



# cannonball

## G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • WINTER 2018

## ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP

### MCBA HONORS GREIL AND BEYER

#### RODGER GREIL RECEIVES PISTIS AWARD

By Capt. Eric Anderson, President

The Pistis Award is given in Honor of Chuck Pistis, former Michigan Sea Grant Program Director. It honors an individual or organization outside MCBA who is a defender of our Great Lakes and natural resources.

This year the Michigan Charter Boat Association proudly presented the Pistis Award to Roger Greil manager of Lake Superior State University's Aquatic Research Laboratory. In his nearly 30 years as laboratory manager, Greil has played an active role in training hundreds of undergraduate students in fish culture management, many of whom have gone on to pursue successful careers with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Nearly two thirds of all fish production staff in the MDNR are LSSU alumni!

In addition to student training, Greil has overseen the development of the Atlantic salmon rearing program, which has been highly successful in Lake Huron and has resulted in creating a "world class" fishery. Greil is also a tireless advocate for the Great Lakes fisheries in general. He has been the recipient of two State of Michigan Outstanding Partnership Awards and the Grayling Award from the American Fisheries Society.

"It is my honor to present Roger Greil with the 2018 Pistis Award," said President Eric An-



*MCBA President Captain Eric Andersen presents Pistis Award to Roger Greil, Lake Superior State University*

derson.

Greil received the prestigious award during ceremonies at the MCBA Annual Conference and Awards Banquet held at the Great Wolfe Lodge in Traverse City the weekend of October 20. Greil was also the evening's guest speaker, discussing LSSU's Atlantic salmon program and the progress the Atlantics' are making in the Lake Huron fishery. 🐟

#### MCBA ANNUAL AWARD

The MCBA Award is an award that is intended to recognize members of our association who have contributed of themselves above and beyond the call of duty for our association. This year 2018 MCBA Award was presented posthumously to former board member Ron Beyer.

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Capt. Beyer joined MCBA in 1990, was appointed Port Captain for Harrisville in 2003, and elected to the board as Lake Huron Director in 2005, a position he proudly held until his passing 2013. He gave graciously and freely of his time to the all-volunteer organization.

"It is my privilege to honor the late Captain Ronald Beyer with the 2018 Michigan Charter Boat Association Award," said President Eric Andersen. (Capt. Rick Konecke graciously accepted the award for the late Captain Beyer)



Capt. Ron Beyer

"Capt. Beyer put a lot of time and energy into the revitalization of Lake Huron after the salmon collapse in 2004. He also called attention to a lake trout population that was seriously declining at the same time and worked with the Michigan Sea Grant and Department of Natural Resources exploring ways to do everything possible to restore those fisheries. Capt. Beyer was a problem solver and was able to resolve matters in a diplomatic way."

Capt. Beyer was instrumental in planning MCBA's Annual Conference when it was held at the Holiday Inn in Alpena. He also made all the arrangements for the NOAA Museum tour that weekend.

Capt. Beyer was appointed by then Presi-



*MCBA President Captain Eric Andersen presents MCBA Award to Captain Rick Konecke who graciously accepted the award for the late Captain Ronald Beyer.*

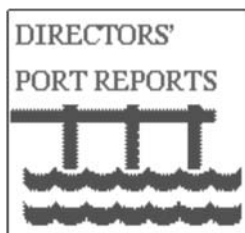
dent Dick Stafford to the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee in 2006. He was very vocal at these meetings, as he sought avenues to restore native fish stocks to Lake Huron, the lake he loved so dearly. The board and membership were always kept well informed of what was happening or planned for Lake Huron during his watch.

Capt. Beyer was a true friend to MCBA and cared greatly about the organization. He represented the organization with honesty and integrity. 🐟



**Central  
Lake Michigan**

By Captain George Freeman  
MCBA Director



The Annual Fall MCBA Business Conference was held at The Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City October 19–21. The event was well attended and the program was very informative. The food and accommodations were top notch.

Thank you to all the CLM members who attended and to Vice President Capt. Bill Winowiecki and Treasurer Larry Lienczewski for planning the conference, Secretary Capt. John Giszczak for the Hospitality Suite, newly elected Northern Lake Michigan Director Capt. Tony Radjenovich for the Tackle Raffle and the rest of the crew who helped make this event a success. At the Sunday morning business meeting elections were held. Capt. Eric Ander-

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## From the Helm . . .




