

Surfing for



Steel



MANISTEE

Where to go?

- **South Beach** (Park at Bath house & hoof it South)
- **Bath House** (Just in front of the Lk Shore Motel)
 - **South Pier** (Adjacent to 1ST St Ramp)
 - **Middle Beach** (Access at Lions Pavillion)
 - **North Pier** (5th Ave Parking)
 - **5th Avenue** (First road North Side of river)
 - **The Wall** (Parking over dunes at edge of houses)
- **The Onion** (Water tower, Porta John & Stairs to beach)
 - **North Beach** (Park the Onion & hoof it North)
- **Bar Lake** (10 Min North of the Onion up lake shore drive).

South Beach



South Beach



South Beach



Bath House



Bath House



South Pier

Fish In & Out



Middle Beach

Blow day Hide away



Middle Beach

Between the two pier heads



North Pier

Don't fish channel side: Too Deep



North Pier



5th Avenue



5th Avenue



5th Avenue



5th Avenue



The Wall



The Wall



The Wall



The Onion

The Day After Thanks giving



The Onion

“The Day after X-Mas”



North Beach



Bar Lake

(10 Min North of the Onion)



Ludington

Where to go?

- **Buttersville Park** (Adjacent Parking –S. Shore Rd)
 - **South Pier** (Adjacent to base of South Pier)
 - **Stearns Park** (Parking throughout)
 - **North Pier** (Skate Park Parking)
 - **State Park Bath house** (Adjacent Parking)
- **State Park Road** (Parking: multiple pull offs)

Getting There



Typical Beach Set Up



Typical Beach Set Ups

- Place sand spike just out of the wave wash (Constant in & out of the surf will erode your footing, and your gear will end up in the surf).
- Sand Spikes: Set at 10-15 Degrees for easy bait changes
- Nets: “Optional”, they can be a pain to keep separate from rods in the cart (Have your buddy move in behind a tailing fish for a quick pitch, or time a wave and slide them up on the sand).

Beach Gear

- Rods: 8-12' Crappie rods w/ Fast action tip
- Reels: Any open face w/ Good a drag
- Line: 6-8# Mono
- Leaders: 4-6# Fluorocarbon, 2-4' Lg
- Hooks: "Bait Savers" #6 Gold, #8 or #10 Bronze
- Pyramid sinkers (Oz's): $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2+
- Duo Clip to main line Pyramid connection
- Bead above Swivel at main line to leader connection
- BB Shot on leader to vary bag depth in slack waves

More.....Beach Gear

- Wadders: If you want to be able to do it all
- Rod holders: 2" PVC w/ Pipe clamps and Duct Tape to Conduit or CS Rod (Re-Bar works but is heavy and won't fit in Pier Piling joints)
- Rope Stringer & spare rope: Also make up an extra rod holder to pin your fish out far enough so waves wont wash them up on beach

8 to 12'+ fast tipped rods



Typical Pyramid Sinker rig



The Magnum Cart



Quick Carts



Setting up camp



Sitting spot

- Lounge placement: Important to set up w/ Wind at your back (If you can) and be able to see all three rod tips while dozing 😊
- Use Clip on glow sticks for your rod tips in the dark
- 3 Rod Spacing of 7 to 10 Yards. Anything further and the dash when a rod goes off could require EMT's for recessitation 😊

North Pier “Valentines Day”



Pier Gear & Tips

- Rod Holders: Use 1/4-5/16" Dia CRS x 12-18" Lg so will fit in pier Piling joints (Std Rebar is way too big)
- Black Ice: Bring your Ice fishing cleats (Serious business in the dark! 😊)
- Tether chair: Bring along extra bits of rope to tie stuff down/together (You get up to chase a fish & your chair is gone)
- Bring extra bungee straps and Zip Ties to attach rod holders to Ladders or Walkway stanchions
- Long handled nets (Pin & tape a pool skimmer handle, Or paint roller stick on a standard net handle).
"Danger": Lift straight up hand over hand to keep from folding your handle

Bait Placement

- Watch the waves and look for the troughs between breaks (keep off the peaks, best to place Inside, middle & outside) **The Thinner the trough the better for funneling fish**
- With three rods stagger baits in different troughs
- Don't neglect the first trough
- Typical rod spacing: 7-10 yards apart
- Check baits every 20 Minutes and change out if start to milk out and turn white
- Air dried baits last longer (Re-Coat in juice just before use)

Typical Rod Tip Bend



“Rough Conditions”

