



# cannonball

G A Z E T T E



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## THE GREAT SAGINAW BAY WALLEYE DEBATE

### THE GREAT SAGINAW BAY WALLEYE DEBATE

By Capt. Terry R. Walsh, Past President

Dave Fielder, lead biologist for the Saginaw Bay walleye restoration program, presented a detailed and lengthy "scientific analysis based on several models" in an effort to convince the Lake Huron Citizen's Fishery Advisor Committee (LHCFAC) a commercial by-catch would not jeopardize the stability of the bay's walleye population.

"Annual by-kill can run between 24-34 percent of the recreational fishery harvest and have no significant impact on the bay's walleye population," Fielder said. The LHCFAC was not buying it.

The information is largely based on a Michigan State University Study in 2010 that estimated walleye by-kill by commercial fisherman during the study period of May through August to be 21,500 fish. Entering that information into a mortality model, the MSU study predicted an annual by-kill of 101,000 walleye. (These fish are presumed dead. The commercial fishers want a percentage of the live fish they release.) The DNR is operating on eight-year-old information regarding a walleye population that was estimated at over 4 million in 2009 and currently estimated at 2.5 million in 2018, a drop of 1.5 million walleye.

The commercial fishers were making a strong push to harvest a percentage of those 2.5 million Walleye through secret negotiations with the DNR as it was drafting a new commercial fisheries statute. Once word was leaked to the public of the secret negotiations, a fire-




The two main bycaught species in Michigan's commercial fishery are: lake trout & walleye.

storm of angry protest descended on the DNR and the state's lawmakers. Since the salmon crash of 2004, walleye are the only significant game left in Lake Huron. The economic loss to the shoreline communities and recreational value to the state's anglers could ill afford the risk of a walleye crash as well.

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), under the leadership of Executive Director Dan Eichinger, put together a select committee representing major sportsmen's organizations throughout the state and began drafting a commercial fishing statute that would fairly represent the angling public. In the coming months, maybe weeks, a new commercial fishing statute will be introduced in the legislature, and public hearings will follow. The legislative committee likely to get this bill meets on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. A strong showing of

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sportsmen need to attend these hearings **once announced** and make their voices heard.

In the meantime, the walleye clubs around the bay that built and maintained the rearing ponds for so many years can take great pride in the role they played in making Saginaw Bay one of the finest walleye fisheries in the Midwest. They are adamantly opposed to any commercial harvest of walleye in Saginaw Bay. "Walleye are a game fish and they need to stay that way," is the message anglers are sending to the DNR and state legislators. 

## DNR Fisheries News

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### 2017 Charter Results:

The data which charter operators submitted in 2017 has been compiled and is ready for use. I call it the year of Coho and walleye! Here are just a few 2017 charter-fishing highlights: 1) Charter trips increased by 800, with 18,172 trips reported; 2) Lakes Michigan, Huron, and the St. Clair system had increased trips, while Lake Superior and Lake Erie were stable; 3) Saginaw Bay charters continued to increase. There were 1,000 charter trips and the catch doubled compared to 2016, with over 25,000 walleye caught in 2017; 4) the total of all fish species reported caught for the state was 292,000 which is up by 48,000 compared to 2016 (and up by 86,000 compared to 2015!). The vast majority of that increase came from increased walleye, yellow perch, and Coho salmon catch; 5) total charter harvest for Chinook salmon in State of Michigan waters was 25,268 fish, an increase from 2016; 6) Coho salmon harvest was 23,000 fish, which was 2-1/2 times the harvest of 2016 (9,000 fish); 7) Lake trout harvest was 55,000, the same as 2016; 8) brown trout and rainbow trout (steelhead) harvest decreased; 9) 50% of operators are now using the online reporting method; 10) there are 60 charter businesses chartering with more than one boat.

I will produce individual tables for each of the ports where charter fishing activity occurred; the tables will be available on the DNR Charter Fishing web page; look for this information to be available within the next several weeks. Feel free to contact me if you need assistance finding this information on the web or would like me to email you particular port data.

**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. The charter highlights above are just one example of the information your fishing data provides.

