

Spring trout fishing on Beaver Island?

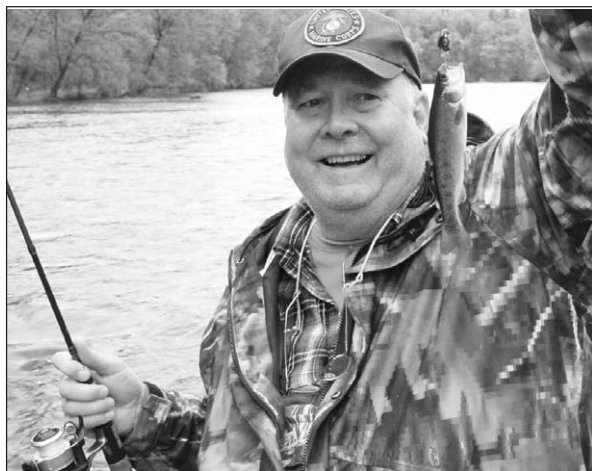
By Steve West

I recently had an opportunity to go trout fishing with my son Gavin on the Muskegon River. Our guide was Kevin Morlock of Indigo Guide Service. Trout fishing on select Michigan's rivers thrives in part because the state stocks small rainbow and brown trout each year. Some of these fish migrate out into Lake Michigan and then return a few years later weighing 6-10 pounds or more.

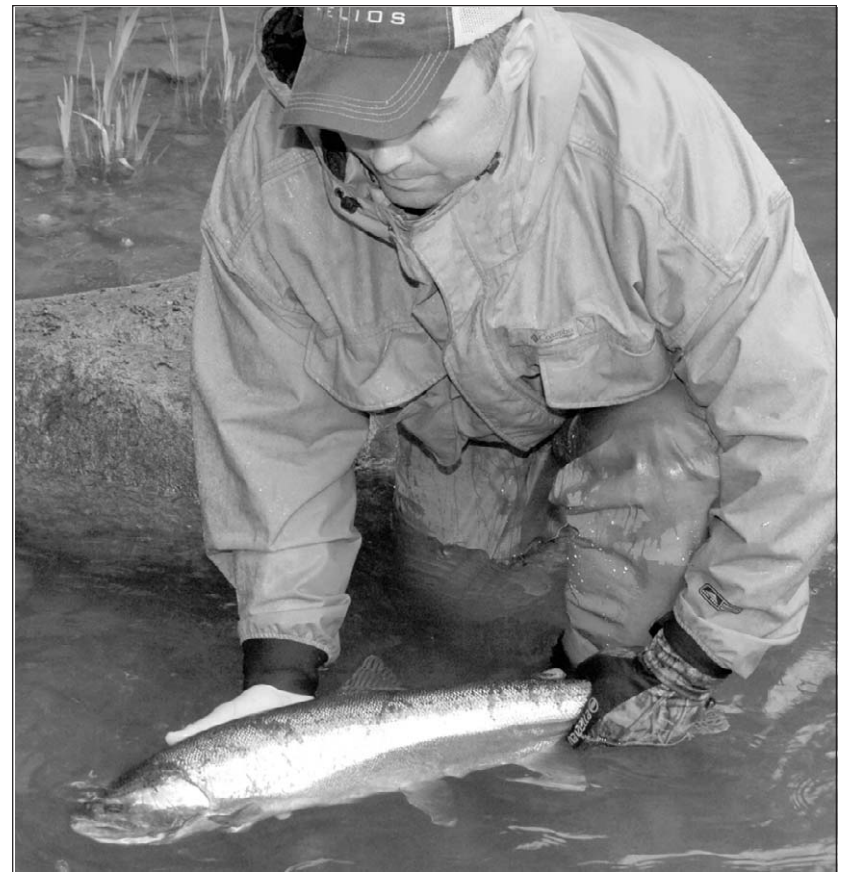
The state of Wisconsin has had success with releasing some rainbow and brown trout directly into harbors where they return in the spring a few years later. Based on the Wisconsin success it appears that Beaver Island's Paradise Bay has the potential for a similar program. If cold water fish like trout, acclimated in net pens to the bay, were released this could create a cold, shallow water, spring and fall shoulder season shoreline, surf and harbor fishing opportunity that doesn't currently exist. This scenario is one of the goals of the Beaver Island

Conservation Club and could prove to be a plus for the visitor based economy.

Kevin Morlock, owner of Indigo Guide Service, had such a successful season guiding visitors for carp and smallmouth bass fishing last year he has brought an additional guide to the Island. Steve Martinez has joined Kevin here for June and July. They offer catch and release flats type fishing with fly or spinning tackle using a stalking technique similar to that used for bonefish in salt water.



BEFORE: The author "shows off" one of many rainbow trout he caught. This is what they look like when recently stocked.



AFTER: Gavin West carefully releases a large lake run rainbow trout called a steelhead. With the right stocking and management plan the potential exists to wade into Paradise Bay in the spring and catch a fish like this.

Photos By Kevin Morlock, www.indigoguideservice.com

ORV legislation introduced

A legislative package (House Bills 6159, 6160, 6161 and 6162) was introduced early in May that could significantly alter Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) laws.

The four-bill package will establish an ORV registration system similar to that of snowmobiles.

Highlights of the package include:

- Changing term ORV to OHV (Off Highway Vehicle).
- Establishing OHV registration, identification, registration fee, and license similar to regulations governing snowmobiles.
- Expanding Public Act 240 (OHVs on county roads) state wide and preserving local control.
- Revising OHV safety training process.
- Increasing minimum penalties for certain OHV offenses.

June symposium set for June 28

A full day of presentations and roundtable discussions on the topic "Managing our Forest and Wildlife for Sustainability" will take place on June 28 at the Community Center.

The day begins with registration and coffee/snack at 8:15 a.m. The symposium is being presented by the Natural Resources and Eco-Tourism Commission (NRETC).

The morning sessions include a variety of speakers invited by NRETC beginning at 8:50 a.m., with the keynote address given by Eric Myers, Ph.D. Forestry, MSU. Other speakers include Brian Mastenbrook (DNRE) on BI forest resources at 9:00 a.m. At 9:45 a.m. three speakers are scheduled: Eric Myers on forest succession and sustainability, Phyllis Higman (MI Natural Features Inventory) on unique communities and invasives species, and Tom Bailey (Little Traverse Conservancy) on private land management. At 10:55 a.m., Eric Ellis (Conservation Resource Alliance) will speak on land management decisions and wildlife, and 11:55 a.m., Kay Charter (Saving Birds thru Habitat) will speak on song birds and eco-tourism.

The afternoon sessions, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., will include submitting written questions for the morning's speakers along with roundtable and panel discussions.

There is no charge for attending the symposium. The event has been sponsored in part by: The Beaver Island Association, The BI Wildlife Club, Island Airways and Peaine Township.

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