

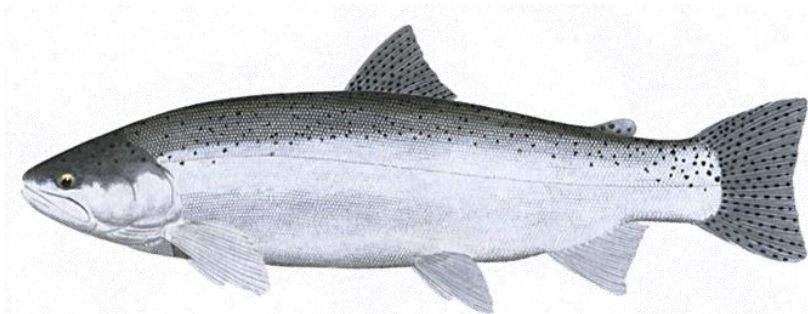
A person wearing a blue jacket is holding a large steelhead trout in a boat on water. The fish is silver with a pinkish-red belly and a white patch on its side. The background shows the water and the person's hands holding the fish.

# Ohio Trip Report

March 2024

**Steelhead Lessons**

**Learned and Re-Learned**

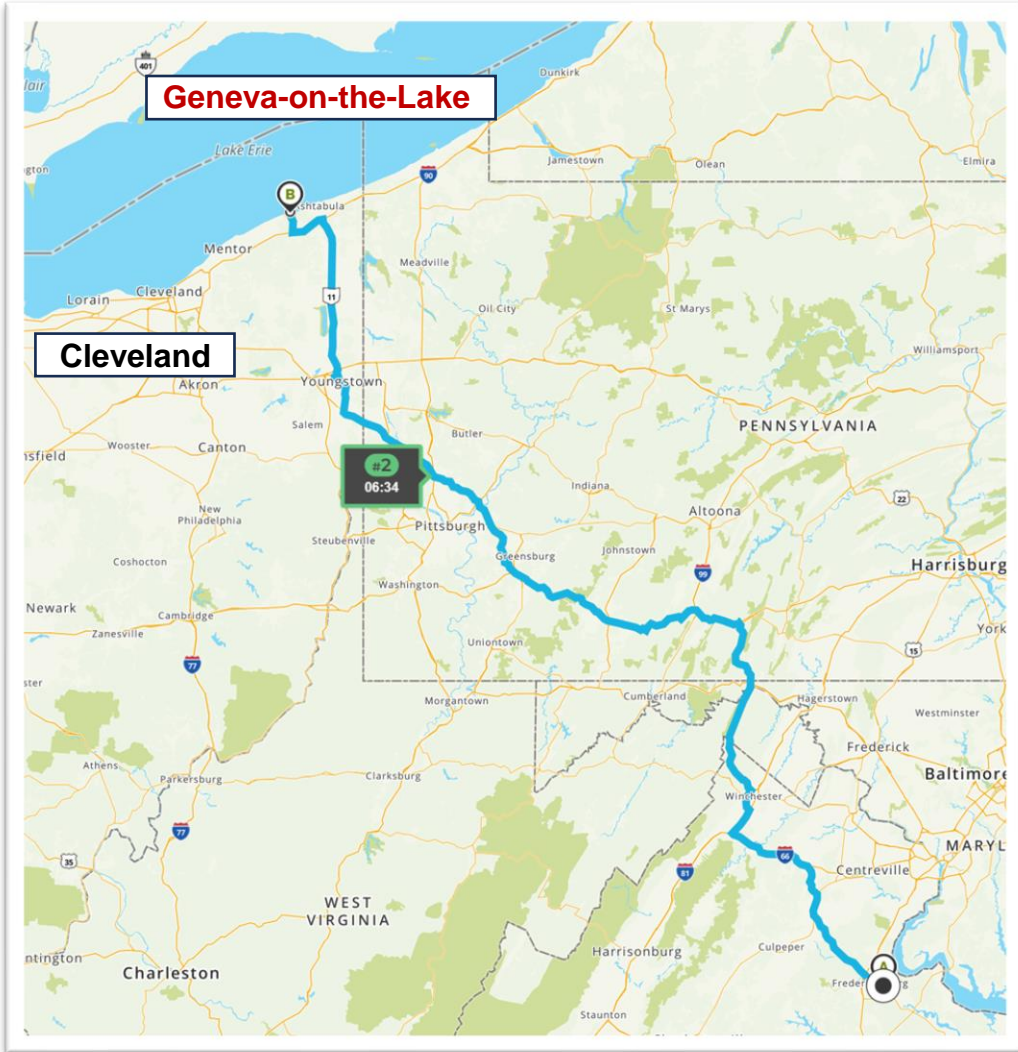

















# 2024 Ohio Trip Report

- **Brief Overview**
- **Lessons Learned / Re-Learned**
- **Video**

# TRIP OVERVIEW

- ~ 7 hour drive to NE Ohio
- VRBO House(s)
- 4 – 7 Anglers over 4 Days (+)



TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 4	 4 <b>MILL CREEK</b> ASHTABULA RIVER	 5 MILL CREEK	 7 MILL CREEK	 3
 4 MILL CREEK	 4 BIG CREEK (LOWER)  +1	 5 <b>BIG CREEK (UPPER)</b> BIG CREEK (LOWER)   +2	  3 ASHTABULA RIVER	  2

- Concentrated on small water



