

January 5, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice is forming on the inland lakes and along protected waters. Anglers will need to use **extreme caution** and watch for pressure cracks especially with the windy conditions. Remember to never fish alone, tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return, test the ice ahead of you with a spud and wear a life jacket because it could save your life.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Those ice fishing at the Metro Park were taking small panfish and perch.

Huron River: Was giving up a couple steelhead.

Detroit River: Perch fishing continues in the canals where anglers are using perch rigs. Those fishing the marinas were using jigs and tear-drops with minnows.

Lake St. Clair: Had some ice in the canals and marinas. Those using silver spoons, worms and spikes caught bluegills and perch. A few anglers went through the ice on the north end of the lake. No ice on the lake should be considered fishable at this time. Anglers should wait for conditions to improve before venturing out.

Saginaw Bay: Shoreline ice around the bay has blown out. Winds 30 to 40 mph are changing ice conditions drastically. Anglers would be wise to stick to the sheltered marinas such as Eagle Bay Marina near Standish, Linwood Beach Marina near Linwood, Sunset Bay Marina near Unionville, and the Caseville Marina.

Saginaw River: Was wide open but there is ice in many of the boat ramps and launch basins. Some were successfully launching boats at the Rust Avenue ramp in the south end of Saginaw and motoring upstream to fish around the confluence of the Tittabawassee and the Shiawassee Rivers near Green Island.

Flint River: Anglers were starting to see some nice walleye.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Few were out because of the arctic blast and strong winds but those braving the elements have taken some nice catches of bluegills, crappie and pike. Anglers were ice fishing on the smaller shallow lakes in the area. For the most part, ice on the bigger lakes was not uniform and anglers would be wise to wait a bit longer before venturing out. Stay away from inlets, outlets and pressure cracks.

Rogue River: Had a couple steelhead caught before the cold front moved in. If you can keep the ice off your line, you should find a few fish.

Grand River at Lansing: Not many were out but those fishing near the North Lansing Dam have caught a few pike and walleye.

Muskegon River: Is producing steelhead and the occasional brown trout. Water levels were up a bit after the rain and snowmelt. Anglers are using streamers and sculpins or a jig and wax worm.

Baldwin Lake: In Greenville was producing bluegills and crappie near the boat launch.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Due to poor ice conditions and snow in the region, anglers are just starting to venture out on some of the inland lakes.

Fletchers Pond: Fishing was good for pike and bluegills however ice conditions were variable and extreme caution needs to be used.

Lake Margrethe: Had ice but also received 10 inches or more of snow. A few anglers were out with portable shanties but no machines were on the ice.

Higgins Lake: Had no ice. The rain and strong winds opened the lake up again.

Houghton Lake: Has ice however anglers will need to be careful around the pressure cracks. The largest one runs from Heights Marina to the DNR Launch. There are other smaller ones throughout the lake. Anglers are taking pike on golden shiners and the walleye bite has started for those using blues. Bluegills and crappie have been caught.

Tawas: A few anglers were fishing in the north end of the bay near Jerry's Marina however anglers should consider the ice in this area highly unstable because of the strong winds.

Tawas Lake: Bluegill fishing on the first ice was very good.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Steelhead fishing in the rivers was good during the recent thaw. The Pere Marquette, Manistee and Betsie River would all be good choices. Ice is starting to build on the inland lakes including South Lake Leelanau and Little Glen Lake.

Long Lake: In Grand Traverse County was producing walleye and pike.

Long Lake: In Benzie County was producing a few perch.

Lake Cadillac: Had ice anglers using tip-ups for walleye and pike. Catch rates for pike were good. Some panfish have also been caught.

Lake Mitchell: Ice anglers continue to target the waters on the west end including Big Cove for bluegills and crappie. Those using tip-ups reported good pike fishing.

Lake Missaukee: Ice anglers using tip-ups have caught walleye and a few pike.

UPPER PENINSULA

Inland lakes along the west end had ice especially the small to mid-size lakes. Anglers were pike fishing on Lake Antoine in Dickinson County and Stager Lake in Iron County. Many of the smaller lakes across the region were producing some nice catches of panfish.

Lake Gogebic: Had good fishing but the bite will no doubt slow with much colder air moving into the state. Areas with slush were freezing however you may break through the top layer in some areas. The walleye bite was very good in seven to 11 feet with sucker minnows and jigging raps. Some perch were also caught. Try wigglers and spikes.

Little Bay De Noc: Has ice but the thickness was not uniform. Those thinking of heading out will need to use extreme caution in areas with a current and near the pressure cracks.

Indian Lake: In Schoolcraft County was producing good perch catches.

January 12, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Anglers are ice fishing however those in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula will need to use extreme caution after the rain and warm temperatures. Water levels on the rivers are on the rise after the snowmelt and rain. Ice jams on the rivers could result in substantial fluctuations in water levels. Anglers will need to use extreme caution.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: Anglers targeting panfish on the inland lakes had minimal success. Anglers fishing Wampplers Lake and Sand Lake in Lenawee County were fishing near the bottom in 12 to 18 feet. A few pike were taken on tip-ups in eight to 12 feet. Anglers will need to use caution after the mid-week warm-up.

Lake Erie: The Metro Park Marina was giving up some panfish.

Huron River: Continues to give up some steelhead near the golf course.

Detroit River: Is wide open with not much in the way of fishing activity.

Lake St. Clair: Panfish and perch fishing were good in the marinas and canals. Some of the main lake areas froze up but anglers were still close to shore. With rain and warm temperatures again, anglers should use extreme caution. Ice that has thawed and refroze is never as strong as new ice.

Saginaw Bay: Ice conditions are highly variable around the Bay and anglers are cautioned to be very careful. Patches of open water still exist in many areas, and newly formed ice may or **may not** be thick enough to hold anglers. Fishing was basically limited to perch fishing in shallow water. The bay has not yet frozen all the way across, and in most locations ice only extends out about a mile from shore and most anglers are not venturing out anywhere near that far. Some perch fishing activity was reported at White's Beach, Pinconning Road, Newman Road and about three blocks off Erickson Road. Anglers were perch fishing off Linwood but caution needs to be used as a lot of the ice out there was newly frozen or re-frozen and "shove ice" and thickness varies tremendously from spot to spot.

Those fishing off Vanderbilt Park near Quanicassee were getting a few perch with live minnows. A few small perch and a couple bluegills were caught inside Sunset Bay Marina. There was also some fishing activity in the channel that leads out of the marina basin. Moving north, Geiger Road had some fishing activity, but the fish were small and the ice had patches of open water so use caution. Fish were also caught from the Mud Creek access site.

Saginaw River: Most ice fishing activity was concentrated at the mouth, especially in the marina basins off the channel. Some decent catches of eight to 12 inch perch were taken from the Yacht Club Marina basin and in the mouth of the basin. Live minnows on perch rigs seemed to be more effective than beaded spoons. Live bait usually works best when it is extremely cold. Most fishing on the lower river was limited to the edges as anglers did not trust the ice in the middle of the channel. Some were fishing just off the edge of the banks as far upstream as the Independence Bridge and south of Bay City from Veterans Park along M-13 to Crow Island, but be advised that the middle of the river still has thin ice and patches of open water. Walleye fishing was very slow.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: Ice conditions on the inland lakes in the counties near Lake Michigan are still variable due to heavy snow cover. As you move east into counties such as Eaton, Calhoun, St. Joseph, and Jackson, the lakes had less snow and a little thicker ice.

Kalamazoo County: Ice anglers were out on Big and Little Sugarloaf, Gourdneck and Long Lake just to mention a few.

Kalamazoo River: Has elevated water levels that will no doubt spill over the banks. Those walking near the river should exercise caution as the banks will be unstable.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Was under a flood watch in Robinson Township, Ottawa County. There is an ice jam downstream of Robinson Township. Combined rain and snow melt may elevate the river behind the ice jam. Anglers would need to use extreme caution in this area as well as downstream in case the ice jams give way. A flood warning has been issued near Comstock Park in Kent County. Anglers should avoid these areas of the river.

Muskegon Lake: The Coast Guard is warning anglers to be aware of commercial shipping and ice-breaking activity on the lake Wednesday, January 11 through Sunday, January 15. Ships are expected to transit the channel in and out of Muskegon at various times throughout the weekend. A tug boat will conduct ice breaking operations in support of the ships. Recreational users of the ice should plan their activity carefully, use caution near the ice, and stay away from shipping channels and the chartered Lake Carriers Association track lines. Most anglers were staying in Snug Harbor.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Burt Lake: Ice anglers were taking a decent number of perch from Maple Bay which is on the west side of the lake. Try live minnows.

Mullett Lake: Anglers were taking a few perch in front of Aloha State Park and in Scotts Bay. It's early ice so anglers need to use caution.

Lake Margrethe: Has ice fishing and a couple good size walleye have been caught.

Higgins Lake: The ice is building. Anglers will need to use caution and watch for a pressure crack out from Big Creek which has come together and is now protruding above the ice. The lake had a good six to seven inches of snow which was turning to slush. Anglers were starting to target pike in 45 feet and lake trout in 80 to 100 feet along the north end. Most are using tip-ups with greys and suckers. Some were also starting to fish off the south end near the State Park.

Houghton Lake: Ice fishing continues **however** anglers need to stay clear of the very large pressure crack that runs from Heights Marina to the DNR Launch. The large pressure crack is moving from day to day which makes it even more dangerous. The lake had a good five inches of snow on top. Fishing has been good with the pike and bluegills active. A couple limit catches of walleye were reported by those fishing in deeper water with smaller jigs and live minnows. Good colors were chartreuse, fire-tiger, dark green and gold. Those targeting crappie are also taking fish.

Tawas: Perch fishing in the Bay was very slow with only a few small fish taken in 15 feet near Jerry's Marina. Those after walleye in 22 feet saw walleye, lake trout and other species near the bottom but nothing would bite. Those spearing pike near Jerry's Marina were taking fish here and there but the action was still slow.

Au Gres: A few were perch fishing on the lower river and in the bayou near the breakwall, but success was limited to a few small perch and sub-legal walleye. Off the Pine River mouth and Palmer Road, people were going out up to a mile, but perch success was slow and no walleyes were brought in. Primarily small perch and a couple bluegills were caught inside Eagle Bay Marina.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: Lakes in Antrim and Charlevoix counties were hit-or-miss for safety. The high volume of snow has resulted in much slush and water on top of the ice. Anglers still need to exercise extreme caution when fishing these and other lakes in the area.

Lake Cadillac: Is producing pike for those using tip-ups with suckers. The bluegill and crappie bite improved with the warmer weather.

Lake Mitchell: Ice anglers continue to target the waters on the west end including Big Cove and Small Cove for bluegills and crappie. Try a smaller jig with live bait such as minnows, wigglers and wax worms. Those spearing pike have taken some fish along the south end.

Lake Missaukee: Ice anglers are taking pike and walleye on tip-ups.

UPPER PENINSULA

Overall: Inland lakes are producing panfish, pike and even some walleye. For those heading out on the St. Marys River and parts of Lake Huron, the Coast Guard would like to remind all recreational ice users to plan their activity carefully, use caution on the ice, and stay away from the shipping channels. Some of the channels will be closing while others will open up to two way traffic.

Little Bay De Noc: Anglers were only fishing the head of the Bay and near Gladstone with the exception of the Escanaba Yacht Harbor as no anglers were fishing the southern waters because the area had open water. The bite was slow. Perch were caught on minnows in 22 feet near Kipling and at the head of the Bay in 13 to 20 feet. Walleye catches were fair at best. Several large fish were reported near Kipling when jigging a rapala with a minnow right near the bottom in 27 to 35 feet. Walleye were caught near Gladstone in 30 feet but most were undersize. Anglers will need to use caution as much of the ice is new especially in the southern waters.

Manistique and South Manistique Lakes: Were good for walleye. More snow has fallen making travel on the ice a bit more challenging.

Luce County: Good panfish action was reported on East, Kaks and Twin Lakes which are near Newberry.