**Illegal Charters:** Anyone with information regarding the illegal operation of unlicensed charters is encouraged to call the DNR's Report All Poaching (RAP) hotline at 800-292-7800. The RAP hotline is a toll-free, 24-hour, seven-days-a-week number that enables citizens to report violations of fish and game laws, as well as other natural resource-related laws. It is operated by DNR's Law Enforcement Division. Those providing tips can remain anonymous. In all complaint cases, adequate information is required for LED officers to do an investigation; the more information the better (e.g. MC numbers, make and color of boat, person's name if known, vehicle driven, location, time and date of illegal activity, etc.). The RAP hotline now accepts text messages in addition to telephone calls; photos can be included with text messages. The DNR also offers a web-based reporting form.

**Monthly Reporting:** The annual packets for 2018 monthly charter fishing reporting to the DNR will be sent out to operators at the end of March/beginning of April. Operators who report online DO NOT receive a reporting packet in the mail. Online reporters can access their account at any time; please remember to use the non-fishing month feature to check off early months of 2018 when you were

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not actively fishing. A new online reporting system is currently being developed and will be tested out during 2018. The new system will allow for more accurate reporting, the recording of more fish species, the ability to specify your target species, and will be accessible via a variety of electronic devices such as smartphone/computer/laptop/tablet. If you are using paper forms but would like to change from mail to reporting online, please contact me to set up your online reporting account. An operator cannot use both methods to report, one option must be selected. The goal is to have all charter operators report using the online application in 2019. I am available to help you understand and use the online reporting system. Give me a call or send me an email and I can lead you through the reporting features. Think about signing up today.

Have a safe and enjoyable fishing season! 🎣



**N. Lake Huron**  
By Captain Rick Konecke  
MCBA Director



Michigan Sea

Grant welcomes new Extension educator to Saginaw Bay region.

Meaghan Gass has joined Michigan Sea Grant and MSU Extension as an educator located in the Saginaw Bay region. She is no stranger to Michigan, having spent the last three years with the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (NEMIGLSI), first as a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member and then on staff as the network coordinator based

in Alpena. She will provide services in five counties, including Arenac, Bay, Tuscola, Huron, and Sanilac.

"Through my work with the NEMIGLSI network, I partnered closely with Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Sea Grant. Seeing what they are able to accomplish in Michigan is exciting," says Meaghan. "I also learned more about what the Sea Grant network is doing across the Great Lakes. Engaging a variety of stakeholders and connecting Great Lakes research with communities are huge passions of mine, and I am excited these strategies are at the heart of Sea Grant's mission."

Meaghan is looking forward to building connections with individuals and groups in the area. "We need to work together to ensure protection of the Great Lakes. Collaboration is key. I'm really excited to have this opportunity and look forward to what we can achieve in the Bay area."

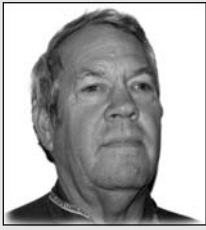
"Meaghan will be an excellent addition to our Sea Grant team," says Heather Triezenberg, Michigan Sea Grant Extension program coordinator. "We're excited that she will continue the work we've been doing in that region to address Great Lakes, Lake Huron, and Saginaw Bay issues."

Meaghan grew up in southern Illinois but loves living in northeast Michigan. She enjoys outdoor activities, and for fun, she also competes on a roller derby team under the name Unicorn Queen. As an undergraduate student, she majored in political science and French and minored in Spanish. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Illinois State University

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## From the Helm . . .



Spring is just around the corner. I know our captains are gearing up for the 2018 season, which is only a month or less away for many of us. As President, I want to convey from all officers and board of directors a great and prosperous fishing season.

At the January 28th board meeting, MDNR fisheries presented proposed changes to our current catch reporting. Also discussed was the possible change from "paper" one-day licenses captains can buy in advance to sell to their customers versus a switch to "online" licenses. Both issues received considerable discussion and will be pursued again at April's meeting. Once we know where the DNR stands on these issues, we will report to the membership via E-blast with a simple Survey Monkey questionnaire for membership input on the proposed changes.

The U. S. Coast Guard will be at our April 15th meeting in Clare to discuss plans they will undertake regarding unlicensed charter operations in the Great Lakes. The Coast Guard is looking to become very aggressive with unlicensed charter operations starting this spring.

MDNR's Donna Wesander from Charter Boat Catch Reporting will also attend the April 15th meeting to present an update on the progress with their new catch reporting web site. The emphasis is on being user friendly for both cell phones and small on-line devices like I-Pads, ect. The DNR wants to end the paper reporting and switch completely to electronic catch reporting in 2019. In a perfect world, captains would report their catch-

es at the end of every trip instead of waiting to submit paper reports at the end of each month.