# STEELHEAD ALLEY

**Our Focus Areas**



**Ashtabula River**

**Mill Creek**

**Big Creek**

# OPTIMAL STREAM CONDITIONS VS OUR EXPERIENCE

STREAM	OPTIMAL FLOW	SPRING 2022	SPRING 2023	SPRING 2024
ROCKY RIVER	150 – 250 cfs	2800 – 550 cfs	1200 – 3600 cfs	365 – 184 cfs
CHAGRIN RIVER	150 – 350 cfs	1800 - 650 cfs	1000 – 1480 cfs	1020 – 285 cfs
GRAND RIVER	250 - 400 cfs	2300 - 2100 cfs	1030 – 1840 cfs	2100 - 1100 cfs
CONNEAUT CREEK	150 - 350 cfs	960 - 400 cfs	290 - 580 cfs	796 – 239 cfs

- In 3 Spring trips: Almost never had optimal stream conditions, but always had good fishing (somewhere)
- Headwaters & Tributaries will fish when big water / near-lake areas won't
- Caution when reviewing Gauge data (Grand vs Conneaut this trip)



# MARCH 2024 STEELHEAD TRIP RESULTS





# MARCH 2024 STEELHEAD TRIP RESULTS



Can't all be monsters . . .hooked a baitfish with the streamer

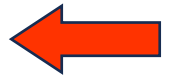
# Lessons (Re)Learned: Best Flies\*



**White Death**  
(under indicator)

Accounted for 90% + of hook-ups

Smaller is Better (length / width)