Munuscong Bay: Had significant snow coverage so use caution. Anglers fishing near Grassy Island are harvesting good numbers of perch. The perch are scattered, but those putting in the time had good results. Catch rates for walleye were fair.

Cedarville and Hessel: Those fishing Musky Bay reported fair catch rates for yellow perch but lots of northern pike. Anglers were targeting perch in eight to 10 feet in Hessel Bay and splake in Wilderness Bay.

January 19, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Those looking to go ice fishing will need to head north but will still need to use some caution as even some of these lakes reported ice that was not consistent. The Upper Peninsula should be good but slush could make travel on the ice difficult.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Huron River: Water levels were about a foot below the dam at Flat Rock and muddy.

Detroit River: Has a few boat anglers targeting perch near Gibraltar and other areas, look for open water however watch for ice coming downstream.

Lake St. Clair: A few anglers have gone through the ice near the Clinton River Spillway and had to be rescued. Extreme caution is warranted with warm temperatures and rain this week.

Saginaw Bay: Perch fishing was generally slow at most locations with the exception of two, Wigwam Bay between the Pine River mouth and Hale Road and near Quanicassee in the area off Tietz Drain in three to five feet. Minnows were catching more fish and early morning was best. Both areas produced nice catches of big perch however anglers need to use caution and watch for variable ice conditions. There have been reports of four-wheelers going through the ice northeast of Vanderbilt Park, off Geiger Road and Mud Creek. Some reported fair to good perch and a few walleye taken on the right day off Palmer Road. Try for perch in the morning and walleye at dusk. All rivers in the area and associated marinas were reported to be high, fast and muddy to the point of being almost unfishable. Anyone going out on Saginaw Bay should give the river mouths, creeks, and drains a wide berth, as the increased flows will ruin the ice in the immediate vicinity. There's essentially no fishable ice at Port Austin, Grindstone City or Harbor Beach.

Saginaw River: Anglers are cautioned to **STAY OFF** the ice. The river is running fast and dirty and will only get worse. The fishable ice along the shorelines of the river will be getting thin with the rain and warmer temperatures. We will need a good cold snap to freeze things up again.

Tittabawassee River: Anglers are cautioned to **STAY OFF** the ice here as well.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: Steelhead fishing in this area should be good by the end of the week especially with the warm up. Good rivers to try would be the St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Grand, Muskegon and the White River. Water levels and flow will be elevated.

While the bite improved with the warmer weather, ice on the inland lakes in this region is inconsistent and dangerous. If anglers are heading out they would be wise to fish in shallow waters only.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan & Presque Isle Counties: Ice conditions were variable from lake to lake so anglers need to use caution. Some walleye and a fair number of pike were caught in Black Lake. Grand Lake was good for perch and a few walleye.

Burt Lake: Anglers were taking some jumbo perch and walleye in Maple Bay and at the north end near the Robert Road access area.

Mullett Lake: Anglers are urged to use extreme caution as ice thickness is not consistent throughout the lake. A few perch and walleye were taken just south of Dodge Point and around the sunken island. A few pike and walleye were taken off Aloha State Park.

East & West Twin Lakes: In Montmorency County produced a few perch and walleye.

Fletchers Pond: Had many soft pockets of ice that continue to be dangerous. Those using tip-ups have caught some pike.

Higgins Lake: Had ice however anglers are taking it day-by-day. Lake trout were still hitting on greys and some were jigging. Pike were taken on tip-ups on the south end off the State Park in 20 to 40 feet. For perch, try the north end off the State Park, off Big Creek and near the main island.

Houghton Lake: Still had ice but the lake was sloppy with a good inch or two of water on top. Anglers should avoid the area near the large pressure crack which runs from Heights Marina to the DNR Launch. Anglers were taking lots of pike and some walleye in eight to 12 feet with tip-ups. For bluegill and crappie, try the weed beds along the first drop-off with tear drops and wax worms.

Tawas: Had a fair amount of fishing activity in Tawas Bay near Jerry's Marina. Those with cameras could see a lot of perch, walleye and other species but nothing would bite. Lots of baitfish were reported down the holes. This was a big year for gizzard shad and with so many out there, it may keep the walleye from getting hungry enough to bite.

Tawas Lake: Had good bluegill fishing.

Au Gres: Anglers here were also seeing lots of bait fish down the holes.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: With the January thaw, steelhead fishing should be good this week so anglers will want to try the Manistee, Betsie, and Pere Marquette Rivers. Anglers are reminded that the Little Manistee River is closed to fishing until April 1.

Charlevoix County: Most anglers traveling on the inland lakes in this area were traveling by foot. The ice was layered and not of real high quality. Panfish were biting during the day and those fishing Lake Charlevoix at night were starting to catch walleye. With warmer temperatures in the low 40's this week, anglers will need to use caution.

Benzie County: Ice was thicker but not consistent so anglers should still use caution. Some perch and panfish were caught on Platte and Upper Herring Lakes.

Portage Lake: Was producing perch and walleye.

Lake Cadillac: Is giving up catches of bluegill and crappie although some sorting is required. Good pike catches on tip-ups and even a few walleye.

Lake Mitchell: Is also producing crappie and bluegills. Check out the coves. Those using tip-ups are taking a few pike and walleye.

Lake Missaukee: Was producing decent catches of pike, perch and other panfish. A few walleye were taken after dark.

Hamlin Lake: Anglers reported decent catches of panfish and a few pike on tip-ups.

Pentwater Lake: Numerous perch are being caught but most were small.

UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Gogebic: Was producing a good number of walleye and perch along the north end of the lake. Many of the walleye were 15 inches or more. Perch were hitting just south of Porcupine Point. Ice conditions can vary greatly with slush and bad ice in some locations.

Gogebic County: Bluegills are being caught on the small lakes. Crappie and perch were taken on Crooked Lake. Several pike have been caught with tip-ups on Lake Lac Vieux Desert.

Lake Antoine: Was producing a few walleye and some perch.

Menominee River: Was producing a nice mix of fish from the 6th Street Slip on the Wisconsin side. Perch, crappie, walleye and a few whitefish were caught by those jigging minnows and wax worms.

Little Bay De Noc: Cold temperatures improved the ice conditions mostly in the northern Bay. The Escanaba River area and south still remains dangerous although iced over. Shipping activity has opened areas in these waters and should be avoided. The northern Bay has ice but warm weather this week could cause problems so anglers need to use caution especially around Saunders Point, the pressure cracks and near the mouth of the rivers. Fishing in general has been very slow. The best walleye catches have come between the Second and the Third Reefs with jigging rapalas or tip-ups and minnows in 25 to 35 feet and straight out from the Day's River in 20 to 30 feet. Perch anglers had little to show but a few fish were taken on minnows near Kipling in 17 to 25 feet and in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor in eight to 10 feet. Pike have been active throughout and those targeting whitefish had fair catches near Gladstone when using minnows or spawn in 30 to 40 feet.

Munising: The bay froze over however the following areas had partial open water or were not safe: Powell Point, Grand Island and access off M-28 near Christmas. The city docks had the most activity with 15 shanties and the ice was better than the Anna River though a few anglers were still out near the Sunset Motel. Catch rates were slow with only a few undersize splake and very few whitefish. Anglers need to pay close attention to the winds which could break up the ice. Anglers and the general public are cautioned that the ice is **not** safe to access the ice caves on Grand Island.

Grand Marais: The harbor does not have any ice at this time. A few locals fishing the area inland lakes were taking some pike.

Indian Lake: Anglers were taking a few walleye.

Tahquamenon River: Rising water levels were making it very difficult to fish.

Munuscong Bay: Walleye and perch fishing were slow. Travel was slow due to slush.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing remains good in Hessel Bay. Wilderness Bay is the place to go for splake. Muskie Bay is still on the slow side for perch but was good for pike. Government Bay has produced some perch. Be extremely careful especially with the warmer temperatures.

January 26, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice conditions in the southern portions of the Lower Peninsula were not good. Even with much colder air moving into the state by the weekend, it will still take a good week or so to shore the ice back up. Anglers continue to ice fish in the Upper Peninsula.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Huron River: Had some anglers targeting steelhead.

Detroit River: Is wide open. A few boats were going out but most were sticking to the canals because of all the ice coming down. Perch anglers were fishing off the docks in the marinas and in the canals near Gibraltar but were sorting through a lot of small ones to get a few keepers.

Saginaw Bay: The January thaw has ruined the ice in many places. Ice conditions off the end of Linwood Road were “iffy” at best. A couple anglers tried open-water fishing in the Hot Pond but had no success. The perch action at Vanderbilt Park near Quanicassee was slow and many were leery of getting stuck near the access point as ice conditions were questionable. Sebewaing, Geiger Road, Mud Creek and Caseville all had poor ice conditions. There was no fishable ice at Port Austin, Grindstone City or Harbor Beach.

Saginaw River: Boat ramps along the river were almost opened up so boat anglers may be able to get out. The Rust Avenue ramp is open and the ramp at Zilwaukee should also be ice-free. There is no safe ice anywhere along the river. The middle of the river was open and had ice and debris including tree trunks moving downstream.

Tittabawassee River: Was open at Gordonville Road where boats were launching. Shore anglers were also out but catch rates were slow. Further downstream there was a lot of floating ice that can hamper fishing. The rivers have been rising constantly for a week now, and other boat ramps should be free of ice.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: The limited ice in the area was not safe. Many have moved back to river fishing until the lakes freeze back up.

St. Joseph River: Those fishing near the dams have caught a fair to good number of walleye and the occasional steelhead.

Dowagiac River: Was also producing a good number of walleye. Steelhead fishing was much slower.

Kalamazoo River: Had elevated water levels which made fishing more difficult.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Is producing some steelhead and a few walleye up near the Sixth Street Dam.

Rogue River: Anglers caught steelhead with a jig and wax worm.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mullett Lake: Anglers are urged to use extreme caution because the ice thickness has not been uniform. Anglers may find good ice in one spot and only a couple inches in another. Most were fishing the north end near Aloha State Park and Dodge Point but fishing was slow with only a couple walleye taken. A couple pike were caught off the state park and a handful of perch were taken off the launch at Lynn Road.

Higgins Lake: The ice was pulling away from the shoreline. Anglers targeting perch off the North State Park were starting to get a few smelt. Most were using minnows, wigglers or wax worms in 40 to 50 feet.

Houghton Lake: Still has ice however anglers will still need to be careful and watch for existing holes that anglers have made and pike spearing holes which expanded with the warmer weather. Caution needs to be used as the pressure crack has also gotten bigger and extends about seven miles from the south side DNR Launch all the way up to Long Point. Anglers have done well for bluegills and crappie. Bluegills were hitting on wax worms, red spikes and wigglers. Crappie were hitting on jigs with minnows. Pink, purple, chartreuse and fire-tiger were good colors. For pike, anglers were using tip-ups with golden's and suckers. The walleye bite slowed but a few were taken on rattle jigs tipped with a wiggler.

Tawas: Had light fishing pressure near Jerry's Marina, but anglers were still getting out there. Those with cameras could see a variety of fish over the artificial reef but the fish would not bite. There are vast numbers of shiners and gizzard shad down there and it's hard to compete with Mother Nature's smorgasbord. Nevertheless, a few pike were speared and one whitefish was caught.

Tawas River: Had open water but no anglers were seen.

Au Gres: Perch fishing in Wigwam Bay has slowed due to muddy water coming out of both the Rifle and Pine Rivers. Ice conditions were questionable including the area near Palmer Road where some reported four-wheelers going through the ice.

Au Gres River: Most of the river had little to no fishing activity due to poor ice conditions however surf anglers at the Singing Bridge were catching good numbers of steelhead.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Traverse City: Both the East and the West Bay are open water. Boat anglers have caught perch up to 12 inches but are sorting through a lot of small ones. They were fishing in about 60 feet near Yuba and Elk Rapids in the East Bay and in front of the Boardman River in the West Bay. The lake herring bite has been good in both bays.

Portage Lake: Was producing walleye and some very nice perch.

Lake Cadillac: Still had ice but slush and water were making travel a little more difficult. Those finding crappie and bluegills were moving from hole to hole and using dark colored jigs with spikes. Some have caught the occasional walleye. Pike continue to hit on tip-ups.

