



Screamin' reels! Jumpin' fish! Michigan!

The sound of a screaming drag and the sight of a 10 lb. (or bigger) fish jumping 3 feet out of the water are visions and dreams that every fisherman has while spending time on the water.

The beauty of the state of Michigan is that this vision is often a reality to many of the people who spend time on the rivers in the state from the middle of August to the end of April, fishing for Chinook and Coho Salmon, as well as Steelhead.

Chinook salmon begin their spawning migration every fall sometime in the middle of August with the

peak of the salmon fishing season typically happening around the 1st or 2nd week of October.

Coho or Silver Salmon are usually a couple of weeks behind the schedule of the Chinook salmon with the peak run for Coho happening around the last week in October, or the 1st week in November. As the salmon begin to die off in the rivers completing their biological duties, the steelhead in Michigan ascend the rivers.

Steelhead can typically be found in many rivers in the state from early September until late April the following spring. The

peak times to fish for them are November to late April.

Chinook and Coho salmon were introduced to the Great Lakes in the mid 1960s by the Michigan DNR to help control the invasive alewives population that had begun to dominate the Great Lakes. Both salmon populations began to blossom immediately in the Great Lakes due to an abundance of food.

Chinook or King Salmon have an average weight of 12-15 lbs, while some can eclipse the 30 lb. mark. After hatching from

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