

July 7, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

As summer heats up so does the fishing. Bluegills are still being caught however rising water temperatures have the fish moving deeper. Try wax worms, red worms, leeches or a piece of crawler. Southeast Michigan is still producing some limit catches of walleye. Trout and salmon fishing in the Great Lakes continues to produce a mixed bag.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Had several limit catches of walleye reported. The fish were scattered in 22 to 28 feet however the better success was found in 28 feet off Fermi and Stony Point or in 23 feet near the Dumping Grounds. Anglers were mainly trolling crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers but those using spoons, thundersticks and wiggle warts also caught fish. Hot colors were purple, fire-tiger or blue. Yellow perch fishing was slow with only a few decent catches taken with shiners on spreaders in 16 to 20 feet straight out from Brest Bay and Toledo Beach. Shore anglers at the Hoffman Memorial Access Site caught freshwater drum and panfish on crawlers. At the lagoons in Sterling State Park, anglers caught white perch and panfish on crawlers and largemouth bass on jerk baits or soft plastics.

**Detroit River:** Yellow perch have been caught in six to 12 feet around the islands, along the weed beds and near the Cross Dike. For walleye, some are drifting crawler harnesses while others are jigging near the mouth. Those hand-lining near Sugar Island caught smaller fish. Shore anglers caught bass and lots of rock bass.

**Oakland County:** Both Cass and Union Lake are producing panfish along the shallow weed beds or suspended off the bottom in 12 to 20 feet. Crawlers and wax worms under a bobber were producing the best. Bass fishing remains good for most. Try the shallows flats in the morning or evening and the weed lines and structure mid-day. A couple pike and walleye were caught along the deeper side of the drop-offs.

**Lake St. Clair:** The mayfly hatch is near its peak and should begin to taper off in the next week or two. Smallmouth and a number of largemouth bass were caught on soft plastics in three to eight feet south of the Clinton River Cutoff launch and near Gino's. A number of legal size muskie were caught near the Cutoff launch when casting lures or fly fishing. Small muskie and pike were caught near the St. Clair Light when trolling hard body lures. A few perch were caught on worms near Gino's. A few

perch and walleye were taken near the launch at Nine Mile Road. A couple walleye were taken by those trolling crawler harnesses in the shipping channel in 30 feet. On the north end, some perch were caught on crawler harnesses with flashers along the weed beds south of the Brandenburg launch and near Gull Island.

**St. Clair River:** A few walleye and some perch were caught along the North Channel when vertical jigging with crawlers. Walleye fishing has been very good at Port Huron above the bridge with anglers catching many fish in the 13 to 15 inch size range. The minimum size limit for walleye in the river is 13 inches, while the minimum size limit in the waters of Lake Huron is 15 inches. The boundary line between Lake Huron and the river is the east-west line at the Fort Gratiot Light.

**Port Sanilac:** Walleye were caught in 15 to 25 feet. A lot of smallmouth bass were also caught. Lake trout anglers were heading out as far as 25 miles to the mid-lake reef in 130 to 200 feet however it is not necessary to go out that far.

**Harbor Beach:** Still had some pink salmon 30 to 50 feet down in 80 to 130 feet. Try running some clean spoons with offshore boards as well as 2,3,5,7, and 10 colored leads. The lake trout are still scattered. Some were caught in 80 to 125 feet while others were deeper straight out and north of the harbor. Try gold and orange, green and white, purple, orange crush or bright yellow spoons 40 to 80 feet down. A couple steelhead were taken on bright colored spoons. A few walleye were taken on small spoons, thunder stick, and crawler harnesses in 25 to 40 feet. Pike and bass were caught inside the harbor and near shore with small spoons and body baits.

**Port Hope to Port Austin:** Boat anglers were taking walleye in 20 to 40 feet off the reefs west of Port Austin and between the ports when the wind brings warm water out of the bay.

**Saginaw Bay:** Walleye anglers are catching a lot of freshwater drum, some catfish and a few really nice yellow perch. Those trolling crawler harnesses are catching the most while those using crank baits and spoons have caught the least. The most productive area was near Buoys 1 & 2 in 28 to 30 feet. Others were fishing the inner Spark Plug near Buoys 11 & 12 in 22 to 24 feet, north of the Dumping Grounds in 20 feet, Buoys A & H off Linwood, the Slot from Sunset Bay Marina northeast and along the outside of the islands, over the Bar and the Callahan Reef in 10 to 12 feet in the early morning. Near Caseville, a few walleye were taken off Oak Point and Oak Beach in 35 to 45 feet or between Oak Point and the Charity Islands although the action there was not as good. Walleye were also caught between Caseville and Port Austin when the weather permits.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Perch fishing continues to get better in 35 to 45 feet. Pier anglers were getting steelhead when floating shrimp but as the waters warm fishing has slowed. Salmon anglers were catching decent numbers of steelhead near the end of the piers before the warm spell.

**South Haven:** Pier anglers were still catching a few steelhead when floating shrimp under a bobber. Boat anglers caught a few lake trout in 100 feet. Fishing overall was slow including perch fishing.

**Saugatuck:** Coldwater nearshore brought steelhead and brown trout in close.

**Grand Haven:** Boat anglers trolling orange spoons or body baits near the piers caught steelhead and the occasional Chinook. A few Chinook were caught out in 100 feet. Pier anglers are catching steelhead on shrimp.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Anglers are getting a few walleye. Pike have been caught south of town. Those targeting catfish have done well. Try crawlers, shrimp, bluegills, or cut bait.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Smallmouth bass and rock bass have been caught on flies and leeches below the North Lansing Dam. Water levels are low so this a good time to wade the river.

**Rose Lake:** Was good for bowfin with lots of fish caught. They put up a good fight which makes catching them even more fun. Bullhead were also caught.

**Lake Ovid:** Was producing some good size crappie however anglers are sorting out the small ones. Bluegills are still hitting but most are moving back to deep water. Anglers were using red worms, wax worms and crawlers.

**Muskegon:** Boats have caught a mixed bag of salmon and trout in 120 to 180 feet. Most were caught in the top 80 feet with orange or green spoons.

**Muskegon River:** Those fishing Hardy Dam Pond have caught some walleye, perch and largemouth bass.

**Whitehall:** Steelhead and Chinook salmon were caught when trolling in 130 feet. There is a lot of baitfish around the piers and those casting spoons or still-fishing with alewife or shrimp have caught steelhead and freshwater drum.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Mackinaw City:** Those launching reported good lake trout fishing around Mackinac Island. Target the deeper waters with cowbells and dodgers.

**Cheboygan:** Lake trout fishing has been hit-or-miss. The lucky ones did take a few limit catches out from Cordwood Point in 100 feet. A few small Chinook, pink or Atlantic salmon were also caught on spoons.

**Cheboygan River:** Is still producing good numbers of freshwater drum and rock bass for those looking to catch anything. A few northern pike, smallmouth bass and channel catfish have also been taken. The walleye bite is very spotty with some

doing well and others struggling to catch them. Quite a few undersize fish have been caught during the day while most of the keepers were coming after dark.

**Mullett Lake:** Still had a large mayfly hatch going on and walleye fishing was slower. Boat anglers fishing around the “Sunken Island” and the “Humps” were only catching the occasional fish when trolling a crawler harness. Purple with chartreuse was working well for some. Pike anglers are finding a few fish in Pigeon River Bay and in Scotts Bay when using minnows or suckers under a bobber. Steelhead anglers were averaging one fish about 30 feet down in 100 to 120 feet.

**Rogers City:** Cold water was still present in 80 feet. A mayfly hatch was occurring and those looking for bug slicks were catching a mixed bag of Chinook, coho, pink, Atlantic salmon and lake trout. Anglers are heading north, south or straight out and fishing anywhere from 60 to 200 feet with lead core, dipseys and downriggers running up high. Look for structure and use bright colors like orange, yellow and silver. Lake trout are being caught but many were moving out to deeper water. Try cowbells and dodgers with spin-glo’s just off the bottom.

**Presque Isle:** A mixed bag fishery has started as anglers are bringing in steelhead, lake trout, coho, the occasional Chinook and Atlantic salmon in 60 to 180 feet. Put lines throughout the water column. Hot colors were orange, green, blue, silver, black and white or anything that glows early and late.

**Alpena:** Walleye fishing is starting to pick up as the waters warm. Most anglers are heading as far south as the Black River and reporting fish in 20 to 40 feet. They are hitting on crawler harnesses and body baits. Lake trout have moved out deeper and were found in 100 to 140 feet but were suspended. Bass fishing has been up and down. Most were targeting the shoreline south and into Squaw Bay.

**Thunder Bay River:** Had slow fishing however as the waters warm, look for catfish.

**Oscoda:** Had a week of pink salmon catches. A few lake trout came in but those targeting anything were picking up the pinks. Most were marked in 120 to 150 feet. Pier fishing has started to pick up.

**Au Sable River:** Those fishing from the US-23 Bridge to the mouth have caught a couple walleye and some catfish on crawlers and body baits.

**Houghton Lake:** Has bluegills and bass. The bluegills were hitting on leaf worms and wax worms along the weed beds. Some crappie were caught and those doing best were using minnows. Walleye are hitting leeches on harness or jigs. Those fishing at night have done well from shore when casting crank baits in perch patterns, black and silver. The bigger walleye have been caught along the north shore.

**Tawas:** Trolling for walleye was slow in part to the large mayfly hatches which is when these fish gorge themselves. A few walleye and pike were picked up on Lindy rigs when fishing off Jerry’s Marina. Pier fishing was slow and spotty.

**Tawas River:** Shore anglers caught a few smallmouth bass, rock bass and bluegills.

**Au Gres:** Had a lot of fishing pressure but success was hit-or-miss. Walleye have been caught but limit catches were rare. The mayfly hatches were pretty thick. Those trolling were in 35 to 45 feet east and southeast of Pointe Au Gres, the Steeples, the “Humps” and down near Buoys 1 & 2.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Windy conditions have kept boats off the water. Look for lake trout around Harbor Point.

**Petoskey:** High winds slowed catch rates. A couple boats managed to take one or two lake trout but others had none. Fish were marked 10 to 20 feet off the bottom in 80 to 100 feet. Those fishing from the breakwall did not have much luck. Look for smallmouth bass around the rocks. Near the mouth of the river, anglers caught rock bass, smallmouth bass, bullhead, drum and even a perch or two. Try worms, crank baits or small jigs.

**Bear River:** Water levels were normal to low but anglers were still finding a couple steelhead between the dam and the mouth. Spawn bags worked best.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers caught lake trout. North Point was a good spot, with fish taken 10 feet off the bottom in 90 to 100 feet with spoons and spin-glo’s. A nice steelhead was caught south of the channel when running high-lines 30 to 35 feet down. Bass were also caught but many were undersize. Some did well for rock bass, small perch and freshwater drum. Try worms, leeches or soft plastics.

**Traverse City:** Lake trout anglers had success on the east side of the East Bay from Deepwater Point to Yuba Creek. Lake herring and the occasional Chinook salmon were also caught. Lake trout were straight out from Elk Rapids. Bass anglers continue to catch fish from both bays however the East Bay was producing more fish north of the M-37 launch and along the south end of the bay. Only a few bass were caught north of the M-22 launch on the West Bay.

**Boardman River:** Continues to produce small bass.

**Frankfort:** Anglers trolling in 180 to 250 feet and working the top 80 feet with spoons have caught a couple Chinook salmon in the early morning. Those trolling cowbells and spin-glo’s along the bottom caught lake trout in the Herring Hole and Platte Bay. Steelhead and the occasional brown trout were caught on spoons or body baits in the channel and between the piers.

**Portage Lake:** Bass anglers working the drops in 15 to 20 feet were taking good catches of largemouth. Those working the piers for smallmouth say the fish are there but they are working hard for them because of the rising water temperatures. Panfish anglers were doing fair with worms.

**Manistee:** Construction on the north pier is complete and the pier is now open to the public. Steelhead and a small number of brown trout have been caught by pier

anglers. Boat anglers continue to catch lake trout in 80 to 100 feet and Chinook or steelhead up high in 80 to 90 feet.

**Big Manistee River:** Skamania fishing improved in the upper waters near and at Tippy Dam. Most of the fish were caught above the Cofferdam when casting steelhead spawn or worms into the water discharge in the early morning between 4:00 and 9:00 a.m.

**Manistee Lake:** Those targeting large and smallmouth bass have done well. The smallmouth were hitting crayfish pattern crank baits and the largemouth were going after soft plastics along the weed beds in eight to 10 feet. Pike were active especially for those using inline spinners or minnows along the drop-offs in seven to 15 feet. Walleye numbers are up slightly but anglers are still putting in a lot of time to get them.

**Ludington:** Surface water temperatures were about 62 degrees. Dredging continues out near the end of the piers. Those fishing off the piers at night caught a few walleye. Boat anglers continue to catch lake trout in 80 to 150 feet or steelhead and Chinook in 80 to 100 feet.

**Pentwater:** Steelhead, lake trout, and Chinook salmon have been caught in 100 to 150 feet or 220 to 280 feet. Most of the salmon and steelhead were coming from the top 30 feet.

**Pentwater Lake:** Those fishing the channel caught smallmouth bass and freshwater drum. Those fishing near Long Bridge Road caught smallmouth bass and bluegills.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keweenaw Bay:** With the exception of a few coho and lake trout, the bite has been slow here, in Traverse Bay and the Portage Entry.

**Menominee River:** Those trolling have caught walleye, freshwater drum and catfish in 6 to 10 feet when using crawler harnesses and stick baits. A couple brown trout were caught off the mouth.

**Marquette:** Had good lake trout and coho fishing near the white rocks and Granite Island in 180 feet when trolling spoons or using cut bait. Those fishing the Carp River caught a couple small brook trout and steelhead on spinners.

**Munising:** A few boats have been out for lake trout. Some were taking up to six fish in six hours while others did not do so well. Most were heading towards the West Channel and fishing 10 to 20 feet off the bottom in 180 feet. Fish were caught off the Big Reef when trolling or jigging. Pier anglers at the Anna River reported slow catch rates for splake. Surface water temperatures remain in the mid to upper 50's nearshore and the low 50's further out.

**Grand Marais:** Has a new updated fish cleaning station! Several people at once will not be able to clean their fish at the marina. Boat anglers had a little more coho action with four or five fish taken per trip. They did best trolling outside the breakwall and east towards the Sucker River in less than 50 feet. Lake trout anglers were doing great seven miles out from the harbor to Au Sable Point and the Big Reef. The fish range between four and 20 pounds and most were caught just off the bottom or within 10 feet of the bottom. Pier anglers were taking whitefish in the early morning when using a single egg. A few coho and even a brown trout were also caught. Surface water temperatures within the harbor were in the mid 50's to near 60 degrees.

**Manistique:** Chinook salmon started to show up with some fish up to 20 pounds caught. Anglers are catching fish here and off Fairport.

**St. Marys River:** A few Atlantic salmon were caught out of Sault Ste. Marie when casting fly type baits or a three inch orange and chrome spoons off the Sugar Island side of the ferry boat dock. A few walleye were caught in the late afternoon and evening next to the Sugar Island Ferry Dock when using a crawler with a 20 inch leader and three ounce sinker in the strong current. Along the north shore of Drummond Island in Scott Bay, the water has warmed to 68 to 70 degrees. Bigger walleye have been caught on both sides of Peck Island trolling bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses in 12 to 14 feet of water. Planer boards are still working in the early morning in six to eight feet with large crank baits. Those jigging dark green and brown tube jigs for smallmouth bass had fair catches along the rock piles at the entrance to Harbor Island in five to eight feet.

**Detour:** Fishing remained steady. North winds kept some anglers off the water, while others continued to fish upstream on the northwest side of the Detour Light House from Fry Pan Island to the green buoy and to the lighthouse. Those fishing two to three hours had a mix of Atlantic salmon, small Chinook, some pink salmon and a good number of lake trout. The salmon were hitting spoons 10 to 12 feet down in 60 to 80 feet. Hot colors were orange, green and watermelon. Orange and green spin-glo's run off sliders has consistently caught Atlantic salmon. Heavier cadis fly hatches are expected this week so anglers might want to try trolling fly type baits.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** The public dock and the pier at Hessel is a good place to target pike in early morning when still-fishing with live chubs and large shiners. A few lake herring were caught between dawn and 8 a.m. off Hwy M-134 and Lake Side Road in McKay Bay with wax worms and natural fly baits with slip bobbers four feet down in eight feet. Cadis fly hatches were light. Anglers are looking for warmer water to enhance fly hatches and bring in more lake herring.

**St. Ignace:** Anglers out trolling reported lake trout around Mackinac Island as most fish were moving out deeper to cooler waters. Cowbells and dodgers worked best. The Carp River is still producing a few walleye, pike, smallmouth bass and yellow perch. Most fish were caught on leeches or crawler harnesses. Walleye fishing is still good in the Pine River with fish caught a mile upstream at the rapids when trolling a crawler harness or drifting a leech and crawler under a slip bobber. A couple good size pike along with a few yellow perch and channel cats were also caught.

July 14, 2016

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## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

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

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Good numbers of walleye were found at various depths straight out from Fermi and Stony Point. The E Buoy and the Dumping Grounds near Toledo Beach also produced a few walleye for those trolling crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers, spoons and wiggle warts. Fire-tiger, pink lemonade, and purple were hot colors. Yellow perch fishing was better with a couple limit catches reported. A decent number of fish were found near Toledo Beach and the W Buoy when using shiners on spreaders in 13 to 16 feet. Slower catch rates were reported in 16 to 20 feet in Brest Bay. Shore anglers at Pointe Mouillee's boating access site caught largemouth bass, rock bass, freshwater drum, and yellow perch on minnows and crawlers. The lagoons at Sterling State Park lagoons produced bass on spinners or white perch, freshwater drum, bluegills and catfish on crawlers. Those fishing Whitewood Creek in Luna Pier caught panfish on crawlers and pike on spoons.

**Huron River:** Anglers are catching a lot of pike.

**Detroit River:** A few walleye were taken by those trolling crawler harnesses around the islands. Some perch were caught around Celeron Island and Sugar Island however anglers will have to sort out the small ones. Some are jigging for muskie.

**Oakland County:** Fishing overall remains good on both Cass and Union Lake. Between the hot weather and heavy boating pressure, mornings and late evenings were the best time to fish. Anglers are targeting bass around docks or in 12 feet or deeper. Those looking for panfish should try deeper water as well. A few pike and walleye were caught around the sunken islands and deep points. Water clarity was minimal so try brighter colors or anything flashy.

**Lake St. Clair:** Has been warming up and was over 70 degrees in most areas. The mayfly hatch continues in full swing. Anglers may find good surface action for large and smallmouth bass on calm days when the mayflies are hatching and the bass are feeding on the emerging adult insects. Smallmouth bass were caught in 16 feet off



Metro Beach. The bite was slow but some caught fish straight out from the Nine Mile launch in 15 feet along the weed beds. The early morning bite was better as the fish are usually in 10 feet or less. Walleye were caught near the wall at Metro Beach when casting lures or crawlers in 10 feet. Fish were also caught when trolling purple and chartreuse crawler harnesses in 17 feet between the South and the Middle Channels and in the shipping channel. Yellow perch were caught in the Shipping Channel when jigging or drifting worms and minnows in 14 to 19 feet. A couple undersize muskie were caught near the St. Clair Light. On the north end, smallmouth bass were caught near the Harley Ensign DNR launch in nine to 10 feet when casting a white soft plastic or a twin tailed grub in the weed beds. Largemouth bass were caught on spinners around Brandenburg Park and Selfridge. Northern pike were taken in 10 feet off the launch at Fair Haven with a plastic worm or spinner. Pike can be found in the shallows along the north end of Anchor Bay when casting spinners or surface lures. A few walleye were caught near Selfridge and around Strawberry Island. Yellow perch were caught at the mouth of the North Channel when drifting minnows. Muskie were caught in 13 to 16 feet near Selfridge. Bluegills were caught along the drop-offs around Anchor Bay when using worms under a slip bobber.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing remains very good above the Bluewater Bridge and after dark in the Marine City and Marysville areas. Daytime anglers caught walleye in the lower river including the North, Middle and South Channels. White bass are in the same area.

**Harbor Beach:** The wind has churned up the lake. Start in 60 feet and work your way out while fishing top to bottom until you find fish. Try dodgers with spin-glo's off the bottom for lake trout. Pink salmon were caught 20 to 50 feet down in 100 to 180 feet and steelhead were taken on bright colored spoons near the color lines in 90 to 180 feet. A few walleye were taken on small spoons, thunder sticks, and crawler harnesses closer to shore in 25 to 40 foot feet and bass near shore when casting small body baits.

**Grindstone City:** Anglers are heading north and fishing in 30 to 40 feet. The trout and salmon were scattered and fishing was poor.

**Port Austin:** Had good walleye fishing between Oak Point and Hat Point in 30 to 40 feet. Crawler harnesses worked best.

**Saginaw Bay:** Catch rates were spotty off Linwood because of the wind and bad weather. Anglers were fishing straight out in 18 to 24 feet, north of Buoy #1, near the Spark Plug and the mouth of the Saginaw River. Catch rates were fair in 12 feet off the State Park or in eight to 10 feet off Kawkawlin. Hot colors were chartreuse and purples. Some were also getting a few perch near the A Buoy. Catch rates were spotty off Finn Road. The Callahan Reef was a hotspot in 11 to 12 feet. Some found fish in 17 feet along the Slot and at the Coryeon Reef. Crawler harnesses worked best. Off Quanicassee, some averaged seven fish per boat along the Slot and the edge of the Bar. Some were fishing shallow waters six to 10 feet but had to work harder to catch them. Sebewaing was hit-or-miss. At Bay Port and Caseville, fishing was very spotty.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Inland lakes in the area are extremely warm. Those heading out will want to target the weed beds in deeper water. Some reported bluegills just off the bottom in waters 20 to 30 feet deep.

**St. Joseph:** Perch fishing continues to be steady. Anglers are targeting 30 to 40 feet north and south of the piers. Steelhead fishing for pier anglers has slowed. Freshwater drum were now hitting on shrimp and crawlers. Catch rates were slow for boat anglers. A few lake trout were caught in 100 feet.

**South Haven:** Perch fishing continues to improve with fish caught in 30 feet. Pier fishing for all species was slow. Salmon fishing was also slow. Boat anglers managed to catch a couple lake trout in 100 feet.

**Kalamazoo River:** Anglers have caught bass and a few walleye below the dams.

**Grand Haven:** Steelhead were caught on alewife and shrimp however the action has slowed for pier anglers. Boat anglers are catching a mixed bag of trout and salmon in 120 to 180 feet when using orange or green spoons.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Has very good smallmouth bass fishing throughout the river. Some have caught the occasional walleye. Those looking for catfish have done well with a whole sucker for flatheads or cut bait for channel cats.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Has very good smallmouth bass fishing. Anglers were doing extremely well below the dams with beetle spins, drifting leeches or fly fishing with wooly buggers.

**Muskegon:** No word on pier fishing but boat anglers have caught trout and salmon 45 to 120 feet down in 100 to 200 feet. Most were using orange or green spoons and various colored spin-glo's.

**Muskegon River:** Had fair to good fishing below the dams though the water was a bit stained after the rain. Most are targeting walleye and bass. Those fly fishing had success for trout and bass.

**Whitehall:** Boat anglers have done well for salmon and steelhead in 100 to 150 feet. Pier anglers are catching steelhead on cooked shrimp or alewife under a bobber or spawn bags off the bottom. Those casting rapalas or jigging plastic minnow imitations between the pier heads caught freshwater drum throughout the day and some walleye in the evening.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Mackinaw City:** Lake trout are still being caught by those trolling around Mackinac Island. No reports of any salmon showing up in this area.

**Cheboygan:** Lake trout are being caught by those trolling spoons or dodgers near Cordwood Point. Steelhead and salmon were reported but the numbers were low.

**Cheboygan River:** Is still producing walleye, smallmouth bass, pike, rock bass, and freshwater drum. Most walleye were taken on crawlers, leeches or jigs tipped with plastics. Many are small but anglers are still getting the occasional keeper.

**Mullett Lake:** Walleye anglers are still catching a few fish even though mayflies were still in the area. Most were using a crawler harness but a few were also taken on deep diving body baits. Pike can still be found on the south end but the action was hit-or-miss. A few perch anglers were out but success rates were minimal.

**Rogers City:** Weather continues to hamper fishing conditions. Anglers are deploying downriggers, lead core, dipseys and copper. Anglers are fishing anywhere from 45 to 120 feet but some were heading much deeper to 200 feet. Most are using green, blue, purple or black and white spoons. Use glow early or late. Steelhead were caught on 1 to 3 colors of lead with bright orange and silver spoons. Lake trout were hitting on dodgers or cowbells with spin-glo's.

**Presque Isle:** Is producing a mix of lake trout, steelhead, pink salmon, Atlantic salmon and the occasional Chinook when fishing along the humps in 60 to 130 feet. For lake trout, fish just off the bottom with cowbells or big flashers and dodgers.

**Alpena:** When they can get out, boat anglers have done well for lake trout. Most are heading out to the "Humps" past Thunder Bay Island and returning with limit catches in a mix of lake trout, pink salmon and steelhead. Most anglers are running spoons, spin-glo's, wobble glows and flies behind dodgers or spin doctors. Dark colors seem to be work best. Walleye are still elusive throughout the bay. Those targeting them were heading south to Grass Island, Sulphur Island and even the Black River. Crawler harnesses, small spoons and body baits with inline planer boards in 15 to 30 feet during the late night or early morning was best.

**Oscoda:** Pier fishing was slow. Those fishing late at night caught catfish and the occasional walleye. Boat anglers caught lake trout, steelhead, small kings and pink salmon. The fish seem to be holding in 120 to 150 feet but most were suspended. Try dark colored dodgers, spin doctors and cowbells.

**Au Sable River:** Water temperatures are up with the warm weather so there may be a chance walleye are still coming up from Saginaw Bay.

**Houghton Lake:** Walleye fishing has been spotty and many were on the small side. Bluegills have been caught near the weed beds in six to eight feet. Anglers are using a jig with a leech. Fair to good bass fishing continues.

**Lake St. Helen:** Had good fishing until the return of hot weather. Catch rates should improve by the weekend as cooler temperatures return. For now, look for panfish along the weed beds in five feet or deeper.

**Tawas:** Those trolling reported slow catch rates with only a couple walleye taken out near Buoy #2 in 65 to 70 feet and northeast of the Charity Islands when using crawlers or crank baits. Pier fishing was slow.

**Tawas River:** Was producing a few pike or a couple catfish at night.

**Au Gres:** A few walleye were caught south of Pt. Au Gres and along the Rifle Bar in 14 to 25 feet with body baits. Some caught the occasional perch, catfish, and freshwater drum.

**Au Gres River:** Anglers caught a few catfish and freshwater drum.

**Wixom Lake:** In Gladwin County was producing some nice crappie for those trolling a small white beetle spin. Bluegills and sunfish were caught on crawlers and leeches with slip bobbers six to 10 feet down.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Petoskey:** Boat anglers were marking fish 70 to 80 feet down in 100 to 200 feet between the breakwall and the water treatment plant but few were caught. Pier anglers did not have much luck but there should be some smallmouth bass in and around the rocks soon.

**Bear River:** Was still producing the occasional steelhead between the dam and the mouth even though water levels were still pretty low. Action at the mouth was still a bit slow but anglers will find rock bass, bullhead, smallmouth bass, bluegills and freshwater drum.

