



cannonball

G A Z E T T E



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION • WINTER 2017

ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP

MCBA Honors O'Keefe, Retherford, Gallegos, and Darke

DANIEL O'KEEFE RECEIVES PISTIS AWARD

by Captain Eric Andersen, President

The Pistis Award is given in honor of Chuck Pistis, former Michigan Sea Grant Program Director. It honors an individual or organization outside MCBA who is a defender of our Great Lakes and natural resources.

This year the Michigan Charter Boat Association proudly presented the Annual Pistis Award at our fall awards banquet to Dr. Daniel O'Keefe, Michigan Sea Grant Program Director. He has been a great asset to our Association, providing fisheries related information such as aquatic nuisance species here in the Great Lakes, charter-fishing economics and industry updates that effects our charter business on a daily basis.

Dr. O'Keefe's list of academic accomplishments include a B.S. Degree from Michigan State University, a Master's Degree from Central Michigan University and a PHD from Mississippi State University. Currently, Dr. O'Keefe represents Michigan Sea Grant on the Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee and the Great Lakes Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee.

In addition, a noteworthy thing for our membership is, Dr. O'Keefe is one of our first Michigan State University Fisheries students to receive the Michigan Charter Boat Association "Denny Grinold" Scholarship Award. These scholarships are awarded each year to two stu-



MCBA President Captain Eric Andersen presents Pistis Award to Southwest District Extension Educator Daniel O'Keefe above left.

dents in April by MCBA.

Dr. O'Keefe is certainly an individual worthy of our annual Pistis Award. 🐟

2017 MCBA AWARD

by Captain Terry Walsh, Past President

The 2017 recipient of the MCBA Award for distinguished service to the organization and the sport fishing industry has been an MCBA member since 1973. He pioneered the once famous brown trout fishery in Alpena's Thunder Bay and brought nation-wide acclaim to the spectacular fishery. Outdoor TV producers and every major outdoor publication in the United States and Canada came to fish with him.

An All State quarterback, he attended Olivett College where he played four years of

(Continued on page 2)



MCBA President Captain Eric Andersen presents MCBA Award to Captain Edward P. Retherford; Trout Scout Charters (above right).

(Continued from page 1) . . . 2017 MCBA AWARD

football and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology in 1965. He taught Biology and coached football at Alpena High School until 1999 when he left to head up the UP Upward Bound Program at Alpena Community College until 2013. He continues to substitute teach in area schools.


He has led an untiring fight to control cormorants in Thunder Bay and was the first to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow harassment of the birds to keep them away from newly stocked fish until they made their way out in to the open waters of the bay. Eventually, he gained authority to use lethal control of the birds, and the survival rate of stocked trout improved dramatically.

He's a Life Member of Ducks Unlimited. He serves on the Michigan Waterfowl Committee and has been a long-time member of the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee. He has been actively involved in the Alpena Brown Trout Festival since it originated.

He has been on the Pro Staffs of Lowrance, Big Jon Downriggers, Shimano Rods and Reels, Silver Streak Spoons, and Berkley to name just a few. He has taught fishing seminars through

out the state.

He and his wife Barb have two sons, Phil and Paul. Both are licensed captains and members of MCBA.

"It is my honor to present Captain Ed Retherford with the 2017 Michigan Charter Boat Association Award," said President Eric Andersen --- 

APPRECIATION OF SERVICE AWARD

by Captain Harold DeHart, Past President

Jenny (Grinold) Gallegos, the voice behind MCBA for many, many years received an "Appreciation of Service Award" for "Her Years of Outstanding Service and Devotion to Michigan Charter Boat Association."

Jenny, Jenny, Jenny,.

Just who are you anyway? Let me count the ways----

The ways, you ask, well, let me explain.

First, let me say one of my great M.C.B.A. regrets is to NOT STILL be an officer.

Why, you ask?

Because by not being an officer I do not get to interact with one of the bastions of the organization. In addition, of course, who should that bastion be but the Head Mistress of this powerful M.C.B.A. office, none other than our very own Jenny (Grinold) Gallegos.

I never once called "THE OFFICE" without hearing a voice that oozed of friendly happiness. It was always a joy talking with Jenny. I do not recall ever having a question not answered or a promised follow up to finding the required answer, which always came.

Needless to say, after talking with Jenny, the rest of the day was filled with a positive outlook. That's the affect Jenny has on people.

