



cannonball

G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • FALL 2011

CARP ZAR TO SPEAK AT MCBA MEETING IN HOLLAND

MCBA FALL CONFERENCE WILL BE SPECIAL THIS YEAR

MCBA kicks off its 40th Anniversary Celebration with featured guest speaker, Mr. John Goss, President Obama's Asian Carp Czar (right). Mr. Goss will address MCBA attendees at the Saturday evening dinner, October 22, at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton in Holland. This promises to be a highly informative presentation.

Patty Berkholz, Director of the Office of the Great Lakes, will participate in the program during the Saturday afternoon session.

Dr. Guy Meadows, University of Michigan, a world famous researcher on Great Lakes currents will be a special presenter during the Saturday morning session.

The all-day Saturday program includes presentations by Donna Wesander regarding the new charter boat catch report and other top officials from the MDNR, including Acting Assistant to the Director, Kelley Smith and Acting Fisheries Chief, Jim Dexter,



*Double Tree Hotel by Hilton Holland, Michigan
650 E. 24th Street St. Holland, MI 49423
(616) 394-0111
Mention MCBA for a Special Room Rate.*

with information and updates regarding the State of the Lakes, and other top charter boat & fisheries issues.

And, included by popular demand, a "Baits and Tackle plus Fishing Techniques for Charters & Tournaments", session by Captain Willis Kerridge, a top Grand Haven captain & tackle store owner, who is also a team member of the winning tournament team "Living the Dream".

Presentations will also be given by Capt. Dean Hobbs, our MCBA Drug Program Advisor, Thomas Gilbert, our Drug Program Substance Abuse Professional, and Ensign Selena Warnke, USCG Drug Program Inspector, Toledo Regional Exam Center.

Plan now to attend this special 40th year program:

Friday, October 21: Evening Social Events

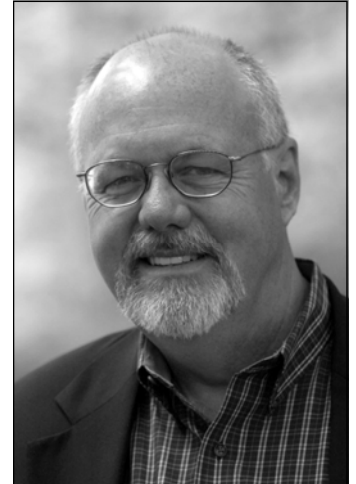
Saturday, October 22: All-day program followed by Annual Dinner with featured speaker, John Goss.

Sunday, October 23: AM Breakfast and Business Meeting. 🐟

40 Years of Excellence

The Michigan Charter Boat Association is the oldest and longest running Charter Boat Association in the U.S. , and together over the last 40 years we have weathered many storms; two fishery collapses, weir and hatchery closures, tribal issues, cormorants, sea lamprey, BKD, VHS, tougher USCG regulations just to name a few. To adapt many of us have

(Continued on page 2)



John Goss, Federal Asian Carp Czar

From the Helm . . .




Plans have been finalized for MCBA's "Fortieth Anniversary", a real milestone in the organization's history. Making it extra special this year is that the organization, through the hard work of its officers and administrators, survived what may have been its darkest hours. This would not have happened were it not for the solidarity of the membership, who stayed with us, never doubting we would right our ship. As this is written in early September, I'm told we are down only about 40 captains/mates; however, a number of captains have personally called and informed me they intended to rejoin in 2012. We sincerely welcome each and every one of you back.

The adversity that confronted us and threatened to destroy our primary reason for existence in the final months of 2010 has only made us stronger. We have emerged with an industry-leading mariners' drug program that will serve as a model for other marine organizations for years to come. Most of all, however, it will benefit our captains like no other program can because it is run by your own organization. We have our own Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) who is available for confidential counseling if needed and who

can make it a whole lot easier for a captain who does test positive for drugs to keep his license and get back to work as soon as possible.

So we have reason to celebrate. Mark the dates of October 21, 22, and 23 on your calendar. Captains Jim Fenner and Jim Shutt have prepared an outstanding program for our Fortieth Anniversary celebration. Our keynote speaker is Mr. John Goss, President Obama's front man for stopping the entry of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. Mrs. Patty Birkholz, the Director of the Office of the Great Lakes, will follow him. DNR fisheries biologists, the United States Coast Guard Drug Inspector, and MCBA's own drug administration team will also make presentations. The complete program is in the following pages of the CANNONBALL or can be found on our website.


