



Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association

Protecting, promoting and enhancing sport fishing in the Great Lakes and connecting waterways.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Contact:

Dennis Eade, MSSFA – (616) 298-8842

Dr. Ken Merckel selected to lead Michigan Steelheaders

HOLLAND, MICH – The board of directors of the Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association reluctantly accepted the resignation of its president, Rick Balabon, at its meeting in Lansing on March 7th. Rick is stepping down after eight years of leadership to devote more time to his expanded role at work and responsibilities at home. Vice president, Dr. Kenneth E. Merckel D.D.S., of Mayville, MI was elevated to president for the remainder of Balabon's term, through December 2012.

Dr. Merckel graduated from the University of Detroit with a BS (60) and D.D.S. (65). He began his career as a clinical and research bacteriologist at Henry Ford Hospital from 1960 until 1965. From 1965, through the present day, he has practiced general dentistry in Mayville, MI. He is married to Lenore and together they raised three children and now have two granddaughters. He has fished and hunted all of his life and joined the Thumb Chapter of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association in 1985.

Dr. Merckel served the Thumb Chapter as vice president for six years and president for two years. He has served as the chapter's state director to MSSFA since 1991. During his tenure on MSSFA's board he has fostered collaborative relationships with the MDNR, Michigan Sea Grant, Great Lakes Science Center and United States Fish & Wildlife Service. He has successfully worked through MSSFA to secure funding for the MDNR hatchery renovation, increased the rod limit to three per person and five salmon per person limit on the Great Lakes and continues to improve the fishery through his work as a member of the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee of the MDNR.

Dr. Merckel takes the helm of MSSFA at a challenging time for the MDNR and our Great Lakes fisheries. His grassroots approach to getting members more actively involved in facing these challenges will be one of his leadership priorities as president of MSSFA.

###

Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association/PO Box 8034/Holland, MI 49422

www.michigansteelheaders.org/