



cannonball

G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • SPRING 2019

Lame Ducks and Lake Trout



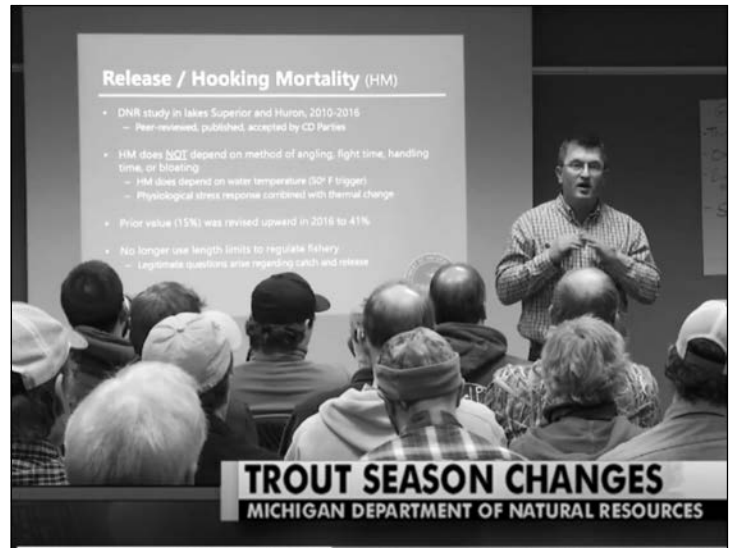
Michigan Charter Boat Association
Captain Bill Winowiecki - MCBA Vice President

The MCBA board usually enjoys the off-season by attending a few meetings and monitoring what is going on with our state fishery and then presenting the information to the membership. This past winter, issues have taken our board members from 10s of hours to 100s of hours, and now to 1000 hours of advocacy to protect our sports fishery.

It started in November with the lame duck legislative session and Senate Bill 1145, a proposal to open Lake Superior and Lake Michigan to net lake trout by state licensed commercial fishermen. With the white fish population in decline, lake trout numbers rising, lake trout are on the hit list as a target species by commercial fishers. We kept the pressure on our legislators all the way through January 1, 2019 when the lame duck session finally recessed and the bill died in committee. I want to thank all our members who backed us with your support of emails, phone calls, and letters to our legislators NOT to support SB 1145. Standing united, we made a difference!

In January we attended the Michigan Fish Producers Meeting. We were trying to understand where the commercial fishing industry stands in regards to the Tribal Decree, as they are also part of the upcoming negotiations. Commercial fishers have made it clear they want to target lake trout and walleye as part of their bi-catch.

Mid-February brought another explosive is-



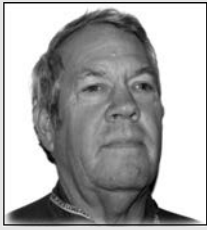
Public meeting was held March 6 in Traverse City.

sue when it was learned sports fishermen had exceeded their Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in Traverse Bay during the 2018 season. Within the guidelines of the Tribal Decree, the sports fishery is allowed 77,200 pounds of lake trout in MM4. Their reported catch of 93,000 pounds exceeded the TAC by more than 20 percent. If the state or the tribes exceed harvest limits by more than 15 percent, there is a penalty for the following season. Therefore, recreational anglers will be required to reduce their catch by nearly 32,000 pounds. The sports fishery will be allowed approximately 61,000 pounds for the 2019 fishing season.

A public meeting was held March 6 in Traverse City. Frustrated anglers were presented with seven possible proposals by the DNR to try and save their fishing season from complete closure. After extensive debate, two of the proposals were accepted. Option 1 offers a Janu-

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From the Helm . . .



Winter 2019 is shaping up to be a busy one for MCBA. As I write this, there are several items of interest for our captains. Back in late December of 2018, House Bill 1145 was up for a committee vote by Michigan's legislators. The bill would have put the state's lake trout into commercial status, allowing for harvest by commercial net fishing operations. Thanks to opposition from our captains and other sport fishing organizations, our legislators tabled the bill. We will see where it goes in 2019.

On March 5, I attended the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee meeting in Clare. Some brief highlights included the discussion of four stocking sites for roughly 96,000 Coho salmon this spring. Cormorants and the problems associated with them have stalled. As of right now, USFW is in a "discovery mode" and not much is happening at their level. Over 700,000 Cisco were planted last fall in Lake Huron. A discussion to extend the commercial permit for the harvest of white fish from Harbor Beach south drew a lengthy discussion. Reports from anglers and fisheries biologists indicate the Saginaw Bay walleye fishery is still strong for the near future. Another bright spot is Atlantic salmon fishing in streams, rivers and the big lake is gaining more steam every year. Let us hope this fishery continues to grow. Atlantics are a great game fish for our industry.