Please join me, your officers, and board members for this major milestone in MCBA's history, even if you can only spend a day or a few hours. (You'll definitely want to stop by and pick up your "Fortieth Anniversary" coffee mugs!) Together, let's celebrate the "New MCBA". Together, let's make it the finest professional mariners' organization on the Great Lakes!

Captain Terry Walsh
President - MCBA 

(Continued from page 1) ... 40 Years of Excellence

changed our fishing techniques and diversified our businesses. And despite all of the issues the fishery and our businesses have faced, we have survived.

But the next decade will be one of the most challenging times for us. That's why I want to stress to you how important it is right now that we all stand together, the Asian Carp issue is only one

of the many issues threatening our fishery. We are asking for your support and attendance at this year's annual meeting. Besides learning where we stand on abating the Asian Carp we will also hear reports from our state fishery department chiefs on the state of the lakes, creel and charter boat catch rates, changes in Great Lakes currents, winning fishery techniques, and clarification on USCG regulation changes. 

"CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

is published by the

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CENTRAL REPORT

By Captain Ron Dubsky

2012 APPLICATIONS

2012 applications will be in the mail shortly. It is a new form so make sure you read it carefully and fill it out completely. One of the major changes is your USCG license number. For our data base we will need your serial or documentation number for this area. These two numbers will be the same; example (000012345)

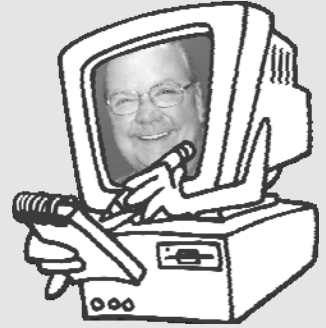
FORMS AND WEB INFO

We have all forms needed here at Central. Call if anything is needed (800)622-2971. The website 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

BOAT US

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

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

October 21, 22 and 23 in Holland, Michigan at the Doubletree Hotel. Phone number for reservations is (616)394-0111. Let's make this the BIGGEST turnout ever. See you all in October. 🐟



Upper Peninsula
by Captain James Shutt
MCBA Director

DIRECTORS' PORT REPORTS



Greetings from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Hard to believe that our season is already winding down! Although the charter business in general has been slow for most of the U.P. Captains, it has been a great season for the fishing. Finally, we have been seeing some of the big kings that we used to have years ago. Seems that the baitfish are finally returning to northern Lake Huron. With Labor Day just around the corner, there is lots of time to get plenty of big fish. Lets hope that the fall weather works in our favor.



In an effort to raise attendance at the fall conference by the U.P. captains, I will be

planning a chartered bus to leave from St. Ignace on the afternoon of Friday, October 21st.

If I can get thirty or more captains and mates to respond to this offer, we will be able to ride down and back for a cost of about \$50.00 each. Please R.S.V.P. to my toll free number at 888-634-3419, or my email at dreamseaker@northernmi.net, no later than October 7th, 2011. If we can fill the bus at a capacity of 50 persons, the cost will be closer to \$30.00 each. I can only hope that the U.P. captains that have never attended a fall conference will strongly consider this offer. Please give this some serious thought.

Now, back to the fishing. Running out of Hessel, and fishing around Mackinac Island, we have put some dandy kings and lakers in the box. Seems that this season, dodgers and flies have produced more action than in years past. White, blue, and mountain dew colored dodgers with

(Continued on page 6)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain Jim Fenner



Carp Czar to be Keynote Speaker

The planning is done for our Annual Fall conference to be held at the Double Tree Hotel 650 E. 24th St. Holland MI ((616-394-0111) on the weekend of October 21, 22 and 23. The main program is on Saturday, October 22.

Information about pre-registering for the conference and making a hotel registration, and a listing of the full program, can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

The conference begins on the evening of October 21, with our fabulous Hospitality Suite running from about 6 PM until ?? maybe midnight. Open bar, soft drinks, and snacks provided. A good opportunity to meet/greet and share conversations and information with friends, other Captains, and guests from all over the state.

Saturday morning begins at 8 AM with a full buffet breakfast, courtesy of the Association, check-in for pre-registrations, and late registrations.

The conference program begins promptly at 8:55 AM on Saturday, after breakfast, check-in and late registrations. We have planned an interesting and informative program.

This year we have the special privilege of having the Federal Carp Czar, John Goss for our Keynote speaker during the evening Dinner Program. Goss was previously executive director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation (a state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation), director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and vice chair of the Great Lakes Commission.

It should be most interesting to hear Mr. Goss discuss the Asian Carp Issue from his perspective.

We also have a couple of very special guest speakers participating during the daytime part of the Saturday program, as well as DNR & MCBA updates, and a master fisherman seminar. After each of these sessions, there will be an opportunity for questions. The morning session will fea-

ture Dr. Guy Meadows from the U of M. Dr. Meadows is a world-renowned expert on Lake currents. That should be most interesting. Following a buffet lunch, courtesy of the association for all guests, members, and spouses, the afternoon session will include a presentation by Acting Assistant to the DNR Director, Kelley Smith and extra special guest Patty Berkholz, the Director of the Office of the Great Lakes for Michigan. Patty Berkholz was a State Senator from Holland region prior to accepting this position. As noted above, John Goss will be the featured speaker in our evening program, following a very nice buffet dinner, and preceding our annual great tackle raffle. Later you'll have another opportunity to enjoy some friendly conversation at our hospitality suite.

The Sunday morning business meeting will follow an even more Deluxe Breakfast Buffet for all members and spouses who attend. The business meeting usually takes an hour or so, and so if you attend, you'll be 'on the road ready' by 10:30 PM at the latest. We're hoping for a good turn out for the business-meeting portion of the conference.

It's a nice hotel. It's a deductible business trip for you and your spouse. (Great shopping nearby, too)! We've planned a good program. It's a great time to hear, meet with, and ask questions, of the folks who affect how you do your charter business. Plan now to attend the fall Conference in Holland the weekend of October 21st.

By now you have either received your membership application or soon will. It is a little different this year. Due to the revised drug program, some sections may seem a little unfamiliar. And there is something new for retiring Captains who would like to keep their connection to the MCBA alive.

As for the drug program changes first: Since we are a drug program consortium, we are a collection of drug "companies". Each of us is either an individual "company" or an employee of a larger company. In either case, each of us must have a "DER". That means a "Designated Employee Representative. The consortium reporting

(Continued on page 6)

2011 MCBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Double Tree Hotel by Hilton • 650 E. 24th St. Holland, MI • 616-394-0111
October 21, 22 & 23, 2011

Oct. 21 Evening (social) Oct. 22 (seminars, dinner, & raffle) Oct. 23 Morning (business meeting) Please note Friday evening social and Sunday morning business meeting are **FREE to ALL members**.
(Free food, snacks, drinks. Social bar to any member of legal age Fri & Sat. evenings.)

Pre-registration is encouraged for Saturday's events (walk-ins welcomed) so we know how to set up the rooms and can order the correct number of meals. Please return the form below with your check (Walk-ins register at the door) by **10/10/11** and save \$5.00

As mentioned in the last newsletter, a limited number of rooms are available to MCBA members for the special, low rate of \$89.00 per night. Call the hotel directly at 616-394-0111 and mention that you will be there for the MCBA meeting.

Questions? Call MCBA at 800-622-2971. The MCBA board has worked hard to respond To MCBA membership and provide attendees with information that will help you Make the most of your charter business, so please plan to be there and make this **The best MCBA Annual Meeting ever!**

MCBA Member: _____

Guest Name: _____

Saturday Main Events

MCBA Annual Meeting Registration
(Spouse free incl.)

Pre-Registration \$15. x _____ people = \$ _____ (Spouse free)

Registration at the door: \$20. (Spouse free)

Traditional Breakfast Buffet 8:00 to 8:45 am (included with registration)

Saturday Buffet Lunch: Courtesy of MCBA

Optional Saturday Dinner: \$20. Ea. For Captain's Deluxe Buffet Dinner x _____ people = \$ _____
(open bar optional at dinner)

Sunday AM Business Meeting and Sunday BREAKFAST BUFFET (**Free** to all members & spouse)

Number people to attend Sunday Breakfast Buffet 8 - 9 am _____

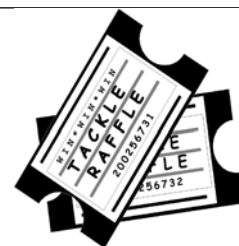
Total ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make check payable to MCBA,
and return to:

MCBA Annual Meeting
38000 Castle Drive
Romulus, MI 48174-1016

Friday evening social and Sunday morning business meeting are FREE to ALL members. (Free food, snacks, drinks) Social bar to any member of legal age Fri & Sat. evenings.

*Captain Frank English has
PROMISED a great raffle
at Saturdays dinner*



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

requirements mandate that we report the name of the "DER" for each member. If you are not your own DER, you will need to put your DER's name on your application.

If you have any questions about how to fill in your application, contact MCBA Central.

We've added a new membership category for retired Captains (Captains who are retired from chartering, with or without a current license) who want to keep in touch with the Association. Members in this category will get all the newsletters, E-blasts and other Association information and news, but of course, will not appear on the active Captain's roster, and of course, will not have to be in a random drug program.

We hope all our retired friends will choose to stay in the association to keep in touch with the Association's activities, and will want to come to join us at our annual fall conference.

My final word: I want to say it again; we have planned a great program in a nice hotel, in an interesting location. Mark your calendar today, and plan to attend. See you there. 🐟

(Continued from page 3) . . . **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

white, blue and white, and green colored flies have been doing well.

The length of leader from fly to dodger has been doing better with about 36" to 48". Some flies need additional leader material spliced in. I suggest using 50lb. braided line for this purpose. Keep the mono as is, and add the braid between the dodger. Again, this has produced some very good results. Hope it works for some other captains as well.

Of course, with the fall season coming on fast, I have to make a few suggestions about safety. Please watch your weather patterns more closely than usual. Fall winds can and do build quickly, and often change direction just as fast. All areas around the Upper Peninsula need to be watched more carefully. It is a good idea to also carry extra survival blankets on board as well. These are the small foil type blankets that are available at most sports stores, and cost very little. They also only take up a small amount of space in your tackle center or box. I have used this type of blanket before, and they are worth their weight in

gold. Always try to keep your guests warm, as hypothermia can happen even if the person has not been in the water. As you all know, layers of clothing are better than one heavy coat that can become uncomfortable.

Hope to see everyone at the fall conference, and until then, keep those lines tight. 🐟



Northern Lake Huron

By Captain Ron Beyer - MCBA Director

At the last Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee meeting, reports on the Chinook returns to Harrisville, Oscoda and all ports south to Harbor Beach, are bad. Almost no Chinook return to these ports. At the meeting every person agrees that the planting of Chinook is a waste of time and money. The committee agreed that the DNR start planting other species, Steelhead, Brown Trout and Atlantic Salmon. The report on Atlantic Salmon was good. The DNR reported that they could rear about 750,000 fingerlings a year. This would be a two-for-one loss in stocking but everyone agrees this better than stocking Chinook. We talked about the Lake Herring stocking and this about seven years down the road. Lake Herring are a lot harder to raise and the DNR admits no one knows a lot about raising them. 🐟



Southern Lake Huron

By Captain Ken Deaton - MCBA Director

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

IT'S SHOW TIME!

Show time will be here before you know it. Anyone interested in donating a charter, please give me a call so I can get everything lined up early for us. We will be in need of six charters again this year to cover our booth cost. Remember you can get a check from MCBA for \$100 to help cover your gas cost. Just remember to save that gift certificate the customer brings to you to board for the charter and mail it in to Larry to get your check. It is good advertising, as we will take your brochures to every show and put them out for people to pick up. We would like to have some new members help with this if possible. Give me a call or catch me at the annual meeting and don't forget to bring your brochures with you if you are

(Continued on page 8)

