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G A Z E T T E



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TREATY NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Treaty Negotiations Update: Slow Progress, At Best

Earlier this year, we updated you on the agreement between the State and five Michigan Tribes that has governed Tribal commercial and sportfishing in the northern Great Lakes for the last 20 years. (The map below shows the Tribal areas.) That agreement was set to expire on August 8 of this year and negotiations for a new agreement were ongoing at the time we reported to you. Your Association is an active participant in a coalition of Sportfishing and conservation groups concerned about the Great Lakes fishery that is involved in the negotiations. Others in the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (protectmiresources.com) are the MUCC and the MSSFA, along with a dozen other groups. Recently, several new groups have joined the Coalition to support its efforts.

We reported in the spring that there was a real concern that the 20-year agreement would expire with nothing in place to define the relative rights of state and tribal fishers. Here's where things stand today:

Negotiations with the help of a Mediator are ongoing

This spring, negotiations had been ongoing for six months and not a single issue had been resolved. The parties then asked the Federal Court overseeing this issue to appoint a mediator. The Court did so, appointing former Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Michael Cavanaugh, to serve as the Mediator. Justice Cavanaugh has held several sessions with some or all of the parties. Negotiations have been



made difficult, however, by the existence of the pandemic, which has prevented face-to-face meetings. To be frank, Zoom conferences are simply not the best way to discuss the complex biological, political and social issues facing us. We have suggested to the State, a couple of the Tribes and the Mediator that we should try to hold in-person, small group meetings, with proper distancing, of course, so that the parties can have frank discussions that lend themselves to confidential give and take "across the table." So far, that suggestion has fallen on deaf ears.

No agreements, but some progress

As mentioned above, we reported in the spring that not a single issue had been resolved

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in six months. Unfortunately, the last six months has not provided much progress either. That said, it is fair to say that recently, the parties seem to be coming together on one of the fundamental issues that has to be resolved for a new agreement. With the exception of one Tribe, all of the other parties have agreed on what we think THE fundamental issue for a new agreement is. While we cannot disclose any proposals, responses to proposals or the substance of the parties' discussions, we can say that the parties are now actively engaged in negotiations over a management plan for State and Tribal waters. (Due to a confidentiality agreement between the parties, including the Coalition, we can't get into the specifics of the parties' discussions.)

We should also let you know that we have been actively working with the State, as well as having constructive discussions with certain Tribal representatives and the Mediator on issues facing the parties. Our relationship with the State has been a good one, and though we may not always agree, we have had the opportunity for constructive discussions and to suggest language for including in proposals or a new agreement.

The existing agreement has been extended by the Court

The agreement that has governed Tribal and State fishing in the Treaty waters was set to expire on August 8. In late June and early July, the parties asked the Federal Court to extend the agreement to avoid chaos. The State and Federal governments, along with 4 of the 5 Tribes in the agreement, and the Coalition, supported a request for the Court to extend

the agreement until the end of the year, December 31. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians filed its own request, asking the Court to extend the agreement only until November 8, but on the condition that any future extension would allow the Sault Tribe to fish in ANY waters open to tribal fishing including those "home waters" that were open only to a local tribe. For example, the Sault Tribe was asking the Court to allow it to fish the waters of Grand Traverse Bay, Hammond Bay, Little Traverse Bay and south almost to Pentwater to after November 8 under the rules that apply to the Grand Traverse Band, Bay Mills Indian Community, Little Traverse Band and Little River Band respectively. We understood the Sault Tribe request to be a rejection of the current agreement.

The Court rejected the Sault Tribe request and granted the request sought by all of the other parties and the Coalition. The Court also directed that if additional time was needed after December 31, the parties should request that additional time by early December.

What is next?

The Court has directed the Mediator to report to the Court on September 15 as to the progress of the negotiations. The parties are continuing to meet and exchange proposals and we continue to stay involved. We discuss the negotiations with the Coalition's negotiating team on a regular basis. That team includes Tony Radjenovich (MCBA), Frank Krist (Hammond Bay Anglers), Wes Newberry (Grand Traverse Area Sportfishers), and Bill Winowecki (MCBA), and with Amy Trotter (MUCC). 🐾

God Bless America And Our Troops

"CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

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From the Helm . . .



What a summer!

COVID-19, The Consent Decree; three Commercial Fishing bills. Trying to deal with all of these issues, and more, while

also trying to run a charter boat, and maintain a full time job.

However, I believe that through our efforts, but with great difficulty and much struggling, we are slowly moving forward toward solutions for each of these issues.

Hopefully by next summer there will be a vaccine and/or better treatments for the Covid Virus and it will no longer be such a major issue, but it caused huge problems for us all in the spring. Many of our charter businesses were affected; trips and bookings were down. However, after May 6, when boating and chartering were allowed again, it may have been at least a little beneficial, as people who had been cooped up for months apparently wanted to get outside. In many areas bookings increased.

The three commercial fishing bills are currently stalled in the State Senate Natural Resources Committee. Senator McBroom from Waucedah in the Upper Peninsula, is the chair of this committee and is a strong advocate for commercial fishing interests. I testified on behalf of the MCBA at a commercial fishing hearing in June. I also participated in a conference call on August 12th with Senator McBroom. He believes that the commercial fishing industry should help the MDNR with what he believes is the over population of Walleye in Saginaw Bay. He also believes that commercial fishers on Lake Michigan should be allowed to keep and sell their Lake Trout by-catch. The facts suggest that the whitefish fishery is crashing and that the commercial fishing industry now wants to begin to harvest currently protected game fish. We believe that the commercial fishing industry should be doing research to figure out how to



rehabilitate whitefish, perhaps with hatcheries similar to the ways sport fishing groups rehabilitated Lake Trout and Walleyes. Sport fishing species should continue to be protected from commercial harvest. Sen McBroom says the industry wanted to help with Walleye and Lake trout but weren't allowed. The decline in the commercial fishery began several years ago. Now would be good time for them to begin to attempt to rehabilitate the Whitefish fishery,

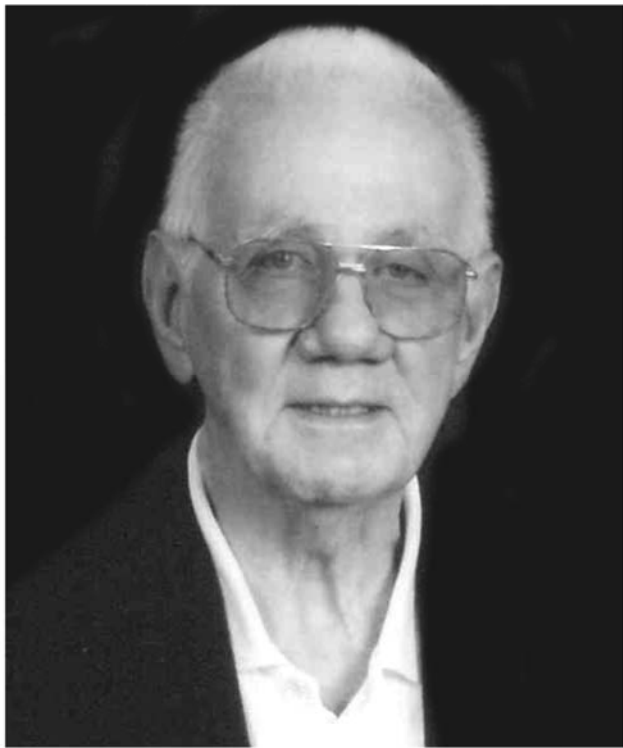
The Consent Decree with the Tribes expired on August 8th. Judge Maloney issued an order to extend the Decree until December 31st. He denied a tribal request to permit the decree rules to lapse and allow tribal fishing by all means and methods on all of Lake Michigan. Negotiations are going on in small groups. Details are confidential.

The COVID-19 issue has made it very difficult for all sports groups who are trying to raise funds from their dues and other means to share in the cost of the negotiations by the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources. Steve Schultz and Chris Patterson are working endless hours trying to protect our sport fishing areas and rights. Please consider making a donation to the MCBA Tribal Decree fund when you renew your MCBA membership. We have drained our funds, and we have a long way to go. We truly need strong financial help from our membership. If we fail to achieve a successful new agreement, more nets and possibly even gill nets, maybe coming to a port near you.

Unfortunately the Association had to cancel the MCBA Fall Conference due to the COVID meeting restrictions. We are now looking to find a place for the 2021 Fall Conference. Motel and Conference rates have more than doubled recently, making the search more difficult.

There will be a MCBA Board Meeting on September 27th at the Doherty Hotel at 10:00 AM. All MCBA meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in attending a board meeting, please contact the director for

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MCBA Loses Longtime Trusted Friend

In Memory of Captain Kenneth R. Whitney
September 9, 1933 ~ July 5, 2020 (age 86)


It is with great sadness we say Bon Voyage to Captain Kenneth R. Whitney. Captain Whitney passed away on Sunday, July 5, 2020 at home, surrounded by family. He was born on September 9, 1933 in Grand Rapids, MI to

the late Richard and Joyce (Blain) Whitney.

Captain Whitney was President of the Michigan Charter Boat Association from 1981-1984. Captain Whitney was awarded the MCBA Annual Award for outstanding service to the Association in 1997. Ken was a strong advocate of MCBA and Michigan's Charter Boat Industry. His no nonsense demeanor was key to successful negotiations leading to the 1985 Tribal Consent Decree.

Respected by his peers Ken's views were formative to the Success of MCBA's early development as a respected NGO (non-governmental organization).

He also served as President of the Grand Haven Charter Boat Association. Ken was an avid sportsman who loved to hunt and fish, and gave back to his community coaching Little League. His family was most important to him, and he cherished the time he spent with them.

Ken proudly served his country in the US Navy from 1951 to 1955, during the Korean War Era. Ken worked as a Police Officer for the Michigan State Police for 25 years, retiring in 1982. Upon his retirement from the Michigan State Police, he was then owner/operator of Whitney Charters for 35 years, retiring in 2006. 

(Continued from page 3) *From the Helm* . . .

your region.

All of these issues will require a great deal of time, money and effort, over the next several months. We will be working at it as hard as we can. It would be wonderful if all of these issues could be resolved successfully by this time next year. We are hopeful.

Captain Bill Winowiecki
President

Michigan Charter Boat Association 



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

Hello Everyone



As the season starts to wind down, this is just a little look back at the Spring fishing.

I was looking forward to fishing for Atlantic Salmon because the past few years we had a pretty good run of them. As this season came and went it was hard to catch one. I caught only a few. The time I spent fishing for them was not worth it. At least the Walleyes were there.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak



If you have fishing reports you'd like to share with potential charter guests send them to us. The reports are posted on our website/Facebook page and the name of your business will appear on the post. You must include a picture; it makes the post more enticing for guests to contact you about a fishing trip.




Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: MCBAmembers.com

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In long past years when we had Salmon in the Spring, the colder the winter the better the fishing. This year the winter was the warmest I can ever remember.

On another note as I fish Lake St. Clair, I notice that the boat traffic is up much higher than past years. The weekends are almost unfishable, in my opinion. The people that run the boats have no clue on how to drive a boat. You really have to be on guard on the weekends when you're out on the water. Boat sales are up 75% this year and it shows. I think everyone that buys any type of watercraft should have to take a boater's safety course before they get out on the water. This should be mandatory.

I hope everyone is safe and having a good season. ~~~~~



Southern Lake Huron

By Captain Ken Deaton - MCBA Director


To Fish or Not to Fish


This year has been a one if a kind. The Covid Virus shut us down in the spring and when the time came for us to make the decision of fishing or not fishing it was a decision that was well thought over. We decided to leave our boat in the barn for this season. The thought of the social distancing, sanitizing, masking, and possible exposure to the virus was a well thought over decision. We unlike many of our fellow charter Captains

Pictures of fish must be clean (no blood showing) preferably taken on your boat on the water. It's a great opportunity to showcase your business with just a little effort and zero cost.

The MCBA has over 579 members currently enrolled for the 2020 season.

We will be mailing out the 2021 membership towards the beginning of October.

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

were lucky enough to have our boat paid for so the decision to leave it set in the barn was a much easier one. It was surely not a profitable season but our customers did understand why we decided not to run our charter service this year. We are surely hoping that our next year's season will be a little more normal again, but when you stop and think about how things are looking right now it is highly unlikely. We will need to change how things are done on the boat and how we deal with this virus. Our customer's health should always be at the top of the list this is for sure. So as we deal with this deadly virus let us pray that there is a cure that will let us deal with it and get back to enjoying our time out on the lake with our customers again in the near future. I ask that you all stay safe and healthy and look forward to seeing you out on the lake again soon. 



Southern Lake Michigan

By Captain CJ Anastor - MCBA Director

Hello everyone, hope your seasons have been filled with lots of fun and many fish. As the season starts making its way out let's give a little report.

Covid-19: For most of us here in Grand Haven we have noticed a fair increase in the amount of charters we are running this year. I have seen more families coming out too take a charter fishing trip this year then I have in the

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(Continued from page 5) **Directors' Report**

13 years I've been working on the boats. It's a good sign to see and more and more people spending their money locally. Tackle shops are seeing more than normal business. This is good! I can say that the guys in the southern lake region have done an exceptional job following new state protocol when it comes to cleaning and disinfecting. People are posting their pictures all over Facebook with mask on and it appears that we are all making the best out of the executive orders.

Fishing in the southern part of the lake has been steady this summer. Talking with the guys in Saugatuck and Holland the trout fishery has been very solid amongst a fair number of kings. Further down the lake towards St. Joe/ Michigan city, reports are showing lots of Coho and steelhead being caught off shore. As far as my home port, Grand Haven has been pretty good. Some Lake Trout being caught with a mixed bag of Coho and Kings. It has been noticed the summer run of steelhead came in lower numbers this year. The amount of bait is incredible, marking bait balls taking 80 feet of your graph up. We fished one morning where the bait was taking most of the screen up all day. Cleaning fish with 8-12 Alewife's in the stomach is a good sign. There has been multiple 30 pound fish caught out of Grand Haven this year and 13 that I know of from Manistee to South Haven.

Tournaments- Most of the trail was shut down this year due to the pandemic. Social distancing and no large gatherings brought Michigan City, New Buffalo, St. Joe, Holland, and Grand Haven tournaments to a halt. Saugatuck, Ludington, and Manistee resumed with a few slight changes like online captains meetings and weigh in being done out of a vehicle. Let's recap Saugatuck quick, the fish were around and they were big, Captain Eric Schippa, owner of "Blue Chip" put together what could be the biggest tournament box in the history of the tournament trail. Eric weighed in a 76.05lb 333 box with three fish at 25.60 pounds, 26.65 pounds, 23.80 pounds. Incredible fishing.

Moving on its safe to say talking with the guys along the lakeshore here in the south-


ern lake region of Lake Michigan the fishing has been steady and the numbers of charters are up. Hope you all had a great summer and for you that are still fishing tight lines! ~~~~



Central Lake Michigan

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

At this time last year the first sentence of my article read "This has been the year of the big King". That has not been the case this season. Captain Chucks II weighed in 84 Kings 30 lbs. and over last year. This year they have weighed 20 Kings 30 lbs. and over. Ten of those were caught in Pere Marquette Lake. The last four- or five-years Central Lake Michigan has had its best King fishing the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks in August. This year during that time frame Lake Trout made up the bulk of most captain's catch and Kings were scarce. We had a short-lived two-week window mid to late August when some decent catches of Kings were caught but the captain's I talked to were very disappointed with King Salmon returns this season. Captains have been seeing large schools of bait fish on their sonar units and big Alewives in the stomachs of their catch. The signs in Central Lake Michigan seem to support planting more King Salmon. On a brighter note I made a trip out to Ludington's State Park and saw Coho Salmon jumping at the dam. It looks like the Coho plants in the Sable River made by the MDNR have paid off. There were several people fishing and lots of onlookers watching the fish activity.

If you are interested in providing news from your area of our region, please give me a call. (877 456-3474) ~~~~




Northern Lake Michigan

By Captain Tony Radjenovich - MCBA Director

Captains, I hope all is well. It certainly has been a strange season. When it started, we did not know if we would be allowed to have a season. Once we were able to get started and customers

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were able to schedule their travel arrangements, I feel that there were as many eager customers as ever, probably a few new ones as well. Many of us practiced Covid-19 safety protocols to keep captain, crews, and mates safe and I feel the customers appreciated the efforts. As I have talked to captains who fish northern Lake Michigan, they have suggested that the lake trout fishing was good but there needs to be more opportunities for salmon. For all of us that fish northern Lake Michigan contact the Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisor Committee Chair, Denny Grinold and the MDNR Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator, Jay Wesley and let them know your concerns. The fish stocking of the lake is determined in part at the LMCFAC.

We need interested members to get involved with the Commercial Fishing Bills before the end of the year. Please call your State Senator and let them know how you feel on allowing Michigan Commercial Fisherman to harvest game fish, most notably Lake Trout and Walleye. Please contact me if you would like more information on the Commercial Fishing Bills and the Consent Decree negotiation. It would be my pleasure to hear from you. I wish you all good health and for those who are still fishing a very productive end to the 2020 season. ~~~~~



Upper Peninsula
By Captain Dick Stafford - MCBA Director
Past MCBA President

Daylight hours are dwindling, temperatures are slowly dropping, larger fish are showing up closer to shore and the smell of Fall is in the air. The change of season is approaching the Upper Peninsula. As politicians are stating, "it is a time of change". As salmon fishing was once a staple in the U.P., few have shown up this season. These were mainly caught off the tip of the Garden Peninsula. The action did not last very long as many fish left to stage for spawning elsewhere. One thing for sure, the size of these fish were larger. A number of 30 pounders were caught which leads me to believe that one and two year old fish were nowhere to be found. Steelhead

were also lacking this year. Few were caught compared to other years. Stream fishing was somewhat better this year when rivers were down enough to wade. Brook and brown trout graced quite a few tables this summer.

Warm water species like walleye, northers, bass, perch, and other pan fish kept anglers busy for most of the season. Northers were plentiful, bass provided great action, and perch are making a comeback and pan fish kept youngsters interested in fishing. The season started off for walleye with many undersized walleye showing up. Occasionally a keeper would be caught but there were still lots of fish. Local charters following the action were having very good luck with good catches. Numbers of charters were down from other years partly because clients were staying closer to home for fish. Although tourism was up in the Upper Peninsula, numbers of fishing clients were down.


What does this all mean to the Upper Peninsula? We depend greatly on tourism. People flock to our great part of Michigan to take advantage of our natural resources. In the resource of fish, the fishery must be protected. This includes improving the habitat restocking, and keeping a handle on the numbers of fish in the area. At one time, eggs were taken from the healthy Bay de Noc walleye, raised in state hatcheries, and distributed throughout the state. So where have all of our local fish gone? Spawning numbers are down. Officials need to take better care of these fish to preserve the fishery for the future. Protecting the natural resources should not be political but ethical if we are to preserve for the future generations.

The Upper Peninsula is indeed a very unique place. We call it "Some Place Special". Waterfalls abound, spectacular scenery is everywhere, residents are friendly, and we care about our resources. We just want the state caretakers to do the same. This Covid 19 has taught us a great deal. Never take anything for granted. Live life to the fullest and be accountable for one's own actions. We will get through this pandemic and we will be stronger than we were before but will our fishery make it. That is the question. A famous sports figure once

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said, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going". This we will do.

Next Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, mark your calendars for places to visit and enjoy and include the Upper Peninsula. There is no place better. 



A Retiree's View over the Transom

By Captain Jim Fenner
Past MCBA Secretary

A View from over the Transom


This summer is like no other in my lifetime, as Covid-19 upset almost everything. Most recently the announcement of the cancellation of our annual fall conference. I will surely miss the chance to join with member friends and families from all over Michigan. I will miss the opportunity to see/hear/ and interact with MDNR staff and other speakers. I will miss the information that I always glean from these annual meetings. I believe this will be the first fall or spring conference that I will miss since I became a Captain member in 1986.

However, the work of the Association goes on. Charter fishing resumed on May 7, after being closed at the start of the season due to the virus. After a slow start, especially affecting those in the southern ports, business seems to have picked up, and we seemed to be finishing strong. In my home port of Ludington, some Captains reported more charter calls than they could handle as the season went forward.

Again, here in Ludington, after a strong early season consisting primarily of Lake Trout, the fishing slowed considerably as the Trout spread out in deeper water. It was slim pickin's for Salmon most of the season, with many more slow days than good days. On the rare good days, the salmon were good sized and healthy. While there seemed to be too few salmon, there did seem to be lot of bait. Many Captains report seeing lots of alewife this summer. Perhaps it's time for the MDNR to increase the plants. Hopefully this issue will be discussed during the virtual lake committee meetings to be held this fall.

In spite of all the problems associated with the Covid pandemic, our officers continue to have to deal with threats to the fishery and the charter industry. The consent Decree negotiations had to be extended by a federal judge, apparently due to intransigence on the part of at least one of the tribes. Negotiations continue in secret, with the outcome ominously unknown. Meanwhile, commercial fishers have found a compliant legislator, and are pushing hard for changes in the law, which would reverse the long held philosophy which has protected sport fish from commercial harvest. Should the legislation they are pursuing prevail, it would result in significant harvesting of the sport fish stocks which have been rehabilitated from near extinction by our sport fish dollars. We will need the support of our members and other sport fishing interests to defeat this threat to our sport fishing charter industry.

I look forward to the end of the pandemic, and a return to seeing my fishing friends and colleagues in person at Lake Committee and other meetings. And especially our Association conferences. Meanwhile, I will continue to support the officers of the Association as much as I can virtually as they work for us on these difficult issues during these extremely unusual times.

Thinking of retiring or taking a break, but want to keep in touch with you MCBA friends and Colleagues? Become a retired member. It's easy and not expensive. Look at the membership page of the website for details. Tight lines. 




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

SEA K'S LICENSING LORE

As our world remains upside down and backwards, I'm hoping you are all well and staying safe. For those of you who were able to get some fishing in this year, I hope it was a successful season. The Coast Guard just published another Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB), 08-20, change 3, dated 8/20/20. Of major interest to our members, if your current MMC expires between

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March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020, the expiration date has been extended until March 21, 2021. This extension DOES NOT pertain to your medical certificate. If your medical certificate expires between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020, they are only extended until December 31, 2020. If you fall into either of the above categories, you must carry a copy of the MSIB with your expired credential when you are working. A glimmer of light has been the re-opening of the REC in Toledo along with 7 others. They will only be open to administer examinations. All examinations will be by appointment only and only five people allowed in the exam room at one time. Masks will be required. I am still able to deliver paperwork to the REC in Toledo even though they are only open for exams, so I encourage everyone to continue completing your paperwork and not wait until the last minute. The current turnaround time for a standard renewal is about 2 months. If there are any issues with your paperwork, you can add another month to the timetable. I'm sorry there won't be a conference this year, but it should mean we will have plenty to talk about next year. 



To our extraordinary clients.

Wow! 2020 has brought out some unbelievable events. We hope each of you are finding a semblance of normal and getting trips booked.

Who would have thought, the U.S. economy was booming at a level we have never seen before.....and then we got hit with the virus and our world has changed. The way we do business, how we interact with people, and even how we go about our daily lives and activities, has all changed. We must adapt and move forward.

We know each of you have had to adapt significantly in how you conduct business. We see pictures from several of the guides and captains that people are still catching fish and adding great memories as a result of you put-

ting them on fish. At Charter Lakes, nearly all staff have been working from their homes since mid-march, and we still are. It has not been an easy transition for us as we are a very close group who enjoy working together in an office, but this change has forced us to re-think and develop new processes. We are still adapting to our new environment and doing our best to service you all.

We continue to see a changing property insurance industry that has had its challenges with profit recently, marine being especially targeted with a reduction in international property re-insurance capacity. This has resulted in more insurers exiting the recreational and commercial marine insurance sectors, and increased premiums in all segments of property insurance.

As we continue to experience unusual weather events across the country we expect to see other hurricanes threaten to make land-fall in the U.S. before the 2020 hurricane season is over. The less damage we sustain, the more marine insurance options we will have open to us and the less likely premiums will increase.

Gallagher Charter Lakes is actively working with organizations that focus on protecting Fishing Guide businesses by combating unnecessary regulations, and supporting legislation to eliminate illegal charters, for all our safety and the future of our industry.

As the 2020 season winds down we all are hopeful for what 2021 holds and are praying for a solution that will protect people and fill your boats in 2021.

Tight lines



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NEWS BITES

More Great Lakes Trouble as new research finds Asian carp could establish in Saginaw Bay

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - According to a recent study finds bighead and silver carp - two invasive fish collectively known as bigheaded carp - are capable of surviving and establishing itself in Michigan's Saginaw Bay.

In simulations that account for predators and prey of Asian carp, environmental conditions in Saginaw Bay, and different rates of first-year survival, scientists out of Great Lakes Environmental Research Center Laboratory (GLERL) determined it might take as few as 20 individuals to establish within the bay. 


Michigan Sees Rise in Hunting, Fishing During Coronavirus Pandemic

ANN ARBOR, Mich. Michigan DNR says they've seen a rise in the number of people heading outdoors to fish and hunt. It's a trend the DNR says they first noticed with the spring turkey season, more hunters, including first time hunters and those who may have been away from hunting for years.

"Something people really have been able to do, and will continue to be able to do, is be outside and enjoy hunting and enjoy being outdoors recreating and so we hope that will

continue this fall," said Rachel Leightner, Wildlife Outreach Coordinator.

The DNR says they've seen an increase in license sales for every season that's happened since the pandemic started. FPS Archery and Firearms in Cadillac says they're seeing more first time and returning hunters than usual. "Most of it's been people who have either have done it previously and haven't had the time now who are getting back into it, or we've gotten a lot of newcomers this year, just starting to pick it up, looking to get into bow hunting again," said owner Mitchell McEachern.

An increase in license sales can have long term benefits for conservation efforts. "It's difficult to say with certainty how those funds will be spent, but we do know we'll have an increase in money for conservation due to the increase in licenses being sold this year," said Leightner. 

DNR enhancing patrols during fall salmon run amid spike in illegal activity

The Betsie and Platte rivers, brimming with salmon, attract thousands of anglers every September. A recent spike in illegal activities during the fall salmon run has prompted the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to commence enhanced patrols.

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#familyfishing



Michigan Charter Boat Association

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#familyfishing #makingmemories #puremichigan



The Michigan Charter Boat Association is synonymous with safety and professionalism, so that meant once the state opened up charter fishing the Association needed to come up with a strategy to make customers feel comfortable booking charters. Some of the first posts to MCBA Facebook page were of masks and hand sanitizer on the helm. In weeks following it was angler's holding fish with face coverings. Next came pictures of entire families taking charters followed by the hashtag #familyfishing. Hashtags turn topics and phrases into clickable links in posts on your profile or Facebook page. When people click a hashtag or search for a hashtag, they'll see all results that contain that hashtag. #familyfishing caught on. As the season

progressed more and more captains appeared to be posting pictures of families having fun, using the hash tag. Did you book more families than in the past years, family charters are certainly more rewarding when you see those eyes light up with that "first fish" on the line. Let us know how your season went. Any member captain can post pictures to the MCBA Facebook page, just navigate to the page and post a picture, post your business name and a story about the experience. The Association will remove photos of fish boxes or hanging fish. Individuals or families holding fish are the best and receive the most likes and reposts.

For help, email

Maxine@michigancharterboats.com 



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'In God We Trust'

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"Local businesses and communities open their doors and welcome anglers every fall," said Lt. Joe Molnar, the DNR's district law supervisor who oversees officers in northwest Michigan. "Many people treat the area and fishing resources with care and respect, but those who live and work in these communities are tired of those who continue to snag fish, litter and exhibit poor behavior."

Conservation officers will be out in force to crack down on laws regarding illegal fishing and general community disruption, including illegal snagging (catching a fish using hooks without it taking bait with its mouth), exceeding daily fishing limits, unlawful camping and parking, trespassing, littering, and loud and abusive behavior.


Anyone found guilty of illegally taking fish

may be charged with a misdemeanor, lose their fishing license, serve jail time and face fines and costs.

Last September, conservation officers worked more than 900 hours and made 3,875 contacts in 14 days patrolling the fall fish runs in northwest Michigan. At least four people served jail time.

Last week, the Michigan Natural Resource Commission approved new regulations for the Betsie River Homestead Dam in Benzie County to prevent additional erosion, littering and other illegal activities. 

USCG LICENSE RENEWAL HELP

Lt. Commander, USCG (retired) Charles (Chuck) Kakuska a Maritime Licensing Specialist. Give him a call at (734)847-1723 - SEAKsLic@aol.com for help with your USCG license renewal. 

2021 Membership Renewal

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The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in December. Submissions **must** be in by **November 20, 2020**

Send photos and news items to:
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