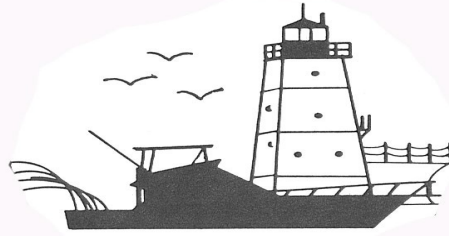


Ludington Charterboat



Association

Volume XXX V NO. 88 newsletter

January 2020

2019 After Holiday Season

Our boats are sleeping and this is the time of year we can enjoy with our families and friends. Many of us are nearing the end of hunting seasons. Some might be fortunate enough to travel out of state to fish where it is warm. We are hoping ice fishing for perch is decent again this Winter for those of us who remain local.

The 2019 fishing season was interesting. We started off again with a few brown trout as the ice went out of our harbor and boat ramps. Our Lake Trout fishery remained strong all summer. Spring Kings last year were good in the first part of June again and then were tough to get any numbers of the rest of the Summer. We did catch Big Fish this year. I remember by Mid August Captian Chucks had weighed 70 something fish over 30 pounds. Coho fishing was slow despite last years great catches in September.

We are looking forward to what the future holds for our fishery. Plants will be increased lake-wide for salmon this year.

Do your best to make the annual Sea Grant meeting on February 1st at West Shore Community College in Ludington. We will be hosting a short LCBA meeting after it is over at the college.



Upcoming Sea Grant Fishery Workshop

Plan on attending the fishery's workshop to learn more about what's happening in our Great Lakes ! Also participate in the LCBA Raffle drawing during lunch time to help support our local fishery.

The Ludington Charter Boat Association member meeting will be held directly following the workshop.

2020 Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop

Registration is now open for the 2020 Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop. The workshop will include presentations from biologists, educators, and fishery managers with Michigan DNR, NOAA/GLERL, MSU and Michigan Sea Grant. Topics will include salmon and trout diets, the impact of quagga mussels on Lake Michigan, and water level expectations for 2020 in addition to updates on stocking levels and other fishery management issues.

This year's workshop will focus on a new project that seeks to update the Predator-Prey Ratio for Lake Michigan by including the most recent data available on fish diets, lake trout population dynamics, and the influx of Chinook salmon from Lake Huron. This project will use structured decision making (SDM) to address all salmon and trout species and include a stakeholder process. The Ludington workshop will be a great opportunity to learn more about the process and how your organization can take an active role.

There will also be an opportunity to address frequently asked questions on alewife abundance, monitoring, and modelling. If you have detailed questions, please e-mail them to okeefed@msu.edu before the workshop. After the workshop, written questions and responses will be used as the basis for an FAQ document on the MSU Extension website.

Registration costs \$30 and includes lunch.

[Online registration](#)

To register by phone, contact Cara at (231) 843-5825.

Payment can be made the day of the event, reservations are required.

Deadline to register is Monday, January 27.

Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop

February 1, 2020

West Shore Community College

3000 North Stiles Road
Scottville, MI 49454

8:00 Coffee and Registration

9:00 Welcome and pre-workshop polling

Dan O'Keefe – Southwest District Extension Educator, Michigan Sea Grant

9:15 Huron-Michigan predator diet study

Brian Roth – Associate Professor, Michigan State University, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

10:00 Dreissenid mussels in Lake Michigan: Status and population dynamics

Ashley Elgin – Research Benthic Ecologist, NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research

Laboratory

10:30 BREAK

10:45 Great Lakes water levels – A wild ride in 2020?

Mark Brederland – Northwest District Extension Educator, Michigan Sea Grant

11:05 Lake Michigan prey fish monitoring methods TBA

11:20 How do we calculate how many alewife are available for fish to eat?

Ben Turschak – Fisheries Research Biologist Specialist, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

11:35 FAQs on alewife and other prey fish

Ben Turschak – Fisheries Research Biologist Specialist, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

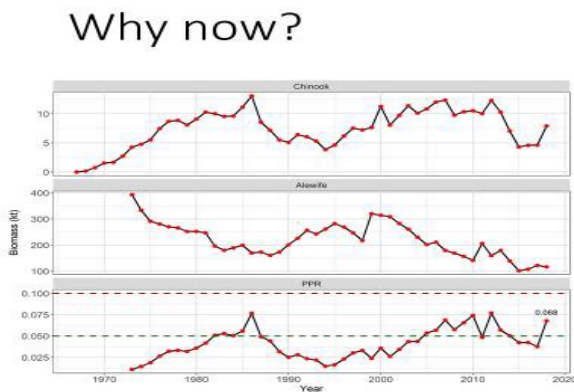
12:00 Lunch and LCBA Tackle Raffle

Excerpts from the Minutes of the Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee

Discuss decision to increase Chinook salmon stocking and where they should go :

We got to this point because of a Lake Michigan Committee decision in 2016 to reduce Chinook salmon stocking due to low fish weight and low alewife numbers. Anglers disagreed with the LMC's approach to just reduce Chinook salmon, so the LMC adopted a 900,000 Chinook equivalents lake-wide reduction. Each state could decide what species mix to reduce. Michigan originally went from 559,000 to 300,000 Chinook, and then spent another two years adjusting Chinook salmon back up to 504,000 through reductions in brown trout, coho salmon and lake trout. Over 2.1 million fish were reduced by all four states as part of this reduction. Lake-wide Chinook salmon stocking was only reduced by 245,703.

