

April 7, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Another week of snow, cold temperatures and windy conditions has once again hampered fishing for boat and shore anglers. Elevated water levels on many of the rivers will make fishing difficult.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Detroit River: Walleye fishing has been hit-or-miss. Those jigging in the lower and mid-sections caught fish depending on wind direction and run-off.

Oakland County: Cass and Union Lake have seen minimal fishing effort because of the cold weather. Those casting blade baits, and lipless crank baits in deeper water were catching some bass. Catch rates for crappie and other panfish were slow.

Lake St. Clair: Once again, there is not much to report. Skim ice was forming in the canals and the docks were iced over with the cold nights. The lake continues to be muddy from all the wind and run-off.

Clinton River: Had some reports of a couple steelhead being caught.

Lexington: Had a few boats going out and they caught a couple coho in 17 to 20 feet. The water along the outside of the Thumb was very muddy. One boat went out to 80 feet looking for cleaner water but did not find any.

Saginaw Bay: All the rain, snow and ice shut fishing down area-wide. The bay has been very turbid. All of the area rivers are terribly high, if not actually over flood stage, and very muddy. There was little to no activity at Eagle Bay Marina, near the Pine River and Palmer Road. Reports have come in that post-spawn walleye are starting to be caught off the river mouths, but finding clean water will be a problem. A few perch were caught from the cut at Finn Road but shut right down after the rain. Mud Creek was spotty for perch. Sebawaing and Caseville had almost no fishing activity.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Fishing pressure is very low due to the very poor weather.

St. Joseph River: Is high and muddy after all the rain.

South Haven: Had very low fishing pressure. There seems to be a few brown trout around. Spawn or skein fished on the bottom should work.

Holland: Pier anglers were out targeting steelhead and brown trout.

Grand Haven: Pier and boat anglers reported slow action for steelhead and brown trout. Nearshore water clarity is poor due to recent rains.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Was producing a good number of steelhead however high water levels will make fishing more difficult.

Grand River at Lansing: Few anglers have been out because of the cold weather. Those making an attempt did manage to catch the occasional steelhead. A couple suckers were caught on crawlers, leaf worms or red worms.

Rogue River: Was still producing a good number of steelhead in the lower river.

Muskegon: Pier anglers caught steelhead and brown trout on spawn.

Muskegon River: Water levels are high and muddy. Steelhead were there but the bite slowed with the cold spell.

Whitehall: Pier anglers caught some steelhead and the occasional brown trout.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mackinaw City: The docks are not in and fishing activity on Lake Huron was between light and nonexistent.

Cheboygan: The docks are blocking the launch near the marina but the dock is in at the city launch on the river. Fishing pressure on Lake Huron is light but those fishing the Cheboygan River caught steelhead on spawn and butter worms.

Ocqueoc River: Had a good number of steelhead but the bite slowed with the colder weather.

Rogers City: The docks are in but no facilities are open yet. The weather remains cold and snowy. When temperatures warm up casting from the wall is possible. Look for steelhead, lake trout or Atlantic salmon. Bright colored spoons will probably be more affective as the water is still turbid.

Presque Isle: Had no docks in at the ramp and none of the facilities were open yet.

Alpena: The ice was off the Alpena Boat Harbor and the docks are in at the ramp on the river which means good access to the bay for boat anglers. With lake trout season open and walleyes returning to Thunder Bay after spawning, fishing should pick up quickly when water temperatures warm up. Another option for accessing

Thunder Bay is the small-boat ramp at the Devil River in Ossineke. The ramp gives access to the southern end of Thunder Bay and its excellent walleye fishery.

Thunder Bay River: Still had some steelhead hitting on spawn.

Au Sable River: Water levels were high and muddy. The better fishing was up near the dam where the water was a little cleaner.

Tawas: Only one lake trout and one walleye were caught off the pier by those still-fishing with grey shiners. Boat anglers reported the water as stirred up and very dirty. Only one walleye was caught.

Tawas River: A few suckers were taken however the average was one sucker per hour of fishing.

Au Gres: Boat anglers are catching walleye off Point Lookout. Most of the fish were large, spawned out females so it sounds like the post-spawn phase is starting.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Most of the inland lakes were still ice covered. There is too much to launch a boat but yet not enough to call it safe ice. It needs to warm up and stay that way so the lakes will open up.

Harbor Springs: The dock was not in at the boat launch. There were no pier anglers as the area received heavy snow once again.

Petoskey: The dock is not in at the boat launch. Ice is not a problem in Little Traverse Bay this year but skim ice was still forming in the marina especially at night. Angling effort was concentrated at the mouth of the river down to the beach, and on the breakwall. Anglers caught steelhead on spawn bags and wax worms. Early morning seems best. The Bear River is very high right now. There is not much effort at the dam or downstream because of the fast water.

Traverse City: Blowing snow and cold windy days have kept most boats off both the East and the West Bay. Those trout fishing had success on the pier off Sunset Park on the West Bay and below the dam in Elk Rapids on the East Bay.

Boardman River: Anglers targeting steelhead had success between the Union Street Dam and the mouth.

Frankfort: The ice is gone and the boat ramps are clear but the docks were not in yet. A couple steelhead were caught off the north pier when using spawn.

Onkama: Had no fishing activity. The pier and boat launch were ice free and the city has their dock in.

Portage Lake: Had no anglers. Both boat launches are clear of ice and the city has their dock in.

Manistee: Water temperatures were about 43 degrees. Anglers have picked up the occasional steelhead around the piers.

Manistee Lake: The perch numbers have dropped but anglers were still picking up fish near Penny Park.

Big Manistee River: Water levels were still on the high side and running 42 to 44 degrees. Steelhead are moving with a good number of fish up near Tippy Dam. Pink has been a hot color. The lower end of the river has been slow because of the high and muddy water. Those looking for suckers have done well when using crawlers near Bear Creek.

Ludington: The bay was ice free. The docks are in but few anglers were out.

Pentwater: Pier anglers are targeting steelhead and brown trout as weather permits.

Pentwater Lake: Steelhead were being caught in the channel.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Steady snowfall, high winds and cold temperatures have produced a lot of frozen slush in the bay. Angler participation has been down for a few days. Before the return of winter, fishing was good for some and not so good for others. Those using mini planer boards with body baits like shad raps or plain rapalas did well 15 to 25 feet down in 20 to 70 feet near Sand Point. Orange was the hot color. Those fishing between the Baraga Marina and the L'Anse Marina have only picked up the occasional coho. No chinook have been seen or reported. Steelhead were caught in the Falls River but the action was hit-or-miss. Those fishing off the Rock Dock in L'Anse have picked up steelhead and coho while the Sand Point anglers have only picked up a couple coho.

Menominee River: The upper river from the Hattie Street Dam down to Stephenson Island was still producing a good number of walleye along with the occasional brown trout and steelhead. Suckers were up near the dam. Water levels were high and muddy.

Little Bay De Noc: Conditions improved however because of the cold nights, some ice was still hanging on near Kipling. The Ford River and the Gladstone launch are the only ones up and running. The Escanaba Yacht Harbor was still partially iced over. A boat could be launched at the Rapid River but the dock is not in and the asphalt has buckled. The gate has been opened at the North Shore launch but no docks were in. Steelhead anglers reported catches in the Whitefish, Tacoosh, Day's and Ford Rivers. A few boats have gone after brown trout just south of the Ford River but no reports came in.

Big Bay De Noc: The only usable launch is at Ogontz. The area was ice free and the dock is never removed. It is still early but there could be some preseason bass opportunities. Garden Bay was still iced over.

Marquette: Had slow fishing. Some were still targeting coho near the “bubblers: when using both artificial lures and cut bait. Those trolling spoons had no luck. Some steelhead were caught in the Carp River and the Chocolay River but cold weather has slowed the bite.

Au Train: Had no reports and no anglers as the dock is not in at the launch. With the return of winter weather, it is unknown when it might be put in. The Rock River had a few anglers but no fish were caught.

Munising: The bay is ice free except for skim ice in the morning and some ice floes throughout the bay. The city public launch is open with one dock in. Prior to the cold front, anglers were mainly trolling but catch rates for coho were slow and no steelhead were reported. Those fishing off the Anna River dock and boat anglers near the mouth did catch some splake, menominee or whitefish.

Grand Marais: Before the cold snap, boat anglers did well trolling for coho in the harbor, along the breakwall and near the mouth of the Sucker River when the wind permits. A couple steelhead were caught. Some were pier fishing. There was no ice on the first section of the pier but there was still a large wall of ice near the lighthouse and on the rocks. Anglers were targeting coho and lake whitefish with a single egg or when casting spoons. There was very little activity at the Sucker River. The Two Hearted River was producing some steelhead. The river mouth is good for coho on good weather days or when there is a south wind.

Cedarville and Hessel: The Cedarville boat launch was still iced in. At Hessel, anglers were splake fishing outside the pier but catch rates were spotty. Most were using a combination of natural baits including smelt, spawn, minnows and crawlers under a bobber.

St. Ignace: The docks are not in at the launch so there has been little to no fishing activity. There are some steelhead being caught in the rivers, but the cold weather slowed the bite. No smelt to report, water temperatures are too cold! In St. Martin Bay, the new launch at the mouth of the Pine River is blocked by several large trees.

Black River: In Mackinac County was producing some steelhead. Catch rates were slow but anglers were taking a few on spawn.

April 14, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures dropped during the winter blast but should start to rebound nicely by the end of this week. Major ports along the Great Lakes in the Lower Peninsula are muddy but should start to clear by the end of the week.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Those targeting walleye had success when trolling in 15 to 20 feet with various stick baits in bright colors and UV colors such as pink, purple and white. Fish were caught south off Stony Point and north off Turtle Island. Jigging blade baits and minnows have also produced some walleye and the occasional white bass.

Detroit River: Still had some stain to the water but was clearing up more every day. Anglers reported good walleye fishing especially in the lower end.

Huron River: Was still producing some steelhead.

Oakland County: With warmer weather on the way, those going out for bluegills or crappie will want to try the shallow coves and canals. Try an ice fishing jig tipped with a wax worm or minnow.

Lake St. Clair: The lake was still muddy but starting to clear up. Shore anglers were getting a few perch and crappie.

Lexington: A couple boat anglers caught one walleye.

Saginaw Bay: Even with the bad weather, the die-hards heading out and fishing around Spoils Island got some walleye when jigging near the rocks. A few even managed to take limit catches. A few perch were caught in the Quanicassee River. Conditions and catch rates should only improve by the end of the week.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The rivers in this area are high and turbid because of the recent rains and snowmelt. Anglers should be on the lookout for floating logs and other hazards. Water temperatures dropped into the upper 30's to low 40's but will be increase rapidly with the warm, sunny weather.

St. Joseph: The channel was very muddy. Pier anglers did catch a few coho or brown trout with spawn on the bottom or floating a crawler. Few boats were out and those that did struggled to catch fish.

St. Joseph River: Was high and muddy.

South Haven: Had few anglers because of the muddy water and the slow bite.

Holland: The channel was muddy after all the rain.

Grand Haven: The nearshore water clarity was poor. Pier fishing is slow for steelhead and brown trout. Windy conditions have prevented boats from trolling the shoreline. All the docks are in at the Harbor Island boat launch.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Was clearing up. Steelhead were still being caught but fewer numbers.

Grand River at Lansing: Smallmouth bass anglers were catching and releasing fish near the North Lansing Dam. They were using minnows and spinners. Good colors in the stained water would be chartreuse and white.

Muskegon: A couple steelhead were caught by pier anglers using spawn.

Muskegon River: Was still a bit high and muddy but should clear up by the weekend. Anglers were still reporting a good number of steelhead especially up near Croton Dam. A few perch were caught up near the dams and in the bayous.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mackinaw City: The ramps were not in due to the cold weather. No signs of any pier anglers and no one trying to launch a boat in the snow.

Cheboygan: Snow and ice covered all the ramps in town. The launch ramp near the marina remains inaccessible due to the docks blocking the ramp. No fishing activity on the pier. A couple steelhead were caught in the Cheboygan River but the bite slowed because of the cold water. Anglers were using spawn, worms, jigs or spinners.

Rogers City: The launch docks are in but there has been no fishing activity. There is nothing open at the marina.

Presque Isle: Had no docks in at the ramp and there were no signs of when the marina might open.

Thunder Bay River: Fishing has been good with fresh steelhead coming in from Lake Huron. Spawn, trout eggs, body baits and stick baits were all producing fish. The river is running high and fast so use caution when entering the water. This should just be the start so look for more fish making their way up into river.

Harrisville: Skid piers are in so boats can launch. Steelhead and a couple early walleye were reported in the harbor. Spoons, body baits and floating spawn seem to be working well. Look to this port to start producing good walleye numbers soon.

Oscoda: Steelhead, walleye and Atlantic salmon were caught off the pier.

Au Sable River: Water temperatures dropped but should rebound by the weekend. Anglers were having great success with steelhead and Atlantic salmon caught all the way up to the dam by those using spawn bags, single egg, fly's, spinners, small spoons and body baits.

Higgins Lake: Had a couple boats trolling for lake trout.

Tawas: Pier fishing was really slow with only rumors of a couple walleye taken from the outside and nothing caught inside the harbor. A few anglers casting off the mouth of the river caught a couple walleye at night.

Tawas River: Was high and muddy.

Au Gres: Boats trolling off the mouth of Whitney Drain and the Singing Bridge reportedly caught a few walleye and the odd steelhead when they could get out. Those trolling crank baits in 10 to 20 feet off Whitestone Point did manage a limit of big walleye. No activity on the river itself.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Had no dock in at the boat launch.

Petoskey: The dock was still not in at the boat launch. Angling effort was mainly concentrated at the mouth of the river, and the breakwall. Anglers caught steelhead on spawn bags and wax worms at the mouth of the river. Spawn bags worked best out on the breakwall. Anglers are seeing more females. The water level of the Bear River has dropped some, but was still moderately high. Those fishing the dam and between the bridges downstream did catch a couple steelhead on spawn bags.

Lake Charlevoix: The docks are in at the public boat launch at Ferry Beach. This is the city launch that anglers use to access Lake Michigan.

Traverse City: When the wind allows, trout have been caught along the south end of the West Bay. Activity in the East Bay continues to be slow. Success was limited near Elk Rapids. Fishing should pick up with the warmer weather.

Boardman River: Has continued to produce trout and steelhead.

Manistee: Surface water temperatures were about 38 degrees. A few trout were caught between the pier heads.

Big Manistee River: Those fishing the upper portion between High Bridge and Tippy Dam were still getting some fresh steelhead. The numbers were low but so was the water temperature at 41 degrees. A few more fish were caught on the Welton side of Tippy Dam on pink and chartreuse beads, wobble glows, spawn or gold and red plugs. Suckers were hitting crawlers near Bear Creek.

Ludington: Surface temperature readings were about 38 degrees. Look for more boat and pier anglers with the warmer weather.

Pere Marquette River: Has steelhead. Most are using flies and spawn. Those targeting suckers caught fish on crawlers.

UPPER PENINSULA

Ice could still be found on the lakes in the eastern half of the Upper Peninsula. Recent snow could hamper boat launching.

Menominee River: The best action for walleye has been from the Hattie Street Dam to Stephenson Island, with zip lures, jigs, and stick baits. Some brown trout were also caught. The better fishing continues closer to the dam.

Marquette: Fishing was again slow with the cold and snowy conditions. On the few days anglers could get out, coho were caught near the "bubblers" by those using artificial baits or when jigging cut bait. The last snow produced slush in the rivers which slowed fishing.

Au Train: Had no reports on fishing in the bays of Lake Superior because of windy conditions. The dock at the boat launch was not in yet. Some were fishing the mouth of the Au Train River and the Rock River however all they caught was a few small brown trout.

Munising: Strong north winds, snow squalls and cold temperatures limited fishing once again. A few anglers were fishing from shore and the pier at the Anna River but had little success with only a few splake, whitefish and steelhead caught. Most were caught on spawn but a few were casting spoons.

Grand Marais: Fishing was limited once again. The wall of ice at the end of the pier grew higher and thicker after the high winds and cold temperatures. A couple boats that were able to get out did manage to get a couple steelhead. Not many pier anglers but those out trying did catch a few whitefish and coho on a single egg. Surf anglers were not having much luck. The Two Hearted River has a good number of steelhead in it right now.

St. Mary's River: The docks are in at the boat launch in Sault Ste. Marie. Raber Bay still had ice at the boat launch. The north end of Munuscong Bay and Conley's Point has a new parking lot and boat launch but the docks were not in yet. There is open water but no fishing effort yet.

DeTour: The boat launch areas still had some ice holding on. No docks have been put in and there was no sign of any fishing activity.

Cedarville and Hessel: The Cedarville launch was still blocked in by ice but the Lakeside Road launch was ice free. At Hessel, the dock was not in at the launch. A couple pier anglers were targeting splake in the early morning but catch rates were poor. The few nice fish that have been caught were keeping anglers interested. Most are using smelt or minnows under a bobber.

St. Ignace: Had little to no fishing on Lake Huron. The launch ramps were covered in ice and snow and there were no docks in yet. The Pine River launch remains blocked by fallen trees and is snowed in. A couple steelhead were caught in the Carp River.

April 21, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

While the weather did warm up, water temperatures were still on the cold side so catch rates were slow. Those participating in the catch-and-immediate-release bass season were doing well in the Great Lakes, inland lakes and rivers.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Catch rates for walleye increased with the warmer weather and several anglers reported limit catches. Most were trolling stickbaits or jigging blade baits and bucktail jigs with minnows. The waters near Brest Bay, La Plaisance Bay, and Turtle Island have all been contributing walleye as well as the occasional yellow perch and white bass. Areas of water near the rivers, creek mouths, and shore continue to be turbid but are slowly clearing.

Detroit River: Walleye fishing has improved and should be good by the weekend. The better spots were the Trenton Channel below Elizabeth Park and the upper river above Belle Isle. Mid-river fishing around Wyandotte and the River Rouge should heat up by the weekend.

Oakland County: Anglers targeting bass on Cass Lake and Union Lake were doing well using lipless crankbaits along the drop-offs in five to 15 feet. Large numbers of bass could be seen in the shallow flats and the canals. Some bluegills were caught in the canals and shallow coves when using small jigs tipped with wax worms or a piece of crawler.

Lake St. Clair: On the south end, waters adjacent to the 9 and 11 Mile launches were excellent for bass fishing in seven to 10 feet with purple crank baits and dark tube baits. Panfish and perch anglers did best between the Clinton River Cutoff launch site and the Metro Beach launch in seven to 10 feet with slip bobbers and live bait. Try minnows, crawlers and wax worms however minnows seemed to work best. On the north end, bass fishing was spotty between Harley Ensign and Selfridge so many were heading south to the Metro Beach area. Anglers did catch bluegill, crappie and rock bass when using minnows and wax worms in the marinas. Shore and pier anglers at Selfridge caught good numbers of pumpkinseed sunfish on crawlers.

St. Clair River: Water temperatures near Algonac were 38 to 40 degrees and the water was stained. A few walleye were caught in the Algonac area and upriver near Port Huron. Some salmon and trout were caught in Port Huron near the Black River.

Lexington: Had fair lake trout fishing with the occasional fish weighing in at 16 pounds or more. Most were fishing in 30 feet. Surface water temperatures were still 38 degrees or so but the harbors were starting to warm up and minnows were starting to move in.

Harbor Beach: A couple of boats were out and caught some lake trout. Shore anglers fishing at night near the mouth of the DTE discharge channel caught a couple steelhead.

Saginaw Bay: The best walleye action was in 23 to 24 feet off Linwood and near the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12) or northeast of Spoils Island in 20 feet. If you're the first one out there in the morning, you can catch fish casting right off the rocks around Spoils Island but the action slows fast when more boats show up and the fish move to deeper water. Walleye were caught off the Bay City State Park and the Kawkawlin River in six to eight feet. Most are trolling purple crankbaits but a few fish were taken on pink and purple crawler harnesses. Walleye were caught off Quanicassee and some perch were taken straight off the mouth of the Quanicassee River in six to eight feet. Walleye anglers were going out to the Slot and the Callahan Reef. Some fish were caught off Sebewaing and Bay Port. Surface water temperatures were low to mid 40's. Shore fishing for spring perch is about done.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The inland lakes are still cold so catch rates were slow. Bluegills were starting to bite and crappie should pick up in the next few weeks.

St. Joseph: Overall, fishing has been on the slow side. Boat anglers caught a few salmon when trolling spoons from 20 feet to well over 100 feet of water. Pier anglers caught a few coho and brown trout on spawn. Perch fishing was very slow.

St. Joseph River: Has a fair number of steelhead.

South Haven: Boat anglers targeting lake trout had good success. Most of the fish were caught in about 50 feet of water when using spin-glo's. Salmon and perch fishing slowed. Pier anglers reported slow catch rates.

Grand Haven: Anglers trolling the shoreline for brown trout and pier anglers fishing for steelhead and brown trout reported slow catch rates. Boat anglers targeting yellow perch reported fair catches. The best baits were wigglers and minnows.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Still has some steelhead but the numbers are dropping.

Rogue River: Still has a fair number of steelhead.

Grand River at Lansing: A good number of smallmouth bass have been caught and released immediately near the North Lansing Dam. Pike were also caught however the season is closed. Those using crawlers caught some carp.

Muskegon: Boat anglers trolling for brown trout along the shoreline reported slow catch rates. Pier fishing was also slow.

Muskegon Lake: Boat anglers were getting white perch in 40 feet near the Sand Docks.

Muskegon River: Water levels are dropping but were still slightly stained. Steelhead are in the river but the numbers are dropping. Anglers are using spawn or fly fishing.

Whitehall: Steelhead fishing has slowed but pier anglers were catching some brown trout on spawn. Those targeting walleye from the pier heads had success after dark when casting rapalas and soft plastic swim baits.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mackinaw City: Had one dock in at the Straits State Harbor launch. There were no boat or shore anglers yet.

Cheboygan: The docks were not in yet and the fish cleaning station at the city marina was still closed. There was little to no fishing activity on the pier.

Cheboygan River: Boat anglers are targeting steelhead which appear to be in good numbers. Most are using spawn, jigs, spinners or spoons. A few Atlantic salmon were also caught. Those targeting steelhead caught walleye and pike but released them immediately as the season remains closed until April 30.

Ocqueoc River: Has steelhead. Try drifting over the holes with spawn or beads.

Rogers City: Surface water temperatures were 36 to 38 degrees so there was little activity. Atlantic salmon and lake trout should be here soon. Try shallow waters with green, yellow and orange spoons or body baits. The Atlantics seem to like wall structure so try trolling around the harbor breakwall or the Calcite wall. A couple anglers were casting from the breakwall.

Rockport: Had reports of Atlantic salmon caught off the wall by those casting. Try orange, green and silver spoons or body baits.

