 inches being caught mainly by the Hattie Street Dam.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had very low angler participation. The walleye anglers were still trolling from the "Narrows" north to the Center Reef. Most were using stick baits in the evening in waters 6 to 28 feet deep. Perch anglers reported good numbers caught around Butler Island but most were too small. Ice was starting to form along the shoreline.

**St. Mary's River:** Some walleye were caught on crawlers, crank baits or stick baits in Munuscong Bay.

November 26, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

**Attention Anglers:** The fishing report will not be updated the first week of December. Those looking to head out may want to check with local bait and tackle shops to get the latest on conditions around the state.

A lot of would-be anglers are deer or duck hunting and the weather has made it difficult for those wanting to fish. Between the strong winds, rain, snow or cold there is not much to report for the last week. The Catch and Release sturgeon season on the Great Lakes and Connecting Waters will close on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Had some boats out but most were duck hunters.

**Huron River:** Was giving up some steelhead in the lower river.

**Detroit River:** The upper river has been good for muskie fishing. Perch anglers are still getting some fish when the weather allows. A few walleye were caught in the Trenton Channel.

**Lake St. Clair:** Water temperatures fell quickly with the cold spell. High winds have kept the lake muddied up and fishing reports have been slow. Those targeting muskie have done well on both sides of the lake. The Catch and Immediate Release sturgeon season closes on Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>. Based on the forecast, it looks like DNR access sites will remain open through at least the first weekend in December. These sites will have at least 1 skid pier in the water for launching.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing was fair with fish caught in the lower river channels by jigging or the upper river when hand-lining or whipping at night. Walleye were caught at night near the Bluewater Bridge. The Catch and Immediate Release sturgeon season closes on Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>. The boat access site in the North Channel near Algonac will close on Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Saginaw Bay:** When they can get out, boat anglers were getting a few yellow perch on minnows. Those fishing near the Hot Pond caught catfish.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Boat anglers heading out for panfish reported bluegills in deep water. No word on crappie.

**St. Joseph River:** Anglers were catching steelhead. The fish ladder was still open because of the late run and warmer temperatures.

**Kalamazoo River:** Has steelhead and the better fishing was below the Allegan Dam. Target the deeper holes. Walleye, pike and bass were also caught.

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers caught whitefish.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Had good steelhead action over the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. A few walleye and smallmouth bass were caught above the dam. Anglers were using minnows and crawlers.

**Rogue River:** Is producing steelhead and some reported limit catches.

**Muskegon River:** Had good steelhead fishing with a good push of fish after the wet snow. Most were floating spawn.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Thunder Bay River:** This is the time of year anglers should find whitefish off the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Try a single egg or wax worm on a gold hook just off the bottom.

**Au Sable River:** Colder temperatures did push some steelhead up into the river. Fish were caught on spawn or crawlers.

**Houghton Lake:** Had snow on the ground and no fishing activity.

**Tawas:** Some are fishing off the State Docks. Try a small hook with a wax worm, wiggler or a single egg for whitefish. Use a slip bobber to keep the bait just off the bottom.

**Au Gres River:** A couple steelhead were caught down near the Singing Bridge. Try spoons, plugs or spawn bags. Orange is good color.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Charlevoix:** Pier anglers were hooking into some steelhead.

**Frankfort:** Pier anglers caught a fair number of steelhead when floating spawn.

**Manistee:** Had fair to good steelhead fishing for pier anglers and those surfcasting, of course, it all depends on wind direction. Pier anglers are floating spawn while those surfcasting are throwing orange spoons and spinners.

**Manistee River:** Those fishing the Big Manistee have caught steelhead between the mouth and Tippy Dam however the better numbers were coming from the lower end of the river.

**Ludington:** Pier and shore fishing has been fair to good depending on wind direction. Anglers caught steelhead and the occasional brown trout.

**Pere Marquette River:** Had steelhead throughout the river. Some nice silver bullets were hitting on spawn under a bobber, live bait or flies.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Gogebic:** Is producing the occasional walleye especially for shore anglers.