Lake Mitchell: Is also producing crappie and bluegills. Check out the coves. Those using tip-ups are taking a few pike and walleye.

Manistee River: Anglers have caught some steelhead during the warm-up.

Pere Marquette River: Steelhead anglers have done well when using spawn, flies and beads.

UPPER PENINSULA

Overall: Inland lakes in the region were getting sloppy with a couple inches of slush on top. Colder temperatures by the end of the week should shore the ice back up.

Lake Gogebic: Was producing a good number of walleye.

Menominee River: Most angling pressure has been at the 6th Street Slip where anglers have caught walleye, crappie, whitefish and a few perch when jigging wax worms or minnows.

Little Bay De Noc: Warm temperatures and rain have worsened ice conditions throughout the area. Heavy fog and slush have limited travel. A good number of

shanties were pulled before the surface refreezes. Anglers should avoid the area south of Gladstone because of dangerous ice conditions. Some were taking vehicles out on the ice however it is not recommended as several mishaps have been reported. Fishing remains slow. The better perch fishing was near Kipling with wigglers and minnows in 26 feet. There was no good spot for walleye as catches were spotty. Anglers were targeting 26 to 35 feet near Hunters Point, the Second, Third and Center Reefs. They were marking fish but finding it hard to catch them and those actually catching fish were getting undersize walleye and pike. The Escanaba Yacht Harbor also reported high numbers of small northern pike. Whitefish anglers concentrated on the Gladstone area but only a few catches were reported in 28 to 35 feet. Conditions were messy so anglers should be prepared for walking and using portable shanties.

Manistique Lakes: More slush has accumulated on the ice making travel a little more difficult. Good walleye and perch fishing were reported.

Munuscong Bay: Had a lot of slush on the ice. Walleye fishing has picked up and the perch fishing was good off Grassy Island.

Cedarville and Hessel: Still had ice with slush on top. Hessel Bay is still the place to go for perch and splake. Anglers are also fishing Wilderness Bay for splake and some larger perch. Muskie Bay is very good for pike and fair for perch.

February 2, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

While colder air will help the freezing process, recent snow cover will slow it down especially in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula. To the north, the ice held on for the most part on the inland lakes. Anglers in the Upper Peninsula continue to ice fish.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Detroit River: Some perch were caught off the docks in the marinas, in the canals, and down near the mouth.

Lake St. Clair: With the last few weeks of warm weather several people have fallen through the ice. Conditions are improving but anglers should wait a bit longer. Those thinking about trying the canals and marinas by the weekend will need to use extreme caution when venturing out on newly formed or refrozen ice.

Clinton River: Anglers caught some steelhead in certain branches.

Saginaw Bay: Ice conditions continue to be highly variable. A lot of areas that were open water have just frozen over again. Snow cover on the new ice will make it hard to judge for safety. Anglers should use extreme caution because the ice could be safe in one area and your next step may only be on ice that is a half inch thick. It should also be noted that about six anglers were stuck on an ice floe off Linwood last week so think twice about crossing the pressure cracks. The bay is not even close to being frozen all the way across, so there is nothing to keep one ice sheet attached to another. All the cuts along the east side were open and flowing. Fishing was slow but those targeting perch near shore caught some decent size fish but no large numbers. Fish were reported off Pinconning, Newman Road and Linwood Road in three to four feet. The action was very slow at the Hot Pond. On the Quanicassee River, shore anglers targeting perch had no luck. Watch the ice near Vanderbilt Park. Ice anglers at the end of Sagatoo Road caught bluegills, sunfish and crappie inside Sunset Bay Marina. From Sebawaing northward, fishing pressure was light and the newly forming ice was thin. Anglers need to be careful near Geiger Road, Bay Port and Mud Creek. The Sebawaing River is just now freezing over and the Pigeon River was still open.

Saginaw River: Had open water fishing. The river was still a bit high and fast after the recent thaw, but the clarity was improving somewhat. Most boat launches were usable but the cold weather may cause them to ice up again. Boat anglers managed to get a few walleye with bright colored jig heads tipped with shiners near the I-675 Bridge and just downstream of the U.S.S. Edson near the Independence Bridge.

Tittabawassee River: Also had open water fishing and higher water levels. Boat and shore anglers were noted near the access site at Gordonville Road but fishing was slow with only a few smaller walleye taken. Boats fishing out of the launch at Center Road had no luck.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: Most of the inland lakes especially in the southern part of the unit do not have safe ice. Anglers have been getting out on some of the smaller lakes in the northern part. The ice seems to be very spotty, so anglers need to use extreme caution and check the ice frequently when heading out to fish. Recent snowfall has not helped and will make it harder to see those areas that are not safe.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead fishing slowed once again but walleye were caught.

Kalamazoo River: Had excellent steelhead fishing but the bite will no doubt slow with the colder weather. Shore anglers took limit catches in Saugatuck and Douglas with spawn on the bottom.

Thornapple River: Anglers were having good success here as well.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Still had some steelhead up near the Sixth Street Dam. A few walleye could still be found.

Muskegon River: Was high and muddy but still producing some nice steelhead.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Burt Lake: Was producing some nice walleye in Maple Bay.

Mullett Lake: Anglers are urged to use caution when going out on the ice as some areas of the lake had thin ice. There was open water on Pigeon River Bay because of the Pigeon River. The few heading out only caught a couple perch and walleye.

Black Lake: Was producing good catches of walleye and pike on the north end.

Lake Margrethe: Was sloppy with a lot of slush but it should refreeze. There were a lot of shanties in 10 to 20 feet where anglers were targeting bluegills and perch.

Oscoda: Pier anglers were catching lake trout on minnows.

Higgins Lake: Has ice and anglers were catching perch in 45 to 65 feet and lake trout in 90 feet or more.

Houghton Lake: The large pressure crack is closing up on the ends near shore but anglers will still need to be careful out further. Anglers will still need to watch for spearing holes which will take longer to refreeze. The lake is rough and has ruts now that the slush is freezing. The walleye bite was slow. Anglers were using jigs with blues or jigs with wax worms. If the fish are not hitting, change it up and go smaller. The pike have been very active and providing good catches. For panfish, the bluegill bite was good. Some were getting crappie and even a few perch.

Tawas: Those spearing pike got a few on Tawas Bay. Walleye and perch fishing out near Jerry's Marina remained slow. Inside the state harbor, anglers saw lots of shiners and shad down the holes, but they also noted the presence of large lake trout feeding on the abundant baitfish. A few had lake trout on, but none were landed.

Au Gres: The bay off the Pine River mouth and Palmer Road was still muddy, and there was very little fishing pressure.

Au Gres River: Some perch were taken out of the lower river and the Northport Marina basin. Down at the mouth of Whitney Drain (Singing Bridge access site), open-water anglers caught steelhead in the lower river and when surfcasting with spawn bags.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Ice in this area survived the warm up for the most part and was already firming back up with the cold temperatures. Deep snow may hamper travel in certain areas. Steelhead fishing was decent but the number of anglers will drop off again until the next thaw.

Charlevoix County: Deer Lake was producing perch and pike, Hoffman Lake was producing perch and Thumb Lake anglers were getting perch and splake.

Lake Charlevoix: The South Arm had ice but conditions were iffy at Ironton near Holy Island. There is some work being done at the marina at Ironton and anglers should avoid this area.

Lake Bellaire: Had a good walleye bite in 25 to 30 feet.

Lake Skegemog: Was producing some nice perch.

Traverse City: Both the East and the West Bay were open water. Deep snow at the launches was making it difficult for boat anglers. If they can get out, they should still find some yellow perch and lake herring.

South Lake Leelanau: Perch were caught in 15 feet by the “Narrows”. Walleye were caught on emerald shiners in 20 to 25 feet.

Green Lake: Ice anglers were targeting smelt.

Portage Lake: Ice fishing continues and anglers were getting some nice perch between the two camps. Pike anglers using tip-ups were taking fish.

Lake Cadillac: The ice was holding and the slush has frozen back up. The panfish bite slowed but crappie were caught. Anglers could see fish but they did not want to bite. Walleye were still hitting and those spearing have taken pike

Lake Mitchell: The ice was holding here as well and the slush has frozen. Panfish were slow but anglers were spearing pike and getting the occasional walleye.

Lake Missaukee: Anglers have caught pike, walleye and panfish.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Had no ice. Cold nights have produced some skim ice only to be blown out by morning.

Houghton County: Anglers reported good success for large pike and walleye on Portage Lake and in Chassell Bay.

Lake Gogebic: Was producing walleye and jumbo perch.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice conditions have improved slightly with the colder nights but most anglers are still fishing north of the Escanaba River. Deep ruts from melting and refreezing have made travel difficult in some areas so use caution. For walleye, a few catches were reported off the reefs near Kipling but the action was spotty. Anglers were reporting good numbers of undersize fish in most areas. They were jigging rapalas and using tip-ups in 22 to 30 feet. Some perch were caught on minnows and wigglers in 17 to 28 feet at the First and Second Reefs. Northern pike have been fairly abundant throughout. Good catches were reported in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor.

Munuscong Bay: Had good walleye success. Perch fishing seems to pick up and then slow back down. The best spots were north of Pine and Grassy Islands or between Pine and Gull Islands. The ice was not quite thick enough for deep water fishing. Please use caution.

Cedarville and Hessel: Anglers are fishing Wilderness Bay for yellow perch and splake. Hessel Bay was producing a good number of perch. Muskie Bay picked up for perch and pike, especially at Rice Point. Pike spearing was good in Urie Bay. Little Joe Island in Cedarville Bay was producing some nice perch.

February 9, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Ice fishing is going strong to the north but those fishing in the southern areas of the state will need to use extreme caution especially with the ever-changing temperatures and rain. Rivers will be elevated and stained after the last rain.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Detroit River: Had very little fishing activity. The ice was not safe in the canals and the marinas and ice floe coming down the river is hampering access for boat anglers.

Lake St. Clair: Conditions continue to be highly variable and very unpredictable. Main lake ice was beginning to form this past week but the rain and warm temperatures will be a setback once again. Anglers should proceed with caution.

Saginaw Bay: Ice conditions were not good to start with and after the rain, they are even worse. So much water on the ice will make it very slippery and will make it much harder to tell where the thin ice is. Anglers will need to use extreme caution. A handful of seven to nine-inch perch were taken off White's Beach out near the first crack. No anglers were going out beyond the first crack for fear of being caught on an ice floe. Perch were taken off Sunny Cove which is at the end of Knickerbocker Road in six to seven feet and off Newman Road in four to five feet. The perch bite off Linwood was hit-or-miss. Be sure to watch for soft spots in the ice out there. The best perch fishing was off Vanderbilt Park near Quanicassee. Anglers fishing up the east side toward Hidden Harbor (Tietz Drain) reported limit catches of perch 10 to 15 inches taken in five to eight feet. A few panfish were taken in Sunset Bay Marina. The Coast Guard had to go out and get a group of guys out in the Slot so the pressure crack out there must be active. Fishing from Sebewaing to Caseville was light and scattered and catch rates were hit-or-miss. Those getting perch were sorting through the small ones. There are four large areas of open water off Mud Creek and they seem to be getting bigger so extreme caution must be used. Some nice lake trout were caught through the ice near the breakwall at Caseville when jigging spoons tipped with minnows.

Saginaw River: A few perch were caught on the ice inside the Yacht Club at the mouth. Most of the boat ramps along the river had frozen up again, limiting angler access. There's no ice to fish on, so it's boats or shore fishing only. Some were launching small boats under the I-675 Bridge in Saginaw. They caught a lot of undersize walleye but were still getting a few keepers. Try pink jig-heads with minnows. The rivers will be running high, fast and muddy after all the rain.

Tittabawassee River: Had a lot of floating ice which hindered fishing. There was some open water up by Gordonville Road and Mapleton, but fishing was pretty slow with only an occasional walleye taken. The Gordonville ramp was iced in and not useable.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: Small shallow lakes and shallow or protected bays were providing some ice fishing opportunities however large lakes or lakes with any flow were not safe. In the Kalamazoo area, the word is very little safe ice. Most lakes in the area opened up after the last warm up and were not considered safe. Closer to Lansing, anglers were fishing a few lakes however ice conditions are variable. Anglers should use extreme caution. Flow in the rivers is above average and will continue to climb for the next couple days.