Presque Isle: Is producing lake trout and Atlantic salmon. Lake trout were coming from the bottom in waters up to 100 feet deep with cowbells and chartreuse spin-glo's or a silver dodger with a spin-glo. Most of the Atlantic salmon were caught towards Stoneport when fishing along the wall structure with spoons or body baits. Good

colors were orange, green and yellow. The bays heading out of the harbor should have some warmer water and holding fish.

Alpena: Boats are heading out into the bay. Walleye, lake trout and Atlantic salmon reports are coming in from those trolling spoons, body baits and stickbaits or using planer boards and mini discs to get away from the boat noise.

Thunder Bay River: Steelhead are making their way up the river in decent numbers and with the current manageable, anglers were having good success landing them. Trout beads, fly's, spawn, spoons and body baits are all producing.

Oscoda: Pier fishing was starting to pick up. With water temperatures still in the low 40's, lake trout are in close and being caught off the pier head. Steelhead and walleye are also making their way in from the lake. Boats were marking good numbers of fish just outside the mouth. Most anglers targeting walleye are trolling small spoons, body and stickbaits.

Au Sable River: Anglers were having good success catching steelhead from the mouth to Foot Dam on spawn, spoons, spinners, fly's and bodybaits.

Houghton Lake: Is producing some bluegills and a few crappie in the canals. Boats are starting to head out but no reports have come in.

Tawas: Some walleye were caught off the pier at night when casting or "walking the pier" with crankbaits. The odd walleye, steelhead or lake trout were caught during the day. Those wading caught a few walleye at night when casting by the State Police Post or at the mouth of the Tawas River. Boat anglers heading south to fish off Whitney Drain and Whitestone Point caught walleye when trolling crankbaits.

Tawas River: Was still producing a few suckers in the lower river.

Au Gres: Had a lot of boats heading out and most of them were going north along the shoreline and looking for clean water. Most did catch some walleye but limit catches were few. There was nothing to report at the Pine River or Palmer Road as the perch are done for this spring.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Steelhead fishing should be good although with this weather they will be in spawning mode. A few brown trout were caught off the piers and by those trolling but water temperatures are still very cold.

Harbor Springs: Still had no dock and no anglers.

Petoskey: The dock is in at the boat launch but boat anglers were not having much luck. A couple lake trout were caught between 50 and 100 feet down. Shore anglers fishing off the breakwall and near the mouth of the river caught a couple steelhead on spawn bags and wax worms. Suckers were also caught at the mouth.

Bear River: Water levels dropped but were still a bit high. There was quite a few fish at the dam but not many were hooked legally or landed with the high water. Most were using spawn bags but some were starting to drift flies. Suckers showed up in large numbers at the dam.

Charlevoix: Pier anglers reported the channel as very slow right now and no fish being caught. The water was clear and cold.

Traverse City: Fishing in the East Bay was slow. Very few lake herring were caught off Elk Rapids and only the occasional steelhead was caught below the dam. Boat anglers in the West Bay caught lake herring off Bryant Park.

Boardman River: Continues to produce steelhead though catch rates have slowed.

Frankfort: Surf anglers are finding a few lake trout and brown trout.

Onekama: Catch rates were poor for those trolling or surfcasting.

Portage Lake: Fishing was poor as water temperatures are too cold.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Anglers are now targeting panfish but catch rates were slow. Bullheads were the only species that was really biting.

Manistee: Boating activity increased as surface water temperatures were about 44 degrees. A few brown trout and lake trout were caught by boat and pier anglers.

Big Manistee River: Steelhead are still being landed throughout the river with several fresh hens reported but the numbers have been low. Beads, flies, wax worms, spawn and plugs have caught fish. Those looking for suckers had a great time with lots of fish hitting on crawlers near Bear Creek and Rainbow Bend.

Manistee Lake: Bass anglers taking advantage of the "catch-and-immediate-release" season caught some nice smallmouth bass on crankbaits fished along the shorelines and drop-offs. Those targeting perch and panfish in deeper water near Penny Park caught fish when jigging leaf worms but most were small.

Ludington: Surface temperatures were 43 and 45 degrees. Small numbers of lake trout and brown trout were caught a few miles north of the piers.

Pentwater: Steelhead fishing on the piers and in the channel slowed. Boat anglers targeting brown trout and steelhead were trolling in 20 to 30 feet.

Pentwater Lake: Boat anglers are targeting perch and bluegill. Those fishing off Longbridge Road caught smallmouth bass casting lures or still-fishing with crawlers.

UPPER PENINSULA

The east half of the Upper Peninsula still had some ice on the inland lakes north of M-28 and snowpack in the woods. Steelhead can be found in the Black River in Mackinac County, the Two Hearted River, the Sucker River and Au Train River in Alger County or the Chocolate River and the Carp River in Marquette County. Smelt were in the Elm River in Houghton County and there might have been a light run in the Falls River in Baraga County.

Keweenaw Bay: The salmon bite has been up and down but those trolling caught a mix of coho, brown trout, lake trout and splake. Most were trolling from the head of the bay north to just past Sand Point and along the east or west side of the bay 15 to 55 feet down in 20 to 60 feet. Hot colors were orange, green and mixed colors. Those jigging near the Whirl-I-Gig caught lake trout in 250 feet. Pier anglers caught coho, steelhead and splake on spawn, crawlers or cut bait. At the South Portage Entry, those trolling picked up a couple coho and steelhead near the lighthouse. Those jigging for lake trout found fish in 130 to 180 feet at Farmers and Newton's Reef. In Traverse Bay, those jigging for lake trout in waters up to 250 feet deep caught a few fish off Gay Point and Big Louie's Point. Steelhead were caught in the Falls River.

Menominee River: Shore anglers were still catching some walleye and trout from the Hattie Street Dam to Stephenson Island using jigs, spoons and stickbaits. Boat anglers reported low catch rates when trolling or jigging at the mouth.

Little Bay De Noc: All the launches are open and the docks are in. Fair to good perch catches reported just south of the Day's River using wigglers, minnows or crawlers in 18 to 35 feet. A good number of females were still firm with eggs. Good catches were reported along the Kipling Flats and the "Narrows" in 14 to 35 feet. Shore anglers caught a fair number of perch along the walkway at the Rapid River launch. Crawlers and minnows worked best. Shore anglers casting for smallmouth bass reported a few catches along the mouth of the Ford River however it is still a bit early and water temperatures are still quite cold in the low to mid 40's. Boat anglers will need to use caution in some of the shallow areas as there was still some ice floating in those areas.

Big Bay De Noc: The launches were open except for Fayette which should have the dock installed this week. Perch anglers had fair to good catches along the west bank of Garden Bay near the Fish House. Try minnows in five to eight feet. Weekends here can be congested so many will launch in Nahma and cross the Bay instead. The females were firm with eggs. The better catches were in the morning. The next couple weeks should be some good fishing.

Marquette: Anglers fishing the Lower Harbor and trolling spoons around the breakwall and near the mouth of the Chocolate and Carp Rivers caught coho, steelhead, lake trout and brown trout. Those fishing the Upper Harbor caught a few

coho when jigging or casting spoons near the “bubblers”. Water levels were up in the Carp River which made fishing more difficult. Some were starting to use pink and orange spinners but most were using spawn bags.

Au Train: Had good fishing. Those trolling spoons and crankbaits caught some beautiful steelhead and brown trout. The coho fishing was also good for those trolling spoons in Shelter Bay and near the Rock River. A few small splake were also caught. Anglers were starting to catch some lake trout in the deeper waters of Shelter Bay and around Au Train Island. The Rock River was slow with only a few coho taken by those putting in a lot of time.

Munising: Anglers caught Chinook, coho, steelhead, brown trout and splake. While some did well others had no luck. Most were trolling spoons or crankbaits in the upper 20 to 30 feet with high lines. Pier and shore anglers caught the occasional coho, splake or whitefish on crawlers, red worms or spawn.

Grand Marais: Those trolling caught a few coho and steelhead. Pier anglers caught the occasional coho and were using a single egg or red worm for whitefish. Shore anglers caught steelhead on spawn. Suckers were caught off the mouth of the Sucker River. Water temperatures warmed slightly to about 38 degrees near the mouth of the river. No reports of any smelt at this time.

Detour: Had little to no activity as the state marina was still holding a small amount of ice and the docks were not in at the boat launches.

Cedarville and Hessel: Overall, fishing is on the upswing but catch rates were still slow. Boat activity from Hessel picked up with most trolling Hessel Bay and Wilderness Bay but very few splake were caught. Pier anglers did manage to catch a couple nice splake in the 10 pound range however most reported poor results. A couple pike and smallmouth bass were caught in the mix but released due to the seasons being closed. Bass were caught on smelt or minnows under a slip bobber or bodybaits. The Cedarville launch area is finally clear of ice and the Lakeside Road launch is clear of snow. A few boats have gone out but had no luck.

St. Ignace: Anglers were launching boats at the city launch even though the docks were not in and the fish cleaning station was closed. The few boats out caught a couple lake trout when trolling in shallow waters. The Carp River still has steelhead but catch rates remain low due to high water levels. Most were using spawn or spinners. Suckers are starting to show up as well. The trees across the launch at the mouth of the Pine River have been cleared but the dock was not in. A few reports of smelt running in the eastern streams and rivers that typically get a run.

April 28, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Most areas saw inconsistent catch rates as colder temperatures arrived to many parts of the state this week. More and more anglers are heading out, but overall activity has been slow.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Anglers targeting walleye saw good action this week. Those jigging minnows and bucktail jigs or trolling sticks and cranks in bright or chrome colors caught fish in 13 to 20 feet of water. Stoney Point and Turtle Island are remaining hot spots for angler activity. Crawler harnesses are seeing more use and are also catching walleye. White bass catches are slowly increasing and the occasional yellow perch is also being taken. Anglers targeting largemouth bass in the harbors, channels and from shore are catching good numbers. Several crappie have also been taken in the harbors and marinas.

Oakland County: Anglers continue to do well on smallmouth bass in both Union and Cass Lakes. Suspending jerk baits in the sandy shallow flats or blade baits along the deeper end of the drop offs have been producing best. Cass Lake has had good bluegill fishing in the canals and shallow coves. Those using small jigs or hooks tipped with live bait are doing best for pan fish. Good numbers of pike and walleye are being seen in the shallows so it should make for a great opening weekend. Anglers report water temps are between 52 and 57 degrees in most areas.

Lake St. Clair: Pier and channel anglers at the Selfridge launch are still catching pan fish on crawlers and minnows. Boat anglers leaving Selfridge targeting pan fish moved into the canals surrounding the area and caught crappie and perch. Boat anglers fishing around the Harley Ensign launch area caught bluegills and perch as well. These anglers also used minnows and crawlers. On the south end, smallmouth bass fishing proved to be good at Memorial Park, the 400 Club, and at Metro in six to nine feet of water using green, pumpkin and white tube baits. Largemouth bass were also caught at Metro and in the canals with similar lures. Pumpkinseeds and bluegill were caught using crawlers and spikes in the canals around Metro.

Harbor Beach: A few boats have taken mostly lake trout. All along the outside of the thumb, lake trout seem to be stacked along the bottom in 30 to 45 feet of water.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye were being taken in a variety of locations including off Gambil's Marina near Pinconning, off Linwood in 15 to 20 feet of water and off the Bay City State Park in 9 to 15 feet. Others reported walleye catches off the mouth of the Kawkawlin River in 12 to 15 feet, a mile northeast of Spoils Island and out near the Spark Plug Buoys 11 and 12. Walleye were caught off the mouth of the Quanicassee River. Pink and purple lures were productive. Both crankbaits and crawler harnesses were taking fish. Shore anglers in the Saginaw River at Essexville took a few channel cats.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat anglers are finding salmon fishing very inconsistent. There are a few fish spread out from 30 feet of water to well over 100 feet. Pier fishing is slow with only the occasional brown trout caught on spawn. Overall fishing is slow.

South Haven: Boat anglers continue to have good success targeting lake trout. The best fishing seems to be in 45 to 65 feet with cowbells and spin-glo's. Salmon fishing was slow. Pier fishing is also very slow.

Grand River at Lansing: More anglers are heading out but few fish were caught.

Whitehall: Steelhead and brown trout fishing has been slow with very few anglers targeting them off the piers. Walleye continue to be caught off the piers by those using rapalas and plastic swimbaits.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mackinaw City: All docks at the launch are in but there appears to be little or no fishing activity anywhere on Lake Huron.

Cheboygan: One of the docks is in at the launch but the fish cleaning station remains closed. Only a few boats have launched with little or no success. Suckers are starting to move in in large numbers and are being caught by shore anglers.

Cheboygan River: Boat and shore anglers are picking up some steelhead but catch rates remain low. There is a good number of walleye in the river and if they stick around until this weekend the opener should be productive for boat and shore anglers. There have been a few northern pike and smallmouth bass caught incidentally by anglers over the past week as the water warms in the river.

Rogers City: Has very little activity because the weather just hasn't been very good. Best bet is to fish close to shore. Try the harbor at Calcite or Swan Bay. Lakers should be there along with atlantics. Try high-lines off planer boards. Run a mix of spoons and body baits in a variety of colors; such as green, orange, yellow, silver or red. Try them out in 50 to 60 feet of water near the bottom.

Presque Isle: Atlantic salmon are being caught. Good places have been the North Bay and Stoneport. Anglers are trolling boards with spoons and body baits in orange, green, yellow and silver. Lake trout are near the bottom in 100 feet. Silver dodgers or cowbells with spin-glo's are the baits of choice for lake trout.

Alpena: Fishing has been consistent, while water temperatures are fluctuating up and down depending on weather and wind conditions. The fish in Thunder Bay were scattered. Lake trout are in in good numbers along with smallmouth bass. Steelhead are still running the river but not in high numbers. Walleye are limited but a few are being caught. You will have to vary baits accordingly to the conditions being fished.

Harrisville: Fishing is picking up with steelhead, Atlantic salmon and walleye in and around the harbor. Anglers are casting and trolling body baits, small spoons and floating spawn.

Oscoda: Pier fishing is slowly picking up. There are reports of walleye being caught late at night and early morning on body baits in silver, UV and clown. Steelhead are still making their way up river and onto the beds in good numbers. Spawn, fly's, trout beads, spinners and body baits are all producing well.

Tawas: There's been a decent amount of trolling activity in Tawas Bay and to the south with a fair number of walleye caught on crankbaits and crawler harnesses in the bay and off Whitestone Point. Shore and wading anglers casting crankbaits and jigs caught walleye and pike beside the State Police post and also at the mouth of the Tawas River.

Au Gres: Boat anglers were taking a good number of walleye trolling off Point Lookout, off the mouth of the Au Gres River, and off Pointe Au Gres in 10 to 25 feet of water. Shore anglers casting at the mouth of the Au Gres River also took a few walleye and the odd pike.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: The dock is still not in at the Harbor Springs boat launch. A few lake trout were picked up west of Harbor Point.

Petoskey: There are not a lot of boat anglers going out at this time. The few that were targeting brown trout and steelhead were staying close to shore and covering the area from the break wall to the Bay View area. Anglers were catching lake trout out deeper, around 80 feet down near the bottom. Spoons were working well.

Bear River: Steelhead fishing was very slow and there were still a lot of suckers at the dam and the mouth. Anglers were steelhead fishing with spawn and flies. Hopefully the recent rain has coaxed a fresh batch of steelhead into the area. Not much was happening at the breakwall over the past weekend. A few small northern pike were caught off the river dock and suckers remained in the area.

Traverse City: Although not as productive as the previous week, anglers fishing cisco continue to catch fish off of Bryant Park on the West Bay. Cisco anglers on East bay have had limited success off of Dock Road. Boat anglers targeting lake trout have had success trolling the southern end of the West bay.

Boardman River: Steelhead fishing has been slow but a few were taken along with the occasional brown trout.

Frankfort: Boat anglers trolling bright colored spoons along the beach have caught lake trout and brown trout. A few fish were caught off the Elberta Pier. Surf casters were using spawn bags.

Portage Lake: Anglers caught a few perch from the outlet channel.

Manistee Lake: Reported excellent catches fishing in front of Solberg's Marina. Anglers were jigging wax worms or crawlers off the bottom in 15 to 20 feet of water. Yellow perch bites were slow but anglers still landed a few fish in the deeper waters near Penny Park. Bass anglers were picking up smallmouth around the docks.

Big Manistee River: Tippy Dam is still producing steelhead both fresh and drop backs and a few small brown trout. Fish were hitting on a wide range of spawn, lures, yarn, beads, spinners and wobble glows. Sucker anglers have been landing a few in Bear Creek and the Rainbow Bend area on crawlers.

Pentwater: Pier fishing has been slow, but boat anglers had success trolling for lake trout in 40 feet.

Pentwater Lake: Boat and shore anglers were catching black crappie and yellow perch using jigs tipped with wax worms or perch rigs tipped with minnows.

UPPER PENINSULA

Little Bay De Noc: Perch anglers reported good to excellent catches off the Center and Third Reefs when using minnows or wigglers in 25 to 35 feet. Best area was between the Day's River and the Vagabond Resort towards the east bank. Several limits were reported. Smallmouth bass anglers shore fishing on the Ford River and reported fair to good catches casting spinners, cranks or plastics. Those fly fishing caught a couple steelhead up near the 1st Dam on the Escanaba River.

Big Bay De Noc: The Garden Bay perch fishery has peaked with good to excellent catches reported near the Fishery on the west bank using minnows or crawlers in 5 to 8 feet. Mostly females are being caught with at least a quarter of them spent. Water temperatures in both bays remain quite cold in the low to mid 40s. A few anglers have targeted smallmouth bass near Ogontz abut catch rates were spotty when using plastics or spinners in 12 to 14 feet. The Fayette launch still doesn't have the dock in yet but should soon.

Marquette: Overall fishing was moderate. Boat anglers at the upper harbor are trolling for coho and kings around the breakwall with spoons. Some boat anglers were jigging at the “Bubblers” but few had success. Fishing picked up in the lower harbor with boat anglers trolling for coho around the breakwater and at the mouth of the Carp River. There are a couple commercial nets out in the lower harbor near the Sand bar so be aware of net buoys. Steelhead fishing in the Carp River and the few caught had already spawned. A few coho and brook trout were caught using spawn and artificial spinners.

Au Train: Fishing was good with most trolling spoons and crankbaits in Shelter Bay for coho. A few limits were taken. Coho were caught in areas near the Rock and the Au Train River mouths as well. Also, brown trout, steelhead and few king salmon have been reported by boat anglers trolling in Shelter Bay and surrounding areas. Shore anglers fishing the Rock River caught a few coho on artificial spinners and spawn.

Munising: Boat anglers had mixed results. Those trolling had little success for coho and splake. Boat anglers trolling near Trout Bay and the surrounding area had a little more success with a few limit catches reported. Most anglers targeting coho were trolling along the banks in less than 50 feet of water. Shore and pier anglers had a slow week catching only an occasional Menominee, splake or whitefish on spawn or worms.

Grand Marais: Fishing picked up and a few boat anglers reported limit catches of coho with the occasional steelhead. Water temperatures are currently in the mid to upper 30s. There were reports of good smelt runs in nearby creeks. Action for whitefish on the pier has gotten better with a few limit catches. Most whitefish are running small averaging around 13 to 14 inches. A few suckers have been caught off the pier. Menominee were caught on a single egg or wax worm.

St. Mary's River: Drummond Island this past weekend reported better catches of yellow perch in Scott Bay. Some anglers had success still-fishing and drifting with minnows and worms along the very north side of Scott Bay where abandoned weeds and old cattails are bent over in the water. In Maxton Bay the perch are running in the 7 to 9 inch class with a few 10 inch fish being caught in between the DNR access site and the old Sportsman Club Pointe when still-fishing and drifting with Perch Spreaders tipped with minnows. There was not much fishing effort at Raber Bay or Lime Island. Moving up the St. Mary's River to Lake George on the east side of Sugar Island off Hay Bay in 30 feet of water, there are reports of yellow perch in the 9 to 11 inch class. Shiners seemed to work best for perch in Lake George.

Detour: Still had little to no activity as the docks were still not in.

Cedarville and Hessel: The Cedarville launch is open with the first couple boats launching this past weekend. There were vague reports that some yellow perch were being caught. The Lakeside Road launch is open but seeing very little activity. Overall, fishing activity is on the quick upswing with warmer weather though catch rates have remained slow in general.

Hessel boat activity has picked up significantly. Reports are of most boats trolling in Hessel Bay and Wilderness Bay had slow results. Splake were zero for 2 after fishing long hours and pier fishing for splake was slow. Most are using slip bobbers with smelt or minnows.

St. Ignace: One dock has been put in at the launch but there is little to no fishing activity. The fish cleaning station remains closed. Catch rates for steelhead were higher in the Carp River as warmer water moved some fresh fish in. Water levels were still high. Suckers are starting to show up in good numbers. The smelt runs in the eastern Upper Peninsula streams appears to be winding down or pretty much over.

May 5, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Bass fishing continues to improve as water temperatures warm. The trout opener was off to a slow start but anglers did manage to catch some brook and brown trout on the inland streams. Cooler temperatures to the north have resulted in slow catch rates for panfish.

Need a gift for that special someone this Mother's Day? Why not buy them a 2016 Michigan fishing license? (And then take them fishing this Sunday!)

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Catch rates for walleye and angling effort were lower this past week. Cooler temperatures, easterly winds, and turbid water have kept some away but those using hair jigs with or without minnows and blade baits have caught some fish. Anglers did best near Stony Point, La Plaisance Bay and the Dumping Grounds with crawler harnesses and Erie Dearies. Hot colors were chrome, purple and fire-tiger. Those targeting largemouth and smallmouth bass had good catches with a jig and tube combos. Largemouth bass, white bass and channel cats were caught in Plum Creek.

Oakland County: Bass fishing remains on both lakes. A couple smallmouth were seen bedding in the shallow flats. Try jerk baits in the shallows or lipless crank baits in deeper water. Bluegills are still being caught in the canals and coves. No crappie but anglers continue to look for them. A few walleye and pike were caught.

Lake St. Clair: There has been very little fishing pressure on the north end. The catch and immediate release bass season is in full swing in waters four to 10 feet deep along the Mile Roads, near Selfridge and the Salt River. Purple and green were the hot colors. These anglers also caught sizable pike. Perch and sunfish were still being caught on crawlers near the Clinton River cutoff launch. Bluegills and pumpkinseed have been caught in the canals and marinas.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was good in the Marine City and Algonac areas where jigging during the day and whipping after dark produced the best. A few trout and salmon continue to show up throughout the river as the water temperature remains in the low 40's.

Lexington: Fishing picked up with anglers taking many lake trout along with a mix of Atlantic salmon, steelhead, Chinook and coho. Most were caught in 35 to 45 feet but some boats in search of bigger fish were heading out as deep as 80 to 100 feet. Body baits and spoons were the ticket. Pier fishing was slow.

