

LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 130
ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI 48080

YOUR DUES EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION



WALLEYE WORLD

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF MICHIGAN'S WALLEYE FISHERY

APRIL 2008

<http://www.lakestclairwalleyeassociation.com>



"Chris and Madison Reyntens ice fishing this winter."

KID'S SUMMER FISHING AT METRO BEACH

This year our annual kid's summer fishing event will be held at a new location. Because it is closer to most of our members we have reserved an area at the MetroPark at the end of 16 Mile (Metro Parkway). By having this event at Metro Beach we are going to be able to have the kids right on the shoreline of Lake St. Clair fishing. This location will allow them to catch just about everything possible. The date is July 27th. It will last from 9am till 2pm. More details will be in the next couple of issues of the newsletter.

TRADE A TRIP

by Ron Sharp

The annual Trade-A-Trip with the Battle Creek Steelheaders is going on again this year. They are going to be here the weekend of May 3rd and 4th. We can always use a couple of extra members who are able to volunteer their boats to take these guys out on Lake St. Clair or the rivers to do some Walleye fishing. See me at the membership meeting in May.

We are set up to be the guests of the Battle Creek Steelheaders later in the season. This offer is open to club members and is part of the LSCWA member's events. If any of the members would like to go over there for some summer fishing at the end of June then you have to see me this month to get on the list.

GOOD BUYS GALORE!

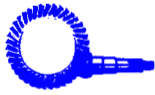
This month is the club's annual Swap N' Shop. Members are invited to bring their unused or unneeded fishing tackle and equipment to the meeting. Then, they can swap it for something they need or outright sell it.

Some rules will be enforced for this meeting. If the member or guest takes up an entire table or half of a table they will be asked to make a donation to the club. This is acceptable. If members have only a few items they will be able to place them on the table in front of them.

Several tables will be set aside for displaying new lures or new tackle that is for sale. If someone needs one of these tables they can reserve it by arriving early at 6 pm that day to set up.

LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION

(586) 778-0480



(586) 792-2560
Fax: (586) 792-8731

RING & PINION SHOP

"Put Your Rear End In Our Hands"

Sales and Service 36180 Groesbeck Hwy.
Clinton Twp., Michigan 48035

Dennis Kot
General
Manager



17125 Conant
Detroit, MI 48212
(313) 892-9001
Fax(313) 892-6619
www.buddyspizza.com



Res.: 586.776.2325
Cell: 586.246.0317



Jim's Handyman Service

- * PAINTING INTERIOR-EXTERIOR
- * TILE WORK * CARPENTRY * YARD WORK
- * MOST MINOR REPAIRS
- * ALL WORK GUARANTEED



FISHING LICENSES
ICE SHANTY RENTAL
&
SHUTTLE SERVICE

BLUE WATER BAIT & ACC.

LIVE BAIT • TACKLE

(586) 725-1448
GARY & LYNN
GRZECH

NEXT TO DNR
PUBLIC LAUNCH

8089 DIXIE HWY.
SUITE E
FAIR HAVEN, MI 48023

BEACON LIGHT

Home Inspections

David Wilemski

Certified Home Inspector

Licensed Builder For 30 Years

586-292-6143

P.O. Box 577 • New Baltimore, MI 48047

Tackle ~ Live Bait

Store Phone: (586) 469-2070

Electronics

Hotline: (586) 469-2050

PROFESSIONAL FISHING CENTER

Complete Line of Fishing Tackle

Discount Prices

36257 Jefferson

Owner

(1-1/2 Blocks South of Crocker)

Capt. Steve Jones

Mt. Clemens, MI 48045

LAKESIDE FISHING SHOP

"YOUR ONE STOP FISHING SHOP"

Visit us online @ www.lakesidefishingshop.com

25110 Jefferson

Corner 10 Mile & Jefferson

(586) 777-7003

Hours: M-F: 7-8 Sat: 6-6 Sun: 6-5

American • Canadian • Walpole Licenses Available

20% OFF
NETS

w/coupon only
expires- 5-21-08

25% OFF
T-Shirts

w/coupon only
expires- 5-21-08

20% OFF
Kid's
Combos

w/coupon only
expires- 5-21-08

Free Doz.
Crawlers
w/\$15.00
Purchase

w/coupon only
expires- 5-21-08

FISHING REPORT (586) 777-7008

E-mail: info@lakesidefishingshop.com

**LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President ~ David A. Wilemski
 Vice President ~ Bob Barnes
 Financial Secretary ~ Jim Burgess
 Recording Secretary ~ Marshall Baker
 Membership Secretary ~ Alex Vitek

