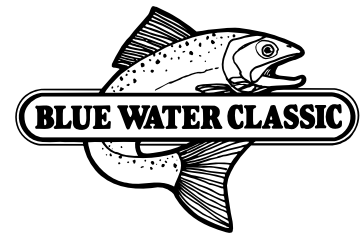




## Blue Water Sportfishing Association Newsletter



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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - TUESDAY,  
 NOVEMBER 4, 7:00 AT MCMORRAN**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - WEDNESDAY,  
 NOVEMBER 5, 7:30 AT MCMORRAN**

**Our General Membership meeting in November is moved ahead one week to Nov. 5th due to deer season. Hope to see you there!!!**

### MI - FISHERIES RESEARCHERS EXPECT TWO NEW VESSELS BY 2005

Fisheries researchers at the DNR hope to have two new vessels on the water for Great Lakes fish assessments by 2005. The DNR has been authorized to spend up to a million dollars to replace two vessels in the agency's four-vessel fleet.

"The ones at Alpena and Marquette were identified as in most urgent need of replacement," said Phil Schneeberger, a researcher at the Marquette Fisheries Station. "Both are more than 50 years old." The DNR also maintains vessels at Charlevoix and Lake St. Clair.

"There are safety concerns," Schneeberger said. "They're steel vessels that have some hull issues. They're just getting to the point that maintenance is costly and not effective. "And they're slow. The top speed for the Marquette vessel is 10 knots. As you know, ports are few and far between in Lake Superior. It really limits where we can operate safely and what we can do out there."

Shipyards say it will take up to a year to build the aluminum vessels, which will be 55 ft long with a 16-ft beam. They are designed to handle gill nets, trap nets and trawls. They will not contain sleeping quarters, but will be equipped with fold-away bunks.

The DNR, however, is running into financial issues. Money for the vessels was appropriated from the Game and Fish Protection Fund several years ago, but the estimated cost of the vessels has risen to about \$850,000 each.

*from Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council*

### BIG FISH CONTEST

Here is the current standing for the Big Fish contest as of 9/10. If you have any questions or comments about the contest, please direct them to the Big Fish Chairman Bob Roskey. We also encourage you to give Bob a photo of your catch so that we can show it in the newsletter.

#### ADULT DIVISION

King Salmon		
1st	Jim Frazer	28 lbs 8 oz
Coho Salmon		
1st	Dave Rymar	8 lbs 7 oz
2nd	Jay Korneffel	6 lbs 6 oz
Steelhead		
1st	Al Gaulin	10.25 lbs
2nd	Bob Roskey	6 lbs
Brown Trout		
1st	Bill Rotondi	13 lbs 7 oz
2nd	Jay Korneffel	12.51 lbs
3rd	Al Gaulin	10 lbs
Lake Trout		
1st	Dr. Rich Cooley	36.55 lbs
Walleye		
1st	All are open	
Atlantic Salmon		
1st	Al Gaulin	3.70 lbs

#### JUNIOR DIVISION

King Salmon		
	Bradley Hieber	23 lbs
	Trevor Phipps	22 lbs 12 oz
	Rebecca Jackson	20 lbs
	John Decker	7 lbs 8 oz
Brown		
	Terra Phipps	13 lbs
Steelhead		
	Tyler Jackson	8 lbs 7 oz
Lake Trout		
	Billy Ogden	9 lb 6 oz



## 83-YEAR-OLD LANDS RECORD MUSKIE ON LAKE ST. CLAIR

BY ERIC SHARP

Ten muskellunge already had come over the transom of Bill Maertens' boat, 10 of the 14 that had struck lures trolled behind his 27-foot Tiara, Muskie Baby.

Dave Drewek, Maertens' across-the-street neighbor in Harrison Township, had fought and landed most of those fish. But when a rod went off for the 15th time, it was on the side of the boat where the 83-year-old owner was sitting, and Maertens bounced out of his seat and grabbed it.

Call it fate, call it chance, but the 51-inch fish that grabbed the nine-inch chocolate perch Nils lure this month was a 40-pound, 11-ounce muskellunge — the biggest ever recorded from Lake St. Clair.

And it was only fitting that it was landed by a man who probably has fished the lake for these oversized pike longer than any other living angler.

"I think God must have had a hand in it," said Maertens, a World War II Army veteran who holds five European battle stars. "I had told Dave that we were going to make him land the fish, but when that last one went off, I just jumped up and grabbed it."

Lake St. Clair muskie fishing has been red hot this year, with numerous 35-pound fish weighed and released by tournament anglers and charter boat captains. Many veteran fishermen were predicting that someone would break the Michigan-Ontario Muskie Club record of 39 pounds, 4 ounces, and that it would happen in October or November, when the fish were on a feeding binge to prepare for winter.

