



cannonball

G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • FALL 2016

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & BUSINESS MEETING

MCBA Annual Membership Meeting

October 21, 22 & 23, 2016

Working With You For A Better Charter Industry

The 2016 Annual Michigan Charter Boat Association Business Conference will be held over the weekend of October 21, 22 and 23, 2016 at The Treetops Resort in Gaylord, MI.

The Association has made arrangements with the hotel for a special room rate for those who wish to stay overnight for one or two nights. Call them; **use this Group Toll Free Number: 855-261-8764 to secure your room reservation**, and ask for the MCBA special rate (Inn Standard: \$79, Inn Deluxe: \$99, Lodge Business King: \$139, Lodge Queen: \$139, Lodge Queen Deluxe: \$139) the address is 3962 Wilkinson Rd Gaylord, MI 49735

The fall conference is a great way to catch up on what's going on and to enjoy a day or two away from the regular home routine. Bring your spouse or significant other, too. There are lots of things (shopping for the upcoming holidays) to do in the area.

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

Of course, attendance at this event is strictly



The Treetops Resort in Gaylord, MI.

Call 855-261-8764 to secure your room reservation

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

The main event will begin early Saturday morning, with coffee and Complete Deluxe Buffet Breakfast (included with your registration) during registration. The program begins at 9:00 AM. Various Speakers and panels will present information about issues of interest to our captains. There are question and answer sessions at the end of each presentation. The program for this fall's conference agenda is located here.

On Saturday evening we will have a dinner at

(Continued on page 2)

From the Helm . . .



This summer is going down as a very busy summer for MCBA, not only for me, but the board of directors as well. First item that came up in early June was the proposed chumming ban on Michigan's steelhead and salmon rivers. This ban affects our member captains who are river guides also.

Fly fishing groups who were pushing this ban were from the Muskegon River area and had completely gone around the MDNR. They went directly to the Natural Resources Commission and pushed for this ban.

MDNR fisheries and law enforcement said there were never any problems with fishermen and river guides chumming. This whole thing set up a future pathway in hunting and fishing by going over the DNR departments and going directly to the NRC for law statue changes.

As of now chumming is banned on Michigan rivers and streams. This will now make fishing in the winter tougher for our guide captains.


The second item drawing a lot of attention with our membership is the Lake Michigan Chinook salmon proposed cuts by our MDNR. This is a hot' button issue with many of our

captains along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Most Lake Michigan captains are not in favor of more stocking cuts for Lake Michigan in 2017. After numerous phone calls from captains, MCBA came out in support for our Lake Michigan captains and officially went on record as opposing this 2017 cut on Chinook salmon. Maxine Appleby and I put together a survey that went out via the Internet to all members. At the time I wrote this article, the survey results were not 100% complete. I can tell our membership the first 120 or so, the replies by our member captains was running 75% to 80% in opposing any more cuts in Chinook stocking for 2017. I and most of the board of directors are standing behind our captains as their elected representatives in this issue over the proposed stocking cuts.

We as a fishing association of professional captains have always supported our MDNR fisheries people and will in the future, but on this one issue we are not in agreement.

In closing, I hope to see a good turnout at our fall annual meeting at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. Lots of important info for you as a charter captain will be there at Saturday's general workshop meeting. With all the uncertainty over Chinook salmon it's well worth it to be there and voice your opinions.

Capt. Eric Andersen President 

(Continued from page 1). . . Annual Meeting

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

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

lowing the election of officers. Normally, the meeting is over by 10:30 AM or so, and folks begin to check out to travel home or take in local events.

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

(Continued on page 3)

for fun and camaraderie with fellow captains. 

Friday Oct. 21, 2016 Hospitality room opens (6:00 PM - till?). See You There!

SEA K'S LICENSING LORE



Maritime Licensing Specialist

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

As the dog days of summer continue and the most common sound I hear is the hum of the air conditioner, I hope you are all having a successful fishing season. I did have the opportunity to wet a line once in Lake Erie but apparently someone notified the walleye in advance that I was coming so they all went somewhere else. Hoping to try my hand at some perch fishing later in the fall.

I would like to be able to provide a positive report about the outstanding job the maritime licensing people in West Virginia are doing but I can't. Unexplained lengthy delays still seem to be the order of the day. Traditionally summer is the slower season for the maritime licensing program but many people are still experiencing 6-8 week processing times on the most basic licensing transactions. At the end of 2016, some significant international licensing changes are going to occur. Though it won't directly affect most people working on the Great Lakes, I anticipate a significant increase in the number of files submitted to the Coast Guard this fall as

people attempt to avoid many of these very costly changes. This will greatly increase the processing time for all application packages. If your license is due to expire in 2016 or early 2017, I would recommend you start the renewal process early. Remember, if you start the renewal process no more than eight months early, the Coast Guard will issue your new credential but it won't become effective until your current one expires so you will still get your full five years you are paying for. If you take advantage of this early renewal, please make sure to take the correct credential with you when you are working.

I've begun to notice a significant number of errors when individuals are completing their medical forms. The form requires your name and birth date at the bottom of each page. It also requires your signature and date at the bottom of the last page beneath the doctor's office information. It's a relatively small signature block and close to 50% of the physicals I review have not been signed. All of these minor items will be show stoppers with the Coast Guard resulting in significant processing delays.

Another reminder when completing your small boat sea service forms: the Coast Guard will only accept days after your current license was issued. Many individuals are submitting exactly 360 days but listing days before their current license was issued. When the Coast Guard subtracts the non-creditable days, individuals are left with less than the 360 days required

(Continued on page 4)

"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: Eric Andersen · (231) 362-3242
13568 9 Mile · Kaleva, MI 49645
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

Bill Winowiecki · (231) 228-7417
3700 Schomberg Rd · Cedar, MI 49621

Central Lake Michigan

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

Southern Lake Michigan

Ronald Westrate (616) 335-2076
6545 138th Avenue · Holland, MI 49423

Upper Peninsula

Brian Helminen · (906) 482-2424
22950 Airpark Blvd · Calumet, MI 49913

Southern Lake Huron

Ken Deaton (989) 428-3130
2905 Parkview Drive · Port Hope, MI 48486

Northern Lake Huron

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

Lakes St. Clair and Erie

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



SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak




Where did summer go?

It's hard to believe I'll be sending out the 2017 membership applications towards the end of September. When you receive your application, please fill it out completely and legibly. I hate bugging you for missing information or because I can't make out your hand writing.

As we go into the new membership year, please remember you must renew within a short time period or your membership in the MCBA drug program will expire, and you will have to submit a new drug test at your expense to be re-enrolled in the MCBA drug plan. And by the way, paying for the test, and then not taking or submitting it, does not qualify you for membership in the program. We are still waiting for a handful of captains to take drug


tests that were paid for as far back as March. If this applies to you, you may be getting the Cannonball as a courtesy for now, but you are not a member of the drug plan. You must complete and pass the drug test. After that our Drug Administrator will send you all the necessary documents to satisfy all Coast Guard requirements and re-enroll you in the random drug test program. I hope you don't get stopped by the Coast Guard without the proper paperwork. The fines could be hefty.

Last year the U.S.C.G. went through the U.P. checking captains for drug documentation. Fortunately, all our captains had the proper documents. The Coast Guard complimented the captains for having their ducks in a row. Don't be one of the captains who allow their membership to lapse and then have to do a re-admission drug test at their own expense. Renew early, and save yourself all that drug test renewal hassle. 

 Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: www.fishmcba.com/members

(Continued from page 3) . . . **SEA K'S LICENSING LORE**

and are forced to waste time and money completing open book renewal exams.

Hope you are all having a successful season. Look forward to seeing you all at the conference in October. 



S. Lake Michigan
By Captain Ron Westrate
MCBA Director

DIRECTORS' PORT REPORTS



I hope this year has been a successful and prosperous one for all of our charter services. As the 2016 season winds down, I am sure that most of you are looking at next year with some concern over the proposed cuts in salmon and trout.

Just the other day I received the new proposed Lake Michigan stocking cuts for next

year. The initial proposal was for a 62% reduction of Chinook salmon, however after getting feedback from anglers and the MCBA a new proposal was made by the Lake Michigan Committee. The new proposal would have Michigan's stocking of Chinook Salmon go from 560,000 to 300,000 or a reduction of 46% from the current levels. The proposal would see the following reductions from current levels: Wisconsin 47%, Michigan 46%, Illinois 48%, Indiana 70%.

