



cannonball

G A Z E T T E

Official Publication of the Michigan Charter Boat Association • SUMMER 2022

**MCBA IS CELEBRATING IT'S 50TH!
in Lansing on October 15th, 2022**

**Member Captains attending the
meeting are eligible to**

WIN \$5,000

Toward Your
**DREAM
DESTINATION**

Caribbean Cruise for 2?
Marlin Fishing in Cabo?
Mountain Elk Hunt? Dive
the reefs off Cayman?
Whatever destination
package you choose.



MCBA's 50th Anniversary, Connecting with our partners into the future

The Michigan Charter Boat Association Annual meeting will be at the Radisson Hotel at the Capitol in Lansing on October 15th, with the board meeting on the 16th in the A.M. At the Awards dinner on the 15th the Association will be giving away \$5K toward a "Destination" package of your choice. This could be a Caribbean Cruise, Elk Hunt, Marlin Fishing in Cabo, it's your choice.

The meeting kicks off on the 15th with DNR Conversations & Coffee ... grab your breakfast from the buffet and sit at one of the lake tables for a frank discussion with Chief Dexter, Weir Technicians and Michigan Fisheries Managers. These table conversations will be led by you!

Senator Bumstead, a strong advocate for fishing and hunting, will be the lunch speaker. There will be ample time for questions.



Afternoon sessions are planned with NOAA, USGS, Sea Grant, GLERL, GLFC and others. The 50th committee is finalizing the agenda but promises some great sessions. And, that evening is the awards dinner where the \$5,000 package winner will be drawn, (Captains must be present to win)

MCBA has a great dinner meeting planned that includes great food, a 50th toast, cake, awards, and our Dinner speaker is Bill Taylor. Bill is an internationally recognized expert in Great Lakes fisheries ecology, population dynamics, governance, and (Continued on page 2)

management.

There will also be a few surprises. Watch for more details over the coming months. 🐟

Pure Michigan and TICOM Celebrate MCBA's 50th

Recognizing MCBA captains, the Pure Michigan folks are producing a number of video's this year and is presently featuring MCBA 50th on its website. Early in the year, Captain Denny Grinold was interviewed by Dave Lorenz on Pure Michigan Talk radio about the Charter Boat Association.



The Tourism Industry Coalition of Michigan (TICOM) held a Michigan Tourism Experience Raffle" during the Pure Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism in April. Therapy Too Charters, Watta Bite Charters, and new member Harley Hoy of Discovery Cruises donated charters for the raffle.

In May, Karl Burnside and Larry Lienczewski attended the TICOM Tourism week conference in Frankenmuth where they met with many local and regional chamber of commerce and travel sites to talk about 50 years of fishing in Michigan.

We thank all of you for your work in promoting MCBA members at the start of the season. 🐟

Lake Michigan Citizen's Fishery Advisory Committee Takeaways



Full minutes of the Lake Michigan Citizen's Fishing Advisory meeting are available in the members area. <https://mcbamembers.com/mcba-news/advisory-committees/>



At the Lake Michigan Spring meeting It was reported that there were extra Chinook salmon in the Michigan hatchery system, so Lake Michigan and Lake Huron are being stocked at level 3, which is 5 to 10% higher than normal. Lake Michigan will receive 687,250. Some extras

may also go to other Lake Michigan states due to poor egg survival in their hatchery systems. In 2023, Michigan will pursue a stocking increase of Chinook up to 1 million.

A Brown trout review will start in 2023 after stocking was shifted to northern ports that are closer to deeper waters. For example, the Ludington brown trout catch decreased from 4,000 in the late 1990s to less than 100 in 2021. During that time the stocking of Brown Trout increased from 20,000 to 80,000. Lake-wide (all states) brown trout harvest has declined from 600,000 pounds to 100,000 pounds through the time series. What can replace Brown Trout with? Probably could increase Rainbow Trout (Steelhead and Eagle Lakes), Atlantic Salmon, and perhaps Coho Salmon. We already have extra capacity for Chinook Salmon because they are only in the hatchery for six months rather than 18 months.

Lake-wide sport harvest (all states) for Lake Michigan was about 5.5 million pounds with Chinook salmon, Lake Trout, Coho Salmon, and Steelhead making up most of the harvest. This harvest level has been stable for the past 8 years and may be an indication of the lake's current carrying capacity. The number of fish caught in the Michigan creel was up slightly in 2021 to 100,000. Salmonid effort was down to 556,000 angler hours, which is significantly lower than the goal of 1 million, and the catch rate for Chinook salmon was up in 2021 to 0.083 Chinook per hour. 🐟



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

Hello All,

One thing that's
on everyone's mind is the price of



gas. Every day it rises. It does not seem like there's an end in sight. At the time of writing this, the gas increases haven't hurt my business yet. But it is forcing me to raise my prices. What will it top out at and when?

With everything on the rise will it slow down all travel? Will people just say that's it and not

(Continued on page 4)

From the Helm . . .



The 2022 fishing season has started. We have a large alewife die-off on the Lake Michigan shore. Harbors and rivers are full of alewives. Strange, when we've been told bait fish populations are down. Hearing quite a bunch of complaints about the smell, especially where I fish.

Fishing this spring has been unusual. The near shore fishery has been tough due to the alewife die off. I believe the fish are full and are not hungry. You have to get away from the shore to find hungry fish.

High gas prices- How will this affect the charter industry? Most Captains I've spoken to have bumped the cost of a charter to cover the extra fuel cost. It will be interesting to see if trips are down due to the cost.

On April 21st I attended the Michigan State University Scholarship Awards Ceremony. I had the privilege of awarding three scholarships. Congratulations go out to Morgan Noffsinger, Brady Yokum and Francis Kudwa on being awarded the Denny Grinold and Michigan Charter Boat Association scholarships. Well done!

We've been working very hard on trying to get a new Consent Decree between the State, the Feds and five Michigan Tribes. There is a big push to get an agreement by June 30, if possible. Negotiations are moving forward,



but slowly. Due to the confidentiality agreements between all the parties, I can't go into much detail.

I can say that we still support zonal management, and we do not support the expansion of the use of gill nets. I do not know what will be in the final drafts, but focusing on a shared fishery, biology, history and how the Decrees of the past 37 years have kept peace between the tribes and sportfishing seems worth preserving. However, I feel this is being pushed aside. I fear that the members of the MCBA, other sport fishing groups, and most all Michigan sport fishers are not going to be pleased with the outcome.


As you all know, we are involved in the negotiations through our membership in the Coalition to Protect Michigan resources (CPMR). Negotiations are in person now and happening every other week for 3 or 4 days. We need our team there to try to protect sportfishing and prevent as much damage as we can. This continues to be a major cost and the Coalition needs your financial support!


Please consider making a donation to the MCBA Tribal negotiation fund.

Hope you have a safe, successful summer.

Captain Bill Winowiecki


President

Michigan Charter Boat Association 

The 2022 MCBA Annual Conference and 50th Celebration will be held the weekend of October 14, 15 and 16, 2022 at The Radisson® Hotel Lansing at the Capitol. \$109.00 a night, for reservations: 800-333-3333
radisson.com/lansingmi - Promotional Code: MCBA22 



Upcoming Board Meeting Sept 25, 2022
- Clare, MI - Doherty Hotel - 10:00 am

All board meetings are open to all MCBA members who would like to attend. Please let us know in advance if you plan on attending so we have enough materials on hand to pass out. Contact any board member or call: 800-MCBA-971. 



The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in Sept. Submissions **must** be in by **August 28, 2022**

Email your submission to:
larry@saginawbay.com

go fishing or boating and just try to get by. I hope it's just for this season. Only time will tell.

In past seasons the weekend boat traffic on the U.S. side of Lake St. Clair made it unbearable to fish. This year, at the beginning of the season, it was the same, but I've noticed with the gas prices rising, boat traffic is beginning to dwindle.

On another note, don't forget about our 50th celebration this Fall. We have a good agenda planned. It will be a good time for all. Hope to see you there.

Have a great season! 🚤



Southern Lake Huron
By Captain Karl Burnside - MCBA Director

Fishing in Saginaw Bay is excellent! It's been a great start to the season with limit or near limit catches on all of our charters. In comparison to last year, which was somewhat slow in the beginning, I can only hope that the water temperatures continue to remain tempered as we head into mid-season. If they do, it's going to continue to be a great year on the Bay. From what I have heard, fishing out on the main lake from Port Austin to Harbor Beach is off to a good start as well.

We have assisted the Michigan DNR with the Walleye tagging program on Saginaw Bay. It's has proven a challenge to get them out on the days they requested due to the evolving weather patterns this time of year. As a result, we had to amend the schedule and while they were hoping to conclude the tagging program in May, they will be going out with us in early June as well. It's been an interesting and rewarding project, and I am eager to see the results of their studies when published.

Sandy Flesh Disease: If you have not heard, some Walleye were caught in the Au Gres area in early in the season with what is thought to be Sandy Flesh disease. I say "thought" because the anglers only provided pictures, and discarded the fish instead of turning them over to the DNR. The DNR is

aware of the concern, and from what is known at this time, does not appear to be a wide spread issue. You can view Sandy Flesh disease here:

<https://www.michigansthumb.com/news/article/Sick-or-diseased-Odd-walleye-catch-raises-alarm-17141233.php>

If you find one of these fish, please get in contact with the DNR to turn the fish over for analysis. Sandy Flesh disease is nothing new, so we should not panic. The local media seemed to pick up on this story and sensationalize it the best they could. We need to be responsible anglers and give the due diligence the concern deserves: **If you see it, get the fish to the DNR.**

Please stay safe this season while enjoying the splendor of the Great Lakes. I wish all our members the very best for an enjoyable and productive charter season.

If I can be of any assistance, please give me a call at (810) 513-6073. 🚤



Central Lake Michigan
By Captain George Freeman
MCBA Director

This spring Ludington received approximately 40,000 1.5-year-old Lake Trout, 80,000 5 to 8 inch 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 Open. It will be held July 8-12, 2022. More info is available on the Tournament Trail website. The second is the Ludington Offshore Classic/Big Boys Tournament. It will run from July 11th through the 17th. More info is available on the Ludington Offshore Classic website and Facebook page.

Any captain or club in the Central Lake Michigan region (Muskegon thru Ludington) that would like to provide news for the Cannonball please call me. (Continued on page 5)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak



If your 6"x8" "state inspected" year decal boat placards are worn out and you would like another set - please contact me, Secretary John (fishstraycat@gmail.com). Add your name and last 4 digits of your social

security number to the email request.

Please double check your MCBA website listing. We are not responsible for omissions, misspellings, and broken website links. Any website that does not have an SSL certificate will not be added to your advertising listing, once secured please let me know. . 🐟

(Continued from page 4)

(877) 456-3474. 🐟



Upper Peninsula

By Captain Jim LaBeske - MCBA Director

Greetings from the Keweenaw

In Northwestern U.P. (as compared to locations east & south of us) we are usually a little behind the time for the snow to melt, robins to arrive, trees to bud, and the fish to bite. This year was an exception, we were WAY BEHIND, at least 3 to 4 weeks. The ice was finally gone on most but not all lakes by May 8th. Those brave enough to battle the elements and wind when chasing Trout & Salmon found mixed success. The Walleye opener for us is May 15th. Catches only came from the lowest part of the Sturgeon River (within about a mile upstream from the mouth) near Chassell. There are only two access points to the River. The mouth, which was a foot deep or less and only accessible by small boats with anglers equipped with waders, and a man-made cut by the timber companies many years ago to float logs to the Chassell saw mills. The bite has continued to be very good on the river for "eater size 15 to 19 inch" Walleyes. Open water in the Keweenaw Waterway including Portage

and Touch Lakes as well as the North and South entries of Lake Superior we nearly devoid of the larger post spawn fish. That all changed seemingly overnight on June 3rd.

