



# cannonball

## G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • FALL 2019

## 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & BUSINESS MEETING

### OCTOBER 18, 19 & 20

**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](http://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 morning, with coffee and Complete Deluxe Buffet Breakfast (included with your registration) during registration. The program begins at 9:00 AM. Various



Great Wolf Lodge Traverse City - 3575 U.S. Highway 31, Traverse City, MI 49684 - Call: 231.941.3600 or [greatwolf.com/traverse-city](http://greatwolf.com/traverse-city) Reservation Code 1910MCBA cutoff date: 9/17/2019

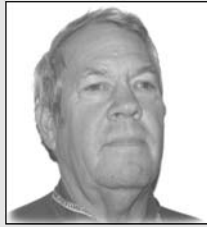
speakers and panels will present information about issues of interest to our captains. There are question and answer sessions at the end of each presentation.

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 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.

*(Continued on page 02)*

## From the Helm . . .



Reviewing and looking over this summer's fishing statewide, our members have had a great season. The Walleye on Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay was red hot with many Captains getting their


boat/ customer limits on these fish in several hours or less. Lake Trout fishing remained steady all summer and over all Captains fishing for them had nice catches. From Frankfort south to other ports along the coastline, King fishing was very good and these fish ran huge in size again this season. At my home port of Frankfort just about every active charter operation had a least one 30 lb. or more brought over the side of their boat. Some had several this big caught on their boats. Ports south of mine, Manistee, Ludington, Grand Haven and others south had outstanding catches of huge king salmon. Ludington reports from Capt. Chucks tackle shop...over 70 King Salmon were weighed in 30 lbs. and above.

So with all these huge salmon around and I myself seeing huge pods of bait fish on my charters daily as well as other captains talking about the huge bait numbers to me this season, many of our members and myself included feel the time is right to increase king salmon plants again. This


summer I have never seen so many pods of baitfish on my Ray marine graph. I had baitfish in 35 ft. of water and out in 500 ft. of water, bait pods so large my graph would lose bottom to heavy concentrations of baitfish. Let us hope we can move ahead with more kings in the next several years.

Something that has come to my attention and would like to pass this along to our members. Several weeks ago, the Coast Guard ticketed a local charter operation out of my port for children not wearing life jackets. They apparently were under age. Federal law states that children under the age of 13 must wear life jackets. Exceptions to this law is if the under age children are below deck or in an enclosed cabin and if the boat is not underway... so this law has some gray areas but best advice is have under age children wearing life jackets. I ask the parents if the children are under age to bring some that fit their children.

In closing this Cannonball President's report I hope to see everyone at our fall banquet and Saturday fisheries workshop meetings at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City this coming October. We have lots of important info for our members. This your time to directly talk with MDNR fisheries people and express your concerns over our state's fisheries.

Captain Eric Andersen - President MCBA 

(Continued from page 01) . . . **Business Conference**

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. 



### Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair

by Captain Henry Walters  
MCBA Director



Michigan releases final plan to improve Lake Erie - this plan aims to cut phosphorus inputs 40 percent by 2025. Michigan's plan sets very specific actions that

#### "CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak




With a heavy heart, I bring sad news. Captain Art Martin (MI HI Sportfishing) passed away August 16. His wife Pauline and son Captain Steve out of Frankfort survived him. Art was a long time member. I

perch fished Lake Erie with Art on many occasions. Art was great with children on his boat. He would take the younger ones, sit them on his lap and help them fish. Art was known as "Mr. Hockey" around the dock. He told me he had been to almost every hockey arena in the states and

Canada while traveling for work. My friend will be sorely missed!

**Other news:** The MCBA is raising membership fees \$20.00 starting in 2020, due to the rising cost of our drug program. The MCBA has not had a dues rate increase in almost 20 years. The USCG imposed a 50% testing rate for all merchant mariners due to a higher than normal failure rate amongst captains and mates. Membership applications will be mailed out in September. Sign up by December 31 to avoid having to pay an extra pre-employment drug test to be reinstated in our drug and alcohol program.

Catch you at the conference. 



Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: [MCBAmembers.com](http://MCBAmembers.com)

(Continued from page 02) . . . **Directors' Report**

need to be taken to achieve a 40 percent phosphorus reduction goal. It includes continuing to tighten sewage treatment facility permits, targeting Michigan's portion of the Maumee River and River Raisin watersheds for phosphorus reduction.