Why the increase now? The predator prey ratio through 2018 showed three years in a row of ratios below 0.05, which is the goal and safe place to be. Also, fish weights the last two years have been amazing. Captain Chuck's in Ludington has weighed over 100 kings greater than 30 pounds. Because of this, the Lake Michigan Committee agreed to a modest increase to 450,000. There was still concern that the alewife population rebound had just started, so they did not want to put too much pressure on it. They also recognized angler feedback suggesting that there was tons of bait and big fish out there. Remember that this is the first decision to raise stocking in Lake Michigan since 1999. It took 20 years to get the alewife to rebound.



The Citizen's Advisors were asked in June about their recommendation (status quo, 450,000 increase or 900,000 increase). The advisor's majority vote was for a 450,000 increase with some advocating for status quo and some for 900,000 or more increase.

The Lake Michigan Basin Team, which is made up of biologist and technicians from the Field, Research and Hatcheries, unanimously agreed to status quo. The alewife density and age structure were still rebounding and needed more time to recover. The fear was not to crash the fishery and that has been their goal since the team formed. There is also extreme variability in weight with some of our lowest salmon weights just four years ago. Natural reproduction seems to be rebounding too, which will add mouths and variability to the system.

How many for each state (approximately)?

Michigan = 150,000

Wisconsin = 175,000

Illinois = 40,000

Indiana = 85,000

Also, the Lake Michigan Committee agreed to eliminate 255,000 Klondike strain lake trout in the mid-lake reef, which were stocked just across the border in Wisconsin waters. This would allow Wisconsin to add an additional 106,250 Chinook equivalents.

The total lake-wide Chinook salmon stocking plan for 2020 will be about 2,095,556. This will be higher than what the lake has seen since 2013. The 2013 to 2016 average stocking number was 1,785,009. Discussion:

- Why not more? Michigan reduced most, so why not go back to 2012 numbers? ○ The LMC agreed to incremental increases at same percentage as they were decreased.

Site	2013 - 2016 Stocking Level	Previously ¹ Approved Odd Years	Previously ¹ Approved Even Years	Proposed Odd ² Years	Proposed Even ² Years
Escanaba	12,000	0	0	0	0
Manistique	34,000	0	69,000	0	130,000
Medusa	72,000	72,000	0	92,000	0
Boardman	60,000	0	62,306	0	71,306
Manistee River	22,000	0	0	0	0
Little Manistee River	150,000	228,000	208,000	228,000	228,000
Big Sable River	38,000	0	0	0	0
Muskegon River	18,000	25,000	0	75,000	0
Grand Haven	59,000	89,306	0	129,306	0
Holland	15,000	0	35,000	0	50,000
Black River	15,000	0	55,000	0	75,000
Saugatuck	16,000	0	75,000	0	100,000
St. Joseph	48,000	90,000	0	130,000	0
Total	559,000	504,306	504,306	654,306	654,306

- Why is Wisconsin getting more than Michigan? ○ Each state is getting back half of what they reduced in 2016. Wisconsin reduced more Chinook equivalents than Michigan.

- What is the caloric content of alewife? * Go to complete set of minutes link below

Here is the proposal to increase the 150,000 Chinook salmon at Michigan ports. This proposal follows the zonal management concept adopted by the advisors as well as the pulse stocking concept.

¹Stocking levels approved by Fisheries Division in October of 2018.

* Link to LMCAC complete set of meeting minutes :

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79137_79763_79903_84845---,00.html

Since this final planting decision was announced for Michigan, the state of Wisconsin announced to further expand its stocking plans beyond what the Lake Michigan Committee had agreed on.



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 !!!!
Keep an eye out for your 2020 renewal invoice. If you need it sent again:

Contact: Polly Myer 231.843-3474 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.

Scotties, PM Steamers, the Blu Moon can cook your catch!

Call them in advance please

2020 EVENT DATES:

OFFSHORE CLASSIC FISHING TOURNAMENT/
BIG BOYS TOURNAMENT, JULY 13-19

Hosted by the Ludington & Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce

SUSTAINING BUSINESS MEMBER Sponsor Fishing Day Thursday, May 21

Hosted by LCBA

LCBA DIRECTORY

Www.ludingtonsalmon.com

FaceBook

@ludingtoncharterfishing

President

Gary Smith

Gary@rodmasterfishing.com

(517) 712-8709

Vice-President

David Ellis

salmonslayercharters@gmail.com

(269) 377-1313

Treasurer

George Freeman

captgeorge@chartermi.net

(231) 456-3474

Secretary

Sean McDonald

riverguide@hotmail.com

(231) 510-2072

Directors

Mark Szoboszlay

hitthemarkcharters@gmail.com

Joe Marion

joemmarion@charter.net

Shane Ruboyanes

captshane78@gmail.com

website

Polly Myer

Raffle Chairman

Gary Smith

gary@rodmasterfishing.com

MUCC Rep

Ed Stowe

stowee@charter.net

Boats needed ..June 19, 2020



<https://www.fishonforfreedom.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/fishonforfreedom/>