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Bevins (08)	Dan Austin (09)
Richard Gentz (08)	Steve Beasley (09)
Keith Krych (08)	Dave Champine (09)
Don Murray(08)	Curtis Kratt (09)
Mark Tews (08)	Dave Marcelewski (09)
Jeff Regulski Past President (08)	

ALTERNATES

Terry Davidson • Joe Gentz • Bill Pearch • Ron Sharp

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WEDNESDAY ~ 7:30 P.M.
APRIL 16, 2008
Next Meeting May 21, 2008**

K of C Hall
 Little Mack South of 10 Mile

ALL FISHERMEN WELCOME!

Log onto the website to find out what is
 happening in and around the Club
www.lscwa.net

Walleye World

The WALLEYE WORLD is the official newsletter of the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association, and welcomes all contributions from the members. These can be news items, articles, photographs, and art-work. We reserve the right to edit material for length, etc. All signed articles appearing in any issue reflect the opinions of the writer and are not necessarily the policy of the organization or its members.

CONSERVATION PLEDGE

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, it's air, soil and minerals, it's forests, waters and wildlife.

**REPORT ALL POACHING
1-800-292-7800**

CALENDER OF EVENTS

April 16,General Membership Meeting
 April 18-20.....LSCWA Derby • Weigh-in St. Jean Ramp
 May 3-4.....Sinbad's Detroit River Tournament
 May 3-4MWT Qualifier Linwood, Saginaw Bay
 May 10.....MUCC District 8 Walleye
 Tournament at Perch Point
 May 21General Membership Meeting
 May 23-25LSCWA Derby • Weigh-in Blue Water Bait & Tackle
 June 6-7MWT Qualifier Port Clinton, Lake Erie
 June 7Spring Walleye Classic at
 Gilbert's Sportsmans Club
 June 7 & 8.....Free Fishing Weekend
 June 18.....General Membership Meeting
 June 20-22LSCWA Derby • Weigh-in Lakeside Fishing Shop
 July 12-13.....MWT Qualifier Au Gres, Saginaw Bay
 July 16General Membership Meeting
 July 18-20.....LSCWA Derby • Weigh-in Professional Fishing Shop
 Aug. 14-16.....MWT State Championship Sault St. Marie
 Aug. 22-24LSCWA Derby
 Aug 24Derby Weigh-in & Club Picnic New Haven AmVets

HOOK ON TO A WINNER

JOIN THE FASTEST GROWING
 WALLEYE CLUB IN MICHIGAN

CUT OUT COUPON & MAIL

**APPLICATION FORM
AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Make check or money order payable to:
 LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION
 P.O. BOX 130
 St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
 PLEASE PRINT

CHECK HERE IF THIS IS AN ADDRESS CHANGE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Initiation Fee \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership \$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizens \$30.00
Includes Spouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$45.00
Includes Spouse & Children to 16 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family \$35.00
Includes Spouse & Grandchildren to 16 years |

Junior \$15.00
 Children up to 16 Years Old



810-560-9415

Grosso Trucking & Supply

10015 Marine City Hwy.
Fair Haven, MI 48023

STEVE
(586) 725-2935
Fax (586) 725-4153

HARBOR HILL MARINA ST. JEAN BOAT RAMP

Tired of hauling your boat around? Safely store it on the trailer at Harbor Hill Marina. One launch per day at St. Jean Ramp included. Call for pricing. 313-331-6880

Winter Boat Storage Available
Ramp Phone: 313-824-4952



AUTHORIZED SERVICE CENTER
Stocking a Full Line of Parts
- MOST REPAIRS DONE THE SAME DAY -
COASTLINE POWER & LIGHTING
810-794-5951