**Charlevoix:** Some boats did well for lake trout when fishing near the bottom in 90 to 100 feet around North Point. The fish were also around South Point and further south towards Fisherman's Island however these fish were suspended in 140 feet. Other boats were out around Nine Mile Point. Those fishing the channel caught mostly undersize smallmouth bass on worms, leeches or soft plastics.

**Traverse City:** Bass anglers caught good numbers north of the M-37 launch and near the south end of the bay. Lake trout were caught between Elk Rapids and Yuba Creek. The Elk River is producing lots of smallmouth but many were too small. Perch, rock bass and other panfish were also caught. On the West Bay, smallmouth bass have been caught south of Bowers Harbor.

**Boardman River:** Had a small push of steelhead with only a few caught. Walleye were few and far between and most were undersize.

**Frankfort:** Several good catches of Chinook were taken in a variety of locations between the Herring Hole and Platte Bay. Anglers were trolling the top 40 to 60 feet in 60 to 180 feet with spoons, flies and meat rigs. Purple and blue were the hot colors. Some fish were 16 to 20 pounds. Lake trout and steelhead were also caught. Pier anglers caught steelhead on shrimp or alewife.

**Onekama:** Those trolling the outer edge of "The Barrel" reported good catches of lake trout on cowbells and spin-glo's. A few Chinook were caught on spoons near the surface.

**Portage Lake:** Bass anglers are reporting several smaller largemouth caught in shallow waters. Some caught the occasional small pike. Panfish anglers were doing well in nine to 14 feet with worms along the weed beds.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Extremely warm temperatures have the fish moving to deeper water. Better catches have come in the early morning or late evening. For panfish, try leaf worms, wax worms or small minnows with a slip bobber. The occasional walleye is still being caught when drifting crawlers and leeches. There was fair to good bass fishing along the shorelines in the early morning or evening.

**Manistee:** Surface water temperatures were about 62 degrees. Good numbers of lake trout are being caught in 60 to 100 feet. Chinook were caught in 100 to 150 feet. The occasional steelhead was still being caught off the piers.

**Big Manistee River:** Brown trout activity continues to improve especially for those casting flies and worms above Sawdust Bend. Those looking for steelhead near Tippy Dam were not having much luck. Fish caught were generally above the Cofferdam and hitting on live bait.

**Manistee Lake:** The large and smallmouth bite has been hit-or-miss. Try jigs and soft plastics in the weeds near Stronach or crank baits along the the drop-offs west of Penny Park. Pike continue to be active and were caught on everything from crank baits to inline spinners. Bluegills and rock bass were caught directly north of the Stronach Boat Launch.

**Ludington:** Had surface water readings about 60 degrees. Lake trout slowed but were still caught in 60 to 100 feet. Chinook and steelhead were caught in 100 to 150 feet.

**Pentwater:** Salmon and steelhead fishing was fair in 100 to 150 feet. Those targeting lake trout found fish in 200 to 260 feet.

**Pentwater Lake:** Smallmouth bass along with the occasional perch or sunfish have been caught from the access site on Long Bridge Road. Good smallmouth fishing was reported in the channel. Most are drifting minnows or leeches.

## **UPPER PENINSULA**

**Gogebic County:** Flooding from a storm in the western Upper Peninsula on Monday has washed out the access road to a DNR boat launch located several miles northwest of Ironwood. The launch is located within Little Girl's Point County Park, just upstream from the mouth of Oman Creek at Lake Superior. A portion of Lake Road to the east of the boating access parking lot has been washed out along with a bridge to the west over the South Baltimore River. There is no way to get to the access site at this time so the launch site will be closed until further notice.

**Menominee River:** Had good walleye action for those using jigs, live bait and stick baits from Stephenson Island to Boom Island. Catfish and freshwater drum were also caught. Those trolling spoons south of the river caught a few brown trout.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported large mayfly hatches and schools of alewife throughout the Bay making catches a bit more difficult. The better walleye fishing was found near Breezy Point in eight to 14 feet with stick baits or crawler harnesses and the mouth of the Escanaba River in 18 to 22 feet when drifting crawlers along the weed beds. Those fishing up near the Whitefish River caught the occasional keeper when trolling or drifting crawlers in eight to 17 feet. Salmon and trout anglers started to report catches out near the Ford River Buoy when trolling spoons 40 to 60 feet down in 80 to 110 feet. Pike and freshwater drum were very active.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Smallmouth bass anglers have struggled. Most were fishing the Ogontz area when trolling spinners or crank baits in 10 to 16 feet but most of the fish were undersize. On a good note, those same anglers were catching good numbers of pike. A few smallmouth were caught off Porcupine Point when casting tube baits in 12 to 14 feet. At Fairport, salmon and trout anglers reported fair to good catches when fishing the "Gap" between Summers Islands with spoons or artificial meat rigs 30 to 80 feet down in 100 to 130 feet. The bug lines have produced good numbers of rainbow trout about 30 feet down. Some were heading as far south as Washington Island and fishing 40 to 80 feet down in 150 feet.

**Marquette:** Fishing activity was slow. Most of those heading out were targeting lake trout north of the white rocks when trolling spoons in and around 180 feet. Fish were also caught near the breakwall, the Carp River, the Chocolay River and around Granite Island. Shore anglers fishing the mouth of the Dead River caught pike on body baits. Shore anglers on the Carp River caught undersize rainbow trout on spinners.

**Munising:** Lake trout anglers have done well with an average days catch in about six hours. Most fish were caught just off the bottom near Wood Island Reef and the West Channel. Big Reef has been slow so anglers were fishing the reefs near West Channel. Pier anglers at the Anna River reported little action with only a couple keeper size splake taken. Those casting spoons or cleo's were getting strikes.

**Grand Marais:** Pier activity has been very low with only a few casting for whitefish. Anglers did report on a couple coho taken. Surface water temperatures were up near 60 degrees inside the harbor and the low to mid 50's further out. A few boat anglers did venture out towards Au Sable Point and had caught lake trout with most fish averaging four pounds. If you are looking for some fun fishing for the kids, try worms off the marina breakwall for small perch or casting spoons and stick baits for pike.

**Detour:** Atlantic salmon are still being caught when trolling from the red buoy on the Drummond Island side to the lighthouse. Fish were also caught between Fry Pan Island and the green buoy and back to the lighthouse. Success for lake trout was

good to excellent two miles straight south of the Detour Lighthouse when trolling purple and silver hammered spoons.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Cedarville had a few reports of small yellow perch caught when drifting worms or shiners in six to 10 feet in Cedarville and Government Bay. Those targeting lake herring with wax worms have also caught a few perch in McKay Bay. Try four feet off the bottom in 12 feet just west of the stone quarry. South of the freighter loading dock, steelhead, lake trout and Atlantic salmon were caught when trolling spoons and fly-type baits. Atlantic salmon and steelhead were six to 12 feet down. Those targeting smallmouth bass off Hessel did well when casting or jigging green and brown tube baits in and around the islands just south of the Hessel pier. Look for water with current and rock piles. Pike ranging 26 to 30 inches were caught by those trolling spoons with a red-eye in Wilderness Bay, Long Island, and Marquette Island in six to eight feet.

**St. Ignace:** Lake trout are still being caught by those trolling around Mackinac Island. No reports of any salmon showing up in this area. The Carp River is producing the occasional walleye, pike, smallmouth bass and suckers. Most of the walleye were taken on crawlers or leeches. The Pine River is still producing walleye for those trolling crawler harnesses or body baits and for those drifting crawlers or leeches. Walleye anglers caught pike and yellow perch.

July 21, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Extremely warm temperatures through the weekend will drive the fish into deep water or areas with shade or thick vegetation especially during the day. Try night fishing or head out in the early morning or late evening. Look for inflows with cooler water from spring-fed streams or target lakes that have natural springs.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Had decent walleye fishing. Most were caught when trolling a crawler harness but spoons and wiggle warts were still taking fish as well. The better numbers came in 22 to 28 feet off Stony Point, Fermi and Estral Beach. A few were found near the E Buoy, the Dumping Grounds, and in shallow waters near Luna Pier but anglers were sorting through a lot of small ones to get the keepers. Yellow perch fishing continues to improve with a couple limit catches taken in 12 to 16 feet near Toledo Beach, W Buoy, Sterling State Park and Bolles Harbor when using shiners on spreaders. Shore anglers at Point Mouillee caught yellow perch and bullhead when casting crawlers. The lagoons at Sterling State Park were still good for largemouth bass on spinners or white bass, white perch and channel cats on crawlers.

**Lenawee County:** Bluegills were caught in deep water on Devils Lake.

**Washtenaw County:** Good bass fishing reported on the Half Moon Chain-of-Lakes and the Portage Chain-of-Lakes with several largemouth two pounds or more observed on Bruin Lake and fish three pounds or more on Baseline Lake. Bluegills and sunfish were also caught.

**Detroit River:** Most of the walleye anglers are heading down to Lake Erie but a few perch anglers are still looking for fish. It is still a bit early but some were caught on perch rigs with minnows.

**Oakland County:** Both Cass and Union Lake had steady pressure from bass anglers. Those doing the best were casting finesse baits around the weed beds and near structure. Walleye and pike were targeted along the drop-offs and weed beds as well. Try fishing near the bottom with perch colored baits. For panfish, try the weedy flats with worms or minnows in eight to 12 feet.



**Lake St. Clair:** Smallmouth bass action continues to be very slow. The fish were out in about 15 feet. Those that did catch fish had luck with green pumpkin artificial baits and imitation gobies. Fish were caught around the Mile Roads in eight to 12 feet when casting rapalas and drop-shotting. Those fishing for largemouth did well with artificial worms along the shoreline between the Clinton River Cutoff launch and Huron Point. Small muskie were caught in 12 feet straight out from the Cutoff launch. Walleye were found in front of the 400 Club in 15 feet with a crawler harness. Yellow perch were taken on perch rigs just north of the St. Clair Light. On the north end, bass anglers had limited success in the canals around the Fair Haven boat launch with worms and minnows. Muskie were caught in Anchor Bay when casting or trolling spinners. Perch were caught when still-fishing perch rigs with crawlers and minnows near the Harley Ensign DNR launch and in the canals at the Fair Haven launch. A few walleye were caught near the North Channel. Smallmouth, pike and white bass were also caught.

**St. Clair River:** Shore fishing for walleye in Port Huron has slowed. Boat anglers were taking some limit catches throughout the entire river.

**Harbor Beach:** Pink salmon were caught on spoons 20 to 50 feet down in 90 to 120 feet. Lake trout were taken just off the bottom in 65 to 120 feet with dodgers and spin-glo's or spoons off downriggers 50 to 80 feet down. Try orange crush, green alewives and purple with pink spoons. Steelhead were hitting on bright colored spoons in 80 to 120 feet. Walleye were caught on small spoons, thunder-sticks and crawler harnesses in 20 to 60 feet.

**Grindstone City:** Walleye fishing was good whether boats went back west toward Port Austin or east towards Lighthouse Park in 25 to 40 feet with crawlers, crank baits or spoons. Limit catches were reported.

**Saginaw Bay:** It appears that fishing the deeper waters of the inner bay is most productive during daylight hours. The vicinity of Buoys 1 and 2 has been producing walleye fairly consistently. Deeper areas around the inner Spark Plug (Buoys 11 and 12) have also produced fish. Those on the water in the early morning caught walleye off the Callahan Reef in five to seven feet however the bite fizzles out as the sun comes up. Walleye fishing was good to excellent from Oak Point northeast along the various reefs between Caseville and Port Austin in 25 to 30 feet. When walleye fishing fires up along these reefs, it is a clear sign that the fishery has moved into the summer fishing pattern.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Perch fishing continues to be decent but the fish were scattered and were caught in 30 to 40 feet or 50 to 60 feet. Salmon fishing has been very slow. The few fish being caught were lake trout in 90 feet. Pier fishing for steelhead was slow. Those using shrimp and crawlers caught freshwater drum.

**South Haven:** Had slow fishing. Perch anglers struggled to find a consistent bite. Salmon fishing was very slow with only the occasional Chinook caught along with a couple steelhead in 130 feet. Pier fishing was very slow with only freshwater drum caught by those putting crawlers on the bottom.

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

**Grand Haven:** Pier fishing for steelhead was slow. A couple freshwater drum were caught while casting spoons in the channel. Some walleye have also been caught. Those trolling for trout and salmon caught fish 60 to 140 feet down in 120 to 220 feet with white or green flies and blue or green spoons.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Anglers are getting some walleye and crappie. Those fishing north or south of town have caught a few walleye and catfish.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Has very good smallmouth bass fishing for those fly fishing below the North Lansing Dam. Lower water levels make it easier for anglers to wade out and cast wooly buggers. Those wanting to use spinning gear should try leeches and crayfish or imitations of each.

**Looking Glass River:** Is producing some nice pike in the DeWitt area. Try suckers or large golden shiners in the deeper holes.

**Muskegon:** Boats are catching a mixed bag of salmon and trout 60 to 150 feet down in 140 to 220 feet. Most were using green or blue spoons, white flies, and various colored spin-glo's. No pier fishing to report.

**Muskegon River:** Anglers are doing well and catching some good size smallmouth bass using a variety including spinners and artificial baits. Crayfish patterns have worked well. Trout fishing was good but many were small.

**Whitehall:** Anglers are catching salmon and steelhead in 120 to 200 feet and lake trout in 170 to 250 feet. Pier anglers caught smallmouth bass, freshwater drum and the occasional walleye when using crawlers and shiners near the bottom or when casting deep diving rapalas.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Cheboygan:** Good numbers of lake trout are still being caught from the east side of Boise Blanc Island. Some have also taken the occasional salmon or steelhead. Most are using spoons at various depths.

**Cheboygan River:** Continues to produce a few walleye, pike, smallmouth bass, freshwater drum and rock bass. Walleye were caught on artificial jigs and live bait during the day or night. All other species were hitting on crawlers and artificial lures.

**Burt Lake:** Is producing walleye but many were undersize.

**Mullett Lake:** Those that could get out did well for walleye on the north end. Crawler harnesses are still taking most of the fish near the bottom or slightly suspended. Steelhead anglers are averaging one to two fish per trip about 30 to 40 feet down in 90 to 120 feet. Downriggers with sliders work best with bright colored spoons. Pike are still being caught on the south end. Perch anglers had limited success. For smallmouth bass, try 10 to 30 feet off the points.

**Rogers City:** Anglers are fishing throughout the water column in 45 to 120 feet. They are using a variety of methods including downriggers, lead core, dipseys and copper. Run downriggers deeper and the lead core, dipseys and copper up high with spoons and flashers with flies, squid or cut bait. Good colors were green, blue, black and white, purple or anything that glows early and late. Chinooks were caught in the early morning or late evening. Steelhead were caught on orange spoons up high. Lake trout were taken on cowbells and dodgers with spin glo's near the bottom in 70 to 90 feet. Most are heading south towards Swan Bay and Adams Point or straight out from the marina.

**Presque Isle:** Anglers here are also fishing the entire water column in 45 to 120 feet with the same gear and colors as Rogers City. Some of the bigger Chinook and lake trout were hitting on spoons and flashers with flies, squid and cut bait. Chinook are hitting very early or late. Steelhead were caught on orange spoons up high in the water column. Try between the lighthouses, straight out or south towards Stoneport.

**Grand Lake:** Had a decent walleye bite. Try a crawler harness or leeches off the south end of Grand Island.

**West Twin Lake:** In Montmorency County had walleye but many were small.

**Alpena:** Walleye anglers seem to do better to the south. They were trying everything from trolling to drifting to jigging. Lake trout fishing is still very good with most fish out deeper in 130 to 150 feet. They were scattered throughout the water column and hitting on spoons, spin-glo's, wobble glo's, and cut bait behind attractors. Bass fishing was steady throughout Thunder Bay, Squaw Bay and around the islands. Pike were also caught in good numbers in the same areas.

**Oscoda:** Has had good lake trout fishing. Some are catching the occasional Chinook or steelhead. Try 120 to 150 feet and run your lines from top to bottom. Pier fishing was slow with only a few catfish caught late at night.

**Au Sable River:** Up toward Foot Dam there has been some walleye activity and good numbers of smallmouth bass.

**Higgins Lake:** Had good lake trout fishing when vertical jigging in 80 to 100 feet.

**Houghton Lake:** Walleye have been caught on stick baits, flicker shads and leeches. Bluegills were hitting on leeches, wax worms or red worms and rock bass were feeding on small perch minnows.

**Lake St. Helen:** Was producing pike and panfish. Check out the weed beds in deeper water.

**Tawas:** Fishing was generally slow. The water is very clear and there have been consistent mayfly hatches keeping the fish well fed. Those trolling took a few walleye in 65 to 70 feet beyond Buoy #2 but most were trailering their boats to Au Gres.

**Au Gres:** Those trolling are still getting walleye heading south to the inner bay around Buoys 1 & 2 or the drop-off along the Rifle Bar. A number of boats found walleye between Point Lookout and Pointe Au Gres in 30 to 45 feet with a crawler harness, crank baits or spoons. Some nice yellow perch were taken incidental to walleye. Some boats were crossing to the area near the Steeples, north of Big Charity Island.

**Wixom Lake:** Had fair to good deep water bluegill fishing. Try leeches, crawlers or wax worms. Anglers were also getting some nice crappie.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Boat angling effort was low. Lake trout were marked near the bottom in 120 feet on the Harbor Springs side.

**Petoskey:** Anglers were having a bit of trouble locating lake trout as it seems the fish have moved out to deeper water. Water temperatures were 60 degrees at 100 feet. Rumor has it a couple good size salmon were caught.

**Bear River:** A couple steelhead were caught on spawn between the dam and the mouth. A few small brown trout were also caught. Spawn bags and flies worked best. Fishing at the mouth was a bit slow. Anglers caught smallmouth bass, freshwater drum, rock bass and smaller brown trout on crawlers.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers caught lake trout and a couple small salmon. Those fishing the channel caught rock bass and smallmouth but a good number were undersize. Most were using worms but leeches and soft plastics will also work.

**Traverse City:** Lake trout have been caught at the south end of the East Bay near Deepwater Point. A few Chinook salmon were also caught. Lake trout and smallmouth bass were caught between Elk Rapids and Yuba Creek. The Elk River continues to hold plenty of smallmouth bass. In the West Bay, bass anglers caught fish out of Bowers Harbor and around Power Island.

**Boardman River:** Continues to produce undersize smallmouth bass and the occasional steelhead.

**Frankfort:** Had a lot of minnow activity in the harbor and those jigging have caught a few Chinook salmon.

**Portage Lake:** Was producing some walleye.

**Clam River:** In Missaukee County was producing some trout.

**Manistee:** Surface water temperatures were up near 64 degrees. Chinook, steelhead and lake trout were caught out in 100 to 150 feet. A small number of steelhead were caught off the piers.

**Manistee Lake:** The bluegill bite was slower than usual. Those that caught fish were hitting the weeds along the southeast end. Some have caught walleye.

**Big Manistee River:** Anglers hitting the Tippy Dam area were hard pressed for Skamania with only a couple fish taken on spawn. A fair number of smallmouth bass were caught below the dam between the Sawdust Hole and Blacksmith Bayou when fly fishing or casting lures.

**Ludington:** Surface water temperatures were 62 degrees. Boat anglers have caught Chinook salmon in 100 to 150 feet. Some were over 20 pounds. Lake trout numbers slowed but they were still being caught at the same depths. Pier anglers caught the occasional Chinook, steelhead and brown trout. Chinook were also caught in Pere Marquette Lake.

**Pentwater:** Salmon and steelhead are being caught in 130 to 200 feet and lake trout in 150 to 225 feet on meat rigs and orange or red spoons.

**Pentwater Lake:** Was producing crappie along the drop-offs in 20 to 30 feet. Smallmouth bass were caught in the channel. Try fishing the channel in the early morning with crawlers or shiners just off the bottom.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Black River Harbor:** Was hit by very heavy rains and wind. The boat launch was filled with gravel due to flooding. Fishing had been good with nice catches of lake trout in 70 feet or less. Anglers fishing Lake Superior need to proceed with caution because there is a lot of floating debris.

**Lake Gogebic:** Walleye anglers continue to pick up a fair number as the fish start to return to a normal feeding pattern after the mayfly hatch.

**Ontonagon:** The waters of Lake Superior were still muddy after the strong storms. Good catches of lake trout were taken in 30 to 60 feet. Boat anglers need to watch for floating debris.

**Keweenaw Bay:** Those trolling for salmon caught a few Chinook, coho and lake trout 40 to 90 feet down in 60 to 110 feet between Sand Point and the red rocks near the roadside park on US-41 with a variety from spoons to body baits in orange or green. A few lake trout were taken by those jigging in 220 to 260 feet off Jentoft's. Off the South Portage Entry, lake trout were caught near Farmers, Newton's and the Big Reef as well as the Mud Banks. Try 80 to 150 feet with spoons in a variety of colors. Those jigging found a few fish in 130 to 240 feet between Farmers and the Big Reef, off the south end of the Big Reef and the northeast side of Pequaming.

**Lake Antoine:** In Dickinson County had good bass fishing.

**Menominee:** Salmon anglers had no success.

**Menominee River:** The walleye bite remains good. The fish were most active in the early morning or evening. Smallmouth bass, catfish and freshwater drum have been caught by boat and shore anglers.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers were trolling crawler harnesses in 10 to 20 feet at Garth Point, 22 to 27 feet near Kipling and 14 to 18 feet at the mouth of the Escanaba River. Salmon anglers reported fair catches out by the Ford River Buoy with spoons 45 to 60 feet down in 80 to 120 feet. Pike and freshwater drum were active throughout.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had smallmouth anglers. Most were fishing in Ogontz Bay but most of the bass and pike caught were undersize. Bass were also caught in 10 to 18 feet in Kates Bay and near Portage Point. Those trolling off Fairport reported good numbers of steelhead between the islands and off Point Detour. Salmon anglers were traveling further south and some as far as Washington Island where catch rates were fair 50 to 80 feet down in 120 to 150 feet.

**Marquette:** Boat anglers were targeting lake trout in 180 feet north of the white rocks. Those trolling spoons between the Lower Harbor breakwall, the Carp River and the Chocoy River caught lake trout and coho. Those fishing the mouth of the Dead River caught pike on spoons or crank baits.

**Manistique:** Boat anglers report good salmon fishing and some bigger Chinook were caught when baitfish are in the area. Steelhead and lake trout were also caught on downriggers with flies and spoons.

**Detour:** Boat anglers caught a few Atlantic and pink salmon or lake trout between Fry Pan Island and the lighthouse. No reports yet of lake herring around Lime Island however some reported large schools of fish staging on the south and west side in 18 feet.

**Drummond Island:** Lake herring action was fair to good around the islands. Try a small brown or dark red Swedish pimple tipped with wax worms in 20 feet around Butterfield Island or in 18 feet near Round Island, Maple Island and the south side of Burnt Island. With the cool nights, fly hatches have remained moderate this summer.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** In Cedarville, smallmouth bass catches were good in five to six feet in the "Narrows" or between Little LaSalle Island and Marquette Island. Target the rocks and the shoreline while casting buck tail spinners or jigging dark green or brown tube jigs in the early morning. A few yellow perch were caught mid-morning when drifting minnows in six to eight feet in Cedarville Bay and Government Bay. Pike fishing was good in the early morning in Snows Channel when still-fishing with creek chubs or trolling spoons with a red eye off the weed beds in six feet. At Hessel, a few perch were caught mid-day with small worms and shiners in six feet at

the Hessel Marina. Pike were caught along the outside of the fishing pier on creek chubs or large minnows in the early morning or late evening. Most fish were in the 24 to 26 inch range.

**St. Ignace:** Anglers are catching lake trout around Mackinac Island. No salmon to report. Smallmouth bass and pike were caught by boat and shore anglers near the rustic boat launch west of the bridge. The Carp River is still producing some walleye, pike and smallmouth bass. Try leeches or crawlers. The Pine River is still producing a number of walleye for those using crawler harness or drifting leeches and crawlers. Some have also caught the occasional large perch or pike.

July 28, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are pretty warm everywhere and it looks like the warm weather will continue as we move into the dog days of summer. Fish head deep or look for thick weed beds and shaded areas during extremely warm weather.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Walleye fishing was a bit slower but anglers still had success near Fermi and Stony Point in 20 to 26 feet in the early morning and moving out to 28 feet as the day progresses. A couple fish were caught near the E-Buoy. Anglers are trolling crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers or wiggle warts in fire-tiger, purple or chartreuse. Those trolling crawlers caught quite a few freshwater drum, white perch and catfish. Catch rates for yellow perch were hit-or-miss when using spreaders with shiners near the W-Buoy in 13 to 16 feet or near Fermi and Stony Point in 18 to 23 feet. Shore anglers fishing the Evans Pier at Luna Pier caught bluegills and smaller largemouth bass on crawlers. Shore anglers at Pointe Mouillee caught rock bass and freshwater drum on crawlers and shiners. The lagoons at Sterling State Park were producing some largemouth bass.

**Detroit River:** Walleye anglers are still heading down to Lake Erie for better catch rates. Others are still waiting for the perch fishing to pick up. Try perch rigs with minnows. Bass fishing was fair in the canals and around the islands. A couple muskie were caught.

**Oakland County:** With surface water temperatures well into the high 70's, deeper water seems to be the most productive for all species. Anglers targeting pike and walleye found fish when trolling or casting a crawler harness along the deep weed lines. Bass were caught by those using a slow presentation. Those targeting bluegills found the bigger fish suspended in 15 to 25 feet.

**Lake St. Clair:** Smallmouth bass were caught around the Mile Roads when casting darters in 10 to 12 feet. Largemouth bass were caught in six feet when casting a green pumpkin tube bait. Those fishing in 17 feet in the Shipping Channel caught walleye and a few yellow perch on pink, purple, chartreuse and gold crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers. Walleye were caught in 18 feet around the St. Clair Light and near the mouth of the Detroit River. Anglers reported a large number of small yellow perch being caught when trolling crawler harnesses for walleye so some



were switching to artificial lures including husky jerks. A few channel cats and freshwater drum were caught. On the north end, large muskie were caught about halfway between the Harley Ensign launch and Muskamoot Bay in 12 to 13 feet with yellow crank baits. Channel cats were caught on crawlers in 12 feet near the mouth of the Middle Channel. Panfish anglers managed a few limit catches in Bouvier Bay. Red and black artificial baits worked well. Small muskie were caught in six to eight feet off the Selfridge. Red and chrome lures were the ticket.

**St. Clair River:** Anglers were catching good numbers of walleye in 18 to 24 feet when trolling crawler harnesses.

**Lexington to Port Sanilac:** Those trolling caught steelhead, lake trout, the odd coho and some walleye in 75 to 100 feet when fishing the bottom half of the water column. Surface water temperatures are getting quite warm so go deeper and fish the lower half of the column. Yellow perch fishing was starting to pick up with fish eight to 11 inches caught along the various weed beds.

**Harbor Beach:** Some nice lake trout were taken 50 to 100 feet down in 80 to 100 when working the bottom with dodgers and spin-glo's or spoons. Try glow, green alewives, orange crush, black and white or purple and pink spoons. Coho and pink salmon could still be found 20 to 55 feet down in 90 to 130 feet while steelhead were caught near the color lines in 85 to 100 feet with bright colored spoons. A few walleye were taken in 20 to 60 feet with small spoons, thunder sticks and crawler harnesses. Shore anglers casting body baits caught bass.

**Caseville to Grindstone City:** Walleye anglers did well northeast of Big Charity Island in 22 to 26 feet and along the various reefs between the two ports in 34 to 36 feet. Limit catches were rare but most boats were getting fish.