**Menominee River:** Whitefish have arrived. Anglers are reporting fish 16 to 21 inches being caught mainly by the Hattie Street Dam.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had very low angler participation. The walleye anglers were still trolling from the "Narrows" north to the Center Reef. Most were using stick baits in the evening in waters 6 to 28 feet deep. Perch anglers reported good numbers caught around Butler Island but most were too small. Ice was starting to form along the shoreline.

**St. Mary's River:** A few walleye were caught on crawlers, crank baits or stick baits in Munuscong Bay.

December 10, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Open water fishing will be holding on a bit longer with the warmer temperatures. Some areas to the north were making skim ice at night but there is no safe ice anywhere in the state. Open water fishing is still a good bet right now because the fish are still feeding as they prepare for winter.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Huron River:** Still has the occasional steelhead being caught throughout the river. Water levels were low and clear.

**Detroit River:** A few perch were caught around Sugar Island which is off the southeast end of Grosse Ile. Walleye fishing was slow.

**Lake St. Clair:** Water temperatures are in the low 40's. Fishing activity has been light. Most anglers were targeting muskellunge however December 15 is the last day for muskie season. Shore anglers casting for walleye reported little or no success. Yellow perch should be showing up in the canals and marinas right along with crappie and sunfish. Boat ramps on the lake remain open with at least one skid pier in place. There is no ice at this time and the forecast indicates it could be at least a couple weeks or more before the temperatures drop far enough to start to the freezing process.

**St. Clair River:** Fish were still being caught in southern Lake Huron and the river. Not a lot of anglers were out but those that were reported some limit catches.

**Harbor Beach:** Still has one dock in at the boat ramp.

**Saginaw Bay:** Is producing walleye. Those taking advantage of the nice weather were fishing off Linwood and Patterson Road. Limit catches were common and so were walleye weighing in at seven to nine pounds. Most are trolling crank baits.

**Saginaw River:** Walleye anglers should be doing well. This is the time of year when most are vertical jigging in the river.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Boat and shore anglers fishing the inland lakes have caught bluegill and perch. The bass and pike fishing should also be good.

**St. Joseph River:** Was still producing some steelhead downstream of the Berrien Springs Dam.

**Kalamazoo River:** Anglers were still taking some steelhead below the Allegan Dam. Those targeting walleye also caught fish.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Is still producing some steelhead. The numbers are down from the last couple weeks but fish were still being caught near the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam and off the wall. Shore anglers were also targeting catfish. Those fishing above 6<sup>th</sup> Street caught pike on large minnows.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Anglers have actually caught the odd coho between Lyons and Lansing. Most of the fish are spent but a few were still in fair shape. Try spawn or marabou jigs. Those using large minnows caught pike. Some found the occasional walleye or bass.

**Rogue River:** Was still producing some steelhead.

**Muskegon River:** Continues to produce a good number of steelhead especially between Newaygo and Croton Dam. Anglers are floating spawn and fly fishing. Some perch were caught from the Hardy Dam Pond.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Thunder Bay River:** Anglers were catching some whitefish.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead numbers in the lower river are decent. Fish up to 10 pounds have been caught. Those using crawlers caught fish between the Mio Dam and the powerlines.

**Higgins Lake:** When the weather permits, boat anglers are still taking a few lake trout when trolling. A couple rainbow trout were caught along the drop-offs when trolling or long-lining with body baits.

**Houghton Lake:** Skim ice forms at night when the temperatures drop however the ice breaks up during the day. A couple walleye were caught at Channel Court and the mouth of the Cut River after dark.

**Tawas:** Some walleye were still being caught in Tawas Bay in the evening. Whitefish activity on the State Dock is pretty much done.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Frankfort:** Pier and surf fishing for steelhead remains good depending on the weather.

**Betsie River:** Should have more steelhead after last week's rain. This weather should make for some decent steelhead fishing for the next couple weeks.

**Manistee:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught some steelhead. Try floating spawn off the pier or casting spoons and spinners in the surf.

**Manistee River:** Has steelhead throughout the river and the fishing should continue for the next couple weeks. Those fishing below Tippy Dam caught steelhead and the occasional coho.