On the Lake Michigan side, Grand Traverse Bays are in the spotlight over lake trout harvest in 2018. Vice President Capt. Bill Winowiecki will have a complete report in this issue of the Cannonball. Capt. Bill and our


Northern Lake Michigan director, Capt. Tony Radjenovich, have worked many phone hours on the lake trout catch numbers issue in Grand Traverse Bay regarding the Consent Decree and Total Allowable Catch.

Up here in Northern Michigan, it looks like we are finally going to get a taste of spring temperatures. Captains I talk to around the state are anxious to be on the water again. Reports from fisheries people and knowledgeable anglers I talk to think the fishery should be as good as or better than 2018. If weather conditions are favorable this spring, I am looking for a good offshore steelhead fishery. I know, I said that last year, but let us hope this year the weather cooperates and provides some exciting offshore steelhead action. Lake trout numbers were WAY up for charter clients, too, by the way. They really help fill the cooler when salmon fishing is slow.

Lake Erie walleye continue to be a "Gold Star" in the Great Lakes, as that fishery just gets better and better every year. Our captains down there report strong numbers of clients looking for walleye charters. The yellow perch action in the fall is just as good. It is always great to hear of positive fishing news in our state, as we sometimes hear quite the opposite.

Finally, on March 20 I will attend the Michigan State University Annual Scholarship Banquet in Lansing. The MCBA Denny Grinold Scholarship Fund awards two \$1,500 scholarships to two of MSU's top underclassmen pursuing a degree in fisheries management. Many of these future graduates will soon work in the state's fishery programs.

Have a great 2019 season captains, and the Board of MCBA and I wish you all a safe and successful season.

Captain Eric Andersen - President MCBA 

(Continued from page 1) . . . Lake Trout

ary 1 to September 30 lake trout season with a 15-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily bag limit. With Option 2 the fishery would open May 25 to September 2. May 25 to July 31 would have a 15-inch size limit and a two fish daily bag limit. August 1 to September 2

would have a 15-inch size limit and a one fish daily bag limit.

On March 7 the Lake Michigan Citizen Advisory Committee met and voted to support Proposal 1. There will be a hearing on March 14

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(Continued from page 2) . . . **Lake Trout**

with the Natural Resources Commission (NCR). It is hoped they will accept the regulation change, which is within the guidelines of the Tribal Decree. Implementation of the new regulation should go into effect by mid-April.

The foregoing all illustrate why MCBA is so adamant on raising funds to support the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources during the Tribal Decree negotiations. We must stand our ground if we expect to stay in business. If we don't, the fishery will belong to the tribes and commercial fishing, and sport fishing will become a thing of the past. 🐟

DIRECTORS' PORT REPORT



Central Lake Michigan

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

The Annual Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop was held Saturday January 19th at West Shore Community College.

Dr. Dan O'Keefe Southwest District Educator, Michigan Sea Grant, conducted the meeting. This year's program included presentations on Lakes Huron & Michigan's predator diet study, inland lake management, invasive plants and extension resources for riparian's, and an update on Sea Lamprey control. A presentation on selective fish passage solutions on the Boardman River was given by Mark Breederland, Southwest District Extension Educator, Michigan Sea Grant. Donna Wesander, Fisheries Technician Specialist, MDNR, presented results on the 2018 Michigan charter fishing catch & effort. It was good to see 2018 preliminary results this early in the year. Lake Michi-

Thank you



I would like to thank Gallagher/Charter Lake Marine Insurance for their donation of \$500.00 towards the Tribal Decree fund.

Gallagher/Charter Lakes has been very generous to the Michigan Charter Boat Association over the years. They have donated many prizes towards the MCBA scholarship raffle held at the fall conference.

I would especially like to thank Mark Van Epps and David Graham for all their support.

Captain Bill Winowiecki
Board of Directors
Michigan Charter Boat Association 🐟

gan Basin Coordinator, Jay Wesley, talked about DNR management updates, including the 2019 stocking plan and commercial fishing policy. A good, hot lunch was served at noon and an impressive tackle raffle was held by the Ludington Charter Boat Association. After the break, a presentation on the predator-prey ratio was given by Jory Jonas, Fisheries Research Biologist Specialist, MDNR, followed by a special session on cormorant control. Due to the government shutdown, the agenda had to be changed because some of the scheduled speakers were federal employees. The work-

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"CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

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shop still had good program and I found it worthwhile to attend.

The DNR has decided to repeat the experimental Coho plant in the Big Sable River at Ludington's State park. Last year all 50,00 fish were direct planted in the river. This year at least half of the 50,00 Cohos are tentatively scheduled to be held in net pens before they are released. Hopefully this will increase returns to the Sable River.

Any captain or club in the Central Lake Michigan region (Muskegon thru Ludington) that would like to provide news for the Cannonball please call me at (877) 456-3474. 🐟



Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair

by Captain Henry Walters - MCBA Director

Since 2010, automated tagging equipment has been used to clip and implant Atlantic salmon, Chinook salmon, and lake trout with a CWT (coded wire tag). All Atlantic salmon, Chinook salmon, and lake trout stocked from 2011 to 2016 into lakes Michigan and Huron have an adipose fin clipped with a CWT implanted in the snout. Beginning in 2017, Chinook salmon released will only have a limited number of fish implanted with a CWT, but all will have an adipose fin clip. Also starting in 2018, the majority of the steelhead released into lakes Michigan and Huron will be adipose fin clipped and implanted with a CWT. There are a few small hatcheries in Ontario that stock steelhead into Lake Huron that do not have the capability to implant CWTs.

By sending the head with tags of the clipped fish to the DNR, they are able to track the movement of the fish that were planted.

I participated in this program last year. I received the results from the DNR and found that the majority of the fish I caught were from Lexington, which was no surprise, but I also caught two from the Au Sable River and two from the St. Mary's River Lake Superior State lab. Pretty interesting. I plan on continuing to send the heads in again this year. Hopefully a lot more than last year.

Contact the Charlevoix Great Lakes Station,

96 Grant Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720 (231) 547-2914 for information on this program.

In February a coalition of over 200 hunting, fishing, and conservation organizations in the Great Lakes region announced a united effort to support a plan to keep Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Conservation Coalition has been formed to unite support for efforts to stop Asian Carp. With all the flooding down south, we need all the help we can get to stop these invasive fish.

Looking forward to getting the boat back in the water. Hope you have a great season. 🐟



Upper Peninsula

By Captain Dick Stafford
MCBA Director - Past President

Classroom Management and Successful Charters

Managing a successful charter business is much like managing a successful classroom. Thinking back about 17 years ago when I stood in front of a classroom, I am reminded of all the different tasks I was responsible for as a teacher. There was attendance, discipline, subject matter information, marketing, and above all others, classroom safety. When you operate a successful charter business, all of the above are important parts of the process. A captain must have a passion for fishing, be able to change to a different technique if fish have "lock jaw", keep the clients entertained, explain what each piece of equipment does, educate on what to do when and if, and above all, keeping the clients INSIDE the boat. As a captain, you have to do all of the above.

How many of us have been asked these questions?

1. How long will it take to catch our limit?
2. Can we catch your limit too?
3. How much did this thing cost?
4. Can I steer the boat?

These are questions asked of us probably every charter. For me it was 31 years of the same questions every day. For the clients

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak



Captain / Mates! The 2019 fishing season is just around the corner. If you have not sent your membership application in yet, time is not on your side. You may have to pay for another pre-employment drug test to reinstate yourself as a current member and be legal to operate your vessel.

Please check your website listing. I try very hard to not make any mistakes while entering your application information into our database, but mistakes do happen occasionally. Our webmaster publishes what I send her. It's up to you to verify your listing is correct.



Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: MCBAmembers.com


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

these questions were brand new and important. If the clients can have a fun day on the water and accept the fish as a bonus, it will be a terrific day.

Running a successful charter business means providing the best possible trip for your clients while keeping them safe. Many boaters underestimate the effects of water and the dangers of navigating. A number of years ago, I was leaving the harbor and just passing the outermost buoy when I was just starting to power up. A small plane on floats was taking off from shore heading straight south. All of a sudden, I noticed the plane had quit climbing and went into a wing stall. The plane slid down sidewise and the wing tip caught the water and tumbled. My clients were watching the entire ordeal. When I saw what was happening, I immediately backed off power. Good thing as the plane hit the water about 75 yards in front of my boat. I went over to the plane and saw the pilot was shaken up but ok. I asked him to come aboard but he wanted to stay with the plane, which was pretty well totaled, but floating. We stayed with him for about an hour and a half. I called the Coast Guard and Sheriff immediately after the plane hit the water. The sheriff finally arrived in about an hour after


Please check your listing carefully.

