

October 6, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Fall fishing continues and will only get better as temperatures drop. Trout and salmon are in the rivers though numbers are still light in some areas. Fish in the inland lakes are starting to feed more as they prepare for winter.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Perch fishing did slow some. The better fishing was in 17 to 21 feet near the E-Buoy, 19 to 23 feet near Buoys 1 & 2 off the River Raisin, and 20 to 25 feet off Stony Point. There were a couple reports of decent catches in significantly shallower water in Brest Bay and off the Erie Consumers Power Plant. Most are using perch or crappie rigs with spreaders and shiners. A couple walleye were caught in the early morning when trolling crank baits or a crawler harness straight out from Fermi and the mouth of the River Raisin near Ohio waters. Some caught the occasional legal size walleye, white perch or white bass when using shiners for perch. Shore anglers at the Hoffman Memorial access site caught some decent sunfish on perch or crappie rigs with a crawler or shiner. A couple largemouth bass were caught from the pier. Shore anglers on Whitewood Creek in Luna Pier caught largemouth and panfish on crawlers.

**Detroit River:** Anglers continue to catch yellow perch with emerald shiners on perch rigs. Walleye were caught in the channels especially between Sugar Island and Grosse Ile and the Trenton Channel.

**Oakland County:** Water temperatures on both Cass and Union Lake continue to drop and most species are starting to school up. Anglers were seeing good bluegill action though finding bigger fish was not easy. Some are fishing the mouth of the canals while others found fish along the drop-offs. Bass anglers are targeting the sandbars and weedy flats. Those casting baits that imitate baitfish did best. A few pike and walleye were caught on crankbaits and spinners.

**Lake St. Clair:** Yellow perch were caught with emerald shiners on perch rigs near Buoy 27. Perch and catfish were caught by those still-fishing or drifting in the same area. Walleye were caught by those jigging in 25 to 30 feet near the mouth of the South Channel. Muskie were caught near the spillway and smallmouth bass were taken in eight feet near the mouth of the Middle Channel. On the north end, smallmouth bass

were caught in 8 feet near Selfridge when casting crank baits. Those moving around had better luck. Largemouth and pike were caught in less than 10 feet in Bouvier Bay when casting crank baits or spinners. Walleye and drum were caught when jigging or trolling a crawler harness around Grassy Island.

**Lexington and Port Sanilac:** Atlantic salmon have begun staging off the Lexington Harbor where pier and shore anglers were starting to catch a few. The water was very clear and fish could be seen quite easily. They like bright colored lures like orange and chartreuse. Pier anglers caught a few pike. A couple boats from Port Sanilac did manage to catch a walleye and steelhead.

**Harbor Beach:** Night fishing for walleye is starting. One angler did well on perch which were suspended halfway down.

**Port Austin:** Had rumors of walleye being caught off the wall at night.

**Saginaw Bay:** Perch were caught off the Pinconning Bar near Gambil's Marina, Buoys 22 & 24 along the shipping channel, and along the old shipping channel. Lots of small fish were caught inside the Linwood Beach Marina. Perch fishing off Quanicassee was boom or bust as one boat came in with a limit and the next came in with none. Lots of smaller perch along with the occasional keeper were caught in the Quanicassee River. Shore anglers at Sebewaing caught panfish, pike and undersize bass at the Municipal Marina with tube jigs. Pier and shore anglers at Caseville are starting to look for perch but it's still a bit early.

**Saginaw River:** Was very muddy after all the rain. Boat anglers heading out say the water starts clearing up once you get out past Spoils Island. A limit of perch was taken off the Karn-Weadok Plant at the mouth, off Bay Harbor Marina and near the Wirt Stone Dock at the Independence Bridge.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**St. Joseph:** There still seems to be a few fish out in 100 feet however boat anglers were struggling. Perch and pier fishing were slow. There is a lot of baitfish around the piers where anglers caught freshwater drum and bass.

**St. Joseph River:** Those fishing near the Berrien Springs Dam caught salmon and steelhead. Those drifting spawn bags were doing very well.

**South Haven:** A few lake trout were caught in 130 feet when trolling spoons. Perch fishing was very slow. Anglers report a lot of baitfish around the piers and those fishing have caught freshwater drum.

**Black River:** Anglers caught a few salmon when casting spoons. Those trolling reported slower catch rates.

**Grand Haven:** Boat anglers are catching trout and young salmon 30 to 80 feet down in 60 to 110 feet with green, orange or blue spoons. Pier fishing was slow with only a few catfish and freshwater drum taken on minnows. The south pier is closed to the public until the summer of 2017.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Catch rates were spotty for Chinook, coho and steelhead. Most were floating spawn bags.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Continues to produce a good number of smallmouth bass in areas with sand or gravel as well as below the dams. They are hitting on crawlers, minnows and anything rubber including a jig with a twister tail. A few salmon were caught at the Webber Dam near Portland but anglers were working hard to get them.

**Looking Glass River:** Anglers caught a few bass and smaller pike.

**Lake Ovid:** Was producing a few largemouth bass. Not much on bluegills but anglers might find some bigger crappie.

**Muskegon:** A mix of trout and salmon were taken 20 to 80 feet down in 60 to 120 feet with green and orange spoons and green flies. Lake trout were caught on green or yellow spin-glo's. The south breakwall is closed for repairs.

**Muskegon Lake:** Boat anglers caught a few nice perch. The key is to keep moving until you locate a school of fish.

**Muskegon River:** The higher water levels will help bring fish into the river. Salmon fishing has been slow thus far but should pick up with cooler temperatures. Anglers will be targeting the lower section with flies. Some bass were also caught.

**Whitehall:** Boat anglers are catching steelhead and salmon 40 to 60 feet down in 70 to 100 feet on plugs and green or blue flies. Pier fishing remains slow, but the occasional salmon has been caught.

**White River:** A few salmon have been seen up at the Hesperia Dam, but most of the angling has occurred in the lower sections of the river.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Cheboygan:** Had few boats fishing off the mouth of the river and of the fish staging off the mouth, very few Chinook were caught.

**Cheboygan River:** Seen a push of Chinook salmon and catch rates improved. Catch rates were not excellent by any means however some are being caught every day. Most of those caught have been males. Try early morning, late evening or on cloudy days with skein, spoons or body baits.

**Mullett Lake:** The water was still warm for this time of year. Perch fishing has been inconsistent but a light number were still caught in Pigeon River Bay and near the Indian River. Most were good size nine to 12 inches. Anglers are putting in many hours to catch up to five bass. Steelhead and walleye fishing was light.

**Rogers City:** When anglers can get out, try fishing the entire water column in 45 to 120 feet for young Chinook, coho and Atlantic salmon, steelhead or walleye with spoons and body baits in orange and silver, blue and silver or green. Look for the thermocline, baitfish and structure. The younger Chinooks might be up near Forty Mile Point.

**Presque Isle:** Anglers should be able to find some younger Chinook, steelhead Atlantics and possible walleye weather permitting. Try straight out of the harbor or north between the two lighthouses and target the top 55 feet in waters up to 120 feet deep. Look for baitfish and use the same colors as Rogers City. Try anything that glows early and late for Chinook.

**Oscoda:** Was slow with only a couple steelhead caught recently. Some reported seeing salmon jumping around the piers and at the mouth of the river.

**Higgins Lake:** Some were starting to catch a few big perch on shiners. Those looking for lake trout continue to troll in 80 to 100 feet or more with spoons, cowbells and large minnows. A fair to good number of rock bass have also been caught.

**Houghton Lake:** Anglers were catching lots of bluegills in the weed lines in seven to nine feet. Some have also caught a few bass, perch and crappie. Walleye anglers are out but catch rates were few and far between.

**Tawas:** Pier anglers started catching walleye at night when casting crank baits.

**Tawas River:** Quite a few Chinook salmon were caught on spawn, spoons and body baits. Be sure to watch for fish with a clipped adipose fin.

**Au Gres:** Had no activity except for a few duck hunters. Bad weather and windy conditions have limited boat anglers.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Harbor Springs:** Water temperatures in the bay were warm however east winds have cooled the waters down. With lake trout season closed, few boats were out.

**Petoskey:** Had few boat anglers with the closing of lake trout season and none were looking for staging salmon inside the breakwall. Anglers are still casting off the piers after dark and before dawn however only one fish was caught when casting glow spoons and crank baits.

**Bear River:** Water levels were up and there were a lot of fish at the dam but catch rates slowed. The cooler weather had anglers taking a few Chinook, coho, smaller steelhead and a couple brown trout however brown trout fishing closed on September 30. A few lake trout were seen below the dam. Anglers were using fresh skein, spawn bags, artificial eggs and flies. As for coho, most of them have turned very dark already.

**Boyne River:** Anglers were still reporting a good number of salmon in the river.

**Charlevoix:** Boats typically troll or cast inside the breakwall for salmon but few have been out. Pier anglers fishing the channel are targeting smallmouth bass with live or artificial crawlers but catch rates are still hit-or-miss. Those casting for salmon off the end of the pier had no luck. Salmon fishing has been slow near the cement plant. A couple fish were taken on spawn during the day but those casting crank baits and spoons at night were not having much luck.

**Traverse City:** Lake trout season has closed on both bays. Anglers were waiting for fish to enter the Boardman River but only a couple fish were observed. Lake herring are still being caught along the south end of the East Bay where they were suspended in 80 to 100 feet. Fish were caught straight out from Elk Rapids when jigging. The Elk River produced some steelhead, coho and Chinook.

**Boardman River:** Had heavy fishing pressure. A few Chinook were caught by those drifting spawn. In general, mornings were best. For tourists, there are plenty of salmon in the river and they can be viewed from the weir downstream to the Cass Street Bridge.

**Platte River:** Has fish but the bite slowed with the warmer temperatures. A few were caught during the day but the better fishing was early morning or late evening.

**Frankfort:** Those trolling the shoreline up in Platte Bay were getting some coho on spoons. A couple small steelhead were caught on spawn both inside and outside the breakwall.

**Betsie River:** Has Chinook salmon however many were turning quite dark.

**Portage Lake:** Boat anglers were doing quite well for yellow perch in 18 to 20 feet. Most were using minnows on perch rigs.