There is also a proposed lake trout reduction of about 21% lake wide. These reductions would be outside the consent decree waters and would go from 3,190,000 in recent years to 2,540,000. The Mid-Lake Reef Complex will be reduced by 50% and the second priority lake trout stocking sites (Grand Haven, New Buffalo, Holland, Michigan City, Sturgeon Bay,

(Continued on page 6)

MCBA Conference Agenda, Saturday, October 22, 2016

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM Registration and Breakfast (Courtesy of the MCBA)
- 9:00 – 9:15 AM Introductory Remarks & Pledge of Allegiance Eric Andersen, President, Michigan Charter Boat Association; Introduction of Program Moderator , Dan O’Keefe, SW District Educator, Sea Grant
- 9:15 – 10:00 AM Jim Dexter, Fisheries Chief, Michigan DNR
- 10:00- 10:20 AM **Break**
- 10:20 – 11:00 AM Predator Prey Salmon update, Randy Claramunt, MDNR Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station
- 11:00 – 11:40 AM Tammy Newcom, MDNR, Aquaculture, update
- 11:40 – 12 Noon Charter Catch Reports Update: Donna Wesander, MDNR Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station, Michigan DNR
- 12 Noon–1:00 PM **Lunch** (Courtesy of Michigan Charter Boat Association).
- 1:00 – 2:00PM Jason Manghum, Enbridge Pipeline – Mackinac Straits
- 2:00 – 2:30 PM Alan Bernstein, Coast Guard Happenings
- 2:30 – 3:00 PM USCG License Renewal & Updates: USCG Lt. Commander (retired), “Chuck” Kakuska, Sea K’s Maritime Service
- Break**
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM Social Hour – Cash Bar
- 7:00 – 8:00 PM Dinner
- 8:00 – 8:30 PM Introductory Remarks MCBA President, Eric Andersen
Dinner Speaker - Alan Bernstein
- 8:30 - ? MCBA and Pistis Awards; MCBA Tackle Raffle
- The Hospitality Suite will re-open following the conclusion of the Tackle Raffle

MCBA Program, Sunday, October 23, 2016

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM Coffee, juice and Deluxe Breakfast Buffet (Free to All Members and Spouses).
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM Annual Membership Meeting: President’s Report, Committee Reports, New Business, Election of Officers

At the adjournment of the meeting, there will be a free drawing for the Hospitality Room cooler and its contents and a **GoPro Camera**. Each registered member present will be given one ticket for the drawing. You must be present to win. ➤



(Continued from page 4) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Kewaunee and Wind Point) will receive a total cut. Any future sites (North of Grand Haven) will depend on negotiations with the Tribal Nations, however, the plan is for a 100% cut. According to the Great Lakes Basin Report, "The Michigan Marquette State Fish hatchery raises about 49,500 lake trout for Grand Haven, Holland and New Buffalo. We will continue to stock those fish with New Buffalo receiving 12,500, and Grand Haven and Holland each receiving 18,500."

The salmon and lake trout proposals will be discussed at a public meeting September 13 at the South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 Wells St., South Haven, Mi. 49090. The meeting will start at 6:30 PM. 🐟



Central Lake Michigan

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

This season has been a trying one for most captains in Central Lake Michigan. The offshore fishery we depend on in June and July never materialized, so lake trout were many anglers primary target.

The Ludington Offshore Classic Pro/Am was held July 16 & 17. The format is weigh 12 fish. No more than nine can be of the same species. In past years the goal has been to get nine kings and try to get three "others". This year for most boats the "others" were kings and the bulk of their catches were lake trout.

August has been an up and down month for kings. The numbers have been down, but the fish being caught appear to be healthy and are running larger than last year.

There has been a lot of controversy about the proposed MDNR chinook salmon stocking cuts. This has led to a lot of negative publicity, particularly in our area, and many captains attribute this to charter bookings being down. MCBA has taken the position that no new chinook

salmon cuts should be made for at least one more year. A new organization has been formed that is also in support of no chinook stocking cuts for 2017. It is the Great Lakes Salmon Initiative. It's mission statement reads "The Great Lakes Salmon Initiative is a non-profit organization whose objective is to support and promote the world class Chinook salmon fishery in Lake Michigan and surrounding Great Lakes". I have joined the organization and encourage captains to check out their website.

www.greatlakesalmon.org.

MCBA will hold its annual business conference in Gaylord at Treetops Resort October 21, 22, & 23. Special room rates are being offered for MCBA members. Hope to see you there.

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



Northern Lake Michigan

By Captain Bill Winowiecki - MCBA Director

The 2016 charter season is coming to an end. I've heard good reports of alewife and good catches of salmon from Frankfort south, but from Point Betsie north, very few alewife and smaller numbers of salmon have been caught.

The surprise has been that both Traverse Bays have had pretty decent salmon fishing. The big debate all summer has been whether to cut the king salmon plants or stick with the same program: sticking to the science, and what the biologists tell us or what we the sports fishermen are seeing in Lake Michigan. The Lake Michigan committee is split on this issue. It's looking more like the DNR is going to cut both king salmon and lake trout plants to try and preserve the fishery in a conservative approach for the future.

(Continued on page 7)

The lake trout fishery in general has been good. The lake trout numbers were down between Glen Arbor, Leland and West Grand Traverse Bay due to some heavy tribal netting.

I attended the Tribal Council Meeting on August 25th. The DNR chiefs are trying to lay the ground work for the 2020 Tribal Consent Decree. For those of us who fish Northern Lake Huron and Lake Michigan let me tell you these are going to be some tough negotiations!

Most of the older, knowledgeable captains and sport fisherman who fought so hard for what we have now are gone. Fortunately, we still have Steve Shultz as our attorney representing the "Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources". Steve is bringing Chris Patterson on board to represent our interests in the future.

To keep this knowledge and experience representing our future fishery and dealings with the Tribes is going to cost some money. The time is here, and the time is now when MCBA is asking for your support in the form of a tax deductible donation! We will be asking for donations every year from now until the 2020 decree is settled.

The last Tribal Decree cost around \$300,000 to pay for our legal representation in which the Sport Fishing Community picked up the tab. The Coalition figures that we will need at least that amount of money this time around. There are eight sports fishing member groups splitting that cost in the Coalition.

MCBA figures it will need to raise \$40,000 to \$50,000 to keep our seat at the table to voice your opinion. The MCBA board added a line on the MCBA application for your donation to help cover our share of the expenses during the negotiations. We are asking for any donation you can afford. We are suggesting a \$100.00 donation from our captains and maybe a \$10 or \$20 from our mates to help support our efforts.


Maybe some ports could have some small

raffles with all proceeds going to the MCBA Tribal Decree Fund. Whatever it takes.

Nobody knows how these negotiations are going to end up. We do know the Tribes want more lake areas to net and larger numbers of fish. That includes lake trout, salmon, whitefish, perch, walleye, and cisco.

The public image being portrayed by the media is that the Tribes are not hurting our fishery. They are selling fish all over the world, and now these fish are worth more money as the demand exceeds the supply.

All five Tribes have their own lawyer's and Bill Rathsetter is their chief negotiating lawyer who has represented them from the beginning. The Sport Fishing Community has two lawyers.

Please consider a donation. Maybe putting on a port raffle to help support the MCBA. Your future charter business is at stake. 



Upper Peninsula

By Captain Brian Helminen - MCBA Director

Gordon Lightfoot's song, the Edmund Fitzgerald, often comes to mind - "Lake Superior, it is said, never gives up her dead..." It depicts the stark reality of boating in storms on the great lakes and should make us take precautions against disaster.

Not too many years ago, here in the Keweenaw Peninsula (out of Copper Harbor) the captain of a pleasure yacht fell overboard in rough waters. Although it wasn't really a storm like the Fitz encountered, it makes us aware of one of the many hazards of boating. He was the only one who had any experience operating his boat; and the others, left aboard, had no instruction on what to do in case of an emergency. Unfortunately for him, they were unable to get a life ring to him on time and he drowned. The uninstructed crew managed to steer past him two times, but not close enough as they at-

2016 MCBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

The Treetops Resort • 3962 Wilkinson Rd • Gaylord, MI 49735 • 855-261-8764

October 21, 22 & 23, 2016

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 **10/10/16** 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 \$79.00 (Inn Standard: \$79, Inn Deluxe: \$99, Lodge Queen Deluxe: \$139) per night. Call the hotel directly at 855-261-8764 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 Lunch: Courtesy of MCBA

Optional Saturday Dinner: \$25. Ea. For Captain's Deluxe Buffet Dinner x _____ people = \$ _____

(open bar optional at dinner)

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

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

Total ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make check payable to MCBA,

and return to:

MCBA Annual Meeting

9760 Judd Road

Willis, MI 48191



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



tempted a rescue, and the third time there was no sight of him as he had gone under and drowned.