**Saginaw Bay:** Those trolling were getting a few walleye. It seems you need to keep moving until you find a concentration of active fish. The better areas were the Dumping Grounds, the Callahan Reef, the green Spark Plug (Buoys 1 & 2) in 30 feet, the red Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12) in 25 to 27 feet, the Slot between Sunset Bay and Sand Point, and in both the shallows and deep water along the Bar. Some yellow perch were finally caught around Buoys A and B off Linwood and out near the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12). The perch were eight to 11 inches and most were caught on worms.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Perch fishing was good though it slowed. Anglers were fishing mainly south of the piers in 30 feet. Salmon fishing was slow but some lake trout were caught in 100 feet. Pier anglers caught a couple freshwater drum on crawlers or shrimp near the bottom.

**South Haven:** Perch fishing was still on the slow side but fish are being caught mainly south of the piers in 30 to 40 feet. Salmon fishing was slow but the occasional Chinook was taken in 90 to 110 feet. A couple steelhead were also caught.

**Grand Haven:** Boat anglers were starting to see an increase in the number of Chinook salmon. Most were caught 60 to 120 feet down in 90 to 160 feet with green or white flies and meat rigs. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum on minnows.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** With the warmer water temperatures, the better fishing has been early morning or late evening. Those fishing below the dams have found the occasional walleye and catfish. Crappie and other panfish were found near weed beds and shaded areas.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Water levels are low. Those fishing below the North Lansing Dam continue to take smallmouth bass on flies and leeches. Those targeting panfish had fair catches.

**Muskegon:** Those trolling for trout and salmon found fish 60 to 150 feet down in 100 to 200 feet. A mix of spoons, flies, meat rigs and spin-glo's were producing fish.

**Muskegon River:** Small brown trout have been caught below the dams. Bass anglers are doing well around brush piles, in the slow pockets and shaded areas.

**Whitehall:** Salmon and steelhead fishing was good in 120 to 225 feet. Mixed veggie was a good color. Pier anglers caught bass and freshwater drum. Those fishing in the evening caught channel cats and the occasional walleye.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Cheboygan:** Anglers are reporting good numbers of lake trout on the east side of Bois Blanc Island and a few down near Cordwood Point. A couple steelhead and Chinook were also taken with the better salmon fishing north towards Mackinaw City. Most are running a mix of spoons, hoochies, and dodgers run at multiple depths.

**Cheboygan River:** Walleye fishing has slowed with only a few smaller fish caught. Anglers will still find smallmouth bass, freshwater drum and rock bass.

**Burt Lake:** Is producing a few perch and walleye. Perch, rock bass and crappie could be found along the weed beds. Smallmouth bass can be found near the points.

**Mullett Lake:** Walleye fishing slowed however anglers were still targeting them around the Sunken Island and east to the "Humps". Most are only catching a couple fish per trip when trolling crawler harnesses near the bottom or using deep diving stick baits. Perch anglers had little to no success. Steelhead fishing has started to pick up with fish caught on downriggers with sliders 30 to 40 feet down in 80 to 120 feet between Round Point and Red Pine Point. Most fish were caught on the typical spoons used in the Great Lakes.

**Rogers City:** Boat anglers are heading straight out, south to Swan Bay and Adams Point or north towards the State Park and Forty Mile Point with downriggers, lead core, dipseys and copper 65 to 90 feet down in 50 to 120 feet. Chinook salmon were

caught very early in the morning or late evening with spoons and flashers with squid, flies or cut bait. Dodgers and cowbells with spin-glo's are still good for lake trout. Hot colors were green, blue, black and white, purple, orange or anything that glows early and late. Look for structure or baitfish near it. Instead of running parallel, anglers are running shallow to deep and it seems when the thermocline is higher than 60 feet, anglers were doing well. Be sure to watch for tagged fish.

**Presque Isle:** Boat anglers fishing between the two lighthouses straight out or south towards Stoneport found fish 65 to 90 feet down in 50 to 120 feet using the same methods as Rogers City anglers. Run lines throughout the water column especially 35 to 65 feet down. Chinook were caught very early or late.

**Alpena:** Lake trout are in abundance throughout the area. Boats are heading to the Nordmere Wreck or east of Thunder Bay Island and fishing in 130 feet or deeper. The fish are suspended from top to bottom so spread your baits out. Steelhead are in the same area and hitting higher in the water column. A few Chinook were caught further to the north when running spoons and attractors. A good number of walleye seem to be moving into Thunder Bay and those fishing from Grass Island to the Black River had the most luck. Bass fishing has been consistent.

**Oscoda:** Has good numbers of lake trout. Boat anglers are fishing from Au Sable Point to Greenbush in waters 120 feet and deeper with baits spread throughout the water column. Chinook and steelhead were up high. As the water warms, look for the temperature breaks. Pier anglers have caught a few walleye, smallmouth bass and channel cats in the early morning and late evening.

**Au Sable River:** Had good smallmouth bass fishing with good numbers of fish and good size. More anglers are turning to kayak fishing. Those casting and drifting had good success.

**Higgins Lake:** Those trolling or vertical jigging in 80 to 120 feet have caught lake trout. Fair to good numbers of rock bass were also caught.

**Houghton Lake:** Still had a few walleye being caught on leeches, stick baits, flicker shads and the occasional crawler. For bluegills, try leeches, wax worms and red worms. Rock bass were hitting on leaf worms and small minnows.

**Tawas:** Some walleye were caught from the weed beds off Jerry's Marina when casting Erie Dearies or crank baits. More walleye and some steelhead were taken out past Buoy #2 in 70 feet. A lot of boats heading north of Big Charity Island caught fish in 15 to 30 feet. Pier fishing was slow.

**Tawas River:** Was producing a few smallmouth, rock bass and freshwater drum.

**Au Gres:** The hot spot for walleye was the "Steeple" which is northeast of Big Charity Island when using the same lures as Tawas.

**Au Gres River:** Anglers caught smallmouth bass, rock bass and freshwater drum. A few catfish were taken in the lower river.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Harbor Springs:** Lake trout were caught about 120 feet down near Harbor Point but some anglers are heading north and west of the bay while looking for cooler water. A good number of boats were running up to Five Mile Point. Surface water temperatures were at 70 degrees and only dropping to 68 degrees at 100 feet deep.

**Petoskey:** Boat anglers had a bit of trouble not only locating lake trout but getting them to bite. The fish are moving out deeper because of the warm water so try heading out of the Bay to Seven Mile or Nine Mile Point and fish 100 to 190 feet down in 130 to 200 feet with spin-glo's, flashers, flies and cut bait.

**Bear River:** Water levels were low and no steelhead to report. Anglers caught rock bass and small brown trout up near the dam with spawn bags or worms. Those fishing the mouth managed to catch a few smallmouth bass, rock bass, freshwater drum or bullhead on crawlers.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers did find Chinook salmon but they were small. Fish were found about halfway down in 100 feet however water temperatures have really warmed up so they may be deeper. Decent lake trout fishing just off the bottom in 115 feet near North Point but some fish were suspended. Spoons and spin-glo's worked best. Smallmouth bass were caught in the channel including some keepers. Freshwater drum were also caught.

**Traverse City:** Anglers in the East Bay have caught lake trout out of Elk Rapids towards Old Mission, near Deepwater Point and the area around Yuba Creek. The occasional Chinook or lake herring were also mixed in. Smallmouth bass were caught below the dam in Elk Rapids but most were undersize. In the West Bay, lake trout fishing was slower but a few were caught north of the M-22 launch.

**Boardman River:** Has plenty of smaller bass

**Frankfort:** Chinook salmon were hitting in the top 40 to 60 feet of waters 180 to 200 feet deep. Most fish were taken on spoons and blue flies but the bigger fish were hitting on meat rigs. Chinook were in the harbor but anglers were having a tough time getting them to hit.

**Onkama:** Boat anglers trolling out near the "Barrel" caught lake trout when bouncing the bottom with spin-glo's and flies in 80 to 120 feet.

**Portage Lake:** Panfish anglers were taking some fish on worms in 10 to 18 feet near Little Eden.

**Manistee:** Surface water temperatures were up near 71 degrees. Boat anglers caught Chinook off the Shelf and some were up around 20 pounds. A small number of coho and steelhead were caught in 150 to 200 feet. Lake trout numbers have slowed but a few were still caught in 150 to 200 feet.

**Manistee Lake:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass were hit-or-miss. Fishing was slow during the day and picking up gradually during the cooler evenings. Those casting artificial worms on wacky rigs caught fish along the shoreline. A few walleye were caught by those trolling a crawler harness with worms or minnows.

**Big Manistee River:** Skamania can still be found at Tippy Dam however the number of fish caught was well below average. Try fishing above the Coffey Dam with lighter tackle. The smallmouth bite increased in the lower sections especially below Potters Landing. Try casting in the slow deep holes, near the banks or near downed trees. A few walleye were reported between the M-55 Bridge and the viewing platform.

**Ludington:** Had surface water temperatures of 73 degrees. The dredging should be completed by the end of this week. Catch rates for lake trout have slowed for those trolling in 150 to 200 feet. A small number of Chinook, coho and steelhead were caught. Chinook were still being caught in Pere Marquette Lake.

**Pentwater:** Salmon and steelhead fishing has been tough but some caught fish in 130 to 200 feet with meat rigs and herring strips. Lake trout were caught in 130 to 250 feet.

**Pentwater Lake:** Some yellow perch were caught on red worms. Bullhead and channel cats were caught in the evening when still-fishing with crawlers or cut bait.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Gogebic:** Had another mayfly hatch but anglers were still getting some walleye when trolling crawler harnesses or artificial baits down the middle of the lake or when jigging leeches and crawlers over the rock piles on the southeast side. Bass can be found along the weed beds and drop-offs. Good pumpkinseed action in Bergland Bay when bobber fishing with leeches or crawlers along the weed beds. A few perch and walleye were also caught. Construction at the Bergland Launch has made access a little more difficult.

**Keweenaw Bay:** Those trolling for salmon harvested a few coho and lake trout from the head of the Bay north to the red rocks with orange or green spoons and body baits. Try 40 to 90 feet down in 60 to 110 feet at 2.1 to 2.5 mph. Those jigging found lake trout in 220 to 260 feet northeast of Pequaming.

**Menominee River:** Continues to fish well for walleye ranging 18 to 24 inches. Both trolling and jigging are producing fish.

**Little Bay De Noc:** The better walleye catches were south into the waters of Green Bay when trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits in 18 to 24 feet from the "Fingers" south to the Minneapolis Shoals. Salmon anglers reported a few catches but not many were marked when trolling spoons 50 to 60 feet down in 70 to 110 feet just north of the Ford River Buoy. Fair catches of perch were taken off the mouth of the Escanaba Yacht Harbor with minnows or crawlers on top of the break. Good numbers of small pike and freshwater drum were reported throughout the bay. Shore

anglers caught pike in the Escanaba River when casting spoons, spinners or crank baits near the 1<sup>st</sup> Dam.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had lots of smallmouth bass anglers however catch rates were fair at best near Ogontz, the golf course at Nahma and the mouth of Garden Bay when casting crank baits, plastics or drop-shotting in 12 to 22 feet. At Fairport, some were still trolling the "Gap" but others were fishing near St. Martin and Washington Islands or off Point Detour. Try spoons 45 to 90 feet down in 90 to 150 feet. Good numbers of steelhead were 30 to 40 feet down.

**Marquette:** Fishing was slow. Boat anglers fishing around the breakwall caught lake trout on spoons while others out in 180 feet caught fish north of the white rocks. No coho to report. Shore anglers at the mouth of the Carp River caught a few walleye.

**Munising:** Boat anglers fishing for lake trout have reported several limit catches. Most fish were caught within 10 feet of the bottom in 140 to 180 feet along the Wood Island Reef, Grumps Hump, north of Grand Island and in Trout Bay. Those out jigging also caught fish. Catch rates near the Big Reef were fair. A few coho up near 22 inches have been caught. Most are using white, watermelon or chartreuse spoons. Pier anglers at the Anna River report very little action for splake.

**Grand Marais:** Pier fishing was slow with only a few anglers casting spoons. A couple coho just over three pounds were caught. Boat anglers trolling for lake trout have reported some limit catches three to five miles straight out in 200 feet, near Au Sable Point and near Big Reef. Surface water temperatures offshore were in the low 60's.

**Manistique:** Those trolling for salmon found fish 40 to 60 feet down in 80 to 110 feet off Wiggins Point.

**St. Marys River:** Had good reports of lake herring and whitefish caught near Lime Island. Fish 100 yards west of the boat docks in 18 to 22 feet with a reddish brown Swedish Pimple tipped with a wax worm or natural fly baits. The hot weather has produced good fly hatches around Butterfield, Maple, Big Trout, Little Trout and Burnt Islands so look for schools of fish.

**Detour:** Had excellent lake trout fishing for those trolling over the 80 foot flat two miles straight south of the Detour Lighthouse with orange and green spin-glo's. Those trolling fly type baits and small orange or pink spoons caught Atlantic and pink salmon. The Atlantic salmon were hitting up high about six to 12 feet below the surface. A few walleye were caught around Detour Point when trolling crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers in six to 12 feet.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Pier fishing for pike at Hessel was good in the early morning when floating creek chubs. Evenings were best for smallmouth bass when using crawlers. At Cedarville, a few reports of small yellow perch are coming in while drift fishing with shiners and worms in six feet between Hill Island and Island #8 in the early morning. Prentiss Bay had no reports of fly hatches or lake herring. Wilderness Bay and Marquette Bay on the west side of Marquette Island had fair pike fishing

when trolling off the weed beds in six to eight feet of water using a chrome spoon with a red eye. On the east side of Marquette Island, a few walleye were caught at the mouth of Duck Bay when drifting or casting purple crank baits in six to eight feet.

**St. Ignace:** Anglers are reporting good numbers of lake trout around Mackinac Island. A few salmon have started to show up in the area and are being caught by those fishing near the Mackinac Bridge, out from the Grand Hotel and down by Round Island. Those catching both salmon and lake trout are using a mix of spoons, dodgers and hoochies with flies. The Pine River is still producing walleye and perch for boat and shore anglers. The Carp River is producing a few perch, walleye and smallmouth bass. Walleye and perch anglers did best with crawlers or leeches.

August 4, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Strong winds caused the water to turnover in some areas of the Great Lakes which created some very good trout and salmon fishing as cooler water could be found higher in the water column. Those fishing the inland lakes continue to catch panfish, bass, pike and walleye.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Walleye fishing was slow so many were switching to perch. Good yellow perch fishing was reported at Bolles Harbor. Anglers are heading straight out from Toledo Beach to the light and fishing in 14 to 23 feet with perch rigs and minnows. Most were eight to 10 inches. A few walleye were also caught. Channel cats were caught on minnows, worms, shrimp or cut bait. Yellow perch were caught in 25 to 28 feet off Fermi, Estral Beach, Stony Point and off the River Raisin when trolling crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers or crank baits. Those targeting yellow perch were using shiners on spreaders and perch rigs in 23 to 26 feet off Stony Point, Fermi, the River Raisin Dumping Grounds and the W Buoy. Shore anglers at Pointe Mouillee's boating access site caught yellow perch, rock bass and bullhead on crawlers and shiners. A couple largemouth bass were also caught when fishing top water near cover. Freshwater drum and panfish were taken on minnows from the Hoffman Memorial access site and the lagoons at Sterling State Park were still producing yellow perch, drum, bullhead and channel cats on crawlers and minnows.

**Lenawee County:** A small number of bluegills were being caught in Lake Hudson and Devils Lake.

**Detroit River:** Perch anglers are taking some fish around Celeron Island and Sugar Island in 12 to 15 feet. Most are using perch rigs and minnows. Fish were also caught near the three white buoys out from the Metro Park. Walleye have been caught in the cuts between Sugar Island and Grosse Ile or Celeron Island and Grosse Ile. Bass anglers found fish around the islands and along the shoreline.



**Washtenaw County:** Smaller panfish are being caught on the Portage Lake Chain and the Half Moon Chain-of-Lakes. Bass fishing has been decent on both.

**Oakland County:** Fishing overall on both Cass and Union Lake has been good. Bass were caught at various depths and locations, but those fishing around structure or out deep in 18 feet or more did best. Anglers trolling crawler harnesses or deep diving crank baits for pike and walleye did well in 15 to 25 feet. A decent number of panfish were caught but finding the bigger ones has been difficult. Try near the bottom in 18 feet or deeper.

**Lake St. Clair:** Smallmouth bass were caught halfway between the Clinton River and the Shipping Channel when drifting minnows in 17 feet, around the 400 Club and the Mile Roads when casting crank baits or drop-shotting leeches or around the St. Clair Light with tube baits in 14 to 21 feet. Walleye were caught near the Dumping Grounds, the St. Clair Light and the mouth of the South Channel when trolling purple, chartreuse or perch colored crawler harnesses on bottom bouncers. Muskie were caught near the "Fire Cracker" and the Clinton River in 10 feet. Crayfish colored body baits worked well. A few bluegills were caught in the canals near Nine Mile Road. On the north end, walleye were caught near the Fair Haven launch when drifting crawlers. Smallmouth bass were taken near the mouth of the Middle Channel when casting tube baits or crank baits. Panfish were in six to eight feet in Anchor Bay.

**St. Clair River:** Anglers were catching walleye in the Middle Channel when trolling crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers in 25 feet. Copper and red harnesses worked best. Those jigging also caught fish. Sturgeon were caught in the North Channel.

**Lexington to Port Sanilac:** Those trolling picked up some steelhead, lake trout and walleye as shallow as 40 feet and as deep as 120 feet. Most fish were caught about halfway down so look for the thermocline.

**Harbor Beach:** Some good size steelhead were caught near the color lines in 70 to 120 feet with bright colored spoons. Lake trout were taken off the bottom in 80 to 130 feet with dodger and spin-glo's or with spoons 50 to 100 feet down. Try black and orange, green, blue or anything that glows early and late. Pink and coho salmon were 15 to 50 feet down in 80 to 120 feet. Try clean spoons with offshore boards. A few walleye were caught on small spoons, thunder sticks or a crawler harness in 20 to 60 feet. Bass were caught in close to shore when casting small body baits.

**Saginaw Bay:** Those that could get out did find some walleye along the inner bay when trolling crawler harnesses. The better fishing was north of Big Charity Island or around the reefs between Oak Point and Port Austin. Yellow perch fishing seems to be picking up early this year. Those fishing the west side caught fish off the Saganing and Pinconning Bars, around Sailboat Buoy A and along the shipping channel three to four miles northeast of Spoils Island. Finding good minnows for bait this time of year can be a problem.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph:** Perch fishing was good and should continue as the temperatures climb. Fish were caught north and south of the piers in 30 feet. Boat anglers targeting salmon reported slow fishing in 60 to 100 feet as the fish seemed scattered. Pier anglers caught the occasional steelhead on shrimp.

**Kalamazoo County:** Anglers continue to catch bass on Long and Austin Lake.

**Kalamazoo River:** A fair number of summer steelhead were caught off the mouth of Swan Creek and at the Allegan Dam when floating crawlers or drifting yarn on the bottom. Walleye fishing picked up with a fair number of fish caught by those trolling crawler harnesses or Hot-n-Tots in the lower stretches.

**South Haven:** Perch fishing was slow. There was one good day with fish caught in 35 to 45 feet. Boat anglers targeting salmon were making some good catches in 70 to 80 feet or 100 to 120 feet. They caught steelhead, lake trout and the occasional Chinook on blue and green spoons. Pier anglers took a couple steelhead.

**Grand Haven:** Salmon and trout were caught 30 to 100 feet down in 40 to 130 feet. Glow spoons and plugs worked well in low light conditions. Green, yellow, and red meat rigs were also producing. Pier anglers caught freshwater drum and catfish.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Is still producing the occasional walleye below the dams when fishing early or late. Catfish were hitting at night for those using crawlers, shrimp or cut bait.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Bass were still hitting on leeches and flies. A few were also taken on spinners. Those fishing at night did catch a couple catfish.

**Ingham County:** Fishing has been good for bass, pike and panfish with some taking limit catches. Look for the fish to move back to deeper water as temperatures rise and weeds start to take over in shallow waters.

**Livingston County:** Largemouth bass were being caught in Lake Chemung and Thompson Lake.

**Shiawassee River:** A small number of rock bass are being caught closer to Vernon near the Shiatown Dam.

**Muskegon:** Boats have found trout and salmon 30 to 120 feet down in 50 to 150 feet with green and red meat rigs. Use glow spoons or plugs during low light conditions.

**Muskegon River:** Trout fishing was steady near Croton with smaller fish caught.

**Whitehall:** Salmon fishing was very good in 80 to 150 feet with spoons and cut bait. Pier anglers caught largemouth, smallmouth and freshwater drum.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Mackinaw City:** Anglers caught a couple Chinook and steelhead along with a good number of lake trout around the Straits. Chinook were caught 40 to 70 feet down. Steelhead were up higher and lake trout were in the bottom 40 feet.

**Cheboygan:** Continues to have good lake trout fishing east of Bois Blanc Island. Some found the occasional steelhead or Chinook around the island. More salmon were caught up around the Straits.

**Cheboygan River:** Continues to produce smallmouth bass, freshwater drum, rock bass and a few small walleye.

**Mullett Lake:** Still had slow walleye fishing. Large mayfly hatches are still going on near Topinabee. Those that found a few walleye were using crawler harnesses both suspended and on the bottom around the “humps” area east of the Sunken Island which is marked by Buoy-24. A few fish were caught between Round Point and south of Stony Point. Steelhead fishing was hit-or-miss. Those caught were taken on 4-6 colors of lead with downriggers set 30 to 45 feet down. A few perch were caught but most were small. Smallmouth bass were still hard to find.

**Rogers City:** An upwelling of cold water did produce a good mixed bag of Chinook, coho, and Atlantic salmon as well as lake trout, steelhead and walleye in 40 to 120 feet. Run lines throughout the top 60 feet. Try bright orange and silver up high or green, blue, purple, watermelon, black and white or glow early and late. A west to northwest wind will change it up again. Most fish were taken on spoons but those using flashers with flies, squid and cut bait also caught fish. Lake trout were hitting on dodgers and cowbells with spin-glo's. Fish were holding close to structure so look for these areas. Try south towards Calcite harbor, Swan Bay, Adams Point or further south, straight out of the marina or up towards Seagull Point, the State Park and Forty Mile Point.

**Presque Isle:** Anglers here also did well for trout, salmon and walleye. Some were heading out very deep and catching a good mix with bright colored spoons up high. Most were staying in waters 90 feet or less and fishing the top 60 feet with spoons. Flashers with flies, squid or cut bait also did well. Try straight out, north between the two lighthouses or south towards Stoneport and look for structure.

**Grand Lake:** Was producing some keeper size walleye.

**Alpena:** Still has a very good number of lake trout. Catch rates were good along the second set of “humps” out past Thunder Bay Island and near the Nordmere Wreck. They are suspended so fish top to bottom. Steelhead and a few Chinook were in the same area. Try spoons, flies, wobble and spin-glo's, dodgers and cowbells. The walleye bite was slow but try late night fishing from Grass Island to the Black River

with crawler harnesses and body baits. It seems the bass fishing has moved from the mouth of the river to the bay.

**Oscoda:** Has very good lake trout fishing. Most were caught throughout the water column in 130 to 150 feet with spoons, wobble and spin-glo's. The occasional Chinook or steelhead was caught. Early morning was best. Pier fishing was very slow and it seems the walleye have stalled at the north end of the bay. Most anglers were fishing around the Charity Islands and south.

**Au Sable River:** Those fishing upstream caught a good number of smallmouth bass.

**Higgins Lake:** Lake trout have been caught near the bottom in 85 to 120 feet. Anglers are trolling or jigging spoons, rapalas, body baits, sand kickers, Elk Rapids jigs with a pearl twister tail. A few perch were caught but you have to look for them. Anglers are taking lots of rock bass.

**Houghton Lake:** Bluegills were caught by those bobber fishing near the Middle Grounds and the weed beds along the south shore. Lots of fish were caught on leaf worms and wax worms but the bigger fish were taken on leeches. Bass anglers have done well with black, purple, chartreuse and orange spinners, worms and leeches. Look for weed beds and structure. Some nice walleye were taken along the north shore when trolling between Long Point and Muddy Bay or Long Point and the Cut River. Fish were also found along the drop-off in the East Bay.

**Lake St. Helen:** Was producing pike and some good catches of panfish.

**Tawas:** Walleye anglers were heading south and fishing just north of Big Charity Island. Some were fishing in 25 to 40 feet.

**Au Gres:** When boats could get out, the best walleye action continued to be north of Big Charity Island. Perch fishing has picked up early this year.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Bluegill fishing is good on all inland lakes. Watch for aggressive fish as they were taking bluegills from anglers as they reel them in.

**Harbor Springs:** Lake trout fishing for boat anglers was very good. A couple salmon were also caught. At Harbor Point, lake trout were right near the bottom in 120 to 130 feet. Those heading up to Seven Mile Point did well for lake trout.

**Petoskey:** Fishing improved when the east wind brought cooler water into the area. A few Chinook were caught 40 to 50 feet down between the breakwall and Bay Harbor. Spoons and cut bait worked well. Lake trout were also caught in deeper water with spoons, spin-glo's and flies.

**Bear River:** Water levels continue to be low and few anglers were out. Those fishing the mouth found a couple smallmouth bass, rock bass and freshwater drum when using crawlers.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers caught mainly lake trout and a few Chinook. There is still a lot of small salmon around but a few anglers did catch some fish that were 20 pounds or more. Lake herring and freshwater drum were caught. Most are fishing between North Point and Fisherman's Island. Lake trout were both suspended 60 to 115 feet down in 100 to 140 feet or right on the bottom. Use spoons and spin-glo's. A couple salmon were caught south of the channel. Try 30 to 120 feet down in 250 feet with spoons and cut bait.

**Traverse City:** On the East Bay, lake trout were caught straight out of Elk Rapids and south of Haserot Beach in Old Mission. Bass fishing was spotty but some good size fish were caught north of Deepwater Point. Plenty of smallmouth bass have been caught below the dam on the Elk River but most were too small. Good lake trout fishing was reported in the West Bay between the M-22 launch and Greilickville or near Lee Point

**Boardman River:** Still has plenty of smallmouth bass but most are too small.

**Frankfort:** Those trolling in 60 to 200 feet were landing some good size Chinook in the early morning. The fish were hitting on flies, spoons and meat rigs 40 to 110 feet down. Purple was the hot color. Some were trolling or jigging in the harbor at dusk.

**Onkama:** Anglers trolling the "Barrel" were picking up a few Chinook in the early morning then dropping down a bit deeper for lake trout with spoons and meat rigs.

**Portage Lake:** The panfish bite was good throughout the lake when using crawlers and leaf worms. Some of the bluegills and rock bass were good size.

**Manistee:** Chinook salmon fishing picked up. Some big healthy fish were caught off the "Shelf" in 100 to 150 feet. Lake trout numbers slowed. Light numbers of steelhead and coho were caught. Pier anglers have caught walleye at night. Dredging operations in the area will be starting soon.

**Manistee Lake:** Large and smallmouth bass were less active than usual. Those fishing early morning or evening did best. Most were using a slow presentation with soft plastics.

**Big Manistee River:** Walleye activity in the lower section near the M-55 Bridge has started to increase. Those using crawlers near the bottom caught fish. Steelhead fishing up near Tippy Dam was slow so try above the Coffey Dam. A couple Chinook were seen heading up into the river but none were caught. Some large crappie were caught in Hodenpyl Pond.

**Little Manistee River:** Salmon were noted as far up as the 6-Mile Bridge.

**Ludington:** Good numbers of healthy Chinook were caught in 100 to 150 feet. Steelhead and coho are also being caught. Lake trout numbers slowed. Some walleye were caught off the piers at night. Dredging should wrap up by the end of this week and will be move to Manistee.