Harbor Beach: Limits of lake trout are being taken north and straight out of the harbor. Anglers are using dodgers with spin-glo's or clean spoons just off the bottom in 35 to 80 feet. Hot colors were white and froggie dodgers with white and pink dots or bright yellow with green and orange spin-glo's. Fish were also taken on green, blue and perch colored spoons. Some salmon and steelhead were caught 30 to 55 feet down on black and orange, green, white or yellow spoons.

Saginaw Bay: With eight straight days of moderate to strong northeast winds, fishing was pretty much a bust but was starting to improve as the winds die down. Those that did head out managed to catch very few walleye. Shore fishing was slow.

Tittabawassee River: Had walleye but with the late opener, a lot of the fish had already left the river and the harvest was dominated by small males. Walleye fishing here will taper off quickly over the next several days as the fish continue to drop downstream. The better fishing was between midnight and 10 am. A few limit catches were reported and most boats had some fish but a few were skunked. The better fishing was in the lower river near the Center Road launch and good upstream as far as Imerman Park but tapered off upstream from there. Those fishing near the Dow Dam were catching and releasing a lot of smallmouth bass. Fishing around Freeland was so-so. The best bait was an orange jighead with a shiner but those casting or trolling crank baits also took fish.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

The inland lakes are producing some bluegills and crappie. The yellow perch bite was good but now the fish are just about done spawning.

St. Joseph: Pier fishing is very slow for all species. Boat anglers targeting salmon are catching a few coho and lake trout in waters up to 60 feet deep but a few fish were found in 100 feet or deeper. Spoons work best. No perch to report.

South Haven: Lake trout fishing continues to be very good in 45 to 65 feet with cowbells and spin-glo's. Pier fishing was very slow. No perch to report.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead fishing has slowed as the run is pretty much over. Anglers have caught a few bass, some panfish and lots of suckers.

Grand Haven: Coho were caught on bright colored spoons and flasher/fly combos 50 to 150 feet down in 180 to 260 feet. Those trolling near the pier heads found a mix of coho, Chinook and brown trout. Boat anglers reported the yellow perch action as hit-or-miss. Pier fishing was slow.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Walleye and channel cats have been caught below the 6th Street Dam. The catch and immediate release bass season has been good with a fair number of smallmouth caught.

Rogue River: Was still producing the occasional steelhead. A couple brown trout were caught opening weekend.

Muskegon: Pier fishing for brown trout was slow. Those out trolling 30 to 140 feet down in 180 to 240 feet found some coho salmon. Try orange spoons up higher and flasher/fly combos down deep.

Muskegon River: Still had some steelhead on the gravel but the run is winding down for the most part.

Whitehall: Had few anglers targeting steelhead and brown trout from the piers. Walleye anglers were still taking fish after sunset with countdown rapalas, plastic swimbaits, or jigs with plastics or minnows.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan: The fish cleaning station was still closed however the docks are in and the ramps are open. Fishing activity remains very light.

Cheboygan River: Is producing good numbers of steelhead, suckers and walleye. Steelhead were caught on spawn, jigs and worms. Walleye were hitting on jigs, crawlers and stick baits. Suckers were caught on crawlers and spawn. Northern pike and smallmouth bass are also in the river.

Rogers City: The marina is open and all the docks are in. When anglers can get out, a few lake trout were caught along the shoreline in shallow waters and out to waters 60 feet deep with high-lines. Out deep, fish the bottom with cowbells or dodgers with a spin-glo. Hot spots were Swan Bay or Adams Point. Atlantic salmon should start showing up anytime so try Swan Bay, Calcite Harbor or the breakwall with bright colored spoons and body baits. Good colors to try are orange, silver, green, chartreuse or yellow.

Presque Isle: Atlantic salmon were caught in the North Bay, directly out of the harbor and near Stoneport. Try spoons and body baits in green, silver, orange, and yellows. Lake trout were caught north of the marina between the two lighthouses in 20 to 90 feet with dodgers or cowbells and spin-glo's just off the bottom.

Alpena: Boat anglers trolling for lake trout and walleye in Thunder Bay had limited success. Bass anglers are doing well in the shallows.

Thunder Bay River: Steelhead are still moving up the dam and have been caught while drifting spawn and trout beads or casting small spoons and spinners.

Oscoda: Pier fishing is starting to pick up as those casting late at night have caught walleye and lake trout on spoons, body baits and stick baits. A couple steelhead and Atlantic salmon were caught on minnows in the early morning or evening.

Tawas: Pier anglers took a couple walleye when casting body baits. Walleye and pike were taken off the mouth of the river.

Au Gres: A couple boats did get out and caught walleye in 10 to 25 feet between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres. Shore anglers caught a couple of pike near the mouth of the river.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: The breakwall remains slow with very few anglers out and about.

Bear River: Water levels were a bit high and steelhead fishing was slow. The few taken were at the dam or in the rapids between the bridges below the dam. Spawn bags worked best. Suckers were still in the river but the number of fish was down from last week.

Charlevoix: There were a few boats out targeting lake trout in the early morning. Those that fished the earliest did best at both North and South Point with spoons. The fish were suspended from 30 to 40 feet down in 40 to 60 feet.

Traverse City: In the East Bay, cisco's were caught along the east side of Old Mission Peninsula. Those trolling have also caught lake trout. The steelhead run below the dam in Elk Rapids remains very slow. In the West Bay, catch rates for lake trout increased for those trolling.

Boardman River: Trout anglers had more success catching brown trout than steelhead; as the run has really slowed. The few that have been caught were taken in the early morning.

Frankfort: Had slow fishing. Those trolling in the harbor or the surf have caught lake trout and brown trout on spoons and plugs.

Portage Lake: Had slow fishing with only a few perch taken on minnows over near the outlet.

Manistee: Surface water temperatures were about 46 degrees. Pier anglers were still picking up a few perch. No big numbers but a few walleye were caught between the piers. The number of boat anglers is starting to increase.

Manistee Lake: Both large and smallmouth bass fishing were slow throughout the lake. Those that did manage to catch a few fish were working the drop-offs and the deeper shorelines with crank baits or rubber worms.

Big Manistee River: Anglers have been steadily landing steelhead up near Tippy Dam and fresh fish were still moving in. Most were hitting on fly's, beads, spawn and yarn. Chartreuse was the hot color. Anglers are still catching some white suckers however the redhorse suckers are moving in.

Ludington: Had surface water temperatures about 48 degrees. Pier anglers were getting few trout but those fishing outside the piers were taking a good number of lake trout. The restrooms by the north pier are now open.

Pere Marquette River: Reported good catches of brown trout. Steelhead fishing continues but once the warm weather hits, it will wind down quickly.

Pentwater: Pier fishing remains slow but water clarity has improved. Some reported catching walleye at night and in the early morning when casting rapalas and swimbaits. Those trolling in 30 to 70 feet between the piers and Juniper Beach have caught lake trout.

Pentwater Lake: Anglers are starting to target northern pike and walleye with live bait or when casting and trolling rapalas. Boat and shore anglers targeting perch and crappie had limited success. A few brown trout and pike were caught in the channel on shiners.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those trolling found the bite to be up and down. When the bite is on, anglers caught mostly coho mixed with steelhead, brown trout, lake trout, splake, and Chinook. They were trolling 25 to 45 feet down in 30 to 70 feet with spoons and body baits in a variety of colors. Trolling speeds were between 1.9 and 2.3 mph. The occasional steelhead was still being caught in the Falls River. A mix of trout and salmon were caught off the rock dock near the L'Anse Marina. Those jigging for Lake Whitefish had good success when jigging east of the Baraga Marina in 80 to 95 feet. In Traverse Bay, lake trout were caught between Big Louie's, Gay Point and Five Mile Reef when trolling in 130 to 150 feet. Those jigging for lake trout did well near Black Point, Gay Point and Big Louie's Point in 145 to 240 feet.

Little Bay De Noc: Perch anglers are still reporting fair to good catches in 22 to 35 feet between the Center and the Third Reefs when using minnows and crawlers. Perch were caught in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor but many were small. Most were using crawlers when casting from shore or fishing around the docks. Smallmouth bass anglers reported fair catches around the mouth of the Ford River when casting spinners or plastics along the rocks and off the banks. Water temperatures have increased to the low 50's so the bass activity should pick up.

Big Bay De Noc: Perch fishing in Garden Bay has slowed even though anglers were still marking good numbers of fish. Most were males or spent females. Anglers have switched to crawlers and fishing the west bank. Smallmouth anglers fishing the South River Bay area reported a few catches.

Munising: Boat anglers did poorly trolling for coho within the bay. Reports say a few Chinook were caught with quality fish up to 10 pounds. Boats did better near Trout Bay and the surrounding areas in less than 40 feet. Pier anglers caught a few splake up to 19 inches when using spawn.

Grand Marais: Pier anglers report mixed results for whitefish with most catching only a few over several hours of fishing. Boat anglers did well for coho salmon when trolling east of the Sucker River in shallow water 15 feet or less. Coho and steelhead were also caught. Water temperatures warmed to 40 degrees and warmer.

St. Mary's River: Fishing over the last week was slow up and down the river. Water temperature is averaging 43 degrees in most areas. The Ashman Bay boat launch above the Soo Locks is a great place to launch and go fish for yellow perch in the shipping channel. A few have been caught at the green # 8 buoy in 30 to 35 feet with perch rigs and shiners. There was some effort by those still-fishing for coho and rainbow trout near the Cloverland Electric Power Plant but no fish were caught. Most were drifting spawn bags or casting three-inch spoons. Lake George on the east side of Sugar Island has been producing some yellow perch off Hay Point in 40 to 50 feet with perch rigs and shiners. The fish were running seven and a half to 10 inches and some still had eggs. Bay Dewausi off Lake Nicolet has not had any fishing effort for the past four weeks. Water levels have been rising for the past three years in this bay, so it might be productive for yellow perch if anglers wanted to try fishing it once again. Raber Bay has not seen much fishing effort. Those looking for perch might want to try the north side up to Fisherman's Pointe in four to eight feet while drifting minnows along the abandoned weed beds because water temperatures here seem to be warming up faster.

Detour: Still had no angler activity. The docks were in at the ramp near the marina but the DNR launch had no docks in yet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Boat anglers in Cedarville had fair to good success for yellow perch. Anglers were putting in significant time catching between five and 10 fish per hour and sorting out the small ones. Recently, worms were better than minnows when fishing near shore around the docks and other structure. Hessel had good splake fishing for those using smelt with slip bobbers and fishing right off the bottom. Early morning was best. Yellow perch moved in around the marina docks at Hessel but anglers were frustrated as they could see the fish but they would not bite. Worms were a bit better than minnows. The fish range eight to 11 inches. A couple pike were caught by those trolling.

St. Ignace: The fish cleaning station remains closed and angler activity remains light. The Carp River still has a good number of steelhead being caught on spawn. Suckers are still present as well.

May 12, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The season to take walleye, northern pike and muskellunge for all Upper Peninsula waters including the Great Lakes, inland waters and St. Mary's River will open on Sunday, May 15. Cooler temperatures may slow catch rates.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Catch rates for walleye increased as did the activity at Stony Point and Brest Bay. Most were trolling or drifting crawler harnesses or crank baits such as reef runners, husky jerks or shad raps in 16 to 25 feet. Hot-n-Tots also caught fish. Chartreuse, fire-tiger and purple were the hot colors. Shore anglers at the Pointe Mouillee access site reported decent catches of largemouth bass. Channel cats and bullhead were caught on chicken livers. Shore anglers at the Swan Creek access site caught channel cats, bullhead and the occasional yellow perch on crawlers.

Detroit River: Had good walleye fishing. Anglers were trolling or jigging Wyandotte worms and walleye minnows. The white bass are starting to show up and were caught off the pier in Wyandotte. **Attention Anglers:** The DNR will be collecting muskellunge eggs during the month of May. As a safety precaution, anglers should avoid coming close to the electro-fishing boat during the nighttime shocking work. When the generator is running and boat's flood lights are on, staff are collecting fish while using electricity near the boat and want to make sure the public stays clear of the electric field.

Oakland County: Bass anglers continue to do well on both lakes when fishing along the flats. A few pike and walleye were caught by those casting or trolling body baits along the drop-offs. Those looking for panfish should try the canals and river mouths. Try a small jig tipped with a minnow or worm under a bobber. Surface water temperatures were between 55 and 59 degrees.

Lake St. Clair: Anglers caught large and smallmouth bass in seven feet along the shoreline. Most fish were caught south of the Clinton River Cutoff launch and near the mouth of the Detroit River on crankbaits. Dark green and crayfish were good colors. Those targeting perch and panfish did best in the canals just north of the Clinton River Cutoff launch. Crawlers seemed to work best producing more bluegills and sunfish than perch. On the north end, some large and smallmouth bass were caught around the Metro Park and just north of the Selfridge launch when using X-

rap and jerk baits along the walls in three to six feet. Tube baits in green/pumpkin or smoke/purple also did well. These anglers also caught a few pike. Panfish were caught in the canals around Selfridge and Fairhaven by those using red and chartreuse jigs in seven feet.

St. Clair River: Had lots of anglers targeting walleye but catch rates slowed.

Lexington: Lake trout were caught by those trolling spoons and body baits in 20 to 40 feet. Success for coho, Chinook, steelhead and pink salmon was sporadic. Those heading out deeper were looking for bigger fish. Pier anglers casting and fishing with minnows caught the occasional trout, perch or bullhead.

Port Sanilac: Was also giving up light numbers of trout and salmon in shallow waters 20 to 40 feet deep. Spoons and body baits worked best. Pier anglers caught the occasional coho, steelhead, walleye or white bass.

Harbor Beach: A few salmon were taken on spoons 30 to 55 feet down in 30 to 80 feet straight out and north of the harbor. Best colors were still orange, green, blue, and the yellow tail. Try some 3, 5, and 10 color lines with offshore boards as well. Some limits of lake trout are being taken straight out and north of the harbor in 60 to 100 feet. Try dodgers with spin-glo's or clean spoons on the bottom. Hot colors were bright yellow, green and orange spin-glo's or green, blue and perch colored spoons. Walleye were caught off the north wall when the winds were calm.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye were caught on crawler harnesses in six to eight feet at Pinconning, in 18 feet just west of the Spark Plug and near the Dumping Grounds. On the east side, anglers had difficulty trolling because of the wind. Those bowfishing in the Quanicassee River picked up a few carp. Catch rates were inconsistent at Sebewaing. Caseville had little activity.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers fishing off Smith Park in Essexville caught freshwater drum and catfish on crawlers.

Tittabawassee River: A few walleye were caught on jigs and twisters tipped with minnows and crawlers near the State Street Bridge. White bass were also caught.

Flint River: Was producing good numbers of crappie.

Shiawassee River: The full blown white bass spawn is on with many limit catches of very large white bass being taken. Pike were also caught. Carp are also in spawning mode in all the flooded grassy areas off the Shiawassee and Bad Rivers.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Panfish activity picked up on the inland lakes in most counties. The fish were starting to move to shallow water. On sunny days, check out the warm shallows for crappie and bluegills. Pike have been caught in Gun Lake. Bass fishing was slow in Barry County.

St. Joseph: Pier fishing was very slow. Boat anglers were catching a few salmon and trout inside of 90 feet but some were in well over 100 feet and hitting on spoons.

South Haven: Pier fishing was very slow. Boat anglers continue to do well when targeting lake trout in 45 to 65 feet with cowbells and spin-glo's. Perch were slow.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead fishing is pretty much over however anglers will find bass, bluegills and suckers.

Grand Haven: Coho were caught 25 to 150 feet down in 160 to 260 feet. Bright colored spoons are working well in the upper water column. Those trolling near the pierheads are finding coho, Chinook and a few brown trout. Pier fishing was slow.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Few have been out but those fishing below the dams have caught some walleye. Anglers should smallmouth bass and suckers.

Grand River at Lansing: Those fishing upstream of Moore's Park have caught smallmouth bass and bluegills. Walleye have been caught below any of the area dams. Pike were noted below the North Lansing Dam. Crappie were caught near the Waverly Road Bridge however anglers need a boat to reach the fish here.

Muskegon: Boats are catching coho from the surface down to 150 feet in 180 to 260 feet. Orange spoons or body baits worked best up high while green or white flies did better in the deeper water.

Muskegon River: While the steelhead fishing is pretty much done, those fly fishing have caught some nice brown trout.

Whitehall: Pier anglers continue to catch walleye. Try casting rapalas or plastic swimbaits right at sunset and after. Perch and fire-tiger patterns seem to be good.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Walleye were being caught in the inland lakes including Black, Burt, Otsego and Hubbard. Suckers are being caught in almost every river connected to Lake Huron.

Cheboygan: The fish cleaning station as well as the restrooms were still closed at the city marina. Lake trout anglers heading out did catch some fish in waters less than 50 feet deep between Cheboygan and Bois Blanc Island. Most are trolling spoons and spin-glo's.

Cheboygan River: The walleye bite was fairly good with some doing very well while others were skunked. Most were casting crankbaits, drifting crawlers or jigging with minnows or plastics. A couple pike, smallmouth bass and Atlantic salmon were also caught. The steelhead bite has slowed however the sucker run is in full swing and fish have been caught everywhere.

Mullett Lake: Those targeting smallmouth bass averaged 10 fish per person in eight hours of fishing. Silver blade baits or white and gray swim baits with white jig heads seemed to work best in five to 15 feet along the rocky points and bays.

Ocqueoc River: Is producing some steelhead.

Rogers City: Surface temperatures were finally reaching the mid-40s. Boat anglers were fishing the water coming out of the Trout River just north of the harbor. Most were high-lining with cowbells and spin-glo's in 12 to 20 feet. Try fishing Forty Mile Point or south towards Swan Bay and Adams Point in 12 to 60 feet with dodgers or cowbells with spin-glo's. A few Atlantic salmon were seen in the marina. Try casting bright colored spoons like orange and green or bobber fishing with minnows.

Presque Isle: Has been producing some really nice Atlantic salmon with the better fishing south towards Stoneport. Run lines off boards and away from the boat. Good lures were spoons and body baits in orange and green, orange and silver or gold or just plain orange. Lake trout were caught near the bottom in 20 to 80 feet between the lighthouses. These fish seem to be scattered.

Grand Lake: Has sporadically continued to produce a decent number of walleye and jumbo perch. The walleye were 17 to 21 inches.

Montmorency County: Long Lake was producing a few walleye. Grass Lake was producing small catches of some nice panfish at dusk.

Alpena: Those searching for walleye in the bay had limited success. Anglers have been trying everything but no takers. Lake trout should still be in close as surface waters temperatures were still around 50 degrees.

Thunder Bay River: Still has a good number of steelhead but slow catch rates.

Oscoda: Pier fishing slowed. Walleye anglers had very limited success as it seems the fish have not made it up from the bay in big numbers yet. Those that did catch fish were casting body baits, twister tails or small spoons. Lake trout are still being caught off the pier head but in limited numbers while still-fishing with minnows or casting body baits.

Au Sable River: Had decent action with fish still on the beds. Steelhead were in the deeper holes like the Whirl Pool, High Banks, and the Meat Hole. Try spawn, beads, spinners, flies, and small spoons. Brown trout fishing was very good.

Higgins Lake: Boat anglers are getting a few lake trout in 80 to 100 feet and some fish were six to eight pounds. A couple rainbow trout were caught off Big Creek in 30 to 35 feet. No perch to report yet.

Houghton Lake: Had good walleye action. The fish were found next to the weed beds in eight feet. Crappie are just about done in the canals and the bluegills were starting to move in. Try minnows or worms.

Tawas: A few walleye were caught near the wall when trolling. Those working the drop-off in 20 to 25 feet had sporadic catch rates for Chinook, steelhead and walleye off Alabaster and the Singing Bridge. Pier anglers picked up a few Atlantic salmon.

Tawas River: A few walleye, carp and bass were caught behind the Police Post.

Au Gres: Those trolling for walleye got a few fish off Whitestone Point, Point Au Gres and the mouth of the river in 15 to 25 feet. They used crawlers and body baits.

Au Gres River: Anglers were getting a few perch and some catfish on crawlers and stink bait.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Several of the local lakes in Lake, Manistee and Mason Counties had good bluegill action. Target the shallow bays and inlets.

Petoskey: Most of the boats heading out have done well for lake trout between the water treatment plant and Bay Harbor or when trolling towards the State Park. At Bay Harbor, anglers did well with spoons about halfway down in 70 to 80 feet while further east the fish were in 25 to 40 feet. Pier fishing remains slow.

Bear River: Water levels were high and steelhead fishing was slow even though some fish could still be seen jumping at the falls. The few caught were at the dam or the rapids between the bridges that are below the dam. Spawn bags and flies worked best. There are still some suckers, some chubs and some brown trout up at the dam. The mouth was slow for bigger fish but anglers could see a lot of small browns that were stocked a couple weeks ago.

Charlevoix: Had a few boats out targeting lake trout. Those that fished earliest did best. Lake trout were caught on spoons 30 to 40 feet down in 40 to 60 feet at both North and South Point. Walleye anglers are fishing the channel at dusk.

Lake Charlevoix: The fish cleaning station at the Ferry Beach launch is now open. Anglers have caught some walleye.

Torch Lake: Boat anglers have caught lake trout on the south end. Suckers moved into the Torch River and those fishing them had good success.

Traverse City: Cisco fishing was great in the East Bay. Boats are launching off M-37 and heading north. Those targeting steelhead reported a small push of fish in Elk Rapids where a few were caught on spawn. Lake trout have been caught on both bays by those trolling in deep water.

Boardman River: Remains slow for steelhead however a few were still being caught along with a fair to good number of brown trout. Sucker fishing has been good for those using crawlers or leaf worms.

Frankfort: Fishing has improved. Those fishing off the north pier on the harbor side caught some nice brown trout on spawn bags especially when there is a south wind. Those trolling to the south picked up lake trout and brown trout in 25 to 50 feet on bright colored spoons that are typically used for steelhead. Lake trout were caught on the east side of Platte Bay when using spoons.

Portage Lake: Had good largemouth bass fishing in the shallows.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Walleye have been caught by those fishing at night. Walleye and bullhead were caught in the canal between the two lakes. Rapalas and crawlers were the ticket. The crappie bite was on with a good number of fish caught in the shallow coves of Lake Mitchell. The bluegill action was still slow but lots of bass were caught and released.

Manistee: Surface water temperatures were about 47 degrees. Small numbers of brown trout and Chinook salmon are being caught outside the pier. Walleye are being caught in the channel and between the piers.

Big Manistee River: Anglers caught some walleye with the largest reported at 30 inches. Fish were still being caught even after rain muddied the river.

Ludington: Had surface temperatures of 49 degrees. The city fish cleaning station is now open. Good numbers of lake trout are still being caught outside the piers. Small numbers of Chinook salmon are starting to show up.

Pentwater: Anglers targeting lake trout in 50 to 70 feet had limited success. There have been reports of walleye being caught from the piers after sunset using deep-diving body baits or plastic swimbaits.

