



Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoor Heritage
PO Box 30235 Lansing, MI 48909 | 800.777.6720 P | www.mucc.org

RE: HB 4567, 4568, 4569

Dear members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

Provided for you is a packet of resolutions and letters in support of House bills 4567-4569. Local municipalities and stakeholders recognize the importance and economic value that the sport fishing industry provides for their communities.

Michigan United Conservation Clubs hopes that you will take each resolution into consideration when voting on HB 4567-4569. The overwhelming support from communities and organizations who cherish and rely on sport fishing as a means of recreation and economic input sheds light on the necessity of this package.

Municipalities and counties that have passed resolutions in support of HB 4567-4569:

Au Gres
Bay City
Park Township
Ferrisburg
Macomb County
South Haven
Standish
St. Clair Shores
St. Joseph

Organizations in support of HB 4567-4569:

American Sportfishing Association
Cadillac Sportsman's Club
Hammond Bay Anglers Association
Huron Valley Conservation Association
Lake St. Clair Walleye Association
League of Ohio Sportsmen
Metro West Steelheaders
Michigan Association of Conventions & Visitors Bureaus
Michigan Charter Boat Association
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Environmental Council
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Michigan Resource Stewards
Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fisherman's Association
Michigan Trout Unlimited
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Montmorency County Conservation Club

Upper Black River Council
Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance
White River Steelheaders

Businesses in support of HB 4567-4569:

Advanced Tackle
Bay De Noc Lures
Berts Custom Tackle
Big Jon Sports, Inc.
Broadlow's Fishing Hole
Ed. Cumins, Inc
Jay's Sporting Goods
Johnson's Great Outdoors
LunaSea
Mason Tackle Company
KERCO, LLC
Tiara Yachts / S2 Yachts
Cisco Fishing Systems
D&R Sports Center
Pautzke Bait Company
Church Tackle Co.
Fish USA
Cabelas
Bass Pro Shops
Gander Outdoors
Dremweaver Lures
Moonshine Lures
Odlé Sales
Offshore Tackle LLC
Outdoorsmen Pro Shop
Insta Launch Campground & Marina
Louie Stout - Michiana Outdoors News
Mark Sak Outdoors
Jones & Company, Inc.
Great Lakes Sport Fishing News
Off Shore Tackle Company LLC
Sportco Marketing Inc.
Graydon Outdoor, LLC
Reelin Leland Fishing Charters
Tackle Haven
Traxtech

Sincerely,



Amy Trotter
Executive Director, Michigan United Conservation Clubs

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SAGINAW BAY RECREATIONAL FISHING AND AN UPDATE OF MICHIGAN'S COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

SUPPORTING: House bills 4567 (Rep. Lilly, R-Park Township), 4568 (Rep. O'Malley, R-Lake Ann) and 4569 (Rep. Wendzel, R-Watervliet). Of 2019

WHEREAS, the Saginaw Bay recreational fishery is one of our greatest local and national resource treasures; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing across Michigan is responsible for over \$2 billion in direct economic expenditures, and directly supports more than 35,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Michigan hosts more than 1.4 million recreational anglers annually including 300,000 from out-of-state, which is the second only to Florida; and

WHEREAS, estimates conclude that recreational fishing in Saginaw Bay alone as a \$33 million yearly direct economic impact to our region; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing is a critical piece of our city's and our region's economy; and

WHEREAS, thousands of recreational fishermen come to our area from across the state and country to fish on the Saginaw Bay, Saginaw River and throughout the Saginaw Bay watershed 12 months per year; and

WHEREAS, these fishermen use local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, marinas, gas stations and other facilities that are important to our economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Au Gres has spent, and continues to spend, resources for public launches, shore fishing locations and opportunities, and recreational fishing boat dockage; and

WHEREAS, the Saginaw Bay fishery - particularly that of perch and walleye - represents more than 75% of Lake Huron's total recreational fishing participation according to Michigan Seagrant; and

WHEREAS, yellow perch, a key and historically important recreation species, are at historically low levels in Saginaw Bay; and

WHEREAS, Saginaw Bay's walleye population is one of our state's and country's greatest restoration success stories. However, it is still not fully recovered at historical levels and is not providing "surplus" walleye that would indicate that a commercial fishery for them is viable or necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Saginaw Bay smallmouth bass fishery has been recently ranked that 8th best in the northeast United States by Bassmaster Magazine, the most widely read bass fishing periodical in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is supporting new legislation that would update commercial fishing regulations that would better protect and support our critical recreational fishery; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing regulations have not been substantially updated since 1971, and fines and penalties have not been updated since 1929; and

WHEREAS, these legislative bills have been identified as a high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the future management of the Saginaw Bay fishery and the department is enthusiastically supporting their passage; and

WHEREAS, these bills are supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Saginaw Bay Walleye Club, Trout Unlimited, Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association, Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fisherman's Association and dozens of local, regional and national organizations that support and want to protect gamefish and recreational angling opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the passage of these bills will allow the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better manage the fishery and allow them to have a firm foundation while negotiating with tribal interests concerning future fish species that are allowable catch in future consent decrees; and

WHEREAS, there are concurrent bills being revied in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that would expand commercial fishing to include important recreational gamefish species such as walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and other important recreational species and work contrary to out interests in protecting the Saginaw Bay fishery;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the City of Au Gres Council supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sport fishing legacy of out state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Saginaw Bay fishery both recreationally and commercially.

