

FISHIN' LINE

Board of Directors

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231-889-4258

V/P: Alex Bialik (20)
231-690-3937

Sec./Treas: Michael Linke (21)
231-233-8191

Denny Blue (19)
231-889-3684

Lance Keene (19)
810-444-8114

Mason Clark (21)
231-233-2148

Phil Sedelmaier (20)
231-510-1424

Dave VanEerden (19)
231-645-9056

Jan Burger (21)
810-499-5132

An open letter from Captain Fred MacDonald

I was there...

In the late 1960's, an amazing thing happened in Manistee County. Thousands of little Chinook Salmon were brought in from the state of Washington and planted in the Manistee River.

They were brought here as an experiment. An attempt to establish a predator fish to help eliminate the thousands of alewives that were washing up and dying on the beaches of Lake Michigan. Not only did that plan work, but it worked better than anyone could have expected! Yes, the beaches were restored to pristine condition, and we also ended up witnessing the birth of a World Class Fishery right in our own backyard! There was so much forage for these first little Kings that they grew to astounding sizes. No one who fished in Michigan had ever seen or fished for such large fish. It was exciting and the word spread quickly! The result was a huge fishing industry that no one really expected. That's what drew me (and thousands like me) to Manistee.

I was there from nearly the beginning - watching this fledgling fishery explode! It turned novice anglers into avid salmon fishermen. It turned avid salmon fishermen into Charter Captains and it turned the charter fleet into a massive tourism draw that helped put Manistee on the map as a world-wide destination!

I was there for what followed. A decade or more of the most incredible salmon fishing on the planet.

I was there in the mid-1980s when Bacterial Kidney Disease and a depleted forage base led to a major decline of our fishery. Sure, there were plenty of Lake Trout and Steelhead to target, but it just wasn't the same without the allure of hooking up with an angry 4 year-old King. -continued-

2019 MCSFA Events

Annual Spring
Banquet

Saturday, May 4th
VFW Post - Manistee

Salmon & Trout Derby
Saturday, May 25th
through
Sunday,
September 8th

Kids Fish Day
Wednesday,
June 19th

Ladies Classic PRO/
AM Tournament
June 21st

Budweiser PRO/AM
Tournament
June 22nd & 23rd

continued - Fred MacDonald

I was there when the DNR first adjusted the fish plants to accommodate the declining forage base. I was a charter captain then, running my boat "30 Pounder". By then the Salmon Fishery had become my livelihood. Could it really be true that our incredible fishery was coming to end?

That was the beginning of the Manistee County Sportfishing Association (MCSFA). I knew we needed to be aware of everything that was happening to our fishery. We needed to organize! And we needed to be proactive in protecting that fishery for generations to come. In the years (and now decades) since, the MCSFA has consistently played an integral role in preserving our fishery. From education and outreach, to working with state and federal management agencies, to teaming up with local and state tourism organizations. Through it all the MCSFA has been a strong and successful voice - our voice, supporting and defending this most valued resource. I'm proud to be able to say that from day one - I was there. Yes, I was there for all of it - and what a fantastic journey it has been!

Now I am here. Here telling you that the MCSFA needs your support. Here asking you to step up and show your appreciation for what they've accomplished and to let them know that the passion for our fishery still runs strong!

There is still so much to do to keep our fishery healthy and growing. One key problem we are facing now is that most of us that were there from the beginning (myself included) are growing old. Sadly, and unavoidably, many have passed on. In the beginning the goal was to preserve this fishery for future generations and that remains the goal today. Now is the time for that future generation to pick up the torch and carry it headlong into the future!

There are many ways you can help, but perhaps the simplest (and most beneficial) is by becoming an MCSFA member. Registration is easy and can be done online at www.mcsfa.org. The path to the future is set, but now our success depends heavily on you! You can help. You can make a difference and you can leave your own mark on this fishery that has been loved by so many and will be loved by so many more. Based on the accomplishments of the past 30 years I have to say our future looks bright! And I should know - because from the beginning, I was there.

Southern Fishing Report

By Dave Van Eerden-MCSFA Board Member

At this time of year, many of us MCSFA members know of someone... friends, family or ourselves who are enjoying the sunshine and warmth of the southern states. The really lucky ones are close to the water, and that means fishing! From the Gulf coast of Texas, to Key West, fishing both inland and off shore, it is a blast to shed the heavy jacket and opt out for shorts and a T-shirt and a sturdy spinning rig.