MCBA Conference Agenda, Saturday, October 22, 2011

- 8 :00 - 8:45 AM **Registration**, Coffee and Deluxe Continental Breakfast (Courtesy of the MCBA)
- 8:45 - 8:55 AM Introductory Remarks & Pledge of Allegiance: Terry Walsh, President, Michigan Charter Boat Association; Introduction of Program Moderator, Dan O'Keefe, Southwest District Extension
- 8:55 - 9:30 AM The State of the Lakes, State wide: Jim Dexter, Acting Chief, Fisheries Division
Jay Wesley, Acting Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator, Dave Borgeson, NLH Unit Supervisor
- 9:30 - 10:30 AM Great Lakes Currents & Research Buoy Information: Dr. Guy Meadows. University of Michigan
- 10:30 - 10:45 AM **Break**
- 10:45 - 12:15 PM Capt. Dean Hobbs MCBA Drug Program Advisor, Thomas S. Gilbert, JD MA, CAAC
Warnke, Selena ENS USCG 9th District Drug & Alcohol Program Inspector (DAPI)
- 12:15 - 1:15 PM **Lunch** Buffet Lunch - Adjacent Conference Room, Courtesy of the MCBA
- 1:15 - 1:45 PM The New Creel Census, Donna Wesander, DNR Charlevoix Research Station
- 1:45 - 2:30 PM State of Michigan and Michigan DNR Acting Assistant to the Director, Kelley Smith
Patty Berkholz, Director, "Michigan Office of the Great Lakes".
- 2:30 - 3:00 PM Attracting & Retaining New and also Younger Captain
Members: Dan O'keefe, Southwest District Extension
- 3:00- 3:45 PM Current & Future Tackle & Fishing Techniques:
Willis Kerridge, Thunderduck Charters, Grand Haven, MI
- 6:00 - 7:00 PM Social Hour - Cash Bar
- 7:00 - 8:00 PM **Dinner**
- 8:00 - 9:00 PM Introductory remarks, MCBA President Terry Walsh
Speaker: John Goss, Federal Asian Carp Czar
Previous Positions: Executive Director at Indiana Wildlife
Federation, Director at Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources,
Director at Indiana Dept of Natural Resource
Director of Tourism at State of Indiana
- 9:00 - 9:30 PM MCBA and Pistis Awards:
- 9:30 PM MCBA Tackle Raffle

Special Note: Larry Lienczewski, MCBA Treasure and drug program administrator will be present in the Lobby throughout the day to answer your drug program questions. 🐟

Captain Chuck Kakuska "SEA K's" Licensing Service will be present in the Lobby throughout the day to answer your renewal questions. 🐟

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

Sunday Oct 23, 2011

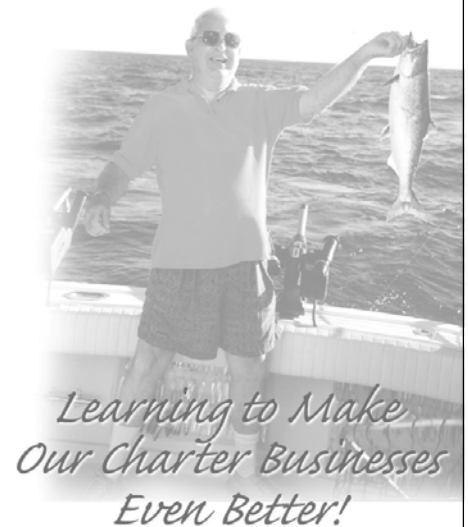
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM Coffee and Deluxe Buffet Breakfast
Deluxe Buffet Breakfast courtesy of the MCBA
(Free to All Members & Spouse)
- 9:00 AM Annual Membership Meeting
President's Report, Committee Report,
New Business - Election of Officers

Adjournment of Annual Meeting and Conference

At the adjournment of the meeting, there will be free drawing for the Hospitality Room cooler and its contents.

(Each member present will be given one ticket for the drawing:

You must be present to win) 🐟



planning on donating a charter. It will save you the cost of mailing them to me. Hope to see lots of you at the annual meeting! Captains Ken and Janice Deaton 810-542-0426 🐟



Northern Lake Michigan

By Captain Bill Winowiecki - MCBA Director

Summer is quickly coming to a close. The fall winds are starting to kick in.

It's been an interesting season of fishing on Northwestern Lake Michigan. We had some great lake trout fishing it's too bad we can't eat them! Strange how you work so hard, to adjust the fishing laws to where we can actually market our great lake trout fishing now the state tells us not to eat them. However, Sue and I smoked up a bunch a couple weeks ago, they were tasty!

Salmon fishing, what a difference a year makes. Where did all these big fish come from? It's nice to see these 20 lb. fish showing up in our catches again. Our catch numbers are down a bit, but you add a 20 lb. Salmon to the catch and the clients are impressed.

There seems to be baitfish all over, which really scatters the salmon. They don't have to hang in one area the big fish seem to find dinner wherever they go. The Coho are looking good; we boated a master angler 14 lb. fish. It will be interesting to see how many return to the Platte this fall.

Lake Michigan is looking pretty good. Even with all the invasive species, we really do have a Great fishery.