As I sit here today writing the Winter President's report, a recent phone conversation between MCBA Vice President

Bill Winowiecki and myself brings up to mind the topic of Michigan's new recreational marijuana law going into effect soon. What needs to be pointed out for us in the charter industry is, as licensed captains, hold a federally issued license. As most of you know, this means that the State of Michigan may allow for the use of marijuana by its residents but at the federal level, marijuana is a controlled substance. If one of our members fails the random drug test due to the use of marijuana, his federal captain's license is in jeopardy. The U.S. Coast Guard will be there to take your captain's license. To get it back, takes lots of time and money spent with attorneys. First mates employment will be terminated as required by federal maritime law as well. As I

said above, I am sure everyone here is aware of the law, but some of our young people working as first mates may not be. It is up to us as captains to make sure they know the law as it stands today.

Our MCBA Annual Conference and banquet is now in the history book. I want to thank everyone who attended. I am delighted to have our scholarship program enlarged to include Lake Superior State University fisheries program. We are now supporting scholarships to fisheries students from both Michigan State and Lake Superior State. These two universities are the only two with fisheries and aquatic research programs for college students here in Michigan.

In closing, the MCBA Board and I wish all our members and their families the best for the New Year. This last year was a year of big king salmon and limit catches of walleye. Let us hope going into the 2019 season we experience the same or better.

Captain Eric Andersen - President MCBA 

*(Continued from page 2) . . . Directors' Report*

son was reelected President and Capt. Bill Winowiecki reelected Vice President.

All captains and others interested are encouraged to attend the Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop to be held January 19, 2019. This year it will be held at West Shore Community College. Experts will share information about the past season, including the most recent research data and other topics of interest

to all charter fishermen. Contact Mary Frein, Ottawa County MSU Extension Office (616) 994-4540 with itinerary questions. Contact Cara Mitchell at (231) 843-5825 for registration and location info or to register by phone. Hope to see you there.

I am interested in reporting news of interest to the readers of the Cannonball from captains or clubs in the Central Lake Michigan region.

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### "CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

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(From Muskegon thru Ludington) If you would like to provide news for the Cannonball from your part of our region, please give me a call (877-456-3474). Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season. George Freeman, MCBA Director, Central Lake Michigan. 




### **Northern Lake Michigan**

By Captain Tony Radjenovich - MCBA Director

I would like to thank all the business sponsors for their donations of tackle, gear, services, apparel and books in support of the MCBA Scholarship Fund. The MCBA is proud to provide financial support to qualified upper classmen from the only two universities in Michigan that have a Fishery Biology program, Michigan State and Lake Superior State Universities. Our sponsors donated thousands of dollars worth of prizes we were able to raffle off to our members and raise a lot of money for the Scholarship Fund. Through this event, our sponsors are able to get their products and services into the hands of our captains to experience and use, maybe even for the first time. In addition, it is worth mentioning, the raffle is always a fun and exciting way to end the Saturday evening of events at the MCBA Annual Meeting. Thank you all again and we look forward to making next year's raffle more spectacular than this year.

As we are wrapping up 2018 and looking forward to 2019, we all need to be aware of the opportunities and challenges that comes with the New Year. The MCBA serves our members best when we all get involved. Therefore, I am reaching out to our members to get more involved. Not all of our ports have a Port Captain. We are looking to fill the vacant positions. If you are interested, please go to the members section of the MCBA website [michigancharterboats.com](http://michigancharterboats.com) and check out the list of current Port Captains. For additional information, contact me at [leelanautical@gmail.com](mailto:leelanautical@gmail.com) or your

MCBA Director. The MCBA Board wants to hear from our Port Captains and members on issues, concerns and fishing reports from your port. 2018 was a successful year. I look forward to hearing from you throughout the winter and once you get in the water in 2019. I wish you all a Blessed Holiday Season. 



### **Upper Peninsula**

by Capt. Dick Stafford - MCBA Past President

As we wind down on another fishing season, we are constantly reminded of the beauty that abounds in our beautiful state. For those of us fortunate enough to live on the water, we never tire of peering out over the waves or calm seas. There is comfort surrounding the Great Lakes. Never take them for granted. We are all "gate keepers" for our resources. There is never a vacation from it, especially now.

