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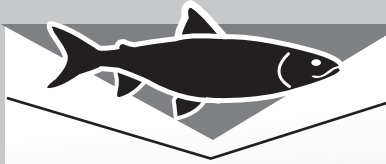


V33, # 2 • February, 2007



# BLUE WATER Sportfishing

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**Board of Directors Meeting:**  
Tues. February 6, - 7:00 pm  
at McMorran

**General Membership Meeting :**  
Wed., Feb. 14th, 7:30 pm  
at McMorran

**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.***

***We would love to publish your story.***

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## Wild Game Dinner

February's general membership meeting will be the BWSA's second wild game dinner. All are welcome to attend. The event will take place on February 14 at McMorran. Bob Lane is organizing the event. Bob has several volunteers bring different wild game entrées. If you are also planning on bringing a wild game entrée, you should contact Bob @ (810)-367-6202 if you have not already. People are welcome to bring more wild game entrées and we also need desserts. Currently, the only special presentation we will have for this meeting is Bob Roskey presenting the Big Fish awards. This meeting is meant to be more of a social event, so we suggest you bring some pictures of your recent hunting and fishing trips from last year to brag about at the dinner.

## Important Boating Dates

Feb. 10-18	Detroit Boat Show
March 1	2006 Fishing Licenses go on Sale
March 2-4	Spring Boat & Fishing Show - Birch Run
March 29	Fishing Forever Banquet
TBA	Salmon Stakes
May 18-20	Blue Water Classic

## Club Tournaments

Look for 2007 club tournament schedule business cards to be handed out at the future General Membership Meeting. When the schedule is decided upon, it will also be found on the club's website at: <http://www.bluewatersportfishing.net>

Mike Warshefski will be taking over as the boat tournament chairperson for Paul Baker. Paul did a great job running the events for the past 5 years. If you have any questions regarding the club boat tournaments, feel free to call Mike at 987-5881.

## What is VHS

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) virus is a serious pathogen of fresh and saltwater that is causing and emerging disease in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada. VHS is a virus that affects fish of all age ranges. IT DOES NOT POSE A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH. VHS can cause hemorrhaging of fish tissue, including internal organs, and can cause death of infected fish. Once a fish develop the disease, but they carry and spread the disease to other fish. VHS has been blamed for fish kills in Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The Vector of introduction has been ballast water discharge from foreign flag vessels. The spread will be from lake freighters, fishermen and recreational boaters. Because of the fish migration from the St. Clair River into Lake Huron, the estimated arrival timetable is some time in late 2007-2008, with introduction to Lake Michigan in late 2007-2008. What can be done to prevent the spread of VHS?

- ...Remove all mud, aquatic plants and animals from all gear, boats, motors and trailers before leaving a body of water.
- ... Drain your live well, bilge and boat tanks before leaving the water you are fishing or boating on.
- ... Anglers or boaters using a body of water known to be infected with VHS should disinfect their live wells and boat wells with a 10% chlorine/water solution. Rinse well to remove all residual chlorine.
- ... Do not transport fish from one body of water to another.
- ... Release bait fish into the water body they came from.
- ... Do not dispose of fish carcasses or byproducts in any body of water.

If you witness a large number of dead or dying fish (usually 100 or more), notify your nearest DNR office (Fisheries). The impact of the VHS virus on fish population is uncertain. It has caused fish mortality ranging from a few fish to thousands. There is no clear visual diagnostics to confirm VHS. The only way to confirm VHS is to test fish in a lab. This is yet another serious reason to have all ballast water sterilized or close the Lakes to ocean vessels.

Ken E. Merckel - Thumb Steelheaders



## Spring Boat & Fishing Show

BWSA has once again decided to rent a space at the Birch Run Boat and Fishing Show on March 2-4. We are doing this to help promote the club, Salmon Stakes, and BW Classic tournament.

There are several free seminars discussing Great Lake Trolling. Also, Great Lakes Angler Magazine has a \$25 seminar that you have to pre-register for (you should get your money back out of it with the free products that are in their giftbags). John King, owner of the Reel Flasher, will also be holding cutbait seminars which should definitely help your fall King Catch Rates if you attend.

Debby Livingston is helping organize the volunteer effort, she can be reached at 810-334-5129. More info on the show can be found at this website:

[www.flintsteelheaders.com/spring\\_show.htm](http://www.flintsteelheaders.com/spring_show.htm)

## Fish & Angler Use at Artificial Reef

Fish and Angler Use at a Freshwater Artificial Reef  
If you build it, will they come?

In November 1999, an artificial reef composed of granite rubble was built in southwestern Lake Michigan to attract smallmouth bass. Adult fish communities were sampled at the artificial reef site and a nearby reference site before (1999) and after reef construction (2000-2003) to determine whether the artificial reef attracted sport fishes.