We are planning to have the highly successful 2020 Consent Decree fundraiser raffle again this year. Vice president Bill Winowiecki will be in charge. More information will follow in a future issue of the Cannonball.

Our Past President, Capt. Terry Walsh, is actively working with a Michigan United Conservation Clubs committee comprised of major conservation and sport fishing organizations in drafting a new commercial netting statute. As most of the membership knows, the DNR's willingness to allow the commercial fishers a "by catch" of walleye and lake trout is a serious issue for not only us but also all the state's anglers. It's my understanding things are happening fast in Lansing, and a bill is likely to be introduced by Senator Green in the coming weeks. As soon as we know when hearings will start, we will inform the membership by E-blast.

In its January meeting the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee recommended the DNR reduce the daily lake trout catch in MH-1 from three to two per angler in 2018. Past President Capt. Walsh addresses that decision in detail on page nine.


Earlier this month, one of the real giants in Michigan's stellar big lake fishery program, former MDNR Fisheries Director John Robertson passed away. We at MCBA wish to relay our condolences and heart-felt thanks to his family and close friends. MCBA is forever grateful for his friendship and his stewardship of our fisheries and natural resources.

Have a great 2018 season...

Capt. Eric Andersen – MCBA President 

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and her master's degree in political science from St. Louis University. Her research focused on water and river basin governance.

Meaghan will divide her time between two offices, spending two days a week in Standish and three in Bay City. 



## Northern Lake Michigan

By Captain Tony Radjenovich - MCBA Director

Hello Captains, I trust all is well as we look to a new season. For those of you who might not know me, I would like to tell you a little bit about my-

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Captain John Giszczak




Captain / Mates! The 2018 fishing season is just around the corner. If you have not sent your membership application in yet, time is not on your side. The MCBA website is starting to get lots of hits from people looking to book a trip on your boat! There is still time. Don't delay. Join today.

**Now is the time to check your website listing.**

If you do need something changed or cor-

rected, 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. Your questions, concerns, or changes will go directly to the webmaster and it may take only a matter of minutes to fix your problem. If you call the 800# for web changes or updates you will be referred back to the web page updates. We need a digital record for updating the database. If applications are received with an expired USCG license, you will not be eligible for a website listing.

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



Visit MCBA Industry News & Events: [MCBAmembers.com](http://MCBAmembers.com)

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self. I fish out of the Port of Leland. I'm a MCBA captain starting my eighth season this spring. When I first joined the MCBA, I had no idea what I was joining. The other captains on the dock told me I had to, so I did. The more I researched the MCBA the more interested I became. I remember the first MCBA Annual Meeting I attended in Traverse City. I was very impressed with the information that was made available to our membership. I kept thinking to myself that this is a first-class professional organization in which I want to be more involved. About two years ago I started to get more involved in MCBA. I started attending the Sea Grant workshops, MCBA meetings, Lake Michigan Citizen Advisor Council and other meetings when time allowed. I am honored that our President, Captain Andersen, appointed me the Northern Lake Michigan Director. I have attended most of the MCBA Board meetings the past year or so prior to being appointed and saw firsthand all the issues that the MCBA must manage.

The MCBA is more than just a website where anglers can find a captain. Here are some examples of the work the MCBA board and past board members and officers work on, and many times without most of us knowing about their efforts. 1.) Line 5 pipeline, 2.) Cormorant control, 3.) Ballast water discharge treatment

for oceangoing vessels, Michigan HB 5095, 4.) Salmon tracking in the Great Lakes, 5.) S168 Commercial Vessel incidental discharge Act and USCG Appropriators Bill, 6.) Asian Carp, Brandon Road Feasibility Study (a 488-page document), 7.) Platte River Mouth Restoration and Access Plan Decision, 8.) The 2020 Consent Decree 9.) Public meeting for 2018 and 2019 Lake Michigan Stocking Options meetings 10.) State required fish catch reports 11.) Michigan online fishing license process and the list goes on. I listed all of these because I want our members to be aware of the advocacy that MCBA provides to Michigan licensed charter captains. That is a lot of work to help all of us put fish on the deck for our customers. I think all Michigan charter captains should be MCBA members. The MCBA collectively gives back to the industry a lot more than what each individual captain puts in. The MCBA helps the public view Michigan charter boat captains as the professionals we are. I feel that I get much more value from MCBA than the small membership fee I send in each year. If any of the members or non-members in the Northern Lake Michigan region (Port of Manistee north to Bay Harbor) would like to talk, give me a call. 231-866-0053.