**Pentwater:** Had excellent salmon fishing in 80 to 150 feet. J-plugs and cut baits seem to be the most productive.

**Pentwater Lake:** Those targeting smallmouth bass in the channel caught fish when slowly retrieving crawlers near the bottom. Black crappie were caught near the surface in the evening. Try a minnow under a slip bobber.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Antoine:** In Dickinson County was producing good size bluegill and crappie.

**Menominee River:** Continues to produce some nice walleye catches when jigging or trolling minnows and crawlers. Bass anglers report some very nice fish being caught when drop-shotting or casting spinners and crank baits.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Best walleye catches are still in the southern bay where anglers are trolling from the "Fingers" south to Round Island and over to the Minneapolis Shoals. Early morning or late evening was best when trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits in 14 to 32 feet. Smallmouth bass action was fair for those trolling drop-shotting off Hunters Point in 12 to 20 feet or casting plastics and spinners along the west bank in Gladstone Bay. Perch anglers reported very few catches. Northern pike action was fair to good off Kipling when trolling or casting spoons, crank baits or spinners in 10 to 20 feet. Shore anglers near the Ford River caught smallmouth and pike when casting plastics and crank baits.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had mostly smallmouth bass anglers. Fair catches were taken near Ogontz and off Indian Point with plastics in 12 to 18 feet or near Ansell's Point and Garden Bluff with plastics, spinners, crawlers in 18 to 26 feet. At Fairport, anglers reported little salmon action as the waters warmed. Some were fishing 35 to 70 feet down in 80 to 100 feet around Big Summer Island.

**Manistique:** Has been busy with anglers catching nice steelhead and salmon.

**Marquette:** Had good lake trout fishing. Many were fishing north of the white rocks in 180 feet while others were fishing off Shot Point in 70 to 120 feet. Shore anglers fishing the mouth of the Dead River or the Carp River had poor success.

**Munising:** Lake trout were caught near the bottom in 140 to 180 feet near the Wood Island Reef and north of Grand Island with blue and white, chartreuse or purple spoons. No salmon to report. Only a few small splake were caught at the Anna River.

**Grand Marais:** Pier anglers casting for salmon or pike had poor catch rates. Boat anglers were doing well for lake trout with limit catches reported. Most fish were three to four pounds and were caught right off the bottom in 180 feet or less. Some found fish in less than 100 feet straight out from the dunes. The Big Reef was producing fair catches but not many limits to report.

**St. Marys River:** Those fishing behind the Cloverland Power Plant near Sault Ste. Marie have caught Atlantic salmon and whitefish. Walleye anglers did well with crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers in 20 feet around Maple Island and Andrews Island which are northeast of Detour Harbor on the Drummond Island side of the shipping channel.

**Detour:** Swedes Point located just north of Detour Village produced a few limit catches of walleye for those using a slip bobber and minnow in 12 to 14 feet just off the rocky ledges in the early morning. Excellent lake trout fishing straight south of the Detour Lighthouse when trolling orange and white or green and white spin-glo's. Anglers report a few Atlantic and pink salmon, steelhead and the occasional Chinook caught when trolling from the between the red buoy on the Drummond Island side and the Detour Lighthouse. Atlantic salmon and steelhead were hitting on smaller three inch spoons. The thermocline was 52 to 55 degrees about 45 feet down.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Cedarville did not have much angler effort for yellow perch. Smaller fish were caught and released by those fishing Moscoe Channel with worms or shiners. Pike fishing was fair in Snows Channel in the early morning and late evening when trolling or casting crank baits just off the weed beds. Hessel had no reports of yellow perch. Early morning was fair to pike with creek chubs or large minnows under a bobber in eight feet off the southwest corner of the Hessel Pier. Lake trout were caught near Goose Island when trolling the rocky shelves in 90 feet. Try green and chrome or black and chrome spoons. Some good size smallmouth bass were caught when jigging tube baits.

**St. Ignace:** Those trolling the straits have caught a mixed bag of lake trout, steelhead and a couple Chinook salmon from west of the bridge to Round Island and most points in between. The thermocline was 40 to 50 feet down which is where most of the Chinook were caught were caught on spoons. Steelhead were up higher and lake trout were between 40 feet down and the bottom. The Pine and Carp Rivers are still producing walleye, pike, perch and the occasional large catfish. Walleye were hitting early or late on crawlers and leeches.

August 11, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The inland lakes are producing bluegill, crappie, sunfish and bass. Water levels on the rivers and streams are quite low and boat anglers need to use caution. The lower levels can make it harder for boat anglers but those wading have more opportunities.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Anglers reported good catches when targeting yellow perch over the last week. Most are using shiners on perch rigs and spreaders. Those fishing the southern half of the lake found fish in 22 to 24 feet off the mouth of the Raisin River, near the Raisin Dumping Grounds and near the E Buoy. Those fishing further north in the lake found fish in 24 to 28 feet straight out from Sandy Creek, Stony Point and Fermi. Walleye fishing was very slow with only a few scattered fish taken on crawler harnesses near Ohio waters. A couple large smallmouth bass and a few catfish were also caught by those trolling for walleye. Panfish were caught in Sandy Creek. Shore anglers at Pointe Mouillee caught yellow perch and rock bass on crawlers or shiners. A couple largemouth bass were taken on plastics. White perch, catfish and smaller panfish were caught from Evans Pier in Luna Pier.

**Detroit River:** Most anglers are now targeting yellow perch. Some reported 30 to 60 keepers. Most were eight to 10 inches however a few bigger ones have also been caught. The better fishing has been around Celeron Island and Sugar Island with perch rigs and minnows.

**Oakland County:** Fishing on both Cass Lake and Union Lake slowed as surface water temperatures were up between 80 and 82 degrees. Those doing the best were fishing the drop-offs. Bass, pike and walleye were caught on crawler harnesses and crank baits in 12 to 25 feet. Some bluegills were caught in the shallows bays.

**Lake St. Clair:** Smallmouth and a couple largemouth bass were caught in eight to 12 feet near Nine Mile Road when casting green tube baits and crankbaits. Walleye and decent yellow perch were caught in 17 to 20 feet around the St. Clair Light on pink and purple crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers or triangle weights. Walleye and smallmouth were caught straight off Eleven Mile Road in 20 feet. Muskie, perch and smallmouth were in 18 feet out from the Clinton River Cutoff. On the north end,



largemouth bass were caught on tube baits in Big Muscamoot Bay and on both live and artificial baits near the Harley Ensign launch. Smallmouth were on the west side of Anchor Bay and hitting on crank baits and rubber lures. Walleye were caught on crawler harnesses around the A-Marker or when jigging in 15 to 18 feet around Grassy Island. Pike were taken in the canals around Fair Haven when casting rubber worms or still-fishing with a crawler. Rock bass were also caught.

**Lexington to Port Sanilac:** Those trolling caught steelhead, lake trout and the occasional coho or pink salmon. Fish were caught in the bottom half of the water column when using lead core and downriggers with spoons. Average catch was seven to 10 fish per boat. Some picked up a few walleye which is further evidence that the walleye have gone deep. Perch fishing was hit-or-miss with a lot of small ones for each keeper. Pier anglers caught assorted panfish.

**Harbor Beach:** A couple pink and coho salmon were caught on spoons 15 to 70 feet down in 90 to 130 feet. Try spoons with offshore boards and 5, 7 or 10 colored leads. Lake trout were taken in 80 to 120 feet working the bottom with dodgers and spin-glo's or spoons off downriggers 50 to 120 feet down. Hot colors were black and orange, green, blue and glow. Steelhead were in 90 to 130 feet near the color lines. Use bright colored spoons on boards. A couple walleye were taken on small spoons, thunder sticks and crawler harnesses in 20 to 45 feet. Bass were in close to shore.

**Port Austin:** Anglers were still catching some walleye between Port Austin and Lighthouse Park. Fishing is not as good as it has been.

**Saginaw Bay:** Had perch activity over the last week. Fish were caught in 15 feet off Gambil's Marina, between Pinconning and Linwood in the Black Hole, near the Spark Plug (Buoys 11 & 12) and around sailboat Buoys A, B and H. Success seems to be tied to getting good minnows; shiners are preferred, and not all bait shops have them this time of year. Walleye fishing was pretty slow at all locations including the Slot. A few were taken along the deep side of the weed beds off Pinconning. A few were starting to look for perch off Quanicassee. The lucky ones had maybe 10 fish per boat. Catfish were caught on crawlers at the Hot Pond.

**Saginaw River:** Shore anglers on the lower river continue to catch smallmouth bass, freshwater drum, catfish and a few small perch.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Those looking for bluegills on the inland lakes are finding the bigger ones near the bottom in 20 feet or deeper. Smaller fish are in the shallows.

**St. Joseph:** Salmon anglers did very well with Chinook caught in 70 feet. Lake trout and salmon were also caught in 110 feet. Most were taken on spoons and white paddles with green flies. Perch fishing continues to be good in 20 to 30 feet north and south of the piers. Steelhead fishing off the piers slowed but a few catfish and freshwater drum were taken on crawlers.

**Kalamazoo River:** Trout fishing slowed but those trolling were still taking some walleye early or late. Those fishing near structure caught a few smallmouth bass. Channel cats were hitting on crawlers, cut bait and shrimp.

**South Haven:** Had good salmon fishing in 60 to 100 feet. Most were taken on spoons. Perch fishing was good south of the piers in 20 feet.

**Grand Haven:** Salmon were caught in 35 to 75 feet. Glow spoons and plugs are working well along with red or green meat rigs. A couple salmon and steelhead were caught off the piers when using alewives early or late.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Water levels are way down so boat anglers need to watch for exposed rocks and logs. Watch for rocks below the mouth of the Rogue River. Walleye were caught between North Park and Knapp Street and below the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. Crawlers and leeches were the ticket. Catfish were hitting on minnows.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Had good smallmouth bass action for those fly fishing. Try a black or dark green woolly bug below the dams and near the Brenke Ladder. A good number of carp have been caught near Brenke.

**Muskegon:** Salmon were caught on meat rigs and plugs in 45 to 85 feet.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels are low. Anglers are still getting some smallmouth. Some have managed to catch a few trout near Croton Dam but catch rates were slow. Panfish were caught in the ponds and backwaters.

**Whitehall:** Salmon fishing was good 30 to 100 feet down in 80 to 150 feet. Green or blue plugs have worked well. Use glow spoons early or late.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Mackinaw City:** Anglers reported slower salmon fishing. Only a few fish were taken between the bridge, Round Island and Mackinac Island. Anglers also caught some lake trout and the occasional steelhead.

**Cheboygan:** Is reporting good catches of lake trout from the east side of Bois Blanc Island. A couple steelhead and Chinook were also caught in the area but most were taken up around the Straits.

**Cheboygan River:** Is producing smallmouth bass, rock bass, walleye and freshwater drum. Of the walleye caught, very few were keepers.

**Mullett Lake:** Walleye fishing was slower with only one to three fish per boat fishing the "humps" just east of the Sunken Island and east of Dodge Point on the north end with a combination of crawler harnesses and Hot-n-Tots. Steelhead fishing varied. Anglers are targeting fish 30 to 60 feet down in 60 to 120 feet. Downriggers 30 to 40 feet down and 4-10 colors of lead seem to work best. Perch anglers are finding plenty of small fish but struggling to find any keepers

**Rogers City:** As usual, fishing conditions have changed. Strong northwest winds left a lot of warm water top to bottom. Anglers will have to go deep to find cold water or wait for a good east/southeast wind. Fish early or late and look for baitfish and structure. Try 45 to 120 feet and head towards Swan Bay, Calcite or Adams Point. Steelhead were caught in 200 feet or more. Anglers are using mostly spoons with flashers, flies, squid or cut bait. Hot colors were orange, green, blue, black and white or glow early and late.

**Presque Isle:** Warm water is now top to bottom. Anglers will have to go deep to find any kind of thermocline. When the lake does calm down, going out to 200 feet or more may be a good bet. Look for structure and baitfish. A few walleye were caught. Most were trolling north between the two lighthouses and south towards Stoneport.

**Alpena:** Fishing has been consistent most of the summer and lake trout have been the mainstay. Most anglers are heading out deep to the second "humps" past Thunder Bay Island or further. The Nordmere Wreck has also been holding a good number of fish. Spoons, spin-glo's and wobble glows behind attractors are working well. Steelhead seem to be in the area in good numbers but suspended high in the water column. Planer boards, dipsey's, lead core and sliders are keeping the bait where the steelhead are. There has been a late night walleye bite.

**Oscoda:** Has a good number of lake trout and steelhead in the area. Early morning start in 90 to 100 feet of water and work your way out. Spread the baits top to bottom as most of the fish are suspended. Change up baits regularly as pink salmon and small Chinook are in the area. You may have these fish on your line without tripping the release. Pier fishing has really started to pick up late in the evening. Channel cats are starting to come in around 10 pm and biting throughout the night.

**Au Sable River:** Has smallmouth bass in good numbers and sizes.

**Higgins Lake:** Boat anglers continue to take lake trout in 80 to 125 feet. Most were caught along the bottom but a few were suspended and hitting on body baits, spoons and cowbells. Black and silver or blue and silver were the hot colors. Perch are deep in 40 to 60 feet. Those fishing first light may find some in shallow water. The lake is producing lots of rock bass which can be fun for the young anglers.

**Houghton Lake:** Had good bluegill fishing especially along the weed beds on the south end and near the Middle Grounds. Worms and leeches were the ticket. Walleye fishing was hit-or-miss. Try the weed beds at dawn or dusk.

**Tawas:** Boats trolling out to 70 feet caught a few walleye and steelhead on spoons. Pier fishing was summer-slow with only the odd rock bass or smallmouth caught.

**Tawas River:** Shore anglers in the lower river caught a couple catfish, drum, rock bass or the odd pike.

**Au Gres:** The few boats still after walleye were fishing northeast of Big Charity Island or around the Steeples. A few fish were caught in 15 to 30 feet.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Harbor Springs:** Lake trout fishing seems to have slowed up at Seven Mile Point. A couple fish were taken near the bottom in 100 to 120 feet. A few bigger fish were caught 70 to 80 feet down in 120 to 130 feet along the Harbor Springs side. Smallmouth anglers did well when casting around Wequetonsing and Roaring Brook.

**Petoskey:** Lake trout fishing was good and a couple salmon were picked up. Most boats are still trolling from the front of the breakwall to the East Park/Bay Harbor area. Lake trout were 60 to 80 feet down in 100 to 130 feet or 110 to 115 feet down in 140 feet near Bay Harbor. Some lake trout were caught near the bottom in 125 feet and a couple salmon were caught 60 to 70 feet down. Those fishing the breakwall caught quite a few sub-legal smallmouth bass and some bigger rock bass.

**Bear River:** Has very low water levels and the angler effort up at the dam remains low. The mouth of the river or the "Bobber Hole" is still slow but a few smallmouth bass, rock bass, drum, bluegill and small perch were caught on crawlers.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers caught a couple lake trout 90 feet down in over 130 feet near the cement plant. Some were getting skunked while others were able to pick up a fish or two. Some were near the bottom in 120 feet off North Point while others were suspended 60 to 90 feet down in 130 to 170 feet and hitting on spoons. A few salmon were reported 70 to 80 feet down. Those traveling all the way to Cathead Bay caught a few salmon but they were small. Bass and panfish were caught in the channel with live or artificial worms and leeches.

**Traverse City:** Lake trout were caught in the East Bay near Elk Rapids and north of Deepwater Point. Chinook and coho were caught near and south of the M-37 launch. Some good size smallmouth bass were taken near Old Mission. The Elk River is producing lots of sub-legal smallmouth. In the West Bay, lake herring and steelhead were caught west of Power Island. Good size smallmouth bass were caught on the north side of Power Island. In general, fishing has been better on the East Bay.

**Boardman River:** Continues to produce lots of sub-legal smallmouth bass. Those using worms caught rock bass.

**Frankfort:** Anglers have landed some nice catches 40 to 80 feet down in 100 to 180 feet straight out from the port in the early morning. Several coho were hitting on green and blue spoons just a bit deeper. Bigger Chinook were caught on green or purple meat rigs.

**Onekama:** Anglers trolling 60 to 100 feet down in 120 to 180 feet found Chinook salmon at dawn and dusk. Green and blue spoons work best. Anglers reported a strong current so an east/west troll was working to help lure speed.

**Portage Lake:** Water temperatures are very warm so anglers are fishing in 18 to 25 feet. Bluegill, perch and rock bass were hitting on worms. Bass anglers working the drops and breakwalls were having a rough time.

**Manistee:** Dredging operations have started in the channel and could take up to a couple weeks depending on weather conditions. A good number of Chinook were still being caught in 70 to 100 feet of water. Coho, lake trout and steelhead were also caught.

**Manistee Lake:** A few anglers were trolling for Chinook salmon but there were no reports of any fish hooked. Both the large and smallmouth action was a bit slower. Fishing the cooler waters from the mouth of the Big Manistee River produced fish but anglers had to work for them. Try the weed beds near the mouth or fish deeper along the drop-offs.

**Big Manistee River:** The summer steelhead bite at Tippy Dam has come to a halt. There have been no reports of anglers taking fish. A few smallmouth bass were caught downriver.

**Ludington:** Dredging operations here are done. Surface water temperatures were about 70 degrees. Good numbers of Chinook along with coho, lake trout or steelhead were caught in 70 to 110 feet. A few walleye were caught off the piers at night.

**Pentwater:** Salmon fishing was very good from the dunes down to Little Sable Point. Anglers were using plugs, flashers and flies or meat rigs 30 to 110 feet down in 70 to 150 feet.

**Pentwater Lake:** Large and smallmouth bass anglers have taken fish with soft plastics on drop shot or Carolina rig. Those fishing the channel caught freshwater drum and smallmouth bass with crawlers near the bottom.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Gogebic:** Fishing has been slow. The better walleye catches are coming when trolling deeper water with crawler harnesses or stick baits, jigging leeches and crawlers over structure or bobber fishing along the weed beds in deep water. For panfish, a good number of pumpkinseed were caught in the weed beds and around the deeper bulrushes.

**Keweenaw Bay:** Those trolling for salmon had a few good days for coho and lake trout. They are trolling from the head of the bay north up to the red rocks which are near the roadside park on US-41 near the community of Keweenaw Bay. Fish were caught 40 to 90 feet down in 40 to 110 feet with a variety of lures from spoons to body baits. Orange and green were the hot colors. On certain days, coho were right in the bay and other days they were between Sand Point and the red rocks. Those trolling for lake trout at the South Portage Entry were getting a few fish near Farmers, Newton's, and the Big Reef or along the Mud Banks with spoons in 80 to 150 feet.

**Menominee River:** Smallmouth bass, walleye and a good number of freshwater drum have been caught when trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits. Drop-shotting was also working well for smallmouth.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye catches have increased in both bays. The better catches were in the south end when trolling rapalas in 18 to 24 feet during the day and 7 to 14 feet at night. Most were fishing between the "Fingers", Minneapolis Shoals and Round Island. Fair catches were reported near the Escanaba shipping docks when using a crawler harness or stick baits in 18 to 25 feet. Fair to good smallmouth fishing at the mouth of the Escanaba River, Farmers Dock and south by Round Island. Most fish were taken from the rocky areas seven to 16 feet with crawlers on a jig, crank baits or plastics. Salmon anglers had few catches when trolling spoons 60 to 85 feet down in 100 to 110 feet near the Ford River Buoy. A couple steelhead were reported at 30 to 40 feet down. A few perch were caught near the mouth of the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when using crawlers or minnows along the break.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had fair to good walleye catches near Round Island when trolling stick baits in seven to 24 feet. Look for structure and weed lines. Fair to good smallmouth fishing near Ogontz when casting drop shots, plastics or live bait along the shoreline and weed beds. Fish were also caught along the bay near Nahma, off the golf course and near the Sturgeon River. Most were caught along the rocks in six to 12 feet with crawlers and leeches. Off Fairport, salmon anglers reported the best catches off Big Summer Island. Some caught fish 20 pounds or more.

**Marquette:** Lake trout fishing has been very good with many limit catches of fish between three and five pounds. Most are fishing north of the white rocks in 140 feet while others are catching fish in 100 to 220 feet around Granite Island, the Sand Hole and Presque Island. A few coho were also caught.

**Munising:** Boat anglers continue to do fairly well with some limits reported and most taking three to four fish per trip. Fish were caught right near the bottom in 140 to 160 feet with chartreuse, white or melon colored spoons near Wood Island Reef. Some are targeting coho but catch rates were not good. Pier anglers at the Anna River reported slow catch rates for splake which might be because of the thick weeds or baitfish in the area.

**Grand Marais:** Had good catches of lake trout. Pier and shore anglers were targeting pike when casting spoons and stick baits or still-fishing with a medium size sucker minnow. Boat anglers were trolling stick baits and deep diving crank baits but only one legal size fish was caught.

**St. Marys River:** The walleye bite improved in Raber Bay for those trolling crawler harnesses off the weed beds in eight to 12 feet between the docks on Lime Island and the Raber Bay launch. The north end of the bay was producing bigger fish in the 18 to 22 inch range. Anglers were trolling crank baits along the north shore out to Pointe Aux Frenes in the early morning.

**Detour:** Swedes Pointe was producing some 17 to 19 inch walleye. Anglers were using slip-bobbers with shiners and crawlers along the rocky ledges in 10 to 12 feet. Good Atlantic salmon fishing between the red buoy on the southwest side of Drummond Island to the Detour Lighthouse. Anglers are trolling small squid baits and three inch orange and gold spoons between 12 and 40 feet down. A few Chinook were taken between Fry Pan Island, the Ferry Dock in Detour, the green buoy and back to the lighthouse. Try medium to large squid and raspberry and black spoons 52 feet down in 60 to 80 feet. Limits of lake trout were caught off the 80 foot flats two miles straight south of the Detour Lighthouse. Try spin-glo's or a plain grey hammered spoon.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Cedarville had no good reports of yellow perch fishing. Currently the bigger fish seem to be in deeper parts of the channels throughout the Les Cheneaux Islands. A few anglers caught perch in the eight to 10 inch class by drift fishing and still-fishing shiners in 12 to 14 feet throughout Government Bay and the Middle Entrance area of the Les Cheneaux Islands. Pumpkinseed and rock bass were caught on worms around Hill Island and Island Number 8. Schools of yellow perch were reported at the Hessel Marina and fishing pier but most were small. Those fishing off the Hessel Pier caught smallmouth bass on spinners and pike on creek chubs in the early morning and late evening. Goose Island just south of the of Marquette Island has been producing lake trout in good numbers and a couple steelhead and pink salmon. Lake trout are hitting chrome and blue spoons 60 feet down in 80 feet and the salmon and steelhead were hitting three inch spoons 12 to 18 feet down. Duck Bay located on the east side of Marquette Island was producing some nice smallmouth bass for those casting spinners in six to eight feet in the early morning. Some 26 to 29 inch pike were caught by those trolling along the weed beds in the early morning in Snows Channel. Try a chrome spoon with a red eye.

**St. Ignace:** A few Chinook were caught by those fishing the Straits area from the bridge to Mackinac and Round Island however the fish were harder to find. Good catches of lake trout and a couple steelhead were coming from around Mackinac Island. The Carp River is still producing a few walleye early and late for those using crawlers or leeches. The occasional perch or pike were also caught. Walleye fishing on the Pine River has slowed because of the warm water.

August 18, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The recent hot weather eased fishing pressure throughout much of the state but anglers who have headed out have seen some success, particularly for Chinook, yellow perch, walleye, bass and lake trout.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Yellow perch fishing has been good with anglers receiving occasional limit catches. Most success was had using shiners on perch rigs or spreaders in 24 to 27 feet fishing straight out from the River Raisin and drifting in areas between Fermi, Sandy Creek and straight out from the mouth of the Raisin until decent schools of fish were found. Anglers were still sorting many small fish but some anglers hitting the right schools found plenty of decent-sized perch. Those fishing for perch were also catching white perch, freshwater drum and white bass with the occasional smallmouth or walleye. Anglers fishing Sandy Creek caught large numbers of panfish on crawlers. Those fishing in Bolles Harbor and near the mouth of La Plaisance Creek caught largemouth bass when jigging tubes. Anglers fishing around Pointe Mouillee's dikes caught largemouth and smallmouth bass on jerk baits and various cranks including shad raps. Shore anglers fishing Pointe Mouillee caught yellow perch, rock bass, panfish, and bullheads when using night crawlers.

**Oakland County:** Both Cass and Union lakes have had fair fishing. Majority of anglers are targeting bass or anything that bites. While most of the better bass fishing has been in deeper water, some anglers are finding success around docks or shorelines. Those looking for pike or walleye should try crawler harnesses in 20 to 25 feet. A few good sized catches of panfish were brought in but anglers are reporting a lot of small throwbacks as well.

**Lake St. Clair:** Smallmouth and largemouth bass have been caught in the bay between the Harley Ensign launch and Metro Point while casting worms. Smallmouths were also caught on the east side of Anchor Bay in eight to 11 feet while casting crankbaits and on the west side of Anchor Bay in eight to 11 feet while casting tubes and plastic worms. Walleye have been caught close to the channel straight out from the Harley Ensign



launch in 12 to 15 feet of water by anglers trolling with black and silver and chartreuse rapalas. Walleye have also been caught near Harsens Island in 17 feet of water while trolling bottom bouncers with fire tiger colored crawler harnesses. Decent catches of yellow perch have been caught while still fishing minnows and crawlers by Strawberry Island and the Harley Ensign boat launch. Yellow perch, walleye, channel catfish, and panfish have been caught in 16 feet of water near the 400 club. Anglers caught mixed bags while fishing near the Saint Clair Light while trolling with crawler harnesses. They took panfish, smallmouth bass, walleye, and northern pike. The dumping grounds proved to be a good location for smallmouth bass fishermen this week as well. Anglers are having success for muskie while trolling a variety of artificial baits at about six mph.

**Lexington to Port Sanilac:** Anglers were getting the same mix of walleye, steelhead and lake trout, with a couple of pink salmon thrown in. The walleye and steelhead were coming from 40 to 60 feet with the steelhead in the top half and the lake trout from 80 to 100 feet or deeper. Perch fishing has tapered off. Pier anglers are getting walleye in the evening.

**Grindstone City:** Was taking a mix of walleye, steelhead, and lake trout straight north in 100 to 140 feet with small spoons on downriggers and lead-core.

**Port Austin:** Pier fishing has been spotty. Some nice smallmouths and small perch were caught off the north wall.

**Saginaw Bay:** Fishing pressure was light all week due to hot weather during the week and rain on the weekend. Some walleye were taken off the Pinconning Bar from 19-25 feet. A few perch being taken from the Black Hole, sailboat buoys G and H, and out of the old shipping channel north of the Saginaw River mouth. Over on the east side of the bay, walleye fishing was generally slow but individual boats did fairly well if they found some active fish. Surprisingly, some boats have done well in eight to 12 feet and others in 15 to 17 feet. Perch fishing on the east side was generally slow with a lot of sorting necessary. Shore anglers in the Quanicasse River were getting small perch and panfish and a lot of dogfish.

**Saginaw River:** River fishing at Smith Park was turning up a few drum and catfish from very warm water.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Kalamazoo River:** Walleye fishing has improved with a fair number of fish caught by those trolling night crawler harnesses.

**South Haven:** Perch fishing has slowed on Lake Michigan. Boat anglers targeting salmon report good action in 70 to 80 feet and 100 to 120 feet. Steelhead, lake trout and light numbers of Chinook have been caught on blue and green spoons. Pier anglers have caught a couple of steelhead.