Here in the Upper Peninsula, the snow has started to fly and as I am writing this, we are under a winter storm warning. I hope that the boats have been winterized and all the equipment has been put away and made ready for another season. Now might be a good time to clean and wash the outside of the boat if stored indoors so there is not so much to do in the spring.

Lake Superior enjoyed another good season for lake trout, salmon and steelhead. The St. Mary's River is enjoying another fishery, that being the exciting Atlantic salmon. Anglers have been fishing in this river a good part of the summer. Many ports on Lake Huron are also enjoying this great fishery. Atlantic salmon are definitely here to stay. Lake Michigan has been producing some great catches for both kings and steelhead. Manistique's salmon tournament saw some huge salmon brought in by a number of fishermen. Little Bay de Noc saw some good catches of walleye, northern

## SECRETARY'S REPORT


By Captain John Giszczak



Where did summer go?

It is hard to believe the 2019 membership applications have been mailed. Please fill out your application completely and legibly. Better yet, go on line and fill out the on-line renewal form. It is quick and easy, and will record all the necessary information accurately. I hate bugging you for missing infor-

mation or because I cannot make out your handwriting if you do the paper application. Also, special note: if your license renewal date is not on your application you will not be eligible for an internet listing on the MCBA website. Membership applications are due no later than Dec. 31, 2018. In addition, that is not a lot of time from now. Do not be one of those captains who allows his membership to lapse and then have to pay for a drug test again.

If you need help or have questions, please call 800-622-2971. 




Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: **MCBAmembers.com**

(Continued from page 4) . . . . **Directors' Report**

pike, bass and even perch. Local charters did well when they went out because they spent a great deal of time searching for walleye and staying of top of the fishery. Local fishermen had a little harder time locating fish. This is also the time of the year when many out of state fishermen come into Little Bay de Noc. Driving through the launch parking lots, will produce 95% of the vehicles from another state. Walleye have been bulking up since the start of the summer. Fish caught this time of year are usually pretty hefty. In fact, it might be very difficult to catch fish under the slot. In Little Bay de Noc, there is still a slot limit. Only one fish per person which is 23" inches or larger.

So in conclusion, we must all work at protecting our Great Lakes. Many thanks go out to those organizing the Annual Meeting in Traverse City. There was a great deal of information presented by Jim Dexter, Fisheries Chief, and Donna Westlander, Charlevoix Research Center. Maxine Appleby was also on hand to help captains market their business. This is always a good time for captains to get together and talk. Much can be learned from others.

May you all have Happy Holidays and quality

time with family and friends. 



### Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair

by Captain Henry Walters - MCBA Director

Hello everyone,

As the year comes to an end, I have some news that is not good.

The DNR has found Grass Carp in all the Great Lakes except Lake Superior. Some have been tagged so a study can be made to keep track of their movements and try to eliminate this invasive species.

On a good note, the Grass Carp is the better of these invasive carp. The silver and big head are the ones that we don't want to see.

I recently attended a binational Lake St. Clair conference that showcased concerns of the water levels, reclaiming marsh lands and a major concern which is PFAS.

PFAS is a diverse group of toxic chemicals that is commonly used in household and consumer products, firefighting, and in industries. The presence of PFAS has been recently confirmed by the MDEQ throughout Michigan and the testing is ongoing. They found that PFAS is

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extremely resistant to breaking down and can persist in the environment for long periods of time. There is evidence that links this group of chemicals to environmental and human health risks. Regulations related to these risks are still under development.



In October 2018 the MDEQ released a report with the results of their investigation of PFAS contamination in the Clinton River, Lake St. Clair, and selected tributaries. The MDEQ had collected surface water samples from these waterways on three different occasions in 2017 and 2018. Their report indicated generally low levels of PFAS within the Clinton River watershed and Lake St. Clair. Out of 33

samples collected, six samples tested above Water Quality Standards. MDEQ has indicated that Lake St. Clair will not need additional surface water sampling.

There are no known health risks associated with swimming in water contaminated with PFAS, however, these chemicals are surfactants and may act as detergents producing white foam in moving water. PFAS concentrate in the foam, so avoid contact and do not allow your pets to be exposed to the foam.