I want to discuss the Lake Michigan Stocking Plan for 2018 and 2019 in more detail. Generally speaking, it has been proposed to increase

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chinook salmon plants and reduce lake trout and brown trout plants in the southern part of the lake while maintaining most of the current chinook salmon and lake trout plants in the northern part of the lake. The plan also moves some of the southern brown trout plants to the central and northern part of the lake. Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator MDNR, has explained to me that the stocking plan is only part of the total plan. There are many goals of the Lake Michigan Fishery Management Plan which includes the stocking of Chinook salmon, the stocking/cuts to other species that may allow for an increase in Chinook salmon and Zonal Management. Zonal Management is a tactic within the Management Plan that would prioritize stocking, regulations and habitat protection improvement based on habitat, nutrient inputs, and climatic conditions of the lake. It would also provide a platform for local areas to promote their fisheries based on their habitat and the species that thrive there. If you are interested in learning more go to:

[mdnr1mfmp.wordpress.com](http://mdnr1mfmp.wordpress.com)

As we prepare for the 2018 season, please reach out to me and let me know what you are thinking. I will share your thoughts with the MCBA Board. 🐾



### **Central Lake Michigan**

By Captain George Freeman - MCBA Director

The annual Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop was held Saturday January 13th in the Graystone Event Center at the Ludington Holiday Inn Express. Dan O'Keefe Southwest District Educator, Michigan Sea Grant, conducted the meeting. This year's program included presentations on consequences of invasive dreissenid mussels in Lake Michigan, a mass marking update and Lake Michigan diet studies, Great Lakes Angler Diary and other citizen science updates, and a special session on Lake Michigan Cisco management. A very good hot lunch was served at noon followed by an impressive tackle raffle held by the Ludington Charter Boat Association. Topics af-

**God bless America and our troops**

ter the break included presentations on the importance of top down and bottom up effects in Lake Michigan, what do we know and don't know about Coho salmon and DNR management updates. The Cisco presentations alone were worth the time I spent there. Two presentations were given. First Charles Bronte from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service talked about rationale and options for rehabilitation of Cisco and deepwater Cisco in Lake Michigan. Next Jory Jonas from the Michigan DNR talked about the status of recovering Cisco populations in Lake Michigan: lessons learned and lessons yet to be learned. Both presentations can be viewed online by googling Ludington Sea Grant Workshop 2018. At the last MCBA board meeting, a discussion on planting Cisco in Lake Michigan resulted in the board supporting the position of not planting Cisco in Lake Michigan until more information is available.

The DNR has decided to repeat in 2018 last year's experimental Coho plant in the Big Sable River at Ludington's State park. 50,000 Coho will be split in two parts. Up to 20,000 fish will be net panned and the remainder of the 50,000 will be direct planted in the river. The plant is scheduled to take place later this month.

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



### **Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair**

by Captain Henry Walters - MCBA Director

**Enbridge Energy** is getting ready to replace a pipeline under the St. Clair River that cuts through Marysville. But it might be more than a year before local residents notice.

Right now, it's mostly about the paperwork. Line 5 is just one of several the company has that travel through the state from Canada and is one of two that cross the Blue Water Area.

Line five keeps making headlines for the segment that crosses the Straits of Mackinac.

Enbridge will use a horizontal, directional drill to tunnel under the river for the new pipe, which will be welded together on the Canadian

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side. The pipe will then be pulled through the tunnel from the Marysville side.

The current pipeline, laid in 1953, lays "anywhere from four to 15 feet below" the river's bottom, Paul Meneghini, a senior manager at Enbridge said. The new pipeline, he said, would be 30 feet or more below the bottom of the river. Construction isn't expected to start until late 2019.

Lake St. Clair is often called the sixth Great Lake. Although it has never officially received that designation, Lake St. Clair and its contributing rivers and streams are part of the Great Lakes Basin.

Now that connection will be recognized as the Detroit Zoological Society has announced it will bring a Great Lakes Nature Center to Macomb County.

The Lake St. Clair shoreline is a likely destination for the Great Lakes Nature Center. A site along the Clinton River Watershed is also a possibility.

It is expected the center will be the largest such facility in the Great Lakes region. Preliminary plans call for construction of a 20,000 square foot facility to begin this year at a cost of at least \$10 million.

When it opens by the end of 2019, it is expected to welcome between 150,000 to 200,000 visitors annually.

Hope everyone has a great fishing season. Looking forward to seeing you on the water. 🎣



**Michigan Charter Boat Association**  
Captain Bill Winowiecki - MCBA Vice President

March is here and the 2018 fishing season is about to get started. The MCBA Board has been attending meetings of all sorts this spring.

**Many issues are being discussed:** Charter boat reporting, paper or online?

**Salmon and lake trout plants:** Where the lake trout plants will be cut. How many King Salmon we will gain. How to keep the predator prey in balance in Lake Michigan.

**Tribal Decree:** How to raise funds for the "Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources".

The MCBA has applied for a raffle permit with the Michigan Gaming Commission. We hope to get the tickets out by mid-summer.

**Tribal Law enforcement:** We have just lost three DNR officers out of the Tribal Law Enforcement Unit.

The MCBA would like to congratulate Officer's Steven Huff, Larry Desloover and Shannon VanPatten on their retirements. These officers have over 80 years of service with the Michigan DNR. Thank you for your years of service.

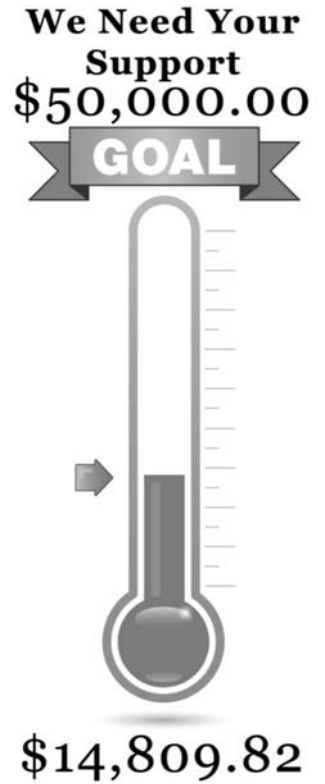
The Michigan DNR has not named their replacements. This is a very big problem! We are losing all their experience, and very little training has been done for new officers in Tribal Law Enforcement.

**Coast Guard:** The Coast Guard has contacted the MCBA. They plan on being very aggressive on illegal charters and boarding's.

**Cisco Rehabilitation:** Cisco will be part of the negotiations with Tribal decrees as a harvestable fish. How much are Cisco adding to Lake Michigan as a prey fish for salmon and lake trout?

**New DNR licensing link:** The MDNR is redoing the licensing website again. It is supposed to be faster and easier.

**Cormorant control:** Who is doing what within the DNR, the Federal Government, and our Legislatures? Seems the US Fish, and Wildlife are really dragging their feet on this issue since they lost the Court Case on controlling Cormorants.



**Fall Conference:** The MCBA Fall Conference will be at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. The Conference dates are October 19, 20 and 21.

The MCBA board meetings are starting to be very time consuming. All of us who serve on the board are trying to stay on top of these issues and many more. We all volunteer our time. Please consider attending the Fall Conference and catch up with your representatives. We all enjoy chatting with our members.

We want to thank you for all your support. 🐾



**LAKE HURON CITIZENS' FISHERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
By Capt. Terry R. Walsh - Past President

Faced with over harvest of lake trout in MH-1 for the past two years (27,840 lbs in 2016 and 24,050 lbs. in 2017), and a projected over harvest again in 2018, the LHCFCAC and DNR were faced with a possible shortened season for MH-1 or a reduction of the daily creel limit from three to two lake trout in possession. The LHCFCAC recommended a reduction in the daily creel limit. By doing so, the season will remain the same for the time being. A real concern going forward is the tribe's whitefish catch is down 90% and they are going to want a bigger share of lake trout. The problem of over harvest could be solved by combining MH-1 and MH-2, but the tribes have been reluctant to agree to the change.

The Saginaw Bay walleye catch rate is up slightly over 2016; likely do to an increased angler effort. The 2016 -year class of walleye appears strong, and the age three growth rate has shown an upward trend since 2011.



Yellow perch are still not surviving their first year (1970-1988 were the last years of young-of-the-year (YOY) survival rate being good.)

Trawls by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service showed the forage base was up in 2015 and

2016 and trended down again in 2017. However, studies show there is still plenty of food for YOY yellow perch. If they can reach age two, their survival rate goes way up.

