



P.O. Box 611337  
Port Huron, MI  
48061-1337

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### Original Publication Information

Results of this study "Diet and Prey Selection by Lake Superior Lake Trout during Spring, 1986-2001," are reported by Bradley A. Ray, Thomas R. Hrabik, Mark P. Ebener, Owen T. Gorman, Donald R. Schreiner, Stephen T. Schram, Shawn P. Sitar, William P. Mattes and Charles R. Bronte in the latest issue (Volume 33, No. 1, pp. 104-113) of the Journal of Great Lakes Research, published by the International Association for Great Lakes Research, 2007.

#### Contacts

For more information about the study, contact Bradley Ray, College of Natural Resources, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA 24061, baray@vt.edu, (540) 231-5320.

For information about the Journal of Great Lakes Research, contact Marlene Evans, Editor, National Water Research Institute, 11 Innovation Boulevard, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 3H5, Canada; editor@iaglr.org; (608) 692-1076.

#### Conservation Officer Breaks Up Poaching Ring in St. Clair County

Six suspects recently were charged with illegally taking deer and shining after a two and one-half month investigation by a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer into a poaching ring operating in St. Clair County in late 2006. The poachers may have illegally killed as many as 60 white-tailed deer in an area ranging from Port Huron to Capac.

Using a spotlight and powerful scope mounted on one of their .17 caliber hunting rifles, the suspects admitted to shooting at 75 to 100 deer in the area, killing as many as 60. Many of the deer were left un-recovered; while some were sold and others had only their choice steaks removed. The suspects admitted to also shooting at rabbits and domestic cats, and one admitted to shooting at a cow.

Four of the suspects pleaded guilty to the charges and paid fines. Two other cases are pending in St. Clair County Probate Court because the suspects were juveniles at the time of the incidents. The suspects ranged in age from 16 to 20.

The suspects who have been prosecuted will pay \$3,000 each in restitution to the state for the unlawfully killed deer. They also had their firearms confiscated, lost their hunting privileges for three years and each must serve 300 hours of community service by attending hunter safety classes and meetings at area sportsmen's clubs.

Conservation Officer John Borkovich, assigned to St. Clair County, led the investigation. - Great Lakes Sportfishing Council

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Salmon Stakes Chairman Paul Baker presents Captain Paul Zimmer with the Largest Brown Trout Trophy. Paul and the Donna Mae crew captured this 22 lb 15 oz. Brown Trout while fishing out of Port Sanilac.



**General Membership Meeting :**  
Wed., March, 11th, 7:30 pm  
at McMorran

P.O. Box 611337  
Port Huron, MI 48061-1337  
1 (800) 255-0508 • Fax: (313) 841-3786  
www.bluewatersportfishing.net  
E-mail: fish@bluewatersportfishing.net

**Board of Directors Meeting:**  
Tues. March 3, - 7:00 pm  
at McMorran

## Salmon Stakes

2007 St. Clair Salmon Stakes will be on April 28th. The event will again be hosted by the Voyageur Restaurant. There are quite a few changes this year to the event. We were unable to obtain a Raffle license in time to put together any raffle prizes. We have learned that several Fish and Wildlife organizations in Michigan are having the same problem.

This year, it will only be a tournament. Entry forms can be obtained at the Voyageur Restaurant, Anglers in St. Clair, Anderson's Pro Bait in Port Huron, and the April General Membership meeting. Anglers must fish for a boat this year. The entry is \$10 per person on the vessel.

The tournament will be 80% payout to the participants. The 80% will be divided among the big fish prizes (Brown, Steelhead, Lake Trout, Coho, King, and Walleye) and the Super Skipper evenly.

## Club Tournaments

Look for 2007 club tournament schedule business cards to be handed out at the future General Membership Meeting. The schedule also can be found on the club's website at: <http://www.bluewatersportfishing.net>

The first event will be Sunday, April 22nd out of Port Huron. Boats are to stage at 5:30am between buoys #1 and #2 in Lake Huron. Participants are to pull lines at 11:00am. Boats are allowed 1 1/2 hours time to get to the weigh-in. The weigh-in will be at the Zebra Bar. Allow some time to get to the Zebra Bar due to the no wake zone in the Black River.