35229 23 Mile Rd
New Baltimore
586-725-1255

51292 Romeo Plank
Macomb Twp.
586-786-7599

The Country Inn

15198 13 Mile Rd
Warren
586-779-7930

35756 Van Dyke
Sterling Heights
586-826-9100



America

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

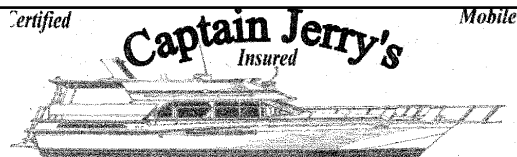
George R. Latchney

ASSOCIATE BROKER
REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT

30935 Utica Rd.
Roseville, MI 48066
Phone: (586) 772-7400
Fax: (586) 445-0139
Cell: (586) 944-7330



Certified Mobile



Marine Service SPECIALIZING IN

OUTDRIVES ELECTRICAL WINTERIZING *Deliveries (100 Ton Licensed Master Captain)* ENGINES DIESEL OIL CHANGES
EMAIL: captjerrys48023@HOTMAIL.COM
Phone: (586) 855-3606 Fax: (586) 725-6711

Jim Sitkewicz

Eyelimator Trolling System

1309 S. Carter Rd.
Midland MI, 4862
(989) 662-0336 • (989) 860-5723
weekender23@charter.net

ANGLER ROD & SPORTS

BIRDFEEDERS & SEED • GARDEN RELATED ITEMS • TACKLE
LIVE BAIT • ARCHERY PRO SHOP • ROD AND REEL REPAIR

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

1426 Oakland Ave. (M-29)
St. Clair, MI 48079

810-329-2253
Don & Linda Reilly

(810) 794-1810

STATE & FEDERAL
LICENSED



PAUL BURCZYCKI
4566 Pte. Tremble (M-29)
Algonac, MI 48001

CERTIFIED SCALE
OLD WORLD CRAFTSMANSHIP
NEW WORLD TECHNIQUES

C.A.P. Printing

Full Color • Business Cards • Letterheads • Sales Brochures •
Wedding Invitations • Forms • Web Design

Office: 586-468-4188 • Fax: 586-468-1286
Email: capprinting@gmail.com

43954 Groesbeck • Clinton Twp., MI 48036

Established 1947
DEE'S MARINE
Sales & Service
Service After The Sale
www.deesmarine.com



20344 S. Nunneley (16 Mile at Groesbeck Hwy.)
Clinton Township, Michigan 48035
PH. (586) 790-9100 • FAX (586) 790-0172

10% OFF WITH THIS AD



Reconditioned Appliances
Parts • Sales • Service
New Mattresses & Furniture

DAVE CHAMPINE
Service Manager
(586) 601-6457

Warren
13007 E. 8 Mile
(586) 775-1110
Mon. - Sat. 8 - 7

Warren
5741 E. 8 Mile
(586) 757-4333
Mon. - Sat. 10 - 7

DIRECTIONS TO ST. JEAN RAMP

Our April Derby weigh-in is going to be at the St. Jean Ramp this year. This popular launch site is formally known as the Reid Ramps and is located at the very end of St. Jean Street on the far east side of Detroit. For those who might be using the InterNet to find directions to the ramp use the Reid Ramp name.

Otherwise here are some basic directions for those who want to participate in or just attend the weighing in of the Walleye. Take the I-94 expressway to the Connor exit. Then take Connor south towards the river. Keep going until you get to Jefferson. Make a right towards downtown but keep to the left. At St. Jean make a left and follow the road to stop sign at Frued. Make a left to the next stop sign which is again St. Jean and follow that all the way to the very end. Looking straight ahead will be the gates to the ramp parking lot.

Or, after turning left onto Connor go about a 1/4 mile down and make a right onto Shoemaker. Shoemaker should be the first light after crossing over the expressway. Shoemaker also starts at Connor where Outer Drive stops (at your left). Make the right turn and take Shoemaker to the first light after the railroad tracks and make a left onto St. Jean and follow the above directions.

If you have not been to the St. Jean Ramp in the last several years be ready for a surprise or two. The old 5th Precinct police station on the corner of St. Jean and Jefferson is gone. A new federal building is already under construction on that site. As you drive down St. Jean Street you will notice that all of the old neighborhood is gone and is now being replaced with new business buildings and new houses. This is really noticable along the stretch of St. Jean in the last block before the ramps.