The Harbor Beach whitefish study produced positive results in 2017. Ten nets are being fished and accounted for 250,000 pounds of whitefish, valued at nearly \$605,000. Oscoda leads in commercial whitefish production with 515,000 pounds, valued between \$625,000 to 1.2 million. Interestingly, Saginaw Bay's 181,000 pounds were valued between \$220,000 to \$438,000. It was also noted that southern Lake Huron whitefish are in better condition than those in the northern part of the lake. The LHCFCAC supported an additional year of study, which would provide three full years of data on the Harbor Beach fishery.

Finally, more Atlantic salmon than ever (128) showed up in angler's creels in the Harbor Beach and Lexington ports in 2017. Biologists were "shocked to see fish of up to 30-inches". The catch was a dramatic increase from the 10 caught in 2015. 🐾



**A Retiree's View over the Transom**  
By Captain Jim Fenner

I'm in the south of Florida and it's warm here. Recently it's has been surprisingly warm in Michigan also. For this article I reviewed the words I wrote last year at this time, as we all were trying to see what would transpire during the 2017 season. In addition to the fishing issues, we were facing pipeline and consent decree issues. The pipeline issue still threatens, the consent decree issue is looming one year closer, and now we have added the issue of the rehabilitation of Ciscos in the lakes. It's been an issue for LH for a while now, and now the issue is percolating in LM. And then there is the issue of the resurgence of cormorants as a result of the Federal lawsuit shutting down the lethal control of the populations.

I hope when spring comes and we get our boats out, we will have these issues under control, and we can all return to launching, rigging, and fishing. But if they are not resolved,

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as is likely, we cannot afford to let our attention wane. For if we do, we will surely lose and pay the price in the long run.

The pipeline issue remains. They must be turned off. Nothing less will remove the danger. As for the consent decree, nothing has changed yet.

We must be vigilant to the extreme as the new consent decree is hammered out. Our fishery has suffered in many areas under the terms of the current decree with its lax enforcement rules. We should not agree to another decades long decree with such weak tribal law enforcement terms.

Turning my attention to the fishing season past. It seems that Lake Huron is showing signs of recovery, while Lake Michigan continues to show signs of distress. The issue of salmon versus lake trout jumped to the top of the page in 2016. And looking at the stats for charters and fish caught, it was clear why that happened. We know that traditionally, our customers on Lake Michigan favor catching Chinook salmon, but that catch declined in 2016. The numbers are not in for 2017 yet. Early indications suggest it was a banner year for Cohos, and a decent year for Chinooks. Charters seem to have held near steady, and of course the lake trout catch was strong again. However, if we truly want our Great Lakes to be a premier salmon fishery again, major steps will have to be made to reverse the current trends.

Scientists tell us the forage base is small and getting smaller. Salmon have traditionally been a 'one trick pony' when it comes to forage. No alewife, no salmon. We must find a way to save or increase the forage food sources for salmon if we want salmon to be the majority caught fish in the lake. A new forage food? Will that include Ciscoes? Steps are starting to be taken. They are controversial and are being strongly debated. Here's hoping we can find the right solution or combination of bait types.

We all have an overwhelming interest in seeing our lakes and our fishery protected, and well managed. We need the MCBA to be

strong and to be actively involved in confronting these issues.

One last thing, Lake Michigan is 2° cooler today than it was on the same day last year. Let's hope the cooler water doesn't result in a less productive season.

Returning my focus to the MCBA. I look forward to the MCBA newsletters, and the correspondence all year round. Through the MCBA we can now quickly organize and share the information needed to confront the issues we face. The MCBA is by far the strongest voice for charter fishermen. By being united, MCBA members can lead the way to the changes that may need to be made.

When spring arrives, I'll be back, and if the fish are biting, I hope to catch a few for myself, but while I'm doing it, I will also be focusing on these important issues. I hope you will be too.

One thing is for sure; I intend to stay in touch with my friends and former colleagues in the MCBA. The retired member category is the way I do it. Keep this in mind for your own future. When it warms up a little, look for me around the docks. Hope to see you there. 🐟



### **Maritime Licensing Specialist**

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

### **SEA K'S LICENSING LORE**

As Mother Nature continues to keep us guessing, I can't help but think about the upcoming fishing season. If anyone needs help hauling in their catch, please let me know. The maritime licensing business is keeping me out of trouble. The Coast Guard National Maritime Center has been doing a little better with processing renewal application packages and medical certificates, but some of their evaluators still need a lot of quality training.

Accurate paperwork is still the key to timely processing of your paperwork. Something as simple as county instead of country on the first page of your application form can delay the processing a couple of weeks. By the time

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9) . . . **Sea K's**

they review your file and write you a letter, days and sometimes weeks have gone by. With the 2018 season right around the corner, this type of delay might prevent you from running some early season trips. Another recent issue has been completing the small boat sea service forms. If all your time is on the Great Lakes just complete that block near the bottom of the page entitled "Great Lakes". Don't put the same total in the "seaward" or "shoreward" of the boundary lines blocks. It's another show stopper with the National Maritime Center and you will be receiving a letter to clarify things. Also, please remember to only list days "after" your current license was issued.

I will try and write more for the next Cannonball issue, but I'm preparing for three more conference presentations this month, so I better get to work. Hope you all have a great 2018 season. Look forward to seeing you all at the conference this fall. 🐟

## **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | **Extension**

**Lake Huron Spring fishery workshops** Variety of topics of local interest.

You are invited to participate!

Four evening Lake Huron Regional Fishery Workshops (approx. three hours each) are open to the public at no cost. Workshop opportunities include:

- \* **Standish** (Saginaw Bay)  
Date: Tuesday, April 10  
Time: 6:00 — 9:00 p.m.  
Location: Saganing Tribal Center  
5447 Sturman Rd., Standish, MI 48658
- \* **Ubly/Bad Axe**  
Date: Thursday, April 19  
Time: 6:00 — 9:00 p.m.  
Location: Ubly Fox Hunter's Club  
2351 Ubly Rd., Bad Axe, MI 48413
- \* **Rogers City**  
Date: Tuesday, April 24  
Time: 6:00 — 9:00 p.m.  
Location: Rogers City Area Seniors and Community Center  
131 Superior St., Rogers City, MI 49779

### \* **Cedarville**

Date: Thursday, May 3

Time: 6:00 — 9:00 p.m.

Location: Clark Township Community Center  
133 E. M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719

Workshop details are available online:

<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/explore/fisheries/fishery-workshops/> 🐟

# **MCBA** **SCHOLARSHIP** **Fund**

## **Michigan Charter Boat Association Scholarship Fund - FISHERIES & WILDLIFE**

Summary of Principal Account for the Year  
Ended June 30, 2017

⇒ Book Value: \$65,056.00

⇒ Market Value: \$71,425.00

Scholarships offered: two (2) at \$1,500.00 each

### **Where Did All This Money Come From?**

Sport Fishing Shows, donated charters, tackle raffles at the annual business meeting, and the many members that add an extra five or ten dollars when they renew their membership.

Captain Rich & Linda Haslett and Captains Janice & Ken Deaton have manned the booth at the sport shows for the past 20 some years. There have been many other captain volunteers who have helped out, also. The many captains who have donated the charters we give away at each show are an important part of the fund-raising effort, too.

Captain Frank English has volunteered his time for many years, getting donations from various tackle manufactures and bait shops to be raffled off at the Annual Business Meeting. Frank runs the raffle and oversees the selling of raffle tickets, helped by volunteers from our

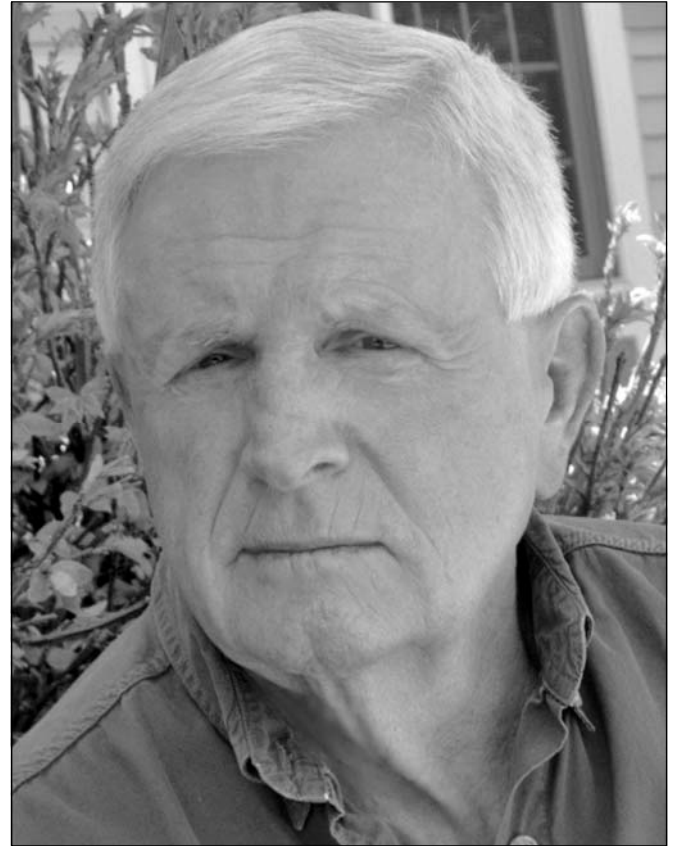
(Continued on page 11)