**Manistee:** Surface water temperatures were on the warm side at 60 degrees. Smaller Chinook and some steelhead were caught in 200 to 250 feet. The dredging is now done however the equipment will remain in the harbor for the next week or so while crews perform maintenance.

**Manistee Lake:** Large and smallmouth bass have been caught sporadically in shallow waters. Anglers are tossing top-water baits in the morning and evening.

**Big Manistee River:** Water temperatures are starting to drop. Catch rates for Chinook and coho continue to be on the slow side but fish are still being caught on spawn and beads. Darker color stoneflies are also producing fish. Steelhead are showing up throughout the river and the bite was decent for those using spawn or flies.

**Ludington:** Surface water temperatures were 58 degrees. Steelhead and small Chinook salmon were caught in 200 to 220 feet. Pier and shore fishing were slow.

**Pentwater:** Angling activity on Lake Michigan slowed but those heading out did catch a few salmon 30 to 60 feet down in 60 to 100 feet.

**Pentwater Lake:** Anglers caught pike when drifting minnows in the channel.

**Pentwater River:** Salmon were caught in the lower river when casting crank baits or drifting spawn.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Ontonagon:** Lake trout fishing was very good about 80 feet down in 100 feet but no salmon activity. Fall colors were at 60 to 75 percent.

**Black River Harbor:** Boat anglers caught a few lake trout in 60 to 80 feet. There were rumors of a few brown trout in the river but no catches were reported.

**Menominee River:** Some walleye are being caught by those trolling stick baits between Stephenson Island and the mouth. Spinners, tube baits and plastics are catching some nice smallmouth bass. A few salmon were observed at the Hattie Street Dam. Shore anglers caught walleye at night when using stick baits from the walkway.

**Escanaba River:** Those fishing between Gwinn and Watson have caught walleye, brown trout and brook trout.

**Marquette:** Boat anglers are catching lake trout and coho near the Lower Harbor and near the white rocks. Salmon are starting to run in the rivers. Some coho and Chinook were caught in the Carp and the Chocoday Rivers when using mostly spawn but some were also using crawlers and orange, pink or copper spinners. Brown trout were also caught on crawlers or spinners in the Chocoday River. The Dead River has not had much fishing pressure but anglers did spot a few Chinook and pink salmon.

**Munising:** Surface water temperatures remain warm and data from the temperature buoy shows water temperatures in the low 60's about 100 feet down. Fishing remains slow with only a few coho caught by those trolling. Anglers are trying variety of methods including jigging or casting around Sand Point and up to Murray Bay. Fishing the Anna River Dock improved slightly with a few more splake caught but still slow for coho. Anglers are using spawn bags or casting small orange and gold spoons. A side note, fall leaf color has started to change over the last few days and was about 30 percent.

**Grand Marais:** Has the same conditions as Munising with only a couple coho and a small rainbow caught by those trolling the harbor to the mouth of the Sucker River. Shore anglers at the mouth of the Sucker River were using spawn bags or casting small orange, chartreuse or gold spoons but did not have much luck.

**Two Hearted River:** Anglers are getting a few coho and steelhead but they are putting in a lot of time to get a few fish. Water temperatures were near 54 degrees which is still a bit warm. The run is later than normal this year.

**St. Marys River:** From those targeting muskie, a few reports of success came from Raber Bay when trolling along the weed beds in five to seven feet on the northwest side. Most were using black and yellow bucktail spinners or large green and yellow crank bait. Moving from Swedes Pointe down to Detour Village, anglers had some good catches of walleye with a shiner under a slip bobber off the rocky ledges and points. Set your bait 6 to 8 feet off the bottom in 12 to 14 feet.

**Detour:** With lake trout and splake season closed, a few were out trolling for salmon along the Detour Reef and the 90 foot flat which is two miles south of the lighthouse. Chinook were caught upstream from the Drummond Island Ferry Boat lane with flashers and squid 48 to 55 feet down in 80 feet.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Anglers out of Cedarville targeting yellow perch had good success taking fish nine to 11 inches and a few jumbos up to 12 inches. Perch fishing seemed to be more productive with small schools of bigger perch on the north side of Government Island in eight to 10 feet. A few walleye were caught in the narrow channel running in front of the Cedarville Golf Course just west of Snows Channel. Try drifting or trolling crawler harnesses with bottom bouncers between the red and green buoys west to Mackinaw Bay in 12 to 14 feet. The west end of Snows Channel has some good weed beds so try trolling crank baits in the early morning or late afternoon. Bluegills and sunfish were caught on small worms in five to six feet around Echo Island. The Hessel Marina and boat launch were reporting large schools of splake in the early morning and late afternoon. Those casting or jigging natural spawn bags from the finger docks caught fish. Some large pike were caught straight south of the Hessel Marina near Cube Point which is the first point on the north end of Marquette Island when trolling red and white spoons or still-fishing with creek chubs in eight to 14 feet.

**St. Ignace:** Had very few boat anglers. A few small Chinook were caught around Mackinac Island. The Carp River is still producing some pink salmon right along with a few Chinook for those fishing near the spawning gravel. Pink salmon were caught on flies, spawn and small spoons and the kings were taken on skein. Nunns Creek is now closed to fishing but the lake is still open off the mouth but anglers are reminded to be careful and watch for all the gill nets.

October 20, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Windy conditions have kept anglers off the Great Lakes for the most part. While the salmon are turning dark in many areas, steelhead fishing is picking up as more fish are starting to move up into the rivers.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Yellow perch fishing was hot. When anglers were able to find a good school they caught more and bigger fish. Most are using shiners on perch rigs in 15 to 19 feet straight out of Bolles Harbor and around the E-Buoy, 19 to 23 feet near the River Raisin Buoys, and 20 to 24 feet off Stony Point. Good numbers of fish were also found in 14 to 18 feet off the Erie Consumers Plant, Toledo Beach Marina and the mansion. Anglers also caught white perch and white bass. Shore anglers fishing the lagoons at Sterling State Park caught bluegills and largemouth bass on crawlers. Shore anglers at Pointe Mouillee caught yellow perch and a couple largemouth bass on perch or crappie rigs with shiners.

**Huron River:** A couple small steelhead were caught up near Flat Rock.

**Detroit River:** Yellow perch reports keep getting better. Fish were hitting on perch rigs and spreaders with minnows in 10 to 14 feet. Orange was the hot color. Those fishing the deepest waters in the channels are still taking walleye on a jig tipped with a minnow or wax worm. Dark colored Wyandotte worms were also taking fish. Shore anglers are starting to catch bluegills and perch.

**Oakland County:** Panfish anglers on Cass and Union Lake were taking good numbers of bluegill and the occasional crappie. While some found fish around the weedy flats, others were suspended in 20 feet. Waxworms, crawlers or minnows under a bobber worked best. Bass anglers were not doing as well but fish were caught on top-water lures in the morning and along the flats in evening. Those drifting or trolling for pike and walleye are marking good numbers on the deep side of the drop-offs but catching them was not easy.

**Lake St. Clair:** Smallmouth bass were caught around 12 Mile Road in eight feet while drop-shotting a rubber worm and around Fords Cove in seven feet while casting

crankbaits. Muskie were caught around the Clinton River Cut-Off launch in 10 feet while casting medusas. Good yellow perch catches out from the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club in 15 feet, out from the 400 Club in 12 to 14 feet and three miles out from the Clinton River Cut-Off when still-fishing or drifting emerald shiners on perch rigs. On the north end, anglers fishing near Harley Ensign and Fairhaven moved into the canals and caught a good number of bluegills and crappie when still-fishing and drifting live bait. A decent number of walleye were taken by those drifting minnows near the mouth of the North Channel. Smallmouth fishing was slow with only a couple fish found in eight to 10 feet between Harley Ensign and Selfridge. A couple legal size muskies were also caught. Perch fishing was decent near the channel when using minnows.

**St. Clair River:** Anglers were still taking some walleye near Algonac. Those fishing up near Port Huron have caught a couple steelhead.

**Lexington and Port Sanilac:** Atlantic salmon continue to converge on Lexington Harbor, but they can be hard to catch. Night fishing was more productive. Most are casting spoons, body baits, or spinners but others were floating spawn under a bobber. There are Atlantics up to 10 pounds in the harbor right now. Steelhead, walleye and pike were also showing up. A few perch were caught off the docks in the morning. At Port Sanilac, walleye and a couple steelhead were caught off the north pier after dark.

**Harbor Beach:** Some walleye were caught off the north pier after dark.

**Port Austin:** Some walleye were caught off the north pier when casting spoons and body baits at night. A few perch were taken on minnows at the mouth of Bird Creek.

**Saginaw Bay:** Perch continue to be caught between the Pinconning and Saganing Bars, out of Gambil's Marina near Pinconning, in 16 feet off Linwood, near the sailboat buoys, 14 feet off the Bay City State Park, near Spoils Island and at various places along the shipping channel. Moving east, some perch were taken out of the mouth of the drain at Finn Road. Perch fishing was spotty in seven to 12 feet off the mouth of the Quanicasse River. Early morning until about 11 a.m. was best. Shore anglers caught mostly small fish. Fishing in the Sebewaing River will pick up again after the river is flushed by rain and fish move back in from Saginaw Bay. At Geiger Road, boat anglers reported good catches off the mouth of Dutcher's Cut in seven feet. Bay Port had some excellent smallmouth bass fishing in Wildfowl Bay with fish up to five pounds taken on tube jigs in four to eight feet. A few shore anglers targeting perch at the mouth of Mud Creek were not getting any keepers.

**Saginaw River:** Perch are being caught at the mouth, off Bay Harbor Marina, and near the train bridge. Walleye are also starting to show up near the train bridge, across from the U.S.S. Edson, and under the Independence Bridge.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Inland lakes in this area of the state are producing perch, bluegills and crappie. Anglers were using minnows and worms 10 to 12 feet down.

**St. Joseph:** Had few anglers because of the strong winds. No boat anglers were out. Pier fishing for salmon and steelhead was slow. Most anglers caught smallmouth bass and freshwater drum when casting spoons. No perch to report.

**St. Joseph River:** Still had no big reports on salmon. Many are targeting walleye which have been caught in fair to good numbers.

