The Outrigger

Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association
May 2019 Newsletter
Edited by Larry Gifford
www.kenoshasportfishing.com

Important Dates

May 4-Rod Prep at Lake Michigan Angler 9-noon

May 5-Harbor Cleanup

May 6-KSCA General Meeting

May 11-Fish N Fun

May 19-Tournament

May 20-KSCA Board Meeting

May 24-27-Harry Rash Tournament

DIRECTORS

Lynn Davis-President

Jim Davis-Vice President

Craig Jones-Treasurer

Diane Bierowicz-Secretary

4-YEAR BOARD MEMBERS

Don Kohler/Carlos Salcedo

3-YEAR BOARD MEMBERS

Carlos Salcedo/Open

2-YEAR BOARD MEMBERS

Jack Springer/Jim Zondlak

1-YEAR BOARD MEMBERS

Kip Maske/Larry Gifford

Notes of note and appreciation from the KSFCA

The KSFCA has been busy planning the 2019 KSFCA Club year. The Fish Fries and Tournaments are back. Monthly contests have a new chair, Mike "Hawkeye" Williams. Rules were voted on at the April Meeting. **Sundays, May 19, June 9, August 11, and September 13**

The Harry Rash Tournament will again be held Memorial Weekend. The largest fish caught from Friday evening to Monday Evening, May 24 thru May 27. Make sure that a photo of the fish with the angler along with the weight and species to be submitted to KSFCA01@gmail.com.

The KSFCA has been busy. The Fly Tyers completed a season on easy and complex ties, along with great camaraderie. Thanks to Jack Springer and Kip Maske for all of the planning and execution of these fine and popular clinics.

Thanks also to Jack Springer, Jim Davis, Ed Herreid, Brian Herreid, Kurt Anderson, Don Kohler, Larry Gifford, and Joe Giorno for volunteering their time at the JS Milwaukee Sport Show assisting the WDNR with a fun casting clinic.

Thanks to Mark Hasenberg, Jim Davis, Don Kohler and Craig Jones for working to solicit new members at the Jalensky's Seminar. Several new members were signed.

Thanks to Jack Springer for soliciting three new supporting members from businesses in the community.

Thanks to Mark Hasenberg, Pond Chair for the planning and expertise needed for the fish rearing pond. Thanks to Mike Williams, Dave Slayton, Dave Gentz, Doc Nordstrom, Bill Kloster, Hank Martinelli Sr., Jack Springer, Kip Maske, Jim Hauke, and Joe Giorno for all of their assistance with cleaning and prepping the pond for another year of fingerlings.

Thanks to the board for all of their work and assistance with planning and execution of the 2019 KSFCA year.

Lynn Davis, KSFCA 2019 President

MAY EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Rod Prep 9-noon
5 Harbor Cleanup	6 KSCA General Mtg	7	8	9	10	11 Annual Kids Fish N Fun
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Tournament	20 KSCA Board Mtg	21	22	23	24 Harry Rash Tournament	25 Harry Rash Tournament
26 Harry Rash Tournament	27 Harry Rash Tournament	28	29	30	31	

Kids Fish N Fun

The Annual Kids Fish n Fun event is scheduled for May 11, 2019 at Anderson Park, off 22nd Ave, behind Tremper HS. Events start at 9:00am but we need many volunteers to be there by 8:00am to set-up. The Touch of Nature traveling exhibit will be there, and 180 rods will be available to young anglers. Many hands are needed. If you have questions, please email ksfca01@gmail.com or call chair Lynn Davis at 630-267-1142.

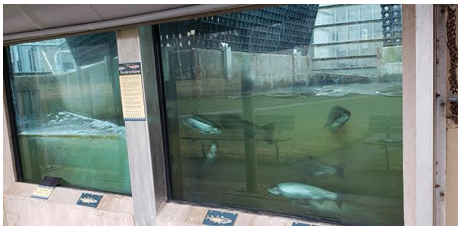
Salmon Rearing Ponds

Active participation in the rearing of fish has been a great adventure for the Kenosha Sport Fishing and Conservation Association, and the club was actually founded to build the Kenosha Salmon Rearing Pond. We raise between 40,000 to 60,000 fingerlings (baby fish) for about 6 weeks at the pond, which are then released into the Pike River and Lake Michigan. The feeding and care of the fingerlings and maintenance of the pond are all made possible from membership dues and sponsoring member contributions.

Many club activities are closely related to the pond and, a very good working relationship exists between the KSFCA and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which supplies the fingerlings, provides technical services and also assists in the release of the fish

Root River Steelhead Facility Report

Courtesy Wisconsin DNR



April 8th marked the third processing day at the Root River Steelhead Facility. Both Chambers Creek and Ganaraska River strains were spawned at the facility. Last week we saw more Chambers Creek than Ganaraska, while this week we saw a few more Ganaraska than Chambers Creek strain. In total, we've spawned 179 female steelhead and received 833,493 eggs. Our next processing day at the facility is planned for Monday, April 15th. The hatchery spawning crews will once again be spawning fish next week.