Pentwater Lake: Anglers are targeting bluegill and crappie in 10 to 20 feet. Look for drop-offs near spawning areas. Some are targeting northern pike while trolling or still-fishing with live or dead shiners.

UPPER PENINSULA

Ontonagon: Boat anglers trolling west of the river mouth caught coho, lake trout and Atlantic salmon.

Lake Antoine: In Dickinson County was starting to produce decent numbers of perch. Some of the boundary water lakes and floodings were producing good size crappie.

Menominee River: Walleye were caught near the Hattie Street Dam when using live bait or casting small spoons and stick baits. Those trolling for walleye reported slow catch rates.

Little Bay De Noc: Perch anglers are still reporting catches south of the Day's River. Spawning is pretty much over as the females are spent. Anglers were using minnows or crawlers in and around 34 feet. Smallmouth bass were caught in the Ford

River in six to 14 feet and near Garth Point in four to 12 feet. Most were casting plastics, spinners or crankbaits. No beds were reported even though the fish appear to be staging for the spawn. The walleye opener looks good as water temperatures have increased to the low to mid 50's. The mouth of the Whitefish River and south to Third Reef should be good areas considering the cool spring. The mouth of the Ford River to Breezy Point could also be good as walleye exit the Ford River.

Big Bay De Noc: The perch run in Garden is almost over. Most of the fish caught now were small. Try minnows or crawlers in and around eight feet in front of the Fishery on the west bank. A few smallmouth bass were caught in the South River area but the better fishing was near Ogontz when using plastics, spinners and crankbaits in eight to 14 feet. The walleye opener here may be like it was two years ago. Try up by the Ogontz River in eight feet. Some of the walleye may be late exiting the river making this a hot spot. Try the head of the Bay between the Fish Dam Rivers, Valentine Creek and the "Boot".

Marquette: Surface water temperatures were 38 degrees. Anglers trolling spoons, jigging or casting for trout and salmon did catch a few brown trout near Shot Point. Lake trout were caught near the Chocolay River, a few miles north of the breakwall in the Lower Harbor and near Partridge Island in 130 to 170 feet. Very few Chinook salmon were caught by those trolling north of the breakwall. Fishing on the Carp River has slowed. Anglers had no luck with spawn so they were switching to artificial baits and spinners which landed a few brook trout.

Deer Lake: In Marquette County is catch-and-release and artificial baits only. Anglers fishing from designated shore areas caught walleye ranging 13 to 18 inches and a few pike up to 24 inches on crankbaits in various colors. Those jigging caught walleye and pike on the north end near the dam.

Munising: Catch rates were fair. Pier anglers on Anna River reported slow fishing with only the occasional splake taken on a single egg. Those trolling the bay did manage to catch some coho and a few Chinook. Some smaller Chinook salmon in the 16 to 18 inch range with no clips were also caught. Surface water temperatures remain in the low 40's.

Grand Marais: Pier anglers targeting whitefish reported slow catch rates. Some did catch the occasional coho or steelhead. Most were using a single egg or spawn with artificial baits. Boat anglers were limited due to windy conditions but on days when they could get out, good catches of coho including some limits were reported. A couple nice Chinook over 10 pounds and the occasional steelhead were also caught.

Two Hearted River: Steelhead anglers were having good success.

St. Mary's River: Above the Soo Locks, perch were caught in 30 feet near the green #8 buoy just out from Sherman Park. Anglers can access the water above the Freighter Locks off West Portage Street just past the International Bridge. Anglers wanting to target yellow perch should try Lake George on the east side of Sugar Island. In Raber Bay, a few yellow perch were caught at Carlton Creek in four to eight feet with shiners and worms. Look for perch along the north shoreline in the bay. Try four to six feet just off the cattails and old weed beds. The perch run slowed

in Maxton Bay which is off Drummond Island. A few small reports of perch came from Scott Bay when fishing around the docks and old weed beds.

Detour: Had very little fishing effort. A couple lake trout were caught south of the lighthouse in 80 feet when trolling spin-glo's or yellow and black spotted four inch spoons. Water in the lower river was stained from run-off.

Cedarville and Hessel: In Cedarville, boat angling effort for perch slowed some but anglers were still targeting structure in and around the marina. Hessel saw more angling effort due to the continued presence of perch inside the marina. Seeing them kept anglers interested but the fish did not want to bite. Those using wigglers and mousies seemed to catch more fish than those using minnows but many were throw backs. A few suckers also moved in. Splake were still cruising the marina and a couple were caught.

St. Ignace: The fish cleaning station remains closed but the restrooms are now open. A few boats have done well lake trout fishing near Bois Blanc Island and decent near St. Ignace when trolling spoons or spin-glo's. Steelhead action in the Carp River was slowing and the sucker bite was fairly slow. Anglers were moving upstream to target steelhead. A few pike, brook trout and brown trout were caught.

May 19, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in the Northern Lower and the Upper Peninsula were still on the cold side but with much warmer weather in the forecast, anglers should start catching fish.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Even with the rain, wind and cold temperatures anglers were going home with a couple walleye. Most were fishing near Stony Point, Brest Bay, and La Plaisance Bay when trolling spoons, crawler harnesses, and crankbaits or drifting bottom bouncers. Purples, pinks, and fire-tiger are still good colors. Walleye were caught in 18 to 25 feet but a few were found in shallower water. A few walleye were caught by those trolling crawler harnesses near the Banana Dike. Those targeting smallmouth bass in La Plaisance Bay had good catches in 10 to 15 feet while casting or jigging tube baits. Shore anglers fishing the lagoons of Sterling State Park caught channel cats on crawlers and some crappie when floating a jig and minnow.

Huron River: Anglers were still picking up the occasional steelhead however the majority of fish were on their way out. Anglers will find lots of white bass and smallmouth bass in the river.

Detroit River: Anglers are still getting some walleye but the white bass are in thick and that makes it harder to get your line down. A fair to good number of perch were caught around the docks and marinas however many were throw backs.

Oakland County: The last blast of cold weather caused some of the bass on Cass and Union Lake to pull off the beds temporarily. With the warmer temperatures, bass are still being caught along the shallow flats in both lakes. Those doing best were casting hard jerk baits or crayfish imitations. Cass Lake had a few good panfish catches in the canals and shallow coves.

Lake St. Clair: Cooler temperatures slowed the smallmouth bite in the south end of the lake but a few were caught in eight to 10 feet on chartreuse tube baits. Those fishing the bays, canals and off the banks did fairly well for largemouth bass with black and green jig-n-pigs or jerk baits. A good number of pike were taken on chartreuse tube baits. Fair to good numbers of panfish could be seen along the shoreline on the left side as you leave the Clinton River cutoff launch. Anglers caught

crappie, bluegill and sunfish on crawlers and minnows. On the north end, bass anglers were targeting the Metro Park and the Mile Roads. Smallmouth were caught just north of the Harley Ensign launch in five or six feet. Anglers caught pike. Those targeting walleye had limited success with a gold crawler harness in seven feet north of Harley Ensign. Panfish were caught on ice jigs with a worm in seven feet near the Selfridge launch.

Clinton River: The rock bass run is underway. The best reports have come from anglers using a 1/16 ounce jig with purple and white tube baits near structure.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing was good from Algonac to Port Huron. Those jigging caught fish during the day while those whipping caught fish at night.

Port Sanilac: A couple Atlantic salmon were caught from the outside wall.

Harbor Beach: Lake trout are being taken straight out and north of the harbor in 80 to 110 feet with spin-glo's or clean spoons just off the bottom. Hot colors were frog or ghost dodgers with bright yellow, orange and green spin-glo's or green, blue and perch colored spoons. A few salmon were found in all directions. Try 25 to 85 feet down in 45 to 90 feet with orange and black, blue and green alewives, or yellow tail spoons. A couple steelhead were taken up high in the water column.

Willow River: Located a couple miles southeast of Grindstone City had smallmouth bass moving into the lower section. The catch-and-release bass anglers were doing very well.

Saginaw Bay: Until recently, shore anglers outnumbered boat anglers. When the weather allowed, boat anglers were fishing off the State Park, Linwood and out near the Spark Plug. The odd walleye was caught between Sebewaing and Caseville and a couple fish were taken on a crawler harness in the Slot off Quanicassee. Shore anglers on the Quanicassee River caught a mix of channel cats, rock bass, freshwater drum and carp. Bow-fishing for carp is starting.

Saginaw River: Those fishing the lower river took a fair number of walleye between the Liberty Bridge and the mouth. Shore anglers at Essexville caught some freshwater drum.

Tittabawassee River: Die-hard walleye anglers are still taking a few, but the bigger news is the white bass run is in full swing. The best fishing is downstream from Freeland, with the area around the Center Road launch producing well. The river was a bit high after the rain so focus on where the water swirls and current breaks. Small crankbaits, small white jigs & twister tails, small spoons, spinners or minnows under a bobber all work.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Panfish action on the inland lakes was fair but should improve with much warmer weather by the end of the week. Some anglers reported bluegills and crappie moving in to the shallows.

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing was slow. Pier anglers using crawlers on the bottom did catch a few catfish and freshwater drum. No perch to report.

South Haven: Lake trout fishing continues to be very good. The most productive water was around 55 feet. A couple steelhead and salmon were caught but most were lake trout. Pier fishing for all species was slow. No perch to report.

Kalamazoo River: Was still producing some suckers. Those seeking catfish were using crawlers or cut bait. For smallmouth bass, try fishing below the dams.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers found coho 35 to 120 feet down in 170 to 220 feet. Orange spoons worked best up high in the water column. Those trolling near the piers caught the occasional Chinook. A few perch were caught in 40 to 60 feet.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Most were waiting for the warmer weather. Anglers should find smallmouth bass, suckers and catfish. Check the backwaters for panfish.

Grand River at Lansing: Had good catch-and-release smallmouth bass fishing below the dams. Anglers were floating crawlers and shiners.

Muskegon: Boats trolling off the end of the piers were finding a few Chinook. Those heading out deep found coho 30 to 120 feet down in 160 to 230 feet when trolling orange spoons. Pier fishing was slow.

Whitehall: Boat anglers have caught some Chinook and coho salmon. Walleye are still being caught by those starting to fish at sunset. Try deep diving body baits or plastic swimbaits in perch or fire-tiger.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan: The fish cleaning station was still closed. Fishing on the big lake slowed with the cold weather and high winds. Conditions and catch rates should improve this week.

Cheboygan River: Is still producing some steelhead and suckers but the bite for both species has slowed. Walleye were caught on stick baits, crawlers and by those jigging. Several pike and smallmouth bass were caught throughout the river.

Mullett Lake: Fishing pressure was light due to high winds. Those that did manage to get out caught a couple smallmouth bass on tube jigs and crank baits.

Rogers City: A few lake trout were caught near Seagull Point, Forty Mile Point, Swan Bay or Adams Point. Try just off the bottom in 60 feet with five colors of lead with spoons and cowbells or dodgers with spin-glo's near the bottom.

Presque Isle: Has been producing some really nice Atlantic salmon especially for those heading south towards Stoneport. Be sure to run your lines off boards and away from the boat. Good baits were spoons and body baits in orange, green, orange and silver or orange and gold. Some lake trout were caught just off the

bottom in 20 to 80 feet between the lighthouses. Dodgers or cowbells with spin-glo's were the ticket.

Alpena: Those able to get out did catch some walleye in the late evening and before sunrise. Most were trolling body baits, rapalas, reef runners or hot-n-tot's in dark colors like black and purple. Pier and shore fishing were slow but those fishing in the late evening did have some luck.

Thunder Bay River: Steelhead were still making their way up to the 9th Street Dam. Fly's, spoons, spinners and body baits worked best.

Oscoda: Pier fishing was slow with the cold water temperatures. Some anglers were able to catch a few lake trout in shallow waters. Those in search of walleye had limited success when casting body baits or drifting crawlers.

Au Sable River: Steelhead were still moving up into the river in good numbers.

Higgins Lake: Boats trolling rapalas, bombers and body baits caught lake trout in 80 to 110 feet. A few perch were caught before the cold and snow last weekend. Anglers found fish in 40 to 60 feet when using minnows.

Houghton Lake: Anglers are getting a few walleye here and there when trolling leech rigs or Hot-n-tots in chartreuse or wonderbread. Crappie were still being caught in the canals just after sunset. Bigger fish were caught out in the lake but you have to find them. A few bluegills were caught in the flats on leaf worms. Bass fishing was good especially for smallmouth when using leeches or crawlers. Some pike were also caught.

Tawas: Pier fishing was slow. A couple Atlantic salmon were caught on large gray shiners. A few walleye were caught off the pier at night, and also down behind the State Police Post. The few boats that went out were heading south toward Alabaster.

Tawas River: Shore anglers caught the occasional bass or walleye.

Au Gres: Boat anglers trolling in 15 to 35 feet off Whitestone Point, Point Lookout, and Pointe Au Gres caught walleye on crankbaits and crawler harnesses. Shore anglers at the mouth of the Pine River near Standish caught some freshwater drum and channel cats.

Au Gres River: Shore anglers fishing the lower river caught a few pike when casting lures or channel cats when still-fishing with crawlers.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Petoskey: High winds kept boats off of the lake. When the wind allows, boat anglers should still find good numbers of lake trout.

Bear River: Water levels were receding. A couple steelhead along with a decent size brown trout were caught on spawn bags and flies. The "Bobber Hole" was full of

brown trout that were just stocked. Anglers reported chubs and even a rock bass in the river.

Charlevoix: High winds made fishing difficult but anglers should still find some good lake trout fishing when they can get out. Pier anglers are picking up a few lake trout. Some walleye were caught after dark. Large groups of carp were in the channel.

Traverse City: Strong winds limited boat anglers but those that did make it out caught lake trout when trolling or jigging in the East Bay. When they could find them, Cisco were also caught. As the weather warms up, bass fishing should pick up.

Frankfort: Had good fishing for those trolling outside the harbor. They caught good numbers of lake trout on cowbells and bright colored spoons. Pier anglers caught lake trout and brown trout on spawn.

Portage Lake: Fishing slowed with the cold weather. A few largemouth bass and some panfish were caught in the shallows.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Walleye were caught by those trolling crawlers or casting rapalas. Some were starting to catch fish throughout the day while others were targeting them at night. The crappie and bluegill bite was starting to pick back up with the warmer weather.

Manistee: Surface temperature readings were 46 degrees. A small number of Chinook were caught in 60 to 100 feet. Good numbers of lake trout are still being recorded. Walleye are being caught at night. The north pier is closed due to construction on the lighthouse.

Manistee Lake: Bass anglers reported moderate catches of smallmouth but overall the bite was slow. Most were using crankbaits along the south end near Stronach. A fair number of decent size pike were caught.

Big Manistee River: Catch rates for steelhead were low in all parts of the river. A few drop-backs were reported in the lower end. Brown trout and suckers were hitting on flies, minnows and beads up near Tippy Dam.

Ludington: Surface water temperatures were about 47 degrees. Some brown trout were caught. Good numbers of lake trout were taken in 60 to 100 feet.

Pentwater: Had reports of lake trout being caught near the pier heads in 50 to 70 feet and brown trout in 15 to 30 feet.

Pentwater Lake: Northern pike and smallmouth bass fishing are starting to heat up in the main lake as well as the channel. Those casting rapalas or using live and frozen bait have caught some nice fish.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those trolling for salmon had slower catch rates with only a few coho and the occasional Chinook, rainbow, brown or lake trout taken. They were trolling 15 to 45 feet down in 20 to 60 feet from the first bridge next to the Baraga State Park and around to the Falls River mouth with spoons and body baits in orange and green. Those jigging a Swedish pimple and egg on a single hook caught whitefish in 70 to 95 feet. The South Portage Entry saw a bit of a spike in catch rates for trout and salmon especially near the lighthouse and the breakwall.

Menominee River: With the musky opener, most anglers were targeting them but catch rates were slow. One fish was recorded near Stephenson Island.

Little Bay De Noc: For walleye, the better catches came between the Third and the Center Reefs when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses in 18 to 30 feet but the best catches were for those jigging a crawler in and around 24 feet. Water temperatures were between 46 and the low 50's. A good number of fish were reported between Garth Point and the "Narrows". A good number of smallmouth bass were reported near the mouth of the Ford River. Several anglers had fair catches of perch off Gladstone Beach with crawlers in 25 feet. A few pike were caught.

Big Bay De Noc: No word on walleye yet but perch anglers were getting some small fish in Garden Bay. Good smallmouth action in Garden Bay, South River, Ogontz and near the Fish Dam Rivers for those using plastics, spinners and crankbaits. Surface water temperatures were 38 degrees.

Marquette: A few coho, splake and the occasional Chinook were caught on spoons in the Lower Harbor. Those trolling near the Chocoday and the Carp River had little success but those trolling crankbaits and jigging in the Upper Harbor near the "Bubblers" did manage to catch a few fish. There are commercial fishing nets in the harbor. Boat anglers are urged to use caution and watch for buoys marking the nets.

Munising: Those able to get out did catch a few Chinook and coho. Surface water temperatures remain in the low 40's offshore and 42 to 45 degrees nearshore. No reports of any lake trout but a couple splake were taken by pier anglers.

Grand Marais: A few boats had limited success when trolling for coho. Pier anglers targeting whitefish had mixed results. The better fishing was in the morning and mid-day but no limit catches were reported. The fish observed have been slightly larger than a few weeks ago and averaged 15 to 16 inches. Water temperatures were still in the low to mid 40's. There was no shore activity at the Sucker River.

St. Mary's River: Above the Soo Locks off Sherman Park, a few lake whitefish were caught in the shipping channel near Buoy #8 while fishing for yellow perch. In Sault Ste. Marie, those trolling in the early morning caught a couple steelhead and Atlantic salmon on the Michigan side near the Power House with orange and black crank baits. On the discharge side of the Clover Land Power Plant, a few whitefish were taken in 10 feet when drifting wax worms just off the swirling water of the turbine discharge. Water temperatures were a cold 43 degrees and the water in Munuscong Bay had a brown stain. The clear water around Moon Island was at 41 degrees. At

the mouth of the Munuscong River and off the State Park, a few rock bass were caught in 6 feet while trolling for walleye.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch are still in the Hessel marina. Splake fishing was good off the pier in Hessel, in Wilderness Bay, and the far west shore of Hessel Bay. Pike fishing is now open and should be good.

St. Ignace: Cold windy weather kept boat anglers on shore and slowed activity in area rivers. Only a few suckers and pike caught. Those targeting walleye and steelhead reported slow catch rates.

May 26, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

This coming Saturday, May 28 is the opening day of large and smallmouth bass season on the Great Lakes and all inland waters except Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and the Detroit River which do not open until the third Saturday in June (6/18). Those participating in catch-and-release have caught a good number of fish so the opener looks to be very good!

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Many lakes in the region have sunfish and bluegill moving up into the shallows as they prepare to spawn.

Lake Erie: Walleye fishing was hit-or-miss. Those drifting, trolling and bottom bouncing a crawler harness with copper and purple inline spinner caught fish straight out from Brest Bay and Fermi or off Stony Point in 20 to 25 feet. Those bowfishing in the lagoons at Sterling State Park caught several carp and goldfish along with a couple gar. Bolles Harbor had decent catches of crappie and other panfish on a jig and wax worm. Largemouth bass and pike were caught on spinners and crankbaits.

Huron River: Anglers continue to catch white perch and a few white bass.

Washtenaw County: South Lake in the Pinckney Recreation Area was producing bluegills and redear sunfish. Boat anglers on Ford Lake caught some decent walleye. Large and smallmouth bass were caught but most were less than 12 inches.

Detroit River: Walleye fishing remains very good in the upper river but the better success has been from the Ontario side of the river. White bass fishing was excellent in the lower river where limit catches were taken in the Trenton Channel. Anglers should find good white bass fishing throughout the entire river this weekend.

Oakland County: Both Cass Lake and Union Lake experienced a rather large mayfly hatch, so the panfish bite has slowed a bit. Anglers continue to do well for bass in the shallow sandy flats when using jerk baits or drop shot fishing. If looking for pike or walleye, try the weedy flats and drop-offs in the early morning or evening. The smallmouth spawn is pretty much done but anglers are reporting largemouth starting to bed now. Water temperatures are on the rise so the bluegills should be getting ready to spawn.

Lake St. Clair: Smallmouth bass are nesting and anglers were having a hard time getting a bite. DNR shocking crews tagged over 400 smallmouth bass near 11 Mile Road. Anglers are encouraged to report their catch of tagged smallmouth bass using the on-line tagged fish reporting system. Bass were found near the Metro Park and the Mile Roads and caught in four to six feet on a variety of lures including crankbaits, swimbaits, rattle traps, or green and pumpkin tube baits. Those targeting them also caught rock bass, white bass and a couple musky. Yellow perch were caught near Gino's in five to 10 feet when floating minnows and worms or when jigging minnows. A few pike were also caught. On the north end, smallmouth bass were caught south of Selfridge in six to seven feet on blue crankbaits or chartreuse curly tail grubs. Walleye were also caught in the same area when fishing the shoreline with gold lures or crawler harnesses with gold flashers.

Clinton River: Has good rock bass action and shore fishing for carp was excellent near the mouth.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been good in the Algonac area. Jigging and bottom bouncing has been productive during the day, while whipping and wireline trolling were good after dark. The water temperature was 49 to 51 degrees.

Lexington: Anglers caught a mix of lake trout, brown trout, steelhead and pink salmon which were scattered throughout waters 30 to 90 feet deep.

Port Sanilac: Was producing trout and salmon. A couple Atlantic salmon were caught off the outside wall when using large gray shiners under a bobber.

Harbor Beach: Some nice salmon were caught on spoons 25 to 60 feet down in 110 feet north of the harbor and South of Port Hope. Best colors were blue and green alewives, and yellow tail spoons. Try spoons on 2, 3, 5, and 10 color lines with offshore boards as well. Lake trout are still being caught straight out and to the north in 60 to 100 feet with dodgers and spin-glo's or clean spoons down near the bottom. A couple steelhead were taken up high in the water column.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye were caught in seven feet off Pinconning, 14 to 17 feet around the G Buoy, 20 feet off Linwood and eight to 10 feet on the Callahan Reef. On the east side, the Slot was producing a good number of fish in 16 feet. Crawler harnesses were definitely out-fishing crankbaits. Channel cat fishing was good off Sebewaing in five feet. Carp are in the shallows all over the south end and the east side where those bowfishing have done extremely well.

Saginaw River: Some walleye were caught in the lower river. The white bass are done spawning but freshwater drum have moved in as they prepare to spawn.

Tittabawassee River: Fishing was pretty much concentrated within an easy run of the Center Road launch site in Saginaw Township. White bass were still being caught on jigs, crankbaits and live minnows. Upstream of Freeland, catch-and-release fishing for smallmouth bass was very good, and a few walleye were caught. The spring walleye fishery is pretty much over.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Panfish action on the inland lakes is picking up daily with the warm weather. Crappie and bluegills were on the beds in the shallow lakes and should be on all inland lakes in the area by the weekend. Bass were on the beds.