It was noted that If you regularly catch and eat fish from Michigan lakes and streams, pay attention to fish consumption advisories throughout the state. [michigan.gov/eatsafefish](http://michigan.gov/eatsafefish)

There has been a "do not eat fish" warning for bluegill and sunfish in the waters around Selfridge field.

Note that the PFAS issue is not one that specifically affects Michigan. PFAS are present throughout the country and the globe! Sure is something to be aware of.

On a happy note, wishing everyone a safe Holiday and a great winter. 🌨️

## Secondhand Marijuana Smoke

**Q:** Can secondhand marijuana smoke render a positive drug test?

There are many ways to use marijuana; smoking the drug using a pipe or as a rolled cigarette or joint likely remains the most popular method. This method of consumption, much like tobacco



cigarettes, produces smoke which can be indirectly inhaled by non-users. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that this secondhand marijuana smoke does contain delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive chemical in the cannabis plant that produces its "high." Understanding the effects secondhand marijuana smoke can have on a drug test is a common question received by our teams of scientists.

We asked Dr. Barry Sample, Senior Director of Science & Technology at Quest Diagnostics, to share his expertise in an effort to clear the air on this topic. He said, "There are no published, peer-reviewed studies to date that indicate, even with today's increased concentrations of THC in marijuana, that someone would test positive due to 'passive' or 'incidental' exposure at events such as parties or concerts." The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) concurs, reporting that it's unlikely that secondhand marijuana smoke could give someone a contact high after examining research that measured factors such as drug potency, hours of exposure, and room ventilation.

Quest Diagnostics offers testing for marijuana using urine, oral fluid, and hair specimens.

(Continued from page 6) . . . **Marijuana**

New oral fluid testing technology has proven effective in detecting recent marijuana use. When compared to urine, oral fluid demonstrates higher positivity rates for almost all drugs and more than twice the positivity rates for marijuana. It's important to select a test type and cutoff that will effectively screen for the drug. 🐟




**Maritime Licensing Specialist**

Lt. Commander USCG (retired)  
Charles "Chuck" Kakuska

**Sea K's Licensing Lore**

For those of you who attended the conference in Traverse City, some of this will be old news, but still very important when you get ready to renew your license. Some members of the CG staff in West Virginia still struggle with Great Lakes geography. As I mentioned at the conference, I learned the St. Mary's River is not part of the Great Lakes and there are suddenly six Great Lakes instead of five! At least that is what my client was told in his letter from the national maritime center. It is those types of things we have no control over so remember to start all your licensing projects early. Please make sure to use only the new Coast Guard forms which were published in July. Any form dated after September 1, 2018 must be on the new forms or the Coast Guard will return them to be re-done. This includes the new application, physical and small boat sea service forms. Make sure to double check all your forms before the Coast Guard gets their hands on them. I continue to see small boat sea service forms with days listed before your current license was issued. If you have given the Coast Guard exactly 360 days and then they subtract the early days from your total, you will end up short and have to waste your time and money completing

 **VISIT MCBA Members Area**  
**www.MCBAmembers.com**

open book renewal exams. Hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season. 🐟



**Show Chairman**

Captain Rich Haslett - Past President  
248-542-1563  
taloncharters@gmail.com

**"2019" SPORT SHOWS**

This is a reminder that the sport shows will be here before you know it.

- Ultimate Fishing Show Jan. 10-13
- Birch Run Hunting & Fishing Expo Feb. 8-10
- Outdoorama Feb. 28- Mar. 3
- Ultimate Fishing Show Mar. 14-17

Please contact me if you are willing to volunteer your time to work the upcoming shows.

For the captains who have donated for the 2019 shows, PLEASE remember to get me your brochures and business cards if you haven't already done so. I need everything by mid-December. I am taking names of captains willing to donate a charter for the 2020 shows. If you would like to donate, please e-mail me at: taloncharters@gmail.com.

Captain Rich Haslett  
Show Chairperson 🐟



**A Retiree's View over the Transom**

By Captain Jim Fenner

The reports at the fall conference at Great Wolf Lodge were more positive than any I have heard in recent years. It seems that fishing was good this year. Not great, like in some Glory years past, but good.