The causes of algae blooms are complex, and Michigan's Domestic Action Plan underscores the need to take a look at the big picture to improve water quality in the lake. The plan will show the measurable steps being taken on several fronts including the implementation of agriculture best practices, improvements to wastewater treatment, improve street/storm water run off controls, and the restoration of wetlands.

Algae are simple, non-flowering plants that are a natural part of freshwater and ocean ecosystems. Not all algae cause harm, but overgrowth can indicate a disruption in the ecosystem. Too much phosphorus, a nutrient that accelerates algae growth, has been identified as one cause of intense algal blooms in the western part of Lake Erie. As the warmest and shallowest Great Lake, Lake Erie, especially its western basin, is vulnerable to algal blooms, which can threaten ecological health and drinking water quality.

The final Lake Erie Domestic Action Plan will be integrated into a larger comprehensive plan, that combines plans from nearby Great Lakes states, the province of Ontario, and the U.S. and Canadian governments.

On another note, as the boating season comes to a close, my patience with inexperienced drivers is wearing thin. With the high waters this year, so

many boaters think the "no wake" doesn't pertain to them. And do all pleasure crafts try to come as close as they can, wide open, to a boat that's fishing?

Hope to see everyone at the conference in Traverse City. 



### Northern Lake Huron

By Captain Rick Konecke - MCBA Director

### Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering whether lake sturgeon should be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

This comes after a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity.

Georgia Parham is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She says the Center provided enough information about the status of sturgeon to warrant an in-depth review.

This doesn't mean we're listing the lake sturgeon now or possibly not in the future. It just means we're going to take a pretty close look at its status to determine whether we should propose it for listing at some point, Parham said.

She says the Center for Biological Diversity cited threats to the species including hydroelectric facilities and contamination.

Parham says the agency will consult with tribes

(Continued on page 04)

and conservation groups during its in-depth review.

That will help inform whether or not we propose this species for listing at some point down the road, she said.

Parham says the Service will look at factors including the sturgeon's current and historic population.

She says sturgeon have been a focus of the agency even before this process. 🐟



### **Northern Lake Michigan**

By Captain Tony Radjenovich - MCBA Director

The 2019 fishing season is starting to wind down and as I reflect of the experiences and adventures I and my clients enjoyed this season I'm very thankful for the fishery we have in northern Lake Michigan. For us captains up north and for that matter throughout the lake we are thankful for lake trout. We typically refer to Lake Trout as our "bread and butter" fish. When we consider the lake trout fishery in northern Lake Michigan, we must also recognize that the five management units north of Arcadia are in tribal ceded waters and subject to the harvest limits set forth in the 2000 Consent Decree. Management units 1,2,3 & 4 all have a stipulated or agreed upon Total Allowable Catch, TAC, and management unit 5, has a TAC set by biology or modeling of fish abundance. As our captains who fish Grand Traverse Bay or Management unit 4 have had to adjust their operations to comply with a daily bag limit of one fish per angler during this 2019 season, us captains in the other management units should take the necessary steps to ensure we continue to have a viable lake trout fishery. What this means is that now a diverse fishery is needed more than ever. We need abundant numbers of all species: kings, Coho, steelhead and brown trout in addition to the lake trout. As I have interviewed some of our captains in preparation for this article, I find that most fisherman are optimists and will find the positive in the current situation. With that said, I have heard on numerous occasions that if it wasn't for lake trout their business would be struggling.

The Lake Michigan Committee is considering increasing stocking of king salmon in the spring of 2020. For several years the committee has reduced the stocking of king salmon and I believe we have all noticed the results. As many captains have told me that the king salmon fishery was slower than in years past, a hit or miss fishery or the worst in years. There are very few reports of browns being

caught and the steelhead report seems to be down from previous years. The Coho run is just starting and so I don't have a good report currently. Therefore, I ask you all to please contact our lake managers and let them know what you want and need for the fishery in northern Lake Michigan. I have reached out to our Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator and suggested that increased plants of fish in streams and rivers in northern Lake Michigan would allow captains from all ports to have a chance at these fish as they travel on their winter and summer migrations.

