



# cannonball

## G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • SPRING 2020

## SERVICES ARE THE FOCUS

### Catch & Cook, Coast Watch, and MCBA Services are the Focus of New Sea Grant Survey

By Dan O'Keefe, Michigan Sea Grant, MSU Extension

I know, I know. It is a busy time of year with sport shows, heading north to summer fishing spots, and getting boats ready for the fishing season. Even so, I am hoping that you can take 15 minutes out of your day to respond to a short survey that went out to all MCBA members and non-members who were enrolled in DNR reporting during 2019.

The MCBA Board of Directors requested this survey to evaluate the relevance of MCBA services to the charter fishing industry, and it will also provide valuable input on programs that Sea Grant has been involved in over the years. Both Michigan Catch & Cook and Michigan Sea Grant Coast Watch were developed by partnerships that included MCBA and Sea Grant. This survey will help both organizations determine how useful these programs are to your business and the charter industry as a whole.

**You should have received a unique link via e-mail on March 16.** Each unique link can be used only once and should not be shared. If you did not see the message in your Inbox, check your Junk Mail folder. If you deleted the link without taking the survey, we will be sending out additional reminders before the survey closes in early April.

This survey also asks for your opinion on the ideal mix of trout and salmon species in the Lake Michigan fishery. Michigan Sea Grant is funding a two-year structured decision analysis (SDA) project led by Dr. Kelly Robinson at MSU's Quantitative Fisheries Center, and this survey is the first in a series of opportunities to provide input to that process.



The SDA project will revisit the predator-prey ratio (PPR) and incorporate new information on trout and salmon diets, lake trout population dynamics, and fish movement into a new multispecies PPR.

The current PPR for Lake Michigan includes only Chinook salmon and alewife, while the new PPR will include other salmon and trout species including lake trout, steelhead, and Coho salmon. As part of the SDA process, stakeholder groups will work with fishery scientists and managers to evaluate how different stocking strategies could affect the predator-prey balance, the mix of trout and salmon species, and the quality of fishing in Lake Michigan.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the spring survey and keep an eye on your inbox this fall for an additional survey with more questions related to the Lake Michigan fishery and the SDA project. Both efforts will help MCBA to reflect the needs and interests of members, in addition to helping Sea Grant serve the charter industry. 🐟

## From the Helm . . .



It's been a very busy three months. By the time you read this the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources and the core team has been involved with 14 meetings on Tribal Decree. Slow progress is being made. For more updates check the Coalition website. [protectmiresources.com](http://protectmiresources.com)

The Commercial fishing bills HB4567, HB4568, and HB4569 have been passed by the Michigan House of Representatives. The bills are headed to the State Senate. There will be hearings and calls to action by our membership.

The Commercial fishing industry is generating all kinds of false information and half-truths to persuade public opinion. A special thank you goes to Amy Trotter from MUCC for keeping us on track and when to take action.

Please stay diligent, send those emails, and make those phone calls to your Senators. Our charter businesses will be affected by the outcome of these bills.

The MDNR is replacing their online licensing system. Hopefully the new online system will be user friendly. The last licensing system was a disaster!

Jim Dexter and Donna Wesander attended our last board meeting to discuss the online charter fishing reporting system. Donna has been working on the new system for the past 4 or 5 years. She's working the bugs out with the MCBA board's advice. "Eventually" they want us all to switch to online reporting. The board's biggest concern is our older captains with little computer experience. We are trying to make this transition as easy as possible.

Dan O'Keefe from Michigan Sea Grant is in the process of building a charter boat survey. It's a little long but the future funding for some of the Sea Grant's programs such as Coast Watch, might be effected by the results of the survey. Please take the time out to go through the survey, and give us your thoughts.

The springfishing season is coming on fast. Be safe out there.

Captain Bill Winowiecki  
President

Michigan Charter Boat Association - 



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



Hello fellow Captains!

New for this year. The DNR has changed its stance and are giving the OK on party fishing.

Following up on the PFD article in the previous Cannonball.

The Coast Guard (Federal law) rule for PFD's is anyone under 13 years old on deck must wear a PFD while underway. The DNR (MI state) law on wearing a PFD is anyone under six on open deck must wear a PFD while underway. The Coast Guard has said that they will enforce the State laws for PFDs in Michigan waters.

I received the results back from the DNR Great Lakes Station on my Atlantic Salmon catch in the Spring.

All fish that were caught in 2019 were from Lexington. In 2018 most were from Lexington but

there were also some from the Au Sable River and the St. Mary's River. The 2018 season was a lot better than the 2019 season. It looks like the fish only came down the river from Lexington last year. There were less Atlantics caught last year than in 2018, at least on my end. We'll see what happens this year with the least amount of ice I've ever seen in my lifetime this Winter. Sure hope it is better this year. Maybe we'll see some of the Coho's that were planted in Lexington last year. We know the Wall-eyes will be there.

I'm still looking for Port Captains for Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. If interested call me or any other Director.

Have a great upcoming Season! 

### 2020 MCBA Board Meetings:

April 19 in Clare, MI - Doherty Hotel 10:00 am.

Sept 27 in Clare, MI - Doherty Hotel 10:00 am.

Oct. 18, in Traverse City, MI

Great Wolf Lodge 10:30 am 



### **Southern Lake Michigan**

By Captain CJ Anistor - MCBA Director

**HIGH WATER!** Down here in Grand Haven we are experiencing high water like most ports on Lake Michigan. The water levels are predicted to raise another 8-12 inches by the end of 2020. With multiple marinas being forced to close or start raising docks it's going to be a tough year when it comes to dockage. So far to my knowledge, Mill Point boat launch in Spring Lake along with Grand Havens Harbor Island boat launch will be closed for the 2020 season. Eldean marina in Holland has started to raise some of their docks along with multiple others. Holland Public launch has very high water but is usable.

**Reporting:** Guys the online reporting system is one of a kind, it might take a second to figure out, I've heard multiple complaints and trust me I've had some of my own. The DNR is working on this diligently and will have it all figured out as soon as they can. Some people have had a problem with their reports not making it to the DNR and receiving phone calls from a Conservation Officer or even an officer paying a visit. Its technology and it has its own monsters, if anyone has any questions on the reporting system please feel free to call me and I will do my best to help with any problems you may have! Remember reports are due on the 10th day of the following month!

### **Upcoming Lake Michigan tournaments**

- Michigan City Tournament  
May 1-3 St. Joe- May 7-9
- South Haven - May 15-17
- Grand Haven - May 28-31
- Sheboygan - June 12-14
- Manistee Bud - June 26-28
- Muskegon - July 9-12
- Ludington - July 13-19
- Manistee Splash - July 23-26
- Holland - July 30- Aug 2
- Saugatuck - Aug 7-9
- Onekama - Aug 14-16
- Frankfort - Aug 21-23
- Manistee Monster- Aug 28-30
- Traverse City- September 4-6 🐟



### **Central Lake Michigan**

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

The Annual Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop was held Saturday February 1, 2020 at West Shore Community College. Dan O'Keefe Southwest District Educator, Michigan Sea Grant, conducted the meeting. The workshop was well attended and having it at a later date seemed to work well. The topics covered included Huron-Michigan predator diet study, dreissenid mussels in Lake Michigan, Great Lakes water levels, Lake Michigan prey fish monitoring methods, and a presentation on how biologists calculate how many alewife are available for fish to eat. After the lunch break and fabulous Ludington Charter Boat Association tackle raffle Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator talked about MDNR management updates. Next was Updating the Predator-Prey Ratio to evaluate stocking strategies for all salmon and trout species. Last was Dan O'Keefe on Measuring satisfaction: What do you expect from the Lake Michigan salmon and trout fishery? For those who could not attend Tom Andris from the Dreamweaver Charity Tournament recorded several presentations and has them posted on the Dreamweaver Charity Tournaments Facebook page.

There is a new schedule for the Ludington Offshore Fishing Tournament. The Big Boy event will now be held before the Offshore Classic with registration starting at 5 p.m. Monday July 13 and fishing dates of July 14-15.

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. 🐟



### **Northern Lake Michigan**

By Captain Tony Radjenovich - MCBA Director

Captains it is a sunny day near the end of Winter and I just can't wait to get back on the water! Like most of you, I have been in contact with past and new customers planning and scheduling their 2020 season adventures. I have assessed my gear, tackle and boat in preparation for the upcoming season and I'm sure you have as well. Every year it seems there is more preparation than the last. However, all the preparation is part of the excitement of fishing in the great state of Michigan. We're fortunate to work on lakes, rivers and streams that offer ex-

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cellent sport fishing. With that said, as the MCBA Director for northern Lake Michigan and President of the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources, CPMR, I want to remind everyone that the MDNR is currently in negotiations with five Michigan Tribes of the Washington Treaty of 1836 and the Federal government. These negotiations are the process which will develop a successor framework to the 2000 Consent Decree, which will expire on August 8th, 2020. The current agreement governs allocation, management, and regulation of the State and Tribal fisheries in the ceded waters of the Great Lakes. The Northern Lake Michigan MCBA Director is a representative of charter captains that fish Lake Michigan waters from the Port of Manistee to the Mackinaw Straits. All ports in this section of Lake Michigan are in the ceded waters of the Consent Decree. I want all charter captains to know that they are represented in these negotiations by CPMR. The MCBA is one of the seven member organizations that supports CPMR. Our MCBA President, Bill Winowiecki and I are on the CPMR negotiating team. CPMR is actively involved in the negotiations. Our lead representative, Steve Schultz, has been involved with the State and Tribal negotiations since the late 1970's. He was instrumental in crafting the two previous agreements. Steve will be the featured speaker at a CPMR event on April 4th, 2020 held at the Cherryland VFW Hall 3400 Veterans Dr, Traverse City, MI 49684. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

I was recently in Lansing for Tribal Consent Decree negotiations and accepted the opportunity to meet with Sen. Ed McBroom. Sen. McBroom is the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. We discussed the House Bills 4567, 4568 and 4569 that were voted out of the House and sent to the Senate. These Bills will name and protect game fish for sport fishing, increase fees for commercial fishers and improve commercial law enforcement. I stated the three Bills should be supported and passed by the Senate. Sen. McBroom stated that

his committee is going to vet these Bills over the next few months. I requested that a member of our organization be part of any work group that will review these Bills.

I'm sure all of you are excited about the 2020 fishing season and I hope all have a successful year fishing. Please contact me at any time with your questions. 🐟



### **Northern Lake Huron**

By Captain Rick Konecke - MCBA Director

## **Fisheries Workshops**

Michigan Sea Grant's Annual Great Lakes Fisheries Workshops bring communities together with fisheries research and management partners to discuss research findings, management updates, and fishing trends. Fisheries and natural resource managers provide big-picture context to what's happening in the lakes and how it will affect fish populations for anglers, charter captains, natural resources professionals, commercial fishers, and other interested stakeholders.

All workshops are free and open to the public. Some are filmed and made available through Michigan Sea Grant's YouTube channel.

### **Lake Huron Regional**

\* **Ugly/Bad Axe**

Date: Thursday, April 16

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Ugly Fox Hunter's Club

2351 Ugly Rd., Bad Axe, MI 48413

\* **Oscoda**

Date: Tuesday, April 21

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Oscoda Area School Mary Anne Bartels Auditorium

3550 East River Road, Oscoda, MI 48750

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#### **"CANNONBALL GAZETTE"**

EDITOR: Larry Lienczewski · published by the  
**MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. Box 80162 · Lansing, MI 48908-0323  
800-622-2971

#### **OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT: Bill Winowiecki** · (231) 228-7417  
3700 SCHOMBERG RD · CEDAR, MI 49621