**Grand Haven:** Decent numbers of salmon have been caught 35 to 90 feet down in 80 to 130 feet. A variety of colors in meat rigs, glow plugs and flies have been working well. A

few fresh drum and catfish have been caught in the channel.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** A few walleye have been caught below the dams. The best action has been early and late. Catfish are hitting on crawlers, shrimp or cut bait when fished at night.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Bass are hitting on leeches and flies on the Grand River. Tube baits and spinnerbaits are producing good results as well. Those fishing at night are catching fair numbers of catfish.

**Muskegon:** Salmon are being caught 35 to 90 feet down in 75 to 140 feet. Glow plugs are working well along with green, red, and yellow meat rigs. No pier report.

**Whitehall:** Salmon and steelhead fishing has been good 30 to 100 feet down in 60 to 150 feet. Green or blue plugs and flashers and flies have fished well.

**White Lake:** Bass anglers have caught fish using crankbaits or jigging soft plastics near the submerged structure. Bluegills have been caught using red worms under bobbers.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Mackinaw City:** Those fishing in the straits area this last week took decent numbers of lake trout, a few pink salmon, and a few Chinook salmon. They were mostly small with very few larger fish being caught.

**Cheboygan:** Very few boats have headed out to Lake Huron this last week to fish for salmon and trout. Those that did go out caught good numbers of lake trout, a few Chinook salmon and good numbers of pink salmon. Most of the Chinook salmon caught were small.

**Cheboygan River:** Is producing smallmouth bass, walleye, freshwater drum, rock bass and channel catfish. Only a few walleye were caught by those using leeches or crawlers and most that were caught were undersized.

**Mullett Lake:** The warm water has made slow fishing for all species this past week. Walleye fishermen are targeting the humps area on the north end of the lake with limited success. Most anglers are catching walleye with crawler harnesses but a few have had good success with hot-n-tots. Steelhead fishing was very slow this past week with most boats only getting one to two fish per trip. Anglers are fishing 3-7 colors of lead as well as downriggers 30 to 45 feet down over 60 to 120 feet of water. Perch anglers have found a few throughout the lake averaging six to 12 decent sized perch per trip.

**Rogers City:** A mixed bag fishery continues. Anglers are given the chance of catching a wide variety of fish. Chinook salmon are starting to show up and have been caught very early or very late for the best success. Anglers are starting to fish south from the harbor towards Adams Point, Swan Bay and Calcite Plant. Best depths have been anywhere from 25 feet in front of Swan Bay out to 125 feet deep in 45 to 90 feet of water being the best. Anglers are using downriggers, lead core, dipseys and copper for best results.

Some J plugs are also starting to work. Good colors have been greens, blues, oranges, purple, white and black, blue and silver, peril white, and glow stuff early and late.

**Presque Isle:** A mixed bag fishery continues here as well. Anglers have the opportunity to catch Chinook salmon, lake trout, pink salmon, walleye, coho salmon, steelhead, and Atlantic salmon all in a given trip. Anglers are mostly fishing north of the harbor between the two lighthouses. Best depths have been in 50 to 120 feet of water and running lines all up and down the water column or above and below a thermocline if there is one. Anglers are using downriggers, lead core, dipseys, and copper and running them throughout the water column. Spoons have been the best but flashers with squid flies or cut bait have also taken fish. Good colors have been greens, blues, oranges, purple, white and black, blue and silver, peril white and glow stuff early and late.

**Tawas:** Anglers trolling off Tawas Bay were fishing 50 to 60 feet off the crib down at Alabaster and getting decent numbers of walleye and also pretty good numbers of steelhead. Recent warm, muggy nights have stimulated some late mayfly hatches that seem to be bringing the steelhead into the area.

**Tawas River:** Pier and river fishing are slow with mainly tourists fishing and catching the odd rock bass, smallmouth, catfish, drum or pike.

**Au Gres:** Boat fishing pressure has been pretty light. Walleye anglers were concentrating their efforts northeast of Big Charity Island and near the Steeples in 20 to 32 feet. Some walleye have also been taken off Whitestone Point. Some perch being taken off near the hotel in 20 to 35 feet. Eagle Bay Marina had some nice catches of perch from 15 to 20 feet off the Saganing and Pinconning bars.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Lake trout fishing is slow. Most boats have been targeting Harbor Point and North. There were only a couple reports of one or two lake trout being caught.

**Petoskey:** Boat anglers have caught mainly lake trout but a few Chinook were also taken last week. Lake trout were caught anywhere from 50 to 120 feet down both suspended and near the bottom. Spoons were working well but lakers were also hitting on cut bait. The few Chinook caught were about 50 feet down. Anglers caught salmon on flasher flies and plugs. There is not much angler pressure at the dam right now. Only a few small steelhead being caught on spawn bags. The mouth of the river was very slow over the last week. Water levels are still low and there were not many anglers or fish seen here.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers have caught mainly lake trout with a couple Chinook mixed in. A few decent size salmon in the 10 to 12 pound range were taken as well. Lake trout were caught both suspended 100 feet down and near the bottom. Salmon were caught about 50 feet down over the weekend. Flies and spinners were working for both lakers and salmon. Both species were taken anywhere from the can at the cement plant to North Point. Some boats headed straight out a few miles and also caught some fish. Anglers fishing the channel in Charlevoix caught more keeper smallmouth bass along with a lot of undersized ones. There were also a few rock bass caught at the end of the

pier around the lighthouse. Most anglers were using worms and leeches both real and artificial.

**Traverse City:** Although slow, anglers targeting Chinook salmon have been catching some fish in the mornings on West Bay north of Clinch Park. East Bay has been slow as well where fish have been caught around the drop-off at the southern end of the bay. Bass anglers have been catching plenty of small smallmouths on the Elk and Boardman Rivers. East Bay has been fair for smallmouths along the west side of the bay, north of the M-37 launch. Rock bass fishing has been good at Elk Rapids and the Boardman River. An occasional sheepshead and northern pike have been caught in Elk Rapids.

**Frankfort:** Chinook are biting in a variety of places from the Herring Hole to Platte Bay 40 to 80 feet down and hitting on spoons, flies and plugs. All are seeing action with greens and blue colors being the most popular. Coho numbers are picking up in the same areas but a little deeper down.

**Onekama:** The Barrel is still producing a few Chinook in the early mornings and lake trout throughout the day. Anglers are trolling 40 to 100 feet down with the temperature break at 45 to 65 down.

**Portage Lake:** Very nice catches of bluegills are being reported hitting on worms in 18 to 25 feet. Water temperatures are very warm so anglers are fishing a bit deeper.

**Manistee:** Dredging continues and will continue for about another month or so. To avoid any possible accidents please drive between the dredger and the north pier until you get around them. Good numbers of salmon and coho are still coming in being caught offshore in 70 to 130 feet. Small numbers of steelhead and lake trout are also coming on at those depths.

**Ludington:** Chinook were caught in the afternoon along the off shore in 90 to 150 feet. Coho along with small numbers of steelhead and lake trout were also being caught at those depths. Morning bite has shown to be a lot better than at night.

**Pentwater:** Salmon and steelhead fishing has been good fishing 30 to 90 feet down in 60 to 140 feet. Plugs, flashers and flies and meat rigs have all been fishing well.

**Pentwater Lake:** Anglers targeting smallmouth bass and drum have had success using minnows and night crawlers when drifting along the bottom in the channel.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Traverse Bay:** Anglers trolling between Gay and Big Louie's Points had some nice catches of lake trout and coho while trolling in waters from 40 to 180 feet deep and 30 to 175 feet down with a variety of spoons and colors being used.

**Keweenaw Bay:** The fish bite has been very slow this past week for anglers trolling for salmon. Those trolling have fished from the head of the bay northward as far as the red rocks at the roadside park on US-41 near the community of Keweenaw Bay and trolling in

waters from 30 to 90 feet deep and 25 to 70 feet down. A variety of lures ranging from spoons to body baits with colors of orange and greens have been working the best.

**Little Bay De Noc:** The only good walleye fishing has been south in Green Bay waters. Anglers have been going as far south as Seagull Point. Round Island area has reported fair to good catches trolling mostly stick baits in seven to 18 feet mainly at night. Minneapolis Shoals and Seagull Point area anglers used the same in 14 to 30 feet. Round Island area also produced good smallmouth bass catches using cranks or crawlers in seven to 12 feet. Farmers Dock area also reported fair catches of smallmouth using plastics or cranks in 18 to 25 feet. The Escanaba Yacht Harbor reported fair catches of perch still-fishing crawlers in the channel. Northern pike were active throughout the bay with the best areas being Kipling in 10 to 20 feet and off the Day's River in and around 14 feet. Early in the week salmon anglers reported some catches but the action tapered off by the end of the week. Best catches were in 80 to 130 feet and 40 to 85 feet down.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Very few walleye anglers here this week. Most have been going down by Round Island. The fishing there has been fairly good but bad weather was mainly a factor this week. Ogontz reported a lot of undersized bass. Most anglers have been fishing the reeds along the shore line. Best catches of smallmouth bass were in the Nahma area casting or trolling plastics, spinners, cranks or crawlers in five to 16 feet.

**Fairport:** Has been mainly hit or miss this past week. Salmon anglers reported some very good catches but the action was spotty. Most have been fishing the Gap trolling mostly spoons in 105 to 140 feet and 60 to 90 feet down. Several 20 pound-plus fish being caught have been reported.

**Munising:** Boat anglers are doing well with several limits of lake trout coming in. Areas that have been best are Wood Island Reef and Big Reef. Also some boat anglers report coho salmon action of three to five fish with an occasional Splake near Trout Bay. Big Reef had some good reports of local charters doing well on limits with most fish averaging around three to four pounds.

**Grand Marais:** Fishing conditions were more favorable the past few days and boat anglers did well for lake trout at all depths from less than 100 feet to close to 200 feet. Productive areas were near Au Sable Point and about seven miles out from Grand Marais as well as Big Reef and the surrounding areas. A few boaters trolled close to the break wall and harbor for northern pike. There had been some reports of a few coho salmon being caught but weather conditions were not favorable.

**St. Marys River:** There are a few muskie reports in the 38 to 46 inch class while trolling large black buck tail spinners with yellow spotted blades in twelve feet of water just off the weed beds from Raber Boat Launch south to the Lime Island Dock and fishing pier. For walleye anglers the best location has been at the mouth of Carlton Creek two miles south of the Raber Boat Launch in the early morning hours and late evening hours trolling orange spinner blades with night crawler harnesses in eight to 12 feet.

**Detour:** Reports of smallmouth bass have been reported jigging with brown tube jigs in six to eight feet off rock piles and rocky points on the north end of Maude Bay. Anglers have reported a few northern pike while trolling red and white spoons off weed beds in eight to 12 feet.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Atlantic salmon have been caught from the fishing pier on the east side of the power plant throughout the day. A few are being fished casting and drift fishing brown and gold colored medium-size fly baits. A few whitefish are being caught using tear drop lures tipped with wax worms.

**St. Ignace:** Only a few small and very few large Chinooks were taken by those fishing in the area. Good numbers of lake trout are still being taken by those who target them and a few pink salmon are being taken on high lines set for steelhead or salmon. The Carp River is producing a few walleye, smallmouth bass, pike and perch. Most fish are being caught early in the morning or late in the day. The Pine River is still giving up a few walleye for those trolling crawler harnesses near Lake Huron but catch rates have fallen recently. Early in the morning seems to be the best bite and a few perch, pike and smallmouth bass have also been caught.

August 25, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Water levels are up in the rivers and streams that saw significant rainfall over the last week. Anglers will want to be cautious and watch for floating debris in the rivers and the Great Lakes where those rivers flow into.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Yellow perch fishing was good but slowed for a few days due to weather. Anglers doing well were fishing perch rigs and spreaders with whatever minnows were available (preferably emerald shiners) in 24 to 27 feet straight out from Stony Point and Sandy Creek, 22 to 25 feet near the mouth of the River Raisin or straight out from La Plaisance Creek. Those fishing the dikes around Pointe Mouillee caught decent numbers of largemouth bass with soft plastics in shallow water in the evening. Shore anglers in Luna Pier caught freshwater drum and a couple yellow perch on crawlers or a few largemouth bass on soft plastics. Shore anglers at the Hoffman Memorial Access site caught pumpkinseed, bluegills and white perch on crawlers.

**Huron River:** Is producing smallmouth bass.

**Detroit River:** Anglers are getting a few walleye in the lower river in front of Horse Island when jigging with a crawler. Anglers were getting enough perch for dinner around the islands but the bigger schools of fish are still in the lake. Bass anglers are doing well and shore anglers are getting some catfish.

**Oakland County:** Bluegills were caught around the thermocline in about 20 feet or so with crawlers and wax worms on both Union and Cass Lake. The better fishing on Union Lake was at various depths and along the drop-offs. Bass fishing on both lakes was best in the early morning or late evening in eight to 10 feet.

**Lake St. Clair:** Smallmouth bass have been caught straight out from the Clinton River Cut Off launch in 18 feet when casting crank baits and tube baits, around the Firecracker in 16 to 18 feet while drop-shotting or around the Mile Roads in 17 feet with crank baits. Muskie were caught around the St. Clair Light while trolling a muskie train lure, around the Dumping Grounds in 15 feet and near the Clinton River Cut Off launch

while casting a variety of lures. Yellow perch were caught just north of the St. Clair Light in 19 feet while still-fishing with a simple hook and sinker with minnows and worms. Perch were also caught in the Shipping Channel by Buoy 26 in 15 feet while jigging with perch minnows. Walleye and smallmouth bass were caught while drifting from 9 Mile to the mouth of the South Channel on a silver with black crawler harness with red beads and no weight because of heavy weed cover. Yellow perch, channel catfish, drum, and rock bass were also caught while drifting minnows in the same area. Walleye were caught near the mouth of the South Channel in 17 feet with a purple crawler harness and just south of the Firecracker in 19 feet with a pink and purple crawler harness. On the north end, strong winds stirred up Anchor Bay. Walleye were caught in 12 to 13 feet around Strawberry Island when trolling a crawler harness. Those drop-shotting tube baits did well for smallmouth bass near the Harley Ensign launch. Those traveling straight out from the Selfridge caught walleye in 13 feet. Some sizable catfish were caught around Strawberry Island and straight off Selfridge.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye fishing remains very good above the Bluewater Bridge. Anglers are catching fish with crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers in the Algonac and Harsens Island areas. White bass are still showing up in the lower river. Water temperature was 73 degrees. Those fishing halfway up the Middle Channel caught large and smallmouth bass along the banks. Small muskie were also caught due to the high water levels. Try white spinners and black crank baits.

**Lexington to Port Sanilac:** Boat anglers caught lake trout, steelhead, Atlantic salmon and walleye in 40 to 60 feet or in 80 feet and deeper. Spin-glo's at the bottom caught lake trout while orange and gold spoons at various depths took other species.

**Harbor Beach:** The wind and storms will have the fish scattered for a while. For lake trout, try working the bottom with dodgers and spin-glo's or spoons 50 to 120 feet down. For Chinook, coho and Atlantic salmon try 15 to 70 feet down in 80 to 130 feet with spoons and offshore boards as well as 5, 7 and 10 colored leads. It might also be a good idea to start running some J-plugs as it is that time of year. Steelhead were taken along the mud lines in 80 to 120 feet with bright colored spoons. A couple walleye hit on small spoons, thunder sticks and crawler harnesses in 70 to 100 feet. Those casting small body baits and spinners near shore caught bass.

**Grindstone City:** Those trolling had good success with a mix of steelhead, lake trout and even walleye taken straight north in 100 to 140 feet with small spoons, downriggers and lead core.

**Port Austin:** Had little action except for several smallmouth bass anglers catching and releasing several fish. Pier fishing was spotty with assorted panfish and the odd pike or white bass caught.

**Saginaw Bay:** Had some fair perch catches off Gambil's Marina near Pinconning in 13 to 15 feet. The fish ranged eight to 11 inches. A few were taken near Buoy H but the action was hit-or-miss with lots of sorting to do. A few walleye were taken off Linwood



by boat anglers trolling black and silver crank baits. Catfish were taken from the Hot Pond. The east side of the bay was generally slow. A couple good catches of perch were taken from the deep side of the Bar which is just lakeward past the Callahan Reef. Boat anglers from Sebewaing and Bay Port found walleye outside of the islands in 10 to 14 feet.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Wind and rain have hampered fishing. The few boats that have made it out found slower fishing with only a few Chinook caught in 70 to 120 feet. Perch fishing was on the slow side. The fish moved deeper and were caught in 50 to 60 feet. Pier fishing was also slow. Boat anglers should watch for debris coming out of the river.

**St. Joseph River:** Water levels were very high and there is a lot of debris floating in the river. Boat anglers will need to use caution to avoid the debris.

**South Haven:** Between the rain and high waves fishing pressure was low. Boat anglers did catch a few lake trout in 90 feet. Perch and pier fishing was slow.

**Black River:** Water levels were very high and there is a lot of debris in the river. Boat anglers will need to use caution.

**Grand Haven:** Boat anglers are catching salmon 50 to 120 feet down in 100 to 150 feet with green or yellow glow plugs with red, yellow and green meat rigs. Pier anglers caught catfish on shrimp or minnows.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Anglers are still getting a few walleye below the dams. Smallmouth bass fishing has been very good throughout the river. Those fishing at night have taken catfish.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Most of the action has been for smallmouth bass. Anglers have done well with tube baits and spinners. Some good size bluegills were caught above Moore's Park but anglers will have to do some work to find the holes where the fish were holding.

**Muskegon:** Boat anglers caught salmon 55 to 120 feet down in 80 to 150 feet with glow plugs, meat rigs and flies in a variety of colors. No pier fishing to report.

**Whitehall:** Salmon and steelhead fishing has been good 30 to 90 feet down in 60 to 130 feet with plugs, paddles and flies. Pier anglers caught a few bass, freshwater drum and the occasional channel catfish.

**White Lake:** Both large and smallmouth bass have been caught by those trolling body baits along the drop-offs.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Mackinaw City:** High winds made fishing a challenge but those that could get out did manage to take a few salmon and lake trout when trolling around the Straits.

**Cheboygan:** Boat anglers did catch good numbers of lake trout and a fair number of pink and Chinook salmon when the weather allowed.

**Cheboygan River:** Continues to produce a mixed bag of pike, smallmouth bass, walleye, yellow perch, rock bass and freshwater drum. Only a few keeper size walleye were caught by shore anglers but those targeting smallmouth bass did well with crawlers and leeches. No salmon in the river yet.

**Mullett Lake:** Fishing remained slow. Most walleye anglers were struggling to find fish and those that did were trolling Hot-n-Tots. Steelhead fishing was best 30 to 40 feet down in 90 to 120 feet with orange spoons and downrigger. Perch anglers are still finding a lot of small perch scattered throughout but very few keepers.

**Rogers City:** The number of adult Chinook salmon being caught continues to improve. Anglers are taking a mixed bag of Atlantic, coho and pink salmon, lake trout, steelhead and walleye south towards Swan Bay, Adams Point and Calcite Harbor. Try 45 to 120 feet with 50 to 85 feet the best. Fish the entire water column and pay close attention to the bottom where the baitfish were when trolling spoons, J-plugs, flashers with squid, flies and cut bait. Hot colors were green, blue, white and red, white and black, orange, silver or glow early and late. Walleye were caught recently by those salmon fishing.

**Presque Isle:** Anglers are getting a nice mixed bag of trout, salmon and some walleye in 45 to 130 feet with the better catches in 50 to 90 feet. Target the entire water column north of the harbor between the two lighthouses or south towards Stoneport and False Presque Isle with spoons, J-plugs, and flashers with squid, flies or cut bait in the same colors as Rogers City. The key is fishing near the bottom. The Chinook salmon anglers have done best about one hour before daylight or as the sun goes down. Walleye were hitting on crawler harnesses and body baits in the top 30 feet.

**Oscoda:** Had more pier anglers than boat anglers. One boat did find a steelhead in 80 feet. Pier anglers fishing near the mouth did catch some catfish, freshwater drum and one walleye off the bottom with crawlers.

**Higgins Lake:** Lake trout are still being caught in 80 to 100 feet. Most fish were hitting on spoons or jointed body baits about 40 feet down which is where the thermocline was. Not much on perch but a few anglers did manage to catch enough for a meal. Rock bass are being caught everywhere and this is a great fishery for young anglers.

**Houghton Lake:** Bluegills were hitting on leeches, crawlers and wax worms in eight to nine feet. The bigger fish were taken on leeches near the bottom. Those trolling a harness with crawlers or leeches caught a few walleye in 12 feet. Hot colors were

green, purple and blue. A few crappie were taken on a pink or purple jig with a small minnow.

**Tawas:** Those trolling in 50 to 65 feet off the "Crib" at Alabaster did well for walleye with crawler harnesses and lures. A couple limit catches were reported. Fishing pressure was light and success was even lighter for pier anglers.

**Au Gres:** Had light activity with only a few boats getting a couple walleye north of the Big Charity Island. No perch action to report.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Anglers are catching lake trout from Harbor Point to the north. Some were suspended at 140 feet down in 170 feet however warmer water might push the fish deeper.

**Petoskey:** Boat anglers caught Chinook, coho and lake trout. Recent high winds pushed warm water back in so water in the lower 70's could be found 90 feet down. The warm water temperatures have driven the fish to much deeper waters. Pier anglers are still catching some smallmouth bass, rock bass and pike. Try worms or spoons.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers caught a couple lake trout about 150 feet down in 250 to 300 feet near the cement plant. Undersize smallmouth bass and some rock bass were caught off the piers when fishing the channel. Most are using crawlers or leeches.

**Traverse City:** Those targeting salmon were doing well along the south end of both the East and the West Bay. They caught Chinook and a few coho. Lake trout were caught around Deepwater Point and south of the M-37 launch in the East Bay. A handful of smaller sized perch were caught south of Elk Rapids. The Elk River continues to produce smallmouth bass, rock bass and freshwater drum.

**Boardman River:** Was still slow with only a couple smallmouth bass caught.

**Frankfort:** Boat anglers fishing the Herring Hole have landed a good number of Chinook salmon in the early morning but strong winds last weekend rolled the lake over and finding the thermocline is more difficult. Anglers are landing fish in the harbor when trolling or jigging. The fish are starting to turn dark and are staging so J-plugs, meat rigs and flies have been more popular. Coho in Platte Bay and the surrounding area are hitting as well.

**Onekama:** Those trolling and working the top 40 to 60 feet in 120 to 150 feet and fishing the area around the Barrel have caught a few Chinook salmon. Most fish were caught on plugs and meat rigs in the early morning.

**Portage Lake:** Still had some bluegills hitting in 18 to 25 feet.

**Manistee:** Surface water temperatures were near 72 degrees. Chinook and coho salmon were still being caught in 70 to 150 feet. A small number of steelhead and lake trout were also caught.

**Manistee Lake:** Chinook salmon are starting to trickle in. The lake had a lot of fishing pressure for them but catch rates were slow. Anglers had the most success at the beginning of the channel from Lake Michigan and directly in front of the DNR Stronach boat launch.

**Big Manistee River:** Tippy Dam to High Bridge has started producing a few walleye for those trolling crank baits in the deeper sections. Chinook salmon are just starting to show up and a few were caught by those floating spawn.

**Ludington:** Anglers were still taking a good number of Chinook and coho along with a small number of lake trout and steelhead when trolling in 70 to 150 feet.

**Pere Marquette Lake:** Those trolling are still picking up some Chinook salmon.

**Pentwater:** Had good salmon and steelhead fishing 30 to 100 feet down in 70 to 150 feet with plugs, paddles, flies and meat rigs.

**Pentwater Lake:** Those targeting smallmouth bass in the channel caught fish near the bottom with crawlers and leeches. Bullheads were caught from Longbridge Road at night when using crawlers and perch minnows.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Gogebic:** Fishing slowed with the recent weather changes, but the better walleye fishing was for those trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits in deeper water or when bobber fishing with crawlers and leeches along the deeper weed beds. Most of the perch were caught out deep and along the weed beds as well. A decent number of pumpkinseed were caught in the weeds around Bergland Bay.

**Menominee River:** Still had a decent walleye bite. Early morning and evenings were best when using both live bait and stick baits.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye were caught by those trolling crawler harnesses in and around 20 feet between the Second and Third Reefs but many were undersize. Those fishing the southern bay caught fish on stick baits in eight to 17 feet between the "Fingers" and Round Island. A few were still going as far south as Seagull Point and getting fair to good catches when trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits in 16 to 28 feet. Smallmouth bass anglers were not getting a lot of fish but those caught were good size. Try drop shots, crank baits, tube baits or spinners in eight to 20 feet near Hunters Point, Squaw Point, and near Round Island. Perch fishing was spotty at the mouth of the Escanaba Yacht Harbor along the break and just south of the "Narrows" in 23 feet

with minnows or crawlers. Good pike fishing near Kipling when trolling crank baits, spoons or spinners in 10 feet. Very slow salmon action for those trolling 40 to 105 feet down in 70 to 135 feet.

**Big Bay De Noc:** No walleye reports this week. There was some perch action in Garden Bay for those drifting crawlers in 10 to 12 feet but many were small. Smallmouth bass anglers in Ogontz and the head of the Bay reported a lot of undersize fish. The better catches of large fish were taken off Garden Bluff in 18 to 25 feet, Ansell's Point in 12 to 20 feet and the Nahma Golf Course in 10 to 14 feet with minnows or artificial baits. At Fairport, salmon anglers had little to report but the action should pick up this week with the cooler temperatures. Most are still fishing the "Gap" when trolling spoons or artificial cut bait 65 to 100 feet down in 100 to 140 feet.

**Marquette:** Lake trout fishing was moderate when boat anglers could get out. The better fishing was near the Sand Hole and the white rocks. Shore anglers caught smallmouth bass near the mouth of the Dead River.

**Munising:** A few lake trout were caught in Trout Bay and near Wood Island. Salmon action should pick up if the weather cooperates. Try trolling in 40 to 60 feet in Trout Bay and off Miner's Beach and look for baitfish. The strong winds and rain brought cooler water temperatures to the shoreline areas which made fishing better especially near the Anna River pier. Heavy weed cover makes casting more difficult so try surface lures.

**Grand Marais:** When they can get out, boat anglers reported good lake trout fishing near Big Reef and towards Au Sable Point. Boat anglers should watch for floating debris after the rain and strong winds. Water temperatures here will see a cool down this week. Salmon fishing should start to pick up in the next week or so. Look outside the harbor breakwall and east between the campground and Lonesome Point when trolling in 60 feet or less.

**Detour:** Anglers reported Atlantic and Chinook salmon moving upstream of the Detour Lighthouse. Catches of small salmon were reported between the lighthouse and Fry Pan Island. Chinook ranging six to eight pounds were caught 65 feet down in 80 feet on flashers and dodgers with black and raspberry colored spoons. Pink salmon and lake trout were reported a couple miles south at 60 to 75 feet down in 90 feet with spin-glo's.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Yellow perch fishing was very slow throughout Cedarville Bay and Government Bay. A few were eight to nine inches but most were undersize. For panfish, try over the weed beds in six feet near Hill Island, Island #8 and just north of the Middle Entrance with small worms and shiners. Pike action was very slow. Trout and salmon fishing out of Hessel was a bit slower but those heading out did catch a mix of pink salmon, lake trout and a few splake along the east and west side of Goose Island. Try three inch spoons 65 feet down in 80 feet. Hot colors were orange, gold and green. Pike were caught by those casting red and white spoons or still-fishing with chubs in the early morning. Rock bass and sunfish were caught under the docks throughout the Les Cheneaux Islands. For smallmouth, Duck Bay and just off Snows

Channel were productive in the early morning when casting a gold willow blade spinner with a white or yellow skirt in six to eight feet.