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing improved with anglers catching Chinook and coho on spoons in 100 feet. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum on crawlers. Perch fishing was very slow.

South Haven: Had good salmon fishing. Anglers were taking both Chinook and coho when trolling spoons in 100 to 130 feet. Pier fishing was very slow for all species and perch fishing was very slow.

Kalamazoo County: Indian Lake and Austin Lake were producing a fair to good number of panfish. Gull Lake was hit-or-miss.

Thornapple Lake: In Barry County was producing some perch.

Allegan County: Crappie fishing was good on the inland lakes including Miner and Baseline. Anglers on Eagle and Duck Lake caught bluegills on red worms.

Grand Haven: Salmon are being caught between the surface and 120 feet down in 140 to 240 feet. Anglers were using orange or green spoons with white flies. Pier anglers are catching a few brown trout and steelhead on alewife.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing a few walleye, some catfish and a good number of smallmouth bass. Crappie were caught in the bayous and backwaters.

Grand River at Lansing: Has good smallmouth bass fishing. Try minnows, leeches and crawlers or twister tail grubs and small spinners. Crappie were caught upstream of Moore's Park. A few pike and walleye were still being caught below the dams. Those targeting panfish have caught some big rock bass.

Eaton County: Sunfish were caught on Narrow Lake, Pine Lake and Lake Alliance.

Muskegon: Boats are catching Chinook and coho in 160 to 260 feet. Try fishing the top 120 feet with orange, green or blue spoons.

Muskegon River: Walleye fishing is picking up and bass are biting well. Panfish are moving into the shallows.

Whitehall: Chinook and coho salmon were caught in 120 to 200 feet. Schools of shiners and alewives have been spotted near the piers and brown trout are feeding on them. Walleye are still being caught in the channel and from the piers after dark. Try deep-diving body baits, plastic swimbaits, or a jig and minnow.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan: Had good lake trout fishing at Cordwood Point and out by Bois Blanc Island. Spoons, dodgers and cowbells with spin-glo's caught good numbers of fish.

Cheboygan River: Smallmouth bass fishing started to pick up for those using live and artificial baits. Good walleye fishing on crawlers and stick baits after dark. A few pike, suckers, rock bass and steelhead were caught but it appears most of the steelhead have left the river.

Mullett Lake: A couple nice pike were caught in Pigeon River Bay when drifting minnows or suckers. Smallmouth bass anglers are finding lots of fish in the shallow areas but are having a hard time getting them to bite. Those who had some success were using crankbaits, body baits and tube jigs. Walleye pressure was still low with a few reports of fish caught when trolling crawler harnesses at dusk.

Black Lake: Walleye fishing slowed but some pike were caught.

Rogers City: Boat anglers are taking lake trout, the occasional Atlantic salmon and the stray Chinook salmon. A few limit catches of lake trout were coming in. Anglers have to look for them but once found they are cashing in. Most are fishing just off the bottom in 40 to 70 feet with cowbells or dodgers with spin-glo's. The lake trout were suspended so try spoons about halfway down. Green was a good color. Pink and Atlantic salmon were caught on bright spoons in the top 30 feet. Look for structure and a rocky bottom.

Presque Isle: Had very good Atlantic salmon action. Try south around Stoneport. Fish were caught on bright colored spoons in the top 30 feet. Hot colors were orange and silver, orange and green or orange and gold. Lake trout were starting to move in shallower. Try 20 to 60 feet and fish just off the bottom.

Alpena: Boat, shore and pier anglers had good success in the lake and on the river. Hot spots were around Grass Island and Sulphur Island especially at night. Lake trout are starting to head out to deeper water so limit catches were more difficult.

Thunder Bay River: Still had good steelhead fishing as fish were still making their way up to the dam. Most are using trout beads and body baits.

Montmorency County: McCormick Lake was producing some brown trout. Grass Lake had good bluegill catches. Fletchers Pond was producing a lot of small bluegills. The boating access site on Fletchers is now open.

Oscoda: Walleye are starting to come in and the numbers are increasing. Most anglers are targeting them from the pier while casting body baits or drifting worms and leeches.

Au Sable River: Steelhead were still coming up into the river. Anglers are fishing the Foot Dam and High Banks area with spawn, spoons, fly's and spinner baits. Trout fishing on the South Branch has picked up.

Higgins Lake: Lake trout are being caught by those trolling in 80 to 100 feet. Rainbow trout were found in the thermocline in 15 to 40 feet. No word on perch but those targeting them were fishing in 20 feet in the early morning then moving to 40 to 50 feet later in the day. Best areas to try are the Sunken and the Main Island.

Houghton Lake: Fishing improved with limit catches of walleye and crappie reported. The walleye were hitting mid-day in four to eight feet. Anglers were casting husky jerks and rapalas while drifting. Crappie were caught by those floating a minnow out near the Middle Grounds. Not much on bluegills however it is possible they will be on the beds by the weekend.

Lake St. Helen: Walleye fishing was a bit slow however anglers were catching good numbers of crappie, pike and bass when using minnows, crawlers and small plastics. The better fishing was along the north and northwest sections where the winds have blown the warmer water. For bass, anglers were using a slow presentation with top water lures. Perch were caught and bluegill fishing should be good by the weekend.

Tawas: Pier anglers caught walleye at night. It appears the Atlantic salmon may have moved offshore. Boat anglers weren't doing that great in Tawas Bay so many were heading south and catching walleye near Alabaster.

Tawas River: Is producing a few pike, drum, and smallmouth bass.

Au Gres: Had a lot of boats when the weather permitted and a good number of walleye were caught but no "boat limits" were reported. The fish were scattered in anywhere from 18 to 35 feet of water. Methods varied, but the best pattern is moving from crankbaits to crawler harnesses. A couple boats went bass fishing around the Charity Islands. They caught and released as many as 50 good-sized bass per angler! Tube-baits were the ticket.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Anglers caught lake trout from Harbor Point to the west. Some fish were suspended 20 to 40 feet down in 60 feet while others were caught near the bottom in 70 to 80 feet with spoons, flies and peanuts. Smallmouth bass were spotted in the shallows inside Harbor Point.

Petoskey: Had good lake trout fishing from the water treatment plant to Bay Harbor. Fish were caught 35 to 55 feet down in 40 to 110 feet. Some were suspended while others were caught near the bottom. Spoons and peanuts worked best. Surface water temperature was 49 degrees.

Bear River: Steelhead fishing is pretty much done but anglers were still finding the occasional fish when using spawn bags. Small brown trout, chubs and rock bass were up near the dam. Anglers caught smallmouth bass, rock bass, bullhead, pike, carp, freshwater drum and chubs off the rocks and the D Pier. This is a fun place to fish with a worm and bobber.

Charlevoix: Lake trout fishing was good for boat anglers with many taking limit catches. The fish were 20 to 35 feet down in waters 50 to 150 feet deep. Most were fishing North Point however fish were also caught near the cement plant and the State Park. Spoons, spin-glo's and peanuts worked best. Pier anglers caught a few lake trout, smallmouth bass and cisco. Walleye were caught after dark.

Traverse City: Catch rates increased with lake trout and cisco caught south and east of the M-37 boat launch in the East Bay. A fair number of smallmouth bass were caught and released in the bay and below the dam in Elk Rapids. Lake trout were caught in the West Bay when trolling in shallow waters north of Clinch Park.

Boardman River: Smallmouth bass were caught below the dam. Suckers were caught on crawlers.

Leland: Lake trout were hitting hard. Suckers could be found in a few creeks.

Frankfort: Fishing improved. Those trolling the harbor caught lake trout and brown trout on spoons in the early morning. Limits of lake trout were taken outside the piers in 25 to 50 feet. A couple Chinook were caught just off the bottom out deep.

Onekama: Those trolling bright colored spoons caught a fair to good number of Chinook salmon in 180 to 300 feet. The fish were caught just off the bottom.

Portage Lake: Anglers found perch in 40 feet off Lakeshore Road and in five feet while spawning off McGowen Creek near M-22. Largemouth bass were still on the beds off Schick Creek which is on the east side of the lake. Bluegills, crappie and rock bass were in the same area.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Anglers have been doing well catching pike, walleye, and bass. Some good crappie reports were starting to come in as well.

Manistee: The north pier was still closed because of construction on the lighthouse. Good numbers of lake trout were still coming in and there was an increase in Chinook salmon. Most fish were caught in 60 to 100 feet. A small number of brown trout were caught off the piers and good numbers of walleye have been caught at night. Baitfish are showing up in the harbor.

Manistee Lake: Large and smallmouth bass were reported in good numbers and both were hitting on rapalas and top-water lures. A few anglers were targeting walleye but none were reported. Northern pike numbers were good. Head towards the Arthur Street Launch and try casting crankbaits. A couple yellow perch were caught but most did not have much luck.

Big Manistee River: The spring steelhead run is coming close to the end with only a few late fish hitting a jig and wax worm on the Wellston side at Tippy Dam. The small brown trout recently stocked were hitting on anything anglers threw at them and the low water levels made sight fishing fun. Good numbers of white and redhorse suckers were between Tippy Dam and High Bridge and hitting on flies.

Hamlin Lake: Was producing some walleye and decent panfish action.

Ludington: Good numbers of lake trout were caught in 40 to 70 feet. Small numbers of brown trout, steelhead, and Chinook were caught as well. Baitfish are moving into the harbor.

Pentwater: Lots of nice lake trout are being caught in 30 to 70 feet. Chinook and coho were caught out in 150 to 200 feet.

Pentwater Lake: Pike and smallmouth bass were caught when casting body baits or using shiners near the bottom. Those seeking walleye caught fish when trolling crawler harnesses or vertical jigging with minnows or leeches.

UPPER PENINSULA

Walleye fishing should improve by the weekend. Brook trout fishing on the streams has been good with the warm weather. Bluegills and bass are just starting to show up in the shallows.

Ontonagon: Boat anglers caught lake trout, brown trout and coho.

Ontonagon River: Produced a few walleye with a couple fish over 25 inches.

Lake Gogebic: Was producing a fair number of walleye 13 to 17 inches.

Keweenaw Bay: The bite over the last week was up and down. Those out trolling picked up a few coho, Chinook, lake trout and splake from the first bridge at the Baraga State Park to the mouth of the Falls River and from the Baraga Marina northward to the red rocks. Most were trolling 15 to 45 feet down in 20 to 60 feet with spoons and body baits. Hot colors were orange and green. A few rainbow trout were still being caught in the Falls River but fishing off the Rock Dock was very slow. The bite was slow in the South Portage Entry with only a few trout and salmon taken near the lighthouse and breakwall. At Traverse Bay, anglers were trolling for lake trout near Black Point, Gay Point, Big Louie's Point and near 5-Mile Reef. Try a foot off the bottom in 130 to 240 feet. Those jigging did not have much luck.

Menominee River: Anglers caught walleye when trolling stick baits from the tip of Stephenson Island down to the mouth. Musky were caught around Boom Island, the docks at Nest Egg Marina and around Stephenson Island. Shore anglers caught a few walleye on a jig and minnow near the Hattie Street Dam. Freshwater drum, catfish and a few perch were caught from the Fishermen's platform at the Mystery Ship Launch.

Little Bay De Noc: The walleye opener was very slow. Most anglers fished the northern parts of the bay. The best areas were around the Center and the Third Reefs when jigging lead heads with crawlers in 24 feet. Early morning anglers trolled or drifted stick baits or crawlers in 14 to 27 feet. A few walleye were caught along the

Second Reef, the "Narrows", Gladstone Bay and near the mouth of the Escanaba River. Smallmouth bass were caught off Garth Point, Gladstone Bay, Hunters Point and south to the Ford River mouth. The bass were starting to nest so the opener should be good. Water temperatures were mid 50's to 60 degrees. Walleye anglers trolling the reefs caught a good number of pike.

Big Bay De Noc: The walleye opener was off to a very slow start but smallmouth bass fishing appears to be on track as anglers report nesting fish in Ogontz, Martin Bay, the Fish Dam Rivers area, Garden Bay, Puffy Bay and the South River area. Most were casting tube baits or spinners in three to eight feet. The opener should be good. Garden bay still had a few perch anglers but most of the fish caught were very small.

Marquette: Fishing has been moderate as some days were better than others. Lake trout fishing has been good fishing north of the Upper Harbor near the white rocks when trolling in waters up to 200 feet deep. Coho fishing has slowed as only a few were caught when trolling around the Lower Harbor breakwall. Anglers are reminded to use caution and watch for commercial fishing nets in the Lower Harbor.

Munising: Some reported a large mayfly hatch over the last week. A recent tournament yielded a good number of lake trout with the biggest fish recorded at 37.29 pounds. Salmon fishing was tough with the biggest Chinook less than 11 pounds. A few small splake were caught on the Anna River.

Grand Marais: Pier fishing for whitefish was slow. Dense fog made it difficult for boat anglers. The few that were out reported very little action for whitefish and those caught were small at 10 to 12 inches. Those targeting lake trout did well with most fish averaging two to three pounds. Fish were caught in 200 to 250 feet however a few boats were targeting the drop-offs in and around 150 to 200 feet near the various reefs located a few miles offshore.

St. Mary's River: A few rainbow trout and coho were caught from the Portage Street Bridge in Sault Ste. Marie when drifting four-ounce sinkers with a 12-inch leader and flat fish crankbaits. Best colors were chrome with blue or burgundy and drifting these baits on the west bank of the canal parallel to the railroad ties seemed to work best. On the discharge side of Clover Land Electric Power Plant, a few whitefish were caught drifting red hooks with wax worms in 10 to 12 feet just off the current from turbine generators. Walleye fishing was excellent on the upper reaches of Munuscong Bay. Anglers can launch from the new boat launch at Kemps Pointe and fish the north end of the bay while trolling small crankbaits at the mouth off the Munuscong River and around Grassy Island. Orange and chrome hard baits worked for most while others used small crankbaits in four to five feet. A few walleye 17 to 19 inches were caught off Drummond Island in Scott Bay when trolling the north end in four to six feet from Paw Pointe east to McCormicks Marsh. Try crawler harnesses with single hooks and small perch colored crankbaits.

Detour: Has no reports.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike fishing within the islands picked up for those using minnows or smelt. Some also did quite well casting. All the bays from Moscow Channel to Hessel Bay are producing pike. Some splake are still being caught in Hessel Bay. A few perch have showed up in Moscow Channel.

St. Ignace: Anglers are harvesting good numbers of lake trout near both Mackinac and Bois Blanc Islands. Cowbells and dodgers with spin-n-glo's seem to work best. The fish cleaning station remains closed. A few walleye and pike were caught by those fishing area rivers with worms, leeches and crankbaits.

June 2, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

As we move into the month of June, the bite is improving as the waters warm. Anglers are doing well for panfish, bass, pike, catfish, bullhead, carp and freshwater drum. More boats are heading out on the Great Lakes where lake trout fishing has been very good. Salmon and steelhead are also being caught.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Many of those targeting walleye reported a slow but consistent bite when fishing northern areas such as Stony Point and Brest Bay in 18 to 24 feet. Several reported limit catches. Those fishing further south had better luck near the Dumping Grounds, the E Buoy or straight out from Bolles Harbor. Walleye were suspended and on the bottom. Anglers are trolling or drifting crawler harnesses with inline spinners and bottom bouncers. Crankbaits and spoons were less popular but still taking some fish. Some targeting yellow perch are using minnows on perch rigs. Shore anglers at Luna Pier caught channel cats, yellow perch, white bass and even the occasional walleye on minnows. Those fishing from the Hoffman Memorial access site caught bluegills, crappie, rock bass and yellow perch on crawlers or a jig and wax worm.

Huron River: Is producing smallmouth bass and some pike.

Detroit River: Walleye have been caught near the Fermi Power Plant. Anglers were using purple and copper crawler harnesses. A few perch were caught off the docks at Gibraltar. The white bass action has been very good and should continue for a couple more weeks.

Oakland County: Bluegill fishing improved on both Cass and Union Lake. Many were caught in the shallows. A few walleye and pike were caught by those trolling the drop-offs. Bass fishing was good along the shoreline and points in both lakes.

Lake St. Clair: This coming Saturday, June 4 is the muskie opener. Anglers need to have a muskellunge harvest tag if they plan to keep one. The tags are free at any license vendor. On the south end, large and smallmouth bass were caught around the Mile Roads and Muscamoot Bay in three to five feet. Anglers used a variety of lures including rattle traps, swim baits or purple and green tube baits. White bass were caught. Some caught walleye in 13 to 26 feet in the shipping channel at the St.

Clair Light on pink and purple crawler harnesses. Walleye were also caught in eight to 10 feet near Gino's and the 400 Club on chartreuse crawler harnesses. Yellow perch were caught in eight feet near Metro when floating minnows under a bobber. Anglers are catching walleye in Canadian waters. On the north end, large and smallmouth bass were caught in two and a half feet along the shoreline in Anchor Bay. Anglers also targeted pike along the shoreline and did very well.

St. Clair River: Walleye were being caught with crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers during the day or whipping after dark. Some limit catches were taken in the South Channel. Surface water temperatures were 53 degrees at Algonac.

Lexington to Port Sanilac: Those trolling caught a mixed bag of lake trout, steelhead, pink salmon and coho in 80 to 100 feet. Pink salmon seem to be showing up in good numbers. Pier fishing was slow with only a few smallmouth bass and rock bass taken.

Harbor Beach: Lake trout were scattered. Try 40 to 110 feet with dodgers and spin-glo's or clean spoons near the bottom. Hot colors were ghost dodgers with bright spin-glo's or frog dodgers with orange and green spin-glo's and yellow tail spoons. North of the harbor was best. A few small salmon were mixed in. Steelhead were caught on color lines up high with spoons off boards. Those wading caught smallmouth bass in the lower Pinnebog River and the lower Willow River.

Port Austin to Grindstone City: Smallmouth bass were the main attraction. Small boat anglers were getting them inside the harbor at Port Austin. Wading anglers did very well in Eagle Bay off Grindstone City. They caught lots of bass using leeches and minnows, jigs and twister tails, tube baits or rapalas.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye were caught off the Rifle, Saganing and Pinconning Bars in 15 to 30 feet, off the Bay City State Park in 8 to 10, near the Dumping Grounds, along the Callahan Reef, near Buoys 1 & 2 and near the Spark Plug when trolling or drifting crawler harnesses. Those trolling around Spoils Island 4 a.m. until 6:30 a.m. caught some big walleye on crank baits. On the east side, those trolling off Quanicassee and the south end of the Slot caught walleye, catfish, yellow and white perch, a few pike and freshwater drum in 12 to 18 feet when using crawler harnesses with purple, pink, chartreuse, brass or copper blades. From Sebewaing to Caseville, the walleye action was much slower with only a couple taken from the Slot outside North Island and in Wildfowl Bay.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers along the lower river at Essexville continue to catch catfish, smallmouth bass and freshwater drum on crawlers.

Tittabawassee River: Anglers were still taking a few walleye when trolling crankbaits downstream of the Center Road launch to the confluence with the Shiawassee River.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Summer fishing is finally here and those hitting the inland lakes in this region are catching bluegills, crappie, sunfish, and rock bass. Bass season is open and catch rates have been good.

St. Joseph: Salmon fishing slowed but was still good. The fish were scattered and caught on spoons in 60 to 120 feet or more. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum and catfish on crawlers. Perch fishing was slow.

St. Joseph River: Bass anglers were doing well in the shallows. Some large catfish were caught on crawlers, bluegills, shrimp or cut bait.

South Haven: Had slower salmon fishing but a few were taken on spoons in 120 to 160 feet. Pier fishing was very slow for all species and perch fishing was slow.

Grand Haven: Boats have been catching Chinook and steelhead in 120 to 220 feet. Orange or green spoons along with white flies were the ticket. Pier anglers caught a couple steelhead on shrimp.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing some catfish including some big flatheads. Some are catching the occasional walleye. A good number of smallmouth bass are being caught in the shallows.

Grand River at Lansing: Pike and walleye were caught below the dams. Try golden shiners. Anglers are catching lots of smallmouth bass and a few largemouth bass. Catfish have been caught near the dam at Moore's Park. The carp are spawning.

Muskegon: Salmon and steelhead have been caught 25 to 120 feet down in 120 to 240 feet. Orange spoons and white flies have been working well.

Muskegon River: Those fly fishing have done well for trout as fly hatches are taking place. A few walleye are still being caught. Those fishing the ponds are finding bluegills in the shallows.

Whitehall: Some good size Chinook salmon were caught in 150 to 200 feet. Coho and the occasional steelhead were also caught when trolling orange spoons.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Anglers are being asked to watch for coded wire tagged fish. These fish are missing the adipose fin located behind the dorsal fin. They have a very small piece of wire containing important information for the MDNR. Anglers are asked to save the head and fill out a short data sheet and put both the head and the sheet into the freezer located at the fish cleaning station in Rogers City. Bags and data sheets are located in the cleaning station.

Cheboygan: Anglers are reporting good numbers of lake trout from Poe Reef to Cordwood Point in 20 to 60 feet using spoons, dodgers and cowbells. A few Chinook and Atlantic salmon were also caught. Smallmouth bass are in the shallows.

Cheboygan River: A few walleye are still present so anglers were drifting crawler harnesses or trolling crank baits. Good numbers of smallmouth bass as well as some pike, rock bass, suckers, carp, and a few freshwater drum are also being caught.

Mullett Lake: Walleye anglers have done well in the evening near the mouth of the Cheboygan River when trolling stick baits in eight feet. A few limit catches were reported. Smallmouth bass anglers are still doing well near the rocky points on the west side of the lake and along the sunken islands when using tube jigs or drop-shot fishing. Pike were caught in Pigeon River Bay when drifting suckers or minnows.

Rogers City: Anglers are catching lake trout but they have to search for them. Focus on the bottom 20 feet in 40 to 65 feet. Some limit catches were taken on green spoons and cowbells or a silver dodger with a spin-glo. Look for structure and a rocky bottom where gobies like to hang out. Atlantic, Chinook and pink salmon were also caught on spoons in the top 45 feet in 60 to 120 feet. Hot colors were green, blue, and white or combinations of green and silver, blue and silver or green and orange.

Presque Isle: Lake trout moved into 20 to 40 feet. The better fishing was between the two lighthouses or south towards Stoneport when using spoons and cowbells or dodgers with spin-glo's. A decent number of Atlantic salmon were caught north of the harbor and south towards Stoneport when using bright spoons up high in the water column. Chinook and pink salmon were also caught but the fish were scattered. Try the top 45 feet in 60 to 100 feet with green, blue, silver and orange spoons.

Alpena: Walleye in Thunder Bay are starting to hit. Good numbers were reported in the bay and coming up the river. Anglers are fishing early morning and late evening but the best bites are after dark when using body baits and small spoons. Lots of lake trout with limit catches in short periods of time. Try 60 to 80 feet and fish throughout the water column.

