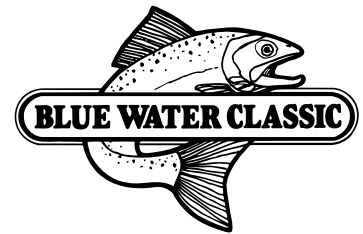




Blue Water Sportfishing Association Newsletter



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING -

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JULY

HARBOR BEACH CLUB TOURNAMENT

- June 10 & 11 -

<u>Place</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Captain/Angler</u>	<u>Weight</u>
1st	King Kong	Tim Cook	36.3 lbs.
2nd	In The Red	Jeff Parker	35.4 lbs.
3rd	Cuttin' Fool	Bob Roskey	35.2 lbs.
4th	No ID	Paul Baker	3.7 lbs.
Big Fish (+2pts)	King Kong	Tim Cook	9.4 lbs Lake Trout



First Place



Second Place

Total Boats – 5
 Total Anglers – 15
 Total # of Fish Weighed-In – 16
 Conditions – Cold and Sunny



Third Place

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the June Board of Directors meeting, the club held its Officer Elections. There were no changes to the Executive Officers. The following people were re-nominated to the Executive Committee:

Bob Roskey	President
Judy Ogden	1st Vice President
Bob Lane	2nd Vice President
Paul Baker	Treasurer
Fred Witter	Recording Secretary
Bill Lill	Corresponding Secretary



SUMMER PROGRAMS OFFERED AT ODEN STATE FISH HATCHERY

June 29, 2006

The Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center at Oden State Fish Hatchery is offering a variety of nature programs throughout the summer months.

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the daily guided hatchery tours, where they will enjoy the sights and sounds of the newest and most technologically advanced fish hatchery in the Great Lakes Region. Hatchery tours are given at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. seven days a week.

Discover nature through explorations on a variety of changing topics such as Great Lakes Trolling, history of fisheries management in Michigan, stream studies, pond studies, reptiles and amphibians, animal tracking, Trees and Trout and Michigan watersheds. "Nature at Noon" programs are held on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays throughout the summer. A full schedule is available each week at the hatchery.

Other site attractions enable visitors to roam through a historic visitor center, train car museum, watch fish and other forms of aquatic life in our Stream Viewing Chamber or feed the fish at the Big Fish Pond. The hatchery also has ADA accessible trails. The 130-acre property boasts wetlands, ponds, and a variety of forest types perfect for wildlife viewing and photography.

Call the Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center for more details at 231-348-0998. The visitor center is located in Oden, Michigan on US-31, 5 miles east of Petoskey. Admission to the hatchery is free. The hatchery is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Labor Day. – Michigan DNR

General Membership Meetings - Reminder -

There is no General Membership meeting in July. If you are interested in **donating fish** or volunteering to help in our August Picnic, please contact Debbie Packard at 987-4029. Volunteers are needed to help set up in the morning and for clean up at the end.

Lucky Sturgeon - North Channel

The crew from the MDNR Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station worked on our annual sturgeon assessment with setlines in the North Channel May 29th and June 5th. Wednesday night a sturgeon poacher got his gear, and a sturgeon, tangled up on one of our setlines. The terminal tackle included 6 large treble hooks (no bait) and two weights (1 pound lead each). The line appears to be braided planer board line - bright green - probably ~200 pound test. Based on the location of the line where it was tangled up, the poacher(s) was fishing from a boat.



So it is clear that sturgeon poaching activity continues in the Algonac area. I have no doubt that the fish would have been killed and harvested had it not been lucky enough to get wrapped up on our survey gear. The fish was 55 inches long and weighed 40 pounds. Perhaps most amazingly, the fish was actually hooked in the mouth by one of those huge treble hooks. We recorded the routine biodata, tagged the fish, and released it. Hopefully it stays lucky and avoids another encounter with the poachers.

I encourage anyone out fishing for walleye after dark to keep their eyes open and call the RAP line (800-292-7800) if they observe poachers targeting lake sturgeon during the closed season. The sturgeon population and fishery in the North Channel is a unique resource and well worth protecting.

The poachers were active again on Thursday night. Friday morning when we tended our survey setlines, we found two of them had been lifted and presumably any sturgeon on them were taken. Since at least one sturgeon was caught on the other lines we had deployed, I suspect at least two were poached from the two lines that were lifted. We don't fish the survey lines over the weekend, but will be back out next Monday thru Friday. I encourage honest anglers fishing in the North Channel after dark to keep an eye out for suspicious activity and to please report it to the RAP line (800-292-7800).

Mike Thomas
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Source – www.michigan-sportsmen.com



DEC CONFIRMS VIRUS IN LAKE ONTARIO AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER FISH FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

**DEC CONTACT: Maureen Wren (518) 402-8000
CORNELL CONTACT: Sabina Lee (607) 255-3024**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the discovery of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) virus in several fish species from Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The virus is a pathogen of fish and does not pose any threat to public health.