That is what I miss most ---- having a rea-

(Continued on page 3)



MCBA President Captain Eric Andersen (left) Jenny (Grinold) Gallegos and MCBA Past President Captain Harold DeHart (right)




MCBA President Captain Eric Andersen (left) Captain Mike Darke, Lie-A-Lot Charters and Captain George Freeman (right)

(Continued from page 2) . . . **Service Award**

son to call ----having Jenny answer and having a great day afterward.

I MISS YOU JENNY!


Thank you for being such a positive influence, not only with M.C.B.A. but life in general. 

ACTS OF HEROISM AND BRAVERY

Captain Mike Darke received an award for "Acts of Heroism and Bravery", which reads,

"On behalf of fellow members of the Ludington Charter Boat Association and Michigan Charter Boat Association in recognition of bravery and heroism."

On July 18, 2017, Mike and his crew aboard Lie A Lot Charters, rescued five people from

their burning and sinking boat on Lake Michigan waters, near Ludington Michigan. His quick thinking, actions and servant attitude saved the lives of these individuals. 



Central Lake Michigan

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

The Annual Fall MCBA Business Conference was held at The DoubleTree Hotel in Holland October 20 -22. The program was very informative. The food and accommodations were good and captain's wives enjoyed shopping in the Holland area. At the Saturday evening dinner, Central Lake Michigan Captain Mike Darke of Lie-A-Lot Charters received a joint award from

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"CANNONBALL GAZETTE"

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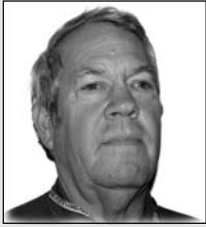
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From the Helm . . .



The 2017 year is coming to a close. By in large, most captains in our Association had a better fishing year than in 2016. That holds very true in salmon numbers and size for Lake Michigan. Lake Erie walleye fishing remains outstanding and biologists forecast the same in catch numbers over the next several years. Lake Huron captains are catching some Atlantic salmon along with lake trout. The Saginaw Bay walleye fishery remains strong. Some captains reported their summer trips were down on Saginaw Bay do to wind and wave conditions. Lake Superior salmon and lake trout remain about the same as in 2016.

In 2018, our MCBA board will be focusing on the upcoming 2020 Tribal Consent Decree. The cormorant issue, with the US Fish and Wildlife Service lack of response over the growing numbers of fish eating cormorants, is a major concern. Our membership will have to become proactive in writing letters to our Federal Senators and Congressmen in 2018. The board will be keeping our membership informed via e-blasts and updates in the Cannonball newsletter. Other issues of ongoing debate are the future of Pipeline Five that runs under the Straits of Mackinaw... lake trout catch numbers on Northern Lake Huron, and the bycatch commercial netting issue of walleye in Saginaw Bay is being closely watched by our board. We are still waiting for a decision at state level meetings over changes in the proposed commercial netting

statue for commercial netting in Michigan waters.

At our annual fall business meeting in Holland, MI, we installed Captain CJ Anastor from the port of Grand Haven, MI as our new Southern Lake Michigan Director. He can be reached by cell phone at 616-402-3059. Captain Bill Winowiecki is our new Vice President and was our past Northern Lake Michigan Director for a number of years.


Our new Northern Lake Michigan Director is Captain Tony Radjenovich from the port of Leland, MI. Capt. Tony can be reached by cell phone at 231-886-0053.

Our new director for the U.P. is Captain Keith Wils from the port of Gladstone/ Big Bay DeNoc area. Capt. Keith can be reached by cell phone at 906-420-6454. To our new board members, a big welcome aboard from all of us at MCBA.

I wish to extend a big thank you to Captain Rich Haslett, our past Vice President, and to Captains Mike Nelson and Brian Helminen for their devotion as directors to MCBA.

In closing this winter 2017 newsletter, I wish to say to our membership ...have a great and Merry Christmas with your family and friends. The officers and board hope the New Year brings our captains good catches and plenty of customers to their charter business.

Kind regards.

Captain Eric Andersen - President MCBA 



(Continued from page 3) Directors' Report

the MCBA and Ludington Charter Boat Association for bravery and heroism for rescuing five boaters from a burning, sinking boat off Ludington this summer. Thank you to all the CLM members that attended and to former

Northern Lake Michigan Director Capt. Bill Winowiecki for planning the conference, Secretary Capt. John Giszczak for the Hospitality Suite, Capt. Frank English for the Tackle Raffle and the rest of the crew who helped make this

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak



Captain / Mates! The 2018 Memberships are due by December 31!