If you do need to have something changed or corrected, start on the MCBA home page, click on "Members" at the top right of the home page, then click on "Web Updates" in the banner on the "Members" page. Fill out the Form. Your questions, concerns, or changes will go directly to the webmaster and it may take only a matter of minutes to fix your problem. If you call the 800# for web changes or updates you will be referred back to the web page updates. We need a digital record for updating the database. If applications are received with an expired USCG license you will not be eligible for a website listing.

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

I had called in the incident. The important part was that the pilot was ok. I told my clients that we would add the hour and a half on to the trip. Their response was, "Absolutely not. This is the best trip we ever had." Sometimes the experience of just being on the water is worth more than the actual fish catching. I am sure that most of us have had many memorable experiences. Many have had enough to write a book and probably should.

Over the years, I have learned so much from my colleagues in the Michigan Charter Boat Association. Much fantastic information came at the Annual Charter Boat Conference: marketing one's business, how to target prospective clients, fishing techniques, product quality, plus many other topics. If I could pass anything along to current captains, it would be to "stress the positive and learn from the negative". Always look at ways to promote your business. As we look to the future of our own charter businesses and the over-all charter industry, we need to constantly adapt.

Always be concerned with "MANAGING YOUR CLASSROOM". 

God bless America and our troops

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Northern Lake Michigan

By Captain Tony Radjenovich - MCBA Director

Boy have we been talking about lake trout a lot. It seems we have always talked about lake trout. The lake trout finds its way to the center of attention in so many of the issues we as a sport fishery and business owners, as members in the MCBA, are required to navigate on a continuous basis. The questions and comments keep coming up.

Questions: Do we have enough? What is their abundance? They have rehabilitated so why not stop the plants. Aren't they just eating up all the forage fish? Why do we have a total weight allotted? Why can't we regulate this species like all the other fish with seasonal and daily bag limits? Why in Treaty waters is there a penalty for overharvest? What is the 2000 Consent Decree? Why did they ban the state commercial take in 1965? Why can't commercial fishers keep the bycatch? What was Senate Bill 1145? Do they taste good? Do they fight hard? Why were they once called greasers? Why is the overall harvest increasing every year?

Comments: They do not fight hard enough. Jigging for them is the best fight a sports angler could ask for. There is an agenda for only native fish. There are too many of them in the lake. We need to stock more so we do not go over our total allowable catch. We have stipulated harvest limits, not biological limits, therefore the penalty is irrelevant. There are not enough in the lake. The fish in our waters are small compared to other areas. We will have to make changes in the 2020 Consent Decree. The State commercial fishers just kill what they throw back. The intentional targeting for the purpose of catch and release should be prohibited. I do not believe the 41% mortality rate. I cannot make a living just catching these fish.

I could go on and on. As if it has been for decades, the lake trout is at the center of attention when we consider the many key stakeholders. The State, USFW, Tribes, charter cap-

tains, recreational anglers, sport fishing groups, tourism, state commercial fisherman and on and on. We all have to realize that lake trout are a **BIG DEAL** for all of us. As charter captains, we need to get involved. We need to be informed. The way you can stay informed and get involved is to reach out to your port captain and or your regional MCBA Director. Inform the MCBA of the issues from your port. We still have openings for port captain. Please contact me if you are interested, 231-866-0053. In addition, if your fellow captains from your port are not currently a member of MCBA, share with them what we are all about and what we do. As captains, we are collectively stronger in the MCBA than when we stand alone. The MCBA provides policy makers and legislators position statements on many issues and matters that affect our businesses. Get involved. Be heard. Be represented. Join MCBA. 🐟



Show Chairman

Captain Rich Haslett - Past President
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The 2019 sport shows are now over and it's time to begin working on the boat. Overall, our shows were a success again. Attendance was up even at the new show we did at Birch Run. We also met and talked to new captains who will be joining MCBA.

I want to personally thank everyone who donated a free charter to the virtual simulator tournament and to those who worked in the booth. Without these people our scholarship fund wouldn't be what it is today. Big thank you to: Capt. Scott Anderson (Far-Fetched), Capt. Brady Anderson (Storm Hawk), Capt. Rich Tack (Busch Whacker), Capt. Robert Obeshaw (Following Dreams), Capt. John Giszczak (Stray Cat), and Capt. Doug Karakas (E-Fish-N-Sea). A big thank you to those who helped run the booth with us: Capt. Ed McMillion, Capt. Kevin Roberts, Capt. Henry & Marianna Walters, and

(Continued from page 6) . . . **Show Time**

Capt. Doug & Mary Karakas. I would like to acknowledge and thank Capt. Doug & Mary Karakas for taking time out of their busy schedule to travel to all of our shows and stay in motels when needed to help us run the MCBA booth this year.