AYES: Borushko, Warr, Hoadley, Edmonds, Heinrich

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk



August 19, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Au Gres Area Chamber of Commerce supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sport fishing legacy of our state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Saginaw Bay fishery both recreationally and commercially.

Sincerely,

Allison Wiltse, Pres.

Allison J Wiltse


Au Gres Area Chamber of Commerce President

CITY OF BAY CITY, MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
(AFFIDAVIT)

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF BAY)
CITY OF BAY CITY)

I, Jamie C. McFarland, Deputy City Clerk of the City of Bay City, County and State aforesaid, Do hereby Certify that I have compared the annexed excerpt from the resolution approved at the August 5, 2019, Commission Meeting with the original on file in my office, and that it is a true and correct copy therefrom and of the whole of such original.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporate Seal of the City of Bay City, Michigan, this 19th day of September, 2019.



Jamie C. McFarland, Deputy City Clerk

Of Commissioner Clements:

Whereas, the Saginaw Bay recreational fishery is one of our greatest local and national resource treasures; and

Whereas, recreational fishing across Michigan is responsible for over \$2 billion in direct economic expenditures, and directly supports more than 35,000 jobs; and

Whereas, Michigan hosts more than 1.4 million recreational anglers annually, including 300,000 from out-of-state, which is the second only to Florida; and

Whereas, estimates conclude that recreational fishing in Saginaw Bay alone has a \$33 million yearly direct economic impact to our region; and

Whereas, Michigan's recreational anglers contribute more than \$30 million to help manage fisheries resources through taxes on equipment, licenses, and excise fees each year; and

Whereas, recreational fishing is a critical piece of our city's and our region's economy; and

Whereas, thousands of recreational fishermen come to our area from across the state and country to fish on the Saginaw Bay, Saginaw River and throughout the Saginaw Bay watershed 12 months per year; and

Whereas, these fisherman use local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, marinas, gas stations and other facilities that are important to our economy; and

Whereas, the City of Bay City has spent, and continues to spend, resources for public launches, shore fishing locations and opportunities, and recreational fishing boat dockage; and

Whereas, the Saginaw Bay fishery – particularly that of perch and walleye - represents more than 75% of Lake Huron's total recreational fishing participation according to Michigan Seagrant; and

Whereas, yellow perch, a key and historically important recreation species, are at historically low levels in Saginaw Bay; and

Whereas, Saginaw Bay's walleye population is one of our state's and country's greatest restoration success stories. However, it is still not fully recovered at historical levels and is not providing "surplus" walleye that would indicate that a commercial fishery for them is viable or necessary; and

Whereas, the Saginaw Bay smallmouth bass fishery has been recently ranked the 8th best in the northeast United States by Bassmaster Magazine, the most widely read bass fishing periodical in the world; and

Whereas, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is supporting new legislation that would update commercial fishing regulations that would better protect and support our critical recreational fishery; and

Whereas, commercial fishing regulations have not been substantially updated since 1971, and fines and penalties have not been updated since 1929; and

Whereas, these legislative bills have been identified as a high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the future management of the Saginaw Bay fishery and the department is enthusiastically supporting their passage; and

Whereas, these bills are supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Saginaw Bay Walleye Club, Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association, Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fisherman's Association, Trout Unlimited, and dozens of local, regional and national organizations that support and want to protect gamefish and recreational angling opportunities; and

Whereas, the passage of these bills will allow the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better manage the fishery and allow them to have a firm foundation while negotiating with tribal interests concerning future fish species that are allowable catch in future consent decrees; and

Whereas, there are concurrent bills being reviewed in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that would expand commercial fishing to include important recreational gamefish species such as walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and other important recreational species and work contrary to our interests in protecting the Saginaw Bay fishery.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved the Bay City City Commission supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sportsfishing legacy of our state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Saginaw Bay fishery both recreationally and commercially.

Commissioner Dockett moved to allow public input. There was no objection. No one came forward.

Commissioner Clements moved adoption of resolution.

Adopted by the following vote:

Yes, Commissioners Dockett, Terrasi, Niedzinski, Brunner, Hilliker, Davidson, Basmadjian, Clements, Morris, 9.

No, none.



CITY OF FERRYSBURG

17290 ROOSEVELT ROAD
P.O. BOX 38
FERRYSBURG, MI 49409-0038

PHONE 616-842-5803
FAX 616-844-0200
www.ferrysburg.org

CITY OF FERRYSBURG OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LAKE MICHIGAN RECREATIONAL FISHING AND AN UPDATE OF MICHIGAN'S COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

- WHEREAS, the Lake Michigan recreational fishery is one of our greatest local and national resource treasures; and
- WHEREAS, recreational fishing across Michigan is responsible for over \$2 billion in direct economic expenditures, and directly supports more than 35,000 jobs; and
- WHEREAS, Michigan hosts more than 1.4 million recreational anglers annually, including 300,000 from out-of-state, which is the second only in Florida; and
- WHEREAS, estimates conclude that recreational fishing in Lake Michigan alone has a multi-million dollar yearly direct economic impact to our region; and
- WHEREAS, Michigan's recreational anglers contribute more than \$30 million to help manage fisheries resources through taxes on equipment, licenses, and excise fees each year; and
- WHEREAS, recreational fishing is a critical piece of our city's and our region's economy; and
- WHEREAS, thousands of recreational fishermen come to our area from across the state and country to fish on Lake Michigan, 12 months per year; and
- WHEREAS, these fishermen use local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, marinas, gas stations and other facilities and are important to our economy; and
- WHEREAS, yellow perch, a key and historically important recreation species, are at historically low levels in Lake Michigan, and
- WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is supporting new legislation that would update commercial fishing regulations that would better protect and support our critical recreational fishery; and
- WHEREAS, commercial fishing regulations have not been substantially updated since 1971, and fines and penalties have not been updated since 1929; and
- WHEREAS, these legislative bills have been identified as a high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the future management of the Lake Michigan fishery and the department is enthusiastically supporting their passage; and

