

# FISHIN' LINE

## Board of Directors

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V/P: Dennis Kuenzer (18)  
231-477-5173

Sec./Treas: Bruce Buchanan  
(17)  
231-839-0104

Denny Blue (19)  
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Lance Keene (19)  
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Doug Cermak (18)  
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Phil Sedelmaier (17)  
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Dave VanEerden (19)  
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Jan Burger (18)  
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## Permit requested for an anchoring system

In December, the MCSFA received information regarding a request for the placement of an anchoring system of a temporary resistance board weir (RBW) on National Forest System lands in the Manistee River. This weir is intended to aid in the adult lake sturgeon monitoring project being conducted by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Following is the letter sent to the USDA Forest Service.

*December 29, 2016*

*Dear Mr. Thompson:*

*The Manistee County Sportfishing Association wishes to submit comment on our position in regard to the proposed Resistance Board Weir on the Big Manistee River. The Manistee County Sportfishing Association, which currently represents 130+ members and is comprised of individual sportspersons, charter captains, river guides, and businesses that benefit from the fishery or support the goals of the Manistee County Sportfishing Association, does not support this proposal for numerous reasons. During our attendance of the Open House for several hours, it was apparent the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians proposal does not address significant issues brought up by the majority of those in attendance, and was not able to satisfactorily answer questions, nor did they have any of the logical concerns addressed in the proposal. Some of the primary concerns on our part are as follows:*

*(continued, page 2)*

2017 MCSFA Events

Annual Spring  
Banquet

Saturday, May 6th  
VFW Post - Manistee

Salmon & Trout Derby  
Saturday, May 27th  
through

Monday, September  
4th

Kids Fish Day  
Wednesday,  
June 21st

Ladies Classic PRO/  
AM Tournament  
June 23rd

Budweiser PRO/AM  
Tournament  
June 24th & 25th

Small Boat Big Fish  
Tournament  
August 5th

(continued from page 1)

*There is no documented plan for safe and timely passage of non-targeted fish migrating upstream. With a once per day check by the tribe as they indicated, there could be huge numbers of spawning steelhead held below the weir, along with other non-target fish. It is unacceptable to handle these fish for passage from a biological standpoint.*

*There is no plan for the safe downstream migration of any fish. Of significant concern is the downstream migration of post spawn steelhead, which are already vulnerable to mortality from the stress of the spawning process. It would be unacceptable to expect these fish to get up over the top of the weir.*

*Safety - Although there is a provision for boat passage, it does not look to be a safe process. Of most concern is the inexperienced operators, those with long shaft motors, and kayak and canoes, especially in a river with significant variations in flow rates and current patterns. This is also a high traffic area adding to the safety concerns of safe passage.*

*There was no plan for regulating/restricting the fishing above and below the weir, which will be necessary, especially below the weir where large numbers of fish will hold.*

*There are serious concerns with the integrity of this system. Wide swings in river flow rates, large ice flows, and woody debris may result in catastrophic failure of the weir system resulting in environment damage and danger to navigation.*

*Although the MCSFA supports the tribes need to assess the sturgeon populations, it is unrealistic to do it in the manner proposed, at the risk to all of the non-targeted species, and the impact on the many sportspersons, businesses, and families who rely on this open unrestricted river system for their recreation and livelihood.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comment on this proposal. Should you have any questions I can be reached at 231-233-1686.*

*Sincerely,*

*Dennis L. Kuenzer, Vice President*

## Platte River Mouth Restoration and Access Plan

The Platte River is located in the southern portion of the National Lakeshore and discharges into Lake Michigan. Benzie County owns and manages a recreational boat launch at Platte River Point. The National Park Service (NPS) has made the Platte River Mouth Restoration and Access Plan/Environment Assessment (EA) available for public review and comment. Following is a letter forwarded to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Superintendent. Additional information may be accessed at [www.nps.gov/slbe](http://www.nps.gov/slbe).

*January 5, 2017*

*We are writing these comments that reflect the board of directors of the Manistee County Sportfishing Association. Our association (membership of over 150) goals are to enhance fishing opportunities in Manistee County.*

*On December 7, 2016 two of our board members attended an informational meeting at the National Park Service office in Empire. Several members of our organization annually travel to Platte Bay and launch their small boats at the Benzie County boat launch. This past season, the coho fishing was exceptional and the Benzie County launch allowed small boaters being able to navigate the Platte outlet thus allowing them to fish waters that are nearly inaccessible for small boats.*

*Traveling long expanses of Lake Michigan from either Frankfort, Empire, Leland or Glen Arbor put small boats at high risk to fish Platte Bay. The launch that has been used since 1968 has allowed safe access to a world class fishery and has kept fishing enthusiasts safe.*

*The proposed boat launch at the Tiesman Road is unacceptable and putting a seasonal launch on open water goes against any safe boating practices. No shelter, piers, jetties, or docks is a recipe for a maritime disaster similar to the 1960's event that took place in Platte Bay.*

*Finally, since 1968 the river has been dredged and this unique coho, chinook, brown trout and lake trout fishery has been accessed by thousands of small boat anglers.*

*At our recent board meeting, we voted unanimously to reject NPS proposed action to implement Alternative 2.*

