

Thunder Bay Walleye Club Monthly Newsletter

March 2020

P.O. Box 812, Alpena, MI 49707

Officers			Board of Directors	
<i>President</i>	Eric Kruczynski		Jim Leesberg	
<i>Vice President</i>	Jon Kruttlin		Eric MacKenzie	
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Dan VanMassenhove		Jeremy Phillips	
			Spencer Weidbrauk	

March 11, 2020 Meeting Highlights

We had the highest attendance at a meeting in a very long time. 33 members showed up, and for very good reason...details below. Thanks to all that supported this past meeting. Look forward too many more showing up to support our next held meeting which is currently scheduled for May 13th. We will update the status of that meeting as we get closer.

- Guest speakers Ed Clements and Mike Kelly gave an excellent presentation regarding the state of the bills currently being proposed by the MI Senate. To ensure we protect our walleye fishing resource in Lake Huron please personally contact the following senators to let them know you SUPPORT the following bills...4567, 4568, and 4569 that will update legislation regarding commercial netting.

Senator Ed McBroom	(517) 373-7840	SenEMcBroom@senate.michigan.gov
Senator Jon Bumstead	(517) 373-1635	SenJBumstead@senate.michigan.gov
Senator Rick Outman	(517) 373-3760	SenROutman@senate.michigan.gov
Senator Wayne Schmidt	(517) 373-2413	SenWSchmidt@senate.michigan.gov
Senator Sean McCann	(517) 373-5100	SenSMccann@senate.michigan.gov
State Rep Sue Allor	(517) 373-0833	SueAllor@house.mi.gov

Please contact the following senators to let them know you OPPOSE the following bills...SB 389 and HB 4790 that will expand upon current commercial netting.

Senator Kevin Daley	(517) 373-1777	SenKDaley@senate.michigan.gov
Senator Ken Horn	(517) 373-1760	SenKHorn@senate.michigan.gov
State Rep Sara Cambensy	(517) 373-0498	Saracambensy@house.mi.gov

We can all make a difference if we all personally reach out. I encourage each one of you to call or email these contacts. Together we can make a difference on this. Additionally, it was motioned and approved by unanimous vote at our March 11th meeting to submit a resolution on behalf of the TBWC in support of bill 4567, 4568, and 4569. I will be submitting this resolution today.

- Thanks to the extensive efforts and leadership of Jim Leesberg, and all the TBWC volunteers...the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament was a huge fundraising success for our club again this year. The club netted \$2,397.24 from this fund raiser. Jim is willing to lead this fundraiser again next year and after discussions at the meeting, we plan on doing it again.
- A new TBWC logo was voted in:



More information about how to get TBWC gear will be presented at a future meeting.

- There will be a new trophy for the AOY from this 2020 season. Jon Kruttlin presented an idea that we have a custom-made wrestling style belt made and awarded in lieu of the 4" x 6" plaque that is normally given to the AOY to keep. The traveling trophy will still be used in conjunction with this new trophy belt. This was motioned and approved.
- There will be a new scoring system for AOY for the 2020 season. The point system will be 100 points for 1st place, 99 for second, 98 for third, 40 points for a minimum score. If you show up and fish a tournament and do not catch a fish, you will still be awarded 40 points. First tie breaker at the end of the year will be the most 5 fish limits weighted in. Second tie breaker if necessary, will be the largest walleye weighted in. This was motioned and approved.
- I, Eric Kruczynski proposed a kid's day fishing event that the TBWC will do in the future. We had a lot of great ideas presented and I will put together a draft overview of the event for the next meeting. John Kruttlin and Carl Hatalaja will look into getting NPAA to donate towards this event once details are finalized.
- We had a great open format discussion regarding how to locate walleyes throughout seasonal transitions on Lake Huron. We also go into how to implement casting techniques into locating walleyes. Romeo Bourdage will be leading the fishing topics discussion at our next meeting. Appreciate you volunteering to do so Rome 😊.

- We have reached our goal for the 2020 Walleye Extravaganza of \$10,000. We have raised \$13,000 in total sponsorship money to date. The additional \$3,000 will be used towards the Walleye Triple Crown Event and big fish prizes. Huge thanks to everyone involved in making this happen. What an exciting event for our community. Great work everyone!!!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 13th 6:00pm Twin Acres/19th Hole

New Gear Review

This section is devoted to new fishing gear reviews. Each newsletter, we'd like a different member to share their personal review on some new (or new to them) fishing equipment they recently obtained. This is a great way to give some real-world feedback on new products to help the rest of our membership make purchasing choices. Gear is defined as any equipment used for the sport of walleye fishing, any season, any size. From ice cleats, shanty's, snowmobiles, boats, rod socks, etc. everything is game for this section no matter how big or how small...