We had a local Walleye Opener Kickoff Tournament on Sat June 4th, those that pre-fished for a week before collectively only caught a few fish. It looked as if the "River Rats" had the advantage as the larger boats wouldn't be able to access the River. The rules were 5 fish 15" minimum up to 23" AND 2 fish over 23" per boat whether 2, 3, or 4 person team. The morning dawned, the "flood gates" opened and the post spawn fish exited the rivers and went on a feed. The winning team had a hard time to find the 23 or under and turned back several that were over 22 to 27 and managed to get a 2.3 lb to add to 6.5 & 6.4 to capture 1st place. The River Rats could only manage to catch and release 15 or more "eaters" weighing in 5 totaling 10.7 lb.

By the way... there were 2 U.P. MCBA Captains that placed First 15.2 lb and Third 12.5 lb

I searched the Michigan DNR Fish Stocking

(Continued on page 6)

 **VISIT MCBA Members Area**
www.MCBAmembers.com

"CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

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

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: BILL WINOWIECKI · (231) 228-7417
3700 SCHOMBERG RD · CEDAR, MI 49621

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

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

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

DIRECTORS

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

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

SOUTHERN LAKE MICHIGAN
Hunter & Holly Engel · (616) 916-2857
3171 Lighthouse Way · Saugatuck, MI 49453

UPPER PENINSULA

Jim LaBeske · (906) 337-4433
26788 W. 12th St. PO Box 38 · Hubbell, MI 49934

SOUTHERN LAKE HURON

Karl Burnside · (810) 513-6073
2073 Bisby Dr. · Mount Morris, MI 48458

NORTHERN LAKE HURON

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

LAKES ST. CLAIR AND ERIE


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

Database for plants in Portage Lake in 2021. 2 plants in Chassell 1 on 06/15/21 State Plant 47,839 of 1.6 inch Walleye and another on 06/18/21 State Plant 92,597 of 1.72 inch Walleye.

State stocking of Splake were also done in L'Anse Bay (Baraga County) on 04/28/22, 10,496 of 7.48 inch and on 05/02/22, 11,504 of 7.72-inch fingerlings.

The alarming thing that I was told, but did not witness myself is that 1 or more of these plants in 2021 and 2022 were dumped at the boat launches in mid day with strong onshore winds... A Chassell resident and former guide who lives on US 41 a block from the boat launch saw the plant truck turn to Centennial Park. He went to watch the plant. When he saw the fished being pumped on the boat ramp, he asked why and the response was "Sir... I am only doing what I was told to do" Huge losses from being washed up on shore and predation by Gulls and Cormorants is a shame.

Lake Trout have been on fire or not hungry one day to the next. Salmon, Browns and Steelhead have all but disappeared.

Tie good knots and watch the weather Good Luck in 2022 

little history here: in 1972, small mesh gill netting was made illegal. In 1974, large mesh gill netting was also made illegal. Only trap nets remained. In 1985 as part of the new agreement, many commercial fishermen were bought out as part of the first consent decree.

It will be a tragedy, if all those years of hard-fought efforts to rid the lakes of commercial gill nets were thrown over by the state now. Thirty-seven years ago, the first Consent Decree set the stage for the truly amazing Michigan sport fishery we have today. The suggestion of more gill nets in more zones implied in his message would be a huge backward step, and the beginning of the end of sport fishing in Michigan. We cannot allow the State of Michigan to agree to give away the fishery we worked so hard to create, to anyone who would use gill nets for commercial purposes. If it does so, it will plant the seeds for the demise of our charter industry. Perhaps you might want to contact your Senator or Representative and ask him or her if they can find out what's happening, and/or encourage them to do what they can to protect our great fishery. Or perhaps you might ask them to contact Dan Eichinger, the Director of the MDNR, and tell him how important it is to protect our fishery, and to prevent it from going back to the time before 1972.

We all need to support the MCBA as it goes forward, dealing with this issue, perhaps the most important to maintaining our sport fishing and our Great Lakes. 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.

Looking ahead to the fall. The MCBA is planning a Special Fall Conference this year celebrating our 50th Anniversary. It will be held on October 14, 15, and 16, 2022 at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing, near the Capital. Call 800.333.3333 or by the web: [radisson.com/lansingmi](https://www.radisson.com/lansingmi). Use promotion code MCBA22 for the special rate of \$109 per night. (Local number: 517-482-0188) The organizers are creating a very special program for the 15th, unique to our Anniversary Celebration.



Retiree's View over the Transom
By Captain Jim Fenner

Covid lingers. Hopefully we will be seeing Covid in our wake soon. While the Covid issue is fading, other major issues remain, including the most concerning and most pressing the Consent Decree.

It continues to be an extremely difficult and thorny issue. The negotiations have been very slow and have been extended more than once. Clearly, things aren't going well. Our fishery is at stake, and our negotiators need our support and backing. President Winowiecki's article mentions zone issues and gill net issues. Because we agreed to negotiations in secret, no details are known, but the length of the negotiations suggest big problems and Bill's message alludes to some of the issues. A

(Continued from page 6) . . . **Directors Report**

As part of the preparations for our 50th Anniversary, Denny Grinold and I have been working with retired Capt. Joe Wolff to create a new version of the history of the MCBA, updated to the present. In 1992 Joe authored a history of the MCBA from its origin until that year. We have contacted all living Presidents since 1992 and asked them to contribute the most significant issues and achievements of their terms in office. It wasn't easy to find them all, and even harder to get all the information together. But we did it as best we could, and Joe is in the final stages of authoring a new, updated history of the Association. We expect it will be ready for release at the 50th Anniversary meeting. I've seen some of the draft pages and I am sure we will all find the final version to be very interesting and informative. The Association has a lot to be proud of over all those years.

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 very small 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. 

State's secret talks with tribes could reshape Great Lakes fishing

By JUSTIN COOPER Daily News Staff Writer
Updated Jun 21, 2022

Negotiations are underway that could reshape fishing on a large chunk of the Great Lakes, including much of Lake Michigan.

The talks between Michigan, five tribes and the federal government could rewrite the rules that for two decades have balanced their priorities across nearly 19,000 square miles of water.

"It's basically a head-to-head confrontation over who gets how many fish in each zone, of what type, and how they're going to be caught," said Jim Fenner, former president of the Ludington Charter Boat Association.



At stake is a sizable portion of Michigan's \$2.3 billion sport fishery — including Ludington's own charter boat industry — and the hotels, restaurants and shops that profit from visitors looking for their next big catch.

"In the worst-case scenario, it could seriously reduce or destroy the charter fishery," Fenner said. "There's no question about it.

And why haven't more people heard about it? Everyone involved is sworn to secrecy, bound by non-disclosure agreements.

As the talks progress through their third year, Michiganders are in the dark as to how a resource that is a way of life up and down the lakeshore is being divided up.

"Nobody's going to know the results until it's too late," said Shane Ruboyanes, owner of Dreamweaver Lures.

At the root of the talks is a treaty signed a year before Michigan was even a state, and they will determine the way things are done on the Great Lakes for years to come.

Hush-hush

Negotiators are trying to update an agreement forged in 2000 called the Consent Decree, which dictates how fish are shared and managed across broad areas of lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron.

The U.S. purchased those waters from Native Americans in 1836, along with a large chunk of what would soon be the State of Michigan. But the natives did not give up their right to fish those waters.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7). . . . *State's secret talks*

Since 1985, balancing that right with non-tribal fishing has been the goal of compromises hammered out in secret under the supervision of federal judges in Kalamazoo.

And it's a "very difficult and very complicated" job reaching those compromises, said David Caroffino, a biologist leading the state's Tribal Coordination Unit.

"We've got seven different governments trying to find common ground," he said. "It's probably one of the most complex and challenging negotiations that's out there."

That complexity is pretty much why the talks are secret, he said, adding that the parties feel they are "much more fluid and open and beneficial" that way.

"You just never know what type of reactions there could be to certain things," he said. "If this negotiation was to essentially occur in the media, or in the open, there's very little chance that the parties would be able to find common ground."

Sportfishing interests technically have a seat at the table as "amici curiae," or "friends of the court." The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources, for example, retains lawyers to advocate for groups like Ludington's charter captains.

During the meetings, the amici curiae are silent and can't even be asked questions. But they can listen, take notes and talk to any party in a sidebar conversation.

Still, George Freeman, treasurer of the Ludington Charter Boat Association, said captains like him have "absolutely no vote."

"The state seems to have an attitude, like (the amici curiae) make suggestions, and then the state just does what (it wants) to do," Freeman said. "How would you like somebody negotiating your fate, where you have no voice, and you don't know what's going on?"

Thomas Battice is the only member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians licensed to commercially fish its zone; a wide area overlaps with Ludington charter boat stomping grounds.

In an interview, he worried that tribal fishers from elsewhere would tamper with his nets and disrespect local captains he's established working relationships with. However, he doubted many would come, and wondered where they'd find a place to dock if they did.

He said while he does "feel excluded" from the negotiations, he felt whatever contribution he could make may not add up to much.

"What do I know that really could make a difference, besides what I think or feel?" Battice said. "My biggest thing I would talk about is, try to prevent a war."

Gill nets

Among Ludington's charter captains, the most feared potential result of the negotiations is a return of gill nets — long sheets of mesh that catch fish by their gills.

Gill nets are favored, especially by tribes, for their ease of use and low cost, but are known for indiscriminately killing any fish that swim into them. They're also easier to move than other nets and can be a boating hazard if not properly marked.

Many recreational anglers fear the potential for gill nets to wipe out whole populations of fish. Over about two months in 1979, 98% of the lake trout in Grand Traverse Bay were taken out by tribal gill nets, attorney Steve Schultz said in an episode of Michigan Out of Doors.

Because of the Consent Decree, gill nets with mesh wide enough to ensnare key sportfish are banned in Lake Michigan south of the 45th parallel, which runs roughly through Gaylord.

While it's impossible for most to know whether more gillnetting is on the table, there's a long and bitter history keeping the possibility at the top of mind.

It was Michigan's gill net bans in the 1970s that motivated tribal fishers to break from the state's regulations and assert their treaty rights in court. And it's tribal gillnetting that was at the center of sometimes violent conflicts into the 1980s.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8). . . . *State's secret talks*

The situation back then was "very heated," according to Michigan Sea Grant educator Brandon Schroeder, with "a lot of aggression, shooting at people, scuttling gill net boats — a lot of anger and animosity directed at tribal fisheries, and probably in the other direction."

In 1983, two Ludington fishermen were arrested for allegedly tampering with tribal gill nets. Fenner, the former charter boat association president, remembers what those days were like.

"When the Indian boat would try to leave Ludington, it was surrounded by hundreds of small fishermen harassing them," he said, adding that he never heard of physical violence here, but heard it rumored elsewhere.

If gill nets were to be set again in waters that haven't seen them in decades, captains interviewed for this story agreed the result would be disastrous.

"We adapt, but it's hard to visualize how we could adapt if the gill nets are sucking all the fish out," Freeman said. "I don't know how we could adapt to that one."

What little we know

While the talks are secret, some elements have spilled into the open.

In 2020, a public court filing revealed the Sault Ste. Marie tribe's effort to eliminate fishing zones dedicated to specific tribes past the decree's original expiration date.

The four other tribes opposed this, saying the tribe had pursued one of its goals outside of the negotiations in a way that "virtually guarantees the breakdown" of the talks.

In response, Judge Paul Maloney declined to weigh the details of the tribe's argument, preferring "to minimize conflict" and focus on the new decree. The tribal zones stayed.

Daily News Staff Writer Justin Cooper can be reached at justin@ludingtondailynews.com 🐟

4th July



News Bites

A once in a



lifetime catch

for our Detroit River native species crew last week! This real-life river monster was tipping the scales at 240 lbs., measuring 6'10" long, and a girth of nearly 4'. Caught in the Detroit River, this fish is one of the largest lake sturgeon ever recorded in the U.S.



Based on its girth and size, it is assumed to be a female and that she has been roaming our waters over 100 years. So, she likely hatched in the Detroit River around 1920 when Detroit became the 4th largest city in America.

Note: She was quickly released back into the river after being processed!

We're excited to share this great news with everyone. With the numerous media requests, we are directing them to our External Affairs coordinator, Larry Dean. You can reach him at 612-713-5312 or at Larry_Dean@fws.gov

Photo: Staff lying next to adult lake sturgeon on deck of boat by Jason Fischer/USFWS. 🐟

(Continued on page 10)

New Michigan state-record flathead catfish tops 53 pounds



While fishing with cut bait in Berrien County, an angler Lloyd Tanner from Hobart, Indiana, caught a new state-record fish: a flathead catfish weighing in at 53.35 pounds and measuring 48 inches! He was fishing the St. Joe River, in the early-morning hours when he reeled in the record-breaker. This fish beats the previous 2014 state-record flathead catfish – 52 pounds, 46.02 inches long. 🐟

Did You Know:

MCBA requires Background Checks on New Member (DOT) Regulation, 49 CFR part 40.25, paragraph "J,"

Note: MCBA has added this new membership requirement so that our members can avoid the need to request a background check any time they might choose to hire another MCBA member Captain or mate, or if you should want to work for another marine employer. Your new MCBA membership card is proof for your new employer that you have already completed a pre-employment drug test and background check.

Random Drug and Alcohol Testing:

First Advantage® Screening Solutions has been hired by the MCBA to ensure that a

random selection procedures which is fair and equitable for all captains and mates, using a random computer-generated process to select from the complete MCBA drug membership.

Did You Hear?

Rumor: Only the youngest MCBA members are selected for drug screening.

Truth: Only names and MCBA ID numbers are submitted to First Advantage® for selection. No age related information is supplied to First Advantage. MCBA ID numbers do not contain age related information.

I am concerned by the number of younger members who seem to have "paranoia" about potentially being selected for drug screening. Alright, maybe it isn't paranoia. Maybe they are just new to this drug screening thing. In either case, we (MCBA) have no idea who will be selected, and are required by the law to notify those who have been selected by the random First Advantage program.

Captains if you have not received your Drug and Alcohol kit please email/text me:

llicenzewski@icloud.com

MIS Report:

MCBA maintains necessary records for MIS.

The report includes:

Chemical tests with positive or non-negative results for five years

Chemical test with negative results for one year.

What is a SMI?

Serious Marine Incident

Casualty resulting in:

1. Death
2. Injury requiring medical treatment beyond first aid
3. Damage in excess of \$100,000

God Bless America And Our Troops

(Continued on page 11)



(Continued from page 10) . . . **Did You Know**

4. Actual/constructive loss of vessel
5. Injured individual unfit to perform routine duties
6. 10,000 gallon spill or more
7. Hazmat spill of a reportable quantity

Testing Requires Drug & Alcohol Testing

Marine employer responsible to test:

All Mariners directly involved


Drug and alcohol testing

Mariners shall provide sample

Report test results on CG-2692B and attach to CG-2692 report 

USCG LICENSE RENEWAL HELP:

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

Involvement is Addicting

Now is the time of year when captains should be asking themselves pertinent questions about their businesses:

- ♦ Is my brochure working?
- ♦ Am I getting the most out of the Internet?
- ♦ Am I spending too much or too little on advertising?
- ♦ Am I really keeping up with what is going on in my industry?
- ♦ Am I adapting to the changes in my charter industry?

If you have asked yourself any of these questions, you are among the majority of charter captains in Michigan. So, how exactly does this all relate to MCBA you might ask?

MCBA is dedicated to improving the Michigan Charter Industry and helping Michigan captains stay knowledgeable and up-to-date about what is going on. However, this can't be done unless there is input from MCBA members. Members must become involved.

Through my long time involvement with MCBA as Port Captain for Escanaba, Director for the Upper Peninsula (Lakes Michigan and Superior), and as MCBA President, I heard from members that the Board of Directors positions are just for the "Old Guys". Granted, the MCBA Board of Directors represent about 180 years of experience in the charter industry but the success of MCBA lies deeper than all this experience. The success and vitality of MCBA lies with the involvement of each individual member's input.

Younger captains in our association bring with them an expertise in computer and Internet skills as well as different marketing strategies, which, in turn, help our entire association. It helps all of us stay "UP" on what's out there. New ideas are brought to board meetings, discussed, and eventually included in our fall conference in the form of presentations given by experts in their fields. This is one reason why the MCBA Fall Conference is so educational and informative. Members are very much encouraged to attend this conference, learn what is going on and submit their input on current events.

The MCBA Board of Directors consists of one Executive Secretary, four officers and seven Lake Directors. The officers are elected every year while the Lake Directors are elected for two-year terms. The Lake Director appoints Port Captains. Elections are held at the fall general membership meeting. Generally, individual concerns should be submitted to the Port Captain, which will then be handed over to the Lake Director, but members should feel free to address concerns directly to the Lake Director. These concerns will be dealt with in a very timely manner.

In summary, the Michigan Charter Boat

(Continued on page 12)



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

'In God We Trust'

Official Publication of the Michigan Charter Boat Association • www.fishmcba.com






MCBA Annual Conference
Celebrating 50 years
PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE
October 14, 15 & 16, 2022
in Lansing
SAVE THE DATE!
THE RADISSON® HOTEL LANSING
at the Capitol
800-333-3333 Code: MCBA22

Learning to Make
Our Charter Businesses
Even Better!

THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION IS A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED
NOT-FOR-PROFIT 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATION, AND RECOGNIZED FOR
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIVING BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(Continued from page 11) . . . *Involvement is Addicting*

Association not only needs a constant flow of fresh ideas but NEEDS YOUR INVOLVEMENT. Remember, "Involvement" leads to greater knowledge thus improving business.

Capt. Dick Stafford - Past President 

Support The Companies That Support Your Association

Please support these fine companies. Even with supply shortages in 2021, these companies really stepped up their support!

- ♦ Big Jon Sports
- ♦ Church Tackle Company
- ♦ Dreamweaver Fishing Tackle
- ♦ Eppinger Manufacturing Co
- ♦ Fish Hawk
- ♦ Frank's Great Outdoors
- ♦ Great Lakes Fisheries Commission
- ♦ Jays Sporting Goods
- ♦ Magna Dyne Products
- ♦ Michigan Sea Grant
- ♦ Moon Shine Lures
- ♦ Off-Shore Tackle Company

- ♦ Pro Troll Fishing Products
- ♦ R & S Charters/MadMoo Tackle
- ♦ Ray Troll Soho Coho
- ♦ Silver Horde
- ♦ Sonny's Fishing Center/ Shark Products
- ♦ Wolverine Tackle Company

Please Don't Forget to

Thank these Fine Companies 

Charter Fishing Boat 4-Sale

Turnkey Charter Business, make as much or as little as you want, well established 43-year business, very consistent clientele base. Boat 1986 29" Open Express Wellcraft, DNR inspected, Coast Guard licensed, Documented, twin 305's high output engines, electric flush head, all poles, lures, flashers, dipsies, and much more than listed, hop on and start making your future. DNR registered at 30' without pulpit. Business names included: Steelhead Charters, Steelhead Charter, Action Salmon Charters. Additionally for sale stocks in Pointe Marine in North Muskegon which guaranteed your slip if desired. Will consider splitting business up...serious inquiries only
Capt. Art (231) 329-2117 