## MCBA Loses Longtime Trusted Friend

In Memory of John M. Robertson  
January 11, 1942 ~ March 4, 2018

It is with great sadness we say goodbye to John M. Robertson, retired Chief of Fisheries and Forest Management divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, who died March 4, at his home in Grand Haven.

Robertson, a MCBA Pistis Award recipient, had more than 40 years of experience in working with complex and contentious natural resources issues and was skilled in bringing diverse, often competing, interests together to collaborate and strengthen their advocacy for the values they held in common. While serving as Chief of the Fisheries Division, he was instrumental in negotiating the settlement of a bitter and drawn out Federal lawsuit between the native tribes and commercial and sport anglers. 🐟



(Continued from page 10)... **Scholarship**

membership.

Without the captains who run the booth, donate the charters, give a little bit extra, organize and operate our annual raffle, it wouldn't be possible for the Association to offer these important annual scholarships. 🐟

# MCBA memo:

## Scheduled Board Meetings for 2018

January 28, 2018 – Clare, MI Doherty Hotel  
10:00 am.

April 15, 2018 – Clare, MI Doherty Hotel  
10:00 am.

September 30, 2018 – Clare, MI Doherty Hotel  
10:00 am.

October 21, 2018 Great Wolf Lodge  
Traverse City – 10:00 am. 🐟

**Captains! Sign up your mates now before the season starts. WE DO GO FISHING**

## 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.

MCBA filed 2017 MIS Report on February 22, 2018. USCG has received and reviewed our 2017 MIS report. USCG response on 2/26/2018 9:23 AM, MCBA has satisfactorily fulfilled the requirement of this regulation.

Respectfully,

MSTC Nicholas Ikpogu  
Washington, D.C. 20593-7501 🐟

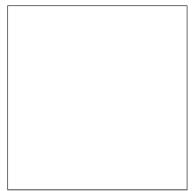


The next issue of the Cannonball Gazette will be published in early June. Submissions **must** be in by **May 25, 2018**

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 19, 20 & 21, 2018  
in Traverse City  
*Hope to See You There!*  
Meeting will be held at the  
**GREAT WOLF LODGE**  
IN TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN  
RESERVATIONS: 866-962-9653 CODE: 1810MICH 001

*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.

## USCG LICENSE RENEWAL HELP:

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



## Drug and Alcohol Testing Part 40 DOT Policies Notice

DOT Drug Testing: Employer DOT Policies – the Part 40 Changes.

The DOT Agencies & United States Coast Guard (USCG) have provided guidance to DOT-regulated employers about what their DOT policies will need to contain about the changes to 49 CFR Part 40, which are effective January 1, 2018.

Department of Transportation (DOT) published a final rule in the Federal Register. The final rule, among other items, added four semi-synthetic opioids (i.e., hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone) to our drug testing panel. It also added methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) as an initial test analyte and removed the testing for methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA). Updated: Friday, December 1, 2017. 🐟

## MCBA Drug & Alcohol Program

### Pre-employment testing exemptions:

Passed DOT chemical test within previous six months or:  
Subject to DOT random testing for at least 60 of the previous 185 days and has never refused to test or failed a test.

**Service Agents SAP:** Substance Abuse Professional

**BAT:** Breath Alcohol Technician.

**Random selections:** Must be made by someone not subject to the requirements.

**Serious Marine Incident is:** Casualty resulting in death, injury requiring medical treatment beyond first aid, damage excess \$100,000 or loss of vessel. 🐟

**ATTENTION:**  
**Captains, Mates**  
**If you have MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED**  
**Stamped on this newsletter**  
**Time is running out to renew.**  
**Stay Compliant - Renew Today!**