Salmo Whacky 12 – Like many of you, I love buying crankbaits. I'm always looking for a lure that gives me an edge or is better than previous designs. Fishing technology is constantly improving and the same is true for crankbaits. Since they were introduced, I have had success with Rapala scatter minnows. At times and in certain applications they cannot be beat. Although they catch fish, I've never been happy with the durability of these baits. This winter I was introduced to the Salmo Whacky 12. Salmo has had these in production since 2012 but only available in Europe. While still hard to find in the US, you can get them. These are made with Salmo's high-density foam and better adhesive on the bill providing better durability. The action is almost identical to a Rapala scatter minnow. They are larger in profile and build. I haven't deployed them for walleyes yet but did have a very aggressive Atlantic salmon attack one on Wednesday this past week. Check them out and give them a try this season.





-Eric Kruczynski, President TBWC...father of the next Alpena fishing legend 😊

Fishing Reports

We are asking members to please contribute detailed fishing reports with photos. The idea here is to share our knowledge with our membership base. For those of you not wanting to blow your spot up by sharing information...well the idea here is to all expand our knowledge, it's one of the main focuses of the club. You don't have to give exact coordinates to your location, but rather focus on techniques, presentations, and structure features. Also, this is sent to membership several weeks after you submit your report, and THAT bite you reported is no longer there. So please share so we can all learn more!!!

First Week of March - Saginaw River and Bay - Adam Birk:

Adam reported some excellent catches and quality size fish while recently down fishing the Saginaw River and out in the Bay. Now is the time to get down there and to other destination areas like Lake Erie and Detroit River.

DPI Fishing Tournament 2/28/2020 – Long and Grand Lakes – Dan VanMassenhove:

Dan reported that catch rates were way down for this year and the bite was extremely slow. The winning walleyes were caught on the north end of Long Lake using a combination of tip ups and jigging.

3/18/2020 – Thunder Bay – Eric & Gage Kruczynski:

Made a short late morning trip and managed to land 3 nice Atlantic Salmon ranging from 3-9lbs. Would have landed a few more if I would've remembered the net on our first trip out for the year. Lol. We were trolling stick baits shallow (6-25 fow) from the river mouth to Lafarge channel.



Classifieds

Please email me: Eric.Kruczynski@yahoo.com if you have any for sale items you'd like listed. Items will be listed for one monthly newsletter cycle, unless requested for an additional extension each month.

TBWC Member Businesses. Please support our fellow members!!!

Greg Trelfa – The Boat Keeper

(989) 595-3149

Full-service marine mechanic and rigging specialist. Sells and installs all major name brand electronics.

Nate Engstrom – The Boat House

(989) 340-1120

Full-service dealer for: Ranger Boats, Avalon Pontoons, Starcraft/Starweld, Smokercraft, Yamaha, Mercury, Evinrude and a full line of associated OMC parts, and supplies. Sells and installs all major name brand electronics.

Brad Valley – Valley's Canvas

(989) 464-1191

Full-service dealer for Minnkota and Cannon. Full service custom canvas shop.

Jon Kruttlin – Alcona Motors

(888) 572-3878

Full-service Chevy and Buick dealer.

Justin Champagne – Northern Dents

(877) 200-4245

Paintless Dent Removal.

Jeff Tucholski – Gator Bait Tackle (989) 255-0336
Walleye Tackle Supplier and More...

Ed Reutherford – Trout Scout Charters (989) 657-2681
Salmon, Trout, and Walleye Charters NE MI

Carl Hatalja – Crazy Carl’s Sport Fishing (989) 255-8744
Walleye, Trout, and Salmon Charters NE MI...Also Custom Rod Holders

Erich Carlson – Carlson Wildlife Art (989) 464-5623
Hand painted, one of a kind, wildlife art.

Final Notes

- **2020 Membership Fees are due by no later than April 25th. \$15 individual. \$25 Family (in the same household). Checks made to TBWC. Bring to the April 25th tournament or mail to TBWC, P.O. Box 812, Alpena, MI 49707. I recommend everyone mailing their dues incase you don’t make the tournament.**
- Please make it a personal goal in 2020 to introduce someone new into our sport of walleye fishing!
- Please make your best efforts to attend all our upcoming meetings. There will be a few exciting and positive changes moving forward and we value your input.
- Check our TBWC Facebook page run by Jon Kruttlin for updates.

We face some unprecedented and challenging times with the recent spread of COVID 19 in the United States and Michigan. Thus far we have been fortunate to not have a case of it in the Alpena area as of today. The reality is COVID 19 has drastically impacted all our lives in some form or another. I encourage TBWC members to keep safety on the forefront of our minds at this point. Additionally, I encourage you to continue to take part in the outdoor activities we all cherish, safely. Get the boat out of storage. Get it prepped for the upcoming walleye season that is upon us. Head out on the water and take advantage of our resident walleye population in Thunder Bay. Target some different species that are near shore and available right now such as Atlantic Salmon, Brown Trout, and Lake Trout. Keeping a sense of normalcy and having some “water therapy” is also very important during this COVID 19 pandemic our country is experiencing. Lastly look out for one another. Together we will get through this!!!

2019 AOY.....Mark Haugerud