



# The Outrigger



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www.kenoshasportfishing.com

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### Special points of interest:

- Kenosha Coho Classic <http://kenoshacohoclassic.com/> is coming June 14, 15, & 16. Visit the website for additional information
- PFC Geoffrey Morris Memorial Tournament June 21, 22 Visit <http://www.gsmtournament.com/> for more information.
- Heroes of Freedom Tournament June 23
- The Coho are in, and they are hungry. Go out and get your limit.
- Shore fisherman start casting, the Coho are in close enough to catch

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## Michigan anglers wonder why Lake Ontario salmon seem to be doing better: Part 1

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.msue.msu.edu). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>.

Salmon fisheries in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan have seen big changes in the past decade. In Lake Huron, [Chinook salmon](#) disappeared from much of the lake after their primary food source, the [invasive alewife](#), crashed in 2004. In Lake Michigan, the [abundance of large, old alewife has declined](#) along with their caloric value. Although salmon are still abundant in Lake Michigan, their size has declined.

These changes have hurt coastal communities on Lake Huron and led to concerns that Lake Michigan may follow the same path. In looking for an explanation, two possible explanations have emerged. Broadly speaking, the ‘bottom-up’ explanation is that invasive [quagga mussels](#) have reduced the productivity of open waters while the ‘top-down’ explanation is that salmon are too abundant. Both situations could lead to problems for alewife and ultimately spell disaster for salmon.

This leads into the question – did Lake Ontario’s fishery really escape the problems of the upper lakes?

Reports from New York suggested that 2012 was a [banner year](#) for Lake Ontario salmon fishing. The latest data from biologists confirms this. Catch rates were at an all-time high in 2012. But wait – doesn’t this suggest top-down effects? Lake Michigan also recorded all-time high catch rates for charter anglers in 2012 and it was considered a warning sign.

The difference is in the size of the salmon. In general terms, it is possible to have big fish or

lots of fish, but not lots of big fish – at least not for an extended period. In Lake Michigan, salmon were small last year. Not a single Chinook salmon was entered in the [Michigan DNR’s Master Angler program](#) in 2012. The minimum entry weight is 27 pounds for a kept fish.

Contrast that with Lake Ontario, where a 30-pound Chinook was needed to place in the top ten fish caught and entered for *each week* of the

seven-week [Great Ontario Salmon Derby](#). The average angler-caught age 3 Chinook salmon weighed 23 pounds in New York waters last year, and the average age-2 weir-harvested salmon from the Salmon River was comparable in size to fish of similar age taken in 1986.

When over-abundant salmon are causing depletion of alewife, we expect to see older alewife disappear. Large salmon prefer large food and only turn to eating young alewife if older, larger alewife are not available. This has happened on Lake Michigan, but on Lake Ontario, the abundance of large alewife has actually increased over the past couple of years.

Alewife condition is also on the rise in Lake Ontario, which is surprising because this measure of a fish’s weight relative to length fell sharply in Lake Michigan after the arrival of quagga mussels. A basin-wide [map](#) of quagga mussels suggests that they are even more problematic in Lake Ontario than in Lake Michigan. Both lakes saw a [decline in Diporeia](#) after the quagga invasion, but the loss of this important alewife food seemed to take a greater toll on Lake Michigan alewife.



## Michigan anglers wonder why Lake Ontario salmon seem to be doing better: Part 2

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.msue.msu.edu). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>.

A look at long-term data sets shows that Lake Ontario has experienced many of the same lower food web changes seen in Lake Michigan. Total phosphorus available in offshore waters has declined in both lakes, indicating reduced productivity. Zooplankton communities have changed, not only due to reduced productivity but also because of [invasive spiny](#)



and fishhook water fleas that prey on smaller native zooplankton. [Alewife](#) can prey on these invasive water fleas, but in doing so they add a link to the food chain, leading to less efficient flow of energy from plankton to predatory salmon. A [small opossum shrimp](#) called *Mysis* became a more important food resource for alewife in both lakes after expansion of [invasive quagga mussels](#) and water fleas. The *Mysis* shrimp declined in both lakes as fish began to prey upon them, but subtle differences in habitat and behavior may make Lake Ontario *Mysis* more accessible to alewife.

The complex relationship among spiny water fleas, native zooplankton, and alewife has been called the 'trophic triangle', and with *Mysis* in the mix, this becomes a '[trophic quadrangle](#)'. At a presentation entitled, "[Towards an Increased Understanding of Lake Huron Ecosystem Function](#)", Tom Stewart of [Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources](#) explained how changes in one part of the trophic triangle influence the whole food web. He also discussed possible reasons for differences between Lake Ontario and the upper lakes. One reason that makes intuitive sense is that nutrient-rich water flowing in from Lake Erie has provided a buffer from the worst of the 'bottom-up' effects seen in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.

Each of the five Great Lakes has a unique mixture of habitat types and watershed characteristics that influence fish within the lake. It should come as no surprise that fishing opportunities vary from lake to lake. Long-term data on weir-returning [Chinook salmon](#) demonstrates that Lake Ontario salmon are consistently bigger. Age 3 females have averaged between 15 and 23 pounds since the mid-80s in Lake

Ontario's Salmon River, while similar fish have averaged between about 11 and 22 pounds at Lake Michigan's Strawberry Creek weir.

Although differences in weir placement and operation make this an imperfect comparison, it is striking that the average Lake Michigan fish has weighed less than 15 pounds (the lowest recorded weight of Lake Ontario fish) for eight of the past nine years. The one exception was 2011, when returning age 3 females weighed over 16 pounds at Strawberry Creek due to a strong 2010 alewife year-class.

While 2011 proved to be a banner year for Lake Michigan, in terms of both Chinook salmon size and numbers, it appeared to be an exception to the norm. On Lake Ontario, 2012 was a banner year and only time will tell if such quality fishing is sustainable.



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# Fishing Report

Courtesy of Lake Michigan Angler

The fishing remains to be fantastic with quick limits of cohos. Dodgers and flies are the bait of choice. Kings have been few and far between but size has been good with a few fish in the mid 20's. White Hotspots and green Howie flies are getting bit in 70 to 120 feet of water.

Congratulations to Mike (Hawkeye) Williams and his team for taking first place in the May Club Tourney



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## 2013 Club Tourney Results For May

Place	Boat owner	Tournament points	Cumulative points 2013
<b>1st</b>	M. Williams	183.875 pts	201.6 pts
<b>2nd</b>	Nick & Mike	159.625pts	189.4 pts
<b>3rd</b>	T. Zapp	158.125 pts	168.8 pts

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## **A Blast from the Past** (A look back at the club and excerpts from “The Outrigger”)

by Lynn Davis

From October 1978- Although we had rain and fog, 135 people turned out at our First Annual Summer Picnic on August 27<sup>th</sup>. The food was spectacular and a good time was had by all. It ended with a volley ball game. Plans are being made for next year.

From November 1978—Father John Patrick Currier has joined our membership and has agreed to be the club’s chaplain. Father has fished a lot with Wally Hotchkiss and he is no doubt the reason for Wally’s success on the lake this year.

From January 1979-- A film on fishing in the Bahamas will be shown at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Valley Supper Club.

From January 1979-- Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet will be held at the Valley Supper Club. Dr. Tanner, head of the DNR of the state of Michigan will be the guest speaker. The banquet will include a prime rib buffet and dancing to “Tuxedo Junction” with Mary Kaye. Ticket price is \$10.00.

From March 1979—The next monthly meeting will be Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, at the Valley Supper Club. Chet Monson from the US Power Squadron will talk on the Rules of the Road. As more and more boaters use Lake Michigan, it becomes imperative to learn the basic fundamentals of operating their boats in a safe and sane manner.

From December 1979—The monthly meeting will be held on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Holiday Inn, 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, at 7:30. A movie on Lake Michigan fishing will be held in the lower level of the Inn.

In Summary: Movies, Dancing, Volleyball, a Chaplain, Minnesota DNR, and Rules of the Road for Boating. The club fished, had fun and kept informed. A great club in the early years.

## **How your fishing can benefit the less fortunate**

by Lynn Davis

In the past the KSFCA has held one day of fishing to benefit the Shalom Center. A specific date has not been scheduled, but below is information on how your catch can make an impact throughout the season

### **Shalom Center Soup Kitchen/Food Pantry**

The Kenosha Shalom Center is an Interfaith Network that offers four areas providing emergency food, shelter, housing and support in ways that meet immediate needs and respect human dignity. The programs are: Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, Nightly Shelter, and Emergency Family Shelter.

**The Soup Kitchen** serves approx. 110 persons each evening. The soup Kitchen is located at 1713 62<sup>nd</sup> Street, Kenosha and accepts donations 10-4, every day. Fresh fish can be donated but must be properly cleaned. Frozen and smoked fish are also welcome, as is other food items.

**The Food Pantry** provides hungry families with emergency/supplemental groceries once a month. The Food Pantry is located 8143 Sheridan Rd, Kenosha. This site accepts food donations 8-3, Monday through Friday. Fresh fish can be donated but must be properly cleaned. Frozen and smoked fish are also welcome, as is other food items.

# JUNE 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <small>Club Meeting 7:00pm</small>	4	5	6	7	8
9 <small>Club Tourney</small>	10	11	12	13	14 <small>Coho Classic</small>	15 <small>Coho Classic</small>
16 <small>Coho Classic</small>	17	18	19	20	21 <small>Morris Tournament</small>	22 <small>Morris Tournament</small>
23 <small>Heroes of Freedom</small>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### Important dates this month

- 06/03/13 - Club meeting at the Moose Lodge 7:00 pm
- 06/09/13 - Club Tournament
- 06/14/13 - Coho Classic Sailboat & Shore Tourney begins
- 06/15/13 - Coho Classic Coho Shoot out
- 06/16/13 - Coho Classic 2 in a Boat
- 06/21/13 - PFC Geoffrey Morris Tournament
- 06/22/13 - PFC Geoffrey Morris Tournament
- 06/23/13 - Heroes of Freedom Tournament

### Officers and Board members

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<b>Contest's</b>	*Tom Zapp Mark D'Aloia
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<b>Publication Electronic Comm..</b>	*Troy Alley *Mike Smith Troy Alley Jim Hanrahan Jim Zondlak
<b>Guest Speakers</b>	*Jamie Hotzfield Jerry Vigansky

### 2012 Schedule of Club Events

- 02/04/13 - Board Elections
- 02/16/13 - Swap Meet
- 02/23/13 - Awards Banquet
- 04/11/13 - Annual Fundraiser Dinner
- 05/11/13 - Kids Fish-N-Fun
- 05/19/13 - Monthly Tournament
- 06/09/13 - Monthly Tournament
- 06/14/13 - Coho Classic Tournament
- 06/15/13 - Coho Classic Tournament
- 06/16/13 - Coho Classic Tournament
- 08/11/13 - Monthly Tournament
- 09/15/13 - Monthly Tournament
- T.B.D. - Pike River Revival

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