

## NW AREA RIVER TOURNAMENT, 2/3/2024 RESULTS

Submitted by Chair Adam Trenz

What a weekend it was to be in the Northwoods! Fun times, and a roller coaster of weather, going from “winter” in the mornings/evenings, to spring-like temperatures during the days.

Brothers Kirk and Marc Traver rolled in to town to settle in Thursday for some Friday fishing. Our group of Simon, Kenny, Paul, Tuan, and I all shot up Friday morning to get the day of fishing in ourselves. All of us had plans to fish the PM and were excited about the increased flows and the river finally having some stain after running gin clear all season.

The Traver brothers were quick to work on Friday, with Marc landing the beauty of a hen shown to the right on a plug. They continued their drift, and the action tapered off quickly.

The rest of our group all hit an access before I got to town. Paul beat all of us there and managed a fish pretty quick as well (shown below to the left), but they also saw the action taper off quickly.



This was about the time I was pulling into town, and the Traver brothers were wrapping up their short float, so we all ended up at the Traver's property to spend the rest of the day.

Our group explored on our own with one hooked and lost by Simon, and a few smaller juvenile Steelhead/Browns brought to hand. Kirk came down to lead us to the “magic hole” where Kenny was able to bring a Steelhead to hand (shown to the right). This ended up being the last fish of the day, and we all went back to the Traver cabin for a couple of hours to socialize with plenty of laughs and an overall great time - Thank you to the Travers for hosting us!



Saturday brought us to tournament day, with the Travers on the PM, and our group on the Big Manistee. Much like Friday, the Travers were on the fish pretty quick with a smaller fish released, followed by a larger fish of 30” caught by Kirk, which would end up being good for a first place finish and the payout for big fish! You will have to imagine what it looked like, since there was a photo deletion incident before I could write this report! Essentially, it was a carbon copy of the fish Marc is holding above from the day prior. Congrats to Kirk!



Simon was next on the board, getting a long epic fight from the fish shown above to the right. His fish ended up measuring 26.5”, which would take second place for the event.



Thankfully, I actually had a craving for a steelhead dinner, and was lucky enough to catch a fish perfect to satisfy that craving - a 17.5” male, shown to the left below, which also would prove to be good enough for third place. (It was delicious by the way!)

Kenny was able to connect with a beautiful brown (his biggest to date), so his day was made!

A casual weigh in was held with more laughs and a great early dinner appetizer of Dublin Market fried chicken provided by Simon - Thanks Simon!



Sunday proved to be tough fishing for our group (The Travers did not fish). No steelhead were hooked in the morning before we all parted ways and headed home.

It was a great first event to start the 2024 series of tournaments for the River Angler of the Year Award. Great times were had by all. I look forward to seeing new and familiar faces for the rest of the calendar year!