St. Joseph River: Water levels were up and stained. The rain and warm temperatures increased the steelhead bite.

Kalamazoo River: Had some fresh steelhead move up into the river. Those using spawn or small spoons have caught fish.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has plenty of steelhead including some fresh fish moving up into the system. The Rogue River also had some fish being caught when anglers could find a spot with no ice.

Grand River at Lansing: Anglers were getting a few pike near the North Lansing Dam. Most were using live bait under a bobber.

Maple River: Was producing a few pike near the Elsie Dam.

Jackson County: There was no safe ice and no ice fishing on Wamplers Lake.

Muskegon River: Steelhead and some brown trout were caught in the slower waters.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mullett Lake: Still has ice however anglers should avoid the areas near the inlets and outlets. A few walleye have been caught around Needle Point in 20 feet. Pike and walleye were taken in Pigeon River Bay.

Higgins Lake: Has ice but anglers need to be careful where there are springs along the shoreline and near the creek mouths. Lake trout are being caught on minnows about five feet off the bottom in 80 to 100 feet. Perch were caught but anglers are sorting through the small ones. Hot spots were the North State Park, near the Sunken and the Main Island, off the Garrish Township Park and off Flag Point in 40 to 60 feet. Most were using jigs with minnows, wigglers and wax worms. A few smelt have been caught at night near the North State Park and Big Creek. The fish were near the bottom in about 50 feet. Pike were taken on tip-ups but those spearing were not doing as well.

Houghton Lake: Some were fishing around the large pressure crack but caution needs to be used. The walleye bite picked up and some were reporting limit catches. Pike are still hitting on tip-ups. No word pike spearing. The panfish bite was hit-or-miss.

Tawas: Not much effort was reported over the last week. A couple pike were speared, and a couple menominee and some small perch were caught. No walleye have been recorded so far this winter.

Au Gres: Some perch were caught in the Northport Marina.

Au Gres River: Fishing in the river and the adjacent bayou was slow. In the East Branch, steelhead fishing slowed in the lower river near the Singing Bridge and for those surfcasting.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Charlevoix: The South Arm was producing steelhead, pike and some walleye.

Lake Bellaire: Night anglers were taking walleye in about 25 feet.

Traverse City: Both the East and the West Bay were open water. Boats were still launching however catch rates were slow.

Boardman River: Was producing some fresh steelhead.

Crystal Lake: In Benzie County still had open water.

Green Lake: Those targeting smelt have done well off the National Music Camp. Try small minnows in 35 to 50 feet. Anglers were fishing the far south end and getting smelt. The bite was best about 4 p.m. and again between 7 and 9 p.m.

Portage Lake: Ice anglers reported a slow bite. They can see fish down the holes however they could not get them to bite. Those using tip-ups were still catching pike.

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing is going strong with good catches of pike, panfish and the occasional walleye. Anglers were taking snowmobiles and quads out. The canal that connects the two lakes is open water so caution needs to be used.

Lake Mitchell: Also has good ice and lots of anglers taking pike on tip-ups with minnows. Panfish were hitting on minnows, wigglers and wax worms. Some have taken the occasional walleye.

Lake Missaukee: Had good ice as well. Anglers were taking a fair to good number of pike, panfish and a few walleye.

Big Star Lake: Was producing panfish for those using minnow, wigglers and wax worms. Pike are hitting on tip-ups with big minnows.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Still had no ice. Shore anglers have caught some coho, steelhead, brown trout and lake herring when casting spoons. Silver and orange were good colors.

Menominee River: Anglers fishing from the 6th Street ramp caught a few perch, walleye, whitefish and crappie.

Little Bay De Noc: Had very little change in ice conditions. A few anglers were fishing south of the Escanaba River but ice conditions are very dangerous and anglers should avoid this area. Overall fishing was slow although perch remained fair. Walleye catches were low with most fish undersize. Most were fishing near Kipling and the First, Second and Third Reefs with minnows and wigglers in 24 to 30 feet. The best perch catches were in 17 to 30 feet near Kipling. Pike catches slowed but fish were still taken in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor, near Gladstone, and out from the Terrace Bay Inn and the Day's River with tip-ups and sucker minnows in 10 to 35 feet.

Munising: Received eight to 10 inches of snow. Snow squalls and blowing snow along with a lot of slush on the ice will make travel difficult. Anglers were ice fishing off Brown's Public Launch, the city docks, the Anna River, and Sand Point. There was some slush on the ice. There was open water between Sand Point and Grand Island so access to the ice caves is not possible. Areas that are unsafe or questionable are off the Grand Island Ferry access, Powell Point, Sand Point and towards the "green can" off Christmas. Catch rates were hit-or-miss. Some did well with a few limit catches of whitefish. For splake, most of the fish caught were undersize. Catch rates for perch were low. Spearing shacks off the Anna River report slow action for lake herring. Water clarity was somewhat muddy.

Grand Marais: Had no fishable ice.

Munuscong Bay: Walleye fishing was spotty. The better fishing was around Grassy Island, north of Pine Island, and between Gull and Pine Islands. Perch are scattered all over the bay with low harvest numbers being reported. Splake fishing is good especially in Wilderness Bay. Be very careful on the ice and stay out of the deep water because the ice there was not safe.

Cedarville and Hessel: Perch fishing in Musky Bay has declined but the pike fishing was very good. Those targeting perch have done well in Hessel Bay and around Little Joe Island.

February 16, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Michigan's annual "Winter Free Fishing Weekend" will be held this Saturday February 18th and Sunday February 19th. No fishing license is required however all regulations still apply. Special events will be held statewide, will be subject to weather conditions and may be cancelled if there is no safe ice. For a list of registered events, click here: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52261_50497-372353--,00.html

With temperatures well above normal by the weekend and into next week, anglers will need to be very careful and watch for changing and or deteriorating ice conditions. Ice fishing especially in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula may be done for this year. Even if there is no fishable ice in certain parts of the state this weekend, anglers may find some open water fishing.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Is open water and walleye anglers have been out in boats. The Metro Park launch has a couple docks in.

Huron River: Anglers caught the occasional steelhead and even a couple walleye.

Detroit River: Had good perch fishing with many fish moving into shallow waters in the canals and inlets. Boat and shore anglers have done well with minnows and perch rigs. Boat anglers still need to be careful as ice is still coming down the river.

Lake St. Clair: The main lake is mostly open water. The canals and marina ice is very questionable.

Saginaw Bay: This may be the last week of fishable ice depending on what the weather does. Strong winds from the west did not help. Ice conditions will be day-to-day for the rest of the winter. Some nice catches of perch were taken off the end of Cody-Estey Road. There was still fishable ice from Palmer Road south to Pinconning and Newman Roads however the ice at the end of Linwood Road was honeycombed and did not look safe. The ice sheet is well offshore from Linwood down to the Bay City State Park. Even the shore ice is gone at the state park. They're still fishing off

Vanderbilt Park near Quanicassee where the perch fishing was very good last week with perch up to 14 inches taken. The ice blew out at Thomas Road late last week but then it blew back in with the strong winds on Sunday. The connection between the shore ice and the sheet ice was not good and no one should try jumping the crack to get to the offshore ice or you may find yourself taking a long ride on a sheet of ice. There is visible open water offshore from most access points so anglers need to use extreme caution. Beware of the ice at Caseville. It may have broken up after the strong winds.

Saginaw River: Most boat ramps were still iced in, but a few guys were launching small boats from shore at Wickes Park and beneath the I-675 Bridge. Launches that were open were Rust Avenue, the Zilwaukee Ramp, and below the Independence Bridge. All the other ramps in Bay City were iced in but might open up by next week. The river was pretty fast and muddy and fishing was slow.

Tittabawassee River: Had a good number of boat and shore anglers at the launch at Gordonville Road but fishing was slow. The boats that went up to the Dow Dam got a few walleye, but the boats and shore anglers around Gordonville Road and Mapleton really didn't catch much. Further downstream, ice hinders shore fishing and the launch ramps were iced in.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: Some lakes still had enough soft ice to prevent boating, but were not safe to walk on. Lake Macatawa had shoreline ice only. Gull Lake is open with ice in the protected coves and along the shoreline.

St. Joseph: Boat anglers are getting out for some early brown trout, coho and steelhead action on Lake Michigan.

St. Joseph River: Had high water levels but the steelhead action was good.

Black River: Was producing the occasional steelhead.

Saugatuck: Boat anglers were out for coho, brown trout and steelhead.

Kalamazoo River: Was open and accessible by boat. Anglers have caught good numbers of steelhead and brown trout. Most fish are dark and appear to be winter holdovers.

Rabbit River: A couple steelhead were caught at the Hamilton Dam when drifting bright yarn flies or spawn.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers were heading out for steelhead, brown trout and coho.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has steelhead up near the dam and a couple walleye have been caught.

Grand River at Lansing: Had very few anglers and those out had no luck. Steelhead are moving around but no fish were spotted beyond the Webber Dam.

Muskegon River: Water levels were still on the high side but coming down. Steelhead fishing was slow but some walleye were caught below Croton Dam.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Burt Lake: Had excellent walleye fishing off Hoppies Tavern and Roberts Road. Anglers are fishing early morning or late afternoon. Not many perch were caught but a good number of burbot have been caught along with the walleye.

Mullett Lake: Still had good ice but overall fishing was slow. A few pike have been speared or caught on tip-ups in Pigeon River Bay and off Needle Point. Perch were caught in front of the library in Topinabee in 30 to 40 feet and off Dodge Point. No significant numbers of walleye have been caught.

Black Lake: Had good catches of walleye and pike on the north end.

Higgins Lake: Lake trout anglers are doing well in 80 to 100 feet with greys on tip-ups or jigging Swedish pimples and sand kickers. Perch have been found off the North State Park, Evergreen Park, the Sunken and the Main Islands and south of Flag Point and Point Detroit. The key is to target 40 to 60 feet and move around. Those jigging for lake trout have caught a few whitefish. Pike were taken on tip-ups with sucker minnows in 45 feet or so along the drop-off. For smelt, anglers are using wax worms and spikes with Hali jigs near the bottom at night in about 50 feet off the North State Park. There should be lots of anglers out for Winterfest this weekend.

Houghton Lake: Still has good pike action. Anglers were getting a good number of bluegills but are sorting out some small ones. Work the weed beds in 6 to 12 feet with wigglers and wax worms. The walleye bite was still slow but should pick up soon. Anglers still need to use caution near the large pressure crack.

Tawas: Ice fishing in Tawas Bay continued to be slow. Anglers report seeing walleye down their holes but nobody can get them to bite. A few small perch were caught. Those spearing for pike did well in 15 feet.

Au Gres: Anglers continue to take some perch in the Northport Marina. Down at the Pine River/Palmer Road vicinity, there were a lot of anglers and quite a few limit catches of perch were taken in about eight feet. The fish ranged seven to 10 inches or more. Anglers also caught and released undersize walleye.

Au Gres River: Down at Singing Bridge, a couple steelhead were taken in the lower river and in the surf when using spawn bags.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Bear Lake: In Kalkaska County had good trout fishing for those using tip-ups with minnows in 40 feet.

Lake Skegemog: Had fair to good perch fishing.

Traverse City: Both the East and the West Bay are open water and boat anglers are heading out.

Portage Lake: Still had lots of ice fishing going on however the west end of the lake had open water. Anglers have caught a number of large perch.

Lake Cadillac: Ice fishing continues and those targeting panfish were taking bluegills, crappie and some perch. The walleye bite was hit-or-miss but anglers have caught some nice fish.

Lake Mitchell: Pike fishing has been good and the fish are still feeding. Some are using tip-ups while others are spearing. Fair to good panfish action continues.

