

Fishy Tip Of Hat To Some Humans

Gotham City's hero is Batman; and a lot of Michigan Democrats regard "Soapy" Williams as their champion.

If little fish had arms and hats, they might tip their fishy fedoras in the direction of Saginaw's Underwater Explorers.

For the third consecutive

year, members of the skin diving club have placed a protective shelter for fish on the bottom of a Michigan lake. The shelter this year was placed in Loon Lake, Oscoda County, according to Joseph G. Michaels, in charge of the Explorers' project.

"The idea," he says, "is to provide a haven for little fish—a place where they're free from attacks by larger fish." And, he points out, when little fish get a chance to grow into big fish they provide better sport for Michigan's army of fishermen.

The State Conservation Department endorses the project and selects the lake which it feels is most in need of a shelter.

Previously, the Saginaw divers have placed shelters in Island Lake, Ogemaw County, and in Otter Lake, southeast of Millington.

Last Sunday 14 Explorers, aided by 14 Boy Scouts from Essexville, traveled to Loon Lake with a load of lumber. The shelter, with spaces between boards wide enough for little fish to enter, was constructed at the scene. Then the 6x6x6-foot "box" was lowered into the lake and anchored in about 20 feet of water.

The Explorers have another project coming up on May 15—a cleanup of the Au Sable River—in conjunction with the Michigan Skin Diving Council. Michaels has been named chairman of the effort which is expected to involve 150-200 divers from throughout the state.