Imagine yourself, as captain, falling in the lake as your boat is trolling along and you don't have experienced boaters on board. That's why it's important to always give a safety spiel before EVERY charter and give at least a little instruction on the basics of your vessel, especially if you operate without a first mate or an experienced deckhand.

Some points to cover:

- * Location of life jackets, life ring, man overboard (MOB) strobe light, fire extinguishers, flares and first aid kit.
- * Basics on how to use the marine radio.
- * Point out the "Emergency Check List" that should be prominently displayed on your boat.
- * If you have no first mate: Give some basics on boat operation to a capable client, like use of the bilge blower, starting the motors in neutral, and shifting: forward and reverse. (I taught my youngest boy, when he was four, how to start, shift and maneuver my 19-foot boat because he was often the only one on the water with me.)
- * If you use an autopilot while fishing: How to disable it in order to manually steer.
- * You should also point out your "No drug" policy since the Coast Guard has no tolerance for it, even if you didn't know a client brought medical marijuana along and they think it's legal.

After I go through my safety spiel, to set the mood for our trip, I'll sing the first line of Lightfoot's song "Lake Superior, it is said, never gives up her dead..." Just kidding, although it's crossed my mind to do it just for fun! Have fun and be safe. 🚤



Northern Lake Huron

By Captain Rick Konecke - MCBA Director

Seems like everything you hear now days is the decline in salmon on Lake Michigan. It wasn't that long ago that the same things were being talked about on Lake Huron, and we should give up on the salmon and just fish trout.

Well, those who didn't give up are starting to see a better return year by year. The fishing is getting better, and with the introduction of the Atlantic salmon things seem to be looking up in some ports.

The number of adult Chinook salmon being caught continues to improve. Anglers are taking a mixed bag of Atlantic, coho and pink salmon, lake trout, steelhead and walleye south towards Swan Bay, Adams Point and Calcite Harbor. 🚤



Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair

by Captain Henry Walters - MCBA Director

Well, as the hot weather drags on, the fishing on my end has been good.

The bass fishing has been a little on the slow side but we're still getting them. Catching wall-eye, on the other hand, has been excellent all summer with fall looking good. Even the perch have been better than they have been in years. They seem to be making a rebound and this is good.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the MCBA Conference in Gaylord this October. Please make it a point to attend. You won't be disappointed.

*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.*

See you at the Conference! 🚤

CUTTING CHINOOK SALMON PLANTS IS GOOD MANAGEMENT



LAKE HURON CITIZENS' FISHERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By Capt. Terry R. Walsh - Past President

Three years before the total collapse of the alewife prey base in Lake Huron, there was no indication among anglers anything was wrong. Salmon fishing was fantastic and provided a better catch rate per angler hours than did Lake Michigan. In 2004 the salmon were essentially gone. It happened that fast. Anglers were shocked beyond belief. Nature's "perfect storm" had destroyed a legendary fishery in the blink of an eye, and it has never recovered.

Twelve years later, lake trout are nearing full recovery status, walleye are now the lake's "kings", and perch fishing this summer is the best in years. But there are no alewife. There are no salmon. A couple dozen charter boats operate where once there were a couple hundred. Angler effort remains more than 50-percent below what it once was when there were salmon.

Today the recreational fishery and tourism industry all around Lake Michigan's shoreline face a similar nightmare. Michigan and Wisconsin would suffer the greatest economic losses should the fishery collapse, as they have the greatest amount of shoreline. Therefore they are the major players in next year's proposed salmon cuts.

Michigan's DNR proposes a stocking cut from 1.8 million salmon a year to 905,000 lake wide for 2017, and it's drawing a lot of opposition from west-side charter associations, sport fishing groups and even the Michigan Charter Boat Association, who sees it as a threat to the livelihood of their captains. As a Lake Huron charter captain for 40 years, I understand their frustra-

tion. My dad, my three daughters and I once enjoyed catching these magnificent fish. My grandson may not. But no one special interest group has exclusive rights to the salmon. Like all the state's game fish and animals, they belong to anyone with a proper license to pursue them. Therefore, the search for a solution to save the fishery must keep this in mind.