The area I have become familiar with is the Gulf of Mexico along the southwestern shore of Florida. Several MCSFA members can be found in the Sarasota to Naples region. The biggest story, by far, leading to this winter's fishery has been the effects of several months of severe "red tide." Fortunately the "red tide" has now diminished to 'spotty,' and most areas are clear.

"Red tide" is deadly to marine life including fish, turtles, mammals and all shoreline birds and life in general. "Red tide" is an algae growth. When this algae begins to bloom, it gives off a toxic presence. This toxicity affects the water and the air. Even humans are effected by respiratory distress and have to leave the immediate shoreline area.

In late December 2018, most "red tide" had left SW Florida and fishing began to improve. Despite the death of thousands of fish, chances of a successful trip out on the gulf or along the inter coastal waterway are now pretty good.

Personally, I and several of your friends of MCSFA have had excellent catches of gulf fish. Gray snapper, lane snapper, vermillion snapper and grouper are leading the way offshore. In closer, the sheepshead (not related to fresh water sheep head), have been hitting good also. Inshore, around the mangroves, catching redfish, snook, trout and sheepshead is improving almost daily. Redfish and snook, favorites of many, are strictly catch and release as their numbers were seriously effected by the "red tide."

Altogether, being out on the water or fishing from one of many piers along the SW Florida coast is something, I hope, everyone gets an opportunity to do sometime soon. It is a blast! Most fishing here is simple spinning rod and reel stuff, not difficult. Most is live bait, cut bait or plug fishing.

Give me a call, 231-889-7867, I'll try to steer you in the right direction. Hook up with a friend or let me steer you to a charter captain for a fun wintertime get-a-way. You'll not forget it! Best wishes from Florida waters. Go Green - Go Blue!

Annual Membership Meeting and Spring Banquet

Manistee VFW Post - 28th Street - Manistee, Michigan
Saturday, May 4, 2019
Doors open at 5:00 pm
Cash Bar at 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Guest Speaker and Drawings to follow

In house raffle, door prizes, guest speaker, plus more. Make your reservation today!

Dinner tickets – \$35 each **-PAY ON LINE - Go to our website: www.mcsfa.org**

OR – To reserve your dinner tickets, please mail your check to the

Manistee County Sport Fishing Association

PO Box 98

Manistee, MI 49660

Questions: 231-887-4474

Email: mcsfa98@gmail.com

website: www.mcsfa.org

Prize List

- 1) Ruger .450 Bushmaster
- 2) Ruger 6.5 Creedmoor
- 3) Henry 22 mag. Golden Boy
- 4) Savage 17 HMR snow camo w/scope
- 5) Remington 870 Express Super Mag 12 Gauge
- 6) Barnett Raptor FX Crossbow Package
- 7) Savage Axis XP .270 w/scope
- 8) Savage Axis .243 w/scope
- 9) Ruger 10/22

MCSFA Membership Application

Please make checks payable to: MCSFA and mail to PO BOX 98, Manistee, MI 49660
or pay online by going to mcsfa.org.

Member Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Boat Name: _____

Docked At: _____

Member Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

_____ Non-Charter Boat Membership \$50.00

_____ Fun Fish Membership \$30

_____ Charter Boat Membership \$100.00

_____ Business Membership \$100.00 - web site address _____

(Note: All membership levels enter you in the Salmon Derby & FunFish.)

Membership (as indicated above) \$ _____

Spring Banquet Tickets (\$35.00 ea.) \$ _____

NOTE: RSVP is required.

Raffle Ticket Stubs (Are Mailed Separately) \$ _____

Donations (_____) \$ _____

Total Enclosed or **pay online: www.mcsfa.org** \$ _____

Credit Card Information if NOT paying online



Card Number IF NOT PAYING ON LINE _____ OR **PAY ON-LINE**
at www.mcsfa.org

Expiration Date _____ 3 Digit Security Code _____

Signature _____

Total amount to be billed to your credit card \$ _____

Volunteers Needed!! Please indicate the events at which you could be helpful.

_____ Kid Fish Day _____ Sell raffle tickets _____ General help

_____ Ladies Classic Pro/Am _____ Budweiser Pro/Am

_____ Weigh-in _____ Clean-up

_____ Yes, I would accept a nomination for a board seat.

The Manistee County Sport Fishing Association depends on your support. Please mail in your registration today. Your application is enclosed.

THANK YOU.

MCSFA

PO Box 98

Manistee, MI 49660

TO: