

... Walleyes are most popular catches

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Out of 40 burbot entries, 18 came from regional waters with the majority from Grand Traverse Bay. Joe Rode, Matthew Boydston and George Smith, all of Traverse City, caught fish of 11-8.8, 11-4 and 11-1 from the bays. Tops, however, was one 12-13 from Lake Huron. Other entries ranged on down to 5-0.

Sucker fishing was also good in northwestern Lower Michigan, with 14 out of 36 white suckers caught nearby. Included was the biggest, 6-14 from Clam River in Wexford County by Doug Helmboldt Sr. Clint Smeltzer of Bear Lake took one 4-13 from Lake Michigan, off Manistee, for fourth spot.

The No. 3 longnose sucker, 2-3, was taken from the Betsie River by Rick Hutton of Grawn. The same stream yielded a 4-13 redbreasted sucker for the same angler, both coming in mid-April.

Only 18 brown trout qualified this year, including ten from local waters. James P. Heuser of Interlochen landed one 27-7 from Lake Michigan off Benzie County, good for third place, while fifth place went to Dave Shreeve of Karlin and sixth to Steve Brown of Flushing, from the same place. Richard S. Sias of Renton, Washington, caught one 26-0 from West Grand Traverse Bay for fourth place. The browns caught this year ran from 30-2 on down to 16-14.

Brook trout from 4-10.24 to 2-0 came mostly from the U.P. although two awards went to local brookies. Tim Ervin of Lans-

ing got one 2-3 from Grand Traverse Bay while Frank Peters of Acme caught one 2-0 from Acme Creek.

Grand Traverse County's Long Lake provided excitement for muskellunge fishermen during 1986, too. Jon Bribbs of Traverse City got one 31-0, Betty Bush of Interlochen took a 23-15, while Jerry Sheffer of Interlochen connected with a 20-14. All were northern muskies. The same lake yielded a 26-7 tiger muskie for Ron Gloss of Traverse City.

Four out of 25 Great Lakes muskies came from local waters. Included were catches by Arnold McKinney of Ellsworth, 28-4, from Round Lake; Cliff Boyd, Traverse City, 23-6, Elk Lake; Brian Carrier, Williamsburg, 20-5, Lake Bellaire; and Henry Cachera, Taylorville, Illinois, 29-4, Manistee Lake.

Top carp of 1986 came from Portage Lake and was caught by Albert Walton of Onkama; it weighed 34-8. Lake Michigan, off Manistee, gave up one 20-12 to Christopher Rose of Rochester, out of 21 entries.

Although the U.P. captured the two top places in the lake whitefish category, Grand Traverse Bay accounted for six out of the nine awards. Jerry Zachary of Traverse City got one 7-14; while a 6-5 caught by Paul Stiel of Traverse City was the smallest qualifier entered. Others in between were caught by Edward Ley of Weidman, Wayne Hollman of Rapid City, Bruce Richards of Traverse City and Lee M. Coy of Williamsburg.

Menominee whitefish had 19 entries with

five from local waters. Fish ranging from 1-22 to 1-4, were caught by Robert Hoxie and Randall Defer of Traverse City, Jim Trnka of Old Mission, Scott Foster, Plainwell, and Matt Baltusis of Midland. Most were caught from Grand Traverse Bay.

Anglers wanting to catch a longnose gar might want to keep Antrim County's Birch Lake in mind. Of six entries, four came from there. Charles Drinkwine and David A. Lundy, both of Kewadin, caught all four, 6-0 to 5-4 from there on May 5 last year.

Salmon fishing was either poor in 1986 or anglers just failed to enter their fish. The only coho salmon, 13-3.2 was registered by Mrs. Carol Tinsley of Port Huron after catching it off Manistee.

Just three chinook salmon won awards, including one 30-12 off Benzie County, caught by Joe Panteluk of Flint, as the smallest. Largest scaled 32-4 off Berrien County while the second-place finisher was 31-2 from Lake Huron.

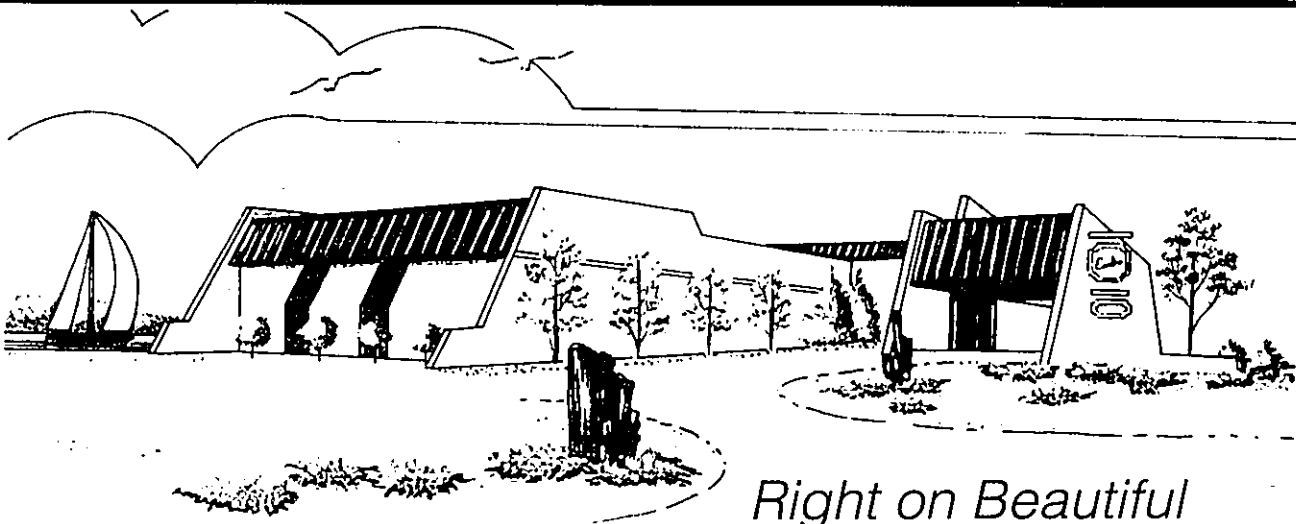
Only one pink salmon was registered, too. That was one 3-15 from the Big Manistee River, caught by Richard L. Winkles of Livonia.

On a statewide basis, about one out of every five trophy fish was caught from waters in northwestern Lower Michigan. Biologists feel the figure could have been much higher had anglers bothered to register their catches with the DNR in the Master Angler Award program.



Record-Eagle/Gordon Charles

Of 41 Master Angler Award steelhead, 23 came from northwestern Lower Michigan.



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