**Ludington:** Pier anglers are finding steelhead when floating spawn. Those surfcasting have also taken fish.

**Pere Marquette River:** Water levels were up so anglers should find more steelhead. Mild conditions should make for some good fishing over the next two weeks.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Little Bay De Noc:** A few walleye were caught straight out from the Kipling access site. Most were using body baits.

**Big Manistique Lake:** Open water anglers did manage to catch some nice walleye and perch.

**St. Mary's River:** Was producing some large walleye and muskie.

December 17, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Muskie season on Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and the Detroit River closed on December 15. A handful of anglers are still open water fishing however most are waiting for ice. With the warmer temperatures, anglers may be waiting until the end of January or first part of February.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Boat anglers trolling big husky jerks and body baits were catching a decent number of walleye. A few fish were caught south of Celeron Island but the better action was in Brest Bay.

**Detroit River:** Was still producing yellow perch off the north and south end of Sugar Island in 11 feet of water. Some were keepers but anglers are sorting through a good number of smaller fish.

**Lake St. Clair:** Had boats out targeting muskie however the season closed on December 15. Word has it anglers were catching some yellow perch in the canals and private marinas but the fish were small and access for the public is limited unless you have a boat. The docks are still in at the DNR access sites.

**Saginaw Bay:** Boat anglers continue to take good numbers of walleye. Boat ramps at the mouth of the Saginaw River and Linwood were busy. Most were trolling crank baits off planer boards. Yellow perch were hitting on minnows in the cuts, canals and various river systems around the bay.

**Saginaw River:** Has seen a good number of boat anglers targeting walleye and from the tag returns, they are catching some keepers even though many were small.

**Sanford Lake:** In Midland County was producing some big crappie. Try minnows or wax worms.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Pier and shore anglers continue to catch steelhead. Those with outboard motors are still trolling in the Great Lakes and catching a few fish.

**St. Joseph River:** Indiana Michigan Power is expanding the Mottville hydroelectric facility and installing new electrical equipment. Due to public safety concerns, the access road to the tailwater fishing area below Mottville Dam will be closed until May 20, 2016. Refer to attached map.

**Kalamazoo River:** With higher water levels, anglers continue to catch trout. Steelhead continue to trickle in and most have been caught below the Allegan Dam.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Continues to produce fish for boat and shore anglers. Most were catching steelhead up near the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. Channel and flathead catfish have also been caught.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Is producing some pike and smallmouth bass. A couple walleye were caught over at Moore's Park. Try white or chartreuse swim shads or twister tail grubs in the murky water. Those fishing above the Lyons Dam and near the Webber Dam have caught steelhead along with the occasional walleye or smallmouth bass when using jigs tipped with spawn or a wax worm.

**Looking Glass River:** Pike anglers are still taking fish. Most were using small boats at Babcock's Landing because the bank was flooded.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels were high after the recent rain. Catch rates for steelhead were consistent before the rain.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Au Sable River:** Those fly fishing have caught some steelhead and a few brown trout as open water fishing continues this late in the year.

**Houghton Lake:** A few walleye anglers are going out at night. Find the baitfish and you will find some walleye. Very few boats have been out.

**Au Gres River:** Had steelhead in the East Branch where anglers were getting them on spawn bags.

**Rifle River:** Had steelhead for the taking. Most anglers were floating spawn.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Betsie River:** Should still have a fair to good number of steelhead. With the warm weather and water temperatures, fresh fish continue to trickle into the rivers.

**Manistee:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting should still find some steelhead. Try floating spawn, crawlers, wax worms or even small shrimp.

**Manistee River:** Water levels were up. Boat anglers were still finding steelhead when casting or drifting.

**Ludington:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting should still find some steelhead.

**Pere Marquette River:** Had higher water levels. Those targeting steelhead were still catching fish. Fair to good fishing should continue through the end of the year.

## UPPER PENINSULA

There were no reports for the Upper Peninsula. The only ice was in the Keweenaw Peninsula and that was skim ice only. Most anglers put their boats away some time ago and are waiting for ice fishing season.