Oscoda: The walleye are just starting to show up. Those drifting the river and fishing the pier are picking up a few on crawlers or casting body baits. Lake trout are just now starting to move out so try 50 to 90 feet. Work the entire water column with spoons, spin-glo's and wobble glo's behind dodgers.

Au Sable River: Is still producing a couple steelhead up near Foote Dam. Walleye are being caught at the mouth in the early morning or late at night. Those fishing the shallows on Foote Dam Pond are catching bluegills. Brook trout have been caught in the South Branch.

Higgins Lake: Continues to produce lake trout in 80 to 100 feet. Perch were caught in 40 to 50 feet out near the Sunken Island and the Main Island. Rock bass are hitting and can be caught just about anywhere.

Houghton Lake: Bluegills are on the beds and anglers are doing well. The crappie bite continues. Anglers caught both large and smallmouth bass. A fair to good number of rock bass were caught. Walleye fishing was fair to good.

Tawas: Boat anglers targeting smallmouth bass were doing very well with soft plastics. Those trolling for walleye reported slow catch rates so most were heading down to Au Gres. Pier fishing was slow with only a few rock bass or smallmouth bass taken.

Au Gres: Had lots of walleye anglers but the best action was south of Pointe Au Gres with some boats going as far south as Linwood to fish. Fish were caught off the Rifle, Saganing and Pinconning Bars in 15 to 30 feet. Some were going to Buoys 1 & 2 or further south to the Spark Plug. Crawler harnesses have replaced crankbaits as the go-to walleye lure.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Anglers did well on lake trout from Harbor Point to the west. More smallmouth anglers are targeting shallow waters along the shoreline and the buoys inside the harbor.

Petoskey: Those targeting lake trout may want to fish from the breakwall to Bay Harbor with spoons, peanuts or spin-glo's. Surface water temperatures were 53 degrees in Little Traverse Bay.

Bear River: Steelhead fishing is very slow. Anglers were finding small brown trout, rock bass and chubs up near the dam. Those fishing off the rocks and the D Pier caught smallmouth bass, pike, and rock bass.

Charlevoix: Lake trout were suspended 35 to 45 feet down and hitting on spoons and spin-glo's. Boat anglers picked up a couple lake herring. Pier anglers in the channel caught a couple lake trout on jigs. Smallmouth bass were caught here on crawlers, minnows and spoons. Walleye fishing was slow but a couple fish were caught after dark. Lake herring were hit-or-miss and those caught were hitting on anything flashy. There are a lot of carp in the channel.

Traverse City: Smallmouth anglers caught fish in both bays and below the dam in the Elk River when using crawlers and leeches. In the East Bay, bass were caught near the State Park and north of the M-37 launch. Lake trout were caught off M-37 and to the east. On the West Bay, fish were caught in the shallows of Bowers Harbor and along the southwest shoreline. Lake trout were caught north of the M-22 launch and east of the launch near Power Island.

Boardman River: Smallmouth anglers have done well below the dam using crawlers and leeches.

Frankfort: Fishing is starting to get good. Pier anglers using spawn or dead gobies caught lake trout and brown trout. Those heading offshore found Chinook down deep in 180 to 300 feet. The fishing at Platte Bay is very good for lake trout.

Portage Lake: Had good panfish action on the east side of the lake.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: The panfish bite is on. Anglers are catching bluegills, crappie, rock bass and a few perch. Largemouth bass were on the beds and hitting on live or artificial baits.

Manistee: Surface water temperatures were about 55 degrees. The north pier remains closed due to construction on the lighthouse. Those trolling caught Chinook, steelhead and lake trout in 100 to 300 feet. A few trout and salmon were caught off the south pier. Bait fish are still present in the harbor. Good numbers of walleye were still being caught at night.

Manistee Lake: Those heading out for large and smallmouth bass continue to report good numbers of fish. Most were caught in shallow waters on soft plastic worms or crankbaits.

Big Manistee River: The spring steelhead run has come to an end. A couple legal size brown trout were caught but overall most of the fish were only eight to 14 inches. Those targeting redhorse and white suckers had excellent catch rates up near Tippy Dam. Try fishing near the accessible fishing platform or wading down from there.

Ludington: Good numbers of lake trout along with some smaller brown trout were caught in 60 to 100 feet. Chinook and steelhead were caught in 100 to 300 feet. Walleye were caught in the basin at night.

Pentwater: Chinook and some bigger steelhead were caught in 160 to 225 feet. Pink and blue were hot colors. Those trolling for lake trout did well in 40 to 70 feet.

Pentwater Lake: Bluegills and sunfish were caught in the shallows on red worms and wax worms. Those targeting smallmouth bass landed some nice fish on crankbaits and soft plastics. Those trolling for walleye had success after dark when using crawler harnesses.

UPPER PENINSULA

Ontonagon: Had very good lake trout fishing in 13 to 25 feet. Anglers were trolling pink, orange and green body baits off boards 100 to 125 feet back. A few Chinook, coho and brown trout were also mixed in. Walleye fishing in the river was very slow.

Keweenaw Bay: Those trolling for salmon did manage to harvest a mix of coho, lake trout, rainbows and the occasional Chinook from the head of the bay north to the red rocks. They used a variety of lures 20 to 40 feet down in 30 to 60 feet with mini planer boards. Lake trout were caught in Traverse Bay between Gay Point and Big Louie's Point in 130 to 150 feet. Spoons worked best.

Menominee River: Anglers are catching walleye, freshwater drum, perch, smallmouth bass, rock bass, and bluegill between the mouth and the Hattie Street Dam. Boat and shore anglers are using a variety of baits and techniques.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye fishing was slow however it is possible the fish were still up in the rivers and exiting just now. The mouth of the Whitefish and Ford Rivers

could be promising areas to explore this week. Walleye catches varied across the bay with the better catches generally in 20 to 35 feet when trolling crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers or stick baits. Good pike action especially around Butler Island when trolling or casting crankbaits, spoons or spinners in eight to 14 feet. The bass opener was fair to good with most fishing the Ford River area. Boat and shore anglers were using crankbaits, plastics and spinners. Those fishing Hunters Point caught smallmouth when casting tube baits along the gravel in four to 10 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Good numbers of walleye were caught by bass anglers fishing near the mouth of the Ogontz River. The walleyes late exit from the river surprised the bass anglers. Walleye catches were fair to good when trolling stick baits in six to eight feet. Ogontz was good for smallmouth bass. Most were using plastics, spinners or crankbaits in four to eight feet but a few did well with crawlers in Garden Bay, Puffy Bay and north to the Fish Dam Rivers. Pike fishing was also good but many were undersize.

Marquette: Anglers caught lake trout and steelhead near the “White Rocks”. Boat anglers trolling north of the Upper Harbor caught some coho. The Carp River had higher water levels but those using spinners and worms caught brook trout.

Munising: Boat anglers targeting lake trout were having a tough time and it may have been because of the large mayfly hatch. The few caught were taken off Trout Bay and towards Wood Island Reef. Water temperatures were in the mid 40’s.

Grand Marais: Strong southerly winds made trolling difficult. Catch rates for lake trout were slow with most fish averaging 18 to 20 inches. Some of the lake trout caught have been eating sticklebacks. Pier anglers caught a few whitefish. Some did better in the early morning as the night bite was a bit slower.

St. Mary’s River: Fair catches of rainbow trout were taken at the Portage Street Bridge when drifting a four ounce sinker with a 10 inch leader. Try chrome with blue or burgundy flat fish in the early morning hours. A few whitefish were caught on the discharge side when drifting a wax worm or a small red worm in 10 to 12 feet. Munuscong Bay had excellent walleye fishing at the mouth of the Munuscong River when trolling small crankbaits in four feet. Water temperatures in Raber Bay were a warm 62 degrees on the north shore. Walleye and smallmouth bass were caught when casting or drifting split body crankbaits in four to six feet. A couple undersize pike were caught on the east side of Lime Island. Those fishing around Drummond Island caught walleye including a few limit catches when trolling crawler harnesses with white blades and orange or green crankbaits along the north shore of Scott Bay between Paw Point and the McCormick Marsh in four feet. The bass opener was productive with smallmouth taken in four to six feet around Bruce Point. Spinners or small crankbaits in fire-tiger worked best. Bruce Point is excellent for bass fishing when the wind is out of the south or southeast.

Detour: Atlantic salmon and trout fishing started and a couple Chinook were caught.

Cedarville and Hessel: In the Les Cheneaux Islands, splake moved out to water 20 to 30 feet deep. Pike fishing was good for those using smelt or chubs. Hessel Bay

and Muskie Bay were the most productive when casting spinners. Not much for perch yet however bass fishing was very good in the shallow bays.

St. Ignace: Still has good lake trout fishing around Mackinac Island. Fish were caught on spoons, dodger and cowbells in 30 to 60 feet. The fish cleaning station was still closed. A few walleye were starting to hit in both the Carp and the Pine Rivers. Those drifting or still-fishing with crawlers or leeches did best. A few pike and suckers were also caught.

June 9, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

It's here! Michigan's annual "Summer Free Fishing Weekend" will be observed this Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12. On these two days, both residents and non-residents can fish without a license however all regulations still apply.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Those fishing straight out from Fermi, Stony Point, Brest Bay, Bolles Harbor and further south to the Dumping Grounds reported an increase in limit catches. Trolling crawler harnesses with inline spinners produce the most fish but spoons and crank baits in fire-tiger, pink or purple also caught fish. Those bottom bouncing with rigs are catching fish but are also sorting through a lot of small ones because the bigger fish are suspended higher in the water column. Few were targeting yellow perch but some had decent luck with shiners on spreaders. Those fishing in La Plaisance Bay near Bolles Harbor have had good catches of large and smallmouth bass in five to 10 feet with tube baits and crank baits. Shore anglers at Sterling State Park have caught large and smallmouth bass off the Army Corp of Engineers Pier when using twister tail jigs. Catfish were caught in the marsh channels near the mouth of Sandy Creek. Shore anglers at Pointe Mouillee caught largemouth bass, white bass and catfish at the boating access site.

Detroit River: Walleye slowed but anglers were still getting some white bass. Perch were caught around the docks in Gibraltar and near the border waters in 10 to 11 feet. Shore fishing has been hot and heavy especially for bluegills.

Oakland County: With bass season underway, both Cass and Union Lake have seen steady pressure from tournament and non-tournament bass anglers. Those doing best are finesse fishing along the drop-offs and flats. On windy days, try fast moving baits, such as crankbaits or spinners. Those targeting panfish in Cass Lake were successful. A few walleye were caught in a variety of depths and locations in both lakes and the carp are starting to spawn and can be seen throughout the shallows.

Lake St. Clair: Smallmouth bass were caught from Metro all the way down to the Mile Roads in six to 10 feet using swimbaits, jerk baits, and tube baits. A few largemouth bass, pike and muskie were also caught. Walleye were found in the stretch between Metro and the Clinton River Cut-Off ramp and around the 400 Club in 10 feet when trolling pink and chartreuse crawler harnesses. Some reported limit catches in the shipping channel around the lighthouse. These anglers also caught good numbers of white bass. Perch are still being caught on minnows and worms in six to eight feet at Gino's. Panfish were caught around the 400 Club in eight to 10 feet when floating a minnow. On the north end, muskie were caught on west side of Anchor Bay on muskie lures or a black and red fly in eight to 10 feet. Pike and bass were caught in the shallows. A few perch were caught when drifting minnows in the small bay just north of the Harley Ensign launch.

St. Clair River: Walleye fishing has been very good. Those whipping and casting after dark were taking limit catches around Marysville, Marine City, and Algonac. Those jigging and bottom bouncing with crawler harnesses during the day had good success. A few white bass have been showing up in the lower channels. Water temperature at Algonac was 60 degrees.

Lexington to Port Sanilac: Continues to produce lake trout, steelhead, coho and pink salmon. Try fishing the bottom 10 in 50 to 100 feet.

Harbor Beach: Some nice lake trout were taken north of the harbor in 50 to 125 feet with dodgers and spin-glo's or with clean spoons near the bottom. Salmon were on the slow side; try clean spoons 45 to 60 feet down. A couple steelhead were caught on spoons. Try bright yellow, green or chartreuse.

Port Austin to Grindstone City: Smallmouth bass fishing remains good from Port Austin to Eagle Bay and Grindstone City. Live leeches and various plastics worked best. A few walleye were taken in 25 feet off Grindstone City. Lake trout, steelhead, coho and pink salmon were scattered in 50 to 100 feet. Most were fishing the bottom 10 feet. Those looking for bigger fish were heading out to 135 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye were coming from 20 feet off Linwood and Buoys G, A, and B and the pencil buoys. Walleye were caught around Spoils Island in the early morning before sunrise and off the Callahan Reef when heading out from the river mouth, Finn Road or Quanicassee. The hot spinners were purple, pink, chartreuse, anti-freeze, copper, brass and chrome. Those launching at Sunset Bay Marina and off Sebewaing found walleye. The bite was a bit slower at Bay Port but a few fish were still taken in eight to 10 feet in Wildfowl Bay.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers in the lower river were catching a few smallmouth bass, walleye, perch, freshwater drum and catfish off Smith Park when using minnows and crawlers. Those trolling caught some walleye in 12 to 14 feet near the Coast Guard Station.

Shiawassee River: Was producing rock bass and suckers throughout.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers caught a fair number of steelhead on shrimp. Fishing for boat anglers was slow as strong winds have made it difficult and few boats left the harbor.

St. Joseph River: Is producing bass and large catfish. Anglers targeting catfish continue to do well with crawlers, shrimp, bluegills or cut bait.

South Haven: Strong winds have kept fishing pressure low. The boats that were able to get out caught a few coho and lake trout in waters less than 100 feet deep. Pier anglers caught some steelhead when floating shrimp under a bobber.

Grand Haven: Trout and salmon have been caught 35 to 150 feet down in 150 to 250 feet when trolling green flies and orange spoons. Pier anglers are catching steelhead on shrimp. Freshwater drum were caught while casting spoons in the channel.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing a few walleye and some catfish. Try leeches for the walleye and cut bait or shrimp for catfish. Bass have been caught in the shallows and around structure. Check the backwaters for bluegill and crappie.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing bass, pike and catfish. Bow fishermen were doing well for carp.

Jackson County: Anglers are taking largemouth bass and panfish.

Clinton County: Bluegill fishing was decent on Round Lake. Catch rates were fair on Park Lake and Muskrat Lake.

Muskegon: Boat anglers were finding trout and salmon 25 to 125 feet down in 200 to 300 feet. Orange and green spoons worked best.

Muskegon Lake: Bass anglers have done well in the shallows and along the drop-offs. Walleye fishing was slow but a few perch were found out from the Bear Lake Channel. Anglers are catching bluegill and crappie.

Muskegon River: Fly fishing is the key right now especially for rainbow and brown trout. Drake and March Browns were hatching. Check out the backwaters for bluegill.

Whitehall: Chinook salmon and steelhead are being caught while trolling in 140 to 200 feet. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum and white perch on cut bait near the bottom.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan: Good numbers of lake trout were caught in 40 to 70 feet near Cordwood Point when using spoons, dodgers and cowbells.

Cheboygan River: Is producing smallmouth bass, northern pike and walleye. The smallmouth and pike improved with the warmer water. Walleye catches were hit-or-miss with the better fishing after dark for those casting or trolling crank baits.

Mullett Lake: Water temperatures were about 68 degrees and there was a large mayfly hatch on the north end. Walleye anglers are doing well after dark near Aloha State Park and the mouth of the Cheboygan River. Stick baits and body baits with rattles are working best. A few pike are still being caught in Pigeon River Bay and Scott's Bay. Smallmouth bass anglers are struggling to catch fish, with only a few caught in the shallow rocky areas.

Otsego Lake: Was producing limit catches of walleye. Panfish were also caught.

Rogers City: Lake trout fishing has been excellent with plenty of limit catches reported. Some days were better than others. Best depths were 45 to 65 feet while fishing close to the bottom or 15 to 20 feet from the bottom with green spoons or spin-glo's, cowbells and dodgers. Boats were fishing north, south and straight out. A stray Chinook or Atlantic are still showing up in the catch. Chinook were caught in 80 to 120 feet and the Atlantic salmon were caught up high on bright colored spoons.

Presque Isle: Has excellent lake trout fishing in 40 to 80 feet between the two lighthouses. The fish were suspended and not on the bottom so run lines throughout the water column. Spoons dodgers and spin-glo's caught fish. A good number of Atlantic salmon were still coming in. Fish them like steelhead, up high in the water column in 20 to 45 feet.

Alpena: Had good lake trout fishing. Most anglers are targeting fish in 60 to 80 feet and spreading bait throughout the water column as the fish were suspended. Spoons, flies, spin-glo's, wobble glo's, cut bait and body baits in dark colors worked best. Walleye fishing was still spotty. Most anglers were heading out at night with planer boards and long-lining with body baits and crawler harnesses. Thunder Bay has lots of bass and pike.

Thunder Bay River: Fishing was slow but a few walleye and bass were caught in the early morning and late evening when using live bait.

Oscoda: Pier fishing has been hit-or-miss over the last week. Those targeting walleye had limited success. Those trolling have caught lake trout and the occasional steelhead in 60 to 100 feet with spoons, cut bait or spin-glo's. Fish were marked from top to bottom.

Au Sable River: Boats drifting crawlers have caught some walleye. Some were casting body baits and stick baits. Trout have been caught in all branches especially by those fly fishing.

Higgins Lake: Lake trout are still being caught in 80 to 100 feet. Anglers are catching lots of rock bass and the bite should continue for the weekend.

Houghton Lake: Has had good fishing especially out around the Middle Grounds which were producing well. The bite did slow with the latest mayfly hatch and the cooler temperatures but should rebound by the weekend. Anglers are catching a good number of walleye in six to eight feet late at night or early morning. Bass, bluegills and sunfish have been caught throughout the day.

Tawas: Those trolling crawler harnesses in 35 feet off Tawas Point and Au Sable Point took a few walleye. A few fish were also taken off Alabaster. Those vertical jigging off the mouth of the Tawas River took a few walleye as well. Pier fishing was slow with only a couple pike and freshwater drum taken.

Tawas River: Shore anglers were getting a few smallmouth bass in the lower river.

Au Gres: Most of the boat anglers were coming back with one or two fish but some did much better. Walleye were caught in 25 to 30 feet off the Rifle Bar and between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres in various depths. Further south, boats launching at Eagle Bay Marina did well for walleye on the right day.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Had smallmouth bass anglers fishing the shallows inside Harbor Point and along Wequetonsing to the state park. They did not have much luck. The males seem to be preparing the beds while the females were sitting a bit deeper.

Petoskey: Angling pressure was low but the few that did go out caught lake trout when trolling towards Bay Harbor. The fish were hitting spoons on the bottom in 35 to 60 feet.

Bear River: Still had a lot of rock bass up at the dam. Those fishing off the rocks and the D Pier caught pike, suckers, bullhead, carp, rock bass and a few small perch. This is a great place to fish with a worm and bobber, crankbait or small jig.

Charlevoix: No salmon were reported but some big lake trout were caught 60 to 80 feet down in 80 to 120 feet. Most boats were targeting the North Point area when trolling spoons and spin-glo's. Those fishing the channel were still getting a few lake trout off the pier. Walleye fishing slowed but a couple fish were still taken after dark. Cisco action was still hit-or-miss but some bigger fish were caught.

Traverse City: Boat anglers targeting bass have done well in shallow water at the south end of the East Bay. Lake trout anglers have done well out of Elk Rapids and Deepwater Point. Cisco were caught south of Elk Rapids. The Elk River by-pass still has a good number of rainbow trout left over from the kids fishing day. Lake trout fishing was good north of the M-22 launch in the West Bay.

Boardman River: Continues to produce bass for those using crawlers and leeches. Anglers have also caught pike, suckers and perch.

Frankfort: A few Chinook have been caught off the “Shelf” in 180 to 300 feet. Boats are heading straight out and to the north. Lake trout are being caught off a rock pile straight out from the mouth of the Platte River in East Platte Bay.

Portage Lake: Anglers were finding panfish in the shallows along the east side.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Had good bass fishing. Most were catching largemouth but a few smallmouth were also found. Catch rates slowed with the cooler temperatures but should rebound by the weekend. A few walleye and bullhead were caught in the canal between the two lakes.

Manistee: The north pier still closed. Baitfish are still in the harbor and anglers were picking up a small number of steelhead, brown trout and Chinook in the early morning. Walleye are still being caught at night. Those trolling caught lake trout, steelhead and Chinook in 100 to 300 feet.

Manistee Lake: Northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass have been caught.

Big Manistee River: A few summer run steelhead have been caught on crawlers in the early morning at Tippy Dam. A couple legal size brown trout were caught but most were undersize. Those fly fishing have been very active with good catches of trout between High Bridge and Tippy Dam. A few suckers were still being caught.

Ludington: Baitfish are moving into the channel and Pere Marquette Lake. Boat anglers are getting lake trout, steelhead and Chinook in 100 to 300 feet.

Pentwater: Those targeting Chinook and steelhead had success in 180 feet and deeper.

Pentwater Lake: Anglers targeting large and smallmouth bass did well in waters between two and 12 feet deep. Try jigs tipped with soft plastics near weed beds or submerged structure.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Those out in the cool rainy weather did very well with a mix of coho, lake trout and splake when trolling from the head of the bay north to the red rocks on a variety of spoons and body baits. Trolling speeds were between 2 and 2.5 mph.

Menominee River: The muskie bite was slow with only a few smaller fish caught in and around Boom Island and the Nest Egg Marina. Those trolling for walleye had some limit catches of fish in the 16 to 18 inch range when using crawler harnesses or stick baits.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported fair to good catches between the Center and the Third Reefs when trolling stick baits or crawler harnesses in 18 to 25 feet. The best area was south by the Ford River and Breezy Point where anglers trolled stick baits in eight to 14 feet. The mouth of the Ford River is producing fair catches of smallmouth bass but the better fishing was up river where most were casting tube baits, crank baits or spinners along the banks. Fish were also caught at the mouth of the Escanaba River in eight to 12 feet. Shore anglers at the Ford River had a lot of action but most of the fish were too small. Pike numbers are on the increase with good catches throughout the bay including around Butler Island and just off the Day's River when trolling crank baits, spoons or spinners in 10 to 18 feet. Those fly fishing on the Escanaba River did well for rainbow and brown trout.

Big Bay De Noc: The walleye are starting to disperse but Ogontz still reported fair catches trolling stick baits in 14 to 18 feet. Smallmouth bass anglers in the same area reported fair to good catches when casting plastics or spinners in four to 12 feet. Pike fishing was also good but many were small. Puffy Bay, Garden Bay and South River Bay were producing smallmouth bass but South River Bay has slowed. Those fishing Porcupine Point reported fewer fish than previous years but catch rates were still fair for those casting crank baits, spinners or plastics in four to 16 feet.