As always, we are in need of new captains willing to donate a free charter to the 2020 shows. Remember, you will be reimbursed \$200 to help cover fuel expenses, and your brochures will be displayed at all the shows we attend. Please contact me if you would like to be put on our list(taloncharters@gmail.com).👉

Cookbooks

We still have cookbooks that need to be sold. Now that our charters are starting soon its time to purchase books to have on your boat either to sell to your customers or give as a gift to the person who booked a trip with you. Books are \$15.00 dollars each and all monies taken in go to our scholarship fund. Contact me if you would like to purchase books (taloncharters@gmail.com).👉



I write this (early March). Last year, on this same date, it was less than 15%. Will that huge difference affect the catch and size of the fish in 2019 or future seasons? We know that environmental factors affect the forage base, and hence the fish size and health. Time will tell. I am hoping it will not have a large negative affect.

In addition to this, there are other environmental and management factors, and we continue to face many other issues. The Consent Decree issue is looming one year closer. It will be by far the most important issue for the Association from now until a new settlement is reached. The clarity of the issue shows in the problems we are facing due to exceeding the total allowable catch for lake trout in the north this past season. New rules reducing the catch will likely have been decided by the time this article appears. In addition, they may be difficult to adjust to. It is likely it will affect the next settlement, too. We must be vigilant to the extreme as the new Consent Decree is hammered out. Our fishery has suffered in many areas under the terms of the current decree with its lax enforcement rules. We should not agree to another decade's long decree with such weak tribal law enforcement terms.

The pipeline issue still threatens, and there is the issue of the resurgence of cormorants because of the Federal lawsuit shutting down the lethal control of the populations. I am hoping for some good news in this area sometime this year.

Turning my attention to the fishing season past. It seems that Lake Huron continues to show signs of recovery, while Lake Michigan continues to show signs of distress. The issue of salmon versus lake trout remained throughout the season. We know that traditionally, our customers on Lake Michigan favor catching Chinook salmon. Scientists tell us the forage base is too small. Salmon have primarily been a 'one trick pony' when it comes to forage. No alewife, no salmon. We must find a way to save or increase the forage food sources for salmon if we want salmon to be the majority caught fish in the lake. A new forage food? Will that include Ciscoes? Here is hoping we

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A Retiree's View over the Transom

By Captain Jim Fenner

I am in south Florida, and its warm here. Many reports suggest it has been a very cold winter in Michigan. Several new low temperature records were set around the state. I am always curious about how the relatively cold or warm winters affect the next seasons' fishing. After a couple of record cold winters, the last two were warm. It seemed to me that fishing improved after each of those winters. While not record setting, there seemed to be more fish, and they were larger. The ice cover on Lake Michigan reached about 42% in late January and is still hovering around 42% as



(Continued from page 7) . . . *Retiree's View*

can find the right solution or combination of bait and forage fish.

We all have an overwhelming interest in seeing that our lakes and our fishery are protected and well managed. For that, we need the MCBA to be strong and to be actively involved in confronting these issues. We need to remember that the MCBA is by far the strongest voice for charter fishermen. By remaining united under the MCBA banner, members can lead the way to the changes that may need to be made.

Through the MCBA, we can now quickly organize and share the information needed to confront the issues we face. We need everyone to be pulling together and in the same direction if we are to get the best possible new settlement in the negotiations ahead.

When spring arrives, I will be back. If the fish are biting, while I am not chartering any more, I hope to catch a few for myself, but while I am doing it, I will also be focusing on these important issues. I hope you will be too.

One thing is for sure, I intend to stay in touch with my friends and former colleagues in the MCBA. The retired member category is the way I do it. Keep this in mind for your own future. When it warms up a little, look for me around the docks. Hope to see you there. 🐟



Maritime Licensing Specialist
Lt. Commander USCG (retired)
Charles "Chuck" Kakuska

SEA K'S LICENSING LORE

As Mother Nature continues to play games with us, I wonder if all our 2019 fishing might be through the ice. With the government shut down, all the Coast Guard licensing offices were closed for five weeks, which has caused some significant backlogs at both the local level and at the National Maritime Center. A current notice indicates if your license expired in December 2018, January 2019 or February 2019, the expiration dates have been extended until May 31, 2019. If you are in those categories, you must go on line at the National Mari-

time Center web site and print out a letter to carry with your expired license. With the current backlogs, I almost anticipate additional extensions but nothing has been published yet. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, there are all new application, physical and small boat sea service forms. The Coast Guard will no longer accept any of the old forms so if you have any, throw them away. I encourage you all to continue to start any licensing transactions early to make sure you have a valid credential when your season starts. Hope you all have a successful 2019 fishing season. 🐟



**LAKE HURON CITIZENS FISHERY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
By Captain Terry R. Walsh - Past President

**LAKE HURON TO RECEIVE
100,000 COHO SALMON**


Well over a year of research has gone into the feasibility of stocking Coho salmon once again in Lake Huron. The 100,000 Coho would replace a cut of 30,000 Chinook salmon.

"Coho eat about two thirds less forage, and their willingness to eat a wider variety of bait-fish makes them a good fit for Lake Huron right now," said Frank Krist, Chairman of the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (LHCFAC).


It is believed, once planted, Coho will also be less likely to head for Lake Michigan as Chinook salmon have shown; therefore, providing salmon anglers a much longer fishery. Coho also are cheaper to raise and mature a year sooner than Chinook. If the plants are successful, an exciting salmon fishery may once again return to Lake Huron waters in the next couple of years. A run of jacks should start this fall.

While current stocking sites have yet to be approved by the DNR, the LHCFAC has recommended the ports of Port Sanilac and Harbor Beach in southern Lake Huron and Oscoda and Thunder Bay at Alpena to the north. Stocking would alternate annually between the ports, the goal being to create a quality fishery from the spring right into the fall along much of the

(Continued on page 9)

Lake Huron shoreline. 

2019 LAKE TROUT REGULATIONS SET FOR LAKE HURON

Accepting the recommendations of the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (LHCFAC) presented to the Natural Resources Commission (NCR) in mid-February by Frank Krist (LHCFAC) and Randy Clarument, Lake Huron Basin Coordinator, the NCR established the 2019 lake trout regulations for MH-1 and MH-2 in northern Lake Huron. MH-1 (Drummond Island to seven miles southeast of Rogers City) will have a two fish daily limit, while MH-2 (seven miles southeast of Rogers City to Alpena) will have a three fish daily limit. The change in regulations is a result of sports fishermen exceeding their Allowable Catch Rate (ACR) for the past two years. With Chinook salmon all but gone in northern Lake Huron, lake trout have become the primary targets of offshore anglers. 



DNR Fisheries News

Donna Wesander, DNR Fisheries
Charter Reporting Program
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2018 Charter Results

The data which charter operators submitted in 2018 has been compiled and is ready for use. The charter industry in Michigan is doing well! Here are just a few 2018 charter fishing highlights: 1) Charter trips increased by 1,565 trips; there were 19,737 trips reported; 2) Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie, and the St. Clair system had increased trips, while Lake Superior was stable; 3) Saginaw Bay continued to be a busy bay with 1,000 trips and walleye harvest comparable to 2017; 4) the total of all fish species reported caught (harvest +released) for the state was 285,000 which is down by 7,000 compared to 2017; 5) total charter harvest for Chinook salmon in State of Michigan waters was 25,130 fish, almost the same as 2017 (138 less fish); 6) Coho salmon harvest was 15,000 which is a good harvest for a season; 7) Lake trout harvest increased to

73,000 (WOW!), 18,000 greater than in 2017; 8) brown trout and rainbow trout (steelhead) harvest were similar to 2017; 9) operators reporting online account for 56% of charter boats; 10) there are 59 charter businesses chartering with more than one boat.

As usual, I will produce individual tables for each of the ports where charter fishing activity occurred; the tables will be available on the DNR Charter Fishing web page; look for this information to be available by late Spring. Feel free to contact me if you need assistance finding this information on the web, or would like me to email you particular port data.

Remember: The charter data you submit is an integral part of the data used to help guide fisheries management actions in Michigan. The goal is to provide a diverse and healthy fishery to all anglers; this includes you and your clients. Please think about the significance of your data and the importance of accurate reporting when you are filling out your monthly charter reports. The charter highlights above are just one example of the information your fishing data provides.

Monthly Reporting: The annual packets for 2019 monthly charter fishing reporting to the DNR will be sent out to operators at the end of March/beginning of April. Operators who report online DO NOT receive a reporting packet in the mail. By the time you are reading this, a new online charter reporting system will be in use. Online reporters will use the new system for the 2019 charter season; it is called FACTS. You will need new login and password information to access the system; if you have not received your new login information please give me a call. The new system will allow for more accurate reporting, the recording of additional fish species (such as Atlantic Salmon and Lake Sturgeon), the ability to specify more than one target species, will utilize a map interface for selecting your fishing locations, and will be accessible via a variety of electronic devices such as smartphone/computer/laptop/tablet. Online reporters please remember to report non-fishing months for 2019 when you

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were not actively fishing. If you are using paper forms but would like to change from mail to reporting online, please contact me to set up your online reporting account. An operator cannot use both methods to report. One option must be selected. I am available to help you understand and use the online reporting system, so give me a call or send me an email and I can lead you through the reporting features. Think about signing up today.

Illegal Charters: The DNR continues to receive complaints about illegal charters. Anyone with information regarding the illegal operation of unlicensed charters is encouraged to call or text the DNR's Report All Poaching (RAP) hotline at 800-292-7800. The RAP hotline is available 24-hours and seven-days-a-week for citizens to report violations of fish and game laws, as well as other natural resource-related laws. It is operated by DNR's Law Enforcement Division (LED). Those providing tips can remain anonymous. In all complaint cases, adequate information is required for LED officers to do an investigation; the more information the better (e.g. MC numbers, make and color of boat, person's name if known, vehicle driven, location, time and date of illegal activity, etc.). Photos can be included with text messages. The DNR also offers a web-based reporting form.

Have a safe and enjoyable fishing season! 🎣

2019 Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops

Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, the USGS Great Lakes Science Center, and local fishery organizations will host four regional workshops locally along Lake Huron's coastline. These annual spring Lake Huron fisheries workshops bring communities together with fisheries research and management partners to discuss research findings, management updates, and fishing trends.

Four evening workshops, hosted across the state, are open to the public and will offer valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals and other community

members interested in the Lake Huron fishery.

Workshop dates and locations include:

Port Huron

Thursday, April 11 (6:00 — 9:00 p.m.)

Eagles Hall

2645 Howard St., Port Huron, MI 48060

Bay City (Saginaw Bay)

Tuesday, April 16 (6:00 — 9:00 p.m.)

The Canteen Hall, Bay County Fairgrounds

800 Livingston St., Bay City, MI 48708

Alpena

Thursday, April 25 (6:00 — 9:00 p.m.)

6:00 — 9:00 p.m.

NOAA Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center

500 W. Fletcher St., Alpena, MI 49707

Cedarville

Tuesday, April 30 (6:00 — 9:00 p.m.)

Clark Township Community Center

133 E. M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719

Workshops are open to the public at no cost; however, pre-registration is requested. Register online at: <http://events.anr.msu.edu/2019LakeHuronFisheries/>

Visit Michigan Sea Grant online for latest details and updates on fisheries workshops around the state. Please contact Brandon Schroeder, Michigan Sea Grant (989-354-9885 or schroe45@msu.edu) with any questions regarding Lake Huron workshops. 🎣



Illegal Charter Boat Activity

By Captain Terry R. Walsh - Past President

Illegal charters have been an on-going issue for years but are either increasing or captain's are finally getting fed up with it. Right now I feel captain's would rather complain to MCBA than file a complaint personally. I've had captains tell me they don't want to turn in their "friends" or deal with a worst case scenario of retaliation and damage to their boats or equipment. I

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(Continued from page 10) . . . *Illegal Charter*

have no problem turning in a “highly probable” illegal operation. Here’s why.


Illegal captains are taking money from the pockets of captains abiding by the law and getting properly licensed by both the USCG and the State of Michigan. They are in essence stealing food off our plates.

Secondly, while they may be good fishermen, they are not professionally trained captains meeting FEDERAL and STATE standards for taking the general public on fishing excursions.

Anyone who provides services to the general public and accepts money for those services must be properly trained and licensed. It’s all about the SAFETY of the public. Boats that don’t meet state safety standards; untrained captains who can’t meet the seaman-ship standards of those trained by the USCG—these are a recipe for disaster.

Finally, licensed captains who are on the water daily are most likely to learn of illegal charter activity. **If we don’t report it, who will?** I do feel if we ignore it, we share in the responsibility of anyone who gets hurt and must shoulder the blame as well. If we report suspected illegal activity, it’s now the responsibility of law enforcement to deal with it. If they don’t, and something tragic happens, it’s on them, as we did our job.

A new fishing season is underway, and MCBA and law enforcement, both state and federal, need to be on the same page in the proper licensing and training of those captains who hire themselves out to the general public. If we all aren’t, we all share in the blame when tragedy strikes, and Murphy’s Law says at some point it will.