WHEREAS, these bills are supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, Trout Unlimited, the Michigan Charter Boat Association and dozens of local, regional and national organizations that support and want to protect gamefish and recreational angling opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the passage of these bills will allow the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better manage the fishery and allow them to have a firm foundation while negotiating with tribal interests concerning future fish species that are allowable catch in future consent decrees; and

WHEREAS, there are concurrent bills being reviewed in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that would expand commercial fishing to include important recreational gamefish species such as walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and other important recreational species and work contrary to our interests in protecting the Lake Michigan fishery;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Ferrysburg City Council supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sports fishing legacy of our state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Lake Michigan fishery both recreationally and commercially.

Offered by Council Member O'Donnell.


Supported by Council Member DeWitt.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

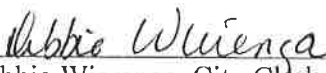
Dated: November 4, 2019



Debbie Wierenga, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Ferrysburg City Council on the 4th day of November 2019.



Debbie Wierenga, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. R20-4372

*Official Resolution of the Board of Commissioners
Macomb County, Michigan*

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LAKE ST. CLAIR RECREATIONAL FISHING AND
AN UPDATE OF MICHIGAN'S COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS**

Commissioner Jim Carabelli, on behalf of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners,
offers the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Lake St. Clair recreational fishery is one of our greatest local and national resource treasures; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing across Michigan is responsible for over \$2 billion in direct economic expenditures, and directly supports more than 35,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Michigan hosts more than 1.4 million recreational anglers annually, including 300,000 from out-of-state, which is the second only to Florida; and

WHEREAS, estimates conclude that recreational fishing in Lake St. Clair alone has a \$33 million yearly direct economic impact to our region; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's recreational anglers contribute more than \$30 million to help manage fisheries resources through taxes on equipment, licenses, and excise fees each year; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing is a critical piece of our city's and our region's economy; and

WHEREAS, thousands of recreational fishermen come to our area from across the state and country to fish on Lake St. Clair 12 months per year; and

WHEREAS, these fisherman use local restaurants, retail establishments, marinas, gas stations and other facilities that are important to our economy; and

WHEREAS, the communities in Macomb County have spent, and continues to spend, resources for public launches, shore fishing locations and opportunities, and recreational fishing boat dockage; and

WHEREAS, Lake St. Clair's walleye population is one of our state's and country's greatest restoration success stories. However, it is still not fully recovered at historical levels and is not providing "surplus" walleye that would indicate that a commercial fishery for them is viable or necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is supporting new legislation that would update commercial fishing regulations that would better protect and support our critical recreational fishery; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing regulations have not been substantially updated since 1971, and fines and penalties have not been updated since 1929; and

WHEREAS, these legislative bills have been identified as a high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the future management of the Lake St. Clair fishery and the department is Enthusiastically supporting their passage; and

WHEREAS, these bills are supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Lake St. Clair Walleye Club, Trout Unlimited, Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association, Michigan Steel head & Salmon Fisherman's Association and dozens of local, regional and national organizations that support and want to protect gamefish and recreational angling opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the passage of these bills will allow the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better manage the fishery and allow them to have a firm foundation while negotiating with tribal interests concerning future fish species that are allowable catch in future consent decrees; and

WHEREAS, there are concurrent bills being reviewed in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that would expand commercial fishing to include important recreational gamefish species such as walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and other important recreational species and work contrary to our interests in protecting the Lake St. Clair fishery;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569, which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sports fishing legacy of our state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Lake St. Clair fishery both recreationally and commercially.



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RECREATIONAL FISHING AND AN UPDATE OF MICHIGAN'S COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

SUPPORTING: HOUSE BILLS 4567 (Rep. Lilly, R-Park Township), 4568 (Rep. O'Malley, R-Lake Ann) and 4569 (Rep. Wendzel, R-Watervliet) of 2019

WHEREAS, Michigan's recreational sport fishery is one of our greatest local and national resource treasures; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing across Michigan is responsible for over \$2 billion in direct economic expenditures, and directly supports more than 35,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Michigan hosts more than 1.4 million recreational anglers annually, including 300,000 from out-of-state, which is the second only to Florida; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's recreational anglers contribute more than \$30 million to help manage fisheries resources through taxes on equipment, licenses, and excise fees each year; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing is a critical piece of our region's economy; and

WHEREAS, thousands of recreational fishermen visit our surrounding areas from across the state and country to fish on the big lake and rivers throughout the watershed 12 months per year; and

WHEREAS, these fisherman use local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, marinas, gas stations and other facilities that are important to our economy; and

WHEREAS, twenty charter boat operators, (small business owners), leave from our port city daily to provide clients with a great fishing experience accounting for 720 fishing trips yearly on the big lake or connecting rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities in the region have spent, and continue to spend, resources for public launches, fish cleaning stations, shore fishing locations and opportunities, and recreational fishing boat dockage; and