Lake Missaukee: Anglers are still ice fishing and taking pike, a few walleye and some panfish.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Pack ice blew in and froze up. Anglers walking out at the head of the bay had limited success. Shore ice on the Baraga side looks poor and no anglers were out. L'Anse had the most anglers fishing in front of the Falls River but catch rates were slow. Use extreme caution going out as the ice pack is unpredictable and hard to walk on. Take your time, use cleats and spud your way out.

Menominee River: Open water anglers were trying for walleye and whitefish below the Hattie Street Dam. Those at the 6th Street Slip were still catching walleye, crappie, perch and whitefish.

Little Bay De Noc: Had a slow week and low angler participation. Walleye catches have been down all winter and anglers have been unable to fish the southern waters where most of the walleye are because of poor ice conditions. Anglers did report some walleye caught in various locations when jigging wigglers or minnows in 20 to 30 feet. No high number of perch but some decent size fish have been caught. Good numbers of small pike were taken in the Escanaba Yacht Harbor. Warmer temperatures could cause some problems for ice anglers.

Munising: The action was slow. Anglers were mainly targeting whitefish and splake with eggs. A few were using minnows for splake but most of the fish were undersize. Some were able to get a few nice catches of whitefish averaging 15 inches at the city docks, the Anna River access and Sand Point. A couple anglers caught splake in the West Channel near the Clay Banks and off the red can near Christmas. Trout Bay did not have any fishable ice. With last week's heavy snowfall, travel on the ice has been difficult because of heavy slush and water.

Grand Marais: Still had no fishable ice.

Indian Lake: In Schoolcraft County was producing some perch and a few walleye.

Cedarville and Hessel: Anglers targeting perch in Hessel Bay reported taking between five and ten fish ranging seven to 11 inches when jigging a combination of natural and artificial baits in and around 15 feet. Anglers were sorting through the small ones. Those targeting splake had very little success. Muskie Bay anglers were targeting pike and caught a few perch. The Les Cheneaux Islands had moderate fishing activity.

February 23, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Open water fishing was the rule in southern half of the Lower Peninsula. The northern half still had ice but anglers will need to be cautious and watch for changing ice conditions. Ice fishing on the Upper Peninsula inland lakes was still going strong.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Boat anglers are heading out. Most walleye were caught in Ohio waters.

Detroit River: Has had a lot of boat anglers. No word on walleye yet but perch anglers were taking fish at the Cross Dyke near Sugar Island, in Airport Bay and in the canals around Grosse Ile.

Lake St. Clair: The Michigan side is all open water. A few boats have been launching and fishing, but no catches to report.

St. Clair River: No ice is flowing and Lake Huron looks to be almost completely ice free. Anglers have been out trolling, whipping and jigging with the warm weather.

Saginaw Bay: **Stay off the ice! There is no safe ice or even remotely walkable ice anywhere on the bay!!** Most of the cuts and rivers around the bay are wide open and can provide some shore fishing for perch. Boat anglers were fishing the lower Quanicassee River.

Saginaw River: Had lots of fishing activity with all the boat launches from Saginaw to Bay City open and useable. There are lots of undersize walleye in the river as many reported catching 50 to 75 short ones in order to get five or six fish over 13 inches. Most are using bright colored jig heads with shiners or plastic scented tails but some were jigging rapalas. The best fishing seemed to be in the middle of the shipping channel in the deepest water. Most were vertical jigging but some would anchor and cast.

Tittabawassee River: Had lots of boat anglers. All of the boat ramps were open including Imerman Park. A lot of shore anglers were also out but the walleye fishing was very slow. Most anglers caught none but a couple boat anglers up near the Dow Dam did manage to get a couple. The water is really cold yet, and it does not appear that the spring walleye run from the bay into the rivers has gotten underway yet.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: Ice fishing is done for now. Most lakes are open water or nearly ice free. Boat anglers were out in good numbers. **Stay off any remaining ice, it is not safe!**

St. Joseph: Pier anglers have caught chinook, coho and brown trout.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead fishing was very good. The fish are starting to move upstream and were moving through the fish ladder at the Berrien Springs Dam.

Black River: Still had some steelhead being caught.

Saugatuck: Boat anglers were still heading out and catching coho, brown trout and steelhead.

Kalamazoo River: Also had very good steelhead fishing. Fish were caught both below Calkins Dam and throughout the river.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers trolling close to shore have caught coho, steelhead and the occasional brown trout.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Has had very good steelhead fishing with limit catches reported. Boat and shore anglers are using fresh skein, spawn bags, wax worms and wigglers. A fair to good number of walleye were also caught.

Muskegon River: Had a good number of boat anglers over the last week. Most have caught steelhead and a few hooked into and lost walleye below Croton Dam.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Burt Lake: On the good days, anglers were taking near limit catches of walleye in front of Hopper's Tavern and off Greenman's Point. A good number of jumbo perch were caught in Maple Bay.

Mullett Lake: The ice was holding so far with the warm up though the area near the outlet of the Pigeon River was not safe. Slush could be an issue until colder weather returns. Fishing has been slow and catch rates were low. The best spots for perch

were in Scotts Bay off the Blue Water Shores area in 30 feet, in the "Humps" off Dodge Point in 25 feet or in front of Topinabee in 20 to 35 feet. Catches of 10 to 15 fish was considered a good day for perch. A few walleye were also caught in the same areas. The pike action slowed with only a couple fish caught.

Oscoda: Pier anglers reported good brown trout and lake trout fishing.

Higgins Lake: Is losing some ice with the warm weather however anglers were still out fishing. Lake trout were still hitting in deeper water. Smelt are still being caught but not in big numbers. Fish were found in 40 to 60 feet off the North State Park and off the west side launch.

Houghton Lake: The ice was holding however the lake has lost some shoreline ice and anglers should stay away from the large pressure crack which has opened up more with warm spell. Bluegill fishing was good but anglers will have to find them. The bigger fish were caught in 12 to 14 feet. Crappie were caught in eight to 10 feet. Pike and walleye fishing were slow however bass were starting to hit.

Tawas: **Stay off the ice! There is no safe ice or even remotely walkable ice anywhere on the bay.**

Au Gres: Rivers in the area are open. The Rifle River in particular was fairly low and clear and well suited for steelhead fishing right now. No signs of suckers running yet; it is too early and the water is still too cold.

Au Gres River: There was a lot of fishing activity up at the Singing Bridge access site. Steelhead were caught on spawn by those surfcasting or fishing the lower river.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: Anglers were still ice fishing in this area of the state however caution should still be used during the warm weather. Check the ice as you go and avoid areas near natural springs as well as inlets and outlets where water is constantly flowing.

Lake Charlevoix: Still had ice but the lake was sloppy with slush and water on top.

Green Lake: Had good fishing for smelt on the southwest side. Anglers were fishing about 40 feet straight off the launch where it gets deep fast. There were quite a few people out there so look for the cluster of ice shanties. The depth varies as the fish rise in the water column to feed on zooplankton. Start near the bottom as it is getting dark and gradually work up. The ice was holding but who knows for how long.

Lake Cadillac: Still had ice however anglers should watch for quickly changing ice conditions. The recent bite was hit-or-miss. Anglers did manage to get some bluegills and crappie.

Lake Mitchell: Anglers were still ice fishing for panfish and pike.

Lake Missaukee: Anglers are still ice fishing and taking pike and panfish. The walleye bite slowed.

UPPER PENINSULA

Overall: Inland lakes in the western end were ice covered with heavy slush on the surface. The return of much cooler temperatures should lock the ice back up and ice fishing will continue. Anglers will be able to try Lake Gogebic for walleye and the Lac Vieux Desert Flowage for bluegills and crappie.

Keweenaw Bay: The ice blew out and the bay was open for trolling. Boat anglers have opportunities for brown trout, splake, and lake trout off the Sand Point Lighthouse on the west side and the Falls River off the village of L'Anse. A few coho were caught casting spoons from shore near the Sand Point Lighthouse in Baraga. Anglers putting in small boats at the Sand Point beach had limited success for coho and lake trout.

Menominee River: Was producing a few brown trout and steelhead up near the Hattie Street Dam. Anglers were using small spoons, stick baits, streamers or nymphs.

Little Bay De Noc: Unseasonably warm weather has impacted ice conditions. Areas around Escanaba and Saunders Point in Gladstone had open water. **The area near the Escanaba River was considered dangerous and should be avoided.** Anglers were still fishing the north end of the bay however watch for changing conditions with the warm weather. Walleye anglers reported a few nice catches in deep water off the Second Reef when jigging rapalas with minnows or using tip-ups with minnows in 32 to 35 feet. Perch anglers did best near Kipling with minnows or wigglers in 17 to 30 feet and off the Day's River in 14 to 26 feet. Those looking to travel to the area might want to call the local bait shops for updates on ice conditions.

Munising: Ice conditions have deteriorated and were **NOT** safe at the Grand Island Ferry Access and the Munising Public Launch. The city docks, Sand Point, and Christmas access areas were holding somewhat fishable ice but anglers need to use caution. Soft ice and slushy conditions will only get worse before it turns cold again. Whitefish anglers had poor success. For splake, those using cut bait or minnows with jigs or tip-ups did better. It appears the splake are eating good numbers of smelt. Small perch were caught near Sand Point. Smelt catches in the same area were fair. A few coho and the occasional brown trout were caught recently. The Anna River dock is open enough from the mouth to the river where anglers can fish from the dock but the water clarity was somewhat muddy and they had no luck. The mouth of Furnace Creek is open approximately 50 to 100 feet along the shoreline.

Grand Marais: Had no fishable ice. No anglers were steelhead fishing off the pier or the Sucker River. Action on the area inland lakes has been good.

March 2, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Anglers are reminded that the 2017 Fishing Licenses went on sale starting Wednesday, March 1. This gives anglers one month to purchase their new license before they are required to on April 1. And be sure to hold on to your current copy of the Michigan Fishing Guide as it covers the rules and regulations for both 2016 and 2017!

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: Boat anglers at Luna Pier caught walleye when trolling crank baits in waters up to 20 feet deep. Panfish were taken in the Metro Park Marina.

Huron River: Anglers caught steelhead and a couple walleye.

Detroit River: Boat and shore anglers were getting some nice perch down at the mouth, around the islands and in the marinas. Most were using perch rigs and spreaders.

Lake St. Clair: Boat anglers will find two docks in at the Harley Ensign launch and 1 at the Fairhaven launch. Selfridge had no docks in yet. At Crocker, dredging to remove the muck will begin soon. Some good perch catches were taken from Anchor Bay and the Grosse Pointe areas.

St. Clair River: Had reports of anglers starting to catch walleye in the North Channel.

Saginaw Bay: Had no fishing in Linwood as the ice was poor. Anglers were fishing the Hot Ponds but no reports came in. A few eight to 10 inch perch were caught in the cut off Finn Road when using tiny tube jigs under a bobber. Quanicassee and Thomas Road had no anglers. At Sebewaing, perch fishing in the marina was slow to fair with no limit catches but lots of sorting. No report for Geiger Road to Bay Port as the ice was poor and not fishable. Caseville and Mud Creek were very murky. Perch fishing was spotty for those putting in a lot of time.

Saginaw River: Had good walleye fishing especially near downtown Saginaw and around the train bridge but once again rain slowed the bite. Some perch were caught in the channel from the state launch to the mouth. Those fishing downstream had to work a bit harder. Blue ice minnows and chartreuse heads worked best.

Tittabawassee River: Also had good fishing for boat and shore anglers before the rain. Anglers were using chartreuse ice minnows and chartreuse heads. Shore anglers casting along Dice Road near Apple Mountain caught some walleye. One angler had a limit catch but fished all day for it. Most are casting jig heads with twister tails. Hot colors were chartreuse and white.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Boat and pier anglers have caught coho, steelhead and brown trout.

St. Joseph River: All the fish ladders are now open. Steelhead fishing continues to be good. The bite is better when the water is warming so the warmer days are best.

Black River: Steelhead were caught in South Haven.

Kalamazoo River: Had a lot of boat anglers catching steelhead especially on the warmer days. Most are using spawn.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers trolling close to shore have caught coho, steelhead and the occasional brown trout. Pier anglers have also caught a few fish.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Continues to have good steelhead fishing with lots of fish caught. Most are using fresh skein, spawn bags, wax worms or wigglers up near the 6th Street Dam. A few walleye are still being caught.