The total number of fish observed along scuba transects was higher at the artificial reef than at the reference site during 2000-2003. Smallmouth bass, rock bass, round goby and yellow perch were most commonly observed by divers at the artificial reef site, whereas the round goby was the most prevalent species observed at the reference site. Mean annual total gill-net catch per unit effort (CPUE) did not differ at the two sites after reef construction.

Freshwater drum, gizzard shad, yellow perch, and salmon were commonly caught at both locations. The presence of several of these fish was related to water temperature but not location. Smallmouth bass presence was related to location; CPUE was greater at the artificial reef than at the reference site during 2000-2002.

Rock bass CPUE also was greater at the artificial reef than at the reference site during 2002. Smallmouth bass association with the reef was seasonal and correlated with temperature. Although anglers were aware of the artificial reef, fishing effort and success were low, in part because few anglers targeted black bass. Because water temperature strongly influences the use of structure by centrarchids in deep, cold lakes like Lake Michigan, care must be taken to site artificial reefs in zones of the most suitable water temperature for these species. - Great Lakes Sportfishing Council

## Club Meetings

Several of the clubs committees have started meeting on a weekly basis. Advertising, Fishing Forever, Classic, and Salmon Stakes have all met in the past week to discuss changes and organize the 2007 events. If you are interest in helping out at any of these events, please join us at the Wild Game dinner to find out how.

## Michigan Recreational Boating Info

There are over 1,300 public boating access sites and over 80 harbors and marinas throughout the State of Michigan administered by State, county, and local units of government. This website gives you the ability to locate and map boating access sites, harbors, and marinas for your next boating adventure!

Go to: [www.mcgi.state.mi.us/MRBIS/](http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/MRBIS/) - Great Lakes Sportfishing Council

## BWSA Big Fish Winner

Year	Angler	Species	Weight
1980	Bob Bingle	King	34.0 lbs.
1981	No Record		
1982	Jim Turner	King	29.1 lbs.
1983	Len Gerlach	King	31.9 lbs.
1984	John Perry	King	31.9 lbs.
1985	Les Smith	King	27.3 lbs.
1986	Mark Cooley	King	26.1 lbs.
1987	Pat Griffin	King	26.0 lbs.
1988	Garrett Gaw	King	29.6 lbs.
1989	No Record		
1990	No Record		
1991	Rick Kolady	King	28.5 lbs.
1992	Joanne Stahl	King	27.45 lbs.
1993	Jay Brueggeman	King	27.0 lbs.
1994	Mike Rymar	King	22.8 lbs.
1995	Judy Ogden	King	32.2 lbs.
1996	Dan Fenner	King	27.08 lbs.
1997	Eric Hutchinson	King	28.12 lbs.
1998	Andy Remeselnik	King	26.5 lbs.
1999	Tim Cook	King	26.3 lbs.
2000	Jim Kuehn	King	24.85 lbs.
2001	Mike Rymar	King	29.63 lbs.
2002	Brian Meredith	King	25.1 lbs.
2003	Rich Cooley	Lake Trout	36.55 lbs.
2004	Mike Rymar	King	21.44 lbs.
2005	Chris Seimen	King	23.50 lbs.
2006	Tim Cook	King	25.06 lbs.

## Big Fish Contest

Here are the Final standings for the Big Fish contest. If you were one of the lucky anglers to be listed, you need to attend the February general membership meeting to receive your trophy. Please direct any questions or comments about the contest to the Big Fish Chairman, Bob Roskey, at 987-7891.

### Adult Division

#### King Salmon

1st	Tim Cook	25lb 1oz
2nd	Dick Roskey	20lb 9oz
3rd	Carole Thornsberry	20lb 2oz

#### Brown Trout

1st	Paul Zimmer	22lb 15oz
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#### Steelhead

1st	Carole Thornsberry	10lb 8oz
2nd	Jim Frazer	10lb 5oz
3rd	Carole Thornsberry	10lb 4oz

#### Lake Trout

1st	Dave Rymar	11.66lb
2nd	Al Gaylin	8lb 15oz
3rd	Preston Shroeder Jr	8lb 6oz

#### Walleye

1st	Steve McKinch	7lb 12oz
2nd	Ed Loehnis	4lb 1oz
3rd	Ed Loehnis	3lb 14oz

#### Coho

1st	Steve McKinch	7lb 9oz
2nd	Carole Thornsberry	7lb 2oz
3rd	Carole Thornsberry	6lb 3oz

### Junior Division

#### King Salmon

1st	Raymond Rapson	7lb 9 oz
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## Club Tournament Winners

Here are winning captains and crews from the BWSA 2006 club tournament trail. Congratulations and we wish you good luck in 2007.



**Twilight Winners**  
Eveeady Crew



**Harbor Beach Winners**  
King Kong Crew



**Ludington Winners**  
King Kong Crew