Please fill the application out completely, otherwise I will assume you lost your license, sold your boat, or moved.

The MCBA website will be updated with any changes/additions after the second week of


ALL MCBA Memberships Expire 12/31/2017 Stay Compliant - Renew Today!



Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: MCBAmembers.com

January. Once again, double-check your website listing. If you do need something changed or corrected, start on the MCBA home page, click on "Members" at the top right of the home page, then click on "Web Updates" in the banner on the "Members" page. Fill out the Form.



If you need help or have questions, please call 800-622-2971. 

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


event a success.

At the Sunday morning business, meeting elections were held. Capt. Bill Winowiecki was elected vice president and Capt. Tony Radjenovich was appointed to fill the Northern Lake Michigan Director position Capt. Bill previously held.

All Captains and others interested are encouraged to attend the Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop to be held January 13th, 2018. It will again be held at West Shore Community College. Experts will share information about the past season, including the most recent research data and other topics of interest to all charter fishermen. Contact Mary Frein, Ottawa County MSU Extension Office (616) 994-4540 with itinerary questions. Contact Cara Mitchell at (231) 843-5825 for registration and location info or to register by phone. Hope to see you there.

I am interested in reporting news of interest to the readers of the Cannonball from Captains or Clubs in the Central Lake Michigan region.

(From Muskegon thru Ludington) If you would like to provide news for the Cannonball from your part of our region, please give me a call (877-456-3474).

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season. 



Northern Lake Michigan

By Captain Tony Radjenovich - MCBA Director

Bergman Takes Aim At Cormorants

Washington - Last week, Congressman Jack Bergman introduced H.R. 4429, the Cormorant Control Act, bipartisan legislation to address cormorant depredation in Michigan's First District.

Management of the double-crested cormorant has long been a successful, comprehensive endeavor between state agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). However, a recent federal court order has left our state and Michigan's First District unable to respond to the negative effects these migratory birds have on our fish populations.

"This issue is of the utmost importance to states like Michigan. Inaction threatens our fish populations, and in turn, the livelihood of recreational and commercial fishing industries, which are critical to our economy," said Congressman Bergman.

Since coming to Congress, Congressman Bergman has held numerous meetings with U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, sportsmen's clubs, and conservation groups in an effort to chart the best path forward for the control and management of the cormorant.

"I am encouraged by what this Administration and the USFWS has done to comply with the court's decision but it is Congress, not the Courts, that should be setting policy. I believe this legislation strikes at the heart of the problem for my district. Thousands of pounds of fish are consumed by cormorants in northern Michigan's free swimming fisheries, and if left unchecked, the cormorant could decimate our open water fish populations."

The Cormorant Control Act would direct Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke to reissue the 2014 rule related to double-crested cormorant depredation orders, allowing Michigan to resume responsible cormorant management activities. <https://bergman.house.gov> 🐾



Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair
by Captain Henry Walters - MCBA Director

Hello everyone

The St. Clair River provides opportunity to capture a wide variety of species. St. Clair River anglers' surveys over the years have resulted in walleye consistency being among the most harvested, with species like white bass, yellow perch, and small mouth bass also being in the mix. There is a seasonal trout and salmon

fishery that is supplemented with stocking of steelhead in two tributaries, along with brown trout at the mouth of the Black River and in the St. Clair River near Algonac. The river has a fair amount of angler success.

MDNR has been stocking the St. Clair River with brown trout since 1981. In 2009, the stocking level was increased to 100,000 brown trout annually, which costs about \$135,000. The anglers' survey information and angler reports suggest that although a lot of resources are being used to stock brown trout, they do not contribute significantly to the trout and salmon fishery. Results from angler surveys show that brown trout only make up 8-12% of the trout and salmon harvest. Most of the salmon and trout harvested in the St. Clair River are made up of steelhead, Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, and now Atlantic salmon. If brown trout were no longer stocked, the salmon and trout fishing opportunity would remain. The decision to continue the brown trout stocking program in the St. Clair River is being evaluated and may be discontinued. The funds for brown trout may be used to go to additional Atlantic salmon stocking.