The MCBA 2019 Annual Conference will have our lake managers in attendance and this would be a good time to discuss your needs of a diverse fishery with them. I hope to see many of you at the conference. As always, please contact me with your questions or comments. 🐟



### **Central Lake Michigan**

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

This has been the year of the big king. Captain Chuck's II in Ludington has weighed in more than 70 kings 30 lbs. and over and a 40 pounder was caught in Muskegon. It is exciting to think that it is possible to catch the fish of a lifetime on a charter, but the king numbers are still down - pounds don't equal numbers. Captains are seeing lots of bait on their graphs and in the stomachs of their catch. The signs in Central Lake Michigan seem to support planting more kings. The June and July offshore fishery in Central Lake Michigan did not happen again this year. Fair numbers of kings showed up in June, but good king numbers didn't happen in July and August.

The Ludington Offshore Classic held in mid-July has been primarily a lake trout tournament the last few years. The lake trout fishing has been excellent but many clients fishing in July and August still ask when the best time is to catch kings.

The annual MCBA membership meeting will be held October 18, 19 and 20 at the Traverse City Great Wolf Lodge. The Association has arranged 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. Hope to see you there.

If you are interested in providing news from your

(Continued on page 06)

## MCBA Conference Agenda, Saturday, October 19, 2019

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM Registration and Breakfast - Courtesy of the MCBA
- 9:00 – 9:15 AM Introductory Remarks & Pledge of Allegiance  
Eric Andersen, President, Michigan Charter Boat Association  
Introduction of Program Moderator , Dan O’Keefe, SW District Educator,  
Sea Grant
- 9:15 – 10:00 AM Jim Dexter, DNR Chief of Fishery Tribal Negotiations updates, MM4 and  
MM5, Saginaw Bay and Illegal guides.
- 10:00 - 10:20 AM **Break**
- 10:20 – 11:15 AM Jay Wesley Lake Michigan Coordinator  
Randy Claremont Lake Huron Coordinator  
Jim Francis Lake St. Clair Lake Erie Coordinator
- 11:15 – 11:40 AM Break Out session - Round table discussion with the three Lake  
Coordinators
- 11:40 – 12 Noon Donna Wesander, Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station, DNR  
New DNR charter boat reporting system.
- 12 Noon–1:00 PM **Lunch** - Courtesy of Michigan Charter Boat Association
- 1:00 – 1:40 PM Mark VanEpps, David Graham, Gallagher Charter Lakes  
Charter Boat Insurance and Liability Issues
- 1:40 – 2:30 PM Jason U Bartholomew, Investigating Officer US Coast Guard.  
Coast Guard clamp down on Illegal charters
- 2:30 – 3:00 PM “Chuck” Kakuska, Sea K’s Maritime Service - USCG Lt. Commander  
(retired) USCG License Renewal and updates
- Break**
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM Social Hour – Cash Bar
- 7:00 – 8:00 PM Dinner
- 8:00 – 8:30 PM Introductory Remarks MCBA President, Eric Andersen  
Dan Eichinger, DNR Director
- 8:30 - ? MCBA and Pistis Awards; MCBA Tackle Raffle

The Hospitality Suite will re-open  
following the conclusion of the Tackle Raffle

### MCBA Program, Sunday

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM Deluxe Breakfast Buffet - Courtesy of MCBA  
(Free to Members and Spouses, mates).
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM Annual Membership Meeting: President’s  
Report, Committee Reports, New Business,  
Election of Officers

At the adjournment of the meeting, there will a free drawing for  
the Hospitality Room cooler and its contents. Each member present  
will be given on ticket for the drawing. You must be present  
to win. 🐟



*Learning to Make  
Our Charter Businesses  
Even Better!*

area of our region, please give me a call. (877 456-3474) 🐟



### Michigan's Upper Peninsula

by Captain Dick Stafford  
MCBA Past President

Looks as if the season is winding down on a questionable note. Most charters in the area are sitting idle now compared to other years. Sparse wall-eye populations in the upper region of Little Bay de Noc along with minimal salmon again have contributed to this slow up. While many areas in Michigan are having a fantastic year for salmon, this area's salmon and walleye population has greatly declined.

What we do have is fantastic bass and northern pike fishing. In addition, right now the perch fishing is great with many perch being caught in the 8-10" class. Therefore, we stress the positive and learn from the negative. Good charter fishermen adapt.

This is a good time of the year with a little time on the hands to look at what went well with your business this year. Look at what can be improved and maybe what can be omitted. Marketing is the key to any successful business. Gather your database names of clients and keep them all on your "returning clients list". A little extra personal touch can be rewarding.

Several captains in MCBA will gladly give ideas on how to improve marketing and how to go after that market. Maxine Appleby is fantastic in this area along with others. Also. The fall membership meeting is almost here. Very few from the U.P. go to these but they serve as important verbal communication between Michigan State Sea Grant, Michigan DNR, MCBA and the Coastguard. There are also marketing expert present to help wherever they can. Overall, it is a great weekend.

It is easy to find fault, but work to make it better by offering viable solutions to help solve the problem. 🐟

## From Paradise to Reality

This fishing season has opened eyes and given a stark reality of what may be coming to the Upper Peninsula. In this beautiful place to live, (the U.P.,) we have 4300 inland lakes, 12,000 miles of streams, and 1700 miles of shoreline on three of the Great Lakes. Approximately 320,000 people live up here, which is about 3% of Michigan's total population. The Upper Peninsula is 384 miles from Drummond Island to Ironwood wide and 233 miles tall

from Menominee to Cooper Harbor. The Lower Peninsula is 277 miles north to south and 195 miles at the widest. Where is this going you might ask? The U.P. had only about 4% of the total fish planted by the State of Michigan DNR. One time it was explained to me by the DNR that fish could not be planted if the forage base could not support it. For years as I would leave on a charter trip, I would look back and see a great deal of cut alewives (shad) in my prop wash. I would say that was an abundance so more predator fish (salmon, splake, browns,) could be planted.

Walleye were netted from Little Bay de Noc and eggs and spawn were taken to be hatched and used throughout the state. This is a very fragile fishery. I recently spoke with a DNR Biologist who told me that the walleye were coming back slowly but would never be at the numbers in the 80"s.

Sport fishing is a very important part to the economy of the U.P. whether it is on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, or Lake Huron. The Upper Peninsula needs to have a better stocking program rather than whatever is left over. Little Bay de Noc was once known as the Walleye Capital of the World or so the locals referred to it. If someone needed fish for supper, they would row out, fish for an hour and come back home with plenty for supper. Freezers were not need to hold for later.

Great charters are sitting idle where once they were running multiple daily trips. Some charter are getting out of the business and selling boats.

Michigan needs to protect its charter industry but instead it is making it very difficult to stay in business.

One good solution to our problem would be to increase the number of planted fish in the U.P. waters of the Great Lakes. That would include salmon, lake trout, splake, walleye and brown trout. Help make this a strong fishery as it once was. Solution: Keep the successful programs going strong and if money is left over, then start pilot programs. Give us back our healthy economy. 🐟



### A View from Over the Transom

By Captain Jim Fenner

As it turns out, several mild winters, the changing ecology of Lake Michigan, and the DNR's past planting decisions have staved off the collapse of fishing on Lake Michigan that seemed to be looming. In fact, this summer season

(Continued on page 07)



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

It's Labor Day already, where did the summer go? When you are in the charter fishing business it flies by.

I have to say I'm very thankful for lake trout. The hit and miss salmon fishery is really frustrating. This is my worst year for king salmon since I have been charter fishing. I have heard good reports from Manistee south, but up north, it never developed.

Some MCBA board members attended the Tribal Council meeting on August 22nd. It was a strange meeting. The tribes did not put anything on the agenda to discuss. The State pushed to get started on the negotiations for the next Tribal agreement.

It looks like it is about to get started. The parties involved will meet September 19th to lay the ground work for the next negotiations. The MCBA will play a major role in this next Tribal Decree.

All the funds we have raised will be used to cover our share to support the "Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources". I want to thank all the captains who have returned their donations and ticket stubs for the raffle. We are a bit low on returns. If you still have your tickets please consider making a donation. We have some wonderful prizes this year.

**The Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.** have given the Michigan Charter Boat Association another large donation toward our Tribal Decree fund. They are partnering with the MCBA during the Tribal negotiations. A big "THANK YOU" goes out to this group. Captain Mark Williams has been a supporter of both groups. **Thanks for all of your hard work Mark.**

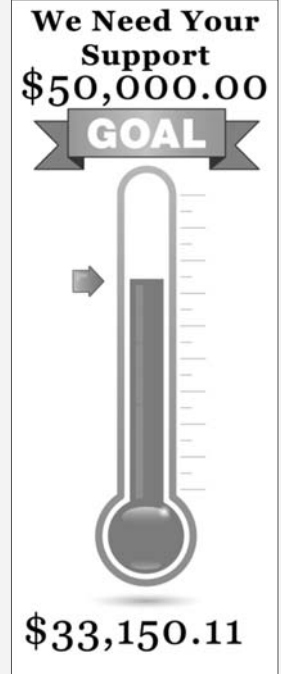
The MCBA is closely monitoring the three Commercial Fishing bills in Lansing. SB4567, SB4568, and SB4569 are advancing through our State Legislature. These bills are designed to regulate and update the Commercial Fishing Regulations. Everything from reporting, net marking, and which fish can be commercially harvested. Our state licensed commercial fishers want lake trout, walleye and perch. These fish are designated as sport fish, these fish should be off limits to commercial harvest in our Great Lakes.