Please try to attend our Annual Meeting that will be held in Holland October 21, 22 and 23. It's a great getaway weekend and a chance to talk fishing with other Captains and the DNR. There is a bunch of work that goes on every year to make this a special and informal event. 🐟



Central Lake Michigan

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

We've had some up and down fishing this season in Central Lake Michigan. The cold spring slowed our May fishing, but our June King fishing was very good. July had some good days but was tougher than usual. The last two weeks of July generally produce some very good King catches but not so this year in Ludington. Many Captains were questioning the MDNR's decision to cut Chinook plants and were wondering if the Kings were ever going to show up. Early August wasn't much better. The action really picked up mid August and remains good. The water has been much colder this year and Captain's have been fishing higher in the water column than in past summers. Lots of big Kings this summer. A 37 + lb. King was weighed in a Captain Chucks in Ludington. 20 + pound Kings are a common sight. It's nice seeing these big fish. From the amount of bait showing up on anglers graphs it looks like the fish have an ample food supply.

The University of Michigan placed a research buoy off the port of Ludington this spring. It was working for a while producing valuable data for CLM anglers. It broke loose of its moorings and had to be pulled from the water. It is reported ready to be redeployed and hopefully will be back in service soon.

The MCBA will hold its annual meeting October 21, 22, & 23, 2011 in Holland. A lot of planning has gone into this year's program and some top notch speakers have been scheduled. Hope to see you there.

There will be a regional Sea Grant conference in Ludington again this winter on Saturday, January 7th. This is a great conference every year with many people in attendance. It's the first conference of the new year, and the first chance to hear reviews of the issues of the year past, and the year to come. Every one is invited. Contact Sea Grant Agent Dan O'Keefe (616-994-4580) for information about the conference.

If you are interested in providing news from your area of our region, please give me a call.

(877 456-3474) 🐟

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Newsletter Deadline

The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in early Dec. Submissions **must** be in by **Nov 15, 2011.**

Send photos and news items to:
 Larry Lienczewski, 3396 Anna Dr
 Bay City, MI 48706 - 989-684-7943
 email: larry@ad-graphic.com



South Lake Michigan

By Captain Ron Westrate - MCBA Director

Another fishing season is coming to an end and I hope everyone has had a successful year. I am sure that most captains are using the weather buoy out in southern central Lake Michigan to get water temperatures and wave height, however I just found out that there is another data buoy that gives you more near shore information for Southern Lake Michigan.

Two and one half miles off the shore of Cook Nuclear Plant, Limno Tech (an Ann Arbor based company) has deployed and maintains a monitoring buoy. This buoy is equipped with a range of high tech instruments that can transmit air temperature, wind speed and direction, water current speed and direction, wave height and water temperature at multiple depths. The nine thermistors are reporting the temperature at the surface and then at 13 foot on down to about a 62 foot depth. Limno Tech is currently working with NOAA and other federal environmental agencies in addition to the National Weather Service in Northern In. and Grand Rapids. Data from the buoy will feed the Coast Guard information and also is available to local boaters, fishermen and swimmers. If you want some near shore information as to where the temperature break is or what the wave height is, check out <http://bit.ly/cookbuoy>.

I hope you have set aside the October weekend to attend the MCBA Annual Meeting in Holland. When you check out the agenda, you will find that Jim Fenner has gotten some fantastic speakers with emphasis on critical issues pertaining to Great Lakes fisheries. The board has moved the meeting south to make it more convenient for our members in Southern Lake Michigan so I hope to see a good turn out of the southern captains. See you in Holland in October. 🐟



Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair

by John Giszczak - MCBA Director

Lake Erie Death Watch

In some parts of Lake Erie the waters are nearly transparent and why this southern most of

John Goss, Federal Asian Carp Czar
Main Event October 22, 2011



the Great Lakes supports the 114,500 tourism jobs and \$10 billion a year in visitor and a multi-billion-dollar fishing and vacation industry.

But the waters are now growing murky, clogged with a toxic blue-green algae called microcystis that, on sunnier days, forms a stinky scum on the lake's surface.

After a decades-long absence, blue-green algae is again flourishing in Lake Erie -- and it's never been worse than it is this summer. Biologists in Ohio, Michigan, and elsewhere say are pointing toward an ecosystem in danger of collapse.

Lake Erie is the most fertile of the Great Lakes: It contains only 2 percent of their water but 50 percent of their fish. Its biological abundance, and its location in a densely settled corner of the Midwest, make the prospect of collapse all the more frightening.

If conditions grow worse, imploding native fish populations could decimate Lake Erie's recreational fishing industry.