**South Haven:** Had no boats out and no perch reports. Pier fishing was slow except for freshwater drum hitting on crawlers. Those using spawn on the bottom caught catfish.

**Kalamazoo River:** Anglers continue to take lake trout and salmon all the way up to the Allegan Dam. Some were caught on bright colored spinners and small spoons while others were caught on flies or fresh spawn.

**Grand Haven:** When the weather allowed, steelhead and young salmon were caught 20 to 100 feet down in 120 to 180 feet. Orange spoons have done well along with white paddles and white flies. Pier and shore fishing were slow with only a couple steelhead taken on salmon spawn. The south pier is closed to the public and will reopen the summer of 2017.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Is producing some steelhead. Anglers are using salmon spawn, Hot-n-Tots, spoons and flies.

**Rogue River:** Has salmon up near the dam. Steelhead can be found throughout the river between the mouth and Rockford.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Pike and smallmouth bass are there for the taking. Good pike action has been cited at the North Lansing Dam and around Old Town. Anglers are using golden shiners and sucker minnows. Smallmouth bass are being caught throughout the area. No salmon or steelhead reports.

**Muskegon:** A couple pier anglers tried catching steelhead but no fish were reported. The south breakwall is closed for repairs.

**Muskegon River:** Salmon fishing improved with the higher water levels and more fish moving in after the last rain. Anglers reported brown trout and a few more steelhead in the river. Anglers are using spawn, spinners and flies.

**Whitehall:** Anglers casting crankbaits and drifting minnows caught northern pike in the channel. Steelhead and brown trout fishing remain slow.

**White Lake:** Perch and bluegills were caught on dropper rigs tipped with wax worms in eight to 20 feet.

**White River:** Anglers caught some salmon all the way up to the Hesperia Dam while drifting spawn or egg flies.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Cheboygan River:** Had a lot of anglers fishing for salmon. Some did very well; some caught nothing while others were taking one to three fish per trip. Fresh caught skein or spawn drifted under a bobber or bottom bouncing caught the most fish but those casting bright colored or glow stick baits managed to take a couple as well. Best times were early morning, after sundown or on cloudy days. A few pike, perch, smallmouth bass and walleye were also caught. No steelhead reports.

**Mullett Lake:** Water temperatures were still up around 59 degrees which is warm for this time of year. Perch fishing is holding steady in front of the Indian River. Most were nine to 12 inches but some caught a few up to 14 inches. Smallmouth bass fishing is slow; most anglers are only getting five fish for eight hours of fishing. The few boats out walleye fishing caught a couple fish. Fishing pressure for steelhead was light.

**Rogers City:** Had little fishing effort and those heading out had a hard time finding baitfish. Rain and windy conditions have the lake stirred up. Try waters 70 feet and deeper and look for a scum line on the surface. For steelhead, run lines with orange spoons throughout the water column.

**Presque Isle:** Weather has been a real issue. The fish are there if anglers can get out. Try north between the two lighthouses and run lines up and down the water column in 50 to 130 feet. Look for bug slicks on the surface to find steelhead and Atlantic salmon.

**Thunder Bay River:** A couple salmon were caught up near the Ninth Street Dam.

**Oscoda:** Chinook salmon fishing was slow off the piers. Fish can be seen jumping, but they won't strike. Walleye are being taken on spoons and body baits after dark. A couple steelhead were also caught.

**Houghton Lake:** Anglers were getting bluegills and rock bass. The walleye action was slow but a few were caught in shallow waters.

**Tawas:** A few perch are starting to show up in the state harbor but anglers are doing a lot of sorting to find some keepers. Boats fishing near and inside Jerry's Marina took some decent catches of perch last week.

**Tawas River:** A couple Chinook salmon were caught but the action was slow.

**Au Gres:** Had good perch fishing in 50 feet near the Gravelly Shoals and out near the NOAA Weather Buoy. At Eagle Bay Marina, boats fishing for perch did very well in seven to 10 feet between the Saganing and the Pinconning Bars. Shore anglers caught some nice bluegills inside the marina. The Pine River has started producing some perch for shore anglers will to sort out the small ones. Keepers were seven to eight inches.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Petoskey:** Boats were not able to get out. A few salmon and lake trout were caught off the end of the piers however anglers are reminded that lake trout season in the waters of Lake Michigan is closed.

**Bear River:** Water levels were fairly high. Rain usually brings the salmon in but the last couple events have not resulted in any big pushes of fish. There are still a few Chinook and coho around but many are turning dark. A few more lake trout were in the river and caught between the mouth and the dam when using fresh skein, spawn bags, artificial eggs and flies.

**Charlevoix:** Had light fishing activity for salmon near the cement plant. Those trying were lucky to get one fish when casting spoons or crank baits in the slip. Pier anglers fishing the channel were targeting smallmouth bass with both real and artificial crawlers. Angler pressure and catch rates have dropped. The last harvest of the season at the Medusa Weir will most likely take place the end of this week.

**Traverse City:** The lake herring bite continues to be good at the south end of East Bay when jigging 80 to 90 feet down in 100 to 130 feet. Although slow, smallmouth anglers caught some nice fish at various depths. On the Elk River, anglers have caught a mix of salmon and steelhead on spawn at the dam. Bass and the odd perch were also caught.

**Boardman River:** Chinook salmon are still being caught along with the occasional brown trout and coho. Only a few lake trout were caught but the fish are starting to make their way into the river.

**Frankfort:** Anglers fishing the north breakwall and the south pier in Elberta have caught several steelhead but most were undersize. Fish were hitting on fresh spawn near the elbow in the early morning and at dusk.

**Betsie River:** Anglers continue to pick up a few Chinook near the Homestead Dam.

**Portage Lake:** Anglers are still picking up perch and bluegills in decent numbers however they are also sorting through several small ones to find the keepers. Most are using minnows and worms.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** Anglers caught largemouth bass and pike on Lake Cadillac. The bass were hitting top-water lures in the early morning. Pike were hitting on crank baits or large minnows. Lake Mitchell was producing panfish.

**Manistee:** Surface water temperatures were 56 degrees. Very few boats have been out. Pier anglers have caught steelhead.

**Manistee Lake:** The buoys were removed from the lake on Friday, October 14 so the entire lake is now open to fishing. Angling pressure was light but some have caught a couple steelhead.

**Big Manistee River:** Anglers are starting to see more Chinook that are spawned out. Most were taking a mixed bag of Chinook, coho and steelhead up near Tippy Dam. The lower stretch between High Bridge and the lake was producing fewer Chinook and coho but more steelhead. Salmon skein was producing more steelhead than crank baits or spinners. Salmon were hitting on skein, crank baits and flies.

**Ludington:** Pier anglers are catching steelhead on fresh spawn. Those surfcasting have also caught fish.

**Pere Marquette River:** Anglers are catching steelhead and brown trout between Custer and the twin bridges at US-31. Most are using spawn and beads.

**Pentwater:** Anglers drifting minnows between the piers caught northern pike and smallmouth bass.

**Pentwater Lake:** Those fishing from Longbridge Road caught northern pike on crankbaits and yellow perch on crawlers.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Menominee River:** Had a run of walleye from Stephenson Island to the Hattie Street Dam. Anglers are using stick baits, fishing the current and drifting a minnow or crawler. A few brown trout and steelhead along with a couple Chinook salmon were caught on spoons and stick baits below the Hattie Street Dam.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Anglers have marked and reported a few catches of walleye in the southern bay from Breezy Point south to Round Island when trolling crawler harnesses or stick baits in 10 to 18 feet. Good pike action in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor or the south end of the "Black Bottom" in 10 to 20 feet when trolling spoons, crank baits or spinners. The best perch fishing was between the Second and Third Reefs and up near the Day's River with minnows in 10 to 18 feet.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had few anglers but those targeting smallmouth bass did best using minnows or plastics in and around 22 feet off Garden Bluff. A few were looking for perch in Garden Bay but no reports yet.

**Marquette:** Had no reports from boat anglers as many have pulled their boats or windy conditions have made it difficult to get out. Steelhead up to six pounds were running in the Carp River. The Chocolay River has given up a few coho for those using spinners and spawn.

**Munising:** Very few coho salmon have been caught in the area and those boats fishing off the river caught mainly splake. A few in Bay Furnace caught some steelhead but no coho. Surface water temperatures are now in the upper 50's. The main activity has been at the Anna River Dock where anglers were doing better catching splake 18 to 21 inches and a few up to 22 but many were undersize. The Anna River was very high and stained which makes fishing more difficult. The males are quite vibrant and have the pronounced hooked jaws. Anglers were using spawn bags off the dock. Those hoping for a salmon caught the occasional splake when casting florescent spoons. Fall colors here have peaked with vibrant colors.

**Grand Marais:** Most anglers are shore fishing or in small boats within the harbor and near the mouth of the Sucker River. Surface water temperatures were in the upper 50's and catch rates for steelhead picked up with fish up to nine pounds but no reports of any coho. Most are using spawn bags but a few had luck when trolling or casting spoons. Orange and chartreuse were the hot colors. Water levels on the Sucker River were high after all the rain so be sure to bring waders.

**Two Hearted River:** The salmon run is still on the light side but some anglers have caught silver fish. Steelhead are moving into the river. Expect higher than normal water levels and water clarity will be an issue after the recent heavy rains.

**St. Marys River:** A few walleye and lake trout were caught at the mouth of the river when the weather stabilized. Two miles up from Detour Village, two different boats caught walleye at Swedes Pointe when trolling blue and chrome or fire-tiger reef runners with planer boards set at eight feet in 14 feet of water. Others used crawler harnesses and bottom bouncers with red and white beads in 12 feet over the humps at Swedes Pointe. Near Drummond Island, yellow perch were caught off the weed beds in eight to 13 feet at Arrow Island which is due east of Fair Banks Pointe. Try shiners or popcorn shrimp. If the mild north winds continue the rest of this week, baitfish could move into the area around Pigeon Cove and Fair Banks.