The virus was first detected in preliminary tests in May 2006 in round gobies involved in a mortality event on the St. Lawrence River. This is the first time that VHS was found in fish within New York State. The virus was isolated and identified in a cooperative effort between DEC, the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University and the Western Fisheries Research Center of the United States Geological Survey. Since VHS is a reportable disease to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the presence of the virus was confirmed by the OIE Reference Laboratory in Denmark on June 9, 2006.

In recent weeks, large numbers of dead round gobies have been observed along southern Lake Ontario and eastward through the Thousand Islands area. Gobies are an invasive species from the Black and Caspian Sea region, likely introduced into the Great Lakes by ocean-going ships in the mid-1990s. More recently, eighteen dead and dying muskellunge were collected in the Thousand Islands. The St. Lawrence River supports a world famous, trophy muskellunge fishery. The timing of these die-offs corresponds with spawning season for both species, which is a stressful period during which fish are more vulnerable to bacterial and viral infections.

DEC is working closely with fish pathologists at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine to determine if other fish species in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River are susceptible to this strain of VHS, as well as which species may act as carriers of the disease.

VHS virus is relatively common in continental Europe and Japan, where it has affected both freshwater and saltwater fish. Prior to 2005, VHS outbreaks were limited in North America to saltwater fish species from the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Systemic VHS infections are most often associated with trout and salmon, including rainbow, brown and lake trout, as well as Chinook and Coho salmon. In 2005, VHS was associated with die-offs of freshwater drum (sheepshead) and round goby in the Bay of Quinte (Ontario), as well as muskellunge in the Michigan waters of Lake St. Clair. To date, there is no indication that the strain of VHS identified in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River is affecting trout and salmon species. It is not known how VHS virus was transferred to the Great Lakes, or how long it has been in these waterways.

For more information about VHS or to report new information about large fish mortality events, the public is encouraged to contact their local DEC regional office. A listing of regional office contact information can be found at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/about/abtrull3.html> on the DEC website.

Weekly Great Lakes Water Levels June 23, 2006

	Superior	Mich-Huron	St. Clair	Erie	Ontario
Level for June 23	601.4	577.9	574.2	571.8	245.7
Datum, in ft.	601.1	577.5	572.3	569.2	243.3
Diff in inches	+3	+5	+22	+31	+28
Diff last month	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
Diff from last year	-4	-2	-2	-2	-5



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2006 Cormorant Control Actions Announced

June 1, 2006

The Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, has identified several areas in the state where double-crested cormorant control activities will occur this year.

Once extirpated in the state due to dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other contaminants, cormorants have increased to record numbers in the Great Lakes region, according to DNR wildlife officials. In response to the potential damage these high numbers could have on fish, wildlife and other resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the local control of populations in areas where cormorants are causing damage. Under these rules, USDA Wildlife Services control activities began in 2004 at the Les Cheneaux Islands and Drummond Island. Activities were expanded in 2005 and will again be expanded this year.

"It appears cormorants have the highest potential to cause negative impacts to fish or other natural resources in two situations," said Raymond Rustem, Wildlife Division natural heritage unit supervisor. "The first is the migratory flocks of birds that move through Michigan. During this period, large flocks of birds may feed in shallow waters of lakes during the brief period they move through Michigan."

The second situation is when cormorants have established breeding colonies. Research indicates that cormorant breeding colonies may play a role in reducing game fish populations in localized areas.

One strategy to help with cormorant control is harassment reinforced with a limited take of birds. USDA Wildlife Services are working with local volunteer agents to conduct these activities at Long and Grand lakes in Alpena County, Potagannissing Bay on Drummond Island, Brevoort Lake, Manistique and South Manistique lakes in Mackinac County, Indian Lake in Schoolcraft County, and Lake Huron off Rockport in Alpena County. Three sites in Michigan are targeted for egg oiling and reductions in adult breeding birds by USDA Wildlife Services. The Les Cheneaux Islands will continue as one site of population reduction attempts. Nesting colonies in Thunder Bay and Bays De Noc will also receive treatment.

The DNR will be monitoring fish populations at sites with control actions to document how fish populations respond to cormorant control activities. "Our goal is to use the best scientific data (fisheries and wildlife) available to manage cormorants at biologically and socially acceptable levels," said Bill Moritz, chief of the Wildlife Division.

The DNR is cooperating in a survey to identify and count breeding pairs in the state. Survey data will be combined with information from other Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces to obtain a full breeding population count of double-crested cormorants on the Great Lakes.

The DNR has developed an online form for citizens to report cormorant activities. The department will use this information to identify cormorant migration patterns and locations where large concentrations of birds cause concern. Citizens are encouraged to report such sites at www.dnr.state.mi.us/cormorantobs. - Michigan DNR