



PO Box 97

Houghton, MI 49931

www.isleroyale.org

Newsletter

December 2007

- IRBA Helping to Prevent Invasive Species from Entering Lake Superior
- Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament Results
- Annual IRBA Island Meeting and Pavilion Dedication
- Fifth Annual Fishing Tournament
- IRBA Scheduled Events

A newsletter to inform the members of ongoing activities within the Isle Royale Boater's Association, promote discussion among its members on various IRBA issues and share members' experiences related to boating, sport fishing, hiking, canoeing, and kayaking.

IRBA Helping to Prevent Invasive Species from Entering Lake Superior - by Dave Hand & Jack Hartmann

The association has been working with the Isle Royale National Park to develop strategies for prevention of the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) virus from entering Lake Superior. VHS is an invasive freshwater virus that infects many species of fish including most of those residing in the Great lakes. The VHS is a rhabdovirus that was first found in rainbow trout in Europe and caused significant mortality and economic loss. More recently, many fish kills have already been documented in the lower Great Lakes Region. Known vectors for the transmittal of the VHS virus are through the use of infected fish bait, migrating fish, and ballast water discharge. The VHS can infect fish of all ages, is easily transmissible to other fish through bodily fluid exchange, and once a fish is infected, it will be a carrier and vector for spreading of the virus. The VHS virus is a cold water virus which means that it can thrive and infect fish in waters around 10°C or less and there has not been documented mortality in water temperatures above 15°C. In fact, the virus has rarely been isolated in fish in water temperatures above 15°C. As we know, Lake Superior water as a whole rarely rises above 15°C

except in the near shore waters of a few very sheltered bays in the heat of summer. If the virus finds its way into the Lake, it may infect fish, may never be eradicated and may cause major economic loss to the region, including the fishing on IR.

In September, three members of IRBA (Don Hannula, Bill Baxandall, Dave Hand) a conference in Duluth, MN sponsored by the U.S. National Park Service, Midwest Region Entitled Science and Methods of Preventing the Expansion of VHS into the Lake Superior Basin. It was a two day meeting aimed at beginning dialog on a methodology to solve the potential threat of the virus before the spring shipping season begins. I have been working with the IR NPS and others on proposals to have the Great Lakes Ship Initiative develop disinfection guidelines that can be used by Lake Carriers for disinfecting their ballast waters. We are presently running into resistance from the Lake Carriers because they do not want to use sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) at very low concentrations to disinfect their ballast water and neutralize the residual hypochlorite ion with vitamin C. I guess it is just too easy of a solution to implement on an emergency basis. Presently, we are asking them to perform emergency ballast water treatment to try to keep the virus out of the lake. On behalf of the IRBA, member Jack

Hartmann submitted a proposal to LEFT HEREhFor those of you that

Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament Results

By Dave Hand

The Fifth Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament was held at Windigo Saturday, July 14, 2007. The weather was sunny with some wind and waves. As the day wore on the winds began to calm down.

The rules of the tournament were each boat entered in the tournament would provide the highest total weight of three fish caught between sunrise and 2PM with weigh-in at Windigo Dock. The fish caught were donated to the fish fry at Windigo pavilion. Plaques were given to the boat with the highest total weight, second place and third place. Plaques were given for the three largest fish taken by trolling and the largest fish taken in the tournament. IRBA member, John Evans (L'anse, MI) donated trophies for the event for the second year. Thanks Again John! In addition, the new award up for grabs this year is the "Wooden Herring Award" which is given to either the Minnesota fishermen or the Michigan fishermen for the three largest fish by weight. The traveling trophy carries the island bragging rights for the year.

This year those Michigan fishermen did very well as the 'Miss Laurie' and crew [John Evans (Captain), Mike LeClaire, John Messer Jr., and Dave Barry] took first place with their three largest fish weighing a total of 31 lb 8 oz. (bobbing). The 'Water Witch' and crew [Bill and Pat Siler and John and Carol Drew] came in second place with the three largest fish caught weighing a total of 21 lb 8 oz. (trolling). Water Witch also won the trolling plaque. Third place went to 'Creative Touch' and crew [Dave

Durland, Mickey Durland, Paul Durland and Russ Wilber] with a total weight of 16 lb 17 oz. The largest fish was caught on the 'Nasty Habit' by Sue Falkner which weighed 13 lb 9 oz.

The Wooden Herring Award went to those Michigan Fishermen with a total weight of 34 lb 4 oz, as the Minnesota fishermen had a total weight of 30 lb 9 oz. Congratulations to those Michigan fishermen.



First Place Winners (Miss Laurie) - Dave Barry, Mike Le Claire, John Evans, and John Messer.



Second Place Winners (Water Witch) - Bill Siler, Carol Drew, Pat Siler and John Drew.



Third Place Winners (Creative Touch) - Mickey Litwin, Dr. Trout, Dave Durland, Paul Durland and Russ Wilber.



Winners of the Wooden Herring Award (left to right - Carol Drew, John Messer, Mick LeClaire, John Drew, John Evans, Bill Siler, Pat Siler and Dave Barry.



Sue Faulkner receives the Big Fish plaque.

Annual IRBA Island Meeting and Dedication of the Windigo Pavilion by Dave Hand

On Saturday, July 14, 2007 IRBA West End Chapter Representative Dwight Moe handed IR Assistant Superintendent Betsy Rossini the key to David E. Johnson Windigo Pavilion. The Johnson family was on hand for the dedication. It was a great tribute to an IRBA member who loved IR and always wanted to make a difference for those who loved to venture to the island. Dave will always be remembered by those seeking shelter from the elements on a cold and rainy day. All I can say is that it was a great dedication.

The IRBA annual island meeting was a huge success as the fish fry served over 80 people. A special thanks to the Bear for helping with the food logistics, and the many IRBA members that helped with the food preparation. Also, huge thanks goes out to the IR park service employees at Windigo for providing facilities and services to make the weekend very enjoyable. I

hope to see you all at the annual meeting next year.



Dwight Moe presenting Betsy Rossini the key to the pavilion.



Windigo Pavilion plaque in honor of Dave Johnson



IRBA Scheduled Events

IRBA Membership Renewal and Address Change

If you need to update your membership please do so as soon as possible. We value your support and input to the organization.

Articles for Newsletter consideration are welcome. ----

*Please support your IRBA
PO Box 97
Houghton, MI 49931*