Grand River near Lansing: All the fish ladders are now open. During the warm up, pike and smallmouth bass were caught at the North Lansing Dam. No big numbers but a couple steelhead and walleye were caught at the point where the Grand meets the Red Cedar.

Muskegon River: Has a good number of steelhead. Boat anglers drifting have done well throwing streamers and stoneflies. The walleye are up near Croton Dam however catching them has not been easy.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mullett Lake: The ice firmed back up but there is a lot of open water in Pigeon River Bay. Anglers need to be careful around Dodge Point and Mullett Creek as well. Overall, there was very little fishing pressure. Those heading out caught a few perch near Round Point and between Aloha and Dodge Point in 30 to 45 feet.

Alpena: Thunder Bay had open water but a strong east wind could bring ice back in.

Thunder Bay River: Had open water.

Hubbard Lake: Had good walleye fishing but has shut down with the ice deteriorating. The shelf ice was poor and limiting access to the lake.

Oscoda: Boat and pier anglers are taking some nice lake trout. Boat anglers are trolling rapalas and the pier anglers are casting spoons. Gold and orange or silver and orange were good colors.

Au Sable River: Steelhead are just getting started and were caught all the way up to Foote Dam.

Higgins Lake: The shoreline ice was breaking up. Be careful along the west shoreline especially near Big Creek. Anglers still had access at the North State Park launch and the west launch.

Houghton Lake: The shoreline ice is breaking up making it hard for anglers to get out. The rain and warm temperatures continue to soften the ice. Pike have been caught in 5 to 6 feet with a teardrop and wax worm.

Tawas: Did not have much to report. Any remaining ice in the bay was not safe.

Tawas River: Had a few suckers in it but the river was very muddy.

Au Gres: Had no reports. Eagle Bay Marina at the end of Sagatoo Road had open water and pockets of ice that were bad. Slow fishing except for a few perch.

Au Gres River: Water at the Singing Bridge was very muddy. A few anglers tried surfcasting but had no luck.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Little Glen Lake: In Leelanau County had a few anglers go through the ice. Use caution.

Boardman River: Anglers were steelhead fishing between the mouth and Sabin Dam.

Green Lake: Had more than one report of unsafe ice conditions. Shoreline ice was deteriorating and anglers had not been out since the last warm spell.

Crystal Lake: In Benzie County had a couple anglers go through the ice.

Lake Cadillac: Still had some ice fishing however ice around the shoreline was not good. Avoid the areas with open water especially near the mouth of the canal where water flows into Lake Mitchell.

Lake Mitchell: Still had ice fishing as well but stay away from the canal. Pike and crappie were caught in the early morning and at night.

Lake Missaukee: Ice anglers had small catches of pike, perch and crappie.

Portage Lake: Completely opened up and ice fishing was halted.

Manistee Lake: Completely opened up and ice fishing was halted.

Manistee River: Had good steelhead fishing. Anglers were using jigs with a wax worm or spawn and beads.

Pere Marquette River: Had good steelhead fishing with the warmer weather. A good number of fish were reported near the Custer Bridge where anglers were getting some limit catches.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The ice has been gone for a week now. The warmer weather had a few boats out trolling stick baits for coho or jigging for whitefish with Swedish pimples. The launch was open in Baraga however ice did once again stack up at the launch. Conditions here change daily. Shore casting was slow. The Falls River was still frozen.

Menominee River: Those fishing the Hattie Street Dam have caught trout, whitefish and walleye with small spoons and stick baits.

Little Bay De Noc: Very warm temperatures last week have made ice conditions very dangerous. Some anglers were still fishing but were walking out only. From Escanaba north to Kipling there are patches of open water mostly around the edges. Colder temperatures and heavy snow could mask bad ice conditions so please use caution when traveling the Bay. Angler participation was very low. Walleye anglers mostly fished around the Second Reef in 25 to 35 feet. They were marking fish but few catches were reported. Perch anglers fishing the First Reef had good catches of small fish using minnows or wigglers in 10 to 20 feet. Small fish were also caught around the Second Reef in 20 to 30 feet.

Munising: Warm temperatures in the mid 50's deteriorated ice conditions and even though temperatures dropped back into the 20's, most anglers feel the ice has not firmed back up. Anglers should avoid these areas: Bay Furnace area and the red can access off M-28 at Christmas, Powell Point, Grand Island Access, Brown public access and Sand Point where an angler actually fell through.

Snow and slush will create soft spots and mask areas that are not safe. Extreme caution needs to be used. The better access site was the Anna River city docks. Catch rates were low with only a couple nice splake taken by those jigging rapalas or Swedish pimples. Those using cut bait or minnows did better than those using eggs. A few anglers reported a couple schools of herring and smelt off the Anna River. For smelt, try a teardrop with wax worms or mousies. Some were jigging for coho off the Ann River but had no luck.

Grand Marais: Had no fishable ice in the harbor. Heavy ice cover on the pier prevented anglers from targeting whitefish. No anglers were at the Sucker River.

Cedarville and Hessel: Muskie Bay in Cedarville had anglers targeting perch and pike. Catch rates for perch increased with some getting 20 to 40 fish that were eight to 12 inches. Catch rates for pike were slow for those using tip-ups or spears. Those getting a few keepers had a fair number of throwbacks. Anglers should avoid the Middle Channel which has open water. The ice was holding in Hessel Bay however the ice has disappeared along the shoreline around some of the islands. Use caution. Those targeting perch had mixed results and catch rates were day-to-day. The good days saw up to 25 keepers and the off days had maybe one or two. The fish ranged seven to 11 inches. Most were jigging a combination of natural and artificial baits in 15 feet. Both minnows and wigglers had success. The Les Cheneaux Island area had moderate fishing activity.

March 9, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Anglers are reminded that walleye, pike and muskellunge season on the Upper Peninsula Great Lakes, inland waters, St. Marys River and all the Lower Peninsula inland waters will close at midnight on Wednesday, March 15. Walleye and pike season is open all year on the Lower Peninsula Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and the Detroit River.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Huron River: Was producing some steelhead and the occasional walleye but the bite will slow once again with the colder weather.

Detroit River: Boat anglers continue to take some nice perch especially around the islands. Fish have also been caught in the marinas and at the mouth. Most are using perch rigs and minnows.

Lake St. Clair: Conditions have not been ideal this week and not many anglers were out. Water clarity has been impacted by all the wind.

Clinton River: The steelhead run was just getting started. Warming temperatures are needed to get the fish moving. Only a few have been caught in the deeper holes. There were no fish on the gravel yet.

St. Clair River: Some were targeting walleye and steelhead but catch rates were low.

Saginaw Bay: Had very little to report as the ice has broken up and it has been too windy for boats to get out. The only boat launch open along the west side was the DNR ramp at the mouth of the Saginaw River (Patterson Road). The few boats able to get out were having a hard time finding clean water to fish in. Perch fishing was hit-or-miss but worth pursuing in a variety of ditches and rivers along the south end and the east side including Finn Road, the Quanicassee River, Garner Road, Kirk Road and Thomas Road. Perch were taken on perch rigs and minnows or tiny tube jigs cast and retrieved under a small bobber, similar to crappie fishing.

Perch were also caught from the Sebewaing River, the access site at Bay Port, the basin at Bayshore Marina, and Mud Creek. The bigger fish might run into one creek today and another one tomorrow, so a good strategy for this type of fishing is to hit a spot for no more than a half hour, then move on to the next spot if the first one doesn't produce fish.

Saginaw River: Fishing over the last week has been poor. The river was high, fast and muddy. Conditions are improving if we don't get more rain.

Tittabawassee River: Shore anglers caught a few walleye in the south end of Midland near Gerace Construction. Catch rates further downriver were very slow.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: Pier anglers are catching some coho, brown trout and steelhead. When the weather permits, boat anglers willing to go out to 200 feet have taken limit catches of coho when trolling orange plugs and spoons 50 to 80 feet down.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead are still moving up into the river but the water is high and dirty in most locations making fishing more difficult. There was a good push of steelhead and lots of fish were using the ladder a Berrien Springs.

South Haven: When the weather allows, boat anglers here were also taking limit catches of coho when trolling 50 to 80 feet down in 200 feet. Most were using spoons or plugs. Orange was the hot color.

Kalamazoo River: Steelhead are still being caught but the water is high and dirty making it much more difficult.

Grand Haven: Boat anglers trolling in deeper water were finding coho and steelhead. Shore anglers also caught fish off the end of the pier.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Anglers are still finding steelhead but the high and stained water makes fishing more difficult. Most fish have been caught up near the 6th Street Dam.

Grand River near Lansing: Anglers caught a couple nice pike, a few walleye and the odd bass near the North Lansing Dam during the warm spell. The bite should rebound when it warms back up.

Muskegon River: Still had a good number of steelhead but the higher water levels made fishing a bit more difficult. With colder air moving into the state, anglers will want to target the deeper holes.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Mullett Lake: Still had ice throughout but anglers will need to use caution in Pigeon River Bay, near Dodge Point, and near the Indian River. Fishing pressure was extremely light. The few that did go out only managed a couple perch.

Thunder Bay River: Is ice free but there is one gate fully open at the Ninth St. Dam and as a result the river is moving pretty fast. A few anglers were targeting steelhead in the slack water along the bank. Fishing should pick up as the flow slows down and more steelhead move in. Conditions could be good by the weekend unless the area gets more rain. Spawn is usually the bait of choice.

Fletchers Pond: Had pretty good fishing for bluegill, pumpkinseed and crappie. The rare brown trout has also been caught. The ice was variable throughout so use caution.

Oscoda: Boat and pier anglers were still getting some lake trout when trolling spoons, body baits and rapalas near the mouth. Pier anglers casting spoons have also caught some lake trout off the end of the pier.

Au Sable River: Had good steelhead fishing with limit catches reported. Anglers have done well with spawn and wax worms between the mouth and Foote Dam. With colder air moving in by the weekend, try the deeper holes.

Higgins Lake: Still had ice however the shoreline ice has opened up. No anglers were out because of the strong winds.

Houghton Lake: Still has ice however anglers cannot get out to it. Strong winds have blown the ice out anywhere from 50 to 100 feet or more along the shoreline.

Tawas: Did not have much happening.

Au Gres: Had some decent catches of perch from Eagle Bay Marina and the mouth of the Pine River.

Au Gres River: At last report, the mouth of Whitney Drain at the Singing Bridge was packed with floe ice and unfishable.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: A few were still ice fishing however it is not recommended. Shoreline ice is deteriorating and much of the lake ice is honeycombed. Anglers would be wise to switch to river fishing or wait for open water.

Boardman River: Anglers were still finding some steelhead fishing between the mouth and Sabin Dam.

Betsie River: Steelhead anglers are out and taking some fish. Try spawn, flies and wax worms.

Lake Cadillac: Still had ice but the quality varies greatly. The ice is honeycombed which is not quality ice. First ice and last ice are the most dangerous. Some are still going out but extreme caution needs to be used.

Lake Mitchell: Has the same ice conditions as Cadillac. Anglers will need to use extreme caution. If you are not sure, fish in shallow waters only.

Manistee River: Had steelhead anglers all the way up to Tippy Dam. The bite was good during the warm spell but will surely decrease as cold temperatures move back in.

Little Manistee River: Anglers are reminded that the river from a point 300 feet upstream of the DNR weir to Spencer's Bridge and a point from 300 feet below the DNR weir to Manistee Lake remains closed to fishing until April 1.

Pere Marquette River: Steelhead fishing was on especially with the rain and warmer temperatures. Anglers were taking fish on spawn and wax worms.

UPPER PENINSULA

Overall: This area of the state still had ice however recent rain and 40 degree temperatures did make conditions a bit more challenging. The ice was deteriorating in places so anglers will need to use caution.

Marquette: The only ice is in the marinas which is making it difficult for boats to launch. There has been no fishing activity in the marinas. Anglers have been fishing the Chocolay River and the Carp River with spinners, spawn and crawlers. The Carp River was best for steelhead when using spinners and spawn. Rumor has it anglers were doing well on the Chocolay River for brown trout and steelhead with spawn and crawlers.