Root River Fishing Report for April 8, 2019

Courtesy Wisconsin DNR

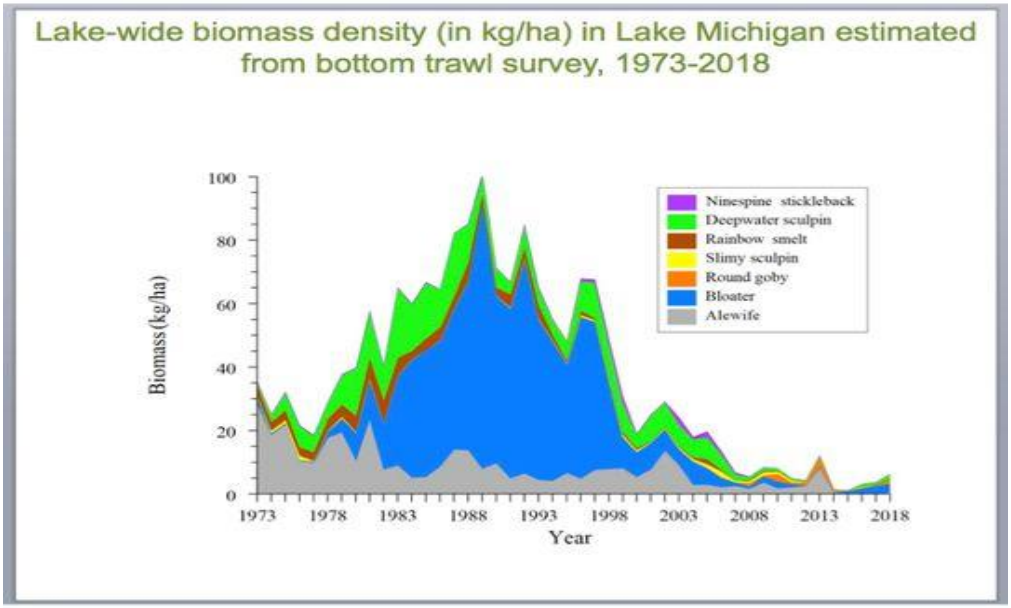
Water levels on the Root River are still up slightly but have dropped to a more manageable level. The river is somewhat turbid, but not out of the ordinary for this time of year. The water temperature was around 45 degrees.

Fishing Information

Fishing pressure along the river has been relatively high. Fishing activity has been much higher below the facility than above it. A few steelhead are being caught in equal amounts both above and below the facility. There are a lot of suckers that have shown up in the river this week too.

Smith: With Lake Michigan trout and salmon stocking decisions looming, two key indicators turn positive

Paul A. Smith, **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** Published 4:58 p.m. CT April 10, 2019



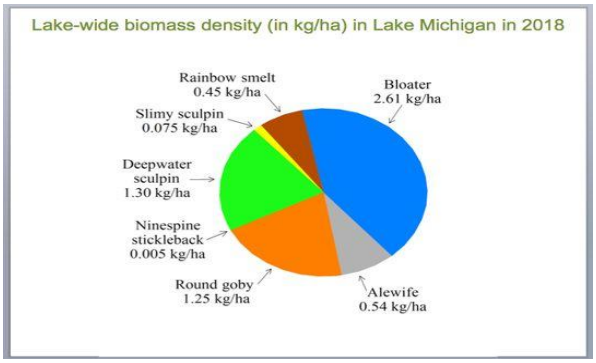
The biomass of prey fish in Lake Michigan has increased over the last three years, but still remains at a historically low level, according to scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey. (Photo: U.S. Geological Survey)

SHEBOYGAN - As Lake Michigan fisheries managers and stakeholders eye potential changes to trout and salmon stocking levels, two key indicators turned positive last year. First, the Lake Michigan prey fish biomass, including alewife, increased in 2018, continuing a slight upward trend observed over the last three years, according to researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey.And in another snapshot of the lake's fishery, the average weight of 3-year-old female chinook salmon in 2018 was 20.6 pounds, heaviest since 1986, according to data provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Both changes are likely linked to reduced Lake Michigan trout and salmon stocking since 2013."There's still a lot of predation pressure on the prey fish, but we're seeing signs it may have reduced," said Chuck Madenjian, USGS fisheries biologist.

Madenjian presented the 2018 Lake Michigan prey fish status report Saturday at a meeting of the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs in Sheboygan.
Prey fish are sampled in the lake by bottom trawl (annually since 1973) and acoustics (most years since 1992).

Among key findings, the alewife biomass was 0.54 kilograms/hectare in 2018, up from the all-time low of 0.02 the previous year. And the total prey fish biomass was 6.22 kg/ha in 2018 compared to 3.77 in 2017.

In addition to alewife, bloater chub, smelt, deepwater sculpin and slimy sculpin also showed year-over-year increases.
However, Madenjian noted the alewife biomass estimate was fifth-lowest and the overall prey fish biomass was eighth-lowest since the bottom trawl was initiated in 1973.
"Historically, the forage base is still at a low level," Madenjian



said.