As of 2017 there was a good catch report on Atlantic salmon planted in Lexington. Whether they were caught in lower Lake Huron or the St. Clair River, this is good news for the salmon fishery.

Looking forward to see what happens in 2018. Be sure to report all Atlantic salmon caught.

There is nothing new on the public boat ramp on Belle Isle. This is an ongoing situation for the future.

Muskie 2018 – open all year, catch and release, with the catch and keep rules being the same. Personally, I'm not sure that this is a good thing for the Muskie, but it would be good for revenue. Only time will tell.

Everyone have a great holiday. Be safe. 🐾



Maritime Licensing Specialist

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

SEA K'S LICENSING LORE

As another fishing season comes to a close, I hope you all had a great year. I enjoyed hearing some of the stories during the annual conference in Holland. For those of you who were unable to attend, you missed a good time. Sure hoping to see increased numbers at next year's conference.

As your seasons wind down, mine is kicking into high gear. Though the current backlog at the national maritime center is only 4-5 weeks, I am anticipating a 2-3 month backlog over the winter months. I encourage all to check the expiration date on your current license after you have put your boat away for the season. By starting the renewal process early, and accurate, you will insure that you have a valid license when the first rumblings of "fish on" occur next spring.

I continue to stress the importance of accurate paperwork. If you decide to download your application package from the Coast Guard's, National Maritime Center web site, be careful what you are filling out. If you hold a masters license up to 100 tons or a 6-pack license, the National Maritime Center package will contain at least 12 pages of information you do not need. As we have discussed numerous times in the past, the Coast Guard will not help you out if you have made an error or omission on your paperwork so it is incumbent upon you to make sure everything is completed correctly before the Coast Guard gets their hands on it. Even one mistake can add weeks to the application process.

Connie and I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you at next year's conference. 🐟

CHARTER REPORTING PROGRAM DONNA WESANDER, DNR FISHERIES



DNR Fisheries News

Email: wesanderd@michigan.gov

Phone: 231-547-2914, ext 223.

ALERT - BIG Changes for Charter Reporting start in 2018 & 2019!

The DNR Fisheries Division charter reporting program will be going through some significant changes.

- Spring 2018: Rollout & Testing a new online reporting system.
- Spring 2018: Different reporting requirement for Lake St Clair, Detroit River, and St. Clair River Trips.
- Season 2019: Online reporting will be mandatory – no paper charter report forms.

Spring 2018: Rollout & Testing a new online reporting system. DNR Fisheries Division will be replacing the current online reporting system with a new system. The entire system is being restructured and will include new features such as entering charter trips via smartphone and the ability to record more fish species. For those reporters using the current online system, your account will be moved into the new system for you. We will provide more detailed information when the roll-out of the new system approaches.

I would appreciate your input and suggestions while the new system is under construction; please consider being a volunteer tester and help make this reporting system the best it can be for yourself and fellow charter captains. My contact info is at top of this article. If you

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are willing to assist, please contact me by January 8th. No computer knowledge is required to be a volunteer tester, but it will require you to have a computer, a smartphone, or both. We want to know how this system will work for all reporters.

Spring 2018: Lake St. Clair, Detroit River, and St. Clair River Charters. In the past, operators fishing in southeast Michigan were only asked to report those charter trips with fishing activity in State of Michigan waters. Starting with 2018 fishing season, when a charter boat departs from within the state of Michigan, reporting of all trips will be required for Michigan and Canadian waters. This will allow fisheries managers, charter businesses, potential charter customers, and others a much more accurate representation of the charter fishing activity on these specific waters; especially as it relates to the musky and smallmouth bass fishery. FYI, the new online reporting system will allow for recording of lake sturgeon charter trips.

2019 – Mandatory Online Reporting

I have been saying for the last couple years that Fisheries Division will be implementing mandatory online charter reporting. That action is set for the year 2019. For those of you who have concerns about using online reporting, we want to work with you. We will be exploring options to get you the help tools and information you need to use the new system; some thoughts are to meet with charter businesses in various areas of the state and YouTube help videos. I am interested in hearing your suggestions on how DNR Fisheries can help charter businesses transition to online reporting.

Remember: The charter data you submit is an integral part of the data used to help guide fisheries management actions in Michigan. The goal is to provide a diverse and healthy

fishery to all anglers; this includes you and your clients. Please think about the significance of your data and the importance of accurate reporting when you are filling out your monthly charter reports.