**VICE PRESIDENT: Rich Haslett** · (248) 542-1563  
292 S. Zimmerman Rd. · Beulah, MI 49617

**SECRETARY: John Giszczak** · (734) 787-0030  
9760 Judd Road · Willis, MI 48191

**TREASURER: Larry Lienczewski** (989) 684-7943  
3396 Anna Drive · Bay City, MI 48706

#### **DIRECTORS**

##### **NORTHERN LAKE MICHIGAN**

**Tony Radjenovich** · (231) 866-0053  
1785 N. Eagle Hwy · Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

##### **CENTRAL LAKE MICHIGAN**

**George Freeman** · (231) 845-1779  
6888 Illinois Rd. · Ludington, MI 49431

##### **SOUTHERN LAKE MICHIGAN**

**CJ Anastos** · (616) 402-3059  
12363 Taft St. · Nunica, MI 49448

#### **UPPER PENINSULA**

**Dick Stafford** · (906) 789-0110  
7262 US 2 & 41-M35 · Gladstone, MI 49837

#### **SOUTHERN LAKE HURON**

**Ken Deaton** · (989) 542-0426  
2905 Parkview Drive · Port Hope, MI 48486

#### **NORTHERN LAKE HURON**

**Rick Konecke** · (989) 255-4524  
916 Ford Ave. · Alpena, MI 48707

#### **LAKES ST. CLAIR AND ERIE**

**Henry Walters** · (586) 725-3678  
7103 St. Clair Ave · Fair Haven, MI 48023



\* **Bay City (Saginaw Bay)**

Date: Thursday, April 23

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: The Canteen Hall,

Bay County Fairgrounds

800 Livingston St., Bay City, MI 48708

\* **Cedarville**

Date: Monday, April 27

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Clark Township Community Center

133 E. M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719 🐾



**DNR Fisheries News**

Donna Wesander, DNR Fisheries

Charter Reporting Program

email: wesanderd@michigan.gov

phone: 231-547-2914, ext 223

**Charter Monthly Reporting:**

The State of Michigan is promoting use of online systems to do business in Michigan; this includes charter fishing reporting. Online reporters will report charter activity via the reporting system called FACTS. 60% of charter captains are already using online reporting. Based on your feedback from 2019, we are working on some updates to the FACTS system for year 2020. The FACTS system was implemented to ensure more accurate reporting, allows you to record additional fish species (such as Atlantic Salmon, Cisco/Lake Herring, and Lake Sturgeon), provides maps/visual interface for selecting your fishing locations, and is accessible via a variety of electronic devices such as smartphones and computers. There are 2 different web links for FACTS: one for use with a computer, one for use with a smartphone. Please contact me if you need your login information. If you are currently using paper forms but would like to change 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 features of the online reporting system. Think about signing up for online reporting in 2020.

**Reminders**

\* All charter fishing reporters must report non-fishing months when you were not actively fishing.

\* The annual packets for 2020 monthly charter fishing reporting will be sent out to charter fishing operators at the beginning of April.

\* Operators who report online DO NOT receive a reporting packet in the mail but will receive an annual email with information.

\* I will send out reminder emails during the year. For those who report via paper and want to be included on the reminders, please send me your email address.

\* There are fines and penalties which can be imposed for failure to report or not reporting within the timelines defined by statute.

**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 which 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.

**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! 🐾



**Maritime Licensing Specialist**

Lt. Commander USCG (retired)

Charles "Chuck" Kakuska

**SEA K'S LICENSING LORE**

As this unusual winter weather lingers, I feel bad for my ice-fishing friends. Mother Nature was not kind to many of them this year. The annual maritime licensing workload increase is upon us. The turnaround at the national maritime center has been better, provided you do not make any mistakes on your paperwork. If additional information is required, you can add an additional 3 weeks to the application process. I have seen very few of the old forms since my last cannonball article but please remember to only use the new forms. They are the only ones the coast guard will accept. Accurate forms are still the key to a smooth process. Old items deserve repeating. On the applica-

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak



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 is up to you to verify your listing is correct. Please check your listing carefully.

If you do need something changed or corrected,

### Captains! Check Your Website Listing

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 to 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. 🐟



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

(Continued from page 5) . . . . **SEA K'S LICENSING LORE**

tion form, it is the country you were born in, not the county. Uncorrected and corrected vision on your physical and when you sign and date the forms, it is the date you signed it, not your birth date. Hope spring comes soon and you all have a great 2020 season. 🐟



### A Retiree's View over the Transom

By Captain Jim Fenner

I'm in the south of Florida again, and it's warm here. Many reports suggest it's been a very mild winter in Michigan. Most of the state had less than normal snow cover, but that seems to have been offset by more rain. The ice cover on Lake Michigan is hovering around 12 % as I write this (early March). Last year, on this same date it was around 42%. Will that huge difference affect the catch and size of the fish in 2020? In this or future seasons? We know that environmental factors affect the forage base, and hence the fish. Size and health. If the current climate trend continues, the lake will warm up quickly this spring. That should result in a strong early fishing season, and hopefully a strong year class of alewife.

The consent decree negotiations are on full speed ahead, but due to an agreement among the parties, little is known about how well they are going. It will be by far the most important issue for the Association from now until a new settlement is reached. Last year's issues requiring the reduction of the daily bag limit demonstrated how important these

negotiations are for the future of the fishery. Our fishery has suffered in many areas under the terms of the current decree, especially with its lax law enforcement rules. Hopefully we will not agree to another decade's long decree with the same weak tribal law enforcement terms. The pipeline issue still threatens our relatively pristine Lakes. On the plus side there seems to be some hope for a new Cormorant control plan. Let's hope they get it together soon.

Turning my attention to the fishing season past. The Kings were huge, but the catches were small. The DNR has committed to planting more Kings. Will that increase the catch? Will the sizes be smaller again in a year or so? Will there be enough bait to sustain this larger plant along with the ever increasing numbers of Lake Trout, which share the bait? Only time will tell, but the die is cast for more salmon in the lake. Here's hoping we have not made a mistake.

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 organized and 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 any changes that may need to be made.

Through the MCBA we can quickly share the information needed to confront the issues we face. We need everyone to be pulling together, and in the

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same direction to achieve the best result for the fishery.

When spring arrives, I'll be back, and if the fish are biting; while I'm not 'tripping' any more, I hope to catch a few for myself, but while I'm doing it, I will also be focusing on these important issues. I hope you will too.

One thing is for sure; I intend to stay in touch with my friends and 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. 🐟

## SHOW TIME



**Show Chairman**  
Captain Rich Haslett - Vice President  
248-542-1563  
taloncharters@gmail.com

As of this writing we are half way through our 2020 shows. Attendance for the simulator has been great along with several membership inquiries to join MCBA. While having conversations with the public there seems to be a lot more interest in fishing charters this year. We've passed out more MCBA brochures this year than years past. Fingers crossed that all captains have a banner season.

We would like to thank the following captains for donating their services this year: Capt. Eric Zwierzchowski (Captain Z Charters), Capt. Andy Willets (FNW Sport Fishing Charters), Capt. Dan Cruchon (Stormy Chinook Charters), Capt. Doug Ward (Xpress Fishing Charters), Capt. Brent Dagget (Sportsman Charters), Capt. Scott Anderson (Far-Fetched Charters).

We would also like to thank the following people for helping us run the booth: Capt. Henry and Marianna Walters, Capt. Doug and Mary Karakas, Capt. Kevin Roberts, Capt. Ed McMillion, Capt. Tony Radjenovich, Capt. Doug Ward, Capt. Andy and Renee Willets. Without the help and donated charters of these people our scholarship fund wouldn't continue to grow. Its never too early for new members to call and add your name for a donated trip to our list for the 2021 show season. 🐟

God bless America and our troops



## Help Wanted

The Michigan Charter Boat Association is looking for help!

We need an Upper Peninsula Director and a Southern Lake Huron Director. Our board members are aging, and starting to step down.

If you truly enjoy your Charter fishing business, and care about the Lakes and areas you fish. Please consider stepping up to be a Port Captain or Director.

Your opinions and knowledge would deeply be appreciated.

Please contact me at:  
charterfishing@wattabite.com or give me a call at 231.409.0963.

Captain Bill Winowiecki  
President  
Michigan Charter Boat Association

## Cookbooks

We still have cookbooks available for anyone who would like to purchase them to sell on your boat. We've been selling a few at each show but could use your help selling what we have left. 🐟



## USCG 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

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(Continued from page 7) ... **USCG Mobile App**



- \* Find the nearest NOAA buoy
- \* Report a hazard
- \* Report pollution
- \* Report suspicious activity
- \* **Request emergency assistance**

The app features an Emergency Assistance button which, with locations services enabled, will call the closest Coast Guard command center.

The app (image to your right) is self-contained, so personal information is stored on the phone and is not sent to the Coast Guard unless the user chooses to send it. The Coast Guard does not track a user's location, and the app does not track a user's location unless the app is being used 🐟

## NEWS BITES

### Next Phase of Asian Carp Barrier not included in 2021 Federal Budget

Presently, the proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2021 includes no funding for the next phase of work for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois, a project approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a "one-way choke point" between the Mississippi River basin through the Chicago Area Waterway System and into the Great Lakes basin. The Illinois River is infested with several varieties of Asian carp, which were imported decades ago to cleanse Southern sewage lagoons and fish farms but escaped into the Mississippi River and invaded many of its tributaries. The Brandon Road Lock and Dam was approved in May 2019 as a way to combat the spread of the fish into the Great Lakes. The approval came shortly after the U.S.



Asian Carp - Source: A. Muir, GLFC



Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the environmental DNA (eDNA) of three bighead carp and three silver carp had been found in Lake Calumet, south of Chicago near the Indiana border.

Last month, a representative with the Army Corps of Engineers confirmed the Brandon Road project was not included in the federal budget. However, they will work with the surrounding states to find funding. Michigan says it remains hopeful. Michigan committed a willingness to contribute \$8 million toward initial stages of a project to prevent Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Eichinger affirmed the commitment in a letter to the U.S. Ar-

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# UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

## MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY

*Inspections and Compliance Directorate*

February 10, 2020  
Washington, DC

Safety Advisory 01-20

### Potential for Positive Drug Test Result from Use of Hemp-Plant Products

This Marine Safety Advisory is to ensure that mariners, marine employers, and sponsoring organizations are aware that some products marketed as hemp or cannabidiol (CBD) may contain enough tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to cause a positive drug test. In accordance with 46 CFR 16.201(c), an individual who fails a chemical test for dangerous drugs must be removed from duties directly affecting the safe operation of the vessel, and is subject to suspension and revocation proceedings against his or her credential under 46 CFR part 5. Use of hemp or CBD products is not accepted as an affirmative defense (acceptable excuse) against a THC-positive drug test result. For these reasons, mariners wishing to avoid a positive THC drug test result should exercise extreme caution when considering the use of any hemp or CBD product because such use could result in the loss of their merchant mariner credential and immediate removal from safety sensitive duties aboard a vessel. This warning applies to hemp and CBD products in any form, including those that are taken by mouth and those that are applied to the skin.

THC is the primary psychoactive component of the Cannabis sativa plant. Hemp and marijuana are different strains of the Cannabis sativa plant and both contain varying concentrations of THC and CBD. THC is considered a dangerous drug because it produces an intoxicating effect on the user and poses safety-risks to vessel operations. The U.S. Coast Guard prohibits THC use by mariners because of its known debilitating effects, and all U.S. Coast Guard-required drug tests screen mariners for use of THC.

Recent changes to Federal and State laws have resulted in a surge in the availability of over-the-counter hemp products and CBD products throughout the United States. Hemp products and CBD products are marketed to the general public in several forms such as food and medicinal products, dietary supplements, oils, cosmetics, and hair products. In some cases, product manufacturers market these products as low in THC, or THC-free. Mariners should be aware that over-the-counter hemp products and CBD products have not been approved as medications by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are not regulated by the FDA. Therefore, users lack federal assurances of their ingredients, THC-content, quality, effectiveness, or safe use. As a result, mariners using these products put themselves at risk of having a THC-positive drug test result.

It remains unacceptable for any U.S Coast Guard credentialed mariner or other safety-sensitive worker working aboard a vessel that is subject to U.S Coast Guard drug testing regulations to use THC. Claimed use of hemp products or CBD products is not an acceptable defense for a THC-positive drug test result.

To learn more about the risks of hemp and CBD products visit the FDA website at <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/what-you-need-know-and-what-were-working-find-out-about-products-containing-cannabis-or-cannabis>.

This Safety Advisory was developed by the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Investigations and Analysis. Questions or comments should be sent to: [DAP1@uscg.mil](mailto:DAP1@uscg.mil).

my Corps of Engineers. The funding would pay for preconstruction, engineering and design of a planned barrier system at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois. Congress has been asked to cover most of the project's \$778 million cost. 🐼



### **US Fish and Wild Service (USFWS) is initiating rulemaking to consider reestablishing management of cormorants**

The Great Lakes regional population of cormorants was estimated to be 326,000 birds in 2009, each eating an estimated 1.3 to 1.6 pounds of fish a day. That equals more than 77 million pounds of fish per year, according to a report from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The birds eat minnows, alewives, shad, round gobies, other prey-fish, and they also devour significant numbers of yellow perch, stocked trout, salmon, walleye, pike, and pan fish.

The vast majority of these cormorants reside in Lakes Michigan and Huron. Their diets consist mostly of alewives and round gobies but also significant numbers of stocked trout,

salmon, and highly valued smallmouth bass, and yellow perch. Although fisheries of 24 states are affected by cormorant depredations, Michigan hosts about 55% of the interior population's breeding pairs and can be considered "ground zero" for negative impacts from cormorants.

In 2016 a federal judge temporarily shut down the control program saying Fish and Wildlife had failed to submit an assessment showing depredation remained necessary. When the ruling came down, residents of coastal communities in the Great Lakes expected the federal agency to quickly do some homework, return to court and prove control is still necessary.

In 2017, the USFWS completed an Environ-

mental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluating options for issuing individual depredation permits to provide relief for aquaculture facilities experiencing direct economic losses from cormorants across 37 central and eastern states and the District of Columbia. The EA analyzed options for the issuance of depredation permits for cormorants where there was either significant economic damage to aquaculture facilities but failed to include potential damage to recreational and commercial fishing by cormorants. Since the publication of the EA, the Service engaged stakeholders to assess the biological, social and economic significance of wild fish-cormorant interactions, and to identify a suite of management alternatives.

As part of ongoing efforts to address conflicts between double-crested cormorants and wild and stocked fisheries, the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) and sought public input on future management options. The rulemaking will consider reestablishing the management of cormorants to protect free-swimming sport and commercial fish. The comment period closed March 9, 2020 and the docket can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-HQ-MB-2019-0103> it was extremely important that a large number of comments from individuals and groups be submitted in support of protecting free-swimming fish. 🐼

### **Record Water Levels Impact Marinas on the Great Lakes**

All of the Great Lakes water levels are above average. Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie set new monthly records for February 2020. The records were previously set on lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron in 1986, and in 1987 on Lake Erie. This season will be very complicated for many marinas.

Breakwaters, retaining walls, islands and other structures, which during normal water cycles would protect the marina basin from wave action, may be partially or completely submerged. In addition the high water levels are wind-driven seiches, which can force water from one end of the lake to the other end. These short period seiche oscillation cycles can create dangerous conditions within a marina basin.

High waters can submerge portions of a marina electrical system. Parts of the electrical system that may be negatively impacted by the high water are distribution panels, cables, junction boxes, power pedestals, and low-level dock lighting. Submerged electrical sources can expose people to lethal levels

(Continued on page 11)

of electricity in the water to a condition known as Electric Shock Drowning (ESD). Even though it will be an inconvenience for boaters, portions of the electrical system affected by the high water may need to be switched off and locked.

Some marinas may be upstream in which boaters need to transit under a bridge or other structures built over the water. The clearance between the water and the bottom side of the bridge may be insufficient to allow boats to safely pass.



Parking lot June 2019 Lake Erie, MI

The Bottom line, be patient. A marina has a duty and responsibility to provide a safe environment for boaters, guests and employees of the marina. Proper management of a waterfront facility is an important element for reducing the risk of hazards that threaten life and property. 🐟

### **Kayak Fisherman Lands 'Record' 500-Pound Black Marlin That Pulled Him 15-Miles Out To Sea During The Fight**

Adam Fisk hooked into an estimated 500-pound Black Marlin which is now the 'unofficial' world record for the largest black marlin caught from a kayak. What's wild is it came just one year after he landed a 450-pounder while fishing the same spot out in front of the Los Buzos Resort.

In billfishing, a 'catch' counts when you get a hand on the leader. You don't need to bring the billfish into the boat and string it up on the dock for it to count. This is a way to preserve the

health of the fisheries. According to David Strege at For The Win, it was 4-hours-37-minutes into the fight before Fisk got his hand on the 15-foot leader and registered an official catch. By that time the 500-pound fish had pulled him 15 MILES away from where he started. 🐟

## *Did You Know:*

### **Lake Huron has 30,000 Islands**

The Great Lakes have 35,000 islands. Of these, 30,000 are in Lake Huron. The majority are sprinkled in Canada's Georgian Bay. Perhaps the most famous island - not only in Huron, but in all of the Great Lakes - is Mackinac Island, the site of sacred grounds for Native Americans and a historically significant battleground from the War of 1812. Manitoulin Island is the largest freshwater island in the world and home to six First Nation tribes.



### **It's the clearest Great Lake**

When invasive zebra and quagga mussels arrived in Lake Huron, they filtered out microorganisms at a rapid clip. A 2017 study by the Michigan Tech Research Institute revealed Lake Huron has surpassed Lake Superior in clarity due, in part, to the introduction of the mussels.

### **It's home to 'Shipwreck Alley'**

There are 14 federal marine sanctuaries in the United States. The only one in the Great Lakes is in Lake Huron. Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary is a 4,300-square-mile preserve near Alpena, Michigan, that holds the remains of 100 known shipwrecks. A combination of rocky shoals and treacherous weather earned the area the nickname 'Shipwreck Alley'. 🐟



The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in late May. Submissions **must** be in by **May 21, 2020**

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



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

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Meeting will be held at the  
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## Charter Fishing Boat 4-Sale

Crestliner 24 foot 1987 sabre hardtop. All charter safety equip., fish finder, downriggers, 2-axle trailer, inboard/out, charter walleye or salmon. Asking \$9,500.00 or best offer. Call Capt. Pat Schiller 231-984-2101 or 231-730-1004 

## ~1st Mates Needed~

Steelhead Charters out of Muskegon is now hiring 1st mates for the 2020 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 


## West Grand Traverse Bay fish cleaning station needs your Help!

The Township has received a grant for \$99,660 from Great Lake Fisheries Trust for construction but needs to find funding for a match to the project. This is where you come in, every penny counts. Website: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/elmwood-fish-cleaning-station>

or

[rebrand.ly/6emymbc](https://rebrand.ly/6emymbc) 

## 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](mailto:SEAKsLic@aol.com) for help with your USCG renewal. 

## CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Questions and answers about Pandemic Viruses:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/index.htm>

### 2019-2020 Flu Season

- ♦ 29 Million - Infected
- ♦ 289 Thousand - hospitalized
- ♦ 16 Thousand - fatalities

Source: Dr. Kevin Most, Chief Medical Officer, Central DuPage Hospital 

## **FINAL NOTICE**

### **2020 Membership Renewal**

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