Again, lake trout were dominant in Lakes Michigan and Huron, but there were more and bigger kings in Lake Michigan, plus quite a few Coho's it seems. In Lake Huron, while lake

(Continued on page 8)

trout were dominant, other species showed up, and Atlantic salmon were found in small but increasing numbers up and down the lake. Walleyes were strong, too.

For me there were two issues that dominated the conference: Atlantic salmon, and the 2020 Consent Decree.

Roger Greil, from Lake Superior State University gave a most interesting talk about Atlantic salmon. From what they are, and where they came from, to how to raise and release them, including a history of the several attempts that have been made in the Great Lakes in the past. By hard work, intelligence and patience, Roger has learned how to raise and release Atlantics successfully in the St Mary's River. Now he is helping the MDNR develop an Atlantic salmon program, primarily for Lake Huron. The MDNR had planted a relatively small number in several ports on Lake Huron the past few years. Now the mature fish are showing up in the catch in many ports on the lake. They have even been caught in measurable numbers in the eastern end of Lake St. Clair. People seem to love to catch them. They jump and fight like Rainbows. They are a great eating fish, too.

I am hoping and betting that the Atlantic salmon program is going to be a huge attractant for charter operators on Lake Huron over the next several years.

In appreciation of his efforts in creating the Atlantic salmon fishery, Roger Griel was awarded our most prestigious award this year, the Pistis Award.

Roger's work at LSSU first came to our attention in the early years of the first decade of this century. Roger has worked since 1989 on bringing the Atlantics back to the St. Mary's river and more. We recognized the potential



value of a viable Great Lakes Atlantic Salmon fishery in its infancy, and invited Roger to tell us about it at the MCBA conference in 2010. It was exciting to hear of his work then and even more so now that the program is showing substantial success. Congratulations, Roger, you richly deserve our highest award.

Fish Chief Jim Dexter started the conference with a history and background of the current Consent Degree and looked forward to the issues we confront as we attempt to reach a new decree in 2020. He answered many questions. His experience and wisdom on the subject is very valuable and will be important during the negotiations. Later in the day, Chris Patterson, the Lawyer Representing the "Coalition to protect Michigan Resources" updated us on the sport fishing groups that will be involved in the Consent Decree negotiations. He also discussed some of the issues that will make the negotiations difficult. I for one was pleased with his knowledge and desire to represent us well. These negotiations will spell out the 'does' and 'don'ts' for a very long time to come when they are concluded. Here's hoping for a great outcome. We must all support our negotiators if we are to be successful.

Finally, if you are planning to join me in retirement soon, and if you, like me, want to keep up with the constantly changing status of fishing in Michigan, I hope you will choose to

continue your MCBA membership in the retired category. Beginning this year, you can enroll on line as well as by paper and check. The online enrollment costs a little more, but the extra cost goes to the scholarship fund,





(Continued from page 8)). . . **over the Transom**

and it is very convenient. Either way, a retired membership is not expensive, and it will keep you 'in the loop'. Meanwhile, hope to see you at the docks again next spring. 🚤



**Michigan Charter Boat Association**  
Captain Bill Winowiecki - MCBA Vice President

### **Tribal Decree Donation**

I would like to thank Captain Mark Williams and the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. for a very generous donation of \$2500.00 to the MCBA Tribal Decree Fund.

As a member of the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources, we speak as one voice through our attorney's Steve Schultz and Chris Patterson. None of us knows the outcome of the next tribal negotiations. All we can do is put up the best defense we can to protect our fishery.

Thank you again Detroit Steel headers!!!

Captain Bill Winowiecki  
Vice President  
Michigan Charter Boat Association 🚤

winning the two Cannon Easi-Troll hand crank downriggers with ticket #153.

Thank you to Valley's Canvas in Alpena for donating the two down riggers.

We at the MCBA are looking for donations of prizes for the 2019 Tribal Decree raffle. Please contact Bill Winowiecki at: charterfishing@wattabite.com or call me at 231.409.0963, if anybody has any ideas or donations.

As our members can see our fund is slowly growing. There is a lot of work behind the scenes by our board and members. We will all be more than happy when we come to an agreement in a couple of years.