That prediction came true on the Canadian side of the waters called the dumping grounds. The fish was weighed on two certified scales, one of which read 40-13 and the other 40-9, so the deep-bellied giant will enter the club and state record books at a compromise of 40-11.

Maertens, a retired bricklayer who joined the muskie club in 1960, usually fishes with his twin brother, George; his girlfriend, Rose Marie Carroll, and friend Charlie Brown. In 30 trips this season the team has landed and released 175 muskies.

"We average about three trips every two weeks," Maertens said. "We don't go out when it's rough. That's not much fun."

In 1970-74, Maertens' boat caught, tagged and released a total of 275 muskellunge, he said.

"We were one of the first to start catch-and-release fishing," Maertens said. "One fish we caught in Lake St. Clair was caught two years later in southern Lake Huron. Two years after that, it was caught again in St. Clair and it weighed 20 pounds."

"Back then, people used to kill a lot of 20-pound fish. That was before we increased the size limits. A 20-pounder was a trophy then, and a 30-pounder was the fish of a lifetime. This summer, people were catching 30-, 35-pound fish every day, sometimes two or three of them."

"Catch-and-release is what has made the fishing so great here, that and the zebra mussels clearing the water. Muskies are sight-feeders, and they've benefited from it."

*from Free Press Outdoors*

## COOL APPROVES LAKE ERIE FISHING REGULATIONS

October 10, 2003

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director K.L. Cool today approved walleye fishing regulations for Lake Erie, designed to help sustain what is considered to be the nation's finest natural walleye fishery.

The Director's Order, drafted over several months of cooperation with myriad Lake Erie fishing interests and approved at the regular monthly meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission meeting in Lansing, represents a compromise between fishing interests and fishery managers. Each state bordering Lake Erie, and Canada, agreed to reduce its total annual walleye harvest by 40 percent through a self-selected combination of actions.

Lake Erie walleye anglers in Michigan waters presently are allowed to fish throughout the year, observing a 13-inch minimum size limit and keeping up to six fish. The new regulations, effective April 1, 2004, will close the walleye season from April 1 to May 31, increase the size limit to 15-inches, and reduce the daily bag limit to five fish.

Anglers on the Detroit River will observe identical size and daily bag limits, but the fishery will remain open year round.

Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River walleye fishing regulations will remain unchanged. The orders will remain effective through 2009, but will be reviewed annually.

"We are blessed to have the finest natural walleye fishery in the country on our Southeast shores," Cool said. "Our science indicates that we are on the verge of seeing a dramatic decrease in Lake Erie walleye populations, caused mostly by seasonal impacts to reproduction during the past few years. By managing this unique resource proactively with regulations that accommodate anticipated population shortfalls, we can be assured that Lake Erie will remain a world-class destination for walleye."

Cool also approved a property exchange that provides a connecting trail between the City of Monroe and Sterling State Park, and 104 acres of wetland on the south side of the park for anglers and waterfowl hunters. The long-awaited exchange fulfills a commitment from the DNR as part of the Sterling State Park renovation, completed this year and formally dedicated in June.

The next regular meeting of the NRC is Nov. 6-7 in Lansing.

*Michigan DNR Press Release*



## STATE SEEKS COURT DECISION ON TRIBAL INLAND HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS DISPUTE

September 17, 2003

Lansing, MI - Attorney General Mike Cox announced today that his office has filed pleadings in federal court asking for judicial resolution of an inland hunting and fishing rights dispute between the state and five Michigan tribes over whether the tribes' legal rights to hunt and fish on nearly 40 percent of Michigan's land acreage have expired.

The dispute revolves around language in the 1836 Treaty of Washington giving the tribes rights until "the land is required for settlement." The state is asserting that hunting, fishing and other rights retained by the tribes in the inland areas covered by the Treaty have expired in virtually all non-reservation areas. The land mass in question includes much of the Lower Peninsula north of the Grand River and the eastern half of the Upper Peninsula and totals approximately 13,837,207 acres, or roughly 37 percent of the acreage in the state.

The tribes are expected to claim that they retain all of those rights wherever land is open to the public for hunting and fishing today. This would include all public lands in the Treaty area, as well as private lands, that are open to the public for hunting and fishing.

In recent years, the five Treaty tribes have implemented the licensing and regulation of tribal hunting and inland fishing seasons for public and private lands without a court decision affirming their right to do so. The tribal laws allow greater opportunities to tribal members than state law in terms of season, species, and regulations. These greater opportunities are extremely controversial among the public and needlessly expose tribal members to the risk of prosecution under state law.

