

# FISHIN' LINE

## Board of Directors

Pres: Kevin Hughes (26)  
231-633-9631

V/P: Logan Skiera (27)  
231- 233-3236

Sec/Trea: Michael Linke (27)  
231-233-8191

Jan Burger (27)  
810-499-5132

Lance Keene (28)  
810-444-8114

Matt Protasiewicz (28)  
517-896-3673

Austin Swiatlowski (26)  
231-690-9418

Tyler Reed (26)  
231-613-0168

Kirsan Hudak (28)  
262-498-1325

## From the Helm

We recently seated a new board after the annual elections held as required by the association bylaws. Incumbents Lance Keene, Matt Protasiewicz were reelected and Kirsan Hudak won the other open seat. She moved to Manistee in 2020 from Wisconsin and has been an active participant in our Fun Fish outings, welcome aboard!!

Next, at the boards organizational meeting in January Kevin Hughes was elected President, Logan Skiera elected Vice President, and Michael Linke as Secretary/Treasurer.

Again, 2025 was another banner year for the association with increases in participation in Fun Fish, Kid Fish, The Ladies Classic, The Small Boat tournament and annual Spring Banquet. Also, we added some events as exemplified by the End of Year Classic for Fun Fish, a Kids Fish event at Arcadia days, and the Salmon Derby added two Saturday big fish shoot out's in August.

Also, we are busily preparing for the 2026 season of events. At our last Board meeting in February, we voted to help underwrite the inaugural Tangled Tackle ice fishing contest for both the open and kids division, on February 28, and March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Next, please note the dates in the newsletter for our 2026 events and get them in your calendar. Get your membership up to date, sell your gun raffle tickets, when delivered, and purchase your spring banquet tickets.

Finally, I am proud to represent the association on the Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee, The Director of Fisheries Advisory Committee, The Manistee Chamber of Commerce, Onkama Harbor Commission and Invasive Species Committee. We have a world-class fishery in Manistee County with a multitude of easy public accessible lakes, rivers, and streams, our job is to insure these opportunities continue to exist.

Looking forward to a great 2026,

Captain Kevin Hughes, President, MCSFA

**2026 MCSFA Events**

Small Boat, Big Fish  
Tournament  
May 2nd

Annual Spring Banquet  
May 2nd

Salmon Derby  
Saturday, May 23rd  
through  
Monday,  
September 7th

Fun Fish  
Wednesdays beginning  
May 27 thru July 29

Kids Fish Day  
Wednesday, June 24

Captain Fred's Ladies  
Classic PRO/AM  
Tournament  
June 26th

Manistee Tri-Port  
Challenge  
PRO/AM Tournament  
June 27th & 28th

**Fun Fish**

The 2026 Fun Fish season will see a few fun themed events again this year! We will continue to fish every Wednesday starting May 27th thru July 29th with a couple of these having a special theme.

The schedule and locations are finalized, see below and make sure to follow us on Facebook where this information will be posted along with our on our website.

May	27th	Manistee Lake	6 - 9pm
June	3rd	Bear Lake	6 - 9pm
	10th	Portage Lake	6 - 9pm
	17th	Manistee Lake	6 - 9pm
	24th	Bear Lake	6 - 9pm
		(One Bait Wednesday)	
July	1st	Portage Lake	6 - 9pm
	8th	Manistee Lake	6 - 9pm
	15th	Bear Lake	6 - 9pm
	22nd	Portage Lake	6 - 9pm
		(Angler Exchange Wednesday)	
	29th	Manistee Lake	6 - 9pm

**End of Year Classic**

Location: TBD

Time: TBD

To qualify, each angler must make 80% of the Wednesday night Fun Fish nights. No entry fee, \$500 in prizes money and \$300 in tackle and prizes.

Reminder: 2025 payouts for Fun Fish BIG FISH will be cash payouts at the Spring Banquet on May 2nd.

Any questions call Logan Skiera (231) 233-3236.

**Small Boat Big Fish Tournament**  
Manistee County Sport Fishing Association  
Saturday, May 2, 2026

Back-up Date: May 3, 2026 (due to possible inclement weather on Saturday)  
This is a Big Fish Tournament being held by the Manistee County Sport Fishing Association for ALL fishermen & women.

Boats must be from 14 to 23 feet in length. The entry is **\$50.00** per boat. At least one person on each boat must be a member of the MCSFA (Fun fish membership or any big lake membership).

Registration for the tournament can be completed from 6-6:30 PM on Friday at the **Manistee Lions Pavilion**, OR Registration by mail or in person, must be received by MCSFA no later than Wednesday, April 29, 2026. Registration forms are available @ [www.MCSFA.org](http://www.MCSFA.org).

**There will be a Captains meeting following the final registration period at 6:45pm on Friday.**

This is a one-day tournament beginning at 6:30 AM and concluding at 12 PM. The weather back-up date is Sunday, May 3, 2026. In the event both days are canceled, all entry fees will be refunded. In case of bad weather, a tournament committee of MCSFA officials will determine a GO/NO GO status at 6:30 AM or sooner and will make appropriate announcements on VHF channel 68 and by the MCSFA Facebook page. After that time, responsibility will be assumed by each captain for their boat and crew. In case of early termination, all fishing is to cease and all boats must return.

