



cannonball

G A Z E T T E



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Lake Michigan where Chinooks are King

Red flags Signal Possible Trouble for Lake Michigan Salmon where Chinooks are King

(Summarized from an article in the Grand Rapids Press)

Great Lakes scientists monitoring the salmon population found numerous red flags in their annual analysis of the health of the fishery. There are fewer salmon. The salmon are smaller. And many question whether there are enough alewives for Chinook salmon to eat. Chinooks, aka kings, are the State's most important and valuable open-water fishery. Without alewives, there are no Chinook salmon.

"We're at a critical juncture, but I'm cautiously optimistic about what's ahead," said Captain Denny Grinold, a survivor of the 1980s salmon collapse on Lake Michigan caused by bacterial kidney disease. "We've got some new challenges emerging and I am concerned about the exotic species coming into the lake.

"Quagga mussels are filtering out important organisms alewives need to survive."

Grinold, chairman of the committee of advisers for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, said alewives are at an all-time low. In the early part of the last decade, the alewife population in Lake Huron disappeared suddenly after quagga mussels stripped the lake of food needed to survive. Salmon fishing collapsed on Lake Huron in 2004, catching everyone by surprise.

Official reports last fall showed Lake Michigan had "an enormous amount of young alewives, a huge year class," according to Grinold. But they may or may not have survived the winter.

Michigan fishery officials are watching the Lake Michigan forage base closely. None are predicting calamity, but they are acutely aware of the red flags they are seeing. The annual lake-wide analysis considers more than 10 measures, like



Charter fishing veteran Captain Denny Grinold

salmon size and weight or density, among others. It flags any that are above or below the norm.

The analysis for 2010 showed 13 red flags out of 15 possible for long-term indicators, seven out of 15 for short-term indicators.

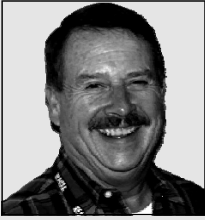
"That's a lot of flags," said Dave Clapp, head of the DNR's Great Lakes Research Station in Charlevoix. "It definitely has our attention. It's a warning." Clapp said red flags are triggered when specific measures go below or above the norm. A red flag might, for instance, be triggered if unusually good fishing occurred. It might also be triggered if the alewife population drops. Close scrutiny follows when 50 percent or more of the flags are triggered. That, in turn, might lead to stocking fewer or more hatchery salmon. 🐟

Wisconsin Proposes Lake Michigan Trap Net Changes

All parts of commercial fishing trap nets used during June 29 through Labor Day will be deeper than 60 feet under an amended emergency order recently approved by the Wisconsin DNR.

(NEWS BITES Continued on page 3)

From the Helm . . .



As this is written, May is already growing old and signs of spring are still scarce. It has been primarily a month of northeast winds, rain and very cool temperatures. The trees are just beginning to bud, farmers are behind getting crops planted, and the walleye fishing, normally outstanding by now, hasn't even started! In fact, most of the bigger boats haven't even been launched yet.

Work at MCBA, however, continues at a fast pace. Two random drawings are now complete, and Drug Administrator Capt. Larry Lienczewski tells me captains have been reporting promptly and the program is running smoothly. We are still hustling to get permanent drug policy certificates to captains who completed our trainings as well as drug cards to all captains and mates. Also, our On-line Training Program has proven a challenging task and is still not operational. Captains who are waiting for it have been mailed a "draft copy" of their Drug and Alcohol Policy, which will satisfy USCG requirements until the On-Line Training is available.


At this point, the majority of our captains and mates are back with MCBA. We have also had a number of captains rejoin our drug program that re-enrolled in other drug programs while MCBA was non-compliant. We welcome

you back and guarantee a 110-percent effort to keep your respect and trust in MCBA's efforts to serve you, and we definitely appreciate your patience with us. With the new USCG regulations and new administration in charge of our drug program, coupled with the loss of our Executive Secretary for nearly five months and random draws starting immediately once we regained compliance, to say it has been "challenging" would be an understatement! One does not commit a major breach of regulations with the USCG, say, "I'm sorry," and start all over as if nothing had happened!

As MCBA moves forward, your Officers and Board of Directors are 100-percent dedicated to providing all our members with the best possible professional organization of its kind available anywhere. Our goal is to take the administrative burden of running a business off of you as much as possible so you can concentrate on a hassle-free and enjoyable charter season. If we are coming up short, I sincerely welcome your comments. MCBA's sole reason for existence is to provide the professional services needed by our captains to operate charter businesses on the Great Lakes, and we are available 24/7 to deliver those services.


Have a safe and prosperous summer. And remember, having a good time is a lot more important than the size of the catch at days' end.