Middle Beach: Between the Pier Heads



Rough Conditions

- Bait placement best on outside of first break (The cleaner water the better)
- Also a good spot is off a shallower point sticking out into the breaking waves (Stand and survey the breaking waves, you will start to see patterns for rod placement).
- Bring along a broom stick (8' Catfish rod w/ 30# braid). You can pitch 3+oz weights and be fishing, when others are watching from their cars 😊)

Fresh Spawn Prep

- Eggs: King, Coho, Steelhead, Browns all work
- Bleed your fish before cleaning if possible
- Keep fresh spawn away from water at the cleaning station
- Freezer bag & burp as much air as possible from bag
- Keep on ice above water line until get home
- At Home devein eggs from the skein
- Rub eggs gently over Hardware cloth to separate from skein
- Freeze within 3 days of collection

Spawn Bag Prep

- Thaw Frozen eggs
- 3" square nylon mesh works best (Use 4" squares if over fifty 😊)
- Load mesh w/ 3-5 (Teaspoon) eggs & 5-7 Styrofoam beads
- Use "Magic Thread" (Elastic) to tie off: 3 wraps stretch, 3 more wraps and pull tight & break off
- Trim Excess mesh above tie wrap

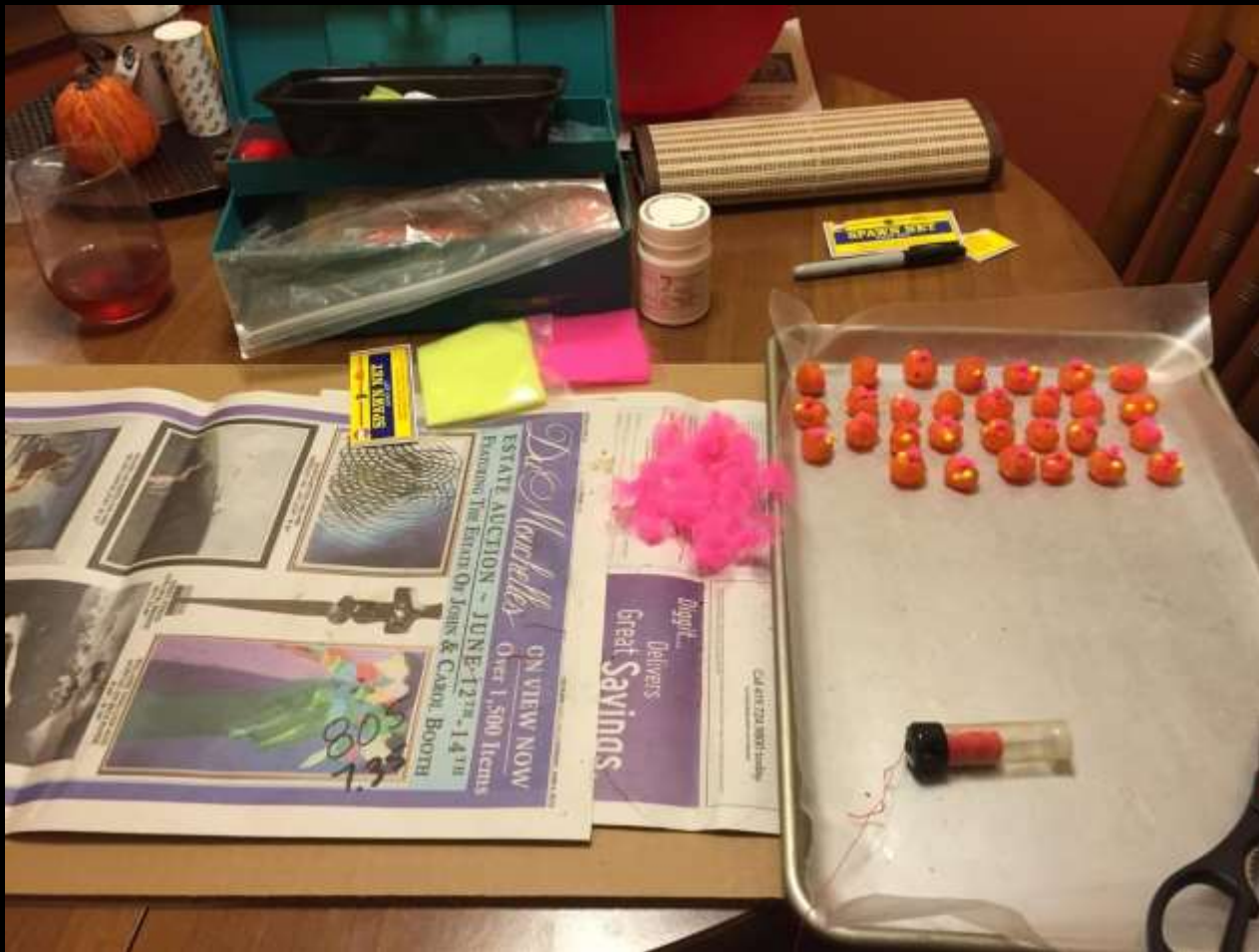
Thawing



Layout & Loading



Tied & Trimmed



Freezing Tied Bags

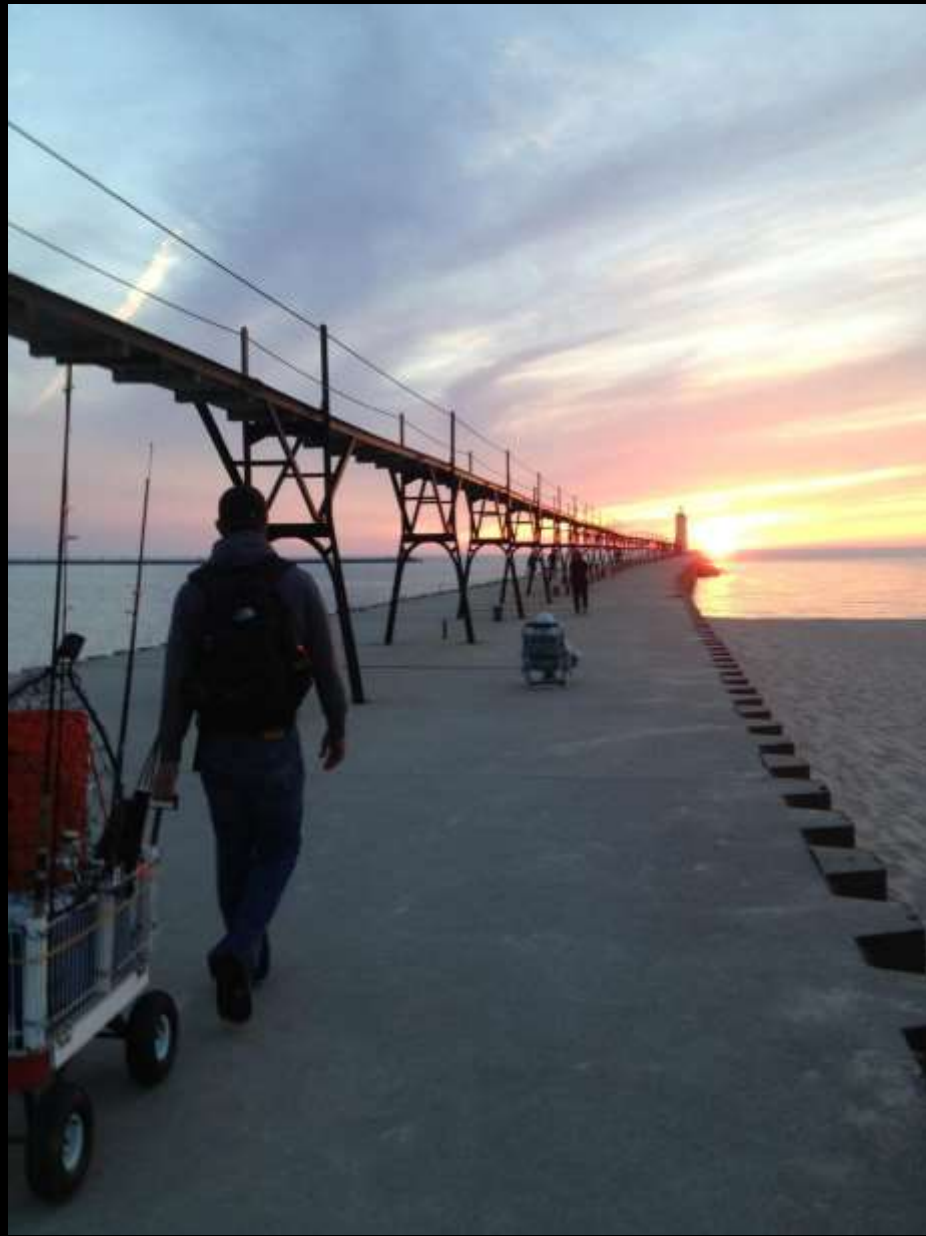
- Fast freeze tied bags on a cookie sheet for an Hour prior to vacuum sealing
- Vacuum seal bags with 24 Tied bags for future use (Provides a half days fishing)
- When thawing, puncture bag to keep from crushing eggs as they thaw out (Put on the dash when leaving house, they will be thawed by the time you get to the beach 😊)

Vaccum Sealing



The Best part of surf fishing..... 😊

- The Sunsets!









The End