A graph of the most prevalent prey fish species in Lake Michigan, as determined by bottom trawls conducted in 2018 by the U.S. Geological Survey. *(Photo: U.S. Geological Survey)*

Prey fish in the lake are subjected to bottom-up and top-down effects, Madenjian said.

Less food is generally available to prey fish because of reduced phosphorous inputs to the lake and a massive invasion of zebra and quagga mussels, filter-feeding organisms which remove plankton from the water column.

And predator fish form the other effect by feeding on alewife and the other forage species.

Last year, aging of about 400 alewives caught in the surveys found none older than 5 years. About 80% were age 1 and 2, Madenjian said, referring to the alewife population as "truncated."

"That's a young population, much younger than we used to see in the lake, and a sign of substantial predation," Madenjian said.

The prey fish data is considered by fisheries managers as they attempt to balance the number of predator and forage fish in the lake.

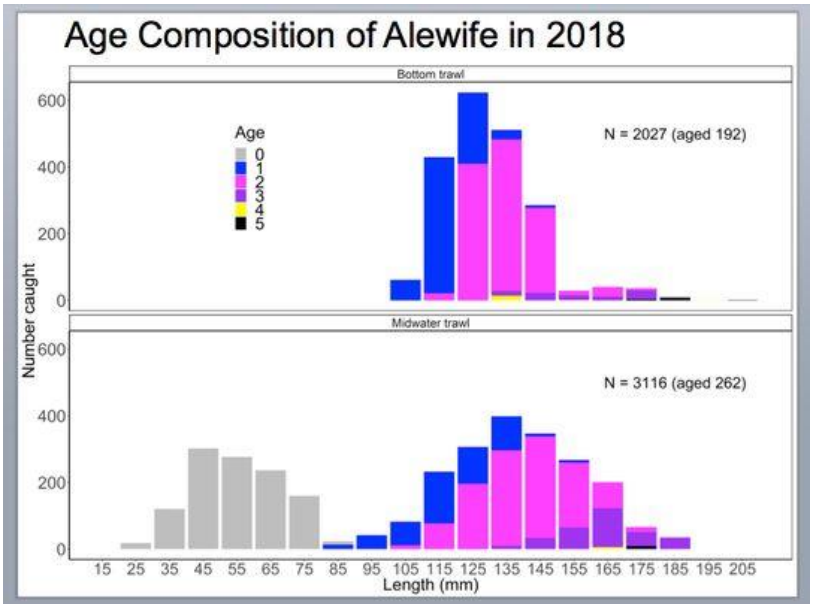
Several stocking reductions have been enacted over the decades to avoid a crash of the fishery.

The most recent period of reduced plants was initiated in 2013, when chinook numbers were cut by 50%. Another round of reductions followed in 2017, when brown trout and lake trout were cut by 50% or more.

The Lake Michigan efforts have prevented a collapse of the chinook fishery similar to what was observed after alewife declined precipitously in Lake Huron in the early 2000s.

In fact, in 2018 the weight of 3-year-old female chinook in Lake Michigan was heaviest since 1986. The weight is determined from fish lake-wide, said Nick Legler, Wisconsin DNR fisheries biologist.

Legler said while relatively big chinooks the last three years is encouraging, the weight has varied substantially over the last decade which is "concerning and suggestive of ecosystem instability."



The alewife population in Lake Michigan, assessed by bottom trawl (top) and midwater trawl (bottom), is "truncated," or has relatively few older year classes, according to USGS scientists. *(Photo: U.S. Geological Survey)*

Recent improvements in Lake Michigan fish size can likely be attributed in part to improved predator/prey ratios following recent stocking adjustments to protect and sustain the ecosystem and fishery, Legler said.

A key measure of the fishery, called the predator prey ratio, has not been calculated for 2018 but is expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

For 2018, the DNR planned to stock 810,000 chinook, 450,000 coho, 390,000 steelhead and 362,000 browns (actual stocking numbers are not yet available from the agency).
The 2019 plans are similar, but this year DNR fisheries staff is considering stocking options for 2020 and beyond.

Pressure is already mounting on the agency to increase stocking.

"Let's get to the bottom line," John Hanson of Racine said at Saturday's meeting. "When can we start putting more chinook in?

Madenjian, a research scientist, diplomatically demurred, saying his role was to collect data, not make management decisions.

The DNR will likely hear from many in the Wisconsin sport fishing community over the coming months about their preferences, perhaps especially brown trout enthusiasts who most recently sustained a 50% stocking cut.

The DNR said it plans to engage stakeholders this year at public meetings to "begin discussions about Lake Michigan management and collaboration options for 2020 and beyond." Information on the meeting content, dates and locations will be discussed at the 7 p.m. Monday gathering at the Lake Michigan Fisheries forum at Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, Wisconsin.

A list of the public meetings, likely to be held this summer, will then be developed and released in the coming weeks or months.