**St. Ignace:** When they can get out, boat anglers found good numbers of lake trout, some pink and a few Chinook salmon. Walleye fishing on the Pine River has slowed dramatically with only a few fish taken on a crawler harness. Perch and pike were also caught. Walleye fishing on the Carp River was better early or late. No Chinook salmon in the river yet. Boat anglers will need to pay close attention and watch for commercial nets off Nunn's Creek and throughout St. Martin's Bay.

September 1, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Salmon are staging in some areas and are just starting to move up into some of the rivers. Those fishing the rivers are reminded that snagging is illegal. Bass and pike fishing has picked up with the cooler temperatures.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Had decent yellow perch fishing with some reporting limit catches. Hot spots were 20 to 23 feet near the E-Buoy, 22 to 24 feet near Buoys 1 & 2 of the River Raisin and 22 to 25 feet near Stony Point. Most are using minnows especially emerald shiners on spreaders and perch rigs. Freshwater drum, catfish, white perch, and the occasional sub-legal walleye were also caught. Decent smallmouth action when jigging black and red tube baits near the mouth of the River Raisin and La Plaisance Bay. Those fishing from Evans Pier in Luna Pier caught freshwater drum, white perch, white bass and catfish on crawlers and cut bait. Shore anglers at Pointe Mouillee caught yellow perch, rock bass and sub-legal smallmouth bass on crawlers. Shore anglers at Sterling State Park caught bluegills and catfish on crawlers.

**Detroit River:** Anglers are getting a few yellow perch including the occasional bigger fish. Most of bigger ones are still in the lake but should be on the move with the cooler temperatures. A few walleye were caught but the action was still on the slow side.

**Oakland County:** Cass and Union Lake continue to produce a good number of bass and pike along with the occasional walleye. The better fishing was along the weedy flats and near the drop-offs. For bass, crayfish imitation baits on the bottom produced best. Some bluegills were caught in six to 10 feet on Cass Lake. Water temperatures are dropping but were still in the high 70's.

**Lake St. Clair:** Smallmouth bass anglers caught fish in 13 to 22 feet off 9-Mile Road. Bass and channel cats were caught when drifting worms about three miles out from the 400 Club. A decent number of yellow perch were taken in the shipping channel near Buoys 29 and 31 and near the L-Buoy when still-fishing or trolling minnows and crawlers however a large number were on the small side. The better fishing was in the early morning. Walleye fishing slowed which could be because of the weeds. Muskie

were caught at the mouth of the South Channel while fly fishing. On the north end, smallmouth bass were caught near Harley Ensign and largemouth were taken in the canals around Metro while casting tube baits and wacky worms. Rock bass were caught in 12 to 14 feet around Harley Ensign. Muskie were caught just east of the Baltimore Channel while casting a crank bait. Walleye were caught by those trolling between Munchie Bay and New Baltimore. A good number of perch were caught at the mouth of the North and South Channels.

**Lexington to Port Sanilac:** Those trolling were taking a mix of steelhead, walleye, Atlantic salmon and the occasional lake trout in 40 to 60 feet or 80 feet and deeper. The steelhead and Atlantics were coming on spoons in the top 1/3 of the water column. One 12 ½ pound Atlantic was taken off Port Sanilac. Pier fishing was slow.

**Harbor Beach:** Some nice lake trout were caught in 80 to 130 feet with dodgers and spin-glo's near the bottom or with downriggers and spoons 60 to 100 feet down. Hot colors were green, purple and blue alewives. A few salmon including pinks, coho, Chinook and Atlantic were caught 15 to 80 feet down in 80 to 135 feet. Try some J-plugs. Steelhead were caught on bright colored spoons in 75 to 100 feet and walleye were taken on small spoons, thunder sticks and crawler harnesses. Look for bass close to shore when casting small body baits and spinners.

**Port Austin:** When the winds allowed, boat anglers caught lake trout in 80 to 120 feet when using spin-glo's near the bottom. Those off Grindstone City did the same.

**Saginaw Bay:** We are not hearing a whole lot about walleye fishing in the inner bay; the fish are scattered and the average catch is a couple of fish per trip. The Slot from Fish Point to the tip of Sand Point was still giving up a few fish for the diehards. Perch were caught at many locations, with the common denominator being that lots of sorting was necessary to get a mess of keepers. Good perch spots were 15 feet off Gambil's Marina, 20 feet at the Black Hole, sailboat Buoys A, G, and H, a mile west of the Spark Plug (shipping channel Buoys 11 & 12), eight to 10 feet along the Callahan Reef and off the mouth of the Quanicassee River. A few fish were also found off the mouth of the Saginaw River and near Spoils Island. Catfish were hitting on crawlers and shrimp in the Hot Pond.

**Saginaw River:** Shore anglers caught mostly freshwater drum and catfish.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Boat anglers are catching decent numbers of lake trout and a few Chinook salmon but catch rates were inconsistent. Most fish were taken on spoons in 90 to 100 feet. Perch fishing was a little slow with a few catches taken in 40 feet. Pier fishing was also slow.

**St. Joseph River:** Water levels continue to be very high and muddy after all the rain. Boat anglers should use caution and watch for floating debris.



**South Haven:** Salmon fishing was slower with only a few fish caught in 100 feet but most of those were lake trout. Perch and pier fishing were very slow.

**Black River:** Water levels here are also very high so boat anglers use caution.

**Jordan Lake:** In Barry County is producing bass and panfish.

**Hutchins Lake:** In Allegan County had limit catches of panfish in 20 feet with crickets.

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers caught freshwater drum and channel cats on minnows. Removal of the catwalk on the south pier has begun and the pier was not accessible. Boat anglers found salmon 50 to 120 feet down in 100 to 180 feet with glow plugs, meat rigs and flies.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Look for walleye below the dams. Boat and shore anglers have found fish in the early morning or late evening. Those using crawlers and cut bait have caught catfish.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Continues to produce smallmouth bass for those casting spinners and tube baits or fly fishing. Those fishing near the dam at Moore's Park caught a few walleye.

**Shiawassee River:** Anglers caught smallmouth bass and rock bass at the Shiatown Dam near Vernon. Try live bait or artificial baits.

**Muskegon:** Boat anglers found trout and salmon 60 to 120 feet down in 70 to 180 feet when trolling a mix of glow plugs, meat rigs and flies. No pier fishing to report. The south pier at Pere Marquette Beach will be closed this week so temporary repairs can be made to the structure.

**Whitehall:** Anglers are catching salmon 30 to 90 feet down in 80 to 150 feet with orange and silver spoons, green plugs, and red or green meat rigs. Pier fishing for salmon was slow but should improve as cooler water moves in.

**White Lake:** Bluegill anglers had success using dropper rigs tipped with wax worms in 15 to 25 feet. Large and smallmouth bass were caught by those trolling crank baits along the drop-offs in 10 to 20 feet.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Mackinaw City:** Boat anglers caught salmon and lake trout between Mackinac Island and Round Island.

**Cheboygan:** Most boats are targeting Chinook in their normal staging areas in front of the Cheboygan River. Some boats reported four to six fish but most were zero to three. Lake trout, pink salmon and even a few pike were caught by those targeting salmon.

**Cheboygan River:** Had its first push of Chinook salmon however there are only a few in there now. Most caught sub-legal smallmouth bass and walleye or a few rock bass.

**Mullett Lake:** Fishing was still slow but there is hope as water temperatures have dropped six degrees or more over the last week. Walleye anglers had limited success with a crawler harness or Hot-n-Tot. Many are small 13 inches or less. A few perch were caught in Pigeon River Bay and out from the Indian River but many were small. A few steelhead were caught 30 to 45 feet down in 60 to 100 feet near Long Point and Red Pine Point with small orange spoons.

**Rogers City:** Windy conditions are causing changes to fishing daily so more boats were heading out in the early morning or evening when the winds were calm. Chinook are honing in on Swan Bay and staging out in the deeper water. Best depths were 45 to 85 feet an hour before daylight or after sunset. Anglers are taking a mixed bag of lakers, pinks, Atlantics, steelhead and walleye throughout the water column but the better catches came from 25 to 65 feet down with spoons, flashers with flies, squid and cut bait or J-plugs off Calcite, Swan Bay and Adams Point. Hot colors were red and white, black and white, blue, green, orange, purple or glow early and late.

**Presque Isle:** Anglers continue to take trout, salmon and walleye. Most were moving out to deeper water where there is a little more stability especially after the early morning bite. Try 50 to 130 feet between the lighthouses. There are still a lot of lake trout so try fishing near the bottom.

**Hubbard Lake:** Anglers have caught some nice walleye.

**Oscoda:** Those trolling off the mouth of the Au Sable River have caught a few salmon on J-plugs in the early morning. Lake trout are also in the area. Pier anglers managed to catch a few walleye, smallmouth bass, pike, catfish and freshwater drum.

**Au Sable River:** The lower river was loaded with small gizzard shad which is a sure sign that fall is almost here.

**Lake Margrethe:** Was producing some walleye and bluegills.

**Higgins Lake:** Boat anglers will find lake trout in 80 to 100 feet. Some were caught on spoons and jointed body baits 40 feet down while others were found just off the bottom.

**Houghton Lake:** Continues to produce bluegills. Anglers were using crawlers, leeches and leaf worms. Walleye were caught by those trolling. Try a green, purple or blue crawler harness along the weed beds.

**Lake St. Helen:** Is producing northern pike and panfish.

**Tawas:** Those trolling for walleye were heading south and fishing in 50 to 65 feet off the Crib near Alabaster. Several limits were brought in and 10 to 15 fish per boat was common. Fish were also caught lake ward of Buoy #2 in 35 to 70 feet. In addition to walleye, most boats were also taking the incidental steelhead on a crawler harness. Both species were hitting on crank baits and small spoons. Pier fishing was slow.

**Tawas River:** Shore anglers caught a few bass and pike.

**Au Gres:** Some perch were caught in Eagle Bay Marina and in 13 feet between the Saganing Bar and the Pinconning Bar. Some had 25 to 60 perch per boat. Good catches were also reported off White's Beach in 13 to 14 feet. There were also reports of a few walleye caught along the Pinconning Bay in 14 feet.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Although most boats fished the Petoskey side of the bay, a couple others were fishing Harbor Springs from mid Bay to around Harbor Point. Lake trout were caught on spoons about 150 feet down. There is warm water about 71 degrees all the way down to 100 feet. Anglers reported a thermocline about 150 feet down.

**Petoskey:** Boat anglers caught mainly lake trout along with a couple salmon. Most were fishing from the breakwall to Bay Harbor where lake trout were 125 to 150 feet down in 130 to 170 feet and the salmon were only 30 to 60 feet down. Spoons and cut bait were catching salmon. Pier anglers are now targeting salmon.

**Bear River:** Still had high water levels. Some fish did move in after the rain last week and those fishing spawn bags, artificial eggs and flies did take a few at the dam.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers did mark some fish 125 feet down which were most likely lake trout. It is that time of year when the salmon start moving closer to shore. Those fishing the channel were targeting smallmouth bass but most were undersize. This is when anglers start casting for salmon after dark and before dawn.

**Frankfort:** Strong winds are moving the water and making it difficult to find the thermocline. Some Chinook were hitting on meat rigs up high. Those trolling the Herring Hole did best 80 to 120 feet down in 150 to 180 feet with plugs, meat rigs and flies. A large number of coho are being reported as well. Chinook were caught by pier anglers as the fish are staging in front of the piers.

**Betsie River:** Chinook salmon are moving into the river.

**Onkama:** Those heading straight out to 180 to 250 feet and heading north caught Chinook on spoons and flies in the early morning. Fish were also found in the Barrel and in front of the golf course.

**Portage Lake:** Some nice bluegills were caught on worms in 10 to 18 feet in several different areas. Anglers will have to move around to find them.

**Manistee:** Surface water temperatures were at 74 degrees and the thermocline dropped to about 100 feet. Anglers are still catching some Chinook and coho in 150 to 22 feet. Very few lake trout were caught. Dredging continues in the harbor. Boat anglers should stay to the north side of the dredging equipment to avoid any accidents.

**Manistee Lake:** Those targeting Chinook had a hard time hooking fish. Those caught were taken near the mouth of the Little Manistee River when jigging off the bottom. Large and smallmouth bass fishing has picked up with the cooler weather. Crank baits and artificial plastics worked well along the steep drop-offs.

**Big Manistee River:** Chinook salmon have started entering the river with most fish in the lower stretch between Rainbow Bend and the M-55 Bridge. The bite was slow but the run is still early. Try crank baits in the deeper holes below Rainbow Bend. Anglers are reminded that snagging is illegal.

**Ludington:** Fishing was slow here as well because of the winds and warm water temperatures. The thermocline here also dropped to about 100 feet. Chinook and coho could be found in 140 to 200 feet. A small number of lake trout were also caught.

**Pere Marquette Lake:** Some are still targeting salmon but catch rates slowed.

**Pere Marquette River:** Anglers are starting to target salmon. Those fishing the river are again reminded that snagging is illegal.

**Pentwater:** Anglers caught salmon 30 to 100 feet down in 70 to 165 feet with orange spoons, green or silver plugs and meat rigs.

**Pentwater Lake:** Shore anglers caught panfish on red worms near the bottom.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Ontonagon:** Fishing has been good but conditions were changing daily due to the winds. Chinook and coho were showing up in the top third of the water column. Anglers are trolling spoons and a flasher/fly combo.

**Black River Harbor:** Fishing in front of the harbor has been good but water depths here were also sporadic due to the winds.

**Lake Gogebic:** The best walleye catches were coming from deeper water when trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits and when drifting crawlers and leeches especially along the deeper weed beds. A few were caught on minnows. Perch and sunfish can be found along the weed beds and around structure in Bergland Bay.

**Menominee River:** Continues to produce some nice walleye and smallmouth bass when trolling, casting or jigging with live bait and artificial lures.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Overall fishing was slower. The best walleye catches are still in the waters of Green Bay. Those trolling crawler harnesses and stick baits from the “Fingers” south to the Minneapolis Shoals caught fish in 14 to 30 feet or near Stonington and the Farmers Dock in 16 to 28 feet. Very good northern pike action off the mouth of the Day’s River when trolling or casting crank baits, spoons and spinners in 10 to 16 feet. Perch fishing was fair near the green buoy by the Day’s River in 16 to 22 feet, south of Hunters Point in 20 to 30 feet and along the break at the mouth of the Escanaba Yacht Harbor. Most were using minnows or crawlers.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported marking fish at Round Island in 17 to 24 feet but very few catches were reported. Try trolling crawler harnesses. Smallmouth anglers in this area and the northern Bay reported undersize fish. The best catches were off Garden Bluff with minnows, plastics and drop-shots in 18 to 30 feet. Fairport was very slow and had few anglers. Those heading out were fishing 60 to 90 feet down in 110 to 130 feet at the “Gap” or in 110 to 140 feet off Point Detour.

**Marquette:** Lake trout fishing was good in 140 to 180 feet near the white rocks, Granite Island and Presque Isle. Many were in the 10 pound range but a few were over 20 pounds. Smaller coho were also caught.

**Munising:** Lake trout anglers had fewer catches and the coho action was slower. Surface water temperatures were still in the mid to upper 60’s. There was a slight thermocline at about 70 feet however windy conditions keep changing things up and the thermocline moved close to 90 feet. Anglers were trolling in Trout Bay and the West Channel due to windy conditions out past Grand Island. Shore anglers at the Anna River reported slow fishing.

**Grand Marais:** Windy conditions here have also kept fishing activity to a minimum. Those able to get out were fishing near Au Sable Point in 150 to 200 feet and caught a fair number of smaller lake trout. Pier anglers reported poor catch rates. Try casting orange and silver, orange and gold or chartreuse blades. Water levels on the Sucker River were high.

**St. Marys River:** Pike in the 32 to 38 inch class were caught in Raber Bay when casting spinners in and around the weed beds in eight to 10 feet. Downstream about two miles, walleye were caught near Carlton Creek in the early morning on a crawler harness with a bottom bouncer in 12 to 14 feet. In the late evening, anglers did best when trolling or casting orange and green pencil plugs near the mouth of the creek.

**Detour:** Anglers caught a good number of pink salmon right along with a couple Chinook, coho and lake trout. Pink salmon were up high and were caught on small orange and gold three inch spoons 12 to 25 feet down in 50 to 80 feet from Fry Pan Island south of the ferry boat lane and out to the green buoy just northwest of the

lighthouse. A few Chinook and coho were caught from the lighthouse east to the red buoy on the Drummond Island side and back to the lighthouse. Squid type baits trolled with flashers in 52 to 60 feet worked best. Across from Detour Village a few walleye were caught at Black Rock Point. Try a jig and crawler in 18 to 25 feet.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Yellow perch are still slow throughout Cedarville. A few in the eight to nine and a half inch class were caught but most were much smaller. A lot of pike were caught in the Moscoe Channel. Most were 22 to 24 inches but some did hook the occasional 30 inch fish when casting red and white spoons or chrome colored spinners in the early morning or evening. The better smallmouth fishing was in and around Duck Bay in the early morning. Those jigging a dark brown or green tube jig caught fish off the rock piles at the entrance to Voight Bay. At Hessel, anglers caught trout and salmon. Lake trout were caught near Goose Island when trolling green and white spin-glo's 65 to 75 feet down in 90 feet. A few Chinook were taken 12 miles southwest of Hessel and east of Bois Blanc Island at Reynolds Reef when trolling flashers and a large purple and black spoon 62 feet down in over 100 feet of water. A few splake were caught at the West Entrance when trolling a blue and chrome spoon near the rocky bottom in 25 to 32 feet.

**St. Ignace:** A few Chinook, pink salmon and lake trout were caught by those trolling around Mackinac Island and between Mackinac and Round Islands. There are decent numbers of Chinook salmon staging in St. Martins Bay before they start their run up into the Carp River and the Pine River. Boat anglers need to watch out for all the nets in St. Martins Bay. A few salmon moved near the Carp River but very few were caught. Anglers did catch a few decent size perch and walleye but the pike were small. Those fishing the Pine River caught bullhead.

September 8, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

With rain and cooler temperatures by weeks end, look for salmon to be heading into the river systems. Those fishing lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior are catching trout and salmon. On the inland lakes, anglers are catching bluegills, crappie, perch, bass, pike, rock bass and some walleye.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Anglers are bringing in good catches of yellow perch and the fish are beginning to move shallower. Most are using perch rigs or spreaders with minnows near the bottom in 20 to 23 feet near Buoys 1 & 2 of the River Raisin, out from Bolles Harbor near the E-Buoy and straight out from Stony Point in 21 to 25 feet. Largemouth bass were caught around the rocks near Bolles Harbor and Sterling State Park's Army Corps of Engineers Pier with tube baits, lizards and various crank baits. Shore anglers fishing the lagoons at Sterling State Park caught largemouth bass on curly tail jigs and small bluegills, rock bass, and channel cats crawlers. Rock bass and freshwater drum were caught near Pointe Mouillee.

**Detroit River:** Those targeting bass found a few fish along the weed beds in the early morning or evening. Yellow perch fishing was still slow but some were taken on perch rigs with shiners around the islands and down near the mouth. Catfish have also been caught.

**Oakland County:** Bass fishing slowed on both Cass and Union Lake. Those doing the best were fishing the weed lines in eight to 12 feet. Though catch rates were inconsistent, Union Lake was producing some nice bluegills. Those trolling harnesses or crank baits caught few walleye but good numbers of pike, rock bass and panfish.

**Lake St. Clair:** Those fishing the southern part caught smallmouth bass in 18 feet near the Dumping Grounds when casting gray and purple tube jigs. Fish were also caught in 18 to 20 feet near the South Channel and in front of the 400 Club when drop-shotting green, pumpkin and watermelon lures or when drifting crawlers and spinners. Some large perch and a couple walleye were taken in 18 feet north of the St. Clair light with a crawler harness. On the north end, fishing was slower with only a few large or

smallmouth bass caught in Bouvier Bay in three to eight feet while casting spinners, when drop-shotting tube baits around Brandenburg or casting crank baits near Selfridge. A couple smallmouth were caught between the purple building and the water tower on the west side of Anchor Bay in 12 feet. Pike were caught around Grassy Island. A few yellow perch and bluegills were caught about a half mile out from Selfridge when drifting worms over the weed beds.

**St. Clair River:** A few walleye were caught in the Middle Channel in 18 feet of water while a trolling purple and chartreuse crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers but many were undersize.

**Lexington to Port Sanilac:** Boat anglers heading out reported spotty catch rates with only a few lake trout, steelhead and walleye caught. Fish were scattered throughout the water column in 50 to 120 feet and hitting on orange spoons.

**Grindstone City:** Those heading straight north found lake trout, steelhead, walleye and pink salmon in 100 to 140 feet. The lake was stirred up because of windy conditions so there was no specific thermocline and the fish were scattered. One boat traveled 35 miles north to the Yankee Reef and caught lake trout when vertical jigging large silver or chartreuse spoons instead of trolling.

**Saginaw Bay:** Perch fishing was pretty much all anyone was doing. The hot spot was between the Saganing and Pinconning Bars in 14 to 16 feet. Boats were launching at either Eagle Bay or Gambil's Marina. Other good spots included the Black Hole, Sailboat Buoys A, B, D, or G, along the shipping channel at Buoy 22 and the two buoys past Spoils Island. Most fish were 8 to 10 inches.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Had good salmon fishing for those trolling in 100 to 130 feet. Those trolling the piers also caught a decent number of fish on spoons and J-plugs. Pier anglers caught salmon and steelhead on shrimp and crawlers under a bobber or when casting spoons. Perch fishing was slow as the fish were scattered in 10 to 60 feet.

**St. Joseph River:** Was producing some salmon for those trolling spoons.

**South Haven:** Salmon fishing was slow. A few were caught on spoons in 100 feet however most of the fish taken were steelhead and lake trout. Pier fishing was slow and perch fishing was slow.

**Black River:** Those trolling did manage to catch a few salmon on spoons.

**Grand Haven:** Boat anglers caught salmon when trolling the channel and out in front of the piers. Most were taken 25 to 65 feet down in 110 to 180 feet with orange, green and blue spoons. Pier anglers caught salmon and a couple steelhead when casting spoons or still-fishing with alewives.



**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Anglers are picking up a few salmon and steelhead near the Sixth Street Dam with spawn, spinners, thunder sticks, flies and Cleo's. A fair to good number of catfish have also been caught.

**Rogue River:** Anglers have caught a couple trout and salmon.

**Wabasis Lake:** In Kent County was producing bluegills. For crappie try minnows. The perch bite usually improves during the month of September.

**Grand River at Lansing:** While some are starting to target salmon others are still targeting bass, catfish and even crappie. Check below the dams for bass or the occasional walleye.

**Muskegon:** Those trolling in and near the harbor caught a few salmon on plugs. Those trolling the top 70 feet in 100 to 200 feet also caught fish on orange and green spoons with white flies. Pier anglers caught a few salmon when casting glow spoons.

**Whitehall:** Anglers caught salmon 30 to 60 feet down in 60 to 120 feet with green plugs and meat rigs. Pier anglers caught a couple salmon when casting spoons or jigging.

**White Lake:** Anglers are catching bluegills and perch in 12 to 25 feet with perch and crappie rigs tipped with a wax worm.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Mackinaw City:** Fishing slowed as most of the large Chinook were moving past Mackinac Island to their staging areas. A few smaller Chinook and pink salmon were taken spoons. Lake trout fishing was still good for those using dodgers and spin-glo's in the area.

**Cheboygan:** A few boat anglers had some good catches of Chinook salmon caught when trolling from the Cheboygan River to a half mile out near the shipping channel. A lot of boats got zero to three fish and many struggled. Most were taken in 40 to 90 feet with J-plugs, flashers and flies or the occasional spoon. A few lake trout and pink salmon were caught by those traveling further out to Spectacle Reef and Cordwood Point. A good number of bigger pike were caught by those bass fishing or trolling for salmon between the mouth of the river and the Coast Guard Station.

**Cheboygan River:** Still has only a few Chinook salmon present. A couple fish were taken on body baits but the majority were taken by those drifting skein. Some caught a few walleye, rock bass, smallmouth bass, bullhead, longnose gar and catfish. Smallmouth bass numbers are lower than most expect this time of year and the fish were smaller 14 to 16 inches.

**Mullett Lake:** Walleye fishing picked up and those targeting the “Humps” area did well when trolling when trolling a crawler harness and body baits on the bottom. Hot colors were green, chartreuse, pink and silver crawler harnesses. Perch fishing picked up as well with some getting 10 to 20 keepers per trip when using minnows and worms in Pigeon River Bay. Steelhead fishing was slow with one or two fish per trip.

**Rogers City:** Boat anglers should have a great week for fishing as south, southwest and southeast winds will push the thermocline up higher in the water column. Chinook are staging off Swan Bay but still out in deeper water. Try 50 to 90 feet with lines run throughout the water column an hour before sunrise and after dark. Calcite, Swan Bay and Adams Point were good places to use spoons, J-plugs, flashers with squid, flies and cut bait or spoons. Hot colors were green, blue, orange, black and white, purple and glow for a mixed bag of trout, salmon and walleye.

**Presque Isle:** Cold water arrived and anglers were getting a mixed bag of salmon, steelhead, lake trout, and walleye. The salmon are coming very early before daylight or late in the evening. Lakers and everything else were caught throughout the water column with spoons, J-plugs, flashers with squid, flies and cut bait in the same colors as Rogers City. Try 50 to 120 feet north of the harbor between the lighthouses and south towards Stoneport and False Presque Isle.

**Higgins Lake:** Lake trout were caught in 85 to 100 feet. Fish were marked along the bottom and about 20 feet up. Try meat rigs with live bait, cowbells and dodgers. Lots of rock bass are still being caught.

**Houghton Lake:** Walleye were caught along the weed beds in 12 feet when trolling a harness with crawlers or leeches. Good bluegill action along the weeds in nine feet with leaf worms, leeches or wax worms. Some nice crappie were caught on pink and purple jigs with minnows. Bass fishing continues throughout the lake.

**Tawas:** Had very good walleye and steelhead fishing with spoons and crank baits in 50 to 60 feet off the Crib at Alabaster and lakeward of Buoy #2. Fishing was slow for both pier and river anglers.

**Au Gres:** Those trolling for walleye found a few fish north of Big Charity Island. Perch fishing has taken center stage with some good catches in 31 feet around the Steeples, 40 to 59 feet near the NOAA Weather Buoy and 40 to 50 feet south and southeast of the hotel on Point Au Gres.

**Au Gres River:** Some perch were caught in the lower river however anglers were doing a lot of sorting.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Petoskey:** Was producing Chinook and coho. Most boats were fishing in front of the breakwall to Bay Harbor. Salmon were caught 40 to 70 feet down in 100 to 120 feet.

Lake trout were caught 100 feet down or more. Green spoons with cut bait seemed to work best. Pier anglers are now targeting salmon in the early morning or at night with spawn bags and worms.

**Bear River:** Fishing was slow with the lower levels and the warm water temperatures. Anglers are waiting for colder temps and some rain, which usually increases salmon activity below the dam. A couple rock bass and very small steelhead and brown trout were caught on spawn bags and worms near the dam.

**Charlevoix:** Boat anglers were catching salmon and lake trout when they can get out. Lake trout were about 110 feet down and the salmon up higher between North Point and the cement plant. Water temperatures were cooling at the deeper depths. Smallmouth fishing in the channel was hit-or-miss for those using worms and leeches.