Most captains and their respective organizations would prefer greater lake trout cuts than are already planned, citing them as less valuable to their industry than the prized salmon. Lake trout, however, are a native fish and are proving more adaptable to a changing prey base than the finicky salmon, which are 95-percent alewife dependent for survival. Lake trout have long been a charter captain's go-to fish, and sacrificing them to try and save the salmon is not a wise move. They may ultimately end up being the only game in town.

If Chinook salmon have any chance of remaining a major sport fish in Lake Michigan, the alewife prey base must not collapse as it did in Lake Huron. Science says, reduce the number of predators feeding on alewife to insure a healthy prey base. All the data generated by the DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports this thinking. Special interest groups and public opinion must not suppress scientific management. Trying to micro-manage science is courting disaster. Alewife are the primary diet of Chinook salmon; therefore, salmon stocking must be cut to try and avoid a collapse of the alewife biomass, which is at an historic all time low.

When alewife were in great abundance and salmon and trout had a seemingly endless supply of food, there weren't 180 some other invasive species competing in the food chain. There is no guarantee the salmon stocking cuts will work, but it's the only option available. 🐟



SHOW TIME



Show Chairman

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

The dates for the 2017 Sport Shows that we will be attending are:

- Ultimate Sport Show, Novi January 12-15
- Outdoorama, Novi February 23-26
- Ultimate Sport Show, Grand Rapids March 16-19, 2017

We are still in need of captain's willing to donate their services to the winners of the Virtual Fishing Contest. Remember that those who donate will be reimbursed \$200 for fuel expense after the trip has been run, and your brochures will be displayed at all three shows that we attend. If you're interested in donating, please contact me so I can add you to my list. (248-542-1563) Doing these shows allows us to promote our organization and what we stand for in the charter industry. All proceeds we take in goes into our scholarship fund. I want to thank everyone again who donated and worked the shows with us in the past years. 🚤

MCBA Cookbooks

It's been one year since the publication of the MCBA Cookbooks, and I'm pleased to say we have sold half of the books we ordered. I would like to see more members' help us. Selling them to your customers and friends is another way to promote our organization and our scholarship fund. We will also have the cookbooks at our fall meeting in October if you



would like to purchase them. The books are \$15.00 and are tax deductible. 🚤

USCG LICENSE RENEWAL HELP:

Lt. Commander, USCG (retired) Charles "Chuck" Kakuska a Maritime Licensing Specialist, has been assisting our members for the past 10 years. We recommend him and appreciate his continued services to our association. Give him a call at (734)847-1723 or email: SEAKsLic@aol.com for help with your USCG renewal. 🚤

Note: Lt. Commander, USCG (retired) Charles "Chuck" Kakuska will be available to answer USCG license renewal questions throughout the day at MCBA Annual Meeting Saturday Oct. 22, 2016

MCBA Drug & Alcohol Program

Pre and Post Employment Drug Testing

Captains, Mates:

When you report for a drug screening please inform collection facility of our companies name (Michigan Charter Boat Association) and who had sent them for the services.



The information is needed for billing and for the proper services to be provided. 🚤

Did You Know?

MCBA maintains necessary records for MIS.

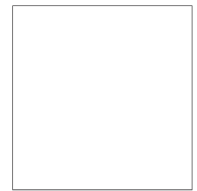
The report includes: chemical tests with positive or non-negative results for five years, chemical test with negative results for one year. All participants receiving EAP training and previous annual MIS reports. 🚤



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
 AND
 BUSINESS MEETING
 October 21, 22 & 23, 2016
 in Gaylord
Hope to See You There!
 Meeting will be held at the
TREETOPS RESORT
IN GAYLORD, MICHIGAN
 (855) 261-8764

*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.*

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:

Did you know?

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

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

The Merchant Mariner Certificate Suitable for Framing is presently available at: <http://homeport.uscg.mil/mmcert>

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

Users are reminded that the certificate, which is to be used for display purposes only, There is no fee for downloading the certificate. 🚤

2017 Membership Renewal

Available Online

MCBA website in Members Area

Credit cards processed by PayPal

All major credit cards are accepted

Stay Compliant Renew Today 🚤

God bless America and our troops



**Newsletter
 Deadline**

The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in December. Submissions **must** be in by **November 20, 2016**