Captain Terry Walsh

President - MCBA 

Drug and Alcohol Training:

The MCBA Online training program that will be placed on the Michigan Charter Boat Associa-

tion's website is under construction. When it is fully developed, we will send an e-blast notifying all current members. 

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(Continued from page 1) . . . **NEWS BITES**

This is a change from current rules, which require the pot to be deeper than 75 feet. The amended order will also require trollers on the Great Lakes to carry wire cutters.

Presumably, said DNR Great Lakes specialist Bill Horns, that would mean banning sport trolling in the summer trap net inclusion areas.

The changes and NRB requests for more came about after the Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation sought an emergency closure of trap net fishing during the busy summer sport fishing season.

Their petition was filed as a result of an accident off Sheboygan last summer when a sport fishing boat's downrigger weight and cable became entangled in a commercial trap net. The

boat capsized, resulting in the death of one sports angler (heart attack) and two others being rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard. 🐟

Judge Imposes Maximum Fine in Zebra Mussel Case

An Independence, MO man received the maximum fine for introducing zebra mussels into Smithville Lake last year.

David Wayne Frazier, 51, pleaded guilty in County Circuit Court to a charge of transporting a prohibited species. Judge Janet Sutton imposed a fine of \$1,000 and six months of probation.

The case is the first one prosecuted under a provision in Missouri's Wildlife Code designed to stop the spread of invasive species. 🐟

(News Bites Continued on page 5)

MCBA CENTRAL

By Captain Ron Dubsky

FORMS AND WEB INFO

We have all forms needed here at Central. Call if anything is wanted. (800)622-2971. The WEB site is updated. Check your information and I repeat do not call Central if there is a mistake or changes are needed, go to MEMBER INFO on the front page of our site and then go to WEB UPDATES. Follow instructions. This will be sent directly to our webmaster and she will make the changes.

EMERGENCY CHECK LIST

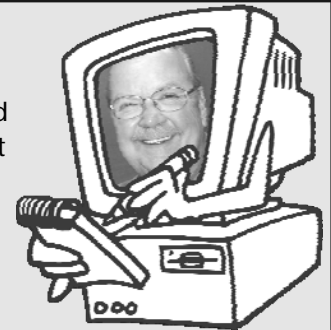
Many applications have requested for a new emergency check list for your boats. You can download and laminate one from our web site. Again go to member info and then click on LOGOS & ADS and download the MCBA check list.

USCG RENEWAL QUESTIONS

We have had quite a few calls here at central regarding the renewal packet for your USCG license. We have the services of a retired USCG Licensing Specialist Lt. Commander Charles (chuck) Kakuska who will help answer any questions you have. His number is (734)847-1723 or e-mail at seakslic@aol.com.

FISHING REPORTS

Fishing reports are needed. We can now add your photos. It is a great advertising tool for your business so get them to me at: rdubsky04@comcast.net Our web site receives MEGA hits weekly so lets use it.



BOAT US

A reminder that your association is a member of BoatUS. Your group number is GA80493B. Make sure and use number when shopping.

1ST MATE UPDATES

Go to member info on our web site and check to make sure your mate is in compliance and in our 2011 drug program. If any questions call Central 24/7.

IN MEMORY

May 15, 2011 Captain Bernie Shellman of Lindsey K Charters out of Toledo Beach on Lake Erie passed away. Captain Bernie was a long time member and has been ill for a few years. Rest in peace Bernie. 🐟

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain Jim Fenner



I need to make a correction: In the last issue, I said the Fall Meeting was at the Doubletree Hotel in Holland on October 21, 22, & 23. That was true, but the address was wrong. The correct address is 650 E. 24th Street St. Holland, MI 49423 (616) 394-0111. If you haven't done it yet, pencil in the dates and place right now on your calendar, ipad, iphone, icalendar or whatever device you might have. This will be an interesting and valuable meeting. As the new USCG random drug program has rolled out, there have been issues, questions and some confusion. We've been working hard to explain the program and provide as much information and training as we can, but questions and issues keep appearing. We'll cover them all during the conference program on Saturday, October 22. We're also planning a very informative presentation on great lake currents, by one of the world's foremost experts. And a fishing seminar, with Q & A, from one of the most knowledgeable (and interesting) Captains on the lakes. We have invited some great speakers. You will enjoy and learn from this conference. I promise!

Here are a few other items to remember: I've mentioned these before, but reminding is good. Renewing your Michigan registration? Charterboat registration is \$45 for three years regardless of size. Insist on it, even if your Sec. of State office says otherwise. Bring your Captains License, & your MI inspection document, just in case you have to show them. Also, as I have said before, it's a very good idea to photocopy all your important documents: Certificates of Registration, Documentation, and Inspection. Your Twic (front & back) and your USCG document, front and back; and if it's the new passport variety, all the pages and the cover. Add your MCBA drug card and your letter of drug program compliance to your copy list. Keep copies at home and on the boat, and anywhere else you might ever need them. They may save you time and trouble when you need them most, and you'll have the info if you need it during the winter, even if your boat is in storage.

Don't fuel with passengers on board. It's against the law! Disembark passengers while fueling.

The MCBA's USCG approved Drug program is now in full effect. President Terry Walsh and our drug program advisor, Capt. Dean Hobbs, spent long hours with the USCG to get all the kinks worked out. Then, even more hours explaining it all to the board.

Now, members needing drug program letters from MCBA to apply for a new license can get them from us again. And everyone should be USCG drug program check ready.

When it's all said and done the new program boils down to a couple of simple changes. First, when called to be random tested under the new rules, it is important to take the test more or less immediately, generally meaning within a few hours. Second, any problem arising from the first requirement will have to be explained by the person being called to test. The rules are clear about these things, and persons who mess up could wind up having a problem with their license. The MCBA and our drug program coordinator are going to help you as much as we can but we can only help just so much. You can be sure that after all the MCBA has done to get re-certified, the MCBA is going to deal quickly with any problems that arise from the new regulations. It would be tough to go through this again.

The good news is that if everyone understands the new rules, take their random tests in a timely manner, nothing much else will change.

By now, all members who renewed in the normal way, on time, should have received all the necessary documents and papers, along with all necessary instructions. Be sure to keep these documents in a readily accessible, and secure location on your vessel. You may need them quickly.

New members, or those whose memberships lapsed over the winter, or moved temporarily to a different plan may have to do a little more to get fully re-enrolled. You should have (or will) receive(d) a letter explaining what you need to do. If you have questions, please call our drug program coordinator, Larry Lienczewski 989-684-7943. We want to help you get it right. And we want everyone back in the Association.

Everyone will need to work through the training for the new program. Many have already done so, and have received their finished compliance letter.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) . . . **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

And their MCBA drug program card. Others can operate legally with their draft compliance letters until they complete the training. Hopefully, the training program will be on-line soon. Perhaps by the time you read this. Your new MCBA drug card has advantages not offered by many other drug programs, and that will become clearer to all as time goes on.


Summary: learn the new rules, take any required tests promptly, and keep going about your own business, pretty much like before. None of us really like to have to do this, but it's the law.

I continue to hear horror stories about Captains with medical issues, trying to get license renewals. If you have no unusual medical issues, and your doctor fills out the new required lengthy medical forms very carefully, your license renewal will go through quickly. IF (big IF), you have medical issues, such as heart or lung problems, artificial joints/limbs, stroke, major vision issues, etc., you will likely have a difficult time renewing your license. It may require a long time and a lot of money spent on tests and documentation. You may want to consult a professional USCG license specialist to assist you with your application.

Chuck Kakuska, Sea K's licensing service (734) 847-1723, email: seakslic@aol.com has helped many MCBA members with these kinds of issues over the years.

Did you know you can apply early and get the issue date delayed for up to 12 months? For details go to:
http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/delayed_issuance_bulletin.pdf

Finally, watch for our e-blasts for new information, as we know it, and please go back to the top of this article and write down those dates for the fall conference, and then, let's all go fishing and have a great season.

Please be safe out there! 



The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in late Sept. Submissions **must** be in by **Sept 15, 2011**. Send photos and news items to: Larry Lienczewski 3396 Anna Dr. Bay City, MI 48706 - 989-684-7943
larry@ad-graphic.com


(Continued from page 3) . . . **News Bites**



Missouri Angler Snags 106 lb. Bighead Carp

Gene Swope was snagging for paddlefish with his grandsons on the Lake of the Ozarks when he hooked and landed an unfortunate Missouri state record.

Swope hauled in a 106-pound bighead carp, which easily passed the previous 80-pound state record and outweighs the IGFA all-tackle world record by 16 pounds. However, Swope's catch won't be counted as an IGFA world record because snagging isn't allowed under IGFA rules (it's legal to snag carp in Missouri because they're not realized as game fish).

While it was no doubt a thrill for Swope to battle the fish, the bighead carp isn't exactly a species the conservation department wants to promote in Missouri. This is an example of how invasive species can thrive outside of their native environment, and the importance of preventing their spread. 

(News Bites Continued on page 6)

Lake Erie Exemption Removed from Drilling Bill

Environmental and conservation groups are concerned about a change in the wording of an Ohio bill that would open state lands to oil and natural gas drilling as a new revenue stream.

Language that apparently would have exempted Lake Erie has been removed from the measure being considered by an Ohio House committee. ➤

Windmills Draw Eyes Along Lake St. Clair

The first sign of Canada's Ontario's venture into wind farms that feature massive electricity-producing windmills have cropped up on the Lake St. Clair horizon, with residents and boaters in the Grosse Pointes area able to view several turbines on a clear day.

At least six wind towers, about 40 stories high, have been erected within site of the Michigan shoreline. The \$30 million project was initiated by a green energy company called Gengrowth. They plan to build 27 windmills in the Ontario town of Lakeshore, east of Windsor, near the mouth of the Belle River. ➤

Walleye Prediction for Saginaw Bay Comes True



In 1979, DNR fisheries biologist for northern Lower Michigan Jerry Manz made what sounded like a bold prediction. Saginaw Bay, Manz said, could become a "walleye haven."

Crews had just collected and released a whopping 330,000 walleyes about two inches long, reared to that length from just-hatched fry, in a drainable pond along the Kawkawlin River in Bay County.

That was the second year of pond production of walleyes in Michigan, and it was a more-than-tenfold increase over the first. Officials, borrowing technology from other states, drained and disked the pond to encourage plankton growth when it was refilled. That plankton became the food of the tiny fish until they were ready for release. ➤

Walleye Tagging Underway on the St. Mary's River

St. Mary's fisheries task group conducting wall-eye movement study in St. Mary's River.

The St. Mary's fisheries task group, a group of several constituents that work with the St. Mary's River fisheries, is conducting a walleye movement study in the river this summer.

Walleye from Munuscong Bay have been fitted with internal acoustic transmitters that will allow Lake Superior State University students and fisheries biologists to track their movement with acoustic receivers over the coming months.

The fish are also externally tagged with an LSSU orange "spaghetti" tag in front of their dorsal fin. ➤

US Demands EPA to Chicago River Cleanup

The Obama administration is ordering an ambitious cleanup of the Chicago River system, a dramatic step toward improving an urban waterway treated for more than a century as little more than an industrialized sewage canal.

In a letter to EPA the administration demands that stretches of the river must be clean enough for "recreation in and on the water," a legal term for recreational activities including swimming and canoeing. The order also applies to two connected waterways, the Cal-Sag Channel and Little Calumet River. ➤

Did You Know:

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

Note: MCBA has added this membership requirement so that MCBA members do not have to request a background check when they choose to hire another MCBA member Captain, mate or if you go to work for another MCBA marine employer. A current MCBA membership card is proof for your new employer that you have already completed a pre-employment drug test and drug program background check.

In addition, MCBA keeps the necessary confidential records for drug and alcohol program participation so MCBA participant members do not have to. ➤

WANTED: Fishing Reports
email:reports to rdubsky04@comcast.net



Upper Peninsula
By Captain James Shutt
MCBA Director



Spring has finally arrived in the Upper Peninsula. Water temps are extremely cold yet but the warming has begun. Most of the captains in the U.P. now have their boats in the water. Some of us, including myself, are due for inspections. Just a reminder to check the expiration dates on your flares. Most come with a four year shelf life. If you are buying new ones, check the dates on the package so you can get the longest life from them as possible. Also, always keep your old flares on board. In the event that you need to use a flare, try the older ones first. They will probably work fine.

The fishing has been a little slow in my neck of the woods. Have caught several Steelhead near Mackinac Island using the orange crush spoon on a four color lead core. Have also had some hits from the early salmon on white hootchie with blue & white flies on dipsey's 75 ft. back on setting #2. In the DeTour Village area around Drummond Island, the Atlantic salmon are just starting to become active. Have caught several small ones in the 3 to 5 pound range on blue & white #11 floating Rapala's. Chartreuse & white has produced some action as well. Good fishing this season to all captains & mates.

As you are all very aware, fuel prices are a problem to our businesses already. Take the time to clean your boat bottom thoroughly and touch up any paint that needs it. Also, go through your entire boat and remove anything that you do not need for your charter trips. Every pound of extra weight removed can make a difference at the fuel dock. A fresh tune up on gas engines is always a good way to start the season. After you burn off the storage additives, changing to a new set of spark plugs, gapped properly, will also help tremendously. Unless absolutely needed, try not to run engines above 32 to 34 hundred RPM. It will only take a few more minutes to get to the fishing grounds, but can save a lot of fuel there and back.

Lets all have a safe and productive season in 2011, and start making plans now to attend the fall conference in Holland. There will be lots of good information to be shared and learned.

As always, if any captains or mates have any questions, I can be reached toll free at 888-634-3419 or dreamseaker@northernmi.net Feel free to contact me anytime. If I can not answer your questions, I will bring them to our board for review. Be safe, and catch lots of fish. 🐟



Lakes St. Clair & Erie
by John Giszczak - MCBA Director

New Ohio DNR fishing licensing system

Ever witness a perfectly good procedure go south, well that's exactly what happened to the "new" State of Ohio's fishing license purchasing system. The state no longer sells licenses themselves. They contracted a company from Tennessee to handle the process. I suspected the new system could turn into a nightmare for us while attending a Sea Grant meeting in March of 2011 in Sandusky Ohio. The ODNR rolled out their new program during the meeting. During the discussion the DNR told us the new online system would be painfully slow for our guests to purchase their one-day licenses from the traditional sources (bait shops). To add insult to injury the DNR suggested we purchase our own laptops, air cards and printers to process licenses for our guests. Good luck just having your guests walk in and purchase a license on the spot like last year. After our marina purchased \$1000.00 worth of equipment only to have the new system run at a snails pace and repeatedly crash - the owner stated he may "###-canned" the whole system and only sell Michigan licenses. I witnessed the owner trying to run a license on Saturday. After a half hour of rejects and phone calls a licensed was finally produced. The vendor receives one dollar for every license sold and the owner figures he can average 12 licenses per hour. With the old system he could produce one every 2 minutes. Our marina owner said, "it's just not worth my time". The information the ODNR collects is more than your driver's license number; now it collects your social security number as well. Payment must be made using a visa or master card. The one-day licenses are still \$11.00 each. At the Sea Grant meeting back in March we were told of a second option - being able to call an 800 number to purchase a 1 or 3 day license over the phone. After

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7). . . **DIRECTORS'PORT REPORTS**


repeated phone calls first to the DNR for licensing, I was told that option is not available because the people would not pay the added cost of \$5.50 per license to purchase a license via the phone. There is no phone number on the license website for this option. I called the DNR law Division and was told you can purchase the licenses via phone from the hours of 5:00am to 12:00 pm 7 days per week. I was given the secret phone number. I called the secret number and spoke with a live person in Tennessee. I was told the licenses are available 24-7; when I inquired how much the license costs, the person did not know but could find out or I could try to purchase one and find out that way. Apparently the company handles more than one states licensing purchases.

I purchased an on-line annual license for myself. After registering, getting my personal I.D. the process was fairly easy. Your information is stored in a database for future use. Hopefully that should expedite buying next season's license. After the purchase you have to print your license on your own bond paper. If purchased from a licensed vendor the paper is green and perforated. You have to supply your own waterproof bag for safekeeping. Some of the captains I know have already purchased laptops, air cards and printers to print licenses for their guests.

While on the subject of ruining perfectly good things. Have you purchased your oversized permit to haul your boat? Two weeks ago the State of Michigan went to an on-line process. You can't just walk into your local D.O.T. office and purchase a permit over the counter. I went down to my local D.O.T. office only to find out the process had changed a week earlier. The office has a kiosk for customers to use to apply but it was not up and operating yet. The office staff suggested I go home register with Michigan.gov/business to get a password, and then come back and they would help me to obtain a permit. I drove back to the office and the staff let me in the backdoor. We proceeded to apply together. The office staff was not familiar with the new system because they had never been trained to use it. After 3 hours I had my permit in hand. One of the problems with the new system is that you must use the same application for an oversized permit as for an overweight permit. Everything has to be filled out to go to the next step; axle weights for the

tow vehicle, the trailer and the load. That wasn't so tough. The next step was the cheesy map for planning your route. After struggling a bit (an hour) I was able to complete the process. I was emailed my permit. Be sure to save everything you enter for the next time you have to pull a permit. I helped a few other Captains obtain their permits and the process got easier with experience. The system has no help menus to refer to if you get stuck at any point. We applied for one permit on Saturday and Monday no permit was issued. We checked the "my applications" section and found the permit was on hold pending further information i.e.; construction type of boat was not filled in. The other permit we did was on Sunday morning and the permit ended up in our email by 4:00 that Sunday. The internet is great for some things but I sure miss the human interaction. The day's of walking into the local D.O.T. office, shooting the bull with the staff and getting a permit in 15 minutes are gone. I've even had people from the office book trips in the past, but I guess those days are over too. I fight it to no avail. Things are always changing and before you know it I'll be selling fishing hats for \$125.00 per person and taking people fishing for free.

Ohio DNR call in license number 866-703-1928

Oversize permit – Michigan.gov/business – to register. 



Southern Lake Huron

By Captain Ken Deaton - MCBA Director

Seems like we have been getting some unusual weather as of late. I do not remember getting so many fronts coming in from the East like we have had lately. Wind and rain that seems more like fall than spring. Hoping the earth will settle back into a more normal weather pattern so we can enjoy some warmer weather and calmer seas is what I am looking forward to! Makes you wonder how much the earthquakes in Japan had to do with everything that is going on doesn't it! The earth does shift when we have one of them!

Hope all is well for our members and the boat inspections are going well. Make sure you go over the DNR list for inspection before they get there! It sure makes for a much easier and faster inspection if you do. Remember, your boat

should be ready for an inspection everyday, not just the day the DNR or Coast Guard decides to come!

Fishing is looking good and the charters seem to be coming in a little better than last year. I think people are tired of setting at home and are going to start to plan some trips with the family and friends. 🐟

Wishing everyone a safe and prosperous summer!



Northern Lake Michigan

By Captain Bill Winowiecki - MCBA Director

The start of another fishing season is here. First, I want to thank all of the Captains, and Mates who attended the Traverse City Drug and Alcohol Training Session. It was good to see so many who take this important matter seriously.

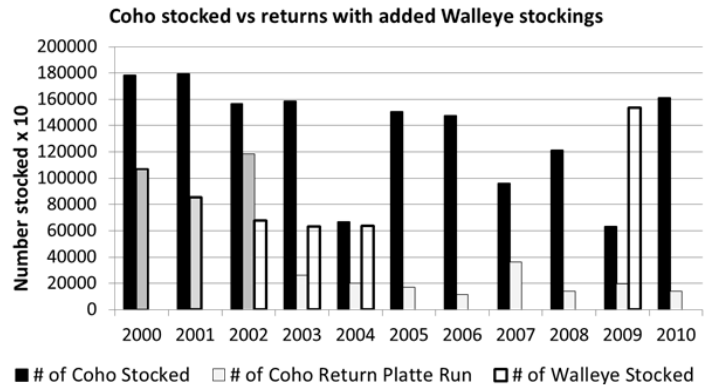
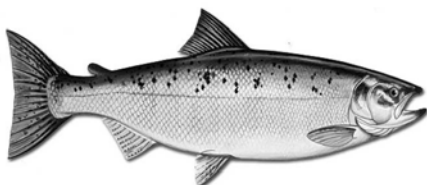
I attended the April 26th Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. One topic stood out for our area. Local Captain, Chris Hettinger of River Rat Charters, asked the committee to consider the fact that there may be a relationship between the walleye population in Platte Lake and the Coho return to the Platte river system.

Jim Dexter presented a graph displaying Coho smolt stockings and returns. He also presented data on the planting of walleyes in Platte Lake. The dates of the walleye stockings and the major declines of Coho returns seem to show a connection. This really caught me and the members of the board off guard.

(But!!) There is more to the story. I called Jim Dexter, Todd Kalish, Chris Hettinger, and other members of the MCBA Board to investigate this issue further.

My wife Sue revised Jim Dexter's graph to also include the years, and quantity of walleye fingerlings planted. (Note: walleye fingerlings are about 1 inch long). Coho smolts are 18 months old and about 5 to 6 inches long when planted. They return to the Platte 18 months later as adult

fish. The first planting of walleyes was in 2002.



The walleye were too small to have any effect on Coho returns, which had experienced major declines in 2003 and 2004. So what caused that decline? The biggest impact may have been that Chinook salmon were at a population peak in Lake Michigan at that time, with way too many King's for the forage base. Coho smolts can be a good substitute for alewives. That might explain at least some of that part of the decline.

The DNR cut king salmon plants in 2005, with hopes of saving alewives and other forage fish, keeping in mind the possible crash of the Lake Michigan Salmon Fishery. Yet, Coho returns were still falling. Meanwhile, the walleye fingerlings had grown, and further declines in Coho returns were recorded in 2005 and 2006.

Predation by day predators such as bass and northern pike is considered minimal. If a school of Coho fingerlings runs into a bass, or a pike during daylight hours the school scatters for protection. Walleye are ferocious nighttime predators. If a school of Coho smolts runs into a school of walleyes hunting in the dark, they become disoriented, and are easy prey.

Now to the present day. Coho stocks in 2010 were up. King Salmon numbers were down; Walleye weren't planted in Platte Lake 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. Alewives populations have shown some signs of coming back.

Coho catches exploded this spring! Chicago, Indiana, and Southern Michigan have the best Coho fishing in 10 years. Hopefully Coho returns this fall will show the same results.

(My opinion). It seems that due to a low plant in 2004, too many kings during the next few years, walleye predation in Platte Lake, Coho were having a tough go of things. Walleye plants have an impact on Coho returns. Walleye are not

(Continued on page 10)

compatible with Salmonids. As Chris Hettinger stated during the meeting, "I caught a Walleye out of Platte Lake with \$100.00 worth of cohos in its stomach"! Perhaps a slight exaggeration, but at \$1.97 a piece, finding at least \$20.00 worth of smolts in a walleye is not out of the question.

Walleye plants in Platte Lake were increased to 153,000 fingerlings in 2009 with DNR plans for 125,000 Walleye every 2 years forward from 2009.

The DNR is sort of caught in the middle, trying to accommodate all sides. The phosphorus issue in Platte Lake caused by the hatchery has been mostly resolved. The Platte Lake Association wants a Walleye Fishery and the DNR also would like to accommodate them. The next few years will tell the story. The DNR and the Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee will need to pay closer attention to what is going on in the Platte.

I want to Thank Jim Dexter, DNR Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator, Todd Kalish DNR Fisheries Head Cadillac, Chris Hettinger, and Members of the MCBA board of Directors for their input. 🐟

the buoy should prove very helpful to Central Lake Michigan anglers.

The Port of Muskegon will once again host its Salmon Shoot-Out July 7-10, 2011. For information and registration, visit:

www.muskegonsportfishing.org or call Joel at (231) 206-7691.

The Ludington Offshore Classic co-sponsored by Big Jon Sports and Great Lakes Ford will be held July 14-17 this year. The Tournament kicks off with the Dreamweaver Lures Ruboy Thursday Memorial Event on the 14th. Part of the proceeds from this event is donated to the Ludington Area Charterboat Association for its net pen project. Friday holds the West Shore Bank Youth Classic and the Bud Light Ladies Pro/Am. Saturday and Sunday holds the Pro/Am with three divisions: Big Fish only, Pro, and Am. There have been some rule changes made to help this year's event run even better. For complete details go to www.ludingtontournament.com or call the Ludington & Scottville Chamber at (800) 542-4600.

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



Central Lake Michigan

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

On Thursday April 28th, 2010 the Ludington Area Charterboat Association received 118,263 tiny Chinook salmon from the MDNR for their net pen project. Capt. Dave Lindberg headed up this years project with special help from Capt. Dick Underwood and Capt. Pat Thiel. The fish were released on May 16th. They were examined by DNR biologists and found to be healthy and fat! This was LACA's 22nd successful net penning operation. The net pen project continues to help keep Central Lake Michigan a prime Chinook fishery.

The University of Michigan is placing a research buoy off the port of Ludington in approximately 90 feet of water within the next month or two. The buoy will give wind speed and direction, wave height and direction, surface temperature and water temp every ten feet down to 75 feet. When the buoy is up and running data will be available on the web at www.nbdc.noaa.gov. The lead researcher for the project, Dr. Guy Meadows, will be a speaker at MCBA's fall conference in Holland this October. The information provided by



South Lake Michigan

By Captain Ron Westrate - MCBA Director

For the second year, the Saugatuck/Holland Charter Boat Association and the Saugatuck Big Fish Classic arranged a fishing outing for 70 Saugatuck 7th graders. The fishing excursion is a reward for the students who participated in the Salmon in the Classroom project.

May 17th dawned breezy and cold with 22 charter and private boats moored at Tower Marina in Douglas. By 6:30 some of the 70 Saugatuck 7th Grade students, a couple of teachers, administrators and some press began to arrive and by 7:00 all were checked in, given a tee shirt and a Shimano fishing hat, then assigned to and boarded their respective boats.

Fishing was slow, however about 65 to 70 fish were caught with the smallest going about 1 pound to the largest going just over 20 pounds. All boats returned to the marina at noon, pictures

(Continued on page 11)

were taken and prizes handed out. Rods and reel combo and wind shirts (provided by Shimano) were given to the student who caught the largest of each species, the most fish and the student who was the first to get seasick.

The captains cleaned and prepared the fish and then members of Ducks Unlimited fried up the salmon and lake trout along with some perch (that was donated) for all students, staff, press and crews. Beverages, potatoes and ice cream were donated by DeMonds Supervalve and Kilwins of Saugatuck. The five fryers had a hard time keeping ahead of the hungry group.

The Saugatuck/Holland Charter Boat Association and the Saugatuck Big Fish Classic would like to thank the companies that donated food and prizes, all the captains and mates that donated their time and boats for this outing. A good time was had by all. 🐟

Did you know?

LexisNexis® Screening Solutions the company hired by the MCBA to ensure fair and equal random selection procedures are conducted for all captains and mates, using a random computer-generated process to select from the complete MCBA drug membership. LexisNexis does not know age, sex or MMC level.

Did You Hear?

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

Truth: Only names and MCBA ID numbers are submitted to LexisNexis® for random selection. Age related information is not provided to LexisNexis. MCBA ID numbers do not contain age related information.