Wishing you joyous holidays! 🎁



A Retiree's View over the Transom

By Captain Jim Fenner

The issues just seem to keep coming. Here are four; all important. Any one of which can or will affect your charter business in future, maybe sooner than you might wish.

The decisions for the plants of various species in LM in 2018 and 2019 are being debated and made as I write this. Complicated and emotional discussions with huge ramifications have been occurring all during the late summer and fall. The catch rates for Chinooks and lake trout have changed a lot since I hung up my rods and reels. Even as a retired MCBA member, I can see how hard it is for the Association to help its members and the DNR reach the best decisions, given all the complications, and the inexactitude of the science behind the proposals. The MCBA and its many members are actively involved in attempting to make the right decisions. At the MCBA fall conference in Holland, all the issues were discussed extensively. It's unfortunate that many of the members who are most passionate about where and what should be cut and/or planted were not present to hear the presentations and to make their voices heard. Let's all hope for the best possible outcomes for the decisions that have to be made.

Over the past few years, there has been a new attention to an old fish in the Great Lakes, and the attention is increasing rapidly. Ciscos were almost extirpated by the 1950's and 1960's. Now they are coming back. What will

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be their roll in the ecology of the lakes? Will they help or hurt the goal of increasing the number of silver fish? The USFWS is raising them in hatcheries. The tribes are involved also. It is becoming an important issue on LM. It's already been an issue on LH for a few years now. Cisco options will be a topic of conversation at the LM Sea Grant conferences this winter. Educate yourself. Stay tuned.

Cormorants are an increasing problem for our fishery. An organization called 'PEER', who say their goal is to see that all US regs are followed, sued the USFWS, claiming they weren't following the rules. A judge agreed, and voided the two depredation protocols that were in place. Now the birds are increasing exponentially, devouring our bait, eating our planted fish, despoiling the islands and beaches all over the Great Lakes. The FWS is offering a new depredation order, but only for farmed fish. They actually issued a statement stating that those of us who are concerned about 'free swimming fish' don't care. Or at least not enough to get their attention. We need to change that perception. Soon! Cormorants Don't Eat Worms!

Enbridge's Line Five, a double pipeline, carries 500,000 barrels of oil and gas under the Straits of Mackinaw every day; much of it of the most dangerous kind. It's almost inconceivable the damage a failure of those lines could do to our precious fresh water seas: especially in the winter, under the ice. The pipeline should be shut down! Period! A report was released November 20 on the Pipeline Safety Advisory Board website,

<https://mipetroleumpipelines.com>, opening a 30-day window for online comments about what the State should do regarding the future of Line Five. The December 22 deadline for comments includes two additional days to account for the state holidays during the comment period. Comments can also be mailed to:

Department of Environmental Quality, Attn: Line 5 Alternatives Analysis, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909-7973. Please read the report and make your views known.

Finally, if you are planning to join me in retirement soon, and if you, like me, want keep up with the constantly changing status of fishing in Michigan, I hope you will choose to continue your MCBA membership in the retired category. It is easy to do but unfortunately, you'll have to enroll by mail. The website cannot handle the membership of retired Captains at this time. Sorry, hopefully that will be corrected by next year. A retired membership is not expensive, and it will keep you 'in the loop'. Meanwhile, hope to see you at the docks again next spring. 🐟



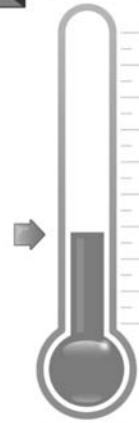
Michigan Charter Boat Association

Captain Bill Winowiecki - MCBA Vice President

We are already past the heart of deer season. The month of November is gone, and the holidays aren't far away.

I would like to congratulate Captain Jerry Brown from Saginaw Bay for winning the GO-PRO 5 camera. He bought the winning ticket for our Tribal Decree raffle.

We Need Your Support
\$50,000.00
GOAL



\$13,712.07

The MCBA raised a little over \$4,800.00 for our negotiation fund. I want to thank all captains and friends of the MCBA who participated and for your support.

We are already starting 2018. The Tribal Decree expires August 27, 2020. We have a long way to go to cover our share of the costs for the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources.

President Andersen and I

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(Continued from page 9) . . . **MCBA Vice President**

attended the Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee meeting in October. Good news is that the DNR bottom trolls are showing more alewives in the near shore depths of 40' to 120' deep. Deep water trolls are pretty much showing dead-sea.

The theory is that Zebra Mussels have peaked in near shore areas and there are more nutrients and food for bait fish near shore.

Perch are the big deal up here in Traverse Bay! Getting great reports of nice perch in the whole Grand Traverse Bay area. Haven't heard of this in many years.

The Ludington Sea Grant meeting is January 13th. This meeting is always very informal, and well attended.

The MCBA Fall Conference is October 19th, 20th, and 21st in 2018, at the Traverse City Great Wolf Lodge. At this time I am working on

the agenda.

I want to wish everybody a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. 🐾

SAVE THE DATE!



Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop

January 13, 2018

Approximately 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

West Shore Community College

Administration and Conference Building

3000 North Stiles Road—Scottville, MI 49454

The Lake Michigan fishery has been changing dramatically in recent years. The annual Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop features presentations by scientists and managers who work to understand how ecosystem changes affect salmon and trout.


Agenda details have not been finalized, and registration is not yet open. 🐾

God bless America and our troops



2017 MCBA Annual Conference and Business Meeting. . . Another Success!

This year’s meeting was a huge success. GoPro Camera winner Captain Jim Fenner, Our Thanks goes out to The Double Tree Hotel in Holland for another great weekend.

The 2018 MCBA Annual Conference and Business Meeting will be held the weekend of October 19, 20 and 21, 2018 at The Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. \$95.00 a night with no resort fee, for reservations: 866-962-9653 - Code: 1810MICH 001 

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard



Greetings Maritime Professionals of the Michigan Charter Boat Association

My name is Rob Scott and I am the Senior Marine Investigator at USCG Sector Detroit.

I would like to say thank you for your continued professionalism and diligence in your vessel operations in the interest of passenger safety. The Coast Guard honors and respects your commitment to the passenger vessel industry and recognize the effort it takes to remain compliant with the various statutes and regulations pertaining to your operations.

The Coast Guard is committed to enforce all applicable federal regulations for passenger

vessels. For the foreseeable future, the Coast Guard will be conducting periodic, unannounced boarding’s of vessels suspected to be operating illegally as passenger vessels. Maximum civil penalties will be sought in cases involving unlicensed operators, and licensed operators found to be operating in violation of applicable regulations will face suspension and/or revocation of their credentials. Further, we will be taking steps to educate the public in the area about federal requirements for passenger vessels because we believe an educated consumer will seek out only properly licensed operators for their services.

The Coast Guard’s ultimate goal is to ensure the safety of passengers through full compliance with the minimum standards required in law and regulation. Unfortunately, there are non-compliant operators who are

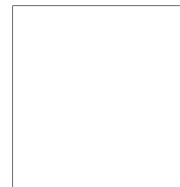
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Michigan Charter Boat Association
 3396 Anna Drive
 Bay City, MI 48706

'In God We Trust'

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

(Continued from page 11)... **Coast Guard**

"making an easy buck" by not seeking licensure and compliance with safety regulations as you have done. These illegal operators may create unfair competition by undercutting your price for charters. They are taking away your business and providing a sub-standard service that potentially jeopardizes the safety of unwitting consumers.

Coast Guard doctrine states:

- Honor the Mariner.
- We honor the mariner and their experience.
- We are accountable to our maritime partners.

Indeed, the Coast Guard is in partnership with professionals like you. It is this partnership that I call upon. The members of the Michigan Charter Boat Association are in the unique

position of being able to provide specific, actionable information to the Coast Guard should you detect other passenger vessel operators in your respective areas who are not carrying passengers safely and have not exercised the same diligence in gaining compliance with regulatory requirements.


I ask that you not hesitate to contact the Coast Guard upon detection of suspicious or illegal passenger vessel operation activity. Below, you will find relevant contact numbers for operation areas surrounding our great state of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Kenneth (Rob) Scott
 USCG Sector Detroit
 Senior Marine Investigator
 kenneth.r.scott@uscg.mil
 (313)568-9505



2018 Membership Renewal Available Online
 @ fishmcba.com/members
 Credit cards processed by PayPal
 All major credit cards are accepted
Your Drug Program Expired 12/31/17
 Stay Compliant - Renew Today!

 **Newsletter Deadline**

The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in March. Submissions **must** be in by **February 28, 2018**

Send photos and news items to:
 larry@saginawbay.com