Read the full article:

http://www.westernlakeerie.org/Lake_Erie_Death_Watch_enviro_08_31_2011.pdf 🐟

NEWS BITES

Researchers Test System to Kill Invasives



Researchers have conducted a large-scale test of a new system to kill invasive species hiding in the ballast water of Great Lakes freighters and expect to get test results back in late September.

Crews recently pumped lye into two of 10 ballast tanks inside the 1,000-foot Indiana Harbor as it left Gary, Indiana., treating 1.8 million gallons of ballast water. The chemical then was neutralized with carbon dioxide as the boat traveled across Lake Superior before releasing the ballast water in the Duluth-Superior harbor. 🐟

Asian Carp found in St. Croix River

Scientists have found disappointing DNA evidence that invasive Asian carp are present in the St. Croix River as far upstream as the dam at St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9) . . . **NEWS BITES**

Similar testing found no traces of Asian carp in the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul, and more testing is planned while agencies scramble to try to stop the further spread of the large nonnative fish.

Scientists tested for eDNA, from silver carp, looking for small traces of DNA shed by the fish through their excrement and other means. 22 of 50 sites tested positive for silver carp in a 4.3-mile stretch of the St. Croix below the dam at St. Croix Falls. ➤

Corps on the Hunt for Carp Pathways

Hundreds of streams pose as ecological time bombs because they are the crucial link in a chain of waterways hundreds of miles long that connects Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. Last year, the Army Corps identified 31 such locations. Eighteen were classified as a medium, high or acute risk.

The Army corps of Engineers is now analyzing which of those secondary routes pose the biggest threats — a task that became more urgent this month with the discovery of Asian carp DNA in the St. Croix River on the Minnesota line and an angler's catch of a bighead carp in the lower Wisconsin River. Neither river has a direct tie to the Great Lakes, but both are tributaries of the Mississippi. The finds were further evidence of the carp's steady northward march. ➤

Tribe Members Convicted of Illegal Fishing

Three members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians have been convicted of running an illegal commercial fishing operation on Lake Michigan's Little Bay de Noc.

Brothers Andrew, Kevin and John Schwartz of Rapid River were found guilty of 79 violations in tribal court in Manistique, and were ordered to pay \$13,175 in fines and costs and had their fishing licenses permanently revoked. The brothers took thousands of pounds of fish from the bay and sold it through a tribal operation and a state-licensed wholesaler.

Dingell hosts panel on "vanishing" hunting and fishing opportunities

Michigan Congressman John Dingell hosted a panel about the shrinking hunting and fishing op-

portunities in the state. Dingell says conserving places to hunt and fish are keys to Michigan's quality of life. "Sportsmen are really one of the first lines of defense for the protection of our environment." Dingell says he's also working on building up protected natural areas in southeast Michigan.

Bill will End Tax Break for using you boat as second residence

The Ending Taxpayer Subsidies for Yachts Act would limit the tax deduction to only those who use their boats as a primary residence.

In 2004, there were approximately 500,000 pleasure boats in the United States large enough to qualify for the tax break, but only around 100,000 people live full time on boats according to the 2000 Census.

The proposal is included in Quigley's Reinventing Government: The Federal Budget Part II. ➤

Attorney Generals sign on to split Great Lakes from Mississippi

Six attorneys general in the Great Lakes region called for a multi-state coalition that would push the federal government to protect the lakes from invasive species such as Asian carp by cutting off their artificial link to the Mississippi River basin.

State officials invited colleagues in 27 other states to join a lobbying campaign to separate the two watersheds, contending they have as much to lose as the Great Lakes do from migration of aquatic plants and animals that can do billions in economic damage and starve out native species.

Signing the appeal were attorneys general from Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. It was being sent to their counterparts across the Mississippi basin as well as Western states such as Nevada, where Lake Mead and other waterways have been infested by zebra mussels believed to have been transported from the Great Lakes by unwitting recreational boaters. ➤

EPA hiring jobless workers for Great Lakes cleanup

EPA will spend \$6 million to hire unemployed people who can work on Great Lakes cleanup projects.

Congress has appropriated \$775 million over

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the past two years for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a wide-ranging plan to improve the region's environmental health.

Among the priorities are cleaning up toxic pollution, fighting invasive species, improving wildlife habitat and protecting watersheds from contaminated runoff. 🐟



28.9 lb Coho helps Ludington team win Frankfort tourney

It wasn't chunky lake trout putting the team over the top this time, though, it was a monster Coho salmon — the largest from the Michigan side of Lake Michigan since 1999, according to Michigan Department of Natural Resources Master Angler records.

