

STUDY PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Michigan

Project No.: F-81-R-3

Study No.: 462

Title: Charter boat catch and effort from Michigan waters of the Great Lakes

Period Covered: October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002

Study Objective: To obtain a continuous annual record of fishing effort as well as the number, type, and location of fish caught by charter boat anglers in Michigan waters of the Great Lakes.

Summary: This report will present results for the 2001 season. Similar data are being collected for the 2002 season; these will be summarized in next year's progress report.

Charter boat catch reporting data forms, grid maps of the Great Lakes, and instructions were sent to charter fishing operators prior to the 2001 and 2002 angling seasons. Completed data forms were returned to the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station and entered into the computer throughout the year. Charter fishing operators who were delinquent with their reports were notified on a regular basis throughout the season via post card or certified mail. By the end of the 2001 season, data were compiled on 17,976 charter fishing excursions. Ninety-seven percent of all charter operators complied with the reporting requirements. A report was prepared which summarized the results by lake. This was mailed to all charter operators during March 2002.

Charter boat catch data from the 2002 fishing season is currently being entered into the database.

Findings: Jobs 1, 2, 3, and 4 were scheduled for 2001-02, and progress is reported below.

Job 1. Title: Distribute data forms.—Reporting forms and grid maps of the Great Lakes were mailed to approximately 500 charter operators during March 2001 and 2002. Charter operators were informed that they were required by law to complete the form each time they fished. The form was to be mailed by the tenth day of the following month to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station.

Job 2. Title: Data entry and compliance.—Completed data forms received at the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station were logged, coded by port fished, and entered into the computer. Catch and effort data on 17,976 charter fishing excursions were recorded for the 2001 season. Incomplete forms received were logged and returned to the charter operator explaining the reason the report was returned and requesting completion. Data entry continues at this time for the 2002 season.

Each month (June through October) post-card notices were sent to charter operators who had not filed a report for the previous month. Two notices were sent each month, the first after an operator was delinquent for 10 days and the second after 30 days.

In December 2001, letters were sent via certified mail to operators who had not filed reports for one or more months during May through September for the 2001 season. The letter informed the operator that this would be the last notice he or she would receive and that, if the recipient did not respond in writing within 14 days, his or her name would be submitted to MDNR's Law Enforcement Division recommending non-issuance of an inspection certificate for the 2002 season. A list of 14 names of charter operators who had not complied with the reporting requirements was sent to MDNR's Law Enforcement Division in April 2002.

During 2001, an average of 36% of charter operators had not filed their monthly reports within 10 days after the date they were due. An average of 20% of all operators were delinquent for at least 30 days. The monthly average rate of non-compliance during 2001 was about the same as the previous year. However, by end of December 2001, 97% of all charter operators had complied with the law. The final compliance rate for 2001 was the same as 2000.

Job 3. Title: Quality control and education.—Presentations regarding the results and importance of the charter boat reporting program were made at several charter boat workshops held across Michigan during the winter months of 2002. The workshops were organized by the Michigan State University Extension Service (Sea Grant). The presentations stressed the need for accurate and timely information from charter operators. Adequate time was allowed at the end of each session for the project biologist to field questions from charter captains. In addition, presentations were made to various sportsmen's clubs and to other stakeholders, such as Watershed District workshops, regarding the results and trends noted in the charter boat data.

Several field trips were made by the project biologist during the 2001 fishing season to various ports on lakes Michigan and Huron. The objectives of these trips were to promote the reporting program and talk informally to charter captains.

Job 4. Title: Compile data and write annual reports.—Charter boat operators submitted reports on a total of 17,976 charter excursions that took place during 2001. The majority of charter excursions (17,566) took place on the Great Lakes. Data from Great Lakes excursions were compiled and summarized by lake (Tables 1 through 5), and presented in a report titled