Little Bay De Noc: Ice remained fishable in the northern Bay but anglers are using caution when traveling. All anglers should avoid the area around Butler Island as many have broken through the ice. The southern part of the Bay has open water and is not safe. Only a handful of anglers have been targeting walleye and catch rates were fair at best. Most were using jigs or tip-ups in 25 to 35 feet between the Second and Third Reefs. Perch anglers did better with minnows or wigglers in 27 to 35 feet near Kipling.

Au Train: Had no fishable ice in the bay. There have been no reports for the Au Train River. The boat launch is not accessible due to ice buildup.

Munising: Had slow fishing as most anglers had few hits for several hours of effort. Only a few small splake and whitefish were caught. Anglers tried jigging Swedish pimples and other small jigging rapalas with eggs, cut bait, mousies and minnows. Anglers observed large schools of small lake herring. No reports on coho or steelhead. Cold temperatures did help with the freezing process however warm temperatures, rain and windy conditions will not help. Pay close attention to ice conditions.

Newberry: Inland lakes in the area still had ice but use caution. The walleye and pike fishing were good on the Manistique Lakes. Minnows on tip-ups worked best.

Munuscong: The Bay had lots of anglers catching mostly walleye, perch and pike. Most were fishing out near Grassy Island. They are jigging, using tip-ups or still-fishing with a minnow under a bobber. Many sub-legal walleye and perch have also been caught so anglers are sorting out the small ones.

Cedarville and Hessel: Those targeting perch in Muskie Bay reported mixed catch rates for perch as some days were better than others. The fish ranged seven to 12 inches which included a fair number of throwbacks. Most were jigging a combination of natural and artificial baits in 15 feet. Minnows and wigglers worked well. Pike fishing was slow. Anglers should avoid the Middle Channel because of open water. The ice was holding in Hessel Bay; however, the ice has disappeared along the shoreline around some of the islands. Use caution in all areas!

March 16, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Thanks to extremely cold temperatures and snow, fishing has slowed once again. Pier anglers will need to be extremely careful as some piers were covered in ice. Anglers are reminded that walleye, pike and muskellunge seasons on the Upper Peninsula Great Lakes, the inland waters, St. Marys River and all Lower Peninsula inland waters -- including the Saginaw River -- closed on March 15.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Lake Erie: You might have to punch a few holes but some perch and crappie were taken off the docks in the Metro Park Marina.

Huron River: A couple steelhead were caught both at Flat Rock and downriver.

Detroit River: Few anglers have been out because of the cold and windy conditions.

Lake St. Clair: Almost no effort has been observed following the wind storm and recent snowstorm. The cold nights were producing skim ice in the canals. No status updates on the boat launches.

Harbor Beach: The marina was iced in.

Port Austin: The marina was iced in.

Saginaw Bay: Has frozen back over for as far offshore as the eye can see, but no one should assume that the ice is safe to walk on! It's barely thick enough to hold the little bit of snow that fell on Monday into Tuesday so **STAY OFF THE ICE!** The bitter cold weather really shut fishing down. The cuts and marina basins are freezing over again but the ice is not safe. Shore fishing is limited to wherever anglers can find open water. Many are going to the marinas and punching a hole in the (thin) ice with a spud. Not much to report along the west side but anglers might be able to fish for perch off the docks in the Linwood Beach Marina.

The perch are following the minnows right now but it is way too early for them to be spawning yet, so the near-shore fishing opportunities should continue into April. Minnows on perch rigs have been most effective. The rivers froze up and were hard to fish right now. There's been some perch activity off the docks at the Sebewaing Marina through the ice but it was still hit-or-miss and anglers are doing a lot of sorting to get a few six to eight-inch perch. Mud Creek and the Pigeon River at Caseville froze up again.

Saginaw River: Inland walleye fishing which includes the Saginaw River closed on March 15 and will not re-open until Saturday, April 29. Fishing was really slow through Bay City and quite slow from Zilwaukee up to the confluence. Anglers found a fish here and there however the big spawning run of walleye has not showed up yet.

Tittabawassee River: Walleye fishing closed on March 15 and will not re-open until Saturday, April 29.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Overall: There is no safe ice anywhere in this region of the state. Water temperatures are still very cold and will impact catch rates.

New Buffalo: Had no pier anglers due to ice buildup. No boats have been out because of the strong winds and high waves.

St. Joseph: Had no pier anglers due to ice and no boats have been out.

St. Joseph River: Water levels were back to normal however water temperatures were cold. Look for the steelhead bite to pick up when the temperatures warm back up.

Kalamazoo River: Water levels were back to normal. With the cold temperatures, few anglers were out. Those braving the cold did manage to find a couple steelhead in the deeper holes and up near the Allegan Dam.

Grand Haven: The pier was ice covered and had no anglers. Boat anglers have not been able to get out.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Still had steelhead and those fishing the system have done well. Staff observed a good number of steelhead when they cleaned out the fish ladder. A couple walleye were caught below the 6th Street Dam.

Muskegon: When they could get out, pier anglers were getting some steelhead as well as those trolling planer boards between the piers.

Muskegon River: Anglers were targeting steelhead but catch rates were hit-or-miss.

White River: Produced some steelhead in Hesperia between Pines Point and the dam.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan River: Was producing the occasional steelhead at the dam.

Mullett Lake: Still had ice however Pigeon River Bay was not safe. Angling pressure was light but the few that did get out caught perch between Aloha and Dodge Point, off Round Point, and off the Jewel Road boat access. Anglers harvesting 10 to 15 fish considered it a good day as no big numbers were caught.

Ocqueoc River: Anglers have caught steelhead near the mouth.

Thunder Bay River: Water levels are back to normal in most areas however the return of cold weather has slowed fishing. Steelhead should be starting to show up soon.

Oscoda: No boats have been out but those fishing off the end of the pier were still taking some lake trout. Watch for ice on the pier.

Au Sable River: Those braving the cold weather were still getting some steelhead between the mouth and Foote Dam.

Houghton Lake: Strong winds have opened up a good portion of the middle of the lake. Anglers have limited fishing from shore.

Tawas: Pier anglers caught a couple pike on minnows.

Tawas River: Suckers were biting to some extent in the lower river.

Au Gres: Anglers caught a few perch off the docks in Eagle Bay Marina after punching a hole in the ice.

Au Gres River: At Whitney Drain, a couple of steelheads were taken by those drifting wax worms or spawn.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Traverse City: When boats can get out, lake herring and lake trout were caught in the deeper waters.

Boardman River: Was producing the occasional steelhead.

Frankfort: When pier anglers could get out, they caught some steelhead.

Betsie River: Was producing the occasional steelhead though few anglers were out.

Lake Mitchell: Had a couple anglers out however most are now waiting for open water fishing.

Manistee River: Steelhead are in the river however the cold weather was deterring many.

Pere Marquette River: Steelhead anglers were few but those braving the cold did manage to catch a couple fish.

Pentwater River: Was producing steelhead in the South Branch near the Hart Dam.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: Had some ice again off the Falls River and at the head of the bay. There have been no anglers fishing off the Baraga side. Fishing was fair for those jigging spoons tipped with a minnow or spawn. Tip-ups with shiners have also taken a few fish. Anglers caught mostly coho, splake and brown trout. Extreme caution needs to be used as this ice has only been there for a few days and a northeast wind could take it out quickly.

Marquette: Ice has moved back into the harbors however it is not stable. Some caught coho at the bubblers. Fishing pressure slowed on the Carp River due to ice but some were still trying for steelhead. Most of the pressure was on the Chocolay River for brown trout and steelhead. A few coho and splake were caught on spawn and spinners.

Hardwood Impoundment: In Dickinson County was producing bluegill and crappie.

Menominee River: Brown trout were caught on rapalas south of the first dam.

Little Bay De Noc: Very cold temperatures have firmed the ice in the northern Bay but many dangers still exist. Anglers are mostly walking out and with warm temperatures forecasted by the end of the week and into next week, even walking may be dangerous. Walleye season closed on March 15. Perch anglers were reporting good numbers of smaller fish caught between Butler Island and the Third Reef. Bigger fish were still being caught in 22 to 30 feet with minnows or wigglers.

Au Train: Both the Rock River and the Au Train River were ice covered and the boat launch was not accessible.

Munising: Ice conditions improved with the cold temperatures. Though most of the shacks were pulled before the wind last week, several anglers have taken them back out to an area off the Anna River access and the city docks. Other areas have ice that was pushed around during the strong winds and although it may look safe, a lot of that

ice may be unstable. The few anglers out did well on splake with fish up to 21 inches. They have been eating small perch and smelt. Anglers have been jigging Swedish pimples and rapalas or using tip-ups. A few whitefish were caught on eggs. Several reported large schools of herring throughout the bay.

Munuscong: Anglers caught perch near Grass Island and straight out from Dan's Resort near the first two islands. Most were jigging, using tip-ups or still-fishing with a minnow under a bobber. Many were throwbacks but some bigger fish were caught.

Cedarville and Hessel: After a week of crazy weather, anglers will need to use extreme caution around the islands as the shore ice is very thin. Stay away from areas that have rivers and river mouths. A lot of rain fell which raised water levels and strong currents eroded the ice. Anglers were targeting perch in Muskie Bay. Catch rates were mixed with some taking just a couple fish while others had several. Most were seven to 12 inches with a fair number of throwbacks. Wigglers and wax worms worked best but some were using minnows when jigging or still-fishing. Anglers should avoid the Middle Channel which has open water. In Hessel Bay, those targeting perch had mixed results. The good days saw up to 25 keepers and the bad days had maybe one or two fish. Use caution and watch the shoreline ice around the islands.

March 23, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

As we transition from ice fishing to open water fishing, some are getting out in boats while others are targeting the rivers for trout and suckers. Many of the bays and marinas were still ice covered but the ice was not safe.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Most of the rivers in the area including the Belle, Black and Clinton Rivers were running low and clear so the steelhead action was slow because the fish will spook easily.

Lake St. Clair: Some of the marinas and canals still had ice in them making fishing conditions less than ideal. The Harley Ensign launch was ice free. The launches at Fair Haven and Selfridge had some ice to deal with.

St. Clair River: Heavy ice floes are coming down the river. Both the North and the Middle Channels were completely jammed full at the west end. (add photo)

Port Austin: Had ice in the marina.

Saginaw Bay: Still had a lot of ice however the ice is not safe by any means and anglers should not venture out. The Linwood Beach Marina was closed to both boat launching and shore fishing as the ramp and channel were full of ice. There was too much ice floating on the inner bay and near the Saginaw River mouth to allow boat anglers to get out but a south wind could clear things out over the next few days. Rivers and cuts along the south and east side of the bay were still iced in but should be open soon. Conditions will change from day to day, so anglers with the urge to fish will want to get out there and do some scouting. At Sebewaing, fishing was not great as anglers were sorting out a lot of small perch. Ice at Mud Creek and Caseville made fishing impossible. Suckers should be running in most area rivers so it is time to get out and start spring fishing. The perch have not spawned yet, and will probably move in and out of the rivers and cuts chasing minnows over the next month.

Saginaw River: Perch anglers are doing well in the lower end of the river when using minnows on perch rigs. Several limit catches of eight to 10 fish were reported.

Flint River: Anglers are getting a few suckers.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

St. Joseph: A few boat and pier anglers were out.

St. Joseph River: Had good steelhead fishing up near the Berrien Springs Dam.

South Haven: Boat anglers were getting a mixed bag of lake trout and coho straight out in 90 feet. Most fish were taking near the bottom. The coho were incidental catches while targeting lake trout. Steelhead and brown trout were caught by pier anglers fishing tight to the shoreline and not off the end of the pier.

Kalamazoo River: Warmer weather brought out more anglers and they were catching steelhead.

Gull Lake: Had crappie in eight to 10 feet.

Grand Haven: Windy weather and rough conditions have kept boats off the lake.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Steelhead are present but water levels are low for this time of year.