December 23, 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

*With the upcoming holidays, this will be the last report for 2015.* The only ice in the state was reported in the far west end of the Upper Peninsula where anglers were just starting to venture out on a couple lakes. The rest of the state is open water fishing. Bass anglers are reminded that the possession season for large and smallmouth bass will close at midnight on December 31. The catch-and-immediate-release season is open ALL YEAR, except on those waters otherwise closed to fishing.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** The docks are still in and the boats are still heading out for walleye and perch. Catch rates slowed some however walleye were still caught in and around Brest Bay in waters up to 24 feet deep when trolling dark colored husky jerks.

**Huron River:** Anglers are taking some steelhead at Huroc Park and just above the railroad trestle in Rockwood. Those with small boats are taking fish in the deeper holes.

**Detroit River:** Anglers fishing the lower river were taking decent size perch from the south side of the Cross-Dike near Grosse Isle.

**Lake St. Clair:** Fishing activity increased in the canals and marinas with the warmer weather again. Most are catching small perch and panfish.

**Saginaw Bay:** Boat anglers are still catching walleye when trolling stick baits in 10 to 15 feet. Yellow perch were also caught by those fishing in the cuts, canals and river systems around the bay.

**Saginaw River:** Is producing walleye but anglers are sorting out the small ones. Most were jigging.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Some panfish were caught on the inland lakes. Steelhead fishing continues with the warmer weather. Good pike fishing continues as well.

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead are still moving through the fish ladder. Water flow was below normal but should increase with the rain. Water temperatures were in the low 40's.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Had a good run of steelhead after the rain. Fish are still being caught however anglers are working a little harder this week.

**Rogue River:** Continues to produce steelhead in the lower river.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Walleye and pike have been caught off the wall near the Brenke ladder. Anglers are floating shiners and pike minnows. Bass anglers have caught fish in the section between Brenke and the Olympic Broil.

**Looking Glass River:** Pike anglers are still taking a few fish.

**Muskegon Lake:** Anglers were getting some perch and walleye. Some were fishing the channel and off the bridges.

**Muskegon River:** Continues to produce steelhead. Water temperatures were still in the low 40's.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

With no ice and warm weather, walleye anglers are taking fish on the inland lakes. Those pursuing rainbows on the inland streams reported moderate success.

**Burt Lake:** Anglers were catching some walleye.

**Grand Lake:** Was producing a few perch.

**Thunder Bay River:** Was still producing the occasional whitefish.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead are moving upriver.

**Au Gres River:** Those fishing the East Branch are still taking the occasional steelhead when floating spawn.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

There is no ice to report in the entire region. Most of those fishing can be found along the rivers.

**Frankfort:** Pier anglers have caught some steelhead.

**Betsie River:** Steelhead fishing is good for those still trying. The warmer weather is keeping the fish and the anglers around.

**Manistee:** Menominee whitefish have been caught off the pier. Those surfcasting have caught a fair number of steelhead. Coho were also caught recently.

**Manistee River:** Continues to produce good steelhead action. The water was stained after the rain. Anglers are casting or drifting with bright colored trout beads. Also try flies, wax worms, spawn or small spoons.

**Ludington:** Steelhead were caught by pier anglers and those surfcasting when the weather allows.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is still producing steelhead.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Peninsula:** Anglers will have ice fishing opportunities for legal size lake trout as 500 were recently stocked in Lake Fanny Hooe. The minimum size limit for lake trout in the lake is eight inches with a daily possession limit of five fish which no more than three may be 15 inches or greater.

**Lake Gogebic:** Cautious ice anglers were venturing out after single digit temperatures over the weekend started the ice making process. There was ice on the north end of the lake off Bergland Bay. Catch rates for walleye and yellow perch were light. Anglers need to remember that first ice can be dangerous and unpredictable, so use extreme caution. Use the buddy system and wear a lifesaving vest or carry a throw-able device. The Michigan Natural Resources Commission changed the walleye size limit which went into effect immediately. The new regulation will allow anglers the option of keeping two small walleyes from 13 to 15 inches within their five-fish daily possession limit. The proposed rule change however does not require anglers to keep fish smaller than 15 inches.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Was ice free. Those trolling crank baits are still picking up some walleye. The docks are still in at most of the launches.

**Manistique River:** Is holding some nice steelhead. Brown trout have been caught just off the mouth.