The team's big fish — which finished second in the big fish standings behind a 29.7-pound king — weighed in at 28.9 pounds and propelled the team on Hamm's Sea Ray past first-day leader Blue Fairways - a boat owned by Greg Magee of Ludington. 🐟

New York's Tough Ballast Water Rules

For the first time, a top official with the US Environmental Protection Agency has publicly embraced New York's tough new ballast water rules. Those regulations, scheduled to go into effect next

year, are designed to stop invasions of non-native animals and plants, like zebra mussels and the spiny water flea.

Industry groups, members of congress and some Federal officials are pushing back hard, arguing that the regulations set standards that can't be met by existing technology. They want New York's rules scrapped. And they're lobbying the EPA to create national ballast water guidelines that are less strict.

Top EPA administrator in New York says new regulations should push the shipping industry to do more to help stop the spread of invasives entering the Great Lakes through the Seaway. 🐟

MAJOR SALMON PLANTS TO END IN LAKE HURON

By Capt. Terry R. Walsh

Five years ago, the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (LHCFAC) and the DNR Fisheries Division set in motion a study to determine the feasibility of continuing the stocking of Chinook salmon in Lake Huron. Five years would allow the alewife, the principle forage base of the salmon, to show signs recovery. That has not happened. As a direct result, the stocked salmon have shown extremely poor survival rates during that five-year period. The fall runs that used to bring thousands of eager anglers to the lakes' major salmon ports haven't materialized.

A number of public hearings were held during August to inform the public of the study's findings and inform them the recommendation had been made to suspend any further salmon plants in Lake Huron.

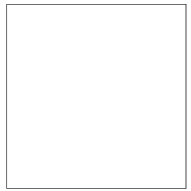
"Field biologists have determined the vast majority of all the salmon checked by their census teams during the five-year period were actually wild fish, which are reproducing in larger numbers than we initially realized," said fisheries biologist Jim Johnson. "Last year, when the figures were finally tabulated of the roughly 3,500 salmon taken lake-wide in Lake Huron, less than one percent was actually hatchery fish. Wild fish dominated the creel censuses at every major stocking site."

The packed meeting I attended in Oscoda produced little if any public resistance to suspend any further salmon plants in Lake Huron. "The writing has been on the wall for several years now," one

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(Continued from page 11) . . . **NEWS BITES**

gentleman said. "The alewife's are gone, and that's all they seemed to want to eat. We're just wasting money planting any more salmon." He received no argument.

"We will continue to stock some fish at Swan Creek for backup purposes, as this is a significant egg collection site for our overall salmon programs," Johnson said. "We are also bound by federal treaty to stock a certain number of fish in tribal waters. But keep in mind," Johnson added, "should alewife show significant signs of recovery, we can certainly resume salmon stocking. But right now we know the wild salmon are dominating what little alewife forage base there is." 🐟

US Coast Guard Approved OUPV Class

Captain Dean Hobbs and Lynn Lively, will be offering a class in October in the Muskegon, Michigan area. If you or anyone you know is looking to get licensed for USCG OUPV 6-pak.



We need at least six students, a place to conduct class and one month lead time (USCG approval etc.). Class is seven straight days (class

Main Event October 22, 2011

times can be determined by class majority) but consist of 8 hour days all for a total of 56 hours plus test. No testing required at USCG.

We are flexible on pricing if group can provide its own classroom (needs to meet USCG approval) or wants to do its own printing, etc.

OUPV-\$795, 100Ton Master Upgrade \$395 (plus 24 hours) and Assist Towing Endorsement \$150 (plus eight hours). Total package (OUPV, 100 Ton Master & Assist Towing Certificate) can be done \$1,000 per student, your classroom & printing of student materials (can use your logos, etc.).

Contact Captain Dean Hobbs
caphobbs@charter.net or myself
captlively@abcdmarine.com if you would like to attend or have further questions.
C: 231-730-6475 🐟

Let's Stand Together in a Show of Solidarity Against the Invasion of Asian Carp into the Great Lakes.

MCBA Great Lakes Conference will feature John Goss, Federal Carp Czar. (MCBA members have special private audience) as our featured guest speaker at the dinner session, Saturday evening, October 22nd at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton in Holland, Michigan. 🐟