



cannonball

G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • SUMMER 2019

ANNUAL MEETING RETURNS TO GREAT WOLF LODGE

Traverse City, MI — The 2019 Annual Michigan Charter Boat Association Business Conference will be held over the weekend of October 18, 19 and 20, 2019 at The Great Wolf Lodge Traverse City.

The Association has made arrangements with the hotel for a special room rate for those who wish to stay overnight for one or two nights. Call them at (231) 941-3600, and ask for the MCBA special rate (\$100 per night) the address is 3575 U.S. Highway 31 S, Traverse City, MI 49684

greatwolf.com/traverse-city

Reservation Code: 1910MCBA

The fall conference is a great way to catch up on what's going on and to enjoy a day or two away from the regular home routine. Bring your spouse or significant other, too. There are lots of things (shopping for the upcoming holidays) to do in the area.

The Annual Conference will begin on Friday evening with a social gathering in the hospitality room (6: PM - till?). This informal gathering will provide an evening long opportunity to mix with MCBA officers and board members; maybe some DNR personnel or Sea Grant staff, and of course, other captains from all over the state. There will be FREE snacks, pizza, pop and adult drinks.

Of course, attendance at this event is strictly optional, but it is a great way to start your weekend at the MCBA conference. And you might get a chance to talk to someone in the DNR who needs to hear your issue. However, you don't need to attend the Friday evening session to enjoy the conference main event.

The main event will begin early Saturday morn-



Great Wolf Lodge Traverse City - 3575 U.S. Highway 31, Traverse City, MI 49684 - Call: 231.941.3600 or greatwolf.com/traverse-city Reservation Code 1910MCBA

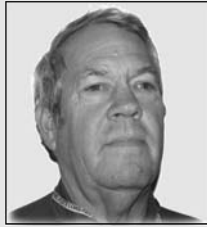
ing, with coffee and Complete Deluxe Buffet Breakfast (included with your registration) during registration. The program begins at 9:00 AM. Various speakers and panels will present information about issues of interest to our captains. There are question and answer sessions at the end of each presentation.

On Saturday evening we will have a dinner at the hotel, followed by a short program including the Annual MCBA Awards and our honored dinner speaker (to be announced). After the short program, there is a spirited tackle raffle, usually raffling off some of the best current tackle from the best companies.

For those who stay over and we encourage you to do so, Sunday morning brings the official annual business meeting after coffee, juice, and BREAKFAST BUFFET (Free to all members & spouse). The

(Continued on page 3)

From the Helm . . .



As I put to paper this report in June of 2019, several issues are on the radar screen. Probably the most important this summer is the new commercial fishing legislation that is currently in talking and review stages at the Capitol building in Lansing... This proposed new updated statute is still in its early stages at the state legislative levels and congressional voting may take place in the fall at best guess from MUCC people. Bycatch issues remain from both sport anglers and commercial netters. As of right now there are approximately 55 commercial licenses issued for Michigan waters with approximately 35 in use throughout the state in Great Lakes waters.

Our second issue is ongoing, the 2020 Tribal Decree that could affect both sport fishing and tribal interests in late 2020. Changes in fish quotas and number of gill nets is always a major topic when these new Tribal and US government talks begin. Vice President Capt. Bill Winowiecki has been our "point man" for MCBA on the 2020 Tribal Decree. As things change we here at MCBA will keep our membership informed.

Currently, we have no licensed charter captain for Michigan in the Upper Peninsula as a director. Retired Capt. Dick Stafford is filling in that spot for the time being. If any active captain fishing Michigan's U P waters would like to take that position, we would love to hear from you.

This year from member captains and other anglers, it looks like a great fishing season starting


out. Many reports of red hot walleye fishing on Lake Erie, nice catches of Chinook salmon and limits on lake trout on Lakes Michigan and Huron. At my home port of Frankfort, waters are still extremely cold; on June 17, we had 44-degree water off Point Betsie. Those are early May temperatures. The silver lining to the colder than normal waters is we've been taking lake trout in waters from 30 to 60 ft. of water and using very little fuel to run our charters.

On March 20, I attended the Michigan State Fisheries and Natural Resources Awards Banquet. Our two students receiving the Denny Grinold/MCBA scholarships for this year are Ellary Marano and Jack Gorno.

Ellary is actually a Lansing resident now as her parents now live in Florida. She is planning a career at the administrative levels of fisheries and fisheries management. A PHD degree is in her plans in fisheries management and administration.

Jack is planning on following in his uncle's footsteps and plans on becoming a DNR law enforcement officer. Jack is from the Gaylord, MI area and is junior at MSU. It is exciting to see these young people going into careers for Michigan's wildlife and are passionate about it as young adults. The very best to these two scholarship award winners.

In closing, I hope fishing remains strong for our members and tight lines to everyone. Have a great summer.

Captain Eric Andersen - President MCBA 

"CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

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Michigan Charter Boat Association
Captain Bill Winowiecki - MCBA Vice President

Spring has finally arrived. Cold weather and high water are causing some problems. The good part is that fishing is fantastic. I have been hearing good reports of larger than normal king salmon down south. Hopefully some will make it north so that we all can have a piece of the action.

Lake trout are plentiful. Cisco fishing has been great and a few brown trout are showing up.

The weather patterns need to change so it warms up and we can lose these north winds.

The commercial fishing bills are the big story. As these bills advance, we will need our members support with phone calls and letters to our legislators.

The Tribal Decree negotiations are in pause at the moment. The State and the DNR would like to see these commercial fishing bills passed and signed into law. These bills would help the states position during the tribal negotiations. There is a Tribal Council meeting on August 22nd at the Grand Traverse Resort. Many of our board members will be in attendance.

The MCBA 2020 Consent Decree raffle tickets should be arriving in your mailbox soon.

We have some GREAT PRIZES!

- 1st Prize: Titan 450 Bushmaster bolt action rifle
- 2nd Prize: G.Loomis E6X Walleye jig rod 6ft w/ Shimano Sahara Spinning reel combo
- 3rd Prize: 120 quart Coleman Cooler.

We are sending two packets of tickets to every captain. If we can meet our goals, we might only have to run the raffle one more year.

There is a lot of work that goes into getting this raffle off the ground. Every little donation helps.

I want to thank Captain Mark Williams and the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. for all their support. What a great group of fishermen dedicated to protect our resources.

I also want to thank my wife Sue for putting up with me stuffing envelopes and watching the mailbox for returns.

The prizes will be drawn at the fall conference in Traverse City.

Hope to see you there, in October.

Have a great fishing season and be safe out there.

Captain Bill Winowiecki

MCBA Vice President 

(Continued from page 1) . . . **Annual Business Meeting**

meeting will cover all the current business of the Association and will end following the election of officers. Normally, the meeting is over by 10:30 AM or so, and folks begin to check out to travel home or take in local events.



Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair
by Captain Henry Walters
MCBA Director




Hello Everyone

One question I get asked a lot – “What is PFAS”. Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is a group of chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. It’s been classified by the EPA as an emerging containment. For decades, they have been used in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. People are still

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Did You Know:

We offer our annual business meeting as a benefit to our members for the sake of working together. We hope you will attend to learn more from your Association and what we have to offer your charter business. Why not take a little time off from your normal schedule and take in an interesting, informative and relaxing weekend for fun and camaraderie with fellow captains. 


being exposed to PFAS even though manufacture and use in the U.S. has been largely phased out by 2015.

It's a lot to think about. PFAS is in nonstick products (Teflon), polishes, waxes, cleaning products, and paints. Previously firefighting foam was a major source of groundwater contamination at airports and military bases where firefighting training occurs. It's my understanding that they're changing the formula of the foam so it doesn't contain PFAS.

Although no one knows for sure how many PFAS compounds there are, the EPA estimates there are 5,000 to 10,000 compounds and maybe more.

PFAS has been found in living organisms, including fish, animals, and humans. Almost certainly, research has shown PFAS compounds can be found in about 99% of American blood samples.

This is just a small summary to make you aware of this problem. Michigan is one of the first states testing for PFAS. This isn't just a regional issue. It's actually a global problem.

On a happier note, Have a great fishing season. Hope to see you at the annual conference in October. 




Central Lake Michigan

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

This spring Ludington received approximately 35,000 lake trout, 80,000 brown trout and 40,000 Coho salmon. Approximately 20,000 of the Coho were net penned by members of the Ludington Charter Boat Association for a little over two weeks in the Sable River at Ludington's State Park. On May 8th the fish were released, and an additional 20,000 Coho were direct planted into the river from a Platte River hatchery truck. The net penned fish appeared to be in excellent condition when released.

Two tournaments are scheduled this July in Central Lake Michigan. The first will be the Muskegon SHOdown, formally the Lumber Town Challenge. It will run from July 12-14, 2019. Friday is the Terry Weber Michigan Stinger Memorial Woman's & Kids Tournament. Entry is \$100 per boat and 10% of

entry fees will go to Terry's Fund which has been set up through the DNR to benefit Education and Outreach Programs and to provide fishing gear for children. For more info call Snug Harbor Outfitters at (231) 719-0759 or check out their website muskegonSHOdown.com . The Ludington Offshore Classic Pro/Am will run July 18 – 24. The Classic will have a \$10,000 1st place Pro Division prize based on a 30 boat entry and boasts a 100% payout guarantee. The Big Boy Event will be held on July 23-24. It is billed as a high stakes equal high rewards event. Entry fee is \$1,000.00 per boat. Payout will be 100%. For more info check out ludingtontournament.com or call the Ludington & Scottville Chamber at (800) 542-4600.

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



Northern Lake Michigan

By Captain Tony Radjenovich - MCBA Director

The 2019 season has started for most of us in Northern Lake Michigan. Although the weather has been relatively cold our captains are getting out to fish. The early reports are that the captains are finding a fair amount of lake trout and a few browns. Most of the of the fish had gobies and smelt in their stomachs earlier in the season and as the water has been warming the alewives have been showing up in their stomachs as well. I noticed that a few alewives have been coming into the Leland Harbor, though it has not been reported that any captains have marked any schools of bait while fishing. As reported in the Inland Seas Angler, Great Lakes Basin Report, Lake Michigan Part 1, May 2019 "Overall, the total prey fish biomass in 2018 was greater than in 2017 but still below the long-term average".

In Northern Lake Michigan, lake trout are considered the bread and butter fish of many charter captains. Since all Northern Lake Michigan is in the Treaty ceded waters managed by the 2000 Consent Decree, the zones are modeled to determine harvest limits. The limits are set by the Technical Fisheries Commission (TFC) and regulations are set to comply with these limits. Some limits may be set by stipula-

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak



As of May 2019, the MCBA is over 500 members strong.

Anyone who receives a Cannonball newsletter with a stamped red warning on the cover indicating your membership has expired will have to pay for a pre-employment drug test. If joining on line you will automatically be prompted to pay for a pre-employment drug test. Fishing season is now in full swing so late membership applications will take longer to process. Apply ASAP to be legal as soon as possible.

If you are one of the 40 plus captains and mates still sitting on my desk because you have not bothered to take the drug test I sent you months ago, you had better get moving! I attended a meeting with the Detroit District USCG and DNR Law Enforcement this spring. Among other things, we learned that the USCG has a new Commander very interested in enforcing the laws regarding il-

legal charters. The USCG has already busted a few illegal charters in the Detroit area and are expanding their coverage every month. Bottom line - if you have your Merchant Mariner Credentials but not in a random drug program, you are operating Illegal! The USCG has upped the fine for not being in a random drug program to \$7,250.00. At the same meeting we were informed by the Canadian Port Authority that if you are fishing the Detroit River and impede boat traffic, not giving way to freighters, pleasure boaters and other anglers traveling up and down the river, you will be fined. The first offense for impeding traffic is \$3000.00 the second offense is confiscation of your vessel and a court date to get it back.

I am fishing almost every day so you will likely get a slower response to questions when calling the 800#. Please remember to double check your internet listing and as always, please use the online form for any changes you wish to make to your listing. By using the online form you are assured your changes are recorded into our permanent database. 🐟



Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: MCBAmembers.com

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tion or court order. In the very north of Lake Michigan, MM1, MM2, and MM3 are managed as a combined zone. The recreational harvest limit is unchanged from 2018 and is set at 80,000 pounds, and the regulations are unchanged. In Grand Traverse Bay or MM4 the recreational harvest which had an over harvest in 2018 had a reduction in harvest limit from 77,200 pounds to 61,539 pounds. MM4 also had a regulation change in 2019. The daily bag limit of lake trout is now one fish. In MM5 or the area north of Arcadia to the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula, the recreational harvest was given an increase from 58,800 pounds in 2018 to 67,262 in 2019. This increase is because the model generated limits are greater than the stipulated or court order limits that the zone has been operating under since 2009. MM6 and MM7, or the area south of Arcadia to Grand Haven, the recreational harvest will see a 15% reduction in harvest limits from 207,195 pounds in 2018 to 176,115 pounds in 2019. This reduction is based on modeling and provisions of the 2000 Consent De-

cree VII.A.6.

All in all, I anticipate a productive fishing season for all our captains. As always, if something comes up and I or the MCBA can help, please send me an email or give me a call. Captain Tony Radjenovich, leelanautical@gmail.com or 231-866-0053. I look forward to seeing many of you at the MCAB Annual Meeting this October in Traverse City. 🐟



A Retiree's View over the Transom

By Captain Jim Fenner

We had a pretty hard winter and it hung on, and on, even as I write this in late May, the cold, wet spring lingers. There have been very few warm and sunny days so far this year. However, reports from all over the state tell of good if not great fishing is going on. Limit catches for lake trout from south and central Lake Michigan are common. Recent reports suggest good catches

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(Continued from page 5) . . . **over the Transom**

of kings in Southern Lake Michigan after a great spring Coho season. Lake trout fishing has been gangbusters up and down Lake Michigan. Lake Erie has started producing limit catches of good-sized walleyes. Fair to good fishing on Lake Huron is being reported for lake trout, and including a fair number of Atlantics.

Over the winter, the DNR met with many groups in the northern reaches of Lake Michigan and the Grand Traverse Bay area to find a solution to the problem caused by exceeding the total allowable catch (TAC) issue from last year. After much discussion the new rule, allowing only one lake trout per day was announced. That is a tough pill to swallow, but there was no other viable choice in the end. Fortunately, in these same waters, the fishing for Cisco's has increased, and is providing some relief. While not as exciting as salmon or as big, they are strong fighters and offer something to catch for our customers and other sport anglers.

The controversy of lake trout vs salmon is an issue that will not go away anytime soon. It is clear that the customers want to catch salmon, but are satisfied with a mixed bag if they want to go fishing. The perception seems to be increasing that a successful charter exclusively for salmon is getting harder and harder to have. Mixed bag charters seemed to be becoming the norm. Catching some fish including lake trout and Coho's, while having a chance to catch one or more of the most prized king salmon, seems to be the way it was last year and will likely be this year, too. Many are hoping that the mixed bag catch will include more salmon this year, but having a decent mixed bag will likely still be the best outcome for most charters this season.

While I know that many of our thoughts have turned to our boats, to charters, and catching enough fish to entertain and keep our customers happy, we need to keep the future of the sport in our collective minds as well. The Consent Decree and other important decisions continue to get closer. The situation in Northern Lake Michigan and Grand Traverse Bay illustrate how important the next Consent Decree will be. Please try to become informed and when you get a chance, speak up loudly, clearly and often; let your views be known. The future of the fishery for the next couple of dec-

ades is clearly at stake. Support the MCBA as it goes forward, dealing with these and other issues important to maintaining our sport and our Great Lakes. Make sure that we all speak with one voice. If the MCBA voice represents us all during these critical negotiations, our prospects for a successful Consent Decree, which will best protect us all, is enhanced.

Have you been chartering for decades? Are you considering retiring or to take a break? Keep the MCBA retired/inactive membership option in your mind. This member category is for captains who have concluded or suspended their active membership, but who would like to continue to be an MCBA member for a very small membership fee. It's for captains who are retired or who are not active at this time. It allows you to maintain your connection to the MCBA. (In addition, you can choose this category whether your license is current or not.)

Even though I am retired, I get the newsletter, the emails, and the annual fall conference information. At the conference, I get to catch up with many friends from my active membership days. I know I will enjoy that weekend. Good friends, good information, good times. Maybe I will see you there. Meanwhile, keep a tight line. 🎣

Fishing Reports Wanted

Captains, MCBA is looking for information posts for its Facebook page. With over 3,000 followers this type of promotion is good for your business and for fishing in Michigan in general. If interested please post to facebook.com/michigancharterboats these posts and pictures also feed directly into the MCBA website and is one of the most visited pages on the site.



facebook.com/michigancharterboats

FISHING REPORT EXAMPLES:

58's working east and west from 75 to 110 feet of water for king salmon. Marking trout on the bottom so we put a eight Chrome Spin Doctor/Blue Chrome WhirlyGig with Glow Wings on the chute rigger and sent it to the bottom. We took two of our three Trout on it. The third came on a 7.5 color core with a Yeck Wart Frog. We had a meat rig on a low wire but didn't get any takers. We also took fish on a 10 color core, a 200 copper and on a rigger set at 50 ft. with a pair of glow spoons.

Tight lines,

Name of your business and contact information.

Post photos, action shots get the most likes,

NO FISH BOXES or HANGING FISH. 🐟

News Bites:

Great Lakes Leaders Set Up Meeting On Asian Carp

Leaders from Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces will meet in Illinois next month to discuss a path forward on preventing the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

The announcement was made during a leadership summit for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors that Premiers in Milwaukee. A binational and bipartisan group of Great Lakes leaders will discuss the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers roughly \$831 million recommended plan at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois. The plan calls for additional defenses like noisemakers and an electric barrier at a crucial choke point to help keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. Leaders are expected to convene in Chicago sometime in mid-July. 🐟

High Water Levels on Great Lakes Flood Towns, Shrink Beaches

Lakes Erie and Superior are among Great Lakes expected to reach all-time highs this summer.

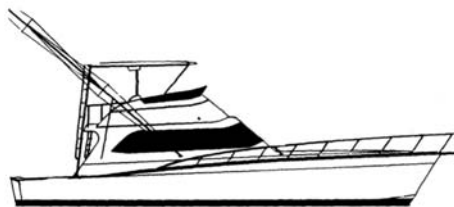
One of the wettest 12-month periods on record in the Midwest hasn't just affected the region's rivers,

several of which have overtopped their banks. Lakes Erie and Superior are among the Great Lakes expected this summer to reach all-time highs since consistent record keeping began in 1918, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. And the levels of Lakes Michigan, Huron and Ontario are well above seasonal averages. Flooded homes, washed-out beaches and underwater docks are creating headaches for residents and seasonal tourists alike. Most of the shoreline has eroded, and other sections have washed out so much that electrical utilities and old construction debris are visible between the crashing waves.



Luna Pier on Lake Erie

According to the USACE water levels are expected to continue to rise through June. 🐟



Boat Captain Needed

Saginaw Bay: Charity Island Transport, Inc. is looking to hire a captain to operate the 50 foot North Star, a U.S.C.G. approved vessel for up to 49 passengers. Captain needs a minimum 25 ton USCG Master's license required.

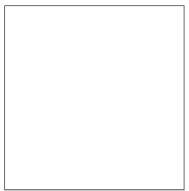
If interested call: 989 737 4078 🐟



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

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Did You Know:

Serious Marine Incident (SMI)

Requires Drug & Alcohol Testing

Marine employer responsible to test:

- ◆ All Mariners directly involved
- ◆ Drug and alcohol testing
- ◆ Mariners shall provide sample

Report test results on CG-2692B and attach to CG-2692 report 

**U.S. Department of
 Homeland Security**


**United States
 Coast Guard**



U.S. Coast Guard mobile app tracks boating conditions on Great Lakes

<https://uscgboating.org/mobile/>

The USCG Boating Safety App features include:

- Find the latest safety regulations
- Request a vessel safety check
- Check your safety equipment
- File a float plan
- Navigation Rules
- Find the nearest NOAA buoy
- Report a hazard
- Report pollution
- Report suspicious activity
- Request emergency assistance * 



The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in September. Submissions **must** be in by **August 21, 2019** Send photos and news items to: larry@saginawbay.com