**Thank you for your support.** 🚤

**Finally:** 2018 is wrapping up and we are looking forward to the 2019 Charter season.

The MCBA board is working on many issues including Tribal Decree, 24 hour fishing licenses, fish plants and many meetings concerning all of our charter businesses.

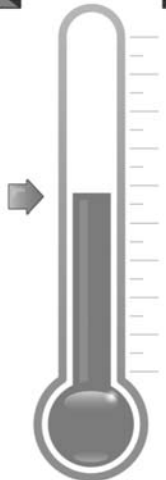
At times I feel we are getting stretched pretty thin. The MCBA board is always looking for new people to get involved. The fast pace of our society leaves very little time for volunteering. We have this fabulous fishery all the way around our state. We need to stay steadfast at protecting it for generations to come. That's what we try to do as a Board Member, Port Captain or just being a member of the Michigan Charter Boat Association. Please consider getting involved.

The Ludington Sea Grant meeting is Saturday, January 19, at West Shore Community College (3000 N Stiles Rd, Scottville MI 49454. Dan O'Keefe promises an interesting agenda.

The next MCBA board meeting is Sunday, January 27th at the Doherty Hotel in Clare at

**We Need Your  
Support  
\$50,000.00**

**GOAL**



**\$24,186.14**

### **RAFFLE**

The 2018 MCBA Tribal Decree Raffle was another success. We raised \$3,467.00. We want to thank captains and friends of the MCBA who bought tickets and donated to our fund.

**Congratulations** to Captain Eddie L McMillon, who fishes Lake Erie, on winning the GOPRO Hero 6 camera with the winning ticket #1224. The other lucky winner was Dreamweaver Lure Company,

(Continued on page 10)



We Thank all of our Business Sponsors for their donations of tackle, gear, services, apparel and books in support of the MCBA Scholarship Fund. Capt. Tony Radjenovich, served as interim chairman for Capt. Frank English, our past Scholarship Fundraiser Chairman, who is recovering from an accident . All proceeds from the tackle raffle go to the student scholarship fund! 🐾

(Continued from page 9). . .**Vice President**

10:00 a.m. We have a very full agenda. We have Cecilia Gilson and Ken Silfven from the MDNR License Sales and Customer Service unit attending at 11:00 a.m. They are coming to discuss the 24-hour fishing license issue. The DNR licensing website has been a disaster for the charter industry and we are hoping to make improvements.

Our editor put a November 15th deadline on our quarterly newsletter. So I will make this short, as I am going hunting!!

I want to take this time to wish all our members a Happy Holiday Season 🐾



#### **Scholarship**

Captain Rich Haslett - Past President  
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### **A SCHOLARSHIP AT LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Michigan Charter Boat Association will now donate \$1000.00 per year for three years starting in 2018 for the 2019 school year to Lake Superior State University. The donation will be issued to an upperclassman in the fisheries biology department. LSSU will pick the student.

MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION

SCHOLARSHIP begins with an annual contribution of \$1,000.

Our plans are to create an ENDOWED NAMED SCHOLARSHIP that begins with an initial gift of at least \$5,000. The scholarship fund is permanently endowed when the fund reaches \$25,000 within five years (as we have with MSU).

This will start after the 2020 Tribal negotiations are complete. 🐾

## **MCBA Cookbooks**

We still have MCBA Cookbooks available. If every captain would buy five each to have on your boat to show and sell to your customers we would be able to add the money to our scholarship fund and get the favorite recipes into kitchens where they belong. 🐾

### **MCBA Cookbooks Make Great Gifts!**





### **2018 MCBA Annual Conference and Business Meeting. . . Another Success!**

This year's meeting was a huge success. GoPro Camera winner Captain Eddie L McMillon, Our Thanks goes out to The Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City for another great weekend.

**The 2019 MCBA Annual Conference and Business Meeting** will be held the weekend of October 18, 19 and 20, 2019 at The Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. \$100.00 a night with no resort fee, for reservations: 866-962-9653 - Reservation Code: #1910MCBA 🐾

### **Scheduled Board Meetings for 2019:**

- Jan 27, 2019 – Clare, MI  
Doherty Hotel – 10:00 am.
- April 14, 2019 – Clare, MI  
Doherty Hotel – 10:00 am.
- Sept 29, 2019 – Clare, MI  
Doherty Hotel – 10:00 am.