WHEREAS, yellow perch, a key and historically important recreation species, are at historically low levels in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, walleye population is one of our state's and country's greatest restoration success stories. However, it is still not fully recovered at historical levels and is not providing "surplus" walleye that would indicate that a commercial fishery for them is viable or necessary; and

WHEREAS, the smallmouth bass fishery has been recently ranked the 8th best in the northeast United States by Bassmaster Magazine, the most widely read bass fishing periodical in the world; and

WHEREAS, the steelhead and salmon fishery is rank the best fresh water fishery for those species in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is supporting new legislation that would update commercial fishing regulations that would better protect and support our critical recreational fishery; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing regulations have not been substantially updated since 1971, and fines and penalties have not been updated since 1929; and

WHEREAS, these legislative bills have been identified as a high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the future management of the sport fishery and the department is enthusiastically supporting their passage; and

WHEREAS, these bills are supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, the West Michigan Walleye Club, Trout Unlimited, Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association and dozens of local, regional and national organizations that support and want to protect gamefish and recreational angling opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the passage of these bills will allow the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better manage the fishery and allow them to have a firm foundation while negotiating with tribal interests concerning future fish species that are allowable catch in future consent decrees; and

WHEREAS, there are concurrent bills being reviewed in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that would expand commercial fishing to include important recreational gamefish species such as lake trout, salmon, steelhead trout, walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and other important recreational species and work contrary to our interests in protecting the sport fishery;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT: RESOLVED, that Park Township supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sports fishing legacy of our state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Great Lakes fishery both recreationally and commercially.

CERTIFICATE

I, E. O. Keeter, the Clerk for the Township of Park, Ottawa County, Michigan, certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board held on September 12, 2019.

The following members of the Township Board were present at that meeting:

Hunsburger, Keeter, Gerard, Jacob, Nestel and Spoelhof.

The following members of the Township Board were absent: Steggerda.

The Resolution was adopted by the Township Board with members of the Board Hunsburger, Keeter, Gerard, Jacob, Nestel and Spoelhof voting in favor, and none of the members of the Board voting in opposition.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by Park Township Board of Trustees of Park Township at their regular meeting held on September 12, at 6:30 p.m. in The Park Township Hall, located at 52 South 152nd Avenue, Holland Michigan 49424 , with a quorum present.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. O. Keeter", written over a horizontal line.

Dated: 9/12/19

A handwritten date "9/12/19" written in cursive script over a horizontal line.

CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN
VAN BUREN AND ALLEGAN COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-42

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LAKE MICHIGAN RECREATIONAL FISHING AND AN UPDATE
OF MICHIGAN'S COMMECRIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of South Haven, Van Buren and Allegan Counties, Michigan, held in the City Hall, 539 Phoenix Street, South Haven, Michigan 49090 on September 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Campbell, Gruber, Reeser, Schlack, Sleeper, Smith

ABSENT: Wilkins

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Member Sleeper and supported by Member Schlack.

WHEREAS, the Lake Michigan recreational fishery is one of our greatest local and national resource treasures; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing across Michigan is responsible for over \$2 billion in direct economic expenditures, and directly supports more than 35,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Michigan hosts more than 1.4 million recreational anglers annually, including 300,000 from out-of-state, which is the second only to Florida; and

WHEREAS, estimates conclude that recreational fishing in Lake Michigan alone has a multi-million dollar yearly direct economic impact to our region; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's recreational anglers contribute more than \$30 million to help manage fisheries resources through taxes on equipment, licenses, and excise fees each year; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing is a critical piece of our city's and our region's economy; and

WHEREAS, thousands of recreational fishermen come to our area from across the state and country to fish on Lake Michigan, the Black River and the Black River Watershed 12 months per year; and

WHEREAS, these fisherman use local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, marinas, gas stations and other facilities that are important to our economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of South Haven has spent, and continues to spend, resources for public launches, shore fishing locations, a new Fish Cleaning Facility and opportunities, and recreational fishing boat dockage; and

WHEREAS In 2017, charter captains logged 12,122 fishing trips in Michigan waters of Lake Michigan, generating tourism that created over \$7 million in personal income and over 322,000 employment hours.

WHEREAS, yellow perch, a key and historically important recreation species, are at historically low levels in Lake Michigan, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is supporting new legislation that would update commercial fishing regulations that would better protect and support our critical recreational fishery; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing regulations have not been substantially updated since 1971, and fines and penalties have not been updated since 1929; and

WHEREAS, these legislative bills have been identified as a high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the future management of the Lake Michigan fishery and the department is enthusiastically supporting their passage; and

WHEREAS, these bills are supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, Trout Unlimited, the Michigan Charter Boat Association and dozens of local, regional and national organizations that support and want to protect gamefish and recreational angling opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the passage of these bills will allow the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better manage the fishery and allow them to have a firm foundation while negotiating with tribal interests concerning future fish species that are allowable catch in future consent decrees; and

WHEREAS, there are concurrent bills being reviewed in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that would expand commercial fishing to include important recreational gamefish species such as walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and other important recreational species and work contrary to our interests in protecting the Lake Michigan fishery;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT: RESOLVED, that the City of South Haven council supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sports fishing legacy of our state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Lake Michigan fishery both recreation-ally and commercially.

RECORD OF VOTE:

Yeas: _____ Campbell, Gruber, Reeser, Schlack, Sleeper, Smith

Nays: _____ None


RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



Scott E. Smith, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council at a meeting held on the 3rd day of September, 2019, at which meeting a quorum was present, and that this resolution was ordered to take immediate effect. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 167 of the Public Acts of Michigan 1976 (MCL 15.261 *et seq.*).



Travis Sullivan, City Clerk

Mayor
Kip C. Walby
Mayor Pro-Tem
Peter A. Accica
City Manager
Matthew W. Coppler

City of St. Clair Shores
27600 Jefferson Avenue, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-2075
Phone: (586) 447-3303 Fax: (586) 445-0469 www.scsmi.net



Council Members:
John D. Caron
Ronald J. Frederick
Peter A. Rubino
Candice B. Rusie
Chris M. Vitale

November 5, 2019

At a regular City Council Meeting of the St. Clair Shores City Council held on Monday, October 21, 2019 the following resolution was offered:

Moved by Council Member Caron, and supported by Council Member Accica to adopt the following Resolution in support of House Bills 4567-4569 Commercial Fishing Regulations and direct the City Clerk to forward the following resolution to our Macomb County State Representatives, State Senators, Lake St. Clair Walleye Association and Michigan United Conservation Club:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LAKE ST. CLAIR RECREATIONAL FISHING AND AN UPDATE OF MICHIGAN'S COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the Lake St. Clair recreational fishery is one of our greatest local and national resource treasures; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing across Michigan is responsible for over \$2 billion in direct economic expenditures, and directly supports more than 35,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Michigan hosts more than 1.4 million recreational anglers annually, including 300,000 from out-of-state, which is the second only to Florida; and

WHEREAS, estimates conclude that recreational fishing in Lake St. Clair alone has a \$33 million yearly direct economic impact to our region; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's recreational anglers contribute more than \$30 million to help manage fisheries resources through taxes on equipment, licenses, and excise fees each year; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing is a critical piece of our city's and our region's economy; and

WHEREAS, thousands of recreational fishermen come to our area from across the state and country to fish on Lake St. Clair 12 months per year; and

WHEREAS, these fisherman use local restaurants, retail establishments, marinas, gas stations and other facilities that are important to our economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Clair Shores has spent, and continues to spend, resources for public launches, shore fishing locations and opportunities, and recreational fishing boat dockage; and

WHEREAS, Lake St. Clair's walleye population is one of our state's and country's greatest restoration success stories. However, it is still not fully recovered at historical levels and is not providing "surplus" walleye that would indicate that a commercial fishery for them is viable or necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is supporting new legislation that would update commercial fishing regulations that would better protect and support our critical recreational fishery; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing regulations have not been substantially updated since 1971, and fines and penalties have not been updated since 1929; and

WHEREAS, these legislative bills have been identified as a high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the future management of the Lake St. Clair fishery and the department is enthusiastically supporting their passage; and

WHEREAS, these bills are supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Lake St. Clair Walleye Club, Trout Unlimited, Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association, Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fisherman's Association and dozens of local, regional and national organizations that support and want to protect gamefish and recreational angling opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the passage of these bills will allow the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better manage the fishery and allow them to have a firm foundation while negotiating with tribal interests concerning future fish species that are allowable catch in future consent decrees; and

WHEREAS, there are concurrent bills being reviewed in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that would expand commercial fishing to include important recreational gamefish species such as walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and other important recreational species and work contrary to our interests in protecting the Lake St. Clair fishery;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of St. Clair Shores City Council supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sports fishing legacy of our state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Lake St. Clair fishery both recreationally and commercially.

Ayes: Caron, Accica, Frederick, Rusie, Vitale, Walby

Nay: Rubino

I, Mary A. Kotowski, City Clerk of the City of St. Clair Shores do hereby certify that the foregoing is an excerpt from the minutes of a regular meeting of the St. Clair Shores City Council held on Monday, October 21, 2019, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act No. 267 of 1976 as amended.



Mary A. Kotowski, MMC, CMMC
City Clerk



REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF FISHING LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RECREATIONAL FISHING AND AN UPDATE OF MICHIGAN'S COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

SUPPORTING: HOUSE BILLS 4567 (Rep. Lilly, R-Park Township), 4568 (Rep. O'Malley, R-Lake Ann) and 4569 (Rep. Wendzel, R-Watervliet) of 2019

WHEREAS, Michigan's recreational sport fishery is one of our greatest local and national resource treasures; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing across Michigan is responsible for over \$2 billion in direct economic expenditures, and directly supports more than 35,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Michigan hosts more than 1.4 million recreational anglers annually, including 300,000 from out-of-state, which is the second only to Florida; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's recreational anglers contribute more than \$30 million to help manage fisheries resources through taxes on equipment, licenses, and excise fees each year; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing is a critical piece of our region's economy; and

WHEREAS, thousands of recreational fishermen visit our surrounding areas from across the state and country to fish on the big lake and rivers throughout the watershed 12 months per year; and

WHEREAS, these fishermen use local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, marinas, gas stations and other facilities that are important to our economy; and

WHEREAS, twenty-six charter boat operators, (small business owners), leave from our port city daily to provide clients with a great fishing experience accounting for 976 fishing trips yearly on the big lake or connecting rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities in the region have spent, and continue to spend, resources for public launches, shore fishing locations and opportunities, and recreational fishing boat dockage; and