Krystal Meth



White Wooly Buggar

Some Action



Nuke Egg



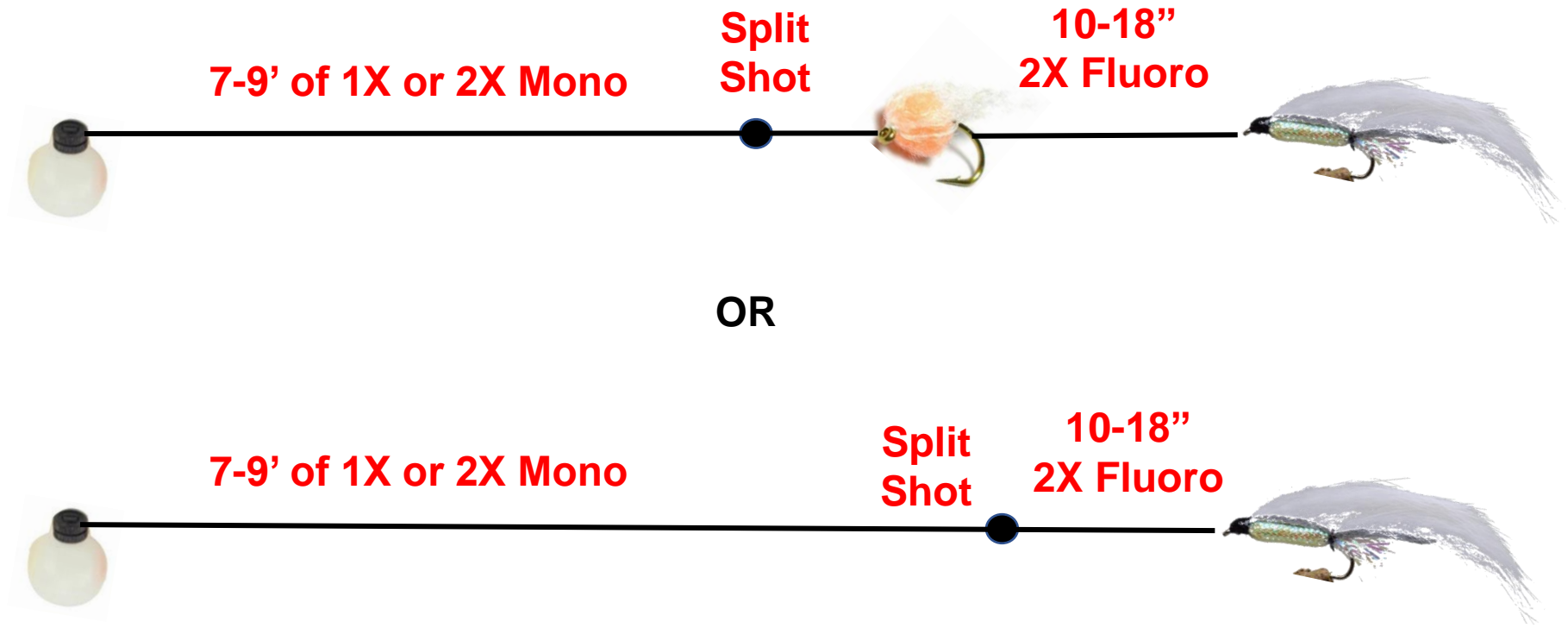
Stonefly

No love this trip

\* small water



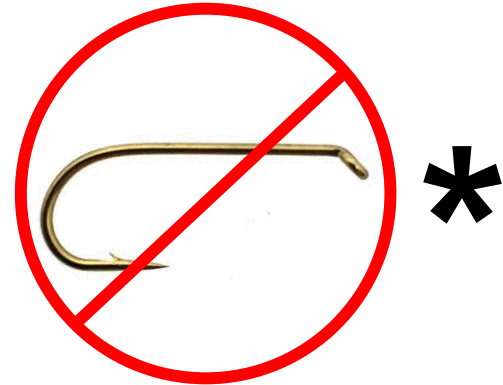
# Lessons (Re)Learned: Best Rig



- Be prepared to adjust distances and weight based on depth, flow, and fish location
- Used no weight and 3-4' between indicator and fly on numerous occasions