As we wrap up the fishing season the MCBA fall conference is coming up fast. Please consider attending. We have a great agenda this year. The fall conference is going to be important to all charter captains, and mates. We will have updates on the Tribal Decree, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair, and Lake Erie basin coordinators in a break out session. Coast Guard personnel and Michigan DNR Director Dan Eichinger as a guest speaker at the banquet dinner.

This is the top of the line of speakers you can gather at one place at one time!! Fun for the whole family kids and adults at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City.

I will end this with the fact this will be a very busy off season for the MCBA board. We have to stay on top of all that is happening with our fishery. 🐟

Captain Bill Winowiecki - Vice President  
Michigan Charter Boat Association



*(Continued from page 06) . . . . Over the Transom*

has produced more large Chinooks; many over 30 pounds, than we have seen in two decades or more. We aren't seeing the large number of fish being caught that we were several years ago, but mixed in with these large kings is a pretty good and steady catch of lake trout, and a fair number of steelhead. Recently there have been some very large Coho's in the catch as well. It seems like fishing is decent to good. In addition, for sure, the big kings are exciting both the customers and the private anglers. I have not seen this many boats at the Ludington Loomis Street launch site in many, many years. The

number of master angler chinooks will be very high this year.

By the time this appears in print, it is likely that there will have been a decision made to increase the Chinook plant in 2020. The Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Board is scheduled to meet September 17, to consider that and other issues. Based on early conversations, an increase of some number is quite likely. The issue is how many more? Everyone would like to see the number of kings in the catch increase, but experience has led many to be cau-

*(Continued on page 09)*



# 2019 MCBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Great Wolf Lodge Traverse City • 3575 U.S. Highway 31 • Traverse City, MI 49684  
231-941-3600

October 18, 19 & 20, 2019

Oct. 18 Evening (social @ 6:pm) Oct. 19 (seminars, dinner, & raffle) Oct. 20 Morning (business meeting)

Please note Friday evening social and Sunday morning business meeting are **FREE to ALL members.**

(Free food, snacks, drinks. Social bar to any member of legal age Fri & Sat. evenings.)

**Pre-registration is encouraged for Saturday's events** (walk-ins welcomed) so we know how to set up the rooms and can order the correct number of meals. Please return the form below with your check (Walk-ins register at the door) by **10/10/19** and save \$5.00

As mentioned in the last newsletter, a limited number of rooms are available to MCBA members for the special, low rate of \$100 per night. Call the hotel directly at 231.941.3600 and mention that you will be there for the MCBA meeting (Reservation Code 1910MCBA) cutoff date:9/17/2019 - If you book a room, there are free water park passes for kids and grand-kids.

**Questions?** Call MCBA at 800-622-2971. The MCBA board has worked hard to respond To MCBA membership and provide attendees with information that will help you make the most of your charter business, so please plan to be there and make this **The best MCBA Annual Meeting ever!**

**MCBA Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Saturday Main Events

MCBA Annual Meeting Registration

(Spouse free incl.)

**Pre-Registration** \$15. x \_\_\_\_\_ people = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Spouse free)

**Registration at the door:** \$20. (Spouse free)

- Traditional Breakfast Buffet 8:00 to 8:45 am (included with registration)
- Saturday Lunch: Courtesy of MCBA

Optional Saturday Dinner: \$25. Ea. For Captain's Deluxe Buffet Dinner x \_\_\_\_\_ people = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(open bar optional at dinner)

**Sunday AM Business Meeting** and Sunday BREAKFAST BUFFET (**Free** to all members & spouse)

Number people to attend Sunday Breakfast Buffet 8 - 9 am \_\_\_\_\_

**Total ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to MCBA,

and return to:

**MCBA Annual Meeting**

**9760 Judd Road**

**Willis, MI 48191** 

*Captain Frank English has  
**PROMISED** another great  
raffle at Saturday's dinner*





tious. If the increase is too large, perhaps we could overdo it again, which could lead to another downturn in bait, which in turn, could lead to smaller fish again, and even possibly, a reverse in the increasingly strong fishery. It seems clear that it is difficult to find the 'just right' balance.

I have heard reports of some good catches in Lake Huron too. Maybe we have turned a corner there also. Especially interesting to me are the reports of catches of Atlantics up and down the coast of Lake Huron. Atlantics are getting some serious attention! Walleyes were great this year too, and early reports suggest good perch fishing in Lake Erie, too. Let us all hope that we can continue toward having a quality mixed bag fishery long into the future.

In spite of some optimism about the uptick in fishing around the lakes, other issues remain. First: the up-coming consent decree negotiations, which are crucial to our future. Do your part; help fund our legal team, buy and/or sell some raffle tickets. Follow the negotiations as closely as possible and encourage our leaders, our lawyers and DNR personnel as they deal with this most difficult issue. We may have to live with the consequences for up to 20 years into the future. Other problems too, such as the exploding cormorant population remain. In addition, some are just out there as potential catastrophes, especially line 5 under the straits of Mackinac. Enbridge, the owners of line 5 had three major pipeline failures in the last year alone, killing one and injuring two. The environmental damage was huge. However, not nearly so much as such failure of line 5 would cause in the great lakes. We must not let our guard down. We need to focus strongly on these issues or face severe consequences in the future.

Is your vessel documented? Recently I was asked if the USCG requires documentation for passenger for hire boats – AKA: UPV's. The answer: Yes, if your boat is more than five gross tons (approximately 25 feet), your charter boat must be documented. [https://homeport.uscg.mil/Lists/Content/Attachments/1600/UPV\\_JobAid2011.pdf](https://homeport.uscg.mil/Lists/Content/Attachments/1600/UPV_JobAid2011.pdf)

This is often overlooked at inspection time, but should there be an incident involving the USCG, no documentation could become a serious issue. There is some paperwork, some marking requirements and a small annual cost, (about the same as a couple of flashers): a small price to pay to know the USCG registers your vessel and to know you comply with the law. Your boats name on the bow and the stern, sans MC numbers, tells your customers (and others) that you are conscientious about following the rules

and regulations.

If you are planning to become a retiree soon, and if you want keep up with the constantly changing status of fishing in Michigan, I encourage you to continue your MCBA membership in the retired captain category. It is easy to do. Go to the MCBA website member section and choose the printed membership form. As of this writing, it is not possible to join as a retired member using the on-line membership application. You must printout and send in the printed application. (On the other hand, use the copy you may have received in the mail) I hope that the online web version will be fixed sometime soon, but for now, use the printout version.

Being a retired member will keep you 'in the loop'. I always look forward to seeing many of my charter boat friends, active and/or retired, at the annual MCBA fall meetings, too. We will meet at the Great Wolf Lodge near Traverse City again this fall over the weekend of October 18, 19 and 20. 3575 US Hwy 31 S, Traverse City MI 49684. The MCBA has reserved a block of rooms, at a special rate for those who wish to spend a night or two. Call -231-941-3600 and ask for the MCBA special rate. It is always an interesting and informative meeting. It is a great location for spouses and kids too. Much to do and see in the Traverse City area.

See you at the conference at the Great Wolf Lodge in October. 🐟



### **Maritime Licensing Specialist**

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

### **SEA K'S LICENSING LORE**

I hope you are all having a successful 2019 season. It's hard to believe fall is right around the corner. Unfortunately, I don't have many positive words for the current Coast Guard licensing program. I've been involved for over 40 years now and have to report this current group are some of the most incompetent people I've ever encountered. My frustration is you, the mariner, always ends up paying the price. In my last report the Coast Guard had issued notices extending the expiration dates on certain credentials. The most recent was dated July 1st and extended most credentials until the end of August. I haven't seen any new notices, so my guess is there probably won't be any more. They did have a notice on their web site however indicating they are still backlogged and are as much as 100 calendar days behind in processing license applications. As always, I encourage every-

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(Continued from page 09) . . . . **LICENSING LORE**

one to start your application process early to avoid being without a valid credential. Biggest item continues to be inaccurate or incomplete paperwork. With the news forms there are many small spaces to be filled in or checked and even the slightest omission can add weeks to your application process. Hope to see you all in Traverse City in October. 🐟