- Oct. 20, 2019 – Traverse City, MI  
Great Wolf Lodge – 10:00 am.

All board meetings are open to all MCBA members who would like to attend. Please let us know in advance if you plan on attending so we have enough materials on hand to pass out. Contact any board member or call: 800-MCBA-971. 🐾



# Michigan Charter Boat Association

## **A Statement by the Michigan Charter Boat Association against Senate Bill 1145, a Commercial Fishing Amendment**

By MCBA President Eric Andersen, Vice President Bill Winowiecki, and Director Tony Radjenovich

We represent the Michigan Charter Boat Association. We would like to thank Chairman Holly Hughes and other Committee Members for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 1145.

The Michigan Charter Boat Association is a support group to the charter fishing industry. We provide support to our members for Coast Guard Licensing and Laws, we have been doing this for over 45 years. We also provide a drug testing program to our members.

We work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on fish stocking and laws to protect fishery and great lakes. We support captains on all the Great Lakes surrounding Michigan.

Managing the fisheries of the Great Lakes is a complex task that needs input and consideration from various governments, multiple states and provincial Departments of Natural Resources, federal treaties and stakeholders associations which manage and use the resources. SB 1145 does not allow for the input and consideration aforementioned.

Currently Fisheries of the Great Lakes are managed by provincial, state, and tribal agencies, with support from the Canadian and U. S. federal governments. Management of Great Lakes fisheries occurs cooperatively for fish populations that support recreational, commercial, or subsistence fisheries or support having a well-balanced and productive fish community. Fishery management agencies agreed in 1981 to cooperate through a non-binding agreement called A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.

<http://www.glfc.org/fishery-management.php>

This agreement abides by current law which does not need to be changed.

A Fisheries Management Implementation Strategy for the Rehabilitation of Lake Trout in Lake Michigan, updated on an annual basis as reported in March of 2018.

“Overall, based on recent gillnet assessments, the percentage of wild lake trout within the lake trout population remains below 20% in all areas of Lake Michigan except Illinois waters and MM8. Therefore, we conclude that lake trout populations are in the early stages of recovery, and we recommend adhering to the implementation strategy objectives, which are appropriate management tools to measure continued progress toward lake trout rehabilitation in Lake Michigan”.

[https://www.fws.gov/midwest/greenbayfisheries/documents/ReportsPubs/2018\\_Madenjian\\_et\\_al\\_GLFC.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/midwest/greenbayfisheries/documents/ReportsPubs/2018_Madenjian_et_al_GLFC.pdf)

According to Michigan Sea Grant. The Charter Boat Industry has big implications for coastal tourism. In 2016 charter fishing generated \$23 million to Michigan's coastal communities, resulting in 476,361 employment hours.

<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/news/2017/08/29/lake-michigans-charter-fishing-industry-is-remarkably-stable/>

Lake Michigan's charter fishery is the largest. Accounting for around 70 percent of the State's Charter Fishing effort, according to Michigan DNR, charter captains catch reports.

Lake Trout are the major target fish for the charter boat captains since the predator prey imbalance has caused major cuts in Salmon plants in Lake Michigan, the past 10 years.

For five decades, Lake Trout have been protected from over harvest caused by Commercial Fishing during the year's prior.

We have a Tribal Decree with five Michigan Tribes to rehabilitate Lake Trout in Lake Michigan this agreement expires August 27, 2020. Senate bill 1145 would cause major implications with negotiations of the new 2020 Tribal Consent Decree. These are just a few of the major implications that would affect our industry.

**We would like to reaffirm that the Michigan Charter Boat Association and the sport fishing community are united and highly opposed to Senate Bill 1145.**

MCBA board highly recommends that our members please contact Representative Holly Hughes (Muskegon) on this bill today!

[Holly Hughes](#) (R) Committee Chair, 91st District

**PHONE: 517-373-3436**

**TOLL FREE: 877-633-0331**

**EMAIL: [HollyHughes@house.mi.gov](mailto:HollyHughes@house.mi.gov)**

[Curt VanderWall](#) (R) Majority Vice-Chair, 101st District

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[Cara Clemente](#) (D) 14th District

Thank you



Captain Eric Andersen

President

Michigan Charter Boat Association



Michigan Charter Boat Association

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