

# SEMCOC Picks Bloc Leaders

Chairmen for 1971 for the four blocs of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOC) General Assembly have been elected.

Under SEMCOC's by-laws, the General Assembly may consider proposals by a bloc system whereby delegates caucus according to the type of government they represent. There are four blocs — counties, cities and villages, townships and school districts.

Procedures are established in the by-laws that permit delegates from any two of the four blocs to demand that an issue be voted upon by bloc and, in this event, three of the four blocs must vote approval in order for the measure to pass.

**THE BLOC** chairmen elected are:

County — Robert Fitz-

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**J. D. (JACK) FRENCH** has been appointed director of operations review and long range planning for the business machines group of the Burroughs Corp. In this post he will be responsible for economic planning and coordination of real estate matters within the group.

ICE on the inland lakes is getting mushy, and the trout season doesn't open until the end of April, so from late February until early in May, it's the sucker which keeps fanatical fishermen occupied. The farmers have a little time on their hands, and I think the foundry workers time their strikes for the sucker runs. The suckers congregate in deep pools. The angler who can find a pool of them can haul away a gunny-sack full of them.

Leave your fine spinning rod at home, and instead haul out that ancient standard reel, the four-foot metal rod, the 15-pound fishline (no monofilament), and some two-ounce or four-ounce sinkers.



It's funny how fishermen's attitudes change from one end of Michigan to another. Here in the southeastern part, the sucker is considered a despicable fish, and the prevailing attitude is that only an ethnic minority group would angle for and consume them.

But over on the St. Joe River right about now, the banks are lined with silent majority types, from Lake Michigan up to Berrien Springs, who have no qualms about the sucker.



The river is swollen with run-off from melted snow, and the current is swift, so you'll need a big sinker. Bait is a big nightcrawler. (You can get 'crawlers out there, but a dealer in Oakland County tells me he won't have any 'til mid-April.)

You never hand-hold the rod. You get a forked stick and lay the rod in the crotch, then watch the rod tip for the tunk-tunk that signals a bite. The old-timers add an embellishment — a tiny bell clamped on the rod tip.



Except for a few hardy souls along the Huron River, few fishermen go after suckers at this time of year, and I strongly suspect it's due to snobbishness.

But if you do fish for suckers, and that social-climbing neighbor with the Grant's and the schnauzer wants to know what you're after, just tell him: "The whistle-mouthed bass."

## Dateline: Outdoors

By LEM MESEE  
Outdoors Writer

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## Towns Lagging In Park Work

SOME 187 local project requests calling for \$3.9 million in recreation bond money were recently forwarded to the State Legislature for its final action, reports Michigan's Department of Natural Resources.

The latest requests, cleared by the DNR in consultation with the state recreation advisory committee, represent the fourth state of local proposals to be approved for legislative consideration.

Under three previous rounds of screening and legislative review dating back to September 1969, a total of 196 local projects have already qualified for \$11.7 million in recreation bond funds. DNR officials and local leaders have signed work agreements authorizing 124 of those projects to be launched.

However, beyond this

point, many communities have lagged in completing their engineering plans which are needed before construction work may begin. Largely as a result, development is moving ahead on about only 60 of the projects which have been processed for funding under the recreation bond program.

Only three of the 196 approved local projects have been completed. Joseph Seavey, chief of the DNR's recreation services division, observes: "Our department and its advisory committee have made good progress in getting bond funds behind deserving projects, but this program is running into snags at the local level. Frankly, we are disappointed to see so few of these projects get off the ground for lack of final engineering plans."

The next package of proposals to gain clearance from the DNR and its advisory committee will be forwarded to the Legislature at the end of May for final consideration.

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