**Traverse City:** Anglers targeting smallmouth did well south of the M-37 launch in the East Bay with most averaging between one and three pounds. Salmon were caught along the drop at the south end near Acme. Chinook, coho and lake trout were caught near Deepwater Point. On the West Bay, salmon were caught in front of the Boardman River when trolling or jigging. Chinook, coho and lake trout were caught near the white walls or south of the M-22 launch. A couple fish showed up in the river and were caught near the Union Street Dam. Smallmouth bass, some planter rainbows and a few perch were also caught.

**Platte River:** The lower weir is up and running and staff have already started passing fish. There were reports of schools of fish near the mouth of the river.

**Manistee:** Surface water readings were about 69 degrees. Chinook were caught closer to shore in 50 to 90 feet. Some were caught off the piers and in the channel. Dredging continues.

**Manistee Lake:** Anglers were taking a good number of bluegills and sunfish with worms and crawlers. The buoys have been put in near the Stronach launch. These buoys mark the area where anglers are not allowed to fish which is from the buoys to the mouth of the Little Manistee River.

**Big Manistee River:** Had a decent number of salmon that have moved up into the river. Those putting in extra time were the ones taking fish. Most were caught on crank baits in the deeper holes along the lower river.

**Ludington:** Chinook salmon were caught up close in 50 to 90 feet. A couple steelhead were taken in 150 feet.

**Pere Marquette River:** Had a push of salmon. Those fishing the deeper holes have caught fish. Look for more fish to move in with the rain and cooler temperatures.

**Pentwater:** Salmon were caught 30 to 60 feet down in 60 to 100 feet with orange and green spoons or blue and green plugs.

**Pentwater Lake:** Anglers caught crappie in 10 to 20 feet with a slip bobber and perch minnows.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Menominee River:** Continues to produce walleye. Shore anglers are fishing crank baits on the bottom. Pike, smallmouth bass, freshwater drum and crappie were also caught.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye were caught in the Stonington area when trolling crank baits or crawler harnesses in 18 to 35 feet. Those caught between the Second and Third Reefs were smaller. Fair to good pike catches for those using spoons, spinners and crank baits around Butler Island and north to the head of the Bay in eight to 14 feet. Perch fishing was spotty with a few caught near the green buoy by the Day's River in 18 to 25 feet, Gladstone beach area in 20 to 30 feet and south to the mouth of the Escanaba Yacht Harbor when using minnows along the break.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported very little action as smallmouth bass have moved in to the Round Island area. Those targeting them reported fair to good catches between Ripley Shoals and Round Island with minnows, crawlers, plastics and spinners in 10 to 14 feet. The head of the Bay and Ogontz had mostly undersize fish while those fishing Garden Bluff caught bigger but fewer fish.

**Marquette:** Had good lake trout fishing with many getting limit catches near the white rocks and Granite Island. Very few coho were caught. Anglers are starting to make their way to the rivers. A few salmon were caught in the Carp and the Chocolay Rivers with crawlers, spinners and spawn. No reports of any salmon in the Dead River, only a couple pike and smallmouth bass caught.

**St. Ignace:** Had a good number of lake trout along with a few Chinook and pink salmon being caught by those trolling around Mackinac Island and in front of St. Ignace. Lake trout were caught on everything but dodgers and spin-glo's worked best. Most of the larger fish that are going to spawn this year are now staging in St. Martins Bay and getting ready to run up the Carp River, Pine River and Nunn's Creek. Very few sport anglers are targeting the salmon here and anyone that does would need to keep watch for the commercial nets because there are a lot of them in the bay right now. There has not been a good push of Chinook or pink salmon into the Carp River yet but it could be any day at this point. A few perch along with some walleye and pike are still being caught in the Carp River. Most pike are coming on artificial body baits and spoons while the perch and walleye are coming on crawlers and body baits.

September 15, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Windy conditions on the Great Lakes were preventing boat anglers from getting out. The waters of Lake Michigan turned over with the strong winds and fish were caught closer to shore in 40 to 80 feet. Salmon runs are just getting started and will only get better as the temperatures drop.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Had good perch fishing with several anglers reporting limit catches. Anglers are using minnows on perch rigs, crappie rigs and spreaders in 22 to 24 feet near Buoys 1 & 2 of the River Raisin, 20 to 23 feet near the E-Buoy and in 23 to 25 feet off Stony Point. Perch anglers also caught white perch, freshwater drum, and a few walleye. Shore anglers at Sterling State Park caught bluegills, largemouth bass and freshwater drum on crawlers. Those bow fishing the marsh and lagoons at Sterling harvested longnose gar and carp. Shore anglers at the Hoffman Memorial access site on La Plaisance Creek caught bluegills and sunfish on crawlers and jumbo panfish with worms under a bobber or drop-shotting.

**Detroit River:** Anglers were starting to catch some decent yellow perch around Celeron Island and Sugar Island. Those doing the best were using emerald shiners. Those jigging have caught a few walleye. Smallmouth bass can be found throughout.

**Oakland County:** Some good size bluegills were caught in deep water on Union Lake. Anglers did best floating a wax worm or drifting crawlers. On Cass Lake, fishing overall has remained steady with pike, walleye and bass caught around the shallow weed lines and the sunken islands. For smallmouth, try top water baits along the flats in the early morning. A few good catches of panfish were also reported.

**Lake St. Clair:** Water temperatures were 74 degrees in shallow water and 70 out deeper. Smallmouth bass have been caught near the mouth of the Detroit River when casting soft plastics, in 10 to 15 feet around the Mile Roads and the stretch from the Clinton River Cut Off launch when casting purple or golden shiner tube baits. Largemouth bass were caught in 6 to 10 feet around the Mile Roads. Yellow perch fishing was decent out by the St. Clair Light and Buoy 31 in 18 feet while still-fishing

with perch rigs and emerald shiners however move around to locate schools of fish. Large musky were spotted in 4 to 8 feet around the spillway near the Clinton River Cutoff. These fish are not biting but those caught were taken on white lures because of the murky water. Channel cats were caught when drifting crawlers on the bottom. Bluegills were caught just outside the canal to Metro in 10 feet while casting lead head jigs with wax worms in the weed beds and around docks. On the north end, walleye were caught when trolling a crawler harness from the mouth of the Clinton River to Strawberry Island but check your line constantly to keep the weeds off.

**St. Clair River:** Northern pike have been caught in the Middle Channel in 10 feet with rattle traps and spinners around the docks and weed beds. Anglers have caught smallmouth bass at the mouth of the North Channel.

**Harbor Beach:** The water was stirred up but once it settles back down anglers will want to try 80 to 135 feet near the color lines for steelhead. Use bright colored spoons in 160 feet. For salmon, try spoons 25 to 90 feet down. Lake trout were hitting on dodgers and spin-glo's near the bottom or spoons 60 to 120 feet down. Blue, green orange and purple were good colors. A few walleye were taken on spoons, thunder sticks and crawler harnesses in 50 to 120 feet. Some good size bass were caught by those casting small spinner and body baits close to shore.

**Saginaw Bay:** The area between the Saganing Bar and the Pinconning Bars continues to be the perch hot-spot for the inner bay. This area can be accessed from Eagle Bay Marina on the north end or Gambil's Marina on the south end. Perch were also caught near sailboat buoy D, the Black Hole, the Spark Plug, northeast of Spoils Island and along the shipping channel near Buoys 18 & 22. A few perch were caught in 8 to 10 feet straight off the mouth of the Quanicassee River.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Weather has hampered fishing and few boats were able to get out. Perch fishing was very slow and pier fishing was slow.

**St. Joseph River:** Those trolling have caught a few salmon on spoons.

**South Haven:** Very few boats were able to fish this week due to the poor weather. Pier fishing was very slow this week. Pressure was also very low. Perch fishing was very slow this week.

**Kalamazoo River:** Night anglers caught catfish on crawlers and cut bait near Comstock. Salmon have moved closer to the river mouth as fish were caught out in 40 to 80 feet. A fair number of steelhead were caught off the mouth of Swan Creek when using crawlers under a bobber or drifting yarn on the bottom.

**Black River:** There is a few salmon being caught by anglers trolling spoons.

**Grand Haven:** Boat anglers found trout and salmon 35 to 100 feet down in 80 to 180 feet with orange, blue and green spoons as well as white or green flies. Pier anglers caught coho on glow spoons or live bait.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Had a small surge of coho up near the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. Some fish were caught by shore anglers and others were taken by those trolling plugs.

**Muskegon:** When the weather allows, trout and salmon were caught by boat anglers fishing 45 to 100 feet down in 100 to 200 feet with orange or green spoons.

**Whitehall:** Boat anglers caught salmon 30 to 70 feet down in 70 to 140 feet. Pier anglers also caught a few salmon when casting glow spoons or jigs.

**White Lake:** Bluegill and perch fishing was good in 15 to 25 feet near the drop-offs. Try fishing near the bottom using wax worms or red worms.

**White River:** Chinook are starting to make their way up into the river and were entering Oceana County at Skeels Road.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Mackinaw City:** Anglers report good numbers of lake trout along with some pink salmon and smaller chinook around Mackinac Island. Most of the lake trout were caught on dodgers with spin-glo's and the salmon on spoons.

**Cheboygan:** Boat anglers caught a few chinook and pink salmon when trolling between the Cheboygan River and the shipping channel. Try a mix of spoons, J-plugs and a flasher/fly combo.

**Cheboygan River:** Had a few more salmon in it but catch rates remained on the slow side with only a few fish caught each day. Most are using skein, glow spoons and body baits early or late. The water is still very warm. Smallmouth bass, walleye and pike were also caught but most were undersize.

**Rogers City:** Weather is becoming an issue as stability has been affected with the changing winds and cold fronts. Chinook salmon are being caught in front of Swan Bay on a regular basis. No numbers in the bay yet but a few were moving in and out. Fish were caught in 45 to 90 feet with J-plugs and attractors or flashers with flies, squid and cut bait. When the water is cold, spoons worked better. Hot colors were still green, blue, purple, white, black or glow early or late. Anglers are still getting lake trout, pink salmon, walleye and the stray Atlantic salmon. A fair number of younger chinook were caught deeper near the temperature break. Those fishing Forty Mile Point caught a mix of Atlantic, pink and chinook salmon, lake trout and walleye.

**Presque Isle:** Had great lake trout fishing in the bottom 10 feet of waters 70 to 120 feet deep when using big attractors with flies and squid or cowbells and dodgers with spin-glo's. Those targeting salmon were in 45 to 70 feet between the lighthouses and Stoneport. Try spoons, J-plugs or attractors with flies, squid and cut bait in the top half of the water column. Good colors were green, blue, black and white, purple or anything that glows early and late.

**Thunder Bay River:** Salmon were starting to show up near the Ninth Street Dam. Anglers were using Cleo's, rattletraps and stick baits.

**West Twin Lake:** In Montmorency County was producing a good number of walleye.

**Black River:** Anglers reported a good number of brook trout on portions in both Montmorency and Otsego County.

**Lake Margrethe:** Some large bluegills were caught in 16 feet.

**Higgins Lake:** Lake trout were still hitting in 80 to 100 feet. Perch anglers found some fish in 50 feet. Try near the islands.

**Houghton Lake:** Had good panfish action. Try leaf worms, leeches or wax worms. Some have caught the occasional walleye when slow trolling with crawlers or leeches on a harness.

**Lake St. Helen:** Was producing northern pike and panfish.

**Tawas:** Those trolling anywhere from 21 feet off the Crib at Alabaster to 35 to 60 feet out beyond Buoy #2 were getting a mix of walleye and steelhead on body baits. Some walleye and perch were taken along the weed beds off Jerry's Marina but the perch anglers were still doing a lot of sorting to get a mess of eaters. The minnow situation was improving with most bait shops now carrying shiners.

**Tawas River:** Was producing a few channel cats and freshwater drum on crawlers. Rumor has it a couple salmon were caught but the reports were not verified.

**Au Gres:** Perch anglers were going to the Steeples north of Big Charity Island in 35 to 40 feet, the NOAA weather buoy in 40 feet or more and south of the hotel on Pointe Au Gres in 35 to 40 feet. Fish were caught but anglers were sorting out lots of small ones.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Anglers caught lake trout about 120 feet down near Harbor Point. Some caught lake trout and a couple salmon around Seven Mile Point.



**Petoskey:** Boat anglers picked up lake trout and the occasional salmon. The salmon were caught 40 to 45 feet down but the wind blew warm water back into Little Traverse Bay and the fish were 70 to 80 feet down. The surface temperature was near 70 degrees and the thermocline was reported at 110 to 120 feet. Lake trout were caught 100 to 140 feet down. Most were using spoons but some did well with cut bait. Pier anglers were targeting salmon with glow spoons before sunrise. Fish were hooked but they had a hard time landing them.

**Bear River:** The water level was much higher and more anglers were out trying to catch salmon, but only a couple fish were landed near the dam. Most were using spawn bags and flies.

**Charlevoix:** Boat fishing was slow but some did pick up a couple lake trout, chinook or coho salmon. The lake trout were 100 to 110 feet down and the salmon were 50 to 60 feet down. Try spoons and a flasher/fly combo. Those fishing the channel were targeting smallmouth bass but landing a legal size fish was hit-or-miss. Try real or artificial worms. A few were casting glow spoons for salmon after dark. The Weir at Medusa Creek is in place, which means the creek and an area of Lake Michigan in a radius of 100 feet from the mouth of Medusa Creek is closed to fishing.

**Traverse City:** Salmon anglers have been catching a mix of coho and chinook on both bays early in the morning and before dusk. On the East Bay, a few salmon, lake trout and lake herring were caught at the south end and off Elk Rapids. The Elk River is slow however a few salmon have made it to the dam. On the West Bay, fish are still being marked and caught in front of Clinch Park.

**Boardman River:** Remains slow however salmon anglers have hooked a few fish at the dam. As a reminder, the weir grates have been put in the river and fishing is closed 300 feet upstream and downstream of the weir.

**Frankfort:** Chinook are in full run mode. Those trolling have landed good numbers of good size fish in Betsie Bay. Pier anglers have caught coho on glow spoons throughout the day. Those heading north to Platte Bay reported good numbers of coho when casting and jigging.

**Betsie River:** Anglers were landing a good number of chinook salmon downstream of the Homestead Dam with spawn, spoons and jigs and stick baits. Most of the fish were caught in the slower water and in pools under structure.

**Portage Lake:** Those trolling the shoreline in the early morning caught a few coho on spoons. Coho were also reported in the channel.

**Manistee:** Dredging continues in the harbor so boat anglers should be cautious around the equipment. Chinook salmon slowed but a few were still being caught in 50 to 70 feet. Coho and lake trout have come into the same depths. Chinook were caught in the channel.

**Manistee Lake:** Anglers were doing well catching a decent number of 7 to 9 inch bluegills and pumpkinseeds on crawlers and leaf worms. Those trolling for salmon were limited as most are now fishing up in the river.

**Big Manistee River:** Chinook and coho salmon have reached Tippy Dam in good numbers, but anglers are having a hard time getting them to hit. Anglers had slightly better success above the coffer dam on the Consumers Energy side with a mix of everything from spawn to crankbaits and spinners. Fishing between High Bridge and Bear Creek has been slow with the exception of a few Kings caught out of the mouth of Pine Creek. The bite was steady east of Bear Creek in the lower section. Those anchored in the deeper holes and casting crankbaits did best in the morning.

**Ludington:** Surface temperature readings were about 63 degrees. Chinook and coho were still being caught in 50 to 90 feet. Chinook were caught in the channel as well. At night, walleye were caught off the piers.

**Pere Marquette River:** A fair amount of fish have moved up into the main tributaries but only a small portion of those fish have made their way into the smaller tributaries.

**Pentwater:** Salmon fishing has been slow, but a few were caught 30 to 70 feet down in 80 to 165 feet. Pier anglers caught a few salmon and the occasional steelhead in the early morning or late evening when casting spoons or jigs.

**Pentwater Lake:** Anglers have caught a few smallmouth bass and pike in the channel while casting crank baits or drifting minnows.

**Pentwater River:** Chinook were starting to enter the river from Pentwater Lake.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Keewanaw Bay:** South winds kept the lake trout out in deeper water. A few coho showed up 40 to 60 feet down in 120 feet around the bay and near Sand Point. A chinook and brown trout were also caught. Anglers were trolling glow spoons and a flasher/fly combo.

**Lake Gogebic:** Fishing was good with some reporting limit catches of walleye when trolling crawler harnesses and stick baits or bobber fishing with crawlers, leeches and minnows especially in Bergland Bay. A decent number of perch and pumpkinseed were caught in the weed beds.

**Michigamme Reservoir:** Anglers caught a few walleye and some panfish near the Way Dam.

**Menominee River:** The walleye bite remains fair for those trolling very early morning or evenings from Stephenson Island to the mouth. No reports of salmon yet.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported fair catches. The better action was still in the southern waters. Fish were caught from Stonington south to the “Fingers” when trolling crawlers or stick baits in 18 to 26 feet. Anglers near Kipling reported lots of undersize fish caught in 22 feet. Several good catches of perch were reported in the Nelsons Bay area with minnows in 7 to 12 feet and fair catches at the mouth of the Escanaba Yacht Harbor along the break. The better smallmouth action was just south of the Black Bottom in 12 to 20 feet and along the east shore past Stonington in 8 to 20 feet. Good pike action between the Day’s River and Butler Island when trolling or casting spinners, spoons and crank baits in 8 to 16 feet. No significant salmon reports for the rivers yet but it won’t be long with the cooler temperatures.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Look for good smallmouth bass fishing as fish are being marked in the southern waters. The better fishing was from Ripley Shoal out to Round Island when casting crank baits, plastics or spinners in 8 to 16 feet. Some were also drifting minnows. Fair catches were also reported near Garden Bluff in 12 to 25 feet.

**Manistique River:** Had some chinook salmon starting to move in.

**Manistique Lakes:** Were producing some perch.

**Marquette:** When they can get out, boat anglers caught lake trout in 140 to 180 feet near the white rocks. Boat anglers fishing the mouth of the Chocolay River caught a few pike but no salmon. Some have reported salmon in the Carp River and the Dead River but there has been no confirmation of any fish harvested.

**Munising:** Surface water temperatures remain at 66 degrees and were in the low 50’s about 80 feet down. A few splake were caught on the Anna River dock with spawn sacs.

**St. Marys River:** When both the Government Powerhouse and the Cloverland Powerhouse were down recently, there was no current keeping the pink salmon consolidated in one area like usual. Most anglers were getting between 1 and 4 fish per trip. Those drifting in the St. Marys Rapids picked up a few pink salmon when the turbines were off. Most fish were taken on white blade baits and Swedish pimples. Walleye anglers trolling from the Soo Powerhouse down to the Aune-Osborn launch picked up a decent number of walleye when trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits inside the rock islands.

**Detour:** Anglers did take some limit catches of pink salmon when trolling 52 feet down in 60 to 80 feet. Most were using a 3 inch spoons in gold or purple. Along with the pinks anglers also caught a few chinook and coho. The best area for trolling for salmon this time of year is upstream from the Detour Lighthouse from the green buoy northwest of the lighthouse and back and then to the east to the red buoy on the Drummond Island side. This enables anglers better boat control on windy days. At Seymour Bay, two miles east of Detour Village off Hwy M-134, anglers reported smallmouth bass in the 16 to 18 inch class. Anglers are casting blue and chrome weed less spoons from boats

and shore. Northeast of Detour Village at Pipe Island, walleye were caught by those trolling bottom bouncers with a 36 inch leader over the rock piles and under the underwater humps in 18 to 22 feet.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Anglers out of Hessel caught smallmouth bass straight out from the Hessel Pier at Haven Island in the early morning. The better fishing was on the windy days when jigging green and dark brown tube jigs in 4 to 6 feet. Those targeting pike found fish in Wilderness Bay when trolling purple and gold crank baits or red and white spoons just off the weed beds. Yellow perch fishing was very slow around the islands. Cedarville Bay and Government Bay were good for 7 to 8 inch sunfish. A few bluegills and rock bass were also taken. Try small worms in 5 to 7 feet. Snows Channel reported lots of smaller pike and a few nice pike up to 31 inches caught when trolling crank baits or still-fishing with live chubs in early morning and late evening. Moving west out of Snows Channel to Club Cut, a few walleye were caught adjacent to the golf course at Buoys 18 & 19 when drifting or slow trolling from the weed beds on the Marquette Island side back to the channel in 8 to 12 feet.

**St. Ignace:** Anglers have caught good numbers of lake trout along with some pink and smaller chinook around Mackinac Island. Most of the lake trout were caught on dodgers with spin-glo's and the salmon on spoons. The salmon seem to be scattered at different depths with high lines and riggers both producing fish. The Carp River has still not seen a big push of salmon yet. The fish are still concentrated off the mouth of the river. A few pike were caught by salmon anglers but most were undersize. Chinook are also staging off the mouth of Nunn's Creek. There are still a lot of gill nets in St. Martin's Bay and they are prevalent around the mouth of the Carp River and Nunn's Creek.

September 22, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Rain and cooler temperatures over the next week or so should help push more fish into the river systems. The inland lakes are producing bluegills, crappie, bass and the occasional walleye. Pike are also starting to feed a little more aggressively.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Yellow perch fishing was good overall. Those with the most success were fishing 20 to 23 feet near Buoys 1 & 2 of the River Raisin, 19 to 22 feet near the E-Buoy and 21 to 24 feet off Stony Point when using shiners on perch rigs. Those fishing La Plaisance Creek and the rocks in front of Bolles Harbor caught large and smallmouth bass when jigging soft plastics. Shore anglers at the Hoffman Memorial Access caught catfish, freshwater drum and sunfish on crawlers or yellow perch on shiners. Shore anglers at Luna Pier caught largemouth bass, channel cats and yellow perch on crawlers. Bass were also hitting on soft plastic stick baits and spinners.

**Detroit River:** Perch anglers are still getting fish around the islands including Celeron and Sugar. Emerald shiners are still the ticket. Walleye anglers jigging have caught a few fish throughout the river including down near the mouth. Walleye anglers have hooked into some bigger smallmouth bass.

**Oakland County:** Bluegill and a few crappie were caught in four to eight feet in Garundegut Bay on Cass Lake. Those moving around did best. The bigger bass seem to be in shallow canals, under docks or still out deep in 16 feet and deeper. A few pike were caught along the drop-offs. On Union lake, bass anglers did best near the sunken islands and drop-offs.

**Lake St. Clair:** Fishing was considerably slower for all species with limited success for bass, muskie, and walleye. Anglers found perch in front of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club in 17 feet and near Buoy 17 when using golden shiners on perch rigs. The better perch fishing was out near Buoy 31 in 17 to 19 feet with emerald shiners on perch rigs. A few channel cats were caught in 12 to 15 feet off 9-Mile Road when drifting crawlers on the bottom. Most of the action on the north end was in the New Baltimore area, the channel straight out from the Brandenburg launch and around Grassy Island. Anglers caught pike in the New Baltimore Channel in 11 feet with blue and silver lures. Yellow

perch and a few walleye were caught on jigs. Anglers drifting crawlers took smallmouth bass and perch near Grassy Island.

**Lexington to Port Sanilac:** Steelhead fishing was very good in 70 to 110 feet with spoons halfway down. Orange, pink and chartreuse were good colors. A large school of shiners came into Lexington and maybe they will bring some bigger fish with them.

**Harbor Beach:** Lake trout were caught straight out in 80 to 130 feet. Try dodgers with spin-glo's and spoons near the bottom. Anglers might find a few salmon northeast of the harbor in 90 to 140 feet with spoons and J-plugs. For steelhead, fish the color lines. Shore anglers caught bass when casting or trolling small body baits.

**Grindstone City:** A few boats caught lake trout and steelhead straight north of the harbor in 100 to 170 feet. Lake trout were at the bottom and steelheads at 60 feet.

**Port Austin:** Pier anglers might want to start trying for walleye at night.

**Saginaw Bay:** Perch were caught off the Eagle Bay Marina where some reported limit catches in 15 to 18 feet between the Saganing and Pinconning Bars. Fish were also caught in 22 feet in the Black Hole, 15 feet off Gambil's Marina, the old Shipping Channel, near Spoils Island, in 18 feet off Linwood, near Buoy 22 in the current Shipping Channel, the mouth of the Saginaw River, in five to 15 feet along the edge of the Slot off Sebewaing and in nine feet straight north off the mouth of the Quanicassee River. Fish were eight to 10 inches and the average catch was 25 to 30 per boat. Bass anglers took some nice smallmouth out of the marina basins near the mouth of the Saginaw River and around North Island off Bay Port. Catfish were taken out of the Hot Ponds.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Boat anglers targeting salmon reported slow catch rates. A few fish were caught around the piers and in 100 feet on spoons and J-plugs. Pier fishing was slow with only a few fish taken daily when casting spoons. Perch fishing was slow

**St. Joseph River:** Those trolling have caught a few salmon on spoons while others are floating spawn bags.

**South Haven:** Boat anglers targeting salmon reported slow fishing. There is a lot of warm water around at this time but those able to find the thermocline and colder water did manage to catch a few fish on spoons. Pier fishing was slow.

**Grand Haven:** Salmon and trout have been caught 50 to 150 feet down in 100 to 200 feet with orange and green spoons and flies. Pier fishing was slow.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** More coho have moved up into the area and were being caught near the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. Most are using spawn bags. Some have caught the occasional Chinook or steelhead.

**Rogue River:** Also had some coho moving in.

**Muskrat Lake:** Was producing bluegills and crappie.

**Morrison Lake:** Was also producing bluegills and crappie.

**Muskegon:** Boat anglers have caught a few salmon and trout 50 to 120 feet down in 120 to 220 feet with orange and green spoons along with green or white flies. Pier fishing for salmon was slow.

**Whitehall:** Salmon fishing was slow with the warm water. A few were caught 40 to 90 feet down in 150 to 200 feet. Pier anglers caught a few salmon in the early morning or late evening when casting spoons.

**White Lake:** Anglers were catching some nice yellow perch in 12 to 20 feet with perch rigs tipped with minnows and wax worms.

**White River:** Anglers caught a few salmon on spawn and crank baits in the lower river.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Mackinaw City:** Had few boat anglers. Those heading out did catch some lake trout and small salmon with spoons, dodger and flies.

**Cheboygan:** A few boats are still trolling for salmon in front of the Cheboygan River. These boats are still catching some salmon on meat rigs as far out as the shipping channel. Most of the focus now is catching salmon in the river.

**Cheboygan River:** At this time, a decent number of Chinook can be found between the dam and the mouth with most of the fish concentrated below the dam. Catch rates were mixed with a couple seasoned anglers taking near limit catches but most were lucky to get one fish. Best time to fish is during low light conditions including good cloud cover. Most fish were caught on skein or spawn. Hot colors were pink, orange and red. Those casting bright colored body baits and spoons have also caught fish.

**Mullett Lake:** Perch fishing was pretty good in Pigeon River Bay and at the mouth of Indian River. Most boats are catching 20 to 30 good size perch along with a fair number of throwbacks. Walleye fishing is good on the north end of the lake and in the bays just south of Round Point. Crawler harnesses are taking most. Smallmouth bass fishing is just starting to pick up but most are only catching a couple per trip. Once the water cools down, bass fishing should be good. No steelhead activity to report.

**Rogers City:** Did not seem to have many adult kings in the bay yet as most were still out in 25 to 80 feet. Those fishing the shallow waters were trolling bombers off planer boards and those out deeper were running lines with spoons, J-plugs and attractors with flies, squid and cut bait throughout the water column. Hot colors were blue, black and white, purple, red and white, orange or glow early and late. Those heading outside the bay have done well up near Forty Mile Point in 45 to 120 feet for a mix of lake trout, pinks, walleye, younger Chinook and the occasional Atlantic salmon.

