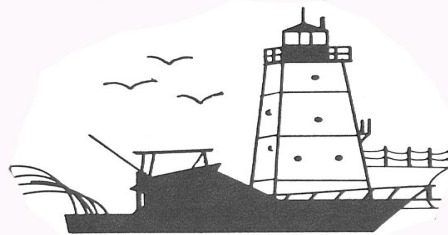


# Ludington Charterboat



## Association

Volume XXX III NO. 87newsletter

May 2019

## *Welcome to the 2019 Fishing Season!*

Many of our charter fleet and Sport Fishermen are in the water and have been out fishing a few times. For the 4th year in a row we have had a fantastic lake trout fishery in May! Limit catches have been very common. We also had, for the first time in many years, a smelt run. For the people who knew about it, they were catching enough for a few meals netting them off the piers and river inlets.

It has been a cold Spring; so far very few kings have been caught— this will change at some point soon. There has been some great king fishing in the South End of Lake Michigan. We expect these fish to migrate North sometime around the first two weeks of June. We normally have surface temperatures about 8 degrees warmer by this time of year and the kings should be this far North. They follow the alewife spawn up the coast when the harbors hit around 55 degrees. The steelhead run in the river was also late but ended up being a decent Spring fishery despite snowfalls into Mid April.

**Reminder Sustaining Business Members Sponsor Day is Thursday, May 23rd !!!! Interested in a Free Fishing Trip?**

**Contact Shawn Pomorski 231.690.3389**



**Our next General Membership Meeting:**

**Saturday, June 8th 2:00 PM**

**Ludington Municipal Marina**

## 40,000 Coho released

A partnership with The Ludington Charter Boat Association and MDNR resulted in a successful 3rd year of releasing coho into the Sauble River in Ludington State Park on May 8th.

About half of the coho were held in Net Pens for about 10 days prior to their release. The other half were directly released into the river.

We had good fishing at the end of last Summer in the lake while the coho staged off the state park. These results were from our spring 2017 plant. We also had a good return to the Sauble River where they offered fishermen opportunities from late September through the start of Winter.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered your time and the Manistee County Sport Fishing Association for lending us additional nets.



### CHARTER CAPTAINS !

Do not forget to do your catch reports monthly. The MDNR will not be tolerating late submissions anymore. We have been notified they will be issuing tickets and not giving any more warnings.

### LCBA Members

We appreciate your support and membership !!!! Renewal notices have been sent and are due by May 31.

Pay online: [www.charterludington.com](http://www.charterludington.com) or

Contact: Polly Myer 231.845.0324 Finance & Member Services

It is nice to mention to your guests that the following restaurants in Ludington participate in Catch and Cook. Everyone who takes their fish in to have prepared enjoys the "whole fishing experience" Make sure you call in advance and read the regulations.

Scotty's, PM Steamers, Blu Moon and Luciano's can cook your catch!

2019 EVENT DATES:  
OFFSHORE CLASSIC FISHING TOURNAMENT/  
BIG BOYS TOURNAMENT, JULY 18-24  
Hosted by the Ludington & Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce

## LCBA DIRECTORY

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## Boats needed ..sign up now!



June 20 and 21 2019

Fish on For Freedom, 2019 is actively looking for new sponsors! To sign up please go to: [www.fishonforfreedom.com](http://www.fishonforfreedom.com)

or contact **Adam Knudsen 231.510.7020**

Currently there are 122 Veterans signed up for this fishing event!

### **NEW TO LUDINGTON THIS YEAR!**



Celebrating a maritime tradition that dates back centuries ago, Safe Harbor Credit Union and Ludington Bay Brewing are teaming up to bring a Blessing of the Boats to Ludington Michigan. June 1 at noon. Registration will begin at Ludington Municipal Marina for a 2 pm Blessing of the Boats event. This is an opportunity to wish pleasure boaters, our Charter fleet, and even our historic SS Badger a fun, safe, productive 2019 season on the Great Lakes. The 1st Annual Ludington Blessing of the Boats is unique in the fact that it's the keys of the respective boats to be blessed. Boaters who haven't gotten their vessels in the water yet, trailer their boats, or boat on other in-land lakes without Lake Michigan access can participate. Boaters can bring their keys and have their boats blessed for the 2019 season and participate in all the event has to offer. In addition to the blessing, the event will celebrate the great port community of Ludington and its rich maritime heritage with food, beverage and entertainment throughout the day. Live music will be provided in the entertainment tent by Delilah Dewylde and Miller/Merchant: the Guitars of Dutch Henry. Proceeds for what is hoped to be an annual event will benefit the Ludington Youth Sailing School, which promotes the safety and enjoyment of sailing with on the water classrooms. The program promotes respect for our beautiful water resources as well as self-confidence, self-reliance and teamwork.

## LCBA Supports Proposed Commercial Fishing Statute

A package of bills introduced this week aims to modernize commercial fishing regulations ahead of the 2020 Great Lakes Consent Decree negotiations.

[House Bill 4569](#), sponsored by Rep. Lilly (R-Park Township), [House Bill 4567](#), sponsored by Rep. O'Malley (R-Lake Ann), and [House Bill 4568](#), sponsored by Rep. Wendzel (R-Watervliet), are all part of a tie-barred, three-bill package.

Michigan's commercial fishing regulations have not been updated since the 1970s. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), there were 171 commercial fishing licensees in 1970 that harvested 16.4 million pounds of fish. Since that time, the number of state-licensed commercial fishers has drastically decreased with about 25 operating commercial fishers. In 2015, 3.4 million pounds of fish were commercially harvested.

Commercial fishing also plays an integral role in how the state manages its fisheries with respect to the 1836 Treaty Waters of the Great Lakes. Being proactive on this issue is important as the state and Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources enter the 2020 Consent Decree negotiations — a process that will affect our state's fisheries, both sport and commercial, potentially for many years to come.

Another issue is that the current licensing fees that commercial fishers pay don't cover the costs of current MDNR oversight and enforcement, which is currently subsidized by sport anglers.

Game fish have been caught as bycatch due to a lack of regulation on the location and type of gear used by commercial fishers. This bill would not allow game fish to be retained as bycatch, although other species may be considered allowable bycatch. This package of bills would address these issues in the following ways:

- Creates a list of all species available for commercial harvest, in turn protecting game species.
- Requires commercial fishers to check their nets regularly and regulates the allowable gear in relation to the time of year and location of nets.
- Establishes penalties for the taking, possessing or selling of specific species. Game fish unlawfully taken will incur a higher fine.
- Exceeding bycatch allowances results in fines, and the MDNR shall conduct a study at least every three years to determine the allowable bycatch and adjust quotas accordingly.
- Creates penalties for a person intentionally obstructing the legal taking of fish.
- Requires commercial fishers to report GPS coordinates of their nets to the MDNR.

This bill package would also align with three 2000 Consent Decree goals related to lake trout (the No. 1 sportfish being caught as bycatch by Michigan commercial fishers):

- Restore self-sustaining, wild populations
- Provide a recreational sport fishery for Michigan anglers
- Provide a recreational sport fishery for tribal parties

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://mucc.org/proposed-commercial-fishing-statute-nets-full-support-from-statewide-organizations/>