**LAKE HURON CITIZENS FISHERY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

By Captain Terry R. Walsh - Past President

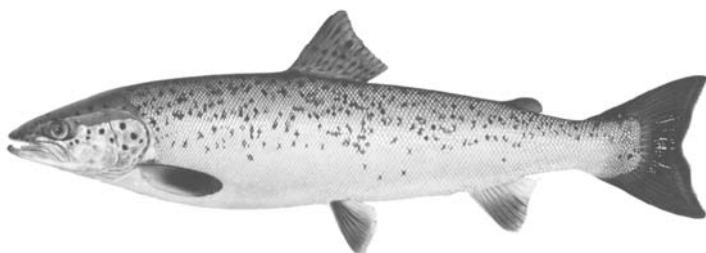
With Saginaw Bay walleye recruitment remaining strong for the past several years and record numbers of walleye currently in the bay, the Lake Huron Citizen's Fishery Advisory Committee (LHCFAC) recommended the opening of the Saginaw River to year around angling. This is on an experimental basis and will be closely monitored. The decision to open the river to spring fishing was made at the August 8 committee meeting with DNR fisheries personnel in Clare, Michigan.



The committee's objective is to create more recreational fishing opportunities for non-boating anglers, which right now are only available to ice fishermen during years when there is safe ice for any period of time. This is a great opportunity to recruit more fishermen; especially kids who won't need boats and snowmobiles to have ready access to the fishery. A bicycle will do just fine, which is the way a lot of the Baby Boomers got introduced to the sport. The committee would like to see the river open to walleye fishing in the spring of 2020 if at all possible. It is now up to the DNR to decide how to best implement the LHCFAC's unanimous recommendation.

**ATLANTIC SALMON STOCKING SITE(S)  
BEING EVALUATED FOR 2020**

The DNR is seeking input from the LHCFAC on where to stock an anticipated surplus of Atlantic salmon next year. Though no formal recommendation has yet been made, it is likely one may come at the October meeting with the DNR. Currently, At-



lantics are stocked in the St. Mary's River in the Upper Peninsula, the Thunder Bay River in Alpena, the Au Sable River in Oscoda, and the harbor at Lexington. Lexington is the only harbor-stocking site, and interestingly, has proven the most successful for angler success. In view of this, it is felt Rogers City could have similar if not better success.

Lexington's success comes from its lack of significant predators (namely walleye) and ready access to deep water once the Atlantics are released. The same can be said for Rogers City, which also has an excellent harbor and immediate access to off shore reefs and deep water once the fish are released. An insignificant lack of predators (walleye) should increase survival rates there as well.

Currently, anglers at Rogers City catch more Atlantics than any other Lake Huron Port except De-Tour, further supporting the potential for increased angler success were they to be stocked there. The aquatic environment at Rogers City seems to be one that is highly attractive to Atlantic salmon.

Interestingly, Rogers City has submitted an impressive written proposal requesting the Atlantic salmon plant. Complete with charts and graphs of their current Atlantic salmon angler success, the proposal also boasts strong support from the community and recreational and sport fishing organizations.

Other sites identified by the DNR as having good stocking suitability are the Carp River, East Branch of the Au Gres River, The Au Gres River, Rifle River, and Port Austin. 🐟



**Show Chairman**

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

It's hard to believe that our fishing season is winding down, seems like it just started. Now that its almost over we begin to prepare for our 2020 Sport Shows. We are going to need captains willing to donate a free charter for our shows. Remember, those donating will receive \$200 for fuel and we will display your brochures/business cards at all shows we participate in. Please contact me 248-542-1563 or e-mail me taloncharters@gmail.com if you would like to donate. Please remember, these shows and your help with donated

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10) . . . **Show Time**

trips will continue to help our scholarships for Michigan State and Lake Superior State students studying Fisheries and Biology. For the captains that have already committed, please send me your brochures and business card by December 2019. Listed below are the new 2020 show dates:

- \* Ultimate Fishing Show (Novi) Jan. 9-12
- \* Birch Run Fishing Expo (Birch Run) Feb. 7-9
- \* Outdoorama (Novi) Feb. 27-March 1
- \* Ultimate Sport Show (Grand Rapids) March 19-22 🐟



## Charter Fishermen Save Sinking Boaters Near Pentwater

By Eric Lloyd - June 3, 2019

Two boaters got first hand knowledge of the danger of deep, cold water as they were rescued from their sinking boat near Pentwater.