*On the other hand, we voted unanimously to embrace Alternative 1 - (the "No Action" Alternative), no changes would be made to current NPS management practices. Recreational boat access to Platte Bay would be available via the existing boat ramp. Annual fall dredging of the Platte River would continue dependent upon funding availability and need. Dredging of the river would also continue to add to the dredge spoil pile on the eastern riverbank. However, alternative spoils management (e.g., in-water disposal or off-site disposal) could be considered and impacts evaluated as part of future permitting efforts.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

*Kevin P Hughes, President*

*cc: Scott Heintzelman, Michigan DNR, Mark Tonello, Michigan DNR, Dennis Eade, Michigan Steelheaders, Eric Anderson, President, MCBA, Wes Newberry, President, Grand Traverse Sport Fishing Association*

# *Annual Membership Meeting and Spring Banquet*

Manistee VFW Post - 28th Street - Manistee, Michigan  
Saturday, May 6, 2016  
Doors open at 5:00 pm  
Cash Bar at 5:30 pm  
Dinner 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Guest Speaker and Drawings to follow

In house raffle, door prizes, guest speaker, plus more. Make your reservation today!

Dinner tickets – \$30 each - 5 free in house raffle tickets if paid by April 15

To reserve your dinner tickets, please mail your check to the

Manistee County Sport Fishing Association

PO Box 98

Manistee, MI 49660

Questions: 231-887-4474

Email: [mcsfa98@gmail.com](mailto:mcsfa98@gmail.com)

website: [www.mcsfa.org](http://www.mcsfa.org)

## Prize List

1. Ruger Hawkeye Laminated .204
2. Savage Trophy Hunter XP .300 WSM with 3-9x40 scope
3. Remington 870 Express Combo 12 gauge 26" vent rib and 22" rifled
4. Henry Goldenboy lever action .22 magnum
5. Barnett Wildcat crossbow package
6. Savage Axis XP combo 22-250
7. Chiappa Double Barrel .410/.22 Mag
8. Henry Lever Action (large loop) Blue .22

# Annual Membership Meeting and Spring Banquet

This year's banquet will be held at the Manistee VFW Post on 28th Street in Manistee on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The doors will open at 5:00 pm., cash bar will open at 5:30 pm., and dinner from 6:00 pm. until 7:30 pm.

Our Guest Speaker this year will be Nathan Skop, Assistant Boat Captain on the research vessel Steelhead at the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Center.

The Great Lakes are ecologically significant on a worldwide scale, as they contain 20 percent of the world's fresh water. The state of Michigan, which includes 43 percent of the Great Lakes, has a considerable responsibility in the protection, management and rehabilitation of this important fresh water resource. To meet our public trust responsibilities, Fisheries Division funds and operates four research vessels to investigate, monitor and evaluate the status of aquatic habitats and fisheries resources of the Great Lakes. These vessels are essential to fulfill the division's constitutional and statutory responsibilities as trustee for the preservation of public resources in Michigan waters of the Great Lakes.

The largest vessel in the fleet, the survey vessel Steelhead was constructed in 1967 as a commercial trawler. The T. D. Vinette Company, Escanaba, Michigan designed and constructed the S/V Steelhead for the Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of sampling fisheries and deep-water habitats of the Great Lakes. It has operated out of the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station since 1968. The Steelhead is primarily setup for gill netting, trawling and hydro-acoustics but has proven to be an excellent platform for other sampling gear. The Steelhead operates with a crew of four including a captain, assistant captain, fisheries technician, and fisheries assistant.



**MCSFA Membership Application**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Docked At: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Charter Boat Membership \$50.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Charter Boat Membership \$100.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Business Membership \$100.00 - web site address \_\_\_\_\_

*(Note: All membership levels enter you in the Salmon Derby.)*

Membership (as indicated above) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Spring Banquet Tickets (\$30.00 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(5 Free in house raffle tickets if paid by April 15 - collect at the door)

Raffle Ticket Stubs (Separate Mailing) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: RSVP is required.

**Please make checks payable to: MCSFA and mail to PO BOX 98, Manistee, MI 49660**

**Volunteers Needed!! Please indicate the events at which you could be helpful.**

**Tournament weekend**

\_\_\_\_\_ Kid Fish Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Ladies Classic Pro/Am

\_\_\_\_\_ Budweiser Pro/Am

\_\_\_\_\_ Weigh-in

\_\_\_\_\_ Clean-up

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would accept a nomination for a board seat.

**Spring Banquet**

\_\_\_\_\_ Sell raffle tickets

**Net Pen Project**

\_\_\_\_\_ General help

## **Avid outdoorsman passed away**

Advanced Tackle, Michigan Stinger, founder Terry Weber passed away unexpectedly on December 16, 2016. Terry was a long time supporter of MCSFA and participated in many of our events.

On behalf of MCSFA a donation was made to the DNR Fisheries in Terry's Name.

## **Pike**

The ability to clean fish with care and precision is a skill born of knowledge and practice. Pike are among the best tasting freshwater fish, but surprisingly many anglers don't bother cleaning and eating them because of all the pesky Y-bones. But with a little practice, it's easy to clean pike and get a pile of perfectly boneless fillets. Here are three favorite bone removal cleaning techniques. Also be sure to watch the how-to video (below gallery) featuring several Y-Bone removal methods.

Read more: <http://www.in-fisherman.com/recipes/cleaning-care/cleaning-catch-y-bone-removal/#ixzz4W2kSFNkm>

The Manistee County Sport Fishing Association depends on your support. Please mail in your registration today. Your application is enclosed.

THANK YOU.

**MCSFA**

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**PO Box 98**

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**Manistee, MI 49660**