Grand River at Lansing: Smallmouth bass were hitting on minnows and crawlers near the North Lansing Dam. Though few and far between, the occasional steelhead was caught at the point where the Grand meets the Red Cedar and near the North Lansing Dam when using spawn and spinners.

Muskegon River: Had a decent number of steelhead and there was fairly heavy fishing pressure. The river was low and clear.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan River: Was producing a few more steelhead near the dam.

Burt Lake: Anglers were ice fishing but use extreme caution. Maple Bay was producing some perch.

Mullett Lake: Anglers need to use extreme caution if going out on any remaining ice. Warmer weather and rain will deteriorate the already weak ice. Shore ice has started to get thin. Pigeon River Bay has open water so stay off the bay. Fishing pressure has been light. Some were trying for perch in shallow waters but caught fewer than ten fish.

Ocqueoc River: Anglers have caught steelhead in the lower river.

Thunder Bay River: Anglers are starting to catch steelhead. The bite will slow with the cold front but should rebound by the weekend.

Au Sable River: Water levels were low and catch rates were slow. Conditions should improve once we get some warm rain.

Houghton Lake: The ice has broken up and is moving around the lake and piling up along the shoreline. Water temperatures are very cold and no one is fishing.

Tawas: There was not much going on. The boat ramp in the state harbor was iced in, but it should break up soon. Boats heading out from the Tawas River mouth were trolling for lake trout down near Alabaster.

Tawas River: Shore anglers in the lower river were getting some suckers on worms and further upriver they were getting a couple steelhead on spawn sacks.

Au Gres River: Anglers are starting to get some steelhead but the rivers are quite low and a warm rain would help move some fresh fish up the system. The river was frozen over and the boat ramp was un-useable.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Consider all ice in this region to be unsafe. Anglers are starting to fish for steelhead near the mouth of the Boyne River and the Jordan River.

Petoskey: Little Traverse Bay was mostly ice covered but should thaw soon.

Bear River: Had anglers targeting steelhead from the dam down to the mouth. Most use spawn or wax worms.

Torch Lake: Boat anglers have caught some brown trout and Atlantic salmon.

Boardman River: Has steelhead.

Betsie River: Was producing the occasional steelhead.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: Still had ice but no fishable ice. Anglers would be wise to wait for open water fishing.

Manistee River: Anglers continue to catch steelhead. Fishing should be good by the weekend.

Ludington: A few boats were starting to head out and target brown trout in shallow waters near shore. Pier anglers should also find some steelhead and brown trout.

Pere Marquette River: Steelhead fishing picked up with the warmer weather and should only get better as the spring rains arrive.

UPPER PENINSULA

There has been little activity for steelhead on the rivers and there have been no smelt reports. Most of the inland lakes have ice that is deteriorating rapidly.

Marquette: The ice has moved out of the harbor. The Chocolay boat launch was still iced in. Anglers have been catching brown trout and steelhead with spawn and worms in the Chocolay River. The Carp River hasn't had much pressure due to ice conditions but anglers were still trying for steelhead. Boat anglers fishing the Upper Harbor near the bubblers caught a few coho when jigging cut bait.

Menominee River: Was producing some nice brown trout and a few walleye below the Hattie Street Dam and down to Stephenson Island. Large stick baits worked best. The lower river still had some ice cover and the boat launches were still iced in. Very little water was being released from the Hattie Street Dam.

Little Bay De Noc: Had no report this week.

Au Train: The harbor and rivers still have ice in them but it is starting to break up. The boat launch is still not accessible due to ice. There are no reports for the Au Train River or from boat anglers this week. Those fishing the Rock River did catch some coho and steelhead on spawn.

Munising: Anglers were still ice fishing in Munising Bay. Fish were caught but the action was slow with only a few coho and no steelhead. Splake catches were good with most averaging 17 inches. A few whitefish were also caught. Some reported seeing large numbers of herring or smelt through the holes. The best ice was right off the Anna River access. Other areas were unstable.

Munuscong: With the warmer temperatures and rain this week, expect ice around the islands and along the shoreline to start deteriorating. The Coast Guard will begin ice breaking operations this week which means the locks will be opening. Anglers will need to be extra careful if venturing out because when the ships come through the wake will deteriorate the ice. Perch were still being caught but catch rates were slow. They should start to come into the bay soon. Anglers were still-fishing, using tip-ups or jigging with minnows.

Cedarville and Hessel: Still had ice however anglers will need to use caution and watch for pressure cracks and soft ice around the islands. The rivers are up and flowing high so be careful in any area where moving water will be an issue. At Cedarville, a good number of perch were caught but many were small. Anglers are jigging or still-fishing with wax worms, spikes, and wigglers. Muskie Bay and east seemed to be better. Perch were caught in Hessel Bay when jigging or still-fishing with wax worms, spikes and wigglers. Some did well while others were struggling and a lot of smaller fish were caught. A couple splake and burbot were also caught.

March 30, 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

RECREATIONAL FISHING REPORT

Anglers are reminded that on Saturday, April 1, all anglers 17 years of age and older will be required to have a 2017 fishing license. Be sure to hang on to the current fishing guide which covers the regulations for both 2016 and 2017 – OR check out the latest version by visiting Michigan.gov/fishingguide.

Those looking for steelhead should be seeing some activity in certain parts of the state. Other areas are proving the season has shifted as boats are starting to head out.

SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Huron River: A few anglers caught steelhead at Huron Park and downriver.

Detroit River: Those fishing the lower river were still finding a few perch in the canals in Gibraltar. Water temperatures are still too cold to trigger much fish activity.

Lake St. Clair: Anglers were getting out and taking good catches of perch, crappie and bluegill. Some perch were caught in the Clinton River. Most were fishing at the mouth of the spillway with minnows and wax worms on the bottom.

St. Clair River: Ice floe in the river is winding down. Anglers have reported consistent catches of coho and steelhead at the upper end of the river. A few smelt were taken but no big number by any means. Suckers are being caught in the Belle River and the Black River.

Port Austin: Still had some ice floating around both inside and outside the marina.

Saginaw Bay: Perch anglers were doing a lot of sorting but were getting some limit catches of seven to nine inch fish at Eagle Bay Marina and the cut at the end of Palmer Road. Some walleye were taken by those trolling in 23 feet off Linwood Beach Marina. Limit catches were also taken straight off the state launch at the end of Patterson Road. Perch fishing was good for smaller fish at Finn Road, on the Quanicassee River, the

Vassar Road drain and off the docks in Sunset Bay Marina. Catch rates were slow but steady in the Sebewaing River, at Bay Port, and at Mud Creek. Those putting in a lot of time did best as the fish would come and go. The females are still green but the males are ripe, so spawning should start sometime this week or early next week.

Saginaw River: Anglers were doing well on suckers.

SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

New Buffalo: Lake Michigan fishing for trout and salmon is heating up with boat anglers reporting limit catches.

St. Joseph: Had good coho fishing between here and South Haven in 20 to 25 feet. Small plugs in orange, silver, and gold have worked well.

St. Joseph River: Steelhead were running through the Berrien Springs fish ladder in high numbers on March 27 so there should be good numbers of fish throughout the system. Fish were also in the ladders at Buchanan and Niles.

South Haven: Boat anglers were getting coho in shallow waters 20 to 25 feet deep with small orange, silver and gold plugs.

Kalamazoo River: Had good numbers of steelhead at the Allegan Dam. Those using crawlers caught suckers. Flow was above average.

Grand Haven: Had good brown trout activity along the shoreline and some perch were caught further out.

Grand River at Grand Rapids: Had good numbers of steelhead at the 6th Street Dam. Suckers have been caught. Flow was above average.

Grand River at Lansing: Had mostly shore anglers catching a few bass.

Muskegon River: Steelhead fishing has been good all the way up to Croton Dam.

White River: Those steelhead fishing have caught some nice fish. Anglers have done well near the dam in Hesperia.

NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA

Cheboygan River: Was producing a small number of steelhead near the dam. Water temperatures were still cold.

Burt Lake: Ice conditions are poor especially around the shorelines.

Mullett Lake: Ice conditions are poor especially around the shorelines. Heavy rains have weakened the ice in most places. Anglers should avoid the following areas: Indian River, Cheboygan River, Mullett Creek, and Pigeon River Bay because of open water.

Ocqueoc River: Continues to produce some steelhead in the lower river.

Thunder Bay River: Is producing some steelhead.

Au Sable River: Water levels were up after the rain. Fresh steelhead continue to move into the system and catch rates will only get better as water temperatures warm.

Tawas: Pier anglers on the state dock caught a few lake trout and a couple pike on large minnows or when casting assorted hardware. A couple walleye were caught straight out from the mouth of the river.

Tawas River: Sucker anglers were doing well in the lower river. A couple steelhead were also caught.

Au Gres: Boat anglers trolling assorted crank baits off the various points were picking up walleye and lake trout.

Au Gres River: Steelhead were caught near the Singing Bridge and by those surf-casting with spawn bags. The river was a bit high and murky after recent rains.

Rifle River: The sucker run is underway so grab a dozen crawlers and get out there. Steelhead are also in the river.

NORTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA

Charlevoix: Most inland lakes in the area are in between safe ice and open water.

Traverse City: Lake trout were caught in 65 to 70 feet in the West Bay. Lake herring were also caught.

Boardman River: Anglers are still getting some steelhead.

Frankfort: Brown trout fishing has been good between here and Ludington.

Betsie River: Had good steelhead fishing and lots of anglers targeting them.

Lakes Cadillac & Mitchell: Still a little ice on Lake Mitchell however Lake Cadillac is now open. The water is still cold and no one was fishing.

Manistee: Those trolling and pier anglers are getting some brown trout. Catch rates seem to be better this year.

Manistee River: Still had good steelhead fishing.

Ludington: Those trolling are getting brown trout.

Pere Marquette River: Had good steelhead fishing.

UPPER PENINSULA

Keweenaw Bay: The remaining ice is bad and anglers should stay off it. This area is in transition from ice fishing to open water. The Falls River had slow fishing.

Marquette: Fishing picked up as anglers were jigging and trolling for coho, brown trout, and steelhead near the “Bubblers” with artificial and cut bait. One of the docks was accessible for launching boats in the Upper Harbor. Shore anglers caught steelhead in the Chocolay River and the Carp River when using spawn. Brown trout were also caught in the Chocolay River when using spawn and wax worms. Most of the fish were between 10 and 12 inches.

Menominee River: Walleye and brown trout were caught by those trolling and by shore anglers. Boom Landing, 6th Street Slip, and the Menominee Lighthouse landing were still iced in.

Little Bay De Noc: Is now in-between seasons. Any remaining ice is no longer safe. Perch anglers were forced to fish shallow waters only near Kipling and most of the fish were small. All the rivers in the area with the exception of the Escanaba River are frozen at the mouth but had areas of open water up river. On the rivers, where there is open water the flow is fast and ice dams are present.

Au Train: The boat launch was still not usable due to ice. Ice in the bay was not stable. Small coho and steelhead were caught in both the Au Train River and the Rock River when using spawn.

Munising: In general fishing was slow with some reporting one or two fish but most were getting none. Ice conditions were holding but still had some deterioration. The mouth of the Anna River and Bay Furnace had a slight opening with open water. Those ice fishing with jigging spoons and Swedish pimples caught a couple coho but the bite was slow. Catch rates for splake were down. Minnows were still the better choice for tip-ups and minnows or cut bait for jigging spoons. A few smelt were taken off Sand Point.

Munuscong: Ice breaking operations have started and shipping season is open in the St. Marys River. This will affect the ice in Munuscong Bay. Please use caution. Stay outside of the bay and away from the shipping channel. Be careful around the islands

and river mouths. Warmer temperatures and rain will weaken the ice. Anglers have caught perch but the action was slow. Most were still-fishing with minnows.

Cedarville and Hessel: There is a lot of open water. Many of the channels and larger bays are now open. Stay clear of the river mouths. Hessel Bay still had some ice and anglers were getting some perch but were also sorting out the small ones. Most were jigging or still-fishing with wigglers. Musky Bay still had ice and anglers were getting a few perch. Ice conditions are changing daily so use caution.