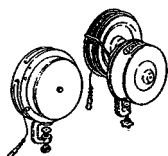
The old Inland Lime and Stone structure is still standing. This is the steel frame building right next to the gate to the ramp. But, anyone who is looking for the 7 smokestacks for the famous landmark, the Seven Sisters, will be disappointed to find them gone. All that is left are the Two Brothers.

BUSINESS CARDS

from Dave Wilemski

If anyone wants to reserve a spot in the newsletter for their business card sized ad then please call Dave Wilemski. The phone number is 586-292-6143.

Our newsletter is sent to all the members. We also distribute copies to the area bait and tackle shops and fishing or boating related businesses. Members and their family and friends support all of our sponsors.



**Bell's Trolling
Reel Service
& Repair**

BUY • SELL • TRADE • REPAIR • APPRAISE

providing the highest quality service and repairs

William Bell

Harrison Township, Michigan
(586) 465-9218

DNR MAKES PURCHASING YOUTH FISHING LICENSE EASIER

At the request of several sportfishing organizations, the Department of Natural Resources has announced changes that will make it easier to purchase a youth fishing license. Youth fishing licenses, for anglers under the age of 17, are voluntary and cost \$2.

The DNR will now waive the parental signature requirement for a youth fishing license. This will make acquiring licenses easier for special event, group fishing organizers or youth fishing tournament sponsors. Now organizations can purchase the youth fishing licenses for any child participating in an event or tournament.

The DNR Sportcard, which is available for \$1, is still required. The Sportcard, which takes the place of a Michigan Driver License, gives each youth an individual identification number in the DNR's retail sales system.

"Many organizations sponsor youth fishing programs throughout the summer months, and this change simplifies the process of purchasing licenses for all youth anglers involved in those programs," said DNR Fisheries Division Chief Kelley Smith. "Our goal is to make the purchase of a voluntary youth fishing license easier and more convenient, while at the same time encourage stewardship among our young anglers. Anglers should also keep in mind that the DNR receives a significant return of federal dollars for every license sold, and those funds help manage the fisheries in our state."

Anyone interested in purchasing a youth fishing license must obtain the following information from each child: first name, last name, street address, city, state, zip code, height, weight, gender and birth date. Vendors will ask for this information prior to issuing a license.

Youth fishing licenses can be obtained at any retailer that sells DNR hunting and fishing licenses. A complete list of retailers is available online at the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr, and then clicking on the orange Hunting and Fishing Licenses menu. Licenses also are available at all DNR Operations Service Centers and some field offices.

SEATING: 'APRIL MEETING'

The April meeting is one of the most popular with members and invited guests. The Board of Directors is asking for patience at this meeting as they work out seating arrangements. The board knows that the meetings can get packed, especially the early spring meetings that are attended by many members.

Also, all guests should be prepared to fill in the guest book. This will be on the table at the entry door.

Moe's Bait & Tackle Shop

Live Bait • Jigs & Lures • Rods & Reels
Plugs & Spoons • Boating Supplies
All your fishing needs!

14712 E. Jefferson • Detroit, MI 48215
Owner: Big Moe • 313-824-5222

DERBIES & TOURNAMENTS

by Alex Vitek & Geoff Regulski

There is a lot of fishing activities this year. The club has 5 derbies over the summer. These derbies are open to all members and there is no charge. Every member who gets in on the derby is fishing for the glory and the bragging rights as some guys refer to it. For members who have a family membership there is a special children's division. This covers all kids up to 16 years. Even if you, as a member, do not fish you can still stop by the weigh-in and join in on the fun. Non members are welcome as long as there is room.

The derbies take place the weekend following the membership meeting for the months of April, May, June, July, and August. The fishing for each month's derby starts at 6pm on Friday and ends on Sunday when the members have to weigh in their Walleye. The weigh in hours are from 4pm to 6pm. Each month's weigh in location is different. They will be listed in the calander of events on page 2 of each month's newsletter.