**Detour:** Light north winds at the Detour Lighthouse allowed one angler to troll for salmon and trout in and around Detour Reef. A few lake trout were caught by those trolling from Fry Pan Island to just south of the ferry boat dock in Detour Village and out to the green buoy. The fish were hitting on chrome and black spoons about 60 feet down in 80 feet. The thermocline was 55 degrees at 60 feet down.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** The Les Cheneaux Islands are producing perch but anglers have to work at it and keep moving around to locate schools of fish. The best places to try are the north end of Snows Channel, behind Dollar Island, Muskie Bay at Rice Point,

Middle Entrance and along the south shore. Perch may also be found around Little Joe and the west end of Government Bay just as you are entering the bay. Pike fishing is also good in these areas along with Urie Bay and the Viking Channel. Pike and splake were caught in the marina in the early morning.

**St. Ignace:** Had little to no fishing activity on Lake Huron. The salmon run on the Carp River appears to be winding down. There are few pink salmon left and only a couple Chinook that are near the end of their cycle. There have been no signs of any steelhead showing up yet. A few Chinook were seen off the mouth of Nunn's Creek.

October 27, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Windy conditions on the Great Lakes are making it difficult to get out. Salmon fishing is pretty much done and the steelhead are moving into the rivers. The inland lakes are producing perch, walleye and pike.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Yellow perch fishing was decent but walleye fishing was still very slow. Perch were found in good numbers in 13 to 17 feet off the Toledo Beach Marina, the mansion and the Erie Consumers Plant or in 20 to 23 feet off Stony Point. Perch rigs and shiners worked best. Those fishing for largemouth bass did well with spinners and soft plastics in Plum Creek. Those fishing the Hoffman access site caught a good number of panfish from La Plaisance Creek with shiners and crawlers on crappie rigs or under a bobber. The lagoons at Sterling State Park were producing largemouth bass and bluegills and shore anglers at Pointe Mouillee caught perch and bluegills.

**Detroit River:** Those using perch rigs and spreaders with minnows in 10 to 14 feet were still getting some yellow perch even though catch rates slowed a bit. Walleye were caught in the channels.

**Oakland County:** Both Cass and Union Lake were slow over the last week. Bass anglers were having a difficult time even though fish were seen cruising the sand flats. Bluegill and crappie fishing was hit-or-miss. Those doing best were floating wax worms in five to 12 feet around the shallow coves and basins.

**Lake St. Clair:** Smallmouth fishing was slow in the south end of the lake. Largemouth bass were caught in the canals at Metro in four to six feet when casting a purple tube bait or a green pumpkin wacky worm. Yellow perch were caught on emerald shiners when anchored in 16 or 17 feet around the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club or with perch rigs and minnows in 14 to 16 feet off the 400 Club. Muskie were caught under the 16 Mile Bridge when casting crank baits or about a mile out from the Clinton River Cut-Off Launch in nine to 11 feet with spinners and crank baits. On the north end, yellow perch were caught in Bouvier Bay in eight feet. Nice panfish including perch were taken by shore anglers floating a crawler at Selfridge. The mouth of the North Channel was another hot spot for perch for those still-fishing or drifting minnows in nine to 11 feet.

Anglers continued to catch bluegill and crappie in the canals. Smallmouth bass fishing was basically non-existent. A few largemouth bass were caught along the shoreline. Pike were caught along the weed beds in Anchor Bay.

**St. Clair River:** Was producing some walleye for those using rapalas.

**Lexington and Port Sanilac:** Most of the activity was at Lexington where Atlantic salmon were seen in the harbor. The bite was best at night. Anglers may want to try fishing the outside of the breakwall as the fish there seem a bit less skittish. Small orange or chartreuse spoons seem to catch fish. Steelhead are also in the harbor and may hit better than the Atlantics. Some perch were caught on minnows. Port Sanilac had a few Atlantics, some steelhead and the odd Chinook in the harbor.

**Harbor Beach:** One boat caught a steelhead when out trolling. Pier anglers were still getting a few walleye after dark.

**Port Austin:** A few perch were caught at the mouth of Bird Creek.

**Saginaw Bay:** Perch fishing at most locations along the west and the south end of the bay was slower over the last week. The fish are still there, but they weren't biting as well. Most of the fishing pressure was concentrated around Spoils Island and along the lower shipping channel because that's about as far out as anglers wanted to go. There was some perch activity in the cut at the end of Finn Road, but a lot of sorting is necessary. Some boats were fishing in six to 10 feet straight out of Quanicassee but fishing was slow with only one limit catch in six hours. Small perch were caught at the Thomas Cut. Shore anglers caught a few fish in the lower Sebewaing River. Sebewaing to Caseville had duck hunters.

**Saginaw River:** Had a fair amount of fishing activity in the lower river as boat anglers could fish there and were not bothered as much by the wind and waves. Some walleye and perch were caught from the Independence Bridge downstream.

**Quanicassee River:** Anglers were getting quite a few perch but again they are sorting out all the small ones. Anglers are encouraged by the number of smaller perch and are looking forward to November when the bigger fish usually come in.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Lake trout and splake fishing in the waters of Lake Michigan will close on October 31.

**St. Joseph:** Very few boats were able to fish and the waves have kept many off the piers. The few able to get out reported decent fishing in 100 feet. Pier fishing was slow with only a couple steelhead taken on spawn.

**St. Joseph River:** Was producing a few walleye.

**South Haven:** Had slow fishing for all species. A few young salmon were caught on spoons in 70 feet. Pier fishing for steelhead and whitefish was very slow.

**Kalamazoo River:** Anglers have caught a couple steelhead. Most were caught by boat anglers trolling spoons and body baits.

**Lake Macatawa:** Anglers have caught a few perch.

**Grand Haven:** Pier and shore anglers are starting to catch steelhead on spawn. When the weather allows, lake trout were caught in the bottom 15 feet of waters 90 to 130 feet deep. Green or yellow spin-glo's worked well.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Had a few salmon and some steelhead up near the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam. The occasional steelhead was caught near the mouth of the Rogue when casting spinners.

**Rogue River:** Fishing has slowed but there was still a number of salmon up near the dam and steelhead in the river.

**Maple River:** Is under a flood advisory and is expected to exceed its banks. Caution should be used when walking near the riverbank.

**Muskegon:** Steelhead action was slow for both pier and shore anglers. The south pier is closed for repairs.

**Muskegon River:** The remaining salmon were quite dark as they near the end of their journey. Those fly fishing have done well as more steelhead and brown trout move in. Spawn, spinners and small spoons can also take fish.

**White River:** Salmon fishing has slowed in the lower river.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Cheboygan:** There was no fishing activity on Lake Huron over the last week. The fish cleaning station was still open but will close soon.

**Cheboygan River:** Is still producing a few Chinook for those drifting spawn or casting crank baits. Most of the fish are very dark and will not last much longer. A light number of small steelhead moved into the river and were caught when drifting spawn. Steelhead fishing should pick up as the weather turns colder. For smallmouth bass, those that did best were fishing the mouth of the river and near the Hack-Ma-Tack Inn. Only a few walleye were caught.

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

**Mullett Lake:** Perch fishing was hit-or-miss in front of Indian River. When the fishing is good anglers were catching 30 to 50 fish per trip with most over nine inches. Both walleye and bass fishing pressure were light.

**Rogers City:** The weather has not been angler friendly because of high winds and rough water. The Rogers City Marina and the restrooms are now closed for the season. The launch ramps and the all the docks were still in.

**Presque Isle:** The few boats able to get out did manage to find a couple young Chinook salmon when they located baitfish in shallower waters south towards Stone Port. The restrooms here are closed for the season.

**Grand Lake:** Was producing perch for those using minnows.

**Oscoda:** Boat anglers fishing both inside and immediately outside the pier heads were taking walleyes on spoons and body baits. Likewise, pier anglers casting the same were also taking some fish. Boat and shore anglers were starting to catch a few steelhead.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead were reported as far upstream as Foote Dam and were hitting on spawn.

**Higgins Lake:** Lake trout fishing was good when vertical jigging in 100 feet.

**Houghton Lake:** Walleye fishing picked up with the cooler weather. Anglers were fishing the canals and along the shoreline at night with crank baits.

**Lake St. Helen:** Was producing panfish and the occasional walleye.

**Tawas:** Shiners are moving into the state harbor and some perch are moving in with them. It takes a lot of sorting to get a mess of keepers, but it can be done. Pier anglers casting at night are starting to pick up some walleye and a few pike during the day.

**Tawas River:** The Chinook salmon run seems to be over.

**Au Gres:** Had very good perch fishing for boat anglers in 40 to 50 feet near the end of the shipping channel, off the Gravelly Shoals and down near the NOAA weather buoy. Lots of limit catches were taken by boat anglers launching from Eagle Bay Marina and fishing in six to 10 feet between the Saganing and the Pinconning Bars. Some were 12 to 13 inches with the occasional 14 inch fish reported.

**Pine River:** Perch are biting from shore in the lower river near Standish but they run small and a lot of sorting is necessary.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Petoskey:** Had no boat anglers. Rumor has it a couple steelhead and lake trout were caught off the end of the piers. Lake trout season on Lake Michigan is closed.

**Bear River:** Still had higher water levels and a few Chinook but they are pretty dark. A couple coho and small steelhead were caught at the mouth. Lake trout were caught near the mouth and up near the dam with fresh skein, spawn bags, artificial eggs or flies.

**Charlevoix:** A few perch were caught by those jigging around the cement plant but the fish are moving around quite a bit. Angler effort on the pier was low. It appears the smallmouth bass have moved out as none have been caught in the last couple weeks. There is still a possibility of catching steelhead and walleye this time of year.

**Traverse City:** The East Bay continues to have good fishing for lake herring north of the M-36 launch and off Acme. Those targeting smallmouth bass did not have much luck south of Elk Rapids and along the southwest end of the bay. The Elk River had some nice steelhead along with a few lake trout and coho taken. Some managed to find a few perch. The West Bay had very little fishing activity.

**Boardman River:** Fishing has slowed with only a few salmon, steelhead and brown trout caught. There were not many lake trout in the river yet.

**Frankfort:** Shore and pier anglers at both Frankfort and Elberta were landing some steelhead on spawn. Pier anglers hooked fish on both the inside and the outside of the walls. There were several reports of fish 10 pounds or more.

**Portage Lake:** Perch were still hitting on the west end in 10 to 16 feet. Most are smaller but sifting through the small ones can be entertaining if you don't mind using a number of minnows.

**Manistee:** Surface water temperatures were still about 56 degrees. Boat and shore activity were slow. Steelhead were caught by pier and shore anglers in the early morning. The fish cleaning station and the restrooms are closed for the season.

**Manistee Lake:** Fishing activity continues to decline. There were a small number of steelhead staging up near the mouth of the Little Manistee River but anglers were having a hard time getting them to hit. Deep diving crank baits in bright colors or jigs have taken a few fish.

**Big Manistee River:** A good number of steelhead were moving up into the river and were being caught from Rainbow Bent all the up to Tippy Dam. Spawn, beads and flies were all working well when drifting through the holes. While the Chinook are near the end of their run anglers reported a decent number of coho up near Tippy Dam. A few lake trout and even pink salmon have been caught.

**Ludington:** Surface water temperatures were at 54 degrees. Boat anglers have caught steelhead in 40 to 70 feet. Pier fishing was slow. The fish cleaning station and the restrooms were still open.

**Pere Marquette River:** Is producing some steelhead on spawn and beads.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Menominee River:** Had three gates open on the Wisconsin side of the Hattie Street Dam because of high water and repairs being made at the power house. The latest shocking survey showed walleye, brown trout, rainbow trout and some whitefish in the river. The upstream area of Stephenson Island held many fish.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers had fair catches between the Second and the Third Reefs when trolling stick baits or crawlers in 10 to 26 feet. Evenings were best. Fair to good perch fishing along the north end with minnows in 10 to 20 feet. Good pike action along the south end of the "Black Bottom" when trolling spoons, crank baits or spinners in 10 to 20 feet. A few smallmouth bass were caught from Garth Point south to the Vagabond Resort.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Smallmouth anglers caught fish on minnows or plastics along the break between Fayette and Garden Bluff. They were fishing right on the break with minnows or plastics. The fish were 15 to 25 feet down. Many were undersize but some managed to catch a couple keepers.

**Marquette:** After flooding last week, the water has receded from the parking lots to the rivers but the water levels are still high. Fishing pressure is low in the harbor but those heading out did find some steelhead and lake trout when trolling spoons around the lower breakwall. Pier anglers caught steelhead on spoons and natural baits. Those fishing the Chocolay River caught a couple steelhead on spinners, spawn and even worms. There are no reports of fish harvested from the Carp or the Dead River.

**Munising:** A few boat anglers were out for salmon but had no luck. Surface water temperatures were right around 55 degrees. Water levels were still high and close to bankfull. Rain and gusty winds this week have limited angler activity on the Anna River dock but a few splake were caught on spawn bags.

**Grand Marais:** Had no boat anglers due to strong winds in the area. Because of the wind, early morning was the best time for surf casting. Surface water temperatures were about 55 degrees. Water levels at the river receded but anglers may still want to bring waders to get out to the mouth. Shore anglers fishing the mouth of the Sucker River caught a couple steelhead. Anglers are using spawn bags or casting Cleo's. Orange, gold and silver were good colors. Most of the hits were on spawn bags.

**Two Hearted River:** Water levels are above normal for this time of year and the higher levels have certainly impacted angler success for salmon and steelhead. A big run of steelhead moved into the river and anglers were hooking more fish. The menominee catch is very good this year near the mouth and the State Forest Campground.

**St. Marys River:** Had no reports. With fall settling in, most anglers have switched to bow hunting or duck hunting in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

**Drummond Island:** Those targeting yellow perch around the island found and caught some fish on the north side of Peck Island which is on the northwest corner of Scott Bay. Try eight to 13 feet with spreaders, red beads and shiners. The south side of Rutland Island had reports of perch taken in eight to 10 feet with small worms or shiners. In Maxton Bay, a few perch were taken by those drifting minnows in eight to 10 feet along the south end of James Island.

**Detour:** Walleye 17 to 19 inches were caught two miles upstream of Detour Village near Swedes Point when trolling planer boards with crank baits. For the fish that are suspended, try blue and chrome crank baits about six to eight feet down in 14 feet and deeper near the points and underwater humps. Walleye were caught near Pipe Island which is one mile north of the Detour Ferry Boat lane that runs to Drummond Island.

**Cedarville and Hessel:** Perch fishing was slow throughout the Les Cheneaux Islands. The fish are there but they keep moving around so try drifting a crawler harness. Pike fishing was a little better than the perch fishing. Try the Middle Entrance, Snows Channel, the Viking Channel or the marina pier at Hessel. Steelhead and a few late salmon were reported in Bush Creek.

**St. Ignace:** Had little fishing activity as most were duck hunting. The Carp River had few anglers and only a couple dying salmon left. The few fishing were trying for steelhead but catch rates were slow. The salmon at Nunns Creek are pretty dark.

November 3, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

As we move into November, the days grow shorter and so does the fishing report. Fewer anglers are out and most of the DNR Creel Clerks are done for the season. Beside the rivers, the inland lakes are a good place to fish this time of year.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Had good perch fishing straight out from the Metro Park Marina when fishing around the buoys and off Stony Point. At the Metro Park Marina, the docks are now open to fishing and anglers have caught some nice bluegills.

**Huron River:** Anglers were getting some steelhead up near Flat Rock. Try hair jigs, flies or a jig and wax worm.

**Detroit River:** Had good walleye fishing off the Ford Yacht Club which is on the north end of Celeron Island. Some reported limit catches in 14 to 16 feet along the main channel. Those jigging off the Trenton Edison Plant also caught fish.

**Lake St. Clair:** Bluegills, pumpkinseeds and crappie have moved into the shallows, marinas and canals. Look for heavy vegetation and cuts with deeper water for concentrations of fish. Small minnows, ice jigs, and small plastics were producing fish. Muskie fishing was fair to good especially in Canadian waters.

**St. Clair River:** The few anglers out jigging for walleye were still doing well.

**Saginaw Bay:** Those heading out and fishing between the Saganing and the Pinconning Bars have caught perch. Some days were better than others.

**Saginaw River:** Some walleye and a couple channel cats were caught closer to Saginaw. Before that, fish were caught closer to Bay City. Rumor has it some perch were caught in the cuts.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph River:** Steelhead fishing was a little slow because of the warm weather. Try fishing the deeper holes in the early morning or evening. Those targeting bass or pike should find a good number of fish throughout the system.

**Kalamazoo River:** Is producing some steelhead. Those fishing near the Allegan Dam have caught some walleye.

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught steelhead on spawn.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Anglers are still getting a few steelhead but no big numbers yet. Most are using spawn and skein. Those targeting steelhead have hooked into some nice channel cats.

**Rogue River:** Has a light number of steelhead.

**Grand River at Lansing:** No word on salmon or steelhead however the bass and pike action has been very good near the North Lansing Dam. Anglers are fishing minnows or jigs with twister tails along the wall. For pike, anglers are floating golden shiners or sucker minnows. Smallmouth bass and pike have also been caught in the Red Cedar.

**Muskegon Lake:** Was producing some yellow perch out near the channel.

**Muskegon River:** The last rain pushed some steelhead and a few brown trout up into the river. A few coho and lake trout have also been caught. Steelhead were hitting on spawn bags, egg flies and trout beads. Some yellow perch were caught in Hardy Pond and Croton Pond in 8 to 14 feet.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Cheboygan River:** Has some smaller steelhead. Rain and cooler temperatures will bring more fish into the river system.

**Ocqueoc River:** Should have some steelhead in the lower river.

**Mullett Lake:** Perch fishing slowed but those fishing in front of the Indian River were getting 10 to 20 per trip. Smallmouth bass anglers were taking around 5 fish per trip. Walleye and bass were caught near the mouth of the Cheboygan River.

**Thunder Bay River:** Has had a small but steady collection of anglers up at the Ninth Street Dam. Most are targeting and steelhead but could also be getting the odd chinook salmon. Water temperatures are still on the warm side but runoff from recent rains will usually trigger the steelhead runs.

**Oscoda:** Still had decent walleye fishing around the pier heads.

**Au Sable River:** Anglers were getting some nice brown trout. Steelhead anglers were getting fish all the way up to Foote Dam. Try spawn, spoons, spinners, flies or wax worms.

**Higgins Lake:** Lake trout are still being caught by those vertical jigging in 80 to 100 feet. A few rainbow trout were caught by shore anglers. Perch were caught in 35 to 45 feet.

**Houghton Lake:** Had very few anglers but those heading out have caught a couple walleye just before dark. Most are using minnows.

**Tawas:** Look for more perch moving into the harbor as they are chasing the baitfish. Pier anglers casting at night are getting some walleye and a few pike during the day.

**Au Gres:** Anglers should still find some good perch fishing. Target waters 35 to 50 feet deep off the Gravelly Shoals, near the NOAA weather buoy and the end of the shipping channel. Perch can also be found between the Saganing and the Pinconning Bars.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Salmon are on the downside in all area rivers. Most of the remaining chinook are dark and deteriorating. Walleye fishing should be good on the inland lakes with the lower water temperatures. Anglers will want to try casting or trolling body baits in the shallows during low-light periods.

**Lake Leelanau:** Had fair to good yellow perch fishing and walleye were caught in the shallows.

**Bear River:** Still has some steelhead, lake trout and a few coho being caught.

**Boardman River:** Fishing was slower here. Try early morning or late evening for steelhead, brown trout and lake trout.

**Frankfort:** Steelhead have been caught by those trolling, pier anglers and by those surfcasting.

**Manistee:** When they can get out, those trolling have caught steelhead. Try orange spoons. Pier anglers have caught fish on spawn. Those surfcasting caught fish on small spoons or spawn.

**Manistee Lake:** Was producing coho and steelhead near the mouth of the Little Manistee River. Anglers were bouncing jigs and spinners off the bottom in the deeper areas.

**Big Manistee River:** Some fresh coho were caught. Steelhead numbers are decent especially for boat anglers fishing from High Bridge down. Beads, flies and crank baits were producing in the early morning. Spawn was not doing as well as artificial baits but anglers are still catching fish when drifting smaller sacs on the bottom. A few more lake trout were caught up near Tippy Dam when drifting beads.

**Little Manistee River:** Also had some fresh coho being caught.

**Ludington:** When the winds allow, those surfcasting caught steelhead on small spoons or spawn. Pier anglers also found fish when floating spawn. Boat anglers were few but those able to get out did find some fish in 100 to 125 feet. Most were fishing the top 50 feet.

**Pere Marquette River:** Continues to produce some steelhead. Try spawn and beads.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Menominee River:** Is producing catches of walleye and brown trout from the Hattie Street Dam to the mouth. Stephenson Island and the Fishermen's Walkway at Hattie Street were the hot spots. Stick baits and spoons have been working well along with flies and live bait. Whitefish are starting to show up.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Walleye anglers reported fair catches from Second Reef to the Center Reef when trolling stick baits in 18 to 25 feet. The best catches were taken at night. The Kipling Flats reported a few day catches when trolling the same in and around 30 feet. Perch anglers reported fair catches in and around the Day's River with minnows in 10 to 18 feet. Northern pike remain active throughout the Bay and were caught by those trolling crank baits in 20 feet or less.

**Escanaba River:** Shore anglers were still targeting salmon up at the 1<sup>st</sup> Dam but only a few catches were reported.

**Big Bay De Noc:** Had a handful of smallmouth anglers. Most were fishing minnows or plastics in 15 to 25 feet between Fayette and Burnt Bluff. The big fish were found along the break in 25 feet.

**Two Hearted River:** Water levels have dropped considerably following the recent rainfall. Steelhead are now in the river and anglers are catching them near the mouth and the Reed and Green Bridge. The salmon are pretty much done as the fish being caught are very dark.

November 10, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

The unseasonably warm weather has been nice but not so much for anglers or hunters. Warm water temperatures have once again slowed the bite on the inland lakes and rivers. Pike and musky fishing are good this time of year. The season to take frogs, toads, salamanders and mudpuppies will close on Tuesday, November 15.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Yellow perch fishing was good in Brest Bay. Those fishing in 20 to 25 feet around Stony Point and the Raisin River Channel were getting some limit catches when using spreaders with minnows on the bottom. Good size white bass were plentiful.

**Huron River:** Steelhead fishing up near Flat Rock slowed with the warmer temperatures.

**Detroit River:** Walleye fishing was good in the Trenton Channel. A few fish were also caught by those hand-lining or jigging in Canadian waters.

**Lake St. Clair:** Had good perch fishing at Grosse Pointe, Fair Haven and the area around Grassy Island. Those trolling or casting for musky have done well. Bluegill, crappie and pumpkinseed fishing continues to be productive in the canals and shallows.

**St. Clair River:** The few anglers still out targeting walleye are doing well with limit catches during the day for those jigging. Good reports came from Marine City, Algonac, Harsens Island and Decker's Landing. Those targeting sturgeon are also doing well. The catch-and-release hook and line fishing for lake sturgeon continues through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Lexington:** Had a fair to good number of Atlantic salmon in the harbor. Those trolling small spoons caught fish.

**Saginaw Bay:** Boat anglers should still find some yellow perch in 6 to 15 feet.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph River:** Should have some steelhead. Try up near the Berrien Springs Dam with spawn. Fish will move through the ladders until water temperatures are consistently below 45 degrees.

**Kalamazoo River:** Steelhead fishing slowed but those targeting the deeper holes did find some fish. A couple walleye were taken up near the Allegan Dam.

**Holland:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught some steelhead.

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught steelhead on spawn. Some have caught a few Menominee whitefish when still-fishing with a minnow.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Some steelhead were caught up near the Sixth Street Dam. We need rain to push more fish up into the system. Those fishing the backwaters found some bluegills and crappie.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Had very good smallmouth bass action near the North Lansing Dam. Fish 16 inches and longer weighing two to three pounds have been caught on tube jigs, spec minnows and shiners. Good northern pike action as well for those using pike minnows and cut-up bluegills.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels were down just a bit but anglers are still getting some steelhead on spawn, egg flies and trout beads. Try bright flashy colors because of all the leaves in the river.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Mullett Lake:** Perch fishing was still slow near the Indian River. Most were lucky to get 10 to 20 keepers per trip. Bass anglers were blaming the unseasonably warm water temperatures for the slow fishing.

**Alpena:** If boats can get out, try fishing the reefs for whitefish. Colder weather is needed before the whitefish will come into the shallows to spawn.

**Thunder Bay River:** With the warmer temperatures, look for steelhead in the deeper holes. The better fishing is usually early morning or late evening.

**Oscoda:** The better walleye fishing was after dark for both boat and pier anglers.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead fishing slowed with the warm weather. Those finding fish were targeting the deeper holes with spawn, spinners, flies or wax worms.

**Houghton Lake:** Again had few anglers for a couple boats were out for walleye. Catch rates were very slow during the day so try fishing at night. Even the panfish bite was slow with only a couple small bluegills and crappie caught.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Salmon are pretty much done and steelhead fishing is the main game in this area of the state however we need more rain. The rivers are all low and clear, which makes fishing more difficult.

**Traverse City:** Boat anglers fishing the East Bay have caught a few lake herring between Elk Rapids and the Bluffs. Try Swedish pimples.

**Frankfort:** Surf and pier fishing for steelhead should be good.

**Portage Lake:** Boat anglers were doing well for yellow perch when using shiners. Try the west side of the lake near the channel in 12 to 18 feet. Many were smaller but some found fish up to 14 inches.

**Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell:** A few anglers were out enjoying the nice weather. Most were targeting bass and walleye. Some bluegills were also caught.

**Manistee:** Surf and pier fishing for steelhead should be good.

**Manistee Lake:** Continues to produce some steelhead and coho between the Stronach Launch and the Packaging Corporation. Out in the open portions of the lake anglers managed to catch a couple coho here and there.

**Big Manistee River:** Anglers were hooking up on a steady stream of steelhead from Bear Creek down to the M-55 Bridge. Artificial baits including beads and flies continue to take more fish than spawn. Up at Tippy Dam, those chasing steelhead have caught fish but the numbers were low. Casting above the coffer dam yielded better results but anglers were putting in their time. Water above the coffer dam is a deeper pool and typically holds a lot of fish. Flies and wax worms were the ticket for fish up river.

**Ludington:** Surf and pier fishing for steelhead should be good. Boat anglers just outside the piers found fish in the top 30 feet when using very small spoons.

## **UPPER PENINSULA**

**Lake Gogebic:** Was producing a few walleye. The better fishing was after dark with minnows.

**Menominee River:** Walleye, brown trout and whitefish were still being caught from the Hattie Street Dam to Stephenson Island. Anglers are using a jig tipped with a minnow or piece of crawler, stick baits, flies and spoons. The walleye bite seems to be best during periods of low light.

**Little Bay De Noc:** The warm weather is keeping the water temperatures warmer than they should be for this time of year. Walleye anglers have mostly fished the northern Bay from the First Reef to the Day's River. Catch rates were fair at best during the day and a little better at night. Day anglers were trolling crawler harnesses in deeper water 18 to 35 feet while the night anglers were trolling crank baits or stick baits along the reefs in 10 to 24 feet. Perch anglers reported fair to good catches but the bite slowed. Most were using minnows in 10 to 28 feet along the north end of the Bay. Northern pike remain active throughout and were caught by walleye anglers.

**Tahquamenon River:** Those trolling have caught a few musky.

November 17, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Between windy conditions and the opening of the firearm deer season, very few anglers could be found. Those fishing in the marinas are taking some panfish and the occasional bass.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Those targeting yellow perch were still taking fish especially around Brest Bay, Stony Point and near the Raisin River Channel. White bass are still being caught as well.

**Detroit River:** Walleye anglers are still taking fish especially on the Canadian side when jigging or hand-lining.

**Lake St. Clair:** Continues to produce yellow perch, muskie and bass.

**St. Clair River:** A few walleye were still being caught near Marine City and just north of the launch at Algonac. Some did better in Canadian waters. Catch and release sturgeon fishing has also been good.

**Saginaw Bay:** Boat anglers were still taking a good number of yellow perch throughout the bay. Most were targeting six to 12 feet. Walleye anglers reported slow fishing.

**Saginaw River:** Walleye anglers found some fish in the lower river.

### SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**St. Joseph River:** Anglers should find some steelhead all the way up to the Berrien Springs Dam. Try spawn and beads, flies or small spoons and rapalas.

**Kalamazoo River:** Is producing steelhead below the Allegan Dam. Those fishing early morning or late evening caught the occasional walleye.

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught steelhead on spawn. A few whitefish were caught on a small minnow or wax worm.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Had reports of a good number of steelhead seen from the bridge and up near the Sixth Street Dam. Spawn and beads were catching fish. Catch rates should be good by the weekend with rain and snow in the forecast.

**Grand River at Lansing:** Pike and smallmouth bass are still being caught near the North Lansing Dam and near Grand Ledge.

**Looking Glass River:** Is a good place to target pike. Anglers can try Babcock's Landing off Round Lake Road or downtown Dewitt.

**Granger Pond:** Near Lansing in Granger Meadows Park was producing some bluegills. This would be a good place to take the kids fishing.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels were low and clear. Anglers are getting some nice steelhead all the way up to Croton Dam and the fishing will only get better as temperatures drop and rain moves in. A few brown trout were also caught.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Mullett Lake:** Windy conditions have kept boat anglers off the lake. The docks have been pulled out at both of the DNR launches. Surface water temperatures were near 50 degrees. Those targeting bass have caught fish.

**Alpena:** With colder weather moving in this weekend, whitefish could start moving into the shallows.

**Au Sable River:** Steelhead have been caught from the mouth up to Foote Dam.

**Tawas:** Did not have much angler activity. A couple pier anglers have caught the occasional whitefish however it was still too warm and the fish will not come into the shallows to spawn.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

The rivers are low and clear which makes steelhead fishing more difficult. Despite that, a few were still caught in local rivers such as the Betsie, Manistee, Little Manistee and the Pere Marquette. The better action right now was pier and surf fishing at Frankfort, Manistee and Ludington.

**Lake Leelanau:** Boat anglers using shiners picked up a few perch. For walleye, try trolling, drifting or jigging in the south lake.

**Traverse City:** Continues to produce lake herring for boat anglers fishing in the East Bay off Elk Rapids.

**Portage Lake:** Boat anglers were taking some perch but also sorting out the small ones. Try 12 to 18 feet off Portage Point or Crescent Beach.

**Manistee:** The few boats still heading out have caught steelhead. Pier anglers and those surfcasting should find fish in the early morning or late evening.

**Manistee Lake:** Those trolling have caught a couple good size coho and steelhead. Most were trolling body baits like flatfish. Those same anglers have also caught the occasional pike but most were too small.

**Big Manistee River:** Water clarity has increased throughout the lower section. Steelhead were hitting in the early morning but were skittish when the sun comes out. Anglers drifting spawn were hard pressed and those casting crank baits said catch rates were hit-or-miss. Flies and beads seemed to be the most consistent.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Little Bay De Noc:** Water temperatures remain in the high 40's to low 50's. Walleye action picked up some with morning anglers fairing the best. Catches varied but the best action was in and around 10 feet between the Third and the Center Reefs when trolling stick baits. Some were also caught in 18 to 24 feet. Perch catches were down with only a few fish reported around the Day's River and south to the reefs. Walleye anglers were catching northern pike but many were undersize.

**Two Hearted River:** Has some steelhead with more fresh fish moving in. Anglers should anticipate more fish with the upcoming colder temperatures. This time of year can be a very good time to fish as many anglers are out hunting.

**Tahquamenon River:** Had good muskie fishing.

November 24, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Anglers are reminded that the catch-and-release sturgeon season on the Great Lakes and Connecting waters will close on Wednesday, November 30.

After you enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday and potentially some Black Friday shopping, make a plan to #OptOutside on November 25 to enjoy Michigan's natural resources. Whether you spend it fishing, hiking, wildlife watching or visiting a state park (which is offering free entry that day) – get outdoors and share your experience on social media with the tag #OptOutside!

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

It is that time of year when crews start pulling docks from the boat launches on the inland lakes. Bluegills have been caught in the marinas.

**Lake Erie:** Shore anglers were casting bombers for walleye while boat anglers were trolling off Stony Point but catch rates were slow.

**Huron River:** Has produced a couple steelhead.

**Detroit River:** Those jigging have caught a few walleye. Fair to good yellow perch fishing around Celeron and Sugar Islands or in front of Rat Island.

**Lake St. Clair:** Fishing activity has been very limited. The docks at the launches on Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River will stay in through the first week of December unless ice becomes an issue. The catch and immediately release sturgeon season on both the lake and the St. Clair River will close on Wednesday, November 30.

**Saginaw Bay:** When the strong winds allow, boat anglers were still finding some yellow perch when using minnows.

### SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Perch fishing picked up on the inland lakes. Those targeting bluegills have caught fish on a teardrop with a wax worm.

**St. Joseph River:** Anglers were getting a few more steelhead after the last rain. Fish movement through the ladder essentially stops when water temperatures drop below 40 degrees. At this time, the water temperature was about 45 degrees.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Much cooler weather improved steelhead fishing below the Sixth Street Dam. Try beads, flies, wax worms, spawn or a piece of crawler.

**Rogue River:** Also had some steelhead.

**Grand River at Lansing:** A couple steelhead were caught near Grand Ledge at Fitzgerald Park and Lincoln Brick Park. Catch rates were very sporadic and anglers were putting in a lot of work to catch the occasional fish. There were no reports of steelhead in the Lansing area. Smallmouth fishing slowed but pike fishing was still good for those using live bait.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels were still low and clear. A fair to good number of steelhead and brown trout are being caught.

**Whitehall:** When the winds allowed access, pier anglers caught a few walleye.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Alpena:** The colder weather did bring some whitefish into the shallows.

**Thunder Bay River:** Could have some whitefish for those fishing off the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Try a single egg or wax worm. Steelhead should also be in the river. Some yellow perch were caught about ¼ mile upstream from the mouth. Most were 6.5 to 7.5 inches along with the occasional larger fish.

**Higgins Lake:** Had no anglers and the docks have been pulled at the boat launches. There was no word on brown trout.

**Houghton Lake:** Had skim ice about 50 to 60 yards out. When they could, shore anglers were casting rapalas at night for walleye. A few boats were still heading out at night for walleye and floating rapalas in the shallows. Boat anglers should note that the docks have been pulled out at the boat launches.

**Tawas:** A few anglers were targeting whitefish off the state dock. After the cold weather, there should be some fish in the shallows. Try a small hook with a wax worm or a single egg.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Frankfort:** Pier and shore anglers should still find some fish.

**Betsie River:** Should still have some steelhead for those heading out. Try beads, flies and wax worms.

**Manistee:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting should still find some steelhead in the early morning or evening.

**Manistee Lake:** Anglers were still getting some coho near the mouth of the Little Manistee River, but they were working hard for them. The occasional steelhead has been picked up, but for the most part catches were few and far between.

**Big Manistee River:** Good numbers of undersize brown trout along with the occasional keeper were caught below Tippy Dam. Boat and shore anglers have caught a decent number of steelhead. Beads, flies, wax worms, crawlers and spawn have all produced trout over the last week. Downriver has been hit-or-miss for steelhead. Most fish were caught in the early morning but many were small.

**Pere Marquette River:** Steelhead fishing should be decent throughout the river.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Little Bay De Noc:** Winter weather has hit the area. Temperatures at night have been below freezing and skim ice is beginning to form in the shallows. The docks have been removed from the Ford River and the Rapid River launches. Angler participation has been very low but a few walleye anglers were still fishing between the First and the Center Reefs. Most were trolling stick baits in 10 to 25 feet. Walleye anglers were still reporting a lot of northern pike in the same area. Perch catches were fair at best when using minnows in 10 to 30 feet from the mouth of the Day's River over to the east bank near the Vagabond Resort.

December 1, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

We are in-between seasons where boats are put away for the most part and many are now waiting for ice. Shore anglers are still heading out when the weather allows.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Detroit River:** Those jigging have caught walleye on a purple or black Wyandotte worm. Fish have been caught in the deeper areas of the channels and also around Horse Island. Perch anglers were still doing well especially in shallow waters anywhere from six to 10 feet deep. Shore anglers were also catching fish. It seems the fish were no longer concentrated so anglers may have to work harder to find them.

**Lake St. Clair:** Fishing activity has been very limited because of windy conditions over the last week. The docks at the launches on both the lake and the river will stay in through the first week of December unless ice becomes an issue.

**St. Clair River:** Walleye anglers are still finding fish. The best catches have come for those whipping and casting from shore at night.

**Saginaw Bay:** Perch fishing was productive weather permitting. Fish were caught in various cuts, canals, marinas and the bay itself when using perch rigs with minnows. The occasional crappie, rock bass, largemouth bass and even a couple pike were also caught. Crappie were caught when floating small jigs tipped with a minnow. Those trolling for walleye have taken a few fish on crank baits in 15 to 24 feet. Very few limit catches but most are taking some fish home.

**Saginaw River:** Walleye fishing was spotty. Most were jigging minnows or plastics near Saginaw, Bay City and down to the mouth. Most were two to four pounds but some were up to seven pounds.

### SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers are catching whitefish.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Continues to produce steelhead especially after the latest rain. Most are fishing below the Sixth Street Dam. Those fishing the Rogue River have also caught steelhead down near the mouth. Try flies, spawn or wax worms.

**Grand River at Lansing:** No word this week on steelhead but those wanting to go out and catch fish continue to do well for smallmouth bass and pike. The smallmouth were hitting on tube jigs with grubs and twister tails. The pike are hitting on bluegills and large pike minnows.

**Muskegon:** Anglers are catching whitefish off the pier and in the channel.

**Muskegon River:** Still has a decent number of steelhead.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Ocqueoc River:** Should have more steelhead especially in the lower river.

**Thunder Bay River:** Should have some steelhead and Atlantic salmon below the Ninth Street Dam.

**Au Sable River:** Anglers should find some Atlantic salmon in the lower river.

**Tawas:** Pier anglers targeting whitefish had spotty success at best. Catch rates were hit-or-miss depending on the weather. Specific wind direction, colder water temperatures and stained water are important for a good bite. The bite is usually tied in with the first week of the firearm opener but it has been too warm with sunny skies and clear water. Anglers will want to continue to try as conditions are slowly changing.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Frankfort:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught some steelhead.

**Betsie River:** Steelhead fishing was slower. Recent rain may help draw more fish up into the river.

**Manistee:** Pier and beach fishing for steelhead has been good at times depending on the weather and wind direction.

**Manistee Lake:** Trolling for coho yielded some good results for a few anglers near the Stronach Launch. The bite has been slightly better in the morning with anglers fishing the shallower waters near the mouth of the Little Manistee River. Steelhead are still being caught out in the lake, but the majority have moved up into the river.

**Big Manistee River:** The discharge rate is up, water depth is increasing, and temperatures have been on a steady decline. Steelhead are still slow to progress up river with many choosing to stay below Pine Creek. The bite has been fairly steady. Tippy Dam has also produced a few fish along with the occasional lake trout. Flies and jigs have been doing pretty well above and below the Coffey Dam. Down river, floating spawn was the ticket.

**Ludington:** Pier anglers and those surfcasting have caught some steelhead when the winds allow.

**Pere Marquette River:** Steelhead are being caught but fishing did slow some.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Little Bay De Noc:** Cold nights have dropped water temperatures down to the mid to lower 40's. Some walleye anglers were in the southern waters down around the "Black Bottom". Fish were caught by those trolling stick baits in 22 to 27 feet. Most anglers are still in the northern Bay between the First and the Center Reef and taking fair catches when trolling stick baits in 10 to 28 feet and deeper. Some larger fish were starting to enter the Bay as the action is just starting to pick up. Perch catches were down mainly because of fewer anglers participating. If temperatures remain the same, December should prove to be good walleye fishing.

December 8, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Open water fishing for pike and panfish is a good bet this time of year. Areas to the north may be making skim ice at night but there is no safe ice to report.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Some perch were caught in the Metro Park Marina. Walleye fishing slowed.

**Huron River:** Steelhead were caught up near the dam at Flat Rock. Those fishing in the marina at the mouth caught a good number of bluegills.