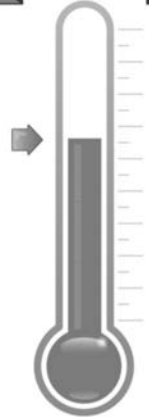
Report illegal charter boat activity by using the RAP Hotline 800-292-7800. It’s your money they are taking, Your potential clients they are endangering; **this makes it your responsibility to report them.** 



2020 Consent Decree Raffle

We have some great prizes for our Tribal Decree raffle!

We Need Your Support
\$50,000.00



\$29,028.72


1st Prize: Titan 450 Bushmaster Bolt Action Rifle

2nd Prize: G. Loomis E6X Walleye Jig Rod 6 ft. w/ Shimano Sahara Spinning Reel Combo.

3rd Prize: 120 quart Coleman Cooler.

I would like to thank some very good friends of the MCBA for their donation. I would like to acknowledge: DAS, Shimano, G. Loomis and Coleman Outdoor Products: and Greg Gershon, Eric Guider, and the Detroit Area Steel Headers.

A special thank you to Captain Mark Williams for all his work acquiring these donations.

Thank you all for you generosity! 

Did You Know:

CBD and Federal Drug Tests

CBD is perceived as less harmful and comes in several different forms:

Oil (most popular) Beauty and health products, Vapors, Infused edibles such as lattes, chocolates, and gummies.

So... will I pass a drug test?

Maybe. CBD itself would not report positive for marijuana or marijuana metabolite. If the CBD product contains THC at a sufficiently high concentration, it is possible, depending on usage patterns, that the use of these products could cause a positive urine drug test result for marijuana metabolites. For example, in some states, CBD may contain up to 5% THC.

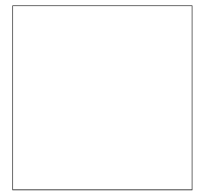
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Michigan Charter Boat Association
3396 Anna Drive
Bay City, MI 48706

'In God We Trust'

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MCBA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 AND
BUSINESS MEETING
 October 18, 19 & 20, 2019
 in Traverse City
Hope to See You There!
 Meeting will be held at the
GREAT WOLF LODGE
in Traverse City, Michigan
RESERVATIONS: 866-962-9653 CODE: #1910MICH

*Learning to Make
 Our Charter Businesses
 Even Better!*

*THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION IS A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED
 NOT-FOR-PROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION, AND RECOGNIZED FOR
 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIVING BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.*

(Continued from page 11)... **will I pass**

It is important to remember that for federal-mandated drug tests, the use of CBD or "medical marijuana" would not be considered an alternative medical explanation for the positive test result. Moreover, as a Schedule I substance, CBD remains illegal at the Federal level. While there are some states that permit the sale of CBD, many of these states only permit relatively low levels of THC in the CBD product.

Remember: CBD products do contain a trace amount of THC (no more than 0.3 per-

cent), "there is always a possibility you could fail" a drug screen.

It is due to the inconsistencies associated with the manufacturing of CBD products that makes it impossible for the consumer to know what they are getting their hands on. Since none of the CBD products sold over the counter have been approved by the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA), it is relatively easy for pseudo cannabis companies to skimp on testing and other important quality controls. 🐟

Charter Boat 4-SALE

Immaculate Sea Ray that has been updated and cared for to the highest standards. 2005 340 Sundancer LOA 37'6" with powerful twin Mercruiser 8.1L Horizon 370 hp v-drives. Less than 500 hours. 100% freshwater, kohler generator, radar, new canvas including cockpit cover (2015), new fuel lines (2016), new seagrass snap in carpet replacement (2017), new tv and glo-max antenna. Professionally detailed last season. Turn- key charter boat with all required equipment: Type I pfd's, water light, sea anchor, etc. Also lines, fenders and more. Stored indoors in New Buffalo, MI. Call today to set up a showing. \$119,500 Capt. Lisa 708-764-0603 lalvey@hotmail.com

1st Mates Needed

Steelhead Charters out of Muskegon is now hiring 1st mates for the 2019 season, must be able to pass a drug screening, and be part of a random drug program, this is a full time position, season runs from April through Sept., must be dependable, and able to lift up to 50lbs, Big Lake experience is preferred but will train the right person. If you love fishing, meeting new people, this is a perfect job for you. Serious inquiries only!

Call Capt. Art @ (231) 329-2117 🐟



The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in June. Submissions must be in by May 20, 2019 Send to: larry@saginawbay.com