Marquette: Lake trout fishing slowed near the "white rocks". Anglers were still heading north and fishing the Upper Harbor and Shot Point in 80 to 200 feet. The coho action slowed as well but some were still caught around the breakwall in the Lower Harbor. Water levels in the Carp River were high due to recent rains. Those targeting brook trout had little success.

Munising: Heavy rains lowered water temperatures into the low to mid 40's. Lake trout were caught near the Wood Island Reef. The fish averaged two to three pounds. A few boat anglers caught Chinook salmon up to eight pounds when trolling near Trout Bay and inside Munising Bay. Pier activity at the Anna River was slow but those out did catch some decent size splake right along with several small ones.

Grand Marais: Water temperatures have dropped into the low 40's. A few anglers did okay on lake trout anywhere from a few miles offshore in 150 feet to ten miles out in 250 to 300 feet. Some limit catches were taken in the morning hours when anglers could get out. Whitefish are coming in all sizes from eight to 20 inches for those using eggs off the pier.

St. Marys River: Had a few reports of lake trout being caught east of the lighthouse on the Drummond Island side with hammered silver and gray four inch spoons.

Detour: Anglers targeting Atlantic salmon caught a couple Chinook while trolling black and chrome spoons near the lighthouse. The Chinook were in 28 feet right close to the lighthouse and between the green can and the lighthouse. Anglers off Drummond Island are reporting walleye on the north side of Scott Bay trolling eastward from Paw Point with planer boards and white rubber body spinners. Crawler harnesses worked best in the early morning.

Cedarville and Hessel: Anglers did well fishing for northern pike in Musky Bay. They were trolling with rubber bodied minnows and a spinner blade in six to eight feet in early morning hours. In and around Wilderness Bay a few pike were caught in six feet when trolling light colored bucktail spinners. West of the Hessel Dock, fish were also taken on the west side of Combe Island in six to eight feet on live chub minnows. Those looking for yellow perch should try inside the finger docks in the Hessel Marina with wax worms about six inches off the bottom in six to eight feet. Early morning is best.

St. Ignace: Had few anglers going out. The Carp River has produced some walleye and lots of northern pike but most of the pike and about half of the walleye were undersize. The Pine River is starting to produce a few more walleye and pike. Most are using crawlers or leeches for the walleye and casting spoons or stick baits for the pike.

June 16, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Large and smallmouth bass season on Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and the Detroit River will open this coming Saturday, June 18. The catch-and-immediate-release season has been good so anglers should do well on the opener.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Anglers fishing for walleye started the week with strong catches but inclement weather and strong winds have slowed fishing effort. Those having the most success were trolling and drifting crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers in 22 to 28 feet straight out from Estral Beach, Stony Point and Brest Bay. Shore anglers fishing Whitewood Creek at the Luna Pier city launch caught catfish, yellow perch, and smallmouth bass on crawlers. Anglers fishing the lagoons at Sterling State Park caught pike, large and smallmouth bass on jigs with a twister tail, and freshwater drum, panfish, and catfish on crawlers. Shore anglers at the Pointe Mouillee access site caught a few yellow perch and lots of rock bass on crawlers. Largemouth bass were hitting on spinners and soft plastics.

Detroit River: Walleye fishing has slowed especially in Michigan waters. A few fish were still being caught in Canadian waters. The white bass are starting to thin out.

Oakland County: Fishing in general has been good on Cass and Union Lake. Bass anglers are casting crank baits or soft plastics along the drop-offs in six to 10 feet. The top-water bite has been good in the shallows in the early morning or evening. Panfish were caught along the shallow weed beds and in the coves. A few walleye were caught when trolling or casting a crawler harness or spoon.

Lake St. Clair: Fishing slowed along the south end where anglers were right on top of the fish but they would not bite. Smallmouth bass were hitting on chartreuse colored lures. Largemouth fishing near the banks also slowed. Bass anglers were starting to find success in eight to 15 feet between Metro and 9 Mile Road with crank baits, jerk baits, spinners, or the green pumpkin tube bait. Walleye were caught in 10 to 12 feet near Gino's when trolling or drifting chartreuse or a pink and purple crawler harness. Yellow perch and panfish were still being caught between Metro Beach and the Clinton River Cutoff.

Muskie were found near the 400 Club in five to eight feet when casting dark colored spinners or spoons but many were undersize. Shore anglers at 9 Mile Road caught some perch on minnows and worms. On the north end, large and smallmouth bass were caught in three to six feet near Selfridge. A good number of rock bass have also been caught. Walleye were caught in 11 feet near Selfridge when drifting a white curly tail grub. A couple muskie were taken near Selfridge and Brandenburg Park in eight to 11 feet but many were too small. Pike were caught in the north end of Anchor Bay and west of the launch at Fair Haven. Perch and panfish were caught by those drifting worms north of Selfridge. Carp are spawning in the shallows and those bow fishing did well near the launch at Fair Haven.

St. Clair River: A large number of walleye are still being caught but anglers are sorting through a lot small ones. Marysville, St. Clair, and Marine City were producing good walleye catches for those whipping after dark. Those fishing during the day were using jigs or crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers in Marine City, Algonac, and near Harsens Island. A few white bass were caught.

Lexington to Port Sanilac: Those trolling are still taking a good number of lake trout. Some are getting the occasional steelhead, Chinook, coho or Atlantic salmon in 50 feet. Try spoons off planer boards and downriggers. Those working 80 to 100 feet were catching mostly lake trout. Boats fishing south toward Lakeport did well for lake trout and other species. Anglers report their fish being full of smelt so there must still be some smelt hanging around the south end of the lake.

Harbor Beach: Lake trout were taken in 70 to 125 feet straight north or the harbor. Use dodgers with spin-glo's or clean spoons near the bottom. Try gold and orange, black and white or green and white spoons. A couple steelhead were taken near the color lines. Salmon were slow but try clean spoons 40 to 50 feet down. Pike and bass were caught inside the harbor and near shore when casting or trolling small spoons and body baits.

Port Austin to Grindstone City: At Port Austin, those wading were still getting some smallmouth bass at Eagle Bay and the Willow River but bass fishing is tapering off. At Grindstone City, those trolling took lake trout on spin-glo's in 60 feet and walleye on crawler harnesses in 25 to 30 feet.

Saginaw Bay: Had good walleye fishing on the right day. Fish were caught in 20 feet off Linwood, 22 feet east of the Spark Plug, and in 26 feet out near Buoy #1. From the Saginaw River mouth, some boats were fishing out on the Bar. Harnesses were best but some were also trolling spoons and crank baits. On the east side, the Slot continues to be the best spot for walleye in 16 to 18 feet. The Callahan Reef is also producing fish. At Bay Port, walleye were caught outside the islands in the Slot and in seven to 10 feet in Wildfowl Bay. Crawler harnesses and slow trolling speeds were the ticket. Spinner colors were purple, pink, chartreuse, anti-freeze, brass and copper. Those trolling also caught lots of freshwater drum.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers in the lower river at Smith Park in Essexville were taking catfish, freshwater drum, rock bass and smallmouth bass with crawlers on the bottom.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier fishing for steelhead slowed but a couple were caught when floating shrimp or alewife. Catfish and freshwater drum were caught on crawlers along the bottom. Boat anglers reported slower catch rates as the fish were scattered between 40 and 100 feet. Perch fishing was very slow.

St. Joseph River: Anglers caught a few walleye and smallmouth bass when drifting crawlers.

South Haven: Pier anglers were catching a decent number of steelhead on shrimp and alewife under a bobber. Boat anglers targeting salmon said the fish were scattered so few were caught.

Grand Haven: Boats trolling near the pierheads caught steelhead on orange spoons or body baits. Those heading offshore found trout and salmon in 150 to 210 feet. Orange spoons and white flies worked well. Pier anglers are catching steelhead on shrimp and a few perch on minnows.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing bass and catfish.

Grand River at Lansing: Is producing smallmouth bass and rocks bass. Some of the better fishing has been below the dams. The pike and walleye bite slowed.

Muskegon: The action was slow for boat anglers. Some did report a mix of trout and salmon taken 45 to 120 feet down in 120 to 180 feet with orange or green spoons. Green or white flies worked well for those fishing deeper in the water column.

Muskegon River: Those fly fishing have done well for both rainbow and brown trout. Water levels were up a bit after the rain.

Whitehall: Anglers have caught a couple steelhead and Chinook salmon in 180 to 225 feet. Those fishing between the pierheads caught freshwater drum and pike.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan: Boat anglers fishing Cordwood Point and Lafayette Point caught lake trout. Some reported the occasional Chinook or pink salmon and a couple steelhead were caught by on high-lines.

Cheboygan River: Is producing a few walleye but the bite has slowed. Those drifting crawlers in the day or trolling crank baits at night did the best. A few pike, smallmouth bass, and perch were caught but no large numbers.

Mullett Lake: Walleye anglers were struggling to find fish especially with the large mayfly hatch on the north end. Those that had success did better after sunset when using crawler harnesses and body baits. A few smallmouth bass were still on the beds on the north end of the lake.

Rogers City: When boats can get out many reported limit catches of lake trout in 45 to 60 feet. The fish were close to the bottom as well as suspended. Try cowbells or dodgers with spin-glo's and green spoons along the rocky bottoms because that is where the gobies are. Atlantic salmon are starting to be caught. Try orange and green, orange and silver or orange and gold spoons.

Presque Isle: Continues to provide excellent fishing for Atlantic salmon and lake trout. The Atlantics are finally spreading out from Stoneport. Fish up high in the water column with spoons in combos of orange with green, silver or gold.

Alpena: Lake trout are being caught in good numbers in 80 to 130 feet. Check water temperatures and look for baitfish. Wobble glo's, spoons, spin-glo's and body baits are all working well. Fish the entire water column as steelhead were higher up and hitting the same baits as lake trout. Walleye were hit-or-miss in 20 to 40 feet around North Point.

Oscoda: Pier fishing for walleye was slow but catfish were moving in during the late evening. Those still-fishing had good luck. Those trolling out in 80 to 120 feet caught lake trout on spoons, wobble glo's and spin-glo's. Steelhead are still in the area so anglers will want to look for colored lines and temperature breaks when trolling spoons in 50 to 100 feet. Blue and silver, orange and silver or solid orange were good colors.

Houghton Lake: Was producing some bigger walleye and perch along the north shore. Anglers are using a jig and leech or a leech harness. Fire-tiger, purple or copper with green were good colors. Some are also trolling crank baits. Hot colors were silver and black or colors that resemble perch and bass. Bluegills were on the beds along the south shore weed beds. Anglers were catching lots of rock bass in the same area.

Tawas: Those trolling for walleye did best around Buoy #2 but it was still slow as there was a pretty good mayfly hatch going on and that usually depresses the walleye bite. Boats going out to the Charity Islands and the Steeples caught fish.

Tawas River: Shore anglers were getting a few catfish, freshwater drum and the odd smallmouth bass on crawlers.

Au Gres: Walleye fishing was good in 25 to 35 feet between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres. Those looking for bigger fish were out beyond the Charities and fishing in 60 to 70 feet. Crawler harnesses work best but a few were using spoons or crank baits. Some boats going south of Pointe Au Gres found walleye out near Buoys 1 & 2.

Au Gres River: Shore anglers were getting catfish and freshwater drum on crawlers.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Anglers are targeting smallmouth bass though not many fish were on the beds yet. Lake trout were caught 35 to 50 feet down in 50 to 100 feet except around Harbor Point where the fish were 70 feet down in 90 feet.

Petoskey: A couple lake trout were caught from the breakwall to Bay Harbor when trolling near the bottom in 90 feet.

Bear River: Those fishing near the mouth, off the rocks and the D Pier caught smallmouth bass, rock bass, pike, carp, bullhead, carp, suckers and even a couple small perch. A large catfish was also caught.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers caught a few very small Chinook in 120 feet. The fish hit spoons about halfway down. Lake trout were caught near the bottom or suspended in 80 to 100 feet. Try spoons, spin-glo's or peanuts. Those fishing the channel caught the occasional smallmouth bass. Cisco fishing was good for those using spoons or jigs. Lake trout were still in the channel and staying close to the bottom. A large pike was caught off the pier.

Traverse City: Cisco fishing especially in the East Bay has been very good. The West Bay continues to produce lake trout. Some are trolling along the drop-offs while others are jigging out in deeper water.

Boardman River: Anglers were still catching a few smallmouth bass.

Leland: Boat anglers are getting lake trout and the occasional Chinook.

Lake Leelanau: Is producing some walleye and those targeting them were also catching some pike.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Walleye are being caught by those trolling or drifting crawler harnesses. Anglers caught bluegills, crappie, sunfish, bass and bullhead.

Manistee: The north pier is still closed due to construction. Lake trout and a small number of Chinook salmon were caught in 100 to 300 feet and steelhead were caught in 200 to 400 feet. A few walleye were still being caught in the channel at night.

Manistee Lake: Bass anglers casting along the shoreline have caught good numbers of large and smallmouth bass when on crank baits and plastic worms. Small pike were in abundance and found when trolling near the old submerged docks.

Big Manistee River: Anglers at Tippy Dam caught some fresh steelhead on flies, crawlers and shrimp. Smallmouth bass, rock bass and pike were becoming more active.

Ludington: Boat anglers caught a few Chinook and lake trout in 100 to 300 feet. Steelhead were caught higher in the water column. Be advised the Copeyon Park fish cooler is not working properly so please dispose of your fish at the Loomis Launch.

Pentwater: Boat anglers trolling in 60 to 150 feet caught lake trout and the occasional steelhead.

Pentwater Lake: Large and smallmouth bass are being caught throughout the lake and within the channel. Try jigs tipped with soft plastics, crawlers or shiners.

UPPER PENINSULA

Menominee River: Those trolling stick baits and crawler harnesses caught walleye from Stephenson Island to the mouth. The smallmouth bite was slow.

Little Bay De Noc: Fishing did slow. The best walleye catches were from Breezy Point south to Round Island and out to the “Fingers” when trolling or drifting crawlers and stick baits in 10 to 27 feet. Pike were very active throughout the bay and though most were undersize, anglers did catch some that were 28 to 30 inches around Butler Island in eight to 14 feet. Smallmouth bass anglers had fewer catches but those casting crank baits, spinners or plastics did take some off Hunters Point, the mouth of the Escanaba River and the Ford River in 5 to 14 feet.

Big Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported fair catches at best when trolling stick baits or crawler harnesses in 18 to 24 feet. Smallmouth bass catches slowed in Ogontz with many reporting undersize fish when casting spinners or plastics in six to 14 feet. Garden Bay had fair to good catches in four to 12 feet.

Marquette: When boats can get out, they have caught lake trout when jigging cut bait out near Standard Rock. Those still-fishing near the “white rocks” had no luck. Coho fishing has been slower. Those fishing the Lower Harbor breakwall and near Shot Point in the early morning had some success. Steelhead were caught when trolling spoons between both harbors. Water levels in the Carp River were still high.

Munising: Some boat anglers did catch a few Chinook and coho between eight and 12 pounds in Trout Bay and towards Miner’s Beach in less than 30 feet. Those specifically targeting lake trout did best near the west channel with downriggers, spoons and cut bait just off the bottom in 150 to 200 feet. Catch rates were still a bit slow as surface water temperatures were still in the mid 40’s. Pier fishing off the Anna River was slow but a few splake 17 to 20 inches were taken on spawn or crawlers.

Grand Marais: Gusty winds have made trolling difficult. Those trolling within a mile of shore had no luck. Those targeting lake whitefish off the pier caught some but many were too small. The bigger fish came in the early morning hours with some reporting limit catches.

Detour: Several targeting Atlantic salmon and lake trout caught more Atlantic salmon at the Detour Reef when trolling spoons 10 to 12 feet down in 80 feet from the green buoy to the lighthouse. Lake trout were taken in 25 to 35 feet. Hot colors were orange and white or purple and copper. Sliders are taking fish just 10 feet below the surface. Atlantic salmon were caught on the east side of the Detour lighthouse. Around Drummond Island, Scott Bay was still producing a few 15 to 20 inch walleye for those trolling planer boards and bottom bouncers in four to 12 feet on the north side from Paw Point to Peck Island. Good smallmouth action on the south end of James Island when drifting or casting spinners in four to six feet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Those trolling spoons in 6 feet along the weed beds caught lots of smaller pike. Those using large chubs and frozen smelt caught fish ranging 28 to 32 inches in the early morning. Anglers reported high numbers of herring in Moscow Channel. Those looking for perch had little success. Try 18 to 20 feet with red worms or small minnows. Smallmouth and rock bass were caught in in the early morning on crawlers or minnows about 4 feet down off the breakwall at Hessel.

St. Ignace: The fish cleaning station is now open. Very few anglers have been out because of the strong winds. The Carp River is still producing a few walleye and a good number of small pike. Crawlers or leeches worked best. The Pine River is starting to produce more walleye and a few pike.

June 23, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Summer fishing is on! The inland lakes are producing panfish, bass, walleye, pike, bowfin, and carp to name a few. Spawning is done in most waters. The extremely hot weather tends to push fish to deeper waters. The best time to fish shallow is early morning or late evening.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Walleye fishing was slower than previous weeks as anglers dealt with strong winds and a large mayfly hatch. Those doing the best were heading out deep and found walleye straight out from Stony Point, Estral Beach and near the Femi Plant in 24 to 28 feet or near the Dumping Grounds and the E-Buoy in 23 to 26 feet. The fish were hitting on crawler harnesses with hot pink, purple or copper inline blades trolled with bottom bouncers. Yellow perch fishing was slightly better with a couple decent catches taken in 16 to 20 feet straight out from Sterling State Park and Toledo Beach with emerald shiners on spreaders. Anglers fishing five to eight feet did well for smallmouth bass with tube baits straight out from Bolles Harbor. Shore anglers at Sterling State Park caught several large and smallmouth bass on husky jerks. Catfish were taken on crawlers in the marsh channel and lagoons. Those fishing from the Evans Municipal Pier in Luna Pier caught largemouth bass on buck tail spinners and channel cats on shiners and crawlers.

Detroit River: Walleye are starting to hit again now that the white bass are pretty much done. Anglers are hand-lining with flat fish and spoons. Fish were caught in the lower river and in front of the Trenton Power Plant but anglers are having to sort out the small ones. A few perch were caught in the shallows and some nice muskie are being caught.

Oakland County: Both Cass and Union Lake have seen good fishing for most species. Many are targeting walleye and bass which have been caught near the weed lines in the shallow flats. For walleye, anglers might want to try trolling or drifting a crawler harness. The bluegills were deep in 10 to 20 feet and suspended just off the bottom.

Lake St. Clair: A recent mayfly hatch did slow fishing a bit. Walleye and a few yellow perch were caught in the shipping channel in 30 feet on chartreuse or a pink and purple crawler harness. Walleye were also caught in 14 feet near 14-Mile Road when trolling crawler harnesses. A few perch were taken between the Metro launch and the Clinton River launch when still-fishing or drifting crawlers. Perch were also caught while drifting black and gray crawler harnesses between the point at Metro and the South Channel. Smallmouth bass were caught from the Clinton River down to 9-Mile Road in seven to 14 feet when casting swim baits, green and pumpkin tube baits or dropshot rigs. A couple large muskie were caught near the Clinton River launch when casting soft plastics in 15 feet. On the north end, large and smallmouth bass were caught in seven feet on the east side of Anchor Bay. Bass anglers have also caught a few pike and rock bass. Yellow perch were found on the east side of Anchor Bay.

St. Clair River: Was still producing limit catches of walleye throughout. Those fishing up near Port Huron were also taking limit catches. Most were trolling crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers or using jigs.

Lexington to Port Sanilac: Trout and salmon fishing in Lake Huron was good when anglers could find them. The fish were scattered at all depths most likely due to rain runoff and windy conditions. Pier fishing at all ports was slow.

Harbor Beach: Lake trout were scattered but some were caught in 70 to 150 feet straight out and north of the harbor when using dodgers with spin-glo's or clean spoons down near the bottom. Anglers can also try orange and gold, black and white or green and white spoons. Steelhead were caught near the color lines in 150 feet when using bright colored spoons. The salmon were on the slow side but some pink salmon were taken on clean spoons with offshore boards 40 to 50 feet down. A few walleye were taken on small spoons, thunder sticks, and crawler harnesses in 25 to 40 feet. Bass and pike can be found inside the harbor and near shore when casting or trolling small spoons and body baits. Pier anglers were getting a few rock bass.

Saginaw Bay: Walleye were being caught all over the inner bay but the consensus among anglers was that the fish appeared to be moving toward deeper water. Crawler harnesses were the ticket, and trolling speeds increased to 1.5 to 1.8 mph. Those trolling have also caught a lot of freshwater drum and a couple nice yellow perch. Fish were caught around the inner Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12) in 22 feet, near Buoys 1 & 2 at the end of the shipping channel in 26 to 28 feet, off the Pinconning Bar, in the Slot from Sunset Bay Marina and north along the outside of the islands in 15 to 17 feet, and along the Callahan Reef in seven to 10 feet. Early morning and evenings are best. The hot colors were gold, orange, purple and yellow. Bass anglers are doing well in Wildfowl Bay when fishing out of the marinas.

Saginaw River: Shore anglers at Essexville were catching bass, catfish, and freshwater drum when using worms on the bottom. Those fishing under the bridges have caught some nice flathead catfish.

Tittabawassee River: Was producing smallmouth bass.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat anglers were catching a decent number of steelhead near the piers with orange spoons and crankbaits. Pier anglers are also catching steelhead on shrimp. Perch fishing continues to be very slow.

South Haven: Boat anglers were targeting salmon and steelhead in 40 to 150 feet as the fish were scattered. Fishing was a little on the slow side and no particular technique stood out. Pier anglers caught steelhead on shrimp. Perch fishing continues to be very slow.

Kalamazoo County: Gull Lake was producing some crappie. Sherman Lake was producing some perch.

Barry County: Thornapple Lake was producing some nice bluegills. Crappie were caught in 10 to 15 feet. A couple walleye were taken near Howards Point.

Grand Haven: Decent numbers of steelhead are being caught off the piers. Anglers are using alewife and shrimp or casting orange spoons. Boats trolling near the end of the piers caught steelhead on orange spoons or body baits. A few lake trout were caught on dodgers and spin-glo's in 80 to 140 feet.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Had a small push of steelhead at the 6th Street Dam. Bass and catfish are also being caught.

Grand River at Lansing: Anglers have caught smallmouth bass below the dams. The occasional walleye was caught. Those fishing at night caught carp and catfish. For panfish, check out the backwaters.

Muskegon: Boat anglers report the salmon action as slow but those targeting lake trout caught fish in 80 to 130 feet when trolling dodgers and spin-glo's.

Muskegon River: Has several fly hatches currently underway. Those fly fishing have done well for brown and rainbow trout. Panfish are in the backwaters.