# Lessons (Re)Learned: Strong Leader and Hooks

If You Can – use Heavy Hook Flies





# Leader, Tippet, and Hook Strength

Destroyed Fly,  
but hook held



Broke hook with jump

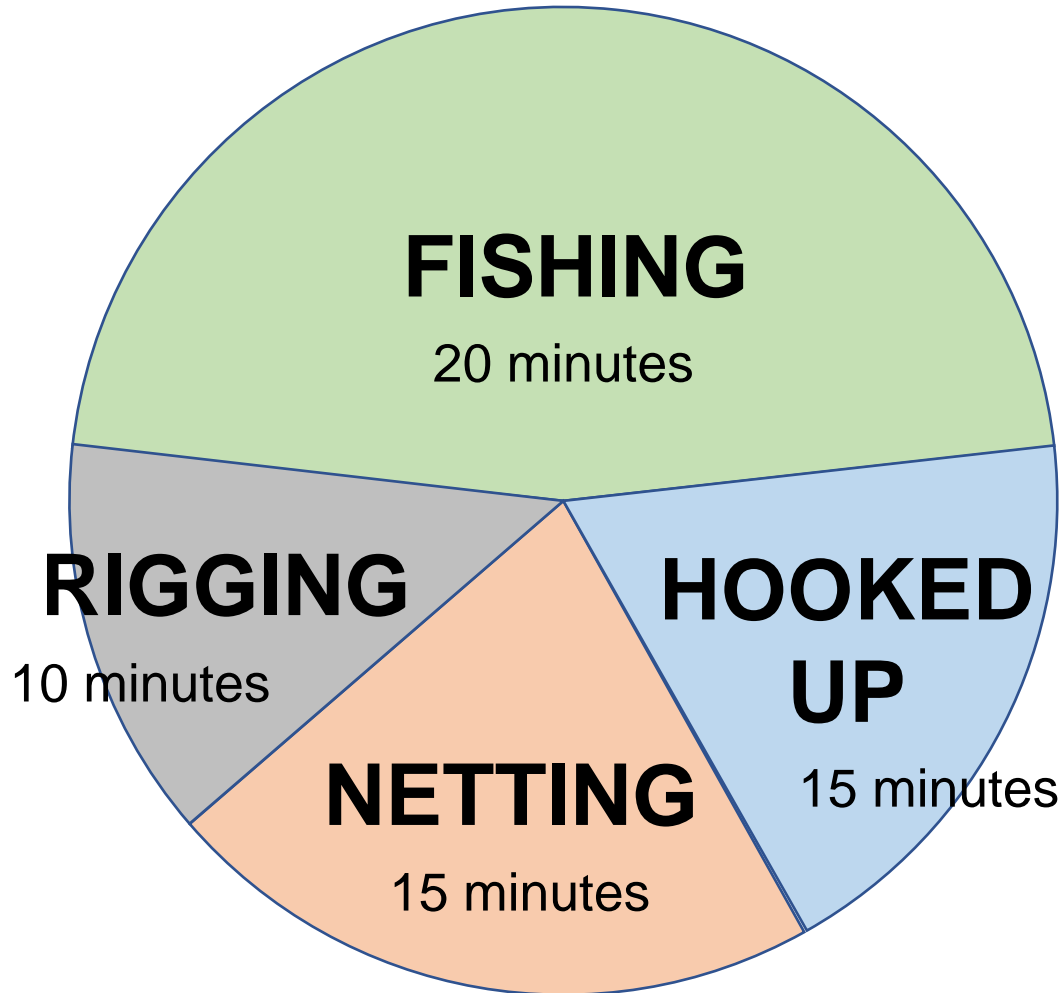


**BUT STILL THE #1 ISSUE  
THAT IMPACTED OUR ABILITY  
TO CATCH FISH**

**LANDING (NET)  
TECHNIQUES**



# Lessons (Re)Learned: Cooperative Netting



Go in with an understanding of the work (fishing) breakdown

You'll spend about the same amount of time netting as catching



# Lessons (Re)Learned: Cooperative Netting

- Not absolutely necessary: Single man netting and beaching can work.
  - - **BUT** a lot easier and much more effective

- Long handle nets superior



>



- Everyone takes a net (we violated this and paid for it . . . “net help” story)

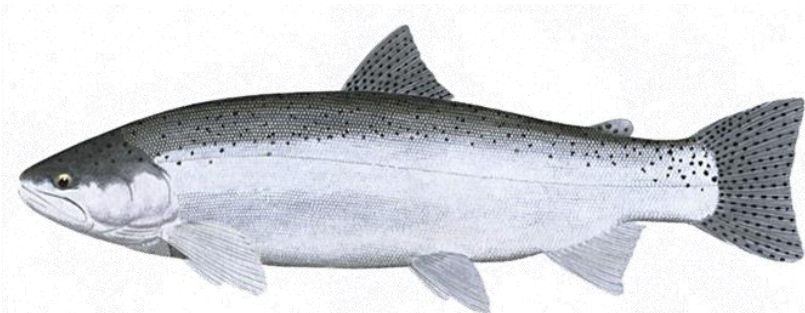




**Next Trip**

**March 2025**

**Maybe a limited Fall run**



# Ohio Trip Report

## Questions & Comments