



cannonball

G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • SUMMER 2021

ANNUAL MEETING RETURNS TO BAY CITY

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

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

The main event will begin early Saturday morning, with coffee and Complete Deluxe Buffet Breakfast (included with your registration) during regis-



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

tration. The program begins at 9:00 AM. Various Speakers and panels will present information about issues of interest to our captains. There are question and answer sessions at the end of each presentation.

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

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

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From the Helm . . .



The 2021 Charter Season is off to a great start! Fishing all over the state has been great! Walleye are plentiful on the east side and in Lake Erie; lake trout catches in the northern and western sides of the state have been providing customers with steady action.

Salmon numbers remain down, although I've heard good reports about Coho catches in the southern parts of Lake Michigan, with even a few being caught in northern Lake Michigan. I do feel it will be a year similar to that last year on King Salmon.

Most of the Captain's I've spoken with have noted that bookings are up for this year. If the weather cooperates it should be a fantastic year.

Unfortunately, the tribal negotiations are moving along at a snail's pace. We are spending our time reading and analyzing everything we can get our hands on. It's very time consuming and the slow progress is very disconcerting.

On Friday, June 4, 2021 Amy Trotter and Ian Fitzgerald, both from MUCC; Frank Krist, from Hammond Bay Anglers, attended a status conference in federal court in Kalamazoo. The status conference was called by Judge Paul Maloney, who is the presiding Judge in the federal case involving treaty fishing rights under the Treaty of 1836. The attor-

ney for the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources, Steve Schultz, also attended on behalf of the Coalition. The MCBA is a member of the Coalition.

During a two hour long conference, the parties and the Judge discussed the status of the negotiations toward a new Consent Decree to replace the one currently in effect. The current Decree sets the rights and limits of Great Lakes fishing by the five Tribes with Treaty rights to fish in the State of Michigan. The Decree directly affects the rights of recreational fishers on the Great Lakes. That Decree expired in August, 2020, though, and has been extended by the Court twice. The latest extension is set to expire on June 30.

After the end of the status conference, the Judge extended the current Decree through the end of this year to give the parties more time to negotiate a new Decree.

Don't forget to plan to attending the Fall Conference October 15, 16, and 17th at the Double Tree in Bay City. Put it on your calendar and register soon. It will be great to meet in person again. It will be our first return to Bay City since 2005. Looking forward to a refreshing and productive return to 'in person' contact with members from every part of our great state. We are planning for an interesting and informative meeting.

Hope everybody has a safe and prosperous fishing season.

Captain Bill Winowiecki - President

Michigan Charter Boat Association - 

"CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

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



Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair

by Captain Henry Walters
MCBA Director

Hello everyone

As of right now, the Canadian border is still closed until June 21st. The Prime Minister said in a press briefing that over the Victoria Day long weekend, Canada passed 50 per cent in terms of proportion of its population that has received a first dose. Prime Minister Trudeau stated that three-quarters of Canadians will need to be vaccinated for COVID-19 before he even considers loosening the restrictions.

So for now everyone that fishes in Canadian waters – be careful. I understand that US fishermen that are fishing in Canadian waters are being told to return to the US. I've also heard some real bad stories of big fines being given. This could lead to boat confiscation. Think about this before taking a chance with fishing in Canadian waters. Hopefully there will be a change this summer.

Keep in mind that the MCBA can do nothing on this matter. I have called the MNR, RCMP, OPP, and the CBSA. This is a Canadian government ruling and we have no say in the matter.

On a better note,
hope you have a great summer! 🐟



Southern Lake Huron
By Captain Karl Burnside - MCBA Director

WHAT a start to the season! Our phone has been ringing off the hook for reservations. Hopefully you are having the same experience. As I mentioned in the spring edition of the Cannonball, I had some concern for COVID affecting reservations, but that certainly does not appear to be the case. Folks really want to get outdoors and do something. That is quite apparent from the calls we take. One thing we've noted that is completely different than before

COVID hit is people seem to be calling and wanting to go on a trip within the next 2-3 weeks. Prior to COVID we were taking reservations mostly in the spring for the entire summer, and by mid-June we would be nearly fully booked. I am guessing folks don't want to schedule too far out incase things change. Hopefully the pandemic is behind us and we can all get back to a more normal life.

Fishing in SLH has been off to an interesting start this year. We've had periods of fantastic summer-like weather followed by times of weather more akin to late March. We've had a bit of a rocky start to the Walleye season in Saginaw Bay as a result. It was an all-out effort a few weeks ago to find enough keeper size fish while on charter. Things have changed now and fishing is improving rapidly. Our charters have done quite well and hopefully that trend will continue into June and July.

Most of you in the Southern Lake Huron district have received a phone call from me in the past few weeks. If I didn't get you directly, I left a voice mail. It was just a friendly hello as your SLH director to introduce myself and let you know I am here if there are issues or concerns you may have. As we are now full swing into the fishing season, I still have a few of you to contact which I will do as time allows. I did talk with a few of you directly, and we had some very good conversations about our industry and Huron fishery. Some of you had questions that I am working on. I do have an answer to a question asked regarding fishing nets seen north of Port Sanilac in 40-80 feet of water. These nets were never there in previous years. In talking with a DNR officer I did confirm these nets are legal commercial fishing nets and they are properly marked. Please be aware they are there and be on the lookout for them if you travel in the Port Sanilac area.

Many of you have probably already had your dockside inspections completed. If you haven't, I had mine done in early May and was surprised to learn that I can no longer carry a 12 gage flare pistol on board in the Great Lakes. File me firmly under the last-to-know, as it was never a problem on past dockside inspections. Apparently this has to do with the device being considered a weapon. We are only allowed to carry hand-held flares or electronic signaling devices. Special thanks to MCBA president Bill Winowiecki who reached out to educate me that we cannot carry these on our vessels. I greatly appreciate the information and it goes to show you don't know everything. This was a learning experience for me.

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I'd like to stress to our SLH members how important the ongoing Great Lakes Consent Decree negotiations are. I know some may say this is a northern lakes issue which does not affect the SLH district, but the truth in the matter is, it affects all of us in the charter industry. It also has a direct effect on sport anglers in Michigan and surrounding states/providences. There's a reason why they call it the "Great Lakes" consent decree – the effects of the negotiations are far reaching. Earlier this year I donated to the MCBA defense decree fund. As of the writing of this article, I have donated again. I encourage all of you to please donate if you can; this is a very important agreement that affects all of us and our businesses directly. You can find the link to donate on the MCBA's website member's area on the top of the page in the red banner.

Finally, I wish all MCBA members the very best for a safe, productive and enjoyable charter season. If I can be of help to you with an issue or question, please call me at (810) 513-6073 or email me at thumbsupcharter@yahoo.com 🚤



Central Lake Michigan

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

This spring Ludington received approximately 24,000 1.5 year old Lake Trout, 80,000 Brown Trout and 40,000 Coho Salmon. The Brown Trout and Lake Trout were planted in Ludington harbor. Fifteen thousand of the Coho were net penned and twenty-five thousand were direct planted in the Sable River at Ludington State Park.

Two tournaments are scheduled for July in Central Lake Michigan. First is the Muskegon Tri-Port Open. It will be held July 9-11, 2021. More info is available on the Tournament Trail website. The second is the Ludington Offshore Classic/Big Boys Tournament. It will run from July 12th through the 18th. More info is available on the Ludington Offshore Classic website and Facebook page.

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



Upper Peninsula

By Captain Jim LaBeske - MCBA Director

As restrictions are being lifted and the weather is heating up, so are the opportunities for outdoor activities. I look forward to be as busy as I want to be with charter trips. I am already referring anglers to other Charter Captains. Bookings have been robust for all fellow Captains that I have spoken with. Pent up desire is driving everyone to search out something fun to do.

Searching the DNR fish stocking database (<https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/fishstock/>) shows very little planting was done in 2020. Several plants have been done in 2021, with most in inland lakes and streams. We look forward to the MDNR to resume stocking Walleye and Great Lakes fish as well. The most noteworthy plants for Superior to date are Copper Harbor on 4/20 received 19,989 Splake at an avg. of 8.19 inches and Munising Bay- City Dock on 4/21 received 26,288 Splake at an avg. 8.19 inches as well as 9,424 at an avg. of 4.88 inches

From the DNR News website April 28, 2021 "Lake Superior anglers asked to report marked splake" and May 11, 2021 "Next time you catch a trout or salmon, remember to check for a clip on the adipose fin - that small, fleshy fin behind the dorsal fin. It could be worth \$100". (See the full reports at the DNR news website.)

If you would like to receive the latest DNR news in your inbox? Search "MI DNR news"...enter your email address. After signing up, click on "Finish" and on the next screen you can choose from a list of topics, including hunting, fishing, forestry and more.

Early spring fishing for trout and salmon near-shore around the Keweenaw Peninsula was either hot or mediocre at best depending on the wind and weather conditions. Walleye were very inconsistent but as we get into a more stable weather pattern we should see more success. My best day was May 27th the day after the full moon in the middle of a cold front woke up to 38 degrees and caught eight 'eyes, six were "keepers" 18 to 24 inches... go figure!

Crappie are starting to stage in deeper water just off spawning areas in Portage and Torch Lakes on the Keweenaw Waterway, and the females caught held tight eggs.

Two new members to the Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, which now numbers 19 members, are Dennis VanLandshoot who is a long-

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT


By Captain John Giszczak



All current members in good standing have been posted to the MCBA website.

Please take a minute to check your listing for accuracy of spelling, facts, and phone numbers. Also,

Captains!
Check Your
Website Listing

click on your web link and make sure it works. The MCBA is not responsible for omissions, misspellings or bad website links, it's the business owners responsibility to check your listing. If you find an item that needs a correction please fill out the "Web Updates Form" listed on the MCBA website under the "Members" tab. 




Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: MCBAmembers.com

(Continued from page 4) . . . **Directors' Report**

time commercial fisher and President of the Van-Landshoot & Sons Fish Market representing their Business and Myself representing our Michigan Charter Boat Association. "The Lake Superior Fishery Citizen Advisory Committee is a charged with reviewing and providing input and advice relative to fishery goals, objectives and management plans for Lake Superior. Members help the DNR chart the future course of fisheries management by representing the diversity of citizen interests in the Lake Superior basin". You can search Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee and read minutes from past meetings.

Please contact me by Cell, Text or Email with questions, concerns, or any information to share.

On June 6th I emailed the 16 Captains across the U.P. that are current MCBA members on requesting News, Info, Questions and Concerns and received no responses.

Tight lines and a one foot chop. 



A View over the Transom

By Captain Jim Fenner, Retired

Covid 19 is waning fast. Most restriction have been removed. As I write the number of daily cases is declining rapidly as more and more of us are vaccinated. Hopefully we will be seeing Covid in our wake soon.

It may take a while for the customers to feel totally safe and good about going charter fishing again, but some reports indicate that its happening, and there may even be a pent-up demand to be

met. While the Covid issue is fading, other major issues remain, including line 5, commercial fishing rules, and most pressing, the Consent Decree.

Since fishing resumed this spring reports suggest good catches of Kings and Coho's in southern and mid Lake Michigan ports. Lake Trout fishing has been good all over. Lake Erie is producing limit catches of good sized Walleyes. Fair to good fishing on Lake Huron is being reported for Lake Trout, Walleyes and some Atlantics.

The Consent Decree continue to be a difficult and thorny issue. The negotiations have been very slow and have been extended. Clearly, things aren't going well. Our fishery is at stake, and our negotiators need our support and backing. We all need to support the MCBA as it goes forward, dealing with these and other issues important to maintaining our sport and our Great Lakes. Our officers are working very hard to secure a consent decree that works for all members. Please support them in every way you can. Make sure they know that we all speak with one voice. If the MCBA negotiators who represent us know that we are all united, our prospects for a successful Consent Decree that will best protect us all are enhanced.

The fall conference will be October 15, 16 and 17, in Bay City at the Doubletree Hotel. The Doubletree Hotel is on the banks of the Saginaw River, and has recently been renovated. This will be the first return to Bay City since our 2005 fall conference. Bay City has changed a lot since then and is an even more interesting place to visit now. It will be GREAT to see and meet 'IN PERSON' again. It's been hard having to do meetings and business by Zoom. It gets the job done, but mostly leaves out the person-

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

al interactions that often enter into the business equation. And of course, it totally misses the social and personal interactions that always make for a great conference experience. Start today, put the fall MCBA conference on your calendar. Enjoy the meeting. Enjoy visiting Bay City, too.

Are you considering retiring or taking a break? Keep the MCBA retired/inactive membership option in your mind. This member category is for Captains who have concluded or suspended their active membership, but who would like to continue to be an MCBA member for a smaller membership fee.

Even though I'm retired, I get the newsletter, the emails, etc. At the fall conference I catch up with many friends from my active membership days. Good friends, good information, good times. Maybe I will see you there. Meanwhile, keep a tight line.

Jim Fenner, MCBA Captain, retired. 🐟



Maritime Licensing Specialist

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

SEA K'S LICENSING LORE

As the maritime licensing program continues to struggle at the hands of the "new" Coast Guard, I had to reflect back on happier days when you dropped your renewal paperwork off at the REC at 1000, spoke to an actual person, and picked up your completed license at 1300 after having lunch. The backlogs continue and the on line "application status" page is virtually worthless. 80 to 90% of the time you will receive an "error" message even though nothing is wrong with your application package. Reports of being "on hold" with their call center for as much as 30 to 45 minutes are not uncommon. A recent notice reminded mariners that even though all the current forms have an expiration date of March 31, 2021, continue to use those forms because they are the only ones available. Reportedly new forms are going through the review process but last time that took a couple years. Another on line notice encourages mariners to start all license transactions at least 90 days early. There are still a few extensions available due to the virus but they will be expiring over the next few months. I encourage everyone to start your renewal process early to avoid any unnecessary delays. In many cases the delays won't be your fault, but they will still cause a delay in processing your paperwork. Hope you all have a great season and I look forward to seeing you all at the conference in October. 🐟

NEWS BITES

DNR Survey Vessel Steelhead Has a Long History on Lake Michigan


In 1968 Lake Michigan marked a turning point for natural resource management and conservation on the Great Lakes. That year the S/V Steelhead set out for its first fisheries assessment operations — investigating the distribution, abundance, growth and diet of major fish stocks on lakes Michigan and Huron. These first assessments are documented in an amazing book titled "The Salmon Hunters," written and illustrated by the first captain of the S/V Steelhead, William J. Palmer.




Since the construction of the survey boat, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has gone on to commission vessels at each of its Great Lakes research stations. While Michigan's survey vessels have similar missions on each of the lakes, the S/V Steelhead is unique among DNR vessels in that crew can live aboard. This allows the boat to work for extended periods far from its home port and facilitate surveys at remote locations, such as around islands and reefs in the middle of the lake or those that require extending beyond a traditional 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. shift. The majority of funding for this work comes from Michigan fishing license revenue and proceeds from Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration, a federal program that distributes revenue collected on the sale of fishing equipment and small engine/boat motor fuel back to the states to finance fisheries research, management, and fish production activities. To read more about the steelhead and other research vessels operating on the Great Lakes visit: Michigan.gov/FishResearch 🐟

Michigan Angler Hit with \$2000 Fine for Exceeding Catch Limit

(Continued on page 7)

A Michigan angler has been fined \$2,000 and handed other penalties for exceeding catch limits in a ruling handed down in Ontario Court. According to evidence presented in court, conservation officers were conducting a marine patrol on the Detroit River in the Amherstburg area when they stopped Hanning in his boat returning to Michigan after fishing for walleye in Ontario waters. The officers inspected the boat and located 19 walleye in the boat's live well — 13 walleye over his sport fishing license quota of six fish. Larry Hanning of Rockwood, Michigan pleaded guilty to catching an over-limit of walleye and was fined \$2,000. In addition, he is prohibited from possessing an Ontario fishing license and engaging in any fishing activities in Canada for two years. 

Virginia Beach Fisherman Likely Caught World Record Red Drum in the Chesapeake Bay

Jack Limroth of Virginia Beach hooked a 50" Red Drum during the Red Drum Rodeo, an annual charity fishing tournament that supports Tidewater Independent Schools Young Life. The catch is a pending world record. 

Great Lakes Fishery Commission Held Its 66th Annual Meeting

The Commissioners discussed a number of issues pertaining to the Great Lakes fishery. The committee passed five binational resolutions pertaining to issues affecting the entire basin:

1. A Resolution in Support of Restoring the Commission's Fiduciary Relationship with Global Affairs Canada For the past forty years, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which serves as a contracted agent for the sea lamprey control program, has performed the Commission's fiduciary function. http://www.glfc.org/pubs/pdfs/resol2021_3.pdf.


2. A Resolution in Support of Implementing the Recommendation of the SAB's Report Entitled Understanding Declining Productivity in the Offshore Regions of the Great Lakes In June 2020, the International Joint Commission's (IJC) Science Advisory Board (SAB) released a ground-breaking report entitled "Understanding Declining Productivity in the Offshore Regions of the Great Lakes", which discusses the causes of apparent declines in the productivity in offshore regions of the Great Lakes and assesses how these declines are potentially affecting fisheries. http://www.glfc.org/pubs/pdfs/resol2021_4.pdf.

3. A Resolution calling for a Review of the Strate-

gy for Lake Trout Stocking and its Implementation in Southern Lake Huron In 2018, the Lake Huron Committee made the decision to cease lake trout stocking in the Michigan waters of southern Lake Huron based on declining relative survival of stocked lake trout and positive trends in wild lake trout reproduction. http://www.glfc.org/pubs/pdfs/resol2021_1.pdf.

4. A Resolution in Support of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Group, a Subcommittee of the Canada -United States Inter-Parliamentary Group In September 2020 the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Group (GLSLG) was formalized as a subcommittee of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group for a trial period ending September 30, 2021. http://www.glfc.org/pubs/pdfs/resol2021_2.pdf.


5. A Resolution regarding the Establishment of a Canada Water Agency Water governance in Canada is complex and multi-jurisdictional, currently involving more than twenty federal departments and agencies, as well as the provinces, territories, municipal governments, and Indigenous governments and Treaty Rights. In 2019, the Prime Minister of Canada directed his ministers to create a new Canada Water Agency to coordinate with all involved parties to find ways to keep water safe, clean and well-managed.

http://www.glfc.org/pubs/pdfs/resol2021_5.pdf. 

Did You Know:

Merchant Mariner Certificate Suitable for Framing is presently available at: <https://homeport.uscg.mil/missions/merchant-mariners/merchant-mariner-certificate>

Mariners who hold or have held a valid Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) can download, save, print and proudly display the new certificate.

Users are reminded that the certificate, which is to be used for display purposes only, is not authorized as a substitute for a valid MMC and will not substitute for the MMC where the requirement to post a credential exists. There is no fee for downloading the certificate. 





Michigan Charter Boat Association
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SEAKsLic@aol.com for help with your
USCG renewal. 

Support The Companies That Support Your Association

These companies have donated many prizes towards the MCBA Scholarship Raffle held at the fall conference.

- ♦ Advanced Tackle Company
- ♦ Cabela's Outpost Saginaw
- ♦ Church Tackle Co.

- ♦ Cisco Fishing Systems, Ltd.
- ♦ Double G Tackle Co.
- ♦ Dream Weaver Lure Company
- ♦ Dunham's Sports
- ♦ Empire Outdoors
- ♦ Gallagher/Charter Lakes Marine Insurance
- ♦ Grayden Outdoor
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- ♦ Wolverine Tackle Company

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