**Detroit River:** Was still producing walleye and perch. Walleye anglers were fishing between the Ford Yacht Club and Celeron Island or near the Trenton Power Plant.

**Lake St. Clair:** Those targeting musky had success at the mouth of the North Channel and near Grassy Island. Anglers were also casting in Anchor Bay off Grassy Island for musky and smallmouth bass. Muskie season on the lake will close on December 15.

**St. Clair River:** The few boats out have caught a couple walleye at night. Shore anglers were also taking a few fish.

**Saginaw Bay:** Had reports of yellow perch being caught. No specific locations but anglers might want to try the cuts and canals. There have been reports of walleye being caught by boat anglers. Rumor has it perch were caught in the Quanicassee River, Thomas Cut and the lower Sebawaing River. Mornings were best. At Caseville, some lake trout were caught in the lower Pigeon River. This is a Type-3 stream so it is legal to keep lake trout this time of year.

**Saginaw River:** Also had reports of some walleye caught.

**Tittabawassee River:** Had rumors of decent walleye fishing.

**Flint River:** Catch rates for walleye increased.

## SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

**Saugatuck:** A few whitefish were caught by pier anglers using jigging spoons or single eggs fished on the bottom.

**Grand Haven:** Pier anglers continue to catch whitefish. Jigging spoons were the ticket.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** Continues to produce steelhead especially up near the Sixth Street Dam.

**Grand River at Lansing:** A couple nice walleye were caught on the north end near the Brenke Ladder.

**Muskegon:** Pier anglers caught whitefish and the occasional steelhead.

**Muskegon River:** Water levels were decent and those fishing continue to catch some nice steelhead. Boat anglers were swinging flies and shore anglers are floating spawn.

## NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Thunder Bay River:** Was producing a few Atlantic salmon and brown trout. Whitefish moved to the reefs in the bay.

**Houghton Lake:** Shore anglers have caught walleye and pike at night when casting crank baits in the canals and along the shoreline.

**Tawas:** Had rumors of moderate whitefish activity. Those fishing the state dock were still taking some fish.

## NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

This area of the state had little activity. Steelhead fishing picked up with the last rain however arctic temperatures will not only slow fishing but make it much harder to do so.

**Manistee Lake:** The coho salmon action was slow but steady. A few more steelhead have been picked up as well. Trolling the deeper waters has turned out more steelhead, while shallower waters have produced coho. The lake remains completely open with no ice to report.

**Big Manistee River:** Water temperatures are continuing to drop and water levels are up. Water clarity is down and anglers have been catching fish well into the afternoon. Floating spawn from Tippy Dam all the way down to M-55 Bridge has yielded a steady number of steelhead. A few coho remain at the dam, but numbers have decreased.

**Pere Marquette River:** Water levels are up here as well and clarity is down which makes for better fishing. Fresh fish are in the river. Most are using spawn or fly fishing.

**Pentwater:** Pier anglers caught a couple steelhead.

## UPPER PENINSULA

**Menominee River:** Those fishing below the Hattie Street Dam have caught whitefish on wax worms or steelhead and brown trout on cast-masters.

**Little Bay De Noc:** Had a decent perch bite in the shallows. Perch rigs with minnows worked best.

December 15, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Very few anglers have been out. Most are now waiting for ice fishing to get started. We have reports of skim ice in different areas around the state but no safe ice. Remember, first ice is dangerous ice. Arctic temperatures this week will help with the freezing process but a blanket of snow will insulate and slow the process. If you have not done so, this would be a good time to get the ice fishing gear ready to go.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** Was still producing some perch in the Metro Park Marina. Even with skim ice, anglers will spud out the ice from the docks and continue to fish.

**Huron River:** Had mainly shore anglers that were still getting the occasional steelhead with a jig and wax worm or spawn under a bobber.

**Detroit River:** Boat anglers heading out were still taking some perch around Celeron and Sugar Island. It might be a good idea to bring some sand for the boat launch.

**Lake St. Clair:** Launch ramps are all iced in as of Wednesday morning. Ice is forming quickly in the canals and marinas. Some ice is forming on the main lake but the wind is working against it. Use extreme caution when considering venturing out on the ice this weekend.

**Harbor Beach:** Skim ice was starting to form in the marina.

**Saginaw Bay:** Those brave enough to head out trolling have caught some bigger walleye. The marina in Port Austin was starting to get skim ice. Rivers in the area were starting to ice up.

### SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Very few anglers were out. Some of the smaller inland lakes were getting skim ice but there was no safe ice to report. Conditions could shore up by the weekend depending on how much lake effect snow blankets the thin ice.

**Grand River at Grand Rapids:** The last report was a small number of steelhead caught up near the Sixth Street Dam. These anglers have also hooked into the odd brown trout. Colder temperatures this week will slow the bite.

**Rogue River:** Was also producing the occasional steelhead.

**Grand River at Lansing:** A couple anglers were still out wetting a line and hoping for a pike or smallmouth bass however much colder temperatures this week will only slow the bite. There were reports of the occasional steelhead taken closer to Lansing however anglers were not saying where.

**Muskegon River:** Water temperatures were just under the 40 degree mark. Steelhead anglers are still taking some fish when swinging flies. Skim ice was starting to form near shore.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Houghton Lake:** Was crusted over but no safe ice as of this report. The lake also had at least four inches of snow on top of the already thin ice. Pockets of slush were also reported.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

There was no fishable ice as of this report however it is possible there might be by the weekend but keep in mind the recent snowfall will not help with the freezing process. Lakes Cadillac, Mitchell and Missaukee were mostly covered in skim ice, but no safe ice yet.

Steelhead fishing remains strong for those willing to brave the arctic conditions. The Pere Marquette, Manistee, and Betsie should be good. The rain we got a week ago brought in some fresh fish.

**Pere Marquette River:** Those willing to brave the cold could still find some steelhead especially downstream.

## **UPPER PENINSULA**

Skim ice was beginning to form however there was no safe ice as of this report. Snowfall has been moderate in most places with more along Lake Superior.

**Two Hearted River:** Still had some steelhead. Snow on the ground in this area is starting to become significant as lake effect snow is occurring almost every day.

December 22, 2016

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

## RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

*Due to the holidays, the weekly report will not be updated the week between Christmas and New Year's.*

Some have started ice fishing however anglers need to use **EXTREME CAUTION** especially on the inland lakes. First ice is dangerous ice and snow cover makes it even more dangerous. The deep snow insulates the ice and prevents it from forming to a uniform thickness that is safe. If you are heading out, don't fish alone, wear a life jacket and be sure to use a spud to test the ice thickness ahead of you. Strong winds and warmer temperatures by the weekend will hinder ice conditions.

### SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

**Lake Erie:** A few ice anglers were jigging for walleye in 16 to 18 feet in Brest Bay. Use extreme caution. Those fishing near the mouth of the Huron River caught bluegills and one steelhead in Lake Point Marina. Ice anglers in the Metro Park Marina caught yellow perch on minnows.

**Huron River:** Was still giving up the occasional steelhead.

**Detroit River:** Had a few anglers ice fishing in Airport Bay.

**Lake St. Clair:** Anglers hitting the canals and marinas had mixed results for panfish and yellow perch however a few nice catches of large yellow perch and crappie were reported. Those fishing the marinas in St. Clair Shores had success. Ice has begun to form in the main lake however conditions are day-to-day and are very unpredictable with the recent high winds and current.

**Saginaw Bay:** Had a few anglers fishing from shore ice only off the Pinconning Park, a couple roads south of there and off the end of Linwood Road. These anglers are perch fishing in just a couple feet of water. Shore anglers were targeting perch in Sebawaing but most of the fish were small. Many anglers will fish in a pair of neoprene waders this time of year so if they fall through in shallow water they don't get wet.

**Pine River:** Largemouth bass and black crappie were caught in the Pine River in Alma and St. Louis. Most were using stick baits and surface lures.

## **SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

**Kalamazoo River:** Steelhead anglers did well trolling silver and green Hot-n-Tots.

**Hutchins Lake:** In Allegan County had a few ice anglers. Some did well with demon glows and spikes near the channel.

**Thornapple Lake:** In Barry County was producing some fish for ice anglers however caution needs to be used.

**Branch County:** Anglers were taking limit catches of bluegill at Cemetery Lake. Tip-ups were showing up on Messenger Lake. Please use caution.

**Muskegon River:** Continues to produce some steelhead. Water temperatures were in the mid 30's. Skim ice was found along the shoreline.

## **NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

Most of the inland lakes in this region did not have safe ice. Those anxious to head out would be wise to fish in shallow waters only. With the deep snow cover and strong winds, ice formation will not be uniform. Many of the inland lakes in this region are being reported as too early for safe ice especially with the amount of snow cover over the last week.

**Grand Lake:** A few anglers were testing the ice however the DNR cannot stress enough the importance of ice safety and ask anglers to be very cautious.

**Higgins Lake:** Was all open water except for a little ice around the shoreline.

**Houghton Lake:** Has ice but it is not uniform by any means especially with six to eight inches of snow on top. The better ice was close to shore in the shallows. A few pike have been taken on tip-ups with blues or golden shiners.

## **NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Ice is forming on the inland lakes however areas in the snow-belt have received quite a bit of snow. That snow will insulate the ice and slow the freezing process. Those heading out were fishing in shallow waters only. Be careful near inlets and outlets. Some limits of panfish were reported by those fishing in shallow water.

**Lake Cadillac:** Had a few anglers out on the west end of the lake. It might be a good idea to avoid the deeper waters at this time.

**Lake Mitchell:** A few ice anglers were targeting bluegill and crappie in Big Cove.

**Lake Missaukee:** Had a few ice anglers fishing in shallow waters.

## **UPPER PENINSULA**

Thin ice cover was reported in some of the sheltered bays and along the shoreline of Lake Superior. Inland lakes in the western end had ice starting to form but caution is advised. On the east end, lakes were ice and snow covered. Many have tracks where anglers have tested the ice. Some have ventured out on a few of the larger lakes such as Manistique and Brevoort Lake but caution needs to be used. A few pike have been caught. Recent snowfall has made foot travel on the ice more challenging.