The first derby of the year is this month. The April weigh-in will be at a new location, the St. Jean (Reid) Ramps. The ramps are located at the very end of St. Jean street right at the upper Detroit River. Directions are in a separate article. Weigh-in locations for the other LSCWA summer derbies are Blue Water Bait for May, Lakeside Fishing for June, Professional Fishing for July, and the August weigh-in will be at the annual club picnic at the AmVets in New Haven.

Club derbies are different than the many tournaments that take place over the season. These popular tournaments are open to anyone and there is an charge. The tournaments have money prizes and a fish dinner could be part of the entry fee. For some of these tournaments the LSCWA is involved, usually by helping with the weigh-in portion of the event.

Some of the popular tournaments that are open to anyone fishing for Walleye are the 7th Annual Spring Classic hosted by Gilbert's Sportsmen's Club. This will be June 6th and 7th with the weigh-in on Saturday the 7th from 2pm to 4pm. Another fun tournament is the 15th Annual District 8 tournament which will be held on May 9th and 10th. The weigh-in will be at Perch Point Conservation Club this year. For both of these tournaments the entry fee is \$20 per person. A \$10 donation will allow anyone, usually your wife or girlfriend, who is not fishing to be eligible for door prizes, etc.

Another tournament in the area that the LSCWA helps with the weighing in of fish is the Jigger's 13th Annual. This will be held May 2 through 4 with the weigh-in at Jigger's Bar and Grill in Fair Haven. The cost is \$60 per boat with a 1 to 3 man team allowed per boat.

New this year is the BRWT at Rose Marine. The entry fee is \$40 per two man team and children under 16 do not count against the team entry. The date for this event is May 18th.

Another tournament is on the upper Detroit River at Sinbad's. It is the Walleye Palooza 2008 and is held on May 3rd and 4th. The entry fee is \$100 per boat with a limit of 2 anglers.

Entry forms and applications along with more information on all the tournaments will be at the April meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

These are the new members to the club who joined over the past several months. Hopefully, we did not forget anyone. A very warm and heartfelt welcome is extended to all of them.

Paul DeMarco • Michael DeMarco • Tony Lipinski
Brian Sage • Sam & Laura Christoff • Keith Adkins
Bobby N. Marsh • Richard "Cpt.Chaos" Benson
Jack Herron • Colin Cook • Scott "fish eater" Hunt
Bill Bathgate • Joe Hart • Raymond Wauters
Richard Forlastro • Michael A. Smith • Steve Sekach

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR THE SUMMER SEASON OF CAMPING

The Department of Natural Resources reminds people to "GO-Get Outdoors" and make reservations now for their summer camping or boating getaway. Many good campsites and boat slips remain available for the 2008 summer season.

Reservations can be made on-line at www.midnr-reservations.com, or by contacting the reservation call center at 1-800-44-PARKS (447-2757). The Central Reservation System was back up and operating on Feb. 18, after a two-day shutdown for routine maintenance.

"All state parks and recreation areas will be open for the 2008 and 2009 seasons," said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division.

The Michigan state park and recreation system is funded primarily by user fees. It does not receive any General Fund assistance. Due to increased efficiencies in 2007, the various Governors' executive orders and a hiring freeze, the state park and recreation system's financial projections have improved for the next two years of operation.



The original Seven Sisters and Two Brothers power plant

WHY AND WHEN THE LSCWA WAS STARTED: TO ELIMINATE COMMERCIAL FISHING IN LAKE ST. CLAIR

by Larry Sawicki

Editors Note... A special thank you to Larry for his many countless hours of dedication in making the LSCWA what it is today. Had it not been for him and a handful of other dedicated individuals Lake St. Clair and its surrounding waterways would not be what they are today: The Worlds Greatest Freshwater Sport Fishery

It was the spring of 1973 when Hank Bradley and I decide to Walleye fish the Canadian side of Lake St. Clair. We started trolling off Stoney Point heading west towards the Mitchell Bay area. As we were passing the Thames River we noticed a congregation of wooden stakes encircling the mouth of the Thames River. From these stakes were ropes supporting nets. The Thames River is documented as one of the most productive walleye spawning waters in the Great Lakes.