Fishing ends at 12 PM when all lines must be out of the water. It is a gentleman's agreement for each boat to have lines in by 12 PM. In the case of inclement weather or other unforeseen factors or conditions, three (3) hours of fishing will constitute a tournament.

All Michigan DNR rules and regulations apply to this tournament and there is a limit of 9 rods in the water at one time. Sliders may be used; however, you are limited to 1 per rod. The maximum slider length is 72 inches.

Fishing may occur in the waters of Lake Michigan from the West end of the stub pier of Manistee out into Lake Michigan (Michigan waters only). Tournament boats will stage near our just outside of the pier heads in Lake Michigan until the 6:30AM command begins fishing. All boats fishing must return to the same launch they departed from.

The weigh-in station will be located at **Manistee Lions Pavilion**. Each boat may enter one fish only. Scales will be open for weighing in from 12:30 PM until 1:30 PM. It is the fishermen's responsibility to have their fish at the scales within the allotted time. Prizes and payouts to follow shortly after all fish have been weighed.

Payouts will be for at least the three biggest fish. 1<sup>st</sup> place is a **guaranteed \$1000.00 prize**. The number of entries to the tournament will determine any remaining prizes. In the event of a tie, the prize money for that place will be split and every place thereafter adjusted appropriately. A MCSFA member must weigh all fish. All fish weighed will require a signed affidavit that the fish was caught on your boat in accordance with the rules.

MCSFA officials will review all questions of concern or possible violations and their decisions will be final.

Questions should be referred to Michael Linke (231) 233-8191, or Logan Skiera (231) 233-3236.

Manistee County Sport Fishing Association  
 Presents the:  
**Small Boat Big Fish Tournament**  
**May 2, 2026**  
**\* Manistee \***  
**Register Today!**

WAIVER OF LIABILITY: By signing this document, the person whose signature appears below acts as a representative of the team and agrees to the following:

1. I hereby release, discharge and waive all claims of any type against the Manistee County Sport Fishing Association, its officers, successors, assigns, employees, participating group and persons officially connected with this event from ANY AND ALL LIABILITY FOR ANY INJURY, LOSS, CLAIM OR DAMAGE OF ANY TYPE ARISING OUT OF RELATED TO OR CAUSED BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS OR ANY EVENT, ACTIVITY, OR ACTION OCCURRING AT/OR DURING THIS OR ANY COMPETITION sanctioned by the Manistee County Sport Fishing Association.
2. I agree that I will abide by all tournament rules and will accept the decision of the tournament rules committee and agree that the decision of the tournament rules committee will be final and I will PURSUE NO ACTION contesting any decision of the rules committee.
3. I am fully qualified and have experience in events such as this.
4. I am of legal age and capacity (participants under the age of 18 must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian).

I state that I have read this document in full and understand that I am giving up all rights to damages from injuries to me personally and/or my property, as well as giving up all rights to seek damages as a result of the tournament rules committee decision.

My signature appears voluntarily with full knowledge of the rights that I have under law. I fully understand and agree to the terms and conditions as set forth herein. I am under no disability legal, physical or mental, which impairs my ability to sign.

Boat Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with payment by Wednesday, April 29 2026, by mailing to:  
 MCSFA, PO Box 98, Manistee, MI 49660 or register from 6 – 6:30 PM at **Manistee Lions Pavilion** on Friday, May 1, 2026.

## Annual Membership Meeting and Spring Banquet

Manistee VFW Post - 28th Street - Manistee, Michigan  
Saturday, May 2, 2026  
Doors open at 5:00 pm  
Cash Bar at 5:30 pm  
Dinner 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

### AGENDA

Payout for Salmon Derby - Paid in CASH  
Payout for FUN FISH - Paid in CASH  
Drawings  
In-house raffle, door prizes, and more.  
Make your reservation today!

### GUN RAFFLE (\$10 each) Prize List

Browning Xbolt2 Hunter Maple AA DX NS 300win 26"  
Browning Xbolt Speed OVIX MB 7mmRem 26" 3rd  
Weatherby Vanguard Outfitter 308Win 24" TB  
Weatherby Vanguard Outfitter 6.5Creed 24" TB  
Weatherby Vanguard 2 270Win 24" TB Sporter  
Winchester Arms XPR 270Wsm Combo 24" 3-9X40 Vortex  
Weatherby Vanguard Obsidian 350Legend 20"

Dinner tickets \$40 each  
Seating limited to 150, reservations are required  
To reserve your dinner tickets:  
ONLINE: go to our website: [www.mcsfa.org](http://www.mcsfa.org)  
OR  
MAIL: your check to the  
Manistee County Sport Fishing Association  
PO Box 98  
Manistee, MI 49660  
Questions: 231-887-4474  
Email: [mcsfa98@gmail.com](mailto:mcsfa98@gmail.com)  
[www.mcsfa.org](http://www.mcsfa.org)



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: