

# Thunder Bay Walleye Club Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2016

PO Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

## Officers

**President** Jim Leeseberg  
**Vice President** Dave Birmingham  
**Financial/Recording Sec** Dennis Burns

## Board of Directors

Bill O'Neil  
Richard Hubert  
Eric MacKenzie  
Kevin Cosbitt

## Some Fishing Results



Gage and Eric Kruczynski did really well on Grand Lake last weekend January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. Kept 33 perch Saturday. 8-13.5" in size. Sorted through 75 probably. 9 fow in Meltzer bay. Half on tip ups the other half jigging with a minnow head. Perch were packed with wigglers and crayfish. Went back to Grand Lake last Sunday. Tried near Grand Island. Fished for 4 hours in the morning. Kept 23 perch 8-12". Sorted through only 35 so there was a lot better size ratio there. Same program with jigging/tip ups and the same depth of water, 9ft. There is 11-12" of ice everywhere and 3-4 trucks out on the ice (not that I recommend that!). It is by far the most anglers I have ever seen on Grand Lake. There were

a dozen or more trucks with trailers parked out on the road at the south end launch, so get there early!

Mike and Eric Kruczynski, Bill Skiba, Chris Wade and Ben Skiba have been putting a dent in some predators lately. Winter is also a great time to get out predator hunting. We have been taking coyote and fox in the past few weeks both by running them with hounds and hunting over bait. So try getting out to control the predator population. It's a great change of pace and a great way to break up the winter blues, and I promise that nothing is more exciting.

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Carl Kelly wrote Do not have a report on the lakes you mentioned but Fletcher's is good. 12" of solid ice. They, not me, are driving out. Pan fishing very good. Iced 83 fish one day and 75 another. Mostly Bluegills. Have not been able to locate the perch.

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Matt Franklin wrote Heard of limits being caught of walleye on the north end of Hubbard. Long Lake was slow mainly perch. Cook stove was dead, Round top had some decent reports. The best was on the South end across from the Sand Bar and Grill. Grand is producing everywhere it seems.

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Gene Samp says Perch and walleye were both biting well on long lake this past weekend, 15-20 feet of water, 13" of ice.

Gary VanMassenhove says there is a foot to 14" of ice on Long Lake. Many pickups, cars and Jeeps driving all over last weekend.

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Eric MacKenzie says catching some nice perch on grand lake! 12-16' of water. Several fish over 11-14 inches.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THESE REPORTS

## DNR STUFF

Long Lake, Alpena County  
December 15, 2015  
Gaylord CSC, Gaylord

Attendees: Tom Ludwig, Steve Roznowski, Bob Garant, Tim Cwalinski, Lindsey Henski, Dave Borgeson

Tom Ludwig discussed his concerns with gobies, zebra mussels, and the decline in bait fish. He retired this May, and has fished more this year than ever; fishing this year was terrible in his opinion. Is there a way to replenish the plankton and get bait fish numbers higher? As the President of the Lake Association, he gets the calls asking 'what's going on'.

Dave Borgeson discussed predator pray relationships with an emphasis on gobies. We haven't found a good way to survey gobies, so there may be more than you think and they are a forage fish. Lake clarity, vegetation and rusty crawfish were discussed. Rusty crawfish are prominent in Long Lake and they shred vegetation. The Clean Water Act and the impacts it has had on nutrients were also discussed. Lakes and streams are trending towards their natural states now and without these artificial inputs perhaps productivity expectations are unrealistic.

Tim Cwalinski detailed Tip-of-the-Mitt Watershed Council's water monitoring program. Long Lake is not currently monitored, but if someone from the Lake Association was willing to collect the data, it provides trends on phosphorus, nitrogen, productivity, clarity, etc.

Tom Ludwig asked what can be done about zebra mussels. Tim Cwalinski responded not much. Mussels are starting to self-limit though. There becomes a point in their new environments when calcium becomes a limiting factor, and they become less able to build shells (and flourish). Gobies also eat zebra mussels, but you're trading one pest for another.

DNR staff discussed walleye and bass populations on Long Lake. Long Lake has good natural reproduction of smallmouth bass and walleye. However, with a high bass (predator) population bait fish numbers will remain low. Anglers need to harvest bass occasionally. With prolific numbers of bass, juvenile walleye and perch are prey items. Bass populations have been known to limit walleye recruitment.

Low perch numbers were discussed. If vegetation is diminishing that may be true. Perch spawn on upright vegetation. However, perch go up into the creeks also. Those creeks need to be kept open for the fish to migrate into, and spawn.