**Presque Isle:** Boat anglers are getting a nice mix of trout and salmon between the two lighthouses north of the harbor when running lines throughout the water column. When the water is colder, run the lines up higher with spoons, J-plugs and attractors with flies, squid or cut bait in the same colors as Rogers City. Look for baitfish and structure as the fish will start feeding heavy as they prepare for colder weather.

**Harrisville:** Anglers have caught some Chinook in the harbor.

**Au Sable River:** Anglers caught Chinook salmon down at the mouth.

**Houghton Lake:** Anglers were still getting some nice bluegills in eight to 10 feet when using a small leech under a bobber. Walleye action was hit-or-miss.

**Tawas:** Those trolling were doing well for steelhead and walleye out past Buoy #2 in 70 feet. A few boats were taking a mix of trout, salmon, walleye and bass. Good walleye action between the Crib at Alabaster and Whitestone Point with crawler harnesses and crank baits.

**Tawas River:** Shore anglers floating spawn in the lower river caught a couple Chinook. Catfish and freshwater drum were also caught.

**Au Gres:** Perch anglers were getting a few fish in 21 to 25 feet. Some managed to take limit catches of fish ranging eight to 10 inches.

**Au Gres River:** Surf anglers on the East Branch were taking a few Chinook salmon down at the Singing Bridge in the early morning. Perch were caught in the lower river.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Anglers reported lake trout and the occasional Chinook caught 120 to 130 feet down near Harbor Point.

**Petoskey:** Boat anglers caught mainly lake trout and the odd salmon. Little Traverse Bay warmed up again so anglers had to fish deeper to find the colder water. Salmon were taken 100 to 120 feet down and lake trout were 100 to 160 feet down in 125 to 160 feet with spoons. Pier anglers caught salmon on glow spoons after dark.



**Bear River:** Chinook, coho and smaller steelhead were caught at the dam and down by the mouth. A couple good size brown trout and even a pink salmon were also caught for those using spawn bags, artificial eggs and flies.

**Charlevoix:** Warm water and air temperatures are not helping the salmon return. Few are targeting them and even fewer are being caught. Those fishing the channel are targeting smallmouth bass but getting a legal size fish was still hit-or-miss. The weir at Medusa Creek has been opened for two weeks and the first harvest was on Monday. A little more than 300 Chinook and four coho were harvested. While the weir is functioning, Medusa Creek is closed to fishing within 100 feet of the mouth. Some reported catching salmon in the Boyne River.

**Traverse City:** The lake herring bite was decent south of Deepwater Point in the East Bay when trolling. The water turned over and slowed fishing. A few nice bass were caught south of the M-37 launch in deep water. The occasional Chinook was caught at the dam in Elk Rapids along with a few smallmouth bass. Those trolling in the bays caught a couple salmon and lake trout.

**Boardman River:** Most of the salmon caught were in the bay just off the mouth.

**Platte Bay:** Had reports of incredible fishing in both East and West Platte Bays. Boat anglers reported fish stacked from top to bottom. A lot of coho were caught by those trolling and jigging. Fish are moving into the river however there are still a lot of fish staging and just waiting for cooler temperatures or a northwest wind.

**Platte River:** Had lots of fish in the lower river below the weir.

**Betsie River:** The number of salmon running up the river slowed to a crawl. Anglers are reporting low numbers with very little movement due to the warm temperatures.

**Portage Lake:** Bass anglers were struggling to land keeper size large and smallmouth. Perch and other panfish were hitting on worms in the Little Eden area.

**Manistee:** Dredging continues for at least another five weeks or so. Surface water temperatures were about 64 degrees. Chinook and coho action has slowed but some were still being caught in 90 to 130 feet. Steelhead are showing up at the same depths. Pier anglers have caught a few salmon.

**Manistee Lake:** Salmon fishing was slow. Some have started fishing for perch but catch rates were still limited.

**Big Manistee River:** Up river of Bear Creek is producing a decent number of Chinook and coho for those using spawn, beads and crank baits in the early morning between 4:00 and 8:00am. Downriver of Bear Creek has been on the slow side but was still producing a few fish for those fishing the deeper holes with crank baits. Fish have also been caught in the Little Manistee River.

**Ludington:** Catch rates slowed but some did manage to catch Chinook and coho in 100 to 150 feet. Steelhead were also starting to show up. A couple Chinook were caught in Pere Marquette Lake.

**Pere Marquette River:** Anglers reported catching Chinook as far back as Custer. A good number of fish were also reported at the weir which is why those trolling in the big lake are picking up fewer fish.

**Pentwater:** Salmon fishing was slow but a couple steelhead were caught 45 to 90 feet down in 175 feet.

**Pentwater Lake:** Those fishing the channel have caught pike and the occasional salmon when casting spoons and drifting minnows.

**Pentwater River:** Anglers caught a few salmon in the lower end of the river.

## UPPER PENINSULA

Salmon have not showed up in streams along the west end but should start staging near the river mouths within the next couple weeks. Water levels are up compared to last year so the runs should be a little bit better.

**Lake Gogebic:** Had fairly good walleye fishing with the best catches for those using a slip bobber with a crawler, leech or minnow in the deep weeds around Bergland Bay. Some nice perch and sunfish were also caught. Walleye were caught when trolling deeper waters with stick baits and crawler harnesses but in lower numbers.

**Menominee River:** Continues to fish well for walleye early morning and evenings when trolling or jigging. A couple pink salmon have made their way up to the Hattie Street Dam but no reports of any fish caught yet.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported very few catches. The best areas were the southern end of "Black Bottom" and the Stonington area when trolling crawler harnesses in 16 to 30 feet. Several perch anglers reported fair catches in 18 to 27 feet near Gladstone Beach and north by the Day's River in 10 to 16 feet with minnows and crawlers. Northern pike were very active throughout with the better catches near Kipling and the southern area of the "Black Bottom". Many were caught incidental by walleye and perch anglers. Anglers reported salmon staging up near the rivers but no significant catches were reported yet.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had all smallmouth bass anglers. A few fish were still caught in the Nahma area off Stoney Point in 10 to 15 feet but most anglers were fishing out of Garden Bay near the Bluff with minnows, jigs with plastics or spinners in 12 to 30 feet. The fall migration is just starting and fishing should be good in the next few weeks.

**Munising:** Those trolling did not have much luck for salmon but lake trout were caught in 100 to 150 feet near Wood Island Reef in Trout bay. Rivers in the area had higher water levels which brings more sediment and strong currents. Fishing was slow off the Anna River dock however a few more splake and coho were caught by those casting orange and gold Cleo's and small spoons or spawn. On a side note, fall colors were less than five percent in the area as the majority of trees have not yet begun to turn color.

**Grand Marais:** Boat anglers targeting lake trout caught a fair to good number of fish up to 10 pounds five miles out and near Au Sable Point in 150 to 180 feet. Water levels in the Sucker River were quite high with a strong current. Shore anglers may want to bring boots or waders.

**Detour:** Had excellent fishing at the Detour Reef with anglers get a mixed bag of Chinook, coho, lake trout, and pink salmon. A few Chinook and coho were caught just upstream of the Drummond Island ferry boat lane that runs out of Detour Village. Try flashers and squid type baits 40 to 55 feet down in 110 feet. Limits of lake trout and pink salmon were caught two miles straight south of the lighthouse off the 90 foot flat when trolling flashers with orange and white spin-glo's attached to a 22 inch leader about 3 feet off the bottom. Shore anglers caught smallmouth bass off Hwy M-134 at Seymour Bay.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Cooler night temperatures improved the yellow perch bite in the Les Cheneaux Islands of Cedarville. A few reports of fish in the 7.5 to 10.5 inch range with lots of smaller throw backs. Most were drift fishing with a small crawler harness with red beads in 10 to 12 feet. Fish were also caught mid-morning on the northwest side of Government Island with worms in eight feet just off the underwater humps and weed beds. Pike ranging 24 to 29 inches were caught throughout Snows Channel when trolling red and white spoons or black and gold crank baits just off the weed beds. Charter boats out of the Hessel Marina reported excellent lake trout fishing around Goose Island when using spin-glo's with shore leaders 18 to 21 inches near the bottom in 80 to 90 feet. Pike were caught in Wilderness Bay in the early morning when using creek chubs in six to 10 feet or trolling brown and orange crank baits and red and white spoons.

**St. Ignace:** Boat anglers caught good numbers of lake trout along with a few smaller Chinook and pink salmon. Most were caught around Mackinac Island. Dodgers were producing lake trout while spoons or flashers with flies produced salmon. The Carp River has seen a decent run of pink salmon along with a few Chinook. Most are fishing upstream at the rapids with catch rates between poor and good. Cooler temperatures should bring a few more Chinook in. A few pike are also being caught by those casting near the mouth of the Carp River. Good numbers of Chinook were caught off the mouth of Nunn's Creek. Low light conditions and cloud cover seems to help the bite. Most are using orange and bright colored spoons and crank baits.



September 29, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Anglers are reminded that the last day to fish on all Type 1 and Type 2 rivers and streams is Friday, September 30. Type 3 and Type 4 waters are open all year. The season to take lake trout on the waters of Lake Huron or lake trout and splake from the northern waters of Lake Michigan (north of Arcadia) will also close on September 30.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Those targeting yellow perch had good catches in 18 to 21 feet near the E-Buoy, 20 to 23 feet near Buoys 1 & 2 off the River Raisin, 22 to 25 feet off Stony Point and Fermi. Anglers did best with shiners on perch rigs and spreaders in the morning. Sub-legal walleye, white perch, freshwater drum and smallmouth bass were also caught. Those fishing the mouth of Swan Creek caught largemouth bass when jigging soft plastics and crawlers. Shore anglers at the Pointe Mouillee access site caught yellow perch and panfish on crawlers or large and smallmouth bass on senkos and poppers. Those fishing the lagoons and channels of Sterling State Park caught yellow perch and pumpkinseed on crawlers and shiners.

**Huron River:** Anglers have caught some panfish.

**Detroit River:** Perch fishing continues especially around Celeron and Sugar Island. Fish were caught in waters anywhere from four to 25 feet deep. The key is to keep moving until you locate a school of fish. A few walleye were caught by those jigging crawlers in the Trenton Channel.

**Oakland County:** Water temperatures and pleasure boating are dropping so fishing has improved on both Cass and Union Lake. Anglers are catching fair numbers of panfish along the drop-offs with wax worms or minnows. Large schools of baitfish have been reported and bass anglers imitating them caught more fish. Try the shallow sandy flats in the morning and evening or top water and shallow diving crank baits in six feet.

**Lake St. Clair:** A few smallmouth bass and channel catfish were caught a few miles north of the St. Clair Light when drifting crawlers. Smallmouth bass were caught in eight feet around the Mile Roads when casting swimbaits and crank baits and in front of Metro on green and purple tube baits or when drop-shotting with artificial worms.

Largemouth bass were caught around the walls at Metro in about four feet when casting green with gold flake tube baits. Muskie were caught by those casting buck tails at the Clinton River Cut-Off launch at the spillway and while trolling buck tails and crank baits. Yellow perch were caught on minnows near the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club but many were small. A few perch were also caught around Metro on minnows and crawlers. On the north end, smallmouth bass were caught around the Harley Ensign launch when drop-shotting in 10 feet. Yellow perch were caught on perch rigs with minnows around Strawberry Island but anglers had to sort through a lot of small ones. Pike, bass and catfish were caught in eight to 10 feet across from the dog park in New Baltimore.

**St. Clair River:** The walleye bite is starting to improve but many were undersize. Anglers are using bottom bouncers and crawler harnesses. A few limit catches were taken in Port Huron by those trolling rapalas and drifting crawler harnesses at night.

**Lexington to Port Sanilac:** Those trolling continue to take steelhead, lake trout and the occasional walleye in 70 to 100 feet. At Port Sanilac, pier fishing was limited to the very early morning because of the wind. One angler did catch a seven pound walleye with a rattle-shad. At Lexington, some reported walleye being caught at night.

**Harbor Beach:** Lake trout were caught 70 to 100 feet. Those in closer in 45 to 55 feet caught steelhead and walleye. A few perch were caught inside the harbor.

**Port Austin:** Did not have much to report but a few anglers were starting to fish from the breakwall at night or in small boats just outside the breakwall for walleye.

**Saginaw Bay:** The good spots for perch included sailboat buoys A, B, and C; 16 feet of water off Linwood, 12 to 15 feet along the Pinconning Bar, both the old and the new Shipping Channel, near the mouth of the Saginaw River and around Spoils Island. Along the inner bay, the best perch fishing was in eight to 10 feet straight north off the mouth of the Quanicassee River where most boats did catch fish. The key is to move around until you find an active school or some weed beds that will attract minnows. A few fish were caught off Sebewaing and from the Slot-side of North Island.

**Saginaw River:** Perch were caught in the lower river from the mouth upstream to the Independence Bridge. Specifically mentioned was the river mouth, the area just off Bay Harbor Marina, Smith Park, and at the Independence Bridge. These areas are a good option for boat anglers on days when the bay is too rough to fish.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** Salmon anglers are catching a fair number of fish when trolling in 80 feet. Spin doctors and flies worked best. Perch anglers caught a decent number south of the piers in 30 feet. Pier fishing was slow for all species.

**St. Joseph River:** Those trolling have caught the occasional salmon on plugs.

**Dowagiac River:** Was producing some salmon up near the dam.

**South Haven:** Salmon anglers reported inconsistent fishing. A few were caught in 120 feet but most appeared to be scattered. Perch fishing was also inconsistent but the most productive water seemed to be 30 to 35 feet. Pier fishing was very slow.

**Kalamazoo River:** Had a few steelhead, Chinook and coho. Those trolling spoons caught a few salmon. Fish were caught at the Allegan Dam with yarn flies and spawn.

**Grand Haven:** Those targeting lake trout did well along the bottom 15 feet in waters 80 to 120 feet deep with dodgers and green or yellow spin-glo's. A couple salmon and steelhead were caught 50 to 100 feet down in 80 to 140 feet with orange or green spoons along with white flashers and green flies. Pier fishing was slow with only a couple coho or channel cats taken on minnows and spawn.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Has seen quite a few coho and anglers have done well up near the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. Most are using spawn bags.

**Rogue River:** Anglers here are catching a good number of coho on spawn.

**Grand River at Lansing:** No word on trout or salmon however those fishing the bayous have done well for bluegill and crappie.

**Muskegon:** Boats found the action to be slow for trout and salmon. A few were caught 50 to 140 feet down in 80 to 160 feet with white flashers with green or white flies and orange or green spoons. Lake trout were caught on dodgers with green or yellow spin-glo's. Pier fishing was slow. The south breakwall is still closed to the public.

**Whitehall:** Salmon fishing was slow, but anglers caught a few salmon and steelhead 25 to 70 feet down in 70 to 150 feet. Pier anglers caught a few salmon in the early morning or late evening when casting blue or glow spoons.

**White Lake:** Northern pike were caught by those casting or trolling spoons and crankbaits along the drop-offs in 10 to 20 feet. Panfish anglers caught yellow perch and bluegill in eight to 15 feet with perch rigs and wax worms.

**White River:** Anglers fishing near White Lake have caught the occasional Chinook when drifting spawn or casting crank baits. Those fishing the middle section of the river had limited success when casting crank baits.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

Anglers are reminded the last day to keep lake trout caught in the waters of Lake Huron is September 30. The season will re-open on January 1, 2017.

**Cheboygan:** A few lake trout and Chinook were caught by those trolling off the mouth of the Cheboygan River. Catch rates have fallen sharply over the last week. Very few lake trout have been caught.

**Cheboygan River:** Has seen very few fresh Chinook salmon over the last week so catch rates were low. Those caught were taken on skein under a bobber or when casting spoons and body baits.

**Mullett Lake:** Perch fishing was very good in Pigeon River Bay. Anglers are doing well anchoring and jigging with minnows on perch rigs. Catches ranged from 20 to 50 fish with many over 10 inches. Walleye fishing picked up on the north end of the lake around the "humps" area and in front of Aloha State Park. Crawler harnesses worked best. Steelhead fishing pressure was light but those that tried did very well. The thermocline was about 50 feet down so target the top 50 feet with downriggers, lead core, dipsies and small spoons when trolling between 3 and 3.5 miles per hour. Smallmouth anglers were having a hard time.

**Rogers City:** The adult Chinook bite was better with cooler water in the area. No big numbers but anglers found some fish in 20 to 60 feet off Swan Bay with J-plugs, flashers with squid, flies and cut bait. Spoons worked well when the water is cold. For all species, target waters 50 to 120 feet deep and run lines throughout the water column. Try south, straight out of the marina or up to Forty Mile Point. Good colors were green, blue, orange, black and white, blue and silver, purple or glow early and late.

**Presque Isle:** Those heading out are finding a mixed bag of lakers, steelhead, a couple Chinook and coho, walleye and the occasional Atlantic salmon. Most are heading north of the harbor between the two lighthouses and fishing top to bottom in 40 to 120 feet.

**Oscoda:** Chinook salmon were caught off the breakwalls at the mouth of the Au Sable River by those casting rapalas, body baits and spoons or drifting spawn bags. Boats trolling just off the mouth in 35 feet were also getting Chinook up to 16 pounds with J-plugs and spoons. Pier anglers are getting smallmouth bass and freshwater drum. Night anglers caught channel cats and walleye.

**Au Sable River:** Anglers caught Chinook salmon down at the mouth.

**Higgins Lake:** Those trolling spoons, cowbells and bigger minnows have caught lake trout in 80 to 100 feet. Fish the bottom 10 to 20 feet as it appears the fish that are suspended are feeding and those on the bottom were not. No word on perch fishing.

**Houghton Lake:** The bite has slowed with the rain and the cold front. Catch rates will increase when the weather stabilizes. This is the time of year when fish go on a feeding frenzy as they prepare for the upcoming cold weather.

**Tawas:** Windy weather has kept most boats ashore and pier anglers were few.



**Tawas River:** Produced several Chinook salmon for those casting rapalas, body baits and spoons or drifting spawn bags. Smallmouth bass, freshwater drum and catfish were also caught.

**Au Gres:** Perch fishing was good straight off the mouth of the Au Gres River in 20 to 30 feet and near the Steeples north of Big Charity Island in 50 feet. Perch were running eight to 10 inches with the occasional fish up to 12. Down at Eagle Bay Marina at the end of Sagatoo Road, some limit catches of perch were taken by boat anglers in 10 to 15 feet between the Saganing and Pinconning Bars.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Boat anglers reported slow fishing with only a few lake trout taken 110 feet down near Harbor Point.

**Petoskey:** Those heading out have caught a few lake trout. It has been hard to track fish because water temperatures keep going up and down. Those fishing from the breakwall to Bay Harbor found lake trout 120 feet down. Pier anglers casting glow spoons and crank baits at night caught only a few fish.

**Bear River:** Had more fish moving in with the rain and cooler temperatures. Anglers have caught a good number of Chinook, coho, pinks and steelhead one day and no bites the next. No ripe Chinook were seen yet so the run should continue for a while yet. Most anglers are using fresh skein, spawn bags, artificial eggs and flies.

**Boyne River:** Anglers reported a good number of salmon in the river.

**Charlevoix:** Few were out trolling. Catch rates were very slow with only a couple lake trout taken near North Point in 130 feet. Fish were marked near the cement plant where a couple Chinook were caught by those casting in shallow water but the fish were quite dark. Those fishing the channel were targeting smallmouth but getting a legal size fish was hit-or-miss. The weir at Medusa Creek has been opened for about three weeks and a couple hundred fish were in there. Remember, while the weir is in operation, Medusa Creek is closed to fishing within 100 feet of the mouth.

**Traverse City:** Salmon have been caught on both bays but catch rates were still slow. A mix of Chinook and coho were taken in the south end of the East Bay when trolling. Those wade fishing caught a few kings near Mitchell Creek. The lake herring bite was good for those trolling or jigging. Fish were caught south of Deepwater Point and along the west side of the bay from Old Mission to the M-37 launch. Lake trout were caught straight out from Elk Rapids and along the west side. Salmon fishing was fair up near the dam on the Elk River. Plenty of smallmouth bass, a few perch and bullhead were also caught near the dam. On the West Bay, those trolling for lake trout have caught lake herring. Lake trout were caught south of Power Island and near the sand hump outside Suttons Bay.

**Boardman River:** Was producing mainly Chinook along with the occasional steelhead. Early morning was best with fresh spawn. The recent weather has helped push more salmon into the river. There is a good mix of Chinook and coho.

**Platte River:** Had a good push of fish into the lower river. More fish are still coming in with the cooler weather and the wind is supposed to switch from west to north which will bring even more fish in.

**Frankfort:** Anglers heading north to Platte Bay are landing coho and the occasional Chinook but the activity was slow. Those trolling, jigging, and casting in the harbor were marking a few fish but not many were caught.

**Portage Lake:** The perch and bluegill bite really turned on over the last week. Several anglers reported good numbers and good sizes in 16 to 20 feet in front of the city boat launch. The bigger perch were hitting on minnows, worms and wax worms.

**Manistee:** Surface water temperatures were about 60 degrees. Fishing has slowed however boat anglers were still taking some Chinook, coho and the occasional steelhead in 100 to 150 feet. A small number of Chinook and coho have been caught off the pier.

**Manistee Lake:** Anglers were hard pressed getting Chinook and coho to hit on the lake. Fish are being caught but catch rates were very slow. Jigging between the channel and the Big Manistee River proved more successful than other areas on the lake.

**Big Manistee River:** Chinook and coho were hitting consistently in the upper section from Bear Creek to Tippy Dam. Natural baits like spawn were attracting more fish than artificial baits. Catch rates were better in the morning hours and dropping off after sunrise. A few fish were caught from Bear Creek to Manistee Lake but anglers there were putting in more time.

**Ludington:** Angler activity has slowed. Boat anglers heading out were still finding a light number of salmon and steelhead in 100 to 150 feet. No word on pier fishing.

**Pere Marquette Lake:** A small number of Chinook and coho have been caught.

**Pentwater:** Rough water has limited angling opportunities but those able to get out found a couple salmon and steelhead 40 to 80 feet down in 100 to 175 feet.

**Pentwater Lake:** Those drifting minnows and casting spoons in the channel caught northern pike and the occasional Chinook.

**Pentwater River:** A few Chinook were caught in the middle and lower sections of the river when casting crank baits or drifting egg flies.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Lake Gogebic:** Walleye fishing was good with a few limit catches reported by those using minnows, leeches and crawlers under a slip bobber in Bergland Bay. Good catches were also reported by those trolling stick baits out in deeper water. Perch and sunfish were caught in decent numbers along the weed beds.

**Menominee River:** Boat and shore anglers have caught trout, walleye and bass between the mouth and the Hattie Street Dam. Most are using live bait or hardware.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye catches were fair at best and the few anglers that were out found fish off the southern end of the "Black Bottom" when trolling crawler harnesses and stick baits in 18 to 30 feet. Perch anglers had similar results with most fishing near the Day's River with minnows in 10 to 20 feet. Anglers caught northern pike near the Day's River, Kipling, Gladstone Bay area, the southern "Black Bottom" and near the Escanaba River. Most were caught by smallmouth anglers using plastics, crank baits or spinners in seven to 20 feet. Smallmouth anglers reported fair to good catches from Garth Point south to the Farmers Dock area when fishing along the breaks and weed lines in seven to 26 feet. No salmon reports from the river anglers. The Escanaba River up near the 1<sup>st</sup> Dam might be best because of the high water.

**Big Bay De Noc:** The few walleye anglers fishing near Garden Bluff and out to the shoals had very little to report. Perch anglers caught a few when drifting minnows or crawlers in 8 to 12 feet in the Garden Bay area. Smallmouth anglers reported fair catches off Garden Bluff and to the south around Snake Island. The fish are out there but seem to be moving daily. The best catches were in 12 to 25 feet above the break with minnows, plastics, spinners or crank baits.

**Manistique River:** Has Chinook and steelhead. The Chinook were silver in color and in good shape.

**Manistique Lake:** Had very good perch fishing.

**Marquette:** Windy conditions have restricted boat anglers. Salmon are starting to move into the rivers. The Chocolay River had coho and the Carp River had some coho and a few Chinook. Coho have been caught from both rivers but no Chinook were harvested. Many have switched to spinners but a few were still using crawlers and spawn. The Dead River had no reports of fish caught but a few anglers did report seeing fish near the dam. Water levels are high on all of them. The flood gates at the Dead River Dam have been opened.

**Munising:** Fishing continues to be very slow. A few nice coho were caught by a couple boats trolling in Munising Bay. A couple splake and coho were caught off the Anna River but most anglers are marking very few fish and not catching anything.

**Grand Marais:** Surface water temperatures were around 62 degrees. Rain has limited fishing activity. A few boats tried trolling within the harbor and near the mouth of the Sucker River but had no luck. A couple shore anglers on the Sucker River reported a few good strikes but no fish were landed.

**Two Hearted River:** Had very few fish as many are still out in Lake Superior. Boats trolling out in front of the river mouth can find salmon in deeper water.

**Detour:** Anglers were targeting salmon and lake trout near the mouth of the St. Marys River. Chinook salmon are moving upstream from the Detour lighthouse. Anglers had success for salmon when trolling in the shipping channel upstream from the Detour Drummond Island Ferry Boat Lane. Chinook were hitting green and white squid baits run off dodgers set at 25 feet, and flashers set at 52 feet in 80 feet. Excellent lake trout fishing two miles straight south of the lighthouse when trolling over the 90 foot flat with orange and white spin-glo's with a 24 inch leader. A few pink salmon are still being caught while fishing for lake trout, but most of the pink salmon have started their fall run to spawn in the rapids up at Sault Saint Marie. A few walleye were caught in 19 to 22 feet north of the Detour Harbor Marina when trolling from the west side of Pipe Island back to the shipping channel with a crawler harness with purple beads and gold spinner blades in 20 feet near the underwater humps or weed beds in eight feet. West of Detour Village at Albany Creek, some reported pink salmon under the M-134 Bridge but no fish were caught.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Cedarville had more yellow perch anglers as cooler water temperatures have caused the perch to begin schooling in larger numbers. Good perch reports came from just in the Yacht Entrance at the northeast end of Government Island when using worms and shiners just off the weed beds in 10 feet. Duck Bay had 7.5 to 11 inch fish in eight feet of water for those using a piece of crawler or shiners. Some found schools of perch when drift fishing a small crawler harness with red beads and chrome spinner blades. Shore anglers have caught Chinook and pink salmon at the mouth of the feeder creek that runs out of the Cedarville Stone Quarry. The creek is a quarter mile east of the Railroad Bridge and runs under M-134. Anglers are using waders and casting natural or artificial spawn bags. Good smallmouth action in Duck Bay when casting buck tail spinners with yellow and black spotted blades. At Hessel, a good number of splake along with a few Chinook have been caught at the Hessel Marina boat launch and off the pier with natural and artificial spawn bags. Lake trout and pink salmon were caught in 80 to 90 feet at Goose Island. Those still-fishing or drifting chubs and crawlers on the northeast side of Haven Island caught pike in eight to 12 feet.

**St. Ignace:** Anglers are reporting good catches of lake trout along with a few small Chinook when trolling around Mackinac Island with dodgers and spin-glo's. The Carp River has been producing good numbers of pink salmon on and around the gravel. There are also a few Chinook but catch rates were poor overall. Most of the pinks were taken on flies or small lures and the Chinook were taken on skein or artificial lures.

Nunns Creek is still producing a few Chinook for those throwing crank baits or still-fishing with skein.