WHEREAS, yellow perch, a key and historically important recreation species, are at historically low levels in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, walleye population is one of our state's and country's greatest restoration success stories. However, it is still not fully recovered at historical levels and is not providing "surplus" walleye that would indicate that a commercial fishery for them is viable or necessary; and

WHEREAS, the smallmouth bass fishery has been recently ranked the 8th best in the northeast United States by Bassmaster Magazine, the most widely read bass fishing periodical in the world; and

WHEREAS, the steelhead and salmon fishery is rank the best fresh water fishery for those

species in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is supporting new legislation that would update commercial fishing regulations that would better protect and support our critical recreational fishery; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing regulations have not been substantially updated since 1971, and fines and penalties have not been updated since 1929; and

WHEREAS, these legislative bills have been identified as a high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the future management of the sport fishery and the department is enthusiastically supporting their passage; and

WHEREAS, these bills are supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, the West Michigan Walleye Club, Trout Unlimited, Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association and dozens of local, regional and national organizations that support and want to protect gamefish and recreational angling opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the passage of these bills will allow the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better manage the fishery and allow them to have a firm foundation while negotiating with tribal interests concerning future fish species that are allowable catch in future consent decrees; and

WHEREAS, there are concurrent bills being reviewed in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that would expand commercial fishing to include important recreational gamefish species such as lake trout, salmon, steelhead trout, walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and other important recreational species and work contrary to our interests in protecting the sport fishery;

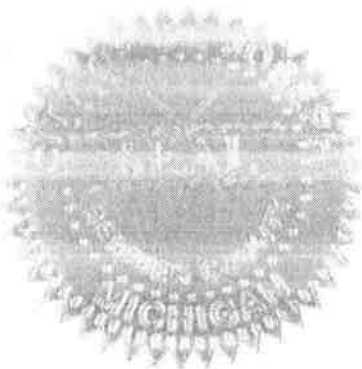
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT: RESOLVED, that the City of St. Joseph supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sports fishing legacy of our state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Great Lakes fishery both recreationally and commercially.


RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Laura Goos, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Lynn Todman, Commissioner
AYES:	Garey, Richards, Goos, Getty, Todman

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BERRIEN)

I, Denise Westfall, the duly qualified and appointed Clerk of the City of St. Joseph, Berrien County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of action adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held on October 28, 2019 the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this October 28, 2019.




Denise Westfall, City Clerk
City of St. Joseph

#19-14

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SAGINAW BAY RECREATIONAL FISHING AND AN UPDATE OF MICHIGAN'S COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

SUPPORTING: HOUSE BILLS 4567, 4568, 4569

The following resolution was offered by Councilperson Rang and supported by Councilmember Owen:

WHEREAS, the Saginaw Bay recreational fishery is one of our greatest local and national resource treasures; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing across Michigan is responsible for over \$2 billion in direct economic expenditures, and directly supports more than 35,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Michigan hosts more than 1.4 million recreational anglers annually, including 300,000 from out-of-state, which is the second only to Florida; and

WHEREAS, estimates conclude that recreational fishing in Saginaw Bay alone has a \$33 million yearly direct economic impact to our region; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's recreational anglers contribute more than \$30 million to help manage fisheries resources through taxes on equipment, licenses, and excise fees each year; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing is a critical piece of our city's and our region's economy; and

WHEREAS, thousands of recreational fishermen come to our area from across the state and country to fish on the Saginaw Bay, Saginaw River and throughout the Saginaw Bay watershed 12 months per year; and

WHEREAS, these fisherman use local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, marinas, gas stations and other facilities that are important to our economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Standish has spent, and continues to spend, resources for public launches, shore fishing locations and opportunities, and recreational fishing boat dockage; and

WHEREAS, the Saginaw Bay fishery – particularly that of perch and walleye -represents more than 75% of Lake Huron's total recreational fishing participation according to Michigan Seagrant; and

WHEREAS, yellow perch, a key and historically important recreation species, are at historically low levels in Saginaw Bay; and

WHEREAS, Saginaw Bay's walleye population is one of our state's and country's greatest restoration success stories. However, it is still not fully recovered at historical levels and is not providing "surplus" walleye that would indicate that a commercial fishery for them is viable or necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Saginaw Bay smallmouth bass fishery has been recently ranked the 8th best in the northeast United States by Bassmaster Magazine, the most widely read bass fishing periodical in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is supporting new legislation that would update commercial fishing regulations that would better protect and support our critical recreational fishery; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing regulations have not been substantially updated since 1971, and fines and penalties have not been updated since 1929; and

WHEREAS, these legislative bills have been identified as a high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the future management of the Saginaw Bay fishery and the department is enthusiastically supporting their passage; and

WHEREAS, these bills are supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Saginaw Bay Walleye Club, Trout Unlimited, Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association, Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fisherman's Association and dozens of local, regional and national organizations that support and want to protect gamefish and recreational angling opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the passage of these bills will allow the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better manage the fishery and allow them to have a firm foundation while negotiating with tribal interests concerning future fish species that are allowable catch in future consent decrees; and

WHEREAS, there are concurrent bills being reviewed in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that would expand commercial fishing to include important recreational gamefish species such as walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and other important recreational species and work contrary to our interests in protecting the Saginaw Bay fishery;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Standish City Council supports House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569 which seek to ensure that commercial license fees appropriately cover the program's administration and oversight, protect the sportsfishing legacy of our state and region by establishing penalties for the taking of non-commercial species, codify certain species that are allowed and not allowed for commercial take, and update the authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to effectively maintain and monitor the Saginaw Bay fishery both recreationally and commercially.