The scene reminded me of lakes in Northern Canada that were decimated of Walleye by commercial fishermen. Thinking that this could possibly happen in Lake St. Clair, I knew I had to expose this threat. I was then publishing the Lakeside News and my feature articles were exposing the danger of commercial fishing in Lake St. Clair. I presented the facts to members of the Windsor Sportsman's Club and they firmly agreed the matter should be approached. Without their participation it would have been impossible to convince the Ontario Government of the consequences for the nets were set in Ontario waters.

A meeting was arranged with Lou Malhowski, a director with the MUCC, where we discussed the forming of a walleye club to combat this issue. At our first meeting where about 100 attended, Lou agreed to be president and a board of directors were nominated. I apologize for not remembering all the names. Those I remember are Bill Chris, Arnold Rimer, Randy Helin, Ben Ancona, Charlie Brown, Milt and Millie Tallman, and a few others. About three meetings later Randy Helin, an officer, suggested we call the club The Lake St. Clair Walleye Association. I then start publishing the Walleye World. Meetings were arranged in both St. Clair Shores and Windsor, Ontario. The theme of our effort was to convince the Ontario Government that sport fishing was more beneficial to the economy than commercial fishing where only a few profited by it.

As the Club grew it attracted new aggressive members. John Miner, a charter captain and a governmental official in Kingsville, Ontario, joined the fight even when opposing voices in his jurisdiction condemned his actions. Peter Stickley, a sports writer for the Toronto Telegram made the effort known throughout Ontario. Ray Trombley, then president of the Lake St. Clair Advisory Committee, suggested cleaning the Clinton River of its debris and planting walleye in the river. Many members of our club participated in the clean up. We then had a spring walleye run on the Michigan side of Lake St. Clair. Special thanks to Alex Vitek, who joined the club in 1980 and is with it

today as secretary and publisher of the Walleye World. Again I apologize for not remembering more names.

After about five years the voice of opposing commercial fishing in Lake St. Clair began being recognized by the Ontario Government. With the possibility of decimating the walleye population would cause a great strain on the Ontario fishery surrounding Lake St. Clair. Also, the revenue from the sale of Canadian fishing licenses would greatly decrease.

Exposing the dangers of commercial fishing did not end in Lake St. Clair. The rest of the country must have been watching, for what was started in Lake St. Clair did not end in Lake St. Clair. It was the beginning of the end of unregulated commercial fishing in both fresh and ocean waters across the U.S.A. Visiting the Florida Keys in the early 80s, I happened to come upon a house I thought of purchasing. The owner was an ocean commercial fisherman. I casually asked how the fishing was. His reply was it was OK until those b****s in Michigan started trouble and how we were jeopardizing their livelihood. I made an odd comment but not exposing any details. A similar situation occurred in Palm Springs, California. I was having problems with the radiator in my RV. Noticing my Michigan license plate, the mechanic mentioned that his former employer who operated a fleet of commercial fishing boats off California had to cut back on workers because of new commercial fishing regulations. He also blamed the "trouble makers" in Michigan. We in St. Clair Shores exposed the dangers of commercial fishing where even ocean fish stocks could be in jeopardy using then and today's technology. Other countries around the world also started imposing stricter regulations and quotas on ocean commercial fishing.

Yes, we did win the battle with the Canadian commercial fishermen in Lake St. Clair, but another threat could be looming over the horizon. That threat is from Native Americans exercising fishing and hunting treaty rights written 150 years ago and being supported by the Federal Government. Nets are now being set at salmon spawning routes and mouth of spawning rivers. This past fall nets were unexpectedly set at the mouth of the Manistee River. Many down rigger cannon balls were lost in these nets which also created a dangerous boating hazard, especially night trolling. Salmon are not native to the Great Lakes. Salmon plantings are paid for by money obtained from the sale of fishing licenses bought by sport fishermen. No one else but they should be allowed to take these fish.

We read article after article condemning foreign fish species possibly destroying our sport fishery in the Great Lakes. Yet, most seem to avoid the Native American commercial fishing threat which I think could be as great or greater than the foreign species. The Lake St. Clair Walleye Association should be on a constant vigilance and expose the threat if nets are set in Lake St. Clair. Indian commercial fishers usually set nets with no advance warning.