Tom Ludwig addressed low numbers and small size of bluegill. During the last derby only two were caught! Dave Borgeson expressed that young of the year bluegill are less active in the winter. And without weed cover, perch will mow them down! Nevertheless, those that survive can get very big.

Tim Cwalinski provided a Status of the Fishery Report. This report can also be found online at [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364\\_52259\\_19056-46374--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52259_19056-46374--,00.html).

Tribal rights were discussed as some anglers on Long Lake attribute population declines to tribal over harvest. Under the 1836 Inland Consent Treaty (2007), tribal member have the right to harvest fish in a different manner than state anglers. They are monitored under a permit system by the individual tribes, but that information sharing with the State has been good. We have data on permits issued. Tribal anglers who harvest walleye on Long Lake/Shubert's Creek make up a very small percent of anglers/harvest.

The Inland Consent Decree is a court document between the State of Michigan and 5 tribes. Permits are required and reports are sent to the State. Estimate of walleye numbers (surveyed empirical number) gives us a theoretical number of what can safely be taken by the tribes. Currently, tribal harvest is nowhere near what it could be.

Tim Cwalinski also discussed the Northern Inland Lakes Citizen Fishery Advisory Council. Long Lake Association members are welcome to attend the Northern Inland Lakes Citizen Fishery Advisory Council meetings. These meetings are bi-annual. Although Long Lake is not part of that system, it will provide data on similar lakes in the area. A few members from Grand Lake typically attend.

Additional Links:

*2007 Consent Decree* - [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364\\_47864-176765--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364_47864-176765--,00.html)

*Weekly Fishing Reports* - [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364\\_59567--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_59567--,00.html)

*Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council* - <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/>

*Northern Inland Lakes Citizen Fishery Advisory Council* - [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-65134\\_65139\\_65167---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-65134_65139_65167---,00.html)

The "Hot Topic" is that the DNR is in the process of constructing a new re-search vessel as well as re-powering an older vessel.

The new vessel named the R/V Tanner is scheduled to replace the 68 year old R/V Chinook in April 2016. The vessel is currently being constructed at Anderson Boat Works in Saugatuck, Mi. This is the same place the R/V Lake Char was constructed back in 2007. As of January 2016 the vessels hull, pilot house, and deck house structures have been completed, the John Deere diesel engines have been mounted, generator is in place, fuel tanks and hydraulic reservoirs are in place. Work is starting on the electrical, hydraulics, and much more. By the time you read this newsletter most of these items will be old news, so for further information regarding the vessels construction look for more news to come out.

The other hot item in the vessel program is that the Channel Cat will be trading in its 1968 Detroit Diesels for new Cummins QSB 6.7 diesel engines. The repower of the Channel Cat will start in December 2015 and be finished for spring 2016. The work is being done by W.C. Beardslee on Harsens Island.

Want to know more about research vessels?

Please follow the link below to find out more information related to each of the Michigan DNR Fisheries Division's Great Lakes Research Vessels.

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/RV-FactSheet\\_454641\\_7.pdf?20141222113908](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/RV-FactSheet_454641_7.pdf?20141222113908)

# 2016 TBWC Club Fishing Tournaments

<u>Location:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1 Thunder Bay River/Lk Huron – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor	Sun May 1 <sup>st</sup>	7AM – 3PM
2 Hubbard Lake – Launch DNR East Bay	Sat May 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6PM – 2AM</b>
3 Saginaw Bay - Launch AuGres DNR	Sun May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7AM – 3PM
4 Long Lake - Launch Long Lake Park	Sun June 5 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
* 5 “Nite – Eyes” – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor ( <b>Public</b> )	Fri & Sat June 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6PM – 1AM</b>
6 Mullet Lake – Launch DNR North End	Sun June 26 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
7 Thunder Bay – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor	Sun July 10 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
<b>MI. Brown Trout/MWT</b> Walleye Tourney – Launch Alp. Boat Harbor	Sat & Sun July 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
8 Rockport –Launch Rockport, Alternate Grand Lake	Sun August 7 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
9 Grand Lake - Launch South DNR	Sun August 21 <sup>st</sup>	7AM – 3PM
10 Hubbard Lake – Launch DNR East Bay	Sun Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM

**NON NUMBERED TOURNAMENTS ARE NO POINT TOURNEYS.**

**\* NITE EYES ENTRY IS \$100.00 PER BOAT for both nights, 8 ROD LIMIT, NO LIMIT ON # OF CONTESTANTS ON THE BOAT**

## TBWC POINT TOURNAMENTS

### ENTRY

- Each boat must contain at least one TBWC member for club tournaments. A non-member may fish **only one club contest** before becoming a member.
- 16 and under may fish more than one time. Membership is not required.
- If the 16 and under is 1 of only 2 in the boat entry fee must be paid for all.**
- You must sign up everyone in the boat **including those 16 and under** PRIOR to launching. There will be a sign-up sheet attached to a pickup with a bike flag at each event. Failure to sign up will result in forfeiture of any prize money and points toward Angler-of-the-Year for that event. If you have to leave early, please leave your money in the sign-up folder in the envelope provided.
- Entry fee is **\$25.00** for each participant **except those 16 and under**. **Payment for the tournament is made at sign-in.**
- You must be at the weigh-in site **past** the check in boat at the finish time although you may launch any time after the start time.

### ROD LIMIT and OTHER CONDITIONS

- 6 Rod limit per boat, all other MDNR fishing rules apply.

### PAYOUT

- 20% of the total **entry less the \$100.00 bonus** will be withheld from each event as follows:
  - One-half (10% of the entry) is held for the tournament fund to pay for trophy and plaque expenses.
  - One-half (10% of the entry) is held for banquet prizes to be awarded to all club tournament contestants.
  - A \$100.00 bonus will be paid for the largest walleye prior to the 20% withholding.**
- 80% of the **total entry less the \$100.00 bonus** will be paid to the first 3 places with heaviest weight of 5 fish according to the following: 60% to 1<sup>st</sup> place.....25% to 2<sup>nd</sup> place.....15% to 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- Any remaining monies left from the tournament fund and any places not paid will go toward the Angler-of-the-Year.

### POINTS

Point count toward Angler of the Year will be determined by the total weight of five (5) fish for each boat. Points will be normalized based on the heaviest weight caught equaling 100 points. Subsequent places receive points based on a percent of their weight compared to the winning weight (winning weight=100%=100pts...see examples). We will no longer have points for big fish, limits or show points. The boats will receive points as follows:

Example:

<b>Tournament 1</b>			<b>Tournament 2</b>		
	<b>Raw Weight</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Raw Weight</b>	<b>Points</b>
Boat 1	30.0 lbs (100%)	100.0	Boat 1	12.3 lbs	100.0
Boat 2	28.0 lbs (93.3%)	93.3	Boat 2	2.2 lbs	17.9
Boat 3	27.0 lbs (90%)	90.0	Boat 3	1.5 lbs	12.2
Boat 4	26.0 lbs (86.7%)	86.7	Boat 4	1.2 lbs	9.8
Boat 5	15.0 lbs (50%)	50.0	Boat 5	0	0
Boat 6	1.5 lbs (5%)	5.0	Boat 6	0	0

### ACCUMULATION OF POINTS

Five (5) best contests will be counted for Angler-of-the-Year points. In the case of a tie within a team, the team will decide AOY. In the case of a tie not among a team, the tie will be broken by the number of 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes, followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes, etc.

**AWARDS**

The anglers on the winning team of each club tournament will receive a plaque. The Angler-of-the-Year will be awarded a TBWC membership, money not spent on trophies, current club jacket, a hat along with a traveling trophy that will pass on to the top angler each subsequent year. All awards will be presented at the annual banquet.

**THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE WILL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION IN ANY CONDITION NOT COVERED ABOVE.**

**January meeting notes**, the \$500 BONUS for 3 fish weighing over 10# on 3 designated lakes was voted down for this year.

No veteran's tournament this year.

**Entry fee for Night Eyes** is now \$100.00 per boat see tournament schedule.

Motion for the TBWC against Aqua Farming passed.

Discussion on Reel Fun Tourney and drilling.

**FUTURE THINGS**

**The Blue Water Bait will be hosting the 3rd Annual 6am-6pm Perch and Walleye Tournament on Hubbard Lake, Saturday, February 13th.** You must be present by 7pm and checked in with Jeremy, Tournament Director, to measure fish. Anyone showing after the 7pm deadline will be disqualified. Registration is \$10 and will pay 1st and 2nd for longest Walleye and Perch. You can register any time at Blue Water Bait and Northend Restaurant. Any questions call 727-2700.

Bait will be available that day starting at 5am.

Blue Water Bait will stay open the night before until 8pm.

**Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament is the last Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Long Beards bird house building at Sportsmens Club March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Contact Edith Utecht 989 354 4964 for info.**

**Club awards banquet is set for the last Saturday in April.**

**BROWN TROUT**

*Glen will have an update on this year's progress to date. Their meeting is the first Monday of each month.*

2016  
THUNDER BAY WALLEYE CLUB  
&  
SIDE DOOR BAIT & TACKLE  
ARE SPONSORING  
WALLEYE & PERCH  
FISHING TOURNAMENT  
HUBBARD LAKE  
FEBRUARY 21, 2016  
7AM-3PM

- Registration is at Side Door Bait & Tackle beginning @ 6am (bait will be available); registration will not be taken after 11am. Pre-registration is available.
- \$10 per person- half the pot for largest WALLEYE and half the pot for largest PERCH. Winner will be determined by the total length of largest walleye and largest perch.
- In case of tie, in either category, draw card for winner.
- Measuring will take place at the South DNR Launch @ 3pm; late arrivals will not be accepted.
- Winner takes all tournament: Largest Walleye and Largest Perch - 100% payback.

**The tournament will be cancelled if there is not safe ice on the entire lake up until the start of the tournament at 7am.**

**Bay View Resort on Hubbard Lake-- Ice Fishing Rentals**

Owner:  
Jeff Geppert  
Primary # 989-727-2341  
[www.bayviewresort.info](http://www.bayviewresort.info)

For Thunder Bay Walleye Club members, he will give a \$5.00 per night off rentals Cabins. 3 cabins-- 4 people per cabin is comfortable. Full Kitchens/Bath/Plenty of parking for ice fishing gear. Cottages are \$80 per night- deposit of \$50 required at booking.

Motel Rooms  
3 Rooms Total  
2 Lower Rooms have a queen bed per room-- \$60 a night  
1 Upper Room has a queen and foldout couch-- \$70 a night

**SERVICES**

**Boat & RV Fiberglass repair--** Mid Michigan Fiberglass Inc. Owner Steve Schnettler, 1809 27th St.  
Bay City Michigan 989-895-7000 [www.midmichiganfiberglass.com](http://www.midmichiganfiberglass.com) Factory Authorized. Highly recommended by Romeo 989-358-5310

**Electric Motor, Canvas, and Downrigger Repair**

If you are in need of work on your Minnkota, need canvas work, or your Cannon Downriggers Serviced get ahold of Brad Valley @ Valley's Dockside Canvas Services and Repairs all Minnkota products including Cannon Downriggers. 989-464-1191.

Looking for upgrades, repairs, and now fall winter WORK? Call the Boat Keeper! Most of you already know that TBWC member Greg Trelfa is a great mechanic. Why order from the big stores when Greg now has access to a full line of marine parts and accessories for all the major brands like Johnson, Evenrude, Mercury, Yamaha and more? He can also supply you with the latest in electronics from Lowrance and Hummingbird, and does professional high end installations as well. His kind of personal service and expertise is hard to come by, so if you are looking to upgrade some electronics or need some repairs or maintenance done and want it done right at very competitive prices, give Greg a call @ 595-3149.

Wayne Van Dyke has a "Repair Kit" for all Off Shore Products. Anyone needing repair work, just contact me at [wvandyke35@hotmail.com](mailto:wvandyke35@hotmail.com) and I'll try to take care of it. No cost.

**CLUB MEMBERSHIPS CAN BE PAID NOW.**

Single person membership is \$15.00 per year. Family membership is \$25.00 includes all persons living in your household.

If you don't know if your memberships are due contact Denny Burns at 989 354 2419, email me or see me at a meeting.

Email members have the *membership year* after their last name on emails sent by Denny Burns.

Regular mailed member's membership year is on the envelope.

Make checks out to TBWC.

**NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2016, 7pm

**MEETING ROOM 126**

ACC Besser Tech Center (Room -126) it's the large room to the *RIGHT* as you go in the front entrance in the BTC on the north side of Johnson St.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted in the newsletter.

(Please note: If the college is closed due to weather conditions the meeting will be rescheduled or cancelled)

Agenda:

Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament

Club Tourneys: Any Discussion  
Nite Eyes Nite Eyes 8 lines??

Brown Trout up date

Rotary Auction March 10<sup>th</sup>

Anything else you want to bring up.

*SPECIAL NOTE FOR FRIDAY February 26<sup>th</sup> DRILLING REEL FUN HOLES.  
Start time is 1pm*

*The first 10 people showing up with an ice auger for Friday drilling will receive 1 hole ticket for Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> and a TBWC membership.*

*The first 10 hole driller helpers will receive a TBWC membership.  
CONTACT JIM LEESEBERG 989 657 1393*