"The current confusion over inland tribal hunting and fishing rights benefits no one and casts doubt over

Michigan's ability to appropriately manage its natural resources," said Cox. "For the sake of all parties involved, and so we can ensure proper protection of our natural resources, this legal question must be solved."

The Attorney General has taken this action at the request of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director K.L. Cool and is supported by the Governor's office.

"Legal uncertainty is bad public policy," Cool said. "Michigan's natural resources need and deserve clear, concise management. Our state needs to understand its legal management jurisdiction. We look forward to achieving legal resolution to this long-standing uncertainty."

Litigation over the meaning and effect of the Treaty began in state courts in 1971 and in federal courts in 1973 in connection with disputes over tribal member use of large mesh gill nets on the Great Lakes. Both the Michigan courts and the federal courts addressed the issue of whether the tribes' Great Lakes rights had been extinguished because the Treaty area had been "required for settlement." Both court systems found that the Great Lakes would never be "settled" within the meaning of the Treaty and, therefore, that these tribes' right to fish in those waters would always exist. The courts, however, did not address the question of inland hunting and fishing rights.

There are currently five federally recognized Indian tribes that are political successors to the signatories to the Treaty: the Bay Mills Indian Community in Brimley, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in Peshawbestown, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Petoskey, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Sault Ste. Marie.

*from Michigan Newswire*

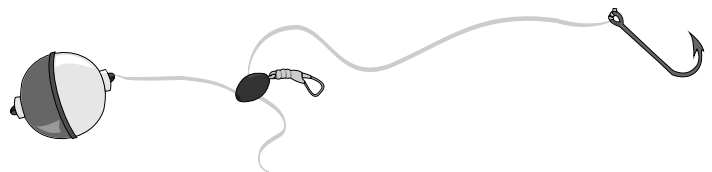
## MI - SILVER LAMPREY MAKING COMEBACK

The silver lamprey is making a comeback in Lake St. Clair, an indication that the water in the lake and the St. Clair River where they spawn is of good quality, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources concluded.

The silver lamprey population declined in the 1970s and 1980s in Michigan lakes and rivers because of poor water quality, but the U.S. Clean Water act of 1972 led to anti-pollution measures that improved the water, Lake St. Clair fisheries biologist Mike Thomas said.

Fisheries scientists believe their resurgence is attributable to an abundance of food — mostly big fish such as carp and muskies. Although silver lampreys suck body fluids from their host fish, they do not harm or kill the fish as do the sea lamprey, Thomas said.

*from Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council*



### ***Doghouse is For Sale***

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## **MI WANTS TRIBES TO COMPLY BY STATE HUNTING & FISHING RULES**

### **Resolution needed before conflict escalates into confrontation or violence.**

Michigan's attorney general Mike Cox asked a federal judge last month to make several tribes in northern Michigan play by the same hunting and fishing rules as non-Indians — before someone gets hurt. If the judge agrees, it would end a system that has developed in recent years under which the tribes set their own game and fish regulations on the land and waters in question in the northwestern Lower Peninsula and eastern Upper Peninsula.

Cox told U.S. District Court Judge Richard Enslen in Kalamazoo he wants the tribes to comply with the same rules issued by the state's Natural Resources Commission for non-Indians. A spokesman for Cox said a resolution is needed before conflict between Indian and non-Indian hunters or anglers escalates into confrontation or violence. "There is just way too much confusion," said Cox spokesman Sage Eastman. "How long can we wait . . . before there is an ugly confrontation or mass arrests?"

The potential for conflict is greatest when the tribes' bag limits, seasons and rules are more liberal than those set by the state.

An attorney for one of the five tribes covered by the 1836 treaty said the state's action would be "perceived as a direct

threat to tribal sovereignty." "The tribes are convinced these rights have survived, and they will vigorously oppose" the state's attempt to quash them, said Traverse City lawyer William Rastetter.

The five tribes are the Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

James Ekdahl, a tribal affairs specialist with the Department of Natural Resources, said tension over the issue has been growing. His office receives 20 to 30 reports a year from conservation officers who report actions by tribal members that would be violations of state game laws if committed by non-Indians. Ekdahl said the most potentially explosive conflict comes because of assertions by some tribal members that the treaty gives them access to private as well as public lands.

Rastetter, who represents the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa, said at least three of the tribes have renounced rights to private lands, and try to maintain regulations that are consistent with state guidelines. Nor have tribal members used treaty rights to practice commercial hunting or fishing inland and on inland waters, he said.

*from Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council*