CHASING THE LINE

By Keith Krych

Without question, one of the most effective tactics on the Detroit and St Clair Rivers for catching walleyes is Vertical Jigging. As the name implies, Vertical Jigging is the practice of fishing a jig vertically, directly below the boat, as you drift down stream with the current. However, keeping the jig vertical is not always as easy as it sounds.

If we lived in a perfect world it would be a nice calm day on the river, your boat would move along at the speed of the current, so would your line and jig, and you would be vertical jigging. In the real world, wind disturbs this ideal setup. The wind will blow your boat around, causing it to move at a different speed than the current and you will be "off vertical".

Many anglers make the mistake of thinking that going to a heavier jig is the answer. True, that will help keep the jig vertical, but you're not presenting the bait at the right speed. It's important that you use the lightest jig you can and that the jig move along at the exact same speed as the current. This way a walleye has the best chance of sucking your offering into its mouth as it drifts past his river lair.

To stay vertical, I use a technique called "following the line". Simply, this means that if your line is not going straight down, use your bow mount, or kicker, to quickly pull (or push) the boat to position your rod tip directly over the jig. What you will realize after a while is that this will mean the boat will be pulling into the wind (not necessarily into the current) to compensate for gusts.

Once the jig is on the bottom and you have the line vertical, lift the jig off the bottom about a foot. Hold it there for about three seconds and drop it to the bottom, then repeat the procedure. Sometimes, if the walleye are aggressive, you can jig more aggressively and let the jig free-fall to the bottom without holding it in one place at all.

For equipment, you want a short rod for vertical jigging, nothing longer than a six-foot, medium action rod with a fast tip. The reason is that a shorter rod gives you more control over the jig and helps keep the jigging motion to a minimum. Go longer, say a 6' or 7 foot rod, and you're going to lift and drop the jig with way too much.

The most common mistake I see anglers do on the river is jigging the jig far too much. I try to keep my jigging motion less than six inches, better yet keep the jig dead still or moving less than two to three inches from bottom. That's far easier to do with a six-foot spinning rod.

Spool your reel with FireLine; it can help you maintain bottom contact with the jig. There's no stretch in FireLine, which provides excellent sensitivity, the thin diameter also helps cut the current and improve your connection with the jig. Don't go over 8-pound test, which has the same diameter as 3-pound monofilament. Try the flame green line; it lets you easily see the angle of the jig and direction of the line.

When you become comfortable with keeping the line vertical and jigging at the same time, start to work the breaklines and pay close attention to the depth and the break. Once this is achieved you can try using a second

rod in Michigan waters. However, for this to work, be sure that the two rods are set up the same. Use the same jig size and line size; otherwise the presentation will not be the same. I firmly believe, however, that it is better to fish one rod well than two rods poorly.

Here is a trick I learned from the late Al Lesch, increase the hook gap on your jig to catch more fish. Al liked to bend the hook out a little, about 5 deg, so it will catch easier in the fish's mouth. Just bend the point of the hook up a little bit for more sure hooking results. Also keep a hook sharpener close by to keep your hook points extra sharp.

Sometimes when walleyes bite they will pop the bait, and you'll feel the "tick." Other times they'll just hang on and you'll feel the slightest weight. Or they'll even rise up with the jig and your line will go slack. Whichever it is SET THE HOOK.

Keys to Vertical Jigging

- Boat control - chase the line
- Long shank jigs
- Minnows in cold water, below 50 degrees
- Emerald shiners are like candy to Walleyes
- Plastics in warmer water, above 50 deg
- Use super braided line with a small barrel swivel and a short fluorocarbon leader
- Make your own stingers using a #10 treble and 6" of mono
- Keep the jig near the bottom
- Float it in cold water don't jig
- Jig more aggressively in warmer water

With just a little practice it's not a difficult tactic to master, making Vertical Jigging a deadly and fun way to catch Detroit River walleyes.



Larry Sawicki (left) and Alex Vitek. They discussed the history of the club and its early members before Larry decided to write the article featured in this month's edition. Larry is the founder of the LSCWA and the original owner of Lakeside Fishing Shop. Alex is the Membership Secretary and Editor of the Walleye World.