

Report from the Front

Devil Track trout almost a record

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What a difference a day makes.

Scott Thorpe of St. Paul weighed in a 16-pound, six-ounce steelhead at Midway Service in Grand Marais last Sunday. But Thorpe actually caught the lake-run rainbow trout the day before in the Devil Track River just north of Grand Marais.

Since fish lose weight rapidly due to dehydration, Thorpe's catch may have been bigger than the current Minnesota state record for rainbow trout — a 17-pound, six-ounce steelhead caught by Ottway Stuberud of Knife River in the Knife River in January 1974.

The Grand Marais area has been a hotspot of steelhead action in the past week. Rudy Carlson of Grand Marais took three eight-pounders from Kadunce Creek in two days and Mark LaPlante of Duluth weighed in an 11-pound, two-ounce steelhead at Midway Service last Friday.

In the Duluth area, steelhead fishing has slacked off, reported Butch Furtman of Jim's Bait in Duluth. Mostly dark fish are being taken in the Brule River now, he added. The Stoux River and Fish Creek near Ashland are producing a few fish, says Frank Roman of Joy's Place, while the Carp rivers are the best producers on the Gogebic Range in Michigan, reports Larry Buerger of Larry's Bait in Ironwood.

Both Roman and Buerger said Lake Superior trolling has been surprisingly good in recent days, with coho salmon being the main catch.

Walleyes are running hot and heavy in the lower St. Louis River and the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Waters opener Saturday should be very good, Furtman said.

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