Whitehall: Large schools of alewives have been seen near the piers and those fishing have caught the occasional steelhead. Those trolling in 60 to 150 feet caught steelhead along with the occasional Chinook and coho.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan: Lake trout fishing slowed as warmer water had the fish scattered. Some days they were in 30 to 50 feet and other days in 60 feet and deeper. There has been an occasional steelhead, Atlantic or Chinook but very few were landed.

Cheboygan River: Anglers caught some walleye, smallmouth bass, a few pike, lots of rock bass and freshwater drum. The walleye action was still slow with only a few fish taken on crawler harnesses.

Mullett Lake: The smallmouth bass have pretty much moved off the beds. A few were found in shallow waters but most were struggling to catch them. Walleye anglers were doing well after dark and very early morning when using crawler harnesses or body baits in front of the Aloha State Park and around the Sunken Island on the north end. A few pike were still being caught in Pigeon River Bay.

Rogers City: Anglers were taking limit catches of lake trout in 45 to 60 feet. The fish are suspended and near the bottom and were hitting on cowbells and dodgers with spin-glo's. Green was the hot color. Atlantic salmon are also being caught. Try fishing up high with green and orange, silver and orange or gold and orange spoons. Chinook, steelhead and pinks are starting to mix in. Try fishing the top 55 feet in 65 to 120 feet with green, blue, orange, white or black and white spoons.

Presque Isle: Has been great for lake trout and Atlantic salmon. The lake trout were caught in the entire water column in 20 to 85 feet. For the Atlantic salmon, fish up higher in the water column.

Alpena: Lake trout fishing was best from Rockport and throughout Thunder Bay. Anglers are using downriggers with sliders, dipsey's, inline planer boards and lead core in 60 to 120 feet. Try spoons in yellow tail, purple and blue. The occasional steelhead and pink salmon are also being picked up. Water temperatures were still a little cool so most anglers are targeting smallmouth in the shallows around Grass Island. Walleye are starting to pick up. Late evening, throughout the night and early morning are the best times with body baits and crawler harnesses off planer boards.

Thunder Bay River: Smallmouth bass can be found throughout the river.

Hubbard Lake: A few smallmouth bass were caught on the beds but most anglers had better luck in the East Bay in 10 to 12 feet.

Oscoda: Oscoda pier fishing has been slow. Lake trout, steelhead and the occasional pink salmon have been caught but these fish are moving around and usually not in the same place the next day. Try spoons with dodgers or cowbells in 80 to 120 feet. Colors vary so change up often.

Au Sable River: A couple brown trout were caught on crawlers near the Mio Dam. A few walleye have started to show up. Try up river late in the evening and early morning. Just outside the mouth has been slow but worth a try. Drifting crawlers and body baits worked best.

Higgins Lake: Boat anglers trolling in 100 to 110 feet were getting some lake trout just off the bottom. One 40 inch fish was reported. A couple rainbow trout were caught out in deeper water when fishing up high in the water column. Anglers are catching lots of rock bass and a few perch. The big surprise was a few smelt caught on perch rigs with spikes.

Houghton Lake: Had good walleye fishing with a few bigger ones taken recently. Most were caught by those jigging. Bass fishing was also good. Bluegills were on the weed beds in six to eight feet.

Lake St. Helen: Is producing bluegills, pumpkinseed sunfish and rock bass. Some nice largemouth bass were caught on top water lures and a wacky-rig with an artificial worm. Some walleye up to 22 and 23 inches have been caught when drifting leeches. Target the major weed beds.

Tawas: Boat anglers reported slow fishing and were actually trailering their boats down to Au Gres where walleye fishing was very good. A few walleye along with a lot of freshwater drum were caught out beyond Buoy #2 in 35 to 70 feet. Some looking for trout and salmon were heading north of Au Sable Point. They caught lake trout in 120 feet. Pier fishing was slow.

Tawas River: Was giving up some smallmouth bass right along with catfish and carp for those bottom fishing.

Au Gres: Has had a lot of fishing activity and lots of walleye caught including a good number of limit catches. The best fishing was in 35 to 45 feet out near the NOAA weather buoy which is east and southeast of Pointe Au Gres. Crawler harnesses were the ticket. Anglers have also caught lots of freshwater drum.

Au Gres River: Shore anglers were getting a few catfish in the lower river.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Lake trout were caught right on the bottom or within 10 feet of the bottom in 50 to 100 feet from Harbor Point north. The weather buoy in Little Traverse Bay had the surface temperature at 59 degrees and in the low 40's at 100 feet. Bass anglers are fishing the shoreline and around the docks and piers.

Petoskey: Lake trout anglers were fishing near the bottom in 40 to 70 feet from the breakwall to Bay Harbor. Spoons and spin-glo's worked well. One small Chinook was caught about halfway down in 90 to 100 feet.

Bear River: Water levels were just about normal range. Anglers caught a couple small brown trout and there were still some rock bass and chubs near the falls. At the mouth, anglers caught rock bass, bullhead, catfish, carp, suckers and even a couple small perch. Smallmouth were there but most were less than 14 inches.

Charlevoix: Boat anglers were catching a mix of lake trout, lake herring and small Chinook salmon. Most were caught about halfway down in 100 to 120 feet between North and South Point. A good number of anglers were fishing the channel and most were targeting smallmouth bass and lake herring. Bass anglers were using crawlers but catch rates were slow. For lake herring, try spoons or jigs. Some big carp were caught off the pier. Look for channel cats after dark.

Traverse City: Boat anglers targeting smallmouth have done well on the East Bay especially as the weather warms. Good fishing on the south end of the bay and the west side north of the M-37 launch. Some walleye were caught below the dam in Elk Rapids. Smallmouth bass were also caught however most were sub-legal.

Boardman River: Bass fishing has slowed.

Big Platte Lake: Was producing some bass and perch.

Crystal Lake: Was producing a large number of rock bass on the south end.

Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell: Anglers are catching bluegills, sunfish, crappie, perch and rock bass. Bass can still be found in the shallows early morning and evening. Walleye are still being caught. Some are slow trolling crawler harness or leeches while others are jigging.

Manistee: A 25-pound Chinook salmon was caught 35 miles across the lake in Wisconsin waters. Lake trout fishing is really good north of the harbor in 80 to 100 feet. Most of the Chinook salmon that were caught were small. Steelhead are starting to show up and most were caught as deep as 500 feet. A couple brown trout and steelhead were caught off the pier.

Manistee Lake: The recent increase in water temperatures had the fish moving deeper than usual. Some bigger pike were caught on spinners in seven to 15 feet. Anglers are getting decent catches of rock bass but those targeting bluegills found the action to be hit-or-miss. The mayfly hatch was in full bloom.

Big Manistee River: Skamania, the summer run steelhead have been moving into the area near Tippy Dam. Anglers are picking up large fish 10 pounds or more in the early morning between 5-8am with worms, spawn, or fresh shrimp. Sub-legal brown trout and rock bass continue to attract anglers of all ages to the area between Tippy Dam and the Sawdust Hole.

Ludington: The cooler at Copeyon Park has been fixed. Lake trout are still being caught in 80 to 200 feet. Steelhead numbers are picking up and anglers are catching them as deep as 500 feet. A few Chinook were caught in 100 to 300 feet.

Pentwater: Had lots of baitfish around the piers and in the channel. Those casting spoons and other minnow imitations caught freshwater drum, smallmouth bass and even the occasional steelhead when the baitfish were there. Those trolling in 50 to 80 feet caught steelhead and lake trout.

Pentwater Lake: Smallmouth bass and pike are being caught throughout the lake and in the channel. Those targeting bluegill and black crappie had success floating a jig with a red worm.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Gogebic: Had good walleye fishing.

Keweenaw Bay: Those trolling for salmon have done well for coho but have also caught the occasional Chinook, brown trout, lake trout or steelhead from the head of the bay northward to the second set of "Red Rocks" which are past the community of Keweenaw. Try 15 to 45 feet down in 30 to 70 feet with orange or green spoons and body baits. A few did alright when jigging in 220 to 260 feet off Jentoffs. Lake trout were caught in the South Portage Entry near Farmers, Newton's and the Big Reef in 80 to 150 feet. In Traverse Bay, the lake trout bite was starting to pick up for those trolling Hermits Cove, Gay Point, Big Louie's Point and 7 Mile Reef. Put spoons just off the bottom in 120 to 160 feet. Those jigging did better out deeper in 240 to 265 feet.

Menominee River: Anglers caught brown trout off the mouth. Walleye and smallmouth were caught by those casting and trolling from the Hattie Street Bridge down to the mouth.

Little Bay De Noc: Walleye anglers reported fair to spotty catches from Breezy Point south to Round Island when trolling crawler harnesses in 10 to 20 feet. The mouth of the Whitefish River produced best but many were too small. They were trolling crawlers in 12 to 18 feet. Several limits were reported. Perch fishing was fair just south of the Day's River with crawlers in 14 to 22 feet. Both pike and freshwater drum were reported throughout the bay.

Big Bay De Noc: Walleye were caught in the late evening near Ogontz when trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits in 16 to 18 feet. Fish were also caught south of the Fish Dam Rivers near the "Boot" in 25 feet. Good smallmouth bass action for those using crank baits, tube baits, spinners or crawlers in 4 to 12 feet. Off Fairport, salmon season is underway. Those running the Poverty Island gap and trolling spoons 50 to 80 feet down in 150 feet caught Chinook and steelhead.

Big and South Manistique Lakes: Had good walleye fishing. South Manistique was good for panfish.

Marquette: Anglers are taking some lake trout north and east of white rocks, near Granite Island, and the black rocks when trolling cut bait. A couple fish were also taken at Shot Point in 120 to 180 feet. Some caught the occasional steelhead, brown trout and coho when trolling cut bait in shallow waters. Those fishing the Sand Hole reported some days better than others but limit catches were taken.

Munising: Boat anglers did well for lake trout and some reported limit catches of smaller fish. Hot spots were the West Channel, near Wood Island Reef and out towards Big Reef when trolling or jigging along the edge. Some fish were suspended 60 to 80 feet down in 200 feet. Those using downriggers or pump rods did best. A few coho were caught. Pier anglers at the Anna River reported an increase in bites but not catching. Water clarity at the mouth decreased. Splake were hitting on

crawlers and spawn bags or when casting spoons and stick baits. A nice walleye was also caught. Pike were hitting but landing them was not easy.

Grand Marais: Pier action for whitefish was slow with the better action in the early morning with a single egg. Some were lucky enough to catch coho and steelhead as well. Most of the whitefish are running small. Boat anglers targeting lake trout had excellent catches especially about seven miles out near the Big Reef. Most were averaging four to six pounds but a few were more than 10 pounds. Surface water temperatures offshore increased to the mid 50's and nearshore waters were upper 50's.

Detour: Anglers had success catching Atlantic salmon in and around the Detour Reef Light House. Most caught a mix of Atlantic and pink salmon as well as steelhead in 60 to 80 feet with sliders working the best. Candy corn was a good color. Fish were also taken on purple and copper spoons. Boats were trolling on the Drummond Island side at the red buoy and back to the lighthouse or northwest from the lighthouse to the green buoy in the early morning. There were no lake herring in Raber Bay or near Drummond Island. Anglers are still waiting for the fish to show up.

Cedarville and Hessel: Northern pike fishing was fair off the Hessel Pier when still-fishing in the early morning with chubs and large creek minnows or casting spinner baits. Over the last week, a couple schools of yellow perch were moving in and out of the finger docks mid-morning. Fish were caught on both shiner minnows and worms. Those wanting larger pike in the 28 to 32 inch class should try trolling large to medium size black buck tail spinners just off the weed beds in eight feet around Cube Island which is west of the Hessel pier. West of Cedarville, yellow perch were caught in Moscoe Channel in eight to 12 feet with minnow spreaders in the early morning. A couple lake herring were caught in Moscoe Channel and McKay Bay but no limit catches and no big numbers yet.

St. Ignace: Lake trout fishing remains good around Mackinac Island. Most were caught on either dodgers or cowbells with spin-glo's or peanuts. The Carp and Pine Rivers are both producing some walleye and pike. Walleye catch rates were low but some did better than others when using crawlers or leeches.

June 30, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The holiday weekend will likely mean most spots will be extra busy! Catch rates have slowed but there are still plenty of opportunities for those looking to reel something in. Specifically, lake trout is holding fairly strong and walleye is just starting to pick up.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Frequent insect hatches continued to slow the walleye bite over the last week. Those able to key in on actively feeding fish did get some decent catches. The fish were spread out but most were found in 25 to 28 feet off Stony Point and Fermi, in 18 to 22 feet in Brest Bay and straight out from Swan Creek or in 22 to 25 feet near the Dumping Grounds. Bottom bouncing crawler harnesses and trolling spoons were most effective with fire tiger and purple being the hot colors. Yellow perch fishing is still slow but some are taking decent catches on occasion in 16 to 20 feet in Brest Bay. Good numbers of catfish have been caught on crawlers and stink baits at the Hot Ponds. Some also caught largemouth bass and freshwater drum. The lagoons at Sterling State Park were still good for panfish, white and yellow perch or freshwater drum when using crawlers. Largemouth bass were caught on crawlers and soft plastic worms.

Oakland County: Fishing remains good on both Cass and Union Lakes. Panfish can be found along the sandy shelves near the drop-offs. Anglers doing best are using worms under a bobber. Bass fishermen continue to do well. While some anglers are catching fish under docks and in the canals, others are fishing the deeper weed lines and points. A few walleye were brought in on both lakes; most have been caught by those trolling cranks or harnesses.

Lake St. Clair: Muskie were caught around the Selfridge launch while trolling with hard body baits and bucktail spinners. Muskie were also caught on the Northeast side of Anchor Bay in nine feet while casting rubber jerk baits and in-line spinners. Smallmouth bass were caught between Selfridge launch and Brandenburg launch along the shoreline. Smallmouth bass have been caught anywhere from the mile roads all the way down to the mouth of the Detroit River in four to 15 feet while casting crankbaits. Anglers have also caught smallmouth bass in this same region in six to 10 feet while fly fishing with a clouser minnow. Anglers targeting walleye and

yellow perch are finding some success while trolling in the Shipping Channel and up into the South Channel with purple/pink, green, and chartreuse colored crawler harnesses in 18 to 40 feet. Anglers also had near limit catches of walleye near the Metro Park launch area while trolling with crawler harnesses. Channel catfish are being caught at the mouth of the spillway at the Clinton River Cutoff launch while fishing on the bottom with both plastic and live worms. Muskie anglers trolling in 12 feet around the mile roads using crankbaits had some success. A number of pike were also caught while targeting muskie. Panfish and perch were caught around Ginos while still-fishing with bobbers and worms.

St. Clair River: Anglers traveled to the north and middle channels and caught a fair numbers of walleye while trolling with crawler harnesses.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier fishing for steelhead slowed down this week. A few were caught using shrimp fished under bobbers. The water has warmed around the piers which has slowed down the fishing greatly. Boat anglers targeting salmon found fishing slow. There were a few reports of lake trout being caught in 120 feet. The fish seem to be very scattered and inconsistent. Perch fishing improved this week but was still slow overall.

South Haven: Pier fishing has slowed down greatly this week. There is still an occasional steelhead being caught with shrimp. Water temperature around the piers has warmed. A few sheepshead were being caught on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Boat anglers targeting salmon found fishing slow as well. The fish seem to be very scattered. Anglers found a few lake trout in 90 feet. Perch fishing continues to be very slow. Hopefully warming lake temperatures will improve perch fishing.

Whitehall: Salmon fishing has been slow but a few steelhead have been caught in 160 to 225 feet. Pier anglers casting spoons or fishing with cooked shrimp off the bottom are catching drums and the occasional steelhead. Those fishing with live minnows or jigging soft plastics are catching both smallmouth and largemouth bass.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan: Lake trout fishing here slowed between Cordwood Point and Bois Blanc Island. A few Chinook, pink salmon or steelhead were caught by those targeting lake trout but no more than one per boat. Most are trolling spoons along with dodgers and cowbells.

Cheboygan River: Is producing some nice walleye but most anglers had low success rates. Those that did catch fish did so when casting, trolling or drifting a crawler harness or when using leeches. There are a lot of freshwater drum being caught in the river along with increasing numbers of smallmouth bass.

Mullett Lake: Had large hatches of mayflies occurring over the last week. Walleye anglers are doing well after dark and before sunrise when trolling near the “Sunken Island” and around the “Humps” with crawler harnesses and body baits. Pike fishing has been hit-or-miss for those floating or drifting minnows in Pigeon River Bay. Smallmouth fishing has been very slow as the fish have moved to deeper water. Perch fishing has not been good.

Rogers City: Lakers are still being caught just about anywhere from this port. Anglers are targeting 50 to 70 feet but not all fish have been on the bottom. Anglers are catching them on lead core too. Run lines throughout the water column but be sure to target them 10 to 15 feet off the bottom. Dodger or spin-glo's near the bottom or green spoons throughout the water column. Anglers are also starting to take a few Chinook, steelhead and pink salmon. Try spoons in green, blue, black and white or anything that glows early and late about halfway down in 55 to 120 feet. For steelhead, run orange spoons up high in 120 to 180 feet.

Presque Isle: Lakers are still being caught but have moved out to deeper water. Try just off the bottom in 50 to 100 feet. Anglers are also starting to catch a few Chinook, coho, steelhead and pink salmon. The salmon are halfway down in 50 to 120 feet while the steelhead are up higher in the water column and hitting on the same colors.

Alpena: Walleye fishing is slowly picking up. Some are heading out late in the evening and fishing in 15 to 30 feet but most are heading south and going as far as Scare Crow Island. Body baits are working well as are crawler harnesses. Bass fishing seems to have slowed over the past week. The water may have turned over with the winds. Lake trout have moved out to 80 to 120 feet. Steelhead are also there but higher in the water column. Spoons, wobble glows and body baits are producing fish.

Oscoda: Pier fishing has been slow with only a couple carp, catfish or freshwater drum taken. The walleye bite is still slow. A good number of lake trout and steelhead seem to be in the area. Try 70 to 130 feet with spoons or spin-glo's.

Au Sable River: Boats drifting the river have had some luck catching walleye but again numbers are low. Crawlers and body baits have produced the most catches.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Harbor Springs: Boats are still targeting smallmouth bass close to shore. Lake trout were caught right on the bottom or within 10 feet of the bottom in 50 to 100 feet from Harbor Point north. The weather buoy in Little Traverse Bay had the surface temperature at 59 degrees and in the low 40's at 100 feet.

Petoskey: The few boat anglers that went out did well on lake trout when heading towards the hospital and Bay Harbor. Most fish were caught near the bottom in 90 to 100 feet with spoons, p-nuts and spin-glo's.

Bear River: A few rock bass and sub-legal trout were caught at the dam. Those fishing down near the mouth continue to catch rock bass, bullhead, catfish, carp, suckers and sub-legal smallmouth bass. Most fish were caught on worms, leeches, crank baits and small jigs.

Charlevoix: Has lake trout and rumor has it a couple small salmon were caught south of the channel. The number of pier anglers has dropped. A couple lake herring were caught. Quite a few sub-legal smallmouth bass were caught on small spoons and worms. Freshwater drum and carp were taken on spoons or jigs.

Traverse City: Bass anglers continue to be successful on the Elk River below the dam. Plenty of fish have been caught on both crawlers and leeches and artificial tubes and grubs. The bass remain on the small side though, with few making legal size. Although slow this past week, boat anglers on East Bay have caught bass south of Elk Rapids and Yuba Creek and at the south end of the Bay northwest of the State Park. Those fishing lake trout have caught nice fish out of Elk Rapids directly west and north. Cisco have been caught as well but not in large numbers. On West Bay, lakera were caught along the west side of the Bay north of Grelickville and near Power Island farther north. The Boardman continues to produce bass however, small. Carp have been caught off the Maritime pier at NMC. Chinook salmon have been caught trolling on East Bay out of the M37 launch in deeper water.

Pentwater: Fishing has been slow but steelhead and lake trout have been caught in 160 to 270 feet along with the occasional Chinook salmon.

Pentwater Lake: Anglers fishing the channel are catching smallmouth bass and drums on minnows, leeches, or spoons.

UPPER PENINSULA

Menominee River: Had some reports of brown trout being caught out of the mouth but not much information was available. The smallmouth bite was a bit slow but fish were caught at Lighthouse Pier and around Stephenson Island. Those trolling for walleye reported fair to good catch rates in the evening and at night when using crawler harnesses and stick baits.

Munising: Most anglers were targeting lake trout but some were fishing high-lines for salmon. Surface water temperatures have increased into the mid 50's within the bay and offshore in the low to mid 50's. Pier anglers at the Anna River reported some action on splake but most were sub-legal. Spawn sacs worked best but a few were casting spoons and stick baits which resulted in some strikes from bigger fish but what species was unknown.

Grand Marais: Boat anglers caught primarily lake trout along with a few coho. Offshore water temperatures about 5 miles out are in the low 50's. Within the harbor surface temperatures are around 60 degree+. There are large schools of chubs with a few perch and bass swimming near the harbor wall. Pier anglers for whitefish did

well when using a single egg. Those casting a blue and silver Cleo did manage to catch the occasional coho.

St. Marys River: Lake whitefish were caught above the shipping locks in 28 feet around the first green buoy off Sherman Park. Try a small, shiny artificial fly bait and wax worm in the early morning. Water temperatures off Drummond Island are beginning to warm-up in and around Howard Island straight north of Yacht Haven Marina. Lake herring have been caught just off the bottom in 20 feet with a teardrop and wax worm. As nighttime temperatures begin to warm-up, more fly hatches should occur and bring more lake herring to the islands.

Detour: Atlantic salmon fishing was good for those trolling spin-glo's off sliders at six to eight feet in 60 to 80 feet between the red buoy on the Drummond Island side and the Detour Lighthouse. Lake trout are also being caught on spoons in 40 to 80 feet. A couple steelhead and pink salmon were caught from the green buoy north of the Detour Lighthouse to Fay Pan Island with orange and pink spoons in 35 feet.

Cedarville and Hessel: Pike anglers from Hessel trolling spoons and buck tail spinners in and around Wilderness Bay caught fish along the weed beds in six to eight feet. Those using chubs and large minnows off the pier caught lots of fish however many were throwbacks. Smallmouth bass slowed but a few fish were still taken on tube jigs in the bays and near the point that leads to Snows Channel. At Cedarville, anglers were targeting lake herring in McKay Bay and just west of the Cedarville Stone Quarry. They did well with brown teardrop jigs and a wax worm or adult Caddis Fly's in four to six feet. If the fish are not this shallow, move out to 12 feet and fish just off the bottom.

St. Ignace: Good numbers of lake trout are being caught around Mackinac Island when trolling dodger or cowbells with spin-glo's. The Carp River is still producing smallmouth bass, perch and pike. The Pine River was yielding larger catches of walleye for those trolling crawler harnesses or still-fishing with crawlers and leeches. The occasional pike, catfish or perch were also caught.