The two boaters were saved from the frigid, rough water by a passing charter boat Sunday morning at the mouth of the Pentwater River, possibly their only chance of survival in the conditions.

"It was pretty much timing is all," says Trevor Castonia, captain with Sportsmen Charters, "It was right spot at the right time."

Castonia and his first mate Cy Sult first thought it was just a jet ski, blocking the mouth of the Pentwater River.

"We were making a circle waiting for them to get in and then we seen the people waving" says Castonia, "And noticed the boat was starting to sink."

They then saw it was a small bass boat amongst the large waves.

"Not very much northwest wind can create some big waves in a hurry," says Deputy Tim Simon with the Ocean County Marine Patrol, "I guess at the

time of this incident they were four to five feet."

The boat wasn't big enough for the waves that were out there," says Castonia, "Their motor died and they were trying to get in on the trolling motor and the waves got them from the back."

Castonia backed his charter to the failing boat, cutting the waves and allowing Suld to throw them a life ring.

"They were cold and the wife was really scared and really cold," says Sult, "They had been in the water about five minutes."

It is still early in the season, there were very few boats out on the big lake. If the Sportsmen had not come by right at that moment, there's a good chance those two boaters don't make it, given the wind the current and the frigid water temperatures.

"Even though it might be sunny and 75 out, those water temps could still be 50 degrees," says Simon.

The boaters escaped with no injuries. Lucky to be alive with just a flooded boat to deal with.

"If we hadn't of been there at that time they wouldn't have made it," says Castonia, "We reacted quickly to what was going on when we had seen how it was." 🐟



Mr. Eric Anderson, President of the Michigan Charter Boat Association, will present the MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION DENNY GRINOLD SCHOLARSHIP to Ellary Marano and Jack Gorno (above).

Ellary is Senior Fisheries and Wildlife major from Canton, MI, pursuing the Fisheries Biology and Management and Water Sciences concentrations, as well as a minor in Spanish. She is a member of the Honor's College and has earned a 3.84 GPA at MSU. She has assisted with various aquatic ecology research in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and Department of Entomology. Last summer Ellary

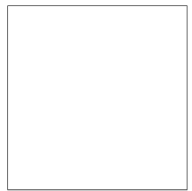
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Michigan Charter Boat Association  
 3396 Anna Drive  
 Bay City, MI 48706

'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)... **SCHOLARSHIP**

studied sea lamprey at the Hammond Bay Biological Station. Ellary is very interested in pursuing future work and research in applying the idea of agro ecology to aquaculture, particularly in the regions of Central and South America, so that local communities can have cheap, sustainable sources of protein.

Jack is a Fisheries and Wildlife Junior from Gaylord, MI, pursuing the Fisheries Biology and Management concentration and a minor in Conservation, Recreation and Environmental Enforcement. He has earned a 3.3 GPA at MSU. Jack is a founding member of the MSU Fly Fishing Club. Last summer he worked as a Stream Habitat Technician near Grayling, MI, where he helped build fish habitats. Jack has a strong interest in eventually becoming a conservation officer to help protect our fish and wildlife resources. Congratulations Ellary and Jack. 🐟

### Renewing Your USCG License

Contact MCBA drug administrator for a compliance drug letter. 🐟

### USCG LICENSE RENEWAL HELP:

Lt. Commander, USCG (retired) Charles "Chuck" Kakuska a Maritime Licensing Specialist, has been assisting our members for the past 20+ years. We recommend him and appreciate his continued services to our association. Give him a call at (734)847-1723 - SEAKsLic@aol.com for help with your USCG renewal.



### Membership Help:

Call 800-622-2971 or visit MCBA Members Area: [mcbamembers.com](http://mcbamembers.com) Compliance Program and more. 🐟

See You at the MCBA Annual Meeting  
 God bless America and our troops

**2020 Membership Renewal**  
 Available Online

@ [mcbamembers.com](http://mcbamembers.com)

Credit cards processed by PayPal  
 All major credit cards are accepted

**Your Drug Program Expired**  
**12/31/19**

Stay Compliant - Renew Today!



**Newsletter Deadline**

The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in December. Submissions **must** be in by **November 15, 2019**.

Send photos and news items to:  
[larry@saginawbay.com](mailto:larry@saginawbay.com)