A number of younger members seem to have "paranoia" about potentially being selected for drug screening. Alright, maybe it isn't paranoia. Maybe they are just new to this random drug screening program. In either case, there is no need for undue concern. MCBA has no idea who will be selected, and is required by the law to notify those who have been selected by the random LexisNexis program.

Captains: If you have not received your Drug and Alcohol kit please email:

larry@saginawbay.com 🐟

MIS Report:

MCBA maintains necessary records for the MIS (Management Information System).

MIS requires that records and documents be maintained and available to participants and the USCG.

These records include:

- chemical tests with positive or non-negative results for 5 years
- chemical test with negative results for 1 year
- all participants receiving EAP training
- previous annual MIS reports
- drug program background checks

The MCBA Drug & Alcohol Program maintains these records so the membership does not have to. However, members need to be aware that these records are being maintained as required by regulation.

What is a SMI?

Casualty resulting in:

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

Use Coast Guard form CG-2692 to report

Serious Marine Incident Testing Requires Drug & Alcohol Testing

Marine employer responsible to test:

All Mariners directly involved

Drug and alcohol testing

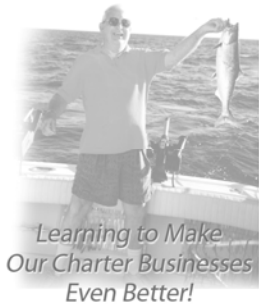
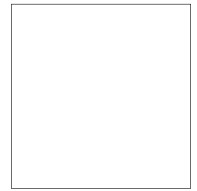
Mariners shall provide sample

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





Michigan Charter Boat Association
38000 Castle Drive
Romulus, MI 48174-1016

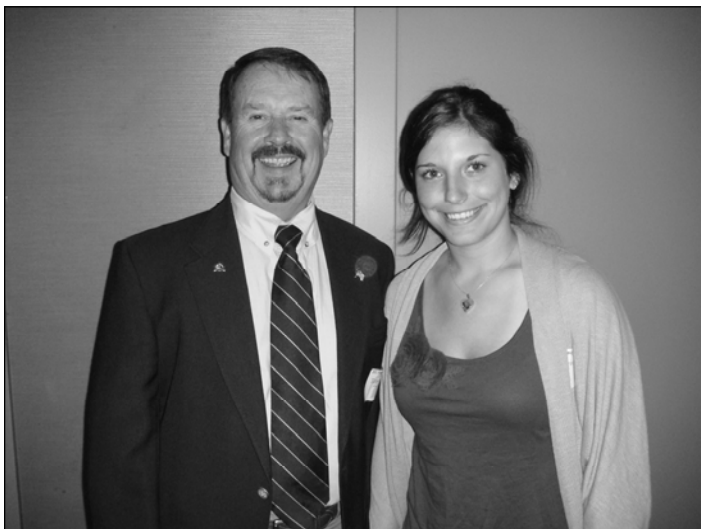


MCBA
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
October 21, 22 & 23, 2011
in Holland

Hope to See You There!

Meeting will be held at the
DOUBLE TREE HOTEL
IN HOLLAND, MICHIGAN
(616) 394-0111

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.



apply to the management of great lakes fisheries. Miriam plans to pursue a career in fisheries biology and management, and make a positive contribution to Michigan's fisheries populations. 🚤

Did you know that the MCBA Drug & Alcohol Program does back ground checks (verifies certifications & qualifications) for:

- the drug testing laboratory (Quest Diagnostics)?
- the MROs that verify drug screens (one discovered not certified)?
- the random selection facility (LexisNexis)?
- Substance Abuse Professionals?
- collection sites and collectors (some are not DOT qualified)?
- new members for drug program participation?
- members not renewing within participation parameters (outside the 60 days of the past 185 day requirement)?

And keeps these records and documents available to the USCG 9th District DAPI (Drug & Alcohol Program Inspector). 🚤

WANTED: Fishing Reports
email:reports to rdubsky04@comcast.net

Mr. Terry Walsh, President of the Michigan Charter Boat Association, presented the MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP to Miriam Weiss. Miriam is a Junior Fisheries and Wildlife major from Flint, MI. She's also a member of MSU's Honors College. Miriam has earned a 3.90 since coming to MSU Fall 2008, and earned a perfect 4.0 last semester. The Great Lakes has played an integral part in Miriam's life, and she's passionate about preserving the fisheries that reside throughout the State of Michigan. Miriam was recently selected 1 of only 15 students nationwide to participate in the National Marine Resources Population Dynamics Workshop hosted by NOAA. She gained valuable skills in quantitative analysis of aquatic populations; skills which she expects to