## Permit Required

The law requires all oceangoing ships visiting Michigan ports to obtain a state permit by either promising not to discharge ballast water or proving they are equipped to sanitize ballast tanks with one of four state-approved technologies. Ocean freighters account for 5 percent of the cargo moved on the Great Lakes, with about 220 ships entering the lakes annually, according to government data. But scientific studies have found that the vessels have imported most of the exotic species found in the lakes during the past 50 years, including zebra and quagga mussels, goby, ruffe and the spiny water flea.

## Lake Huron Workshop March 2nd

To my friends at the BWSA!

Attached is the agenda and registration information for the 2007 Lake Huron Regional Fishery Workshop to be held in Port Sanilac on April 14 (there is another in Alpena on April 21). Registration forms for both are also available for download online at: [www.miseagrant.umich.edu/fisheries](http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/fisheries)

Please feel free to share these with any BWSA members or others in your community who might be interested in attending either of these workshops.

Thanks again for BWSA's continued support of these informational workshops!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Brandon Schroeder  
District Sea Grant Extension Educator  
The registration form and agenda are on the home page of the club's website. [www.bluewatersportfishing.net](http://www.bluewatersportfishing.net)

**Fish Stories** Attention Club Members!

**We are looking for images and pictures of your fish stories to place in the newsletter. If you have a great story about a recent fishing trip that you want to brag about, contact Mike Rymar at (586)-215-3972 or at [mrymar@hotmail.com](mailto:mrymar@hotmail.com).**

*We would love to publish your story.*

## To Wide of Net

The shippers, including the Seaway Great Lakes Trade Association and the U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association, say the law casts too wide a net because only a fraction of the freighters that visit Michigan ports each year discharge their ballast water.

"What's wrong with this picture? The same shippers that brought us zebra mussels are now suing Michigan to stop us from protecting ourselves from invasive species," Andy Buchsbaum, director of the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes office in Ann Arbor, told The Muskegon Chronicle. - AP

## Important Boating Dates

|            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| April 1    | 2006 Fishing License Expires       |
| April 22   | Port Huron Club Salmon Tournament  |
| April 28   | Salmon Stakes                      |
| May 18-20  | Blue Water Classic                 |
| June 2     | Port Huron Club Walleye Tournament |
| June 22-24 | Thumb Area Offshore Challenge      |
| July 29    | Port Sanilac Club Perch Tournament |
| Aug. 18-19 | Ludington Club Salmon Tournament   |

## Smelt are the Preferred Diet of Lake Trout

Ann Arbor, MI — Lake trout in Lake Superior appear to prefer to eat rainbow smelt more than other fish. There are two primary types of lake trout, the fat or siscowet lake trout and the lean lake trout. Both of these types have been increasing in number over the last 20 years and could be competing, which may slow the increase of the commercial and recreational important lean lake trout. Researchers from around Lake Superior collaborated to analyze 16 years of data to examine the food habits of the two types of lake trout, in order to observe if competition was occurring and if there had been any changes in the preference of food items. Rainbow smelt were preferentially eaten by lean lake trout, despite recent declines in smelt abundance. Further, although siscowet lake trout also appeared to prefer rainbow smelt, there is not strong evidence for competition among the two lake trout types. "This work helps bring up-to-date information to management agencies around Lake Superior," said Bradley Ray, a former graduate student at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. "Showing the food habits of lean and siscowet lake trout can further the efforts to restore lake trout throughout the Great Lakes."

## Shipping Company Sue Michigan

over ballast-water law

DETROIT - A coalition of shipping companies and industry groups from the United States, Canada and Barbados representing ocean freighters that transport cargo on the Great Lakes has sued Michigan, claiming its new ballast-water law is unconstitutional.

The law, which took effect Jan. 1, is among the first of its type in the nation. It is aimed at stopping the further introduction of invasive species into the lakes through the discharge of ocean water used as ballast.

A freighter takes in thousands of gallons of ballast water to stabilize it when traveling with little or no cargo.

Four shipping companies, four shipping associations and one dock company filed a complaint March 15 in U.S. District Court in Detroit. It asks a judge to declare the Michigan Ballast Water Act unconstitutional.

"The ballast water statute places unreasonable burdens on interstate commerce and is clearly excessive in relation to the putative local benefits gained," according to the federal lawsuit. "It's disappointing that these groups are choosing to ignore this law that really is designed to keep our Great Lakes protected," Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokesman Robert McCann told The Detroit News this week.