



cannonball

G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • FALL 2021

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & BUSINESS MEETING

Bay City, MI — The 2021 Annual Michigan Charter Boat Association Business Conference will be held over the weekend of October 15, 16 and 17, 2021 at The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bay City - Riverfront.

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 (989) 891-6000, and ask for the MCBA special rate (\$109 per night) the address is One Wenonah Park Place - Bay City, Michigan, 48708

hilton.com/en/hotels/mbsbcdt-doubletree-bay-city-riverfront/

Reservation Code: ABS

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 Bay City area (Frankenmuth is 20 miles away).

The Annual Conference will begin on Friday evening Oct. 15, 2021 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



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bay City - Riverfront
One Wenonah Park Place - Bay City, Michigan, 48708
Ph.: 989-891-6000 - Group Code: ABS

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 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.

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From the Helm . . .



As this issue goes to press, I can begin to look back on the year, the summer and the season. It's been a busy summer. Tribal negotiations, many meetings, many negotiations related phone calls; even the fishing has been tough at times as it seems unusually windy this year.

On the plus side of fishing, we are seeing a few more silver fish this summer. There seem to be a bunch of young king salmon swimming around the Manitou Islands.

As I went through the summer on the water I've been noticing a safety issue that I would like to bring to the attention of our members and those who read this newsletter. I have noticed that it seems that we have more and more small boat Captains running at high speed in the fog. This is very dangerous, and could easily result in getting people killed.

GPS guidance is great, but a 1000 ft. freighter or a tug pulling a barge with 700 ft. of nearly invisible cable between them, coupled with a small boat running at high speed in fog is a recipe for disaster! Even with radar the cable between a tug and a barge is invisible, creating a potentially deadly situation. Misjudging the track and crossing angle with a 1'000 footer, could also be deadly. Even worse if it happens at high speed without radar.

I know I did it with my small boat before I started chartering. I always tried to be care-

ful, but I now realize I wasn't always very smart. Wisdom comes with knowledge and experience. Slowdown in the fog! Our clients count on us to bring them home safe! Our families, too.

The Tribal Decree negotiations continue. It has been and continues to be a very slow process. It will be great once the confidentiality agreements are ended, and we will be able to inform the membership as to what has been going on and who the major players are.

As this drags on the expenses continue to mount. Please consider making a donation to the Tribal Decree fund. I know this has gone on for a very long time. I think it may be part of the tribe's strategy to bankrupt the sports fishing community. They would like us to quit showing up and standing firm to protect our fishery. That can never happen.

There will be a fund raising event for the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources on October 23rd at the VFW Hall on Veteran's Drive in Traverse City. It will be a spaghetti dinner with a raffle and guest speakers.

The MCBA fall conference will be held October 15, 16, and 17th in Bay City at the Double Tree by Hilton. It will be great to meet in person again, and we hope we will be able to catch up with all the news, and events of the past year.

I hope to see you at the MCBA fall conference and/or some of the meetings this fall and winter.

Captain Bill Winowiecki - President

Michigan Charter Boat Association -

"CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

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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.

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. 🐟

Tribal- State Negotiations Update

As most of you are well aware, negotiations have been ongoing between representatives of five northern Michigan tribes, the State of Michigan and the Federal government. The negotiations are aimed at reaching a new agreement between all of those governments to divide up and manage the portion of the Great Lakes fishery located in the Michigan waters north of Grand Haven in Lake Michigan, north of Alpena in Lake Huron, and roughly east of Marquette in Lake Superior. The species being discussed include whitefish, salmon and lake trout, among others. The hoped-for agreement will replace an agreement reached in 2000.

The MCBA is participating in the negotiations through its involvement in the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources. MCBA is directly represented on the Coalition bargaining team by Bill Winowicki and Tony Radjenovich.

The Coalition was formed several years ago to bring together several organizations dedicated to recreational fishing and the fisheries in the Great Lakes. In addition to the MCBA, the MUCC, the Steelheaders and several other organizations dedicated to recreational fishing are part of the Coalition. The Coalition has the

status of a *amicus curiae*, or “friend of the Court,” in the federal court case that is the underlying basis for the negotiations.

Since our last update, several negotiation sessions have been held by the parties in an attempt to reach an agreement. At a status conference in Kalamazoo in June, the parties and an appointed Mediator, former Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Michael Cavanagh, reported that negotiations were proceeding but that they were slow going. Due to a confidentiality agreement that all who want to participate in the negotiations must sign, we cannot give you great detail on the pace of negotiations or even the subjects being addressed, though we can say that the topics being addressed are the critical issues facing the fishery and are many of the same ones that were addressed in the previous agreement. The topics addressed in the previous agreement included how the fishery for each species would be divided between tribal and State interests, how that fishery would be managed and how the agreement would be enforced. Of course, the Great Lakes fishery is a lot different than it was 20 years ago with, among other things, the collapse of whitefish and salmon stocks. These changes present additional challenges not present when the last agreement was negotiated.

On a side note, you may have heard that there was an objection by some to our legal counsel’s participation in a Michigan Out of Doors program in March. Those objections were addressed and our attorney, Steve Schultz, is back in the negotiations.

On Friday, September 10, all of the participants will be attending a status conference called by the Court in Kalamazoo. It is expected that the parties will report on the status of the negotiations and discuss with the Court how things might proceed in the future. This court hearing could well have a major impact on the course of future negotiations. We’ll report what we can in our next edition. 🐟

Next Tribal Update:

MCBA Conference 10/16/2021

See You There! 🐟

MCBA Conference Agenda, Saturday, October 16, 2021

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast Courtesy of the MCBA
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Introductory Remarks & Pledge of Allegiance Bill Winowiecki, President, Michigan Charter Boat Association Introduction of Program Moderator , Megan Gass, Educator, Sea Grant
9:15 – 10:00 AM	Jim Dexter, DNR Chief of Fishery, Steve Schultz Lawyer – Coalition to Protect, Michigan Resources Attorney - Tribal Negotiations updates
10:00 - 10:20 AM	Break
10:20 – 10:35 AM	Jay Wesley – Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator
10:35 – 10:50 AM	Randy Claramunt – Lake Huron Basin Coordinator
10:50 - 11:05 AM	Todd Wills – Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair Research Manager
11:05 – 11:40 AM	Jim, Jay, Randy and Todd – Round Table Discussion
11:40 – 12:00	Donna Wesanders Replacement; Charter Boat reporting
Noon–1:00 PM	Lunch Courtesy of Michigan Charter Boat Association
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Jeff Tropic, Your Charter Business
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Megan Gass, Sea Grant Program
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Chuck Kakuska, Sea K's Maritime Service USCG License Renewal & Updates
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Maxine Appleby – How to create a winning post on Facebook
Break	
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Social Hour – Cash Bar
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Dinner
8:00 – 8:30 PM	Introductory Remarks, MCBA Bill Winowiecki, Amy Trotter, MUCC Executive Director
8:30 - ?	MCBA and Pistis Awards; MCBA Tackle Raffle

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

MCBA Business Meeting, Sunday Oct. 17, 2021

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Coffee and Deluxe Breakfast Buffet, Courtesy of MCBA (Free to Members and Spouses).
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. 🐟



SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak



The MCBA has over 582 members currently enrolled for the 2021 season.

The USCG imposed a 50% random drug testing rate for all merchant mariners due to a higher than normal failure rate amongst captains and mates. Do not be upset if you are called twice in a season for a random drug

test. We do not pick the candidates, our MRO service First Advantage maintains the random selection pool, ensures testing throughout the year at the current USCG rate.

Membership applications will be mailed out in October. Sign up by December 31st to avoid having to pay for an extra pre-employment drug test to be reinstated in our drug and alcohol program, plus you will be pulled from the MCBA website. 🦶

See You at the Annual MCBA Business Conference



Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: [MCBAmembers.com](https://www.mcbamembers.com)



DNR Fisheries News

Donna Wesander, DNR Fisheries
Charter Reporting Program
email: wesanderd@michigan.gov
Mobile phone 231-330-2845

PLEASE NOTE: The landline phones at MDNR Charlevoix Fisheries Station have been disconnected. My work phone is mobile number: 231-330-2845.

How did the Spring & Summer go so quickly? One highlight of the summer was news of a new state record Chinook Salmon (king salmon) caught in Michigan AND it was caught during a charter fishing trip! The 47.86-pound, 47.5 inch Chinook was caught in Lake Michigan on August 7 near Ludington, Michigan aboard a vessel operated by Captain Bobby Sullivan of Icebreaker Charters. This fish breaks the state record of 46.06 pounds which had been held since 1978 (43 years!). The current state record fish list reveals that state records for fish aren't broken often. Here are the current state of Michigan records for the main sport fish: Brown Trout, 41.45 pounds, caught in the Manistee River in 2009; Coho Salmon, 30.56 pounds, caught in the Platte River in 1976; Lake Trout, 61.5 pounds, caught in Lake Superior in 1997; Rainbow Trout, 26.5 pounds, caught in Lake Michigan in 1975; Great Lakes Musky, 58 pounds, caught in Lake Bellaire in 2012; Smallmouth Bass, 9.98 pounds, caught in Indian River in 2016; Walleye, 17.19 pounds, caught in the Pine River in 1951; and Yellow

Perch, 3.75 pounds, caught in Lake Independence in 1947!



New Michigan State Record 47.86-pound, 47.5 inch Chinook was caught in Lake Michigan on August 7 near Ludington, aboard a vessel operated by MCBA Captain Bobby Sullivan of Icebreaker II Charters.

Michigan's state-record fish are recognized
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2021 MCBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bay City - Riverfront
One Wenonah Park Place • Bay City, MI 48708
989-891-6000 - Group Code: ABS

October 15, 16 & 17, 2021

Oct. 15 Evening (social @ 6:pm) Oct. 16 (seminars, dinner, & raffle) Oct. 17 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 **10/07/21** 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 \$109 per night. Call the hotel directly at 989-891-6000 and mention that you will be there for the MCBA meeting (Reservation Code: ABS) cutoff date: 9/24/2021.

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 

*MCBA President Bill has
PROMISED another great
raffle at Saturday's Dinner,
Don't Miss IT!*



by weight only. To qualify for a state record, fish must exceed the current listed state-record weight, and identification must be verified by a DNR fisheries biologist. Maybe your charter will be the next to catch a record breaking fish!

To view a current list of Michigan state fish records by species, visit Michigan.gov/StateRecordFish.

Charter Reporting Reminders

* All charter fishing reporters must report non-fishing months when you were not actively fishing. Unless you inform us, as we do not know if you were fishing, not fishing, or forgot to send in your report.

* When you are done fishing for the season, you can advance report non-fishing months for the fall and winter by reporting online in FACTS; paper reporters, note on your last report of the season when you are done fishing and when you intend to start again in 2022.

* 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. 🐟



Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair

by Captain Henry Walters
MCBA Director



Hello everyone

This season is just about done. It's been long, hot, and busy for me and hopefully for you as well.

Now that the border is open again, most of the St. Clair captains are running again. It's been a long shut down. Hope it stays open. It looks like the pandemic is not done with us

yet.

Like the last couple of years, the weekend boat traffic on Lake St. Clair is almost unbearable. Trying to fish after 12:00pm is impossible – there is no place to go and fish to get away from the boat traffic.

It seems like most of the weekend boaters have no clue on how to operate their vessel in a courteous manner. Makes me wonder if the operators had taken a boaters safety course or if they've just forgotten the rules and regulations. I believe that it should be mandatory for every operator to take the boaters safety course – no matter what kind of watercraft.

On another note, the fall conference in Bay City is coming up in October. Please try to attend. You won't regret it. It's a good chance to catch up with other captains and attend interesting seminars. Hope to see you there!

Capt. Henry Walters 🐟



Central Lake Michigan

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

The big news coming from Central Lake Michigan is the new state and Great Lakes record King Salmon. MCBA & LCBA member Captain Bobby Sullivan fishing out of Ludington hooked up 19 year old Luis Hernandez Martinez with the biggest King ever caught in the Great Lakes. It weighed 47.86 pounds. Captain Bobby's charter boat is the Icebreaker II. Congratulations to Captain Bobby and Luis Martinez on their record catch.

Fishing has picked up from last season. King numbers are up and anglers in Central Lake Michigan are reporting catching more Coho Salmon this year than the past several years. It looks like the Ludington Charter Boat Association and MDNR net penning project of Coho Salmon in the Sable River at Ludington's State Park is paying off. Ports of Ludington and Pentwater reported catching Coho since early March. Catches of Coho this early are unprecedented for this area. Not only have catches improved but both Coho and Kings are running larger in size this year. As of Wednesday Au-

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gust 25th Captain Chucks II reported thirty one 30 plus pound King Salmon weighed in at their tackle shop in Ludington. It sure appears with all these big fish and the amount of bait being seen, that there is room for more King Salomon to be planted.

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



Northern Lake Michigan

By Captain Tony Radjenovich - MCBA Director

Captains, as the 2021 fishing season is starting to wane, I hope that all of you had an excellent year. I hope that you had plenty of clients booking trips, creating fantastic memories on your boats catching a lot of fish and you all were safe while building your businesses. Many of us still have trips to complete as summer turns to autumn. This is the time of year we all need to ensure that we have scheduled time to attend the MCBA Annual Conference. This year's agenda is filled with informative presentations. As we begin to wrap up the fishing season some of our members and the Board begin to work in earnest advocating for charter boat businesses. This advocacy is at many levels: Legislation, Policy/Regulations, Fish Stocking, Environmental and many other issues that may impact our charter fishing businesses.

Currently the Tribal Consent Decree, the agreement that outlines the how the Tribal Ceded Waters of Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and Lake Superior are co-managed by the Tribes, State of Michigan, and the Federal Government, is still in negotiations. The Federal Court, Judge Maloney, most recently extended the negotiations to 12/31/21. It is our hope that a new agreement will be in place at the end of this year. I and our team cannot predict when or if a new agreement will be reached. There are a few possible outcomes for these negotiations. The best would be an agreement by the end of this year. The negotiations could be extended possible for another year or longer. One of the parties may

decide to litigate their case in court. I suggest that all captains that operate in or near the Tribal Ceded Waters should be interested in the outcome of these negotiations. Regardless of how the negotiations will proceed the charter boat captains are represented by our attorneys Steve Schultz and Chris Patterson. Our attorneys represent us and the other members of the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources. As captains who operate in or near the Tribal Ceded Waters, we should all consider providing financial support of legal representation in this negotiation. I suggest you determine how important the current agreement is to you and your business. A few hundred-dollar donation from each of us would help to ensure that we will continue to be represented in these negotiations. We cannot expect only a few captains will be financially responsible, we all collectively should be responsible to protect our businesses.

There Commercial Fishing Bills are still being considered by the legislature. We know that the Michigan Fish Producers Association is actively pursuing legislation to allow for a commercial take of sport fish such as Lake Trout, Walleye, and additional Perch.

Some of our captains are involved on the Citizens Advisory Committees of Lakes Huron, Superior, Erie and Michigan. These committees cover many topics and issues with stocking of fish being one of the more interesting topics discussed. I know this issue is currently or soon to be discussed for most if not all the lakes.

These issues are just a few examples of the advocacy that the MCBA Board and some members do on behalf of all members of MCBA. 🐟



The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in September. Submissions **must** be in by **November 21, 2021** Send photos and news items to:
larry@saginawbay.com



A View over the Transom

By Captain Jim Fenner, Retired

Friends, I started my fall CB article last September with the comment: "This summer is like no other in my lifetime..." as Covid-19 had forced the cancellation of the fall conference. This fall I am starting my article with the same phrase, but sadly, it is far more personal. On July 16, I lost my best friend, the love of my life, my wife, and partner in life and fishing, Carolee. Over all the years of our lives, and during all the years I was an active charter captain, Carolee was by my side. As any of you who know me would agree, she was always with me. In the early years, she was my first mate and helper. As time went on and I had other first mates, she greeted our customers after almost every trip. My repeat clients always looked forward to being greeted by her at the end of the trip.

We attended every charter association conference from 1985 until 2020. Always together. This fall I hope to be there, and if I am, I know her spirit will be there, too.

As you might know, it's hard for me to focus on other things, but I must try to go on. Turning my attention to the work that I love is one is perhaps one of the best ways I can carry on. And so, I will turn my attention to things related to fishing and the issues that confront all who fish; who care about the fishery and the Association.

In Ludington, after a strong early season consisting primarily of Lake Trout, the fishing slowed considerably as the Trout spread out in deeper water. But then the bait showed up and soon thereafter, the salmon did too. Not exactly like the halcyon days, but in pretty good numbers, and good sized too. There were more pretty good days, and even some very good days. On the good days, the salmon were good sized and healthy. And who doesn't know of the new state and Great Lakes record King salmon: 47.86 pounds caught on August 6, near Big Point Sable. Many had said the old record would never

be broken. And for 43 years it held up. Now Ludington can proudly claim to be the place where the Great Lakes Record King Salmon was caught. Note: I fished over that very spot dozens, if not hundreds of times myself as Ludington was my home port. Sorry to say that fish always alluded me. Congrats to the young man who caught it on a Ludington based MCBA charter boat.

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. Like the notoriously repeating Ground Hog day, I repeat the news from last fall over again. 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 am fully vaccinated, and accustomed to having to be masked if necessary. I look forward to the end of the pandemic, or at least a break in the protection protocols which will allow me to return to seeing my fishing friends and colleagues in person at Lake Committee and other meetings. Especially our Association conferences. Meanwhile, I will continue to support the officers of the Association as much as I can 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. I

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(Continued from page 9). . . **A View from over the Transom**

am and I did. It's easy and not expensive. Look at the membership page of the website for details. Tight lines. 🐟

SHOW TIME



Show Chairman

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

The shows will be returning (as of this writing) for the 2022 season.

Here are the scheduled dates:

- Ultimate Fishing Show (Novi)
January 6-9
- Outdoorama (Novi) February 24-27
- Ultimate Sport show (Grand Rapids)
- March 10-13. Birch Run show hasn't contacted us on their show.

We will need volunteers to donate a fishing charter that can be given away at these shows. Remember, you will be reimbursed \$200 for your fuel costs after you run your trip. We also need members to help us run the booth and fishing simulator. Please contact me at 248-542-1563 or

taloncharters@gmail.com if you want to donate or help work the booth.

Scholarship Recipient

MCBA received notification from Lake Superior State University that Joseph Tolles was the recipient of the 2021-2022 Michigan Charter Boat Association Scholarship. Below was a hand written letter from Joseph thanking us.

"I wanted to thank you for the scholarship opportunity that you have given me. I am extremely grateful and it will go a long way in helping me finish my senior year at LSSU, pursuing a degree in Fisheries Management. Thank you again for the amazing opportunity!
- Joseph Tolles 🐟



Maritime Licensing Specialist

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

SEA K'S LICENSING LORE

I wish I could report a massive amount of positive news regarding the Coast Guard maritime licensing program, but I can't. There are days when I believe they should pay members of the maritime industry for "pain and suffering". There are some very good people working at the National Maritime Center but they seem to be sorely outnumbered by individuals who know nothing about the maritime industry they are attempting to regulate. Couple this lack of knowledge with an "I don't care" attitude makes it difficult to accomplish transactions in a timely manner. Reports continue to come in about lengthy "on hold" experiences with the NMC call center and many of the "live chat" responses are long winded and inaccurate. There doesn't appear to be a rational explanation how many files are processed. I've submitted renewals in June that haven't been processed but some that were submitted the first week in August have already been issued. As the NMC remains consistently inconsistent, I still recommend you start your renewal process at least 3 months in advance. Many delays have not been the result of mariner errors, but they are delays none the less. I hope you are all having a great season and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we will still have a conference in October. 🐟



News Bites

Michigan hopes to reintroduce a once-abundant native Grayling fish

Grayling are only native to Michigan and Montana in the lower 48 states. They are still abundant throughout much of Canada and

(Continued on page 11)

Alaska but not Michigan. Historically, logging, habitat destruction, and competition from non-native species killed off Michigan's grayling, with the last one documented in 1936 in the UP.

Over the years several stocking programs (as recent as the 1980s) have failed to re-establish Michigan grayling. But that may change according to Ed Eisch, MI DNR fisheries production manager. "Montana figured out the fish were missing a key imprinting period early in their development," Eisch says Michigan is experimenting with different RSI models to learn which will be best in state waters. He says in addition to the Au Sable and Manistee rivers, the Boardman and Maple rivers will be considered for grayling stocking. 🐟

Sailing drones gather fisheries data

This summer two bright orange, robotic sailboats plied the waters of lakes Michigan and Huron on a 45-day mission to amass important fisheries data ? no crew required. The pair of Explorer drones, as maker Saildrone calls them, were conducting acoustic surveys for the U.S. Geological Survey. It's not the first time these autonomous boats have been used in fisheries research, with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration deploying them in the Pacific Ocean. But they've never been used in the Great Lakes. The boats are 23 feet long with a 15-foot-tall rigid sail like a plane's wing. The instruments on board are powered by wind and solar energy, the boats can sail for months. They are programmed and monitored to avoid shipping channels and other hazards. Acoustic sensors on board are similar to equipment used by anglers to target fish. According to USGS they are capable of not only detecting the number of fish in the water, but their size as well. Each year the USGS partners with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other agencies to survey the lakes, including to estimate the abundance of prey fish. Crewed boats use the same kind of acoustic sensors, plus nets to conduct midwater and bottom trawls. 🐟

Canadian Swimmer attacked by Lake St. Clair Muskie while training for a triathlon

Windsor, Ontario, "Some crazy things have happened to me while training, but this is probably the craziest." said Matt Gervais, 39, who was bitten on the right hand as he trained for an up and coming triathlon.

Gervais was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, where he received 13 stitches. Gervais said that after the Muskie struck he looked down and saw that it was still latched onto his hand. " I caught it eye to eye, underwater with my goggles," Gervais said, adding that what he saw after the fish let go was carnage.

In reality it's not very common so humans ? and especially human flesh are not part of the Muskie diet. The world record has stood at 67 pounds, 8 ounces, since 1949, caught at Lake Court Oreilles in Hayward, Wisconsin.



Did You Know:

DOT Drug and Alcohol Management Information System (MIS)



The MIS report is statistical data compiled yearly by the MCBA that is based on drug and alcohol testing. The data includes the annual number of tests conducted, reasons for testing, information on positive results and what drugs caused the positive results. 🐟

Random Drug Testing

Captains, Mates:

When you report for a drug screening please inform collection facility of our companies name Michigan Charter Boat Association (MCBA) and who had sent member for the services. The information is needed for billing and for the proper services to be provided. Inform collection facility to use your MCBA ID#(last four digits of SS#) 🐟



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 15, 16 & 17, 2021
in Bay City
Hope to See You There!
Meeting will be held at the
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USCG LICENSE RENEWAL HELP:

Lt. Commander, USCG (retired) Charles "Chuck" Kakuska a Maritime Licensing Specialist, has been assisting our members for the past 10+ 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. 🚤



Cares Act 2

by DNR Fisheries Chief,
Jim Dexter

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division has been recently allocated over \$6.6 million from the Federal

Government, through the National Oceanographic and Air Administration (NOAA) to provide Covid relief grants to eligible charter captains, commercial fishers, fish wholesalers and processors, private aquaculture and Great Lakes bait catchers. The relief program covers financial losses between March 24, 2020 and December 31 2021.

Eligible recipients must be able to show a 35% loss in revenue for a minimum of 4 continuous weeks during that period, as compared to the average revenue of the same period from 2015-2019.

Grants that are awarded cannot make an applicant more than whole for the reporting period. That means an applicant couldn't have supplanted their income in some way over and above their annual income in some way.

Staff have been working since March with NOAA to develop our grant program. Our program still has not been approved, but we expect it to be in the upcoming weeks.

Every licensed captain should expect to receive a certified letter in the mail from DNR Fisheries in November or December. The letter will explain the program in its entirety, and include an application and certification form.

I will report on this program at the upcoming annual meeting in October. By then I expect to have every I dotted and T crossed and ready to roll it out shortly after that. 🚤

God Bless America And Our Troops