A roll call vote was taken as follows;

YEAS: Winslow, Tremble, Owen, Rang, King

NAYS: Link, Cook

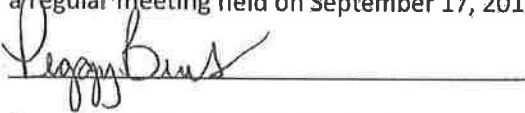
ABSENT: None

The motion received 5 yea votes and 2 nay votes. The motion carried and Resolution #19-14 was declared adopted with a 5 – 2 – 0 vote.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peggy Burtch", written over a horizontal line.

Peggy S Burtch, Standish City Clerk

I, Peggy S Burtch, the duly appointed and sworn Clerk of the City of Standish do attest that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution approved by 2/3 of the members of the Standish City Council at a regular meeting held on September 17, 2019.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peggy Burtch", written over a horizontal line.

Peggy S Burtch, Standish City Clerk



June 5, 2020

The Honorable Senator McBroom
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
Michigan Senate

Dear Chairman McBroom,

As businesses that are part of Michigan's \$3.7 billion recreational fishing economy, we are writing today to express support for proposed legislation that will benefit Michigan's renowned sport fisheries and the many communities who rely on them. We kindly ask that when considering HB 4567-59 – a bill package that prevents the commercial harvest of lake trout, yellow perch, walleye and other game fish for commercial fishing operations – you keep in mind the legacy of sportfishing in Michigan and the vast economic benefit it brings.

Recreational fishing is one of Michigan's most popular outdoor activities, and the state ranks as one of the top five states in the country in number of anglers and economic expenditures. Michigan anglers are a major driver of the state's outdoor recreation economy, with 2,716,157 anglers generating \$3.7 billion in economic output, supporting 27,979 jobs. In addition, recreational fishermen and the industry contribute substantially to conservation through fishing license fees and the excise tax on fishing equipment. Without these user-generated funds, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources would be unable to successfully manage our fisheries resources for the benefit of the public.

Compared to the state's substantial recreational fishing industry, currently there are only 19 licensed commercial fishing operations in the state. In 2015, commercial harvest of whitefish was valued at \$4.7 million.

We ask that you support HB 4567-69. These bills help to ensure that state-licensed commercial fishing operations are held responsible for the harvest and selling of game fish and require them to report the location of their nets. Updating these commercial fishing regulations and keeping sought-after gamefish protected is imperative for the future of Michigan's fisheries resources and all who depend on them.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Advanced Tackle
Boyne Falls, MI



Apex Marine
Louis, MI

Bay De Noc Lures
Gladstone, MI

Berts Custom Tackle
Commerce Charter Township, MI

Big Jon Sports, Inc.
Interlochen, MI

Broadlow's Fishing Hole
St. Joseph, MI

Dewal Custom Lures
Au Gres, MI

Ed. Cumins, Inc
Flint, MI

Frank's Great Outdoors
Linwood, MI

Jay's Sporting Goods
Clare, MI

Johnson's Great Outdoors
Montague, MI

LunaSea
Plainwell, MI

Mason Tackle Company
Otisville, MI

KERCO, LLC
Troy, MI

Tiara Yachts / S2 Yachts
Holland, MI

Cisco Fishing Systems
Cleavland, OH

AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

1001 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 501, Alexandria, VA 22314 • 703-519-9691 • Fax: 703-519-1872
Web: www.ASAFishing.org • Email: info@ASAFishing.org



D&R Sports Center
Kalamazoo, MI

Pautzke Bait Company
Ellensburg, WA

Church Tackle Co.
Sodus, MI

Fish USA
Fairview, PA

Cabela's
Dundee, Grandville, and Saginaw MI

Bass Pro Shops
Auburn Hills, MI

Gander Outdoors
Utica, MI

Dremweaver Lures
Ludington, MI

Moonshine Lures
Gladstone, MI

Odle Sales
Columbia, MO

Offshore Tackle LLC
Michigan

Outdoorsmen Pro Shop
Jenison, MI

Insta Launch Campground & Marina
Manistee, MI

Linwood Beach Marina and Campground
Linwood, MI

Louie Stout - Michiana Outdoors News

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Web: www.ASAFishing.org • Email: info@ASAFishing.org



Elkhart, IN

Mark Sak Outdoors
Michigan

Jones & Company, Inc.
Brighton, MI

Great Lakes Sport Fishing News
Holland, MI

Off Shore Tackle Company LLC
Port Austin, MI

Sportco Marketing Inc.
Marysville, OH

Graydon Outdoor, LLC
Brainerd, MN

Reelin Leland Fishing Charters
Leland, MI

Tackle Haven
Benton Harbor, MI

Traxtech
Chesaning, MI

AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

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League of Ohio Sportsmen

Established 1908

Amy,

The League of Ohio Sportsmen support the passage of Michigan HB 4567, HB 4568 and HB 4569. The proper, scientific management of our precious natural resources should always be in the forefront of any legislation. We oppose Michigan HB 4790 and SB 389, because, as concerned neighbors we oppose expansion of any commercial fishing in our Great Lakes.

The League of Ohio Sportsmen is a statewide grass roots organization with currently over 200,000 members.

Paul Brooks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Brooks', written in a cursive style.

President

9-9-19



League of Ohio Sportsmen

Established 1908

Amy,

The current situation in regards to commercial gamefish take in Ohio is as follows: The gill netters were bought out more than 20 yrs ago. What remains is 18 state owned (similar to state liquor lic) lic.for perch trap netting. There are no plans to add more and the current ones cannot be sold. However due to some of the lic. being issued to corporations or LLCs, different individuals can purchase into the LLC or corp. There is stringent vessel monitoring, with reporting as they catch and at the dock. There is new monitoring technology that is being installed to better monitor the catch and any bi-catch. Commercial netters currently are allowed to take up to 35% of the quota. Not all lic. are active. We also have some active trap net fishermen for rough fish . There are not any walleye or other gamefish commercial lic. available. I hope this gives you a clearer view of where Ohio stands as to commercial fishing. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or future assistance.

Paul Brooks

President



MICHIGAN UNITED *Since 1937* CONSERVATION CLUBS

Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoor Heritage
PO Box 30235 Lansing, MI 48909 | 800.777.6720 P | www.mucc.org

June 5, 2020

RE: HB 4567-69



Dear Chairman McBroom and Senate Natural Resources Committee Members:

I write on behalf of the MUCC fisheries committee and the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association in support of HBs 4567, 4568, and 4569. Michigan's commercial fishing regulations have not been updated since the 1970s, and most of the state statute language dates to 1929. Commercial license fees have not been modified since 1968 and are inadequate to fund the program's administration and enforcement.

Today, recreational anglers bear the burden of subsidizing the commercial industry. These funds that could otherwise be used for habitat improvement, fish stocking, and fisheries education programs are being used to keep a commercial industry afloat. The legislation referenced above is supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, local, state and national conservation organizations, and communities around the state.

The Great Lakes are a big factor in Michigan's economy. Michigan, like other Great Lakes states, has seen outdoor recreation generate billions in economic output and hundreds of thousands of jobs. Last year 1.1 million people bought a fishing license generating \$26 million dollars. Those dollars along with monies from the Dingell-Johnson Act — which put a fee on fishing equipment in order to fund the state's wildlife conservation and management activities go towards statewide conservation efforts last year, including bald eagle banding and monitoring work.

Money needed for conservation and management activities does not come from Michigan's taxpayers. It comes through the license and equipment purchases made by Michigan's sportsmen and sportswomen. Michigan's hunters and anglers fund conservation and management of many species that would not otherwise be possible. All of the funds from licenses, bait and tackle, fuel, food, lodging and a whole host of other incidentals go towards conserving species across the state. Michigan's sport and recreational fishery is something that should not be put at risk by allowing commercial fishing to be able to take game fish.

Taking into account the value of the sport and recreational fishing in all aspects of Michigan's economy, tourism, national exposure, etc. I am asking that you support HB 4567-69.

Sincerely,

Tim Muir
President- Lake St. Clair Walleye Association
MUCC Fisheries Committee Chair



Michigan Charter Boat Association

To: Michigan Senate
Senate Natural Resources Committee
Committee Members

Re: HB 4567-69

The Michigan Charter Boat Association strongly supports HB4567, HB4568 and HB4569. These bills update and set parameters surrounding the Commercial Fishing Industry in Michigan.

Currently the white fish and perch populations in Michigan Great Lakes waters are plummeting. Yet the industry still keeps harvesting these fish into extinction. Lake trout and walleye were commercially harvested into a similar situation year's back. Sport fishing men and women along with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources used their financial resources, earned through fishing license fees, and federal dollars, developed a plan including cuts in daily bag limits and closed fishing seasons to protect and rehabilitate these fish. We have been successful to a point. More work needs to be done and are we are very proud of what we have accomplished.

Now these fish are in danger of going backwards. Michigan resources are fragile. We need to monitor, and protect our fishery for generations to come.

The Commercial Fishing Industry see game fish in their nets and would like to keep them. These fish by law need to be returned to the lake as carefully as possible. These are fish paid for and rehabilitated by the sport fishing community.

Sport fishing contributes \$2.3 billion dollars to Michigan's economy annually. According to a recent study done by Michigan United Conservation Clubs. The number of anglers in the state is 1.1 million and directly supports 35,422 jobs in the state.

Licensed commercial fisheries in Michigan contribute a dockside commercial value of just over \$5 million versus the 2.3 billion contribution of sport recreational fisheries.



Michigan Charter Boat Association

The components of updating the industry with these bills are:

- Increase of penalties for unlawful tampering of commercial fishing nets.
- Prohibits abandoned gear and setting guidelines for the amount of time a net can be left unattended
- Explicitly creates a whitelist for the allowable fish available for commercial harvest.
- Increases penalties for overharvest of any fish labeled as commercial.
- Record keeping of the type and amount of fish caught as well as the gear used.
- Addresses enforceability of administrative issues with in the antiquated statute.

The MCBA would support laws, science and limits to rehabilitate white fish to maintain a sustainable commercial industry with dollars coming for federal, state and the Michigan commercial fish producers industry. Protecting these fish is the only way to save the industry. Numbers are down and the future will be determined by the industry itself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Winowiecki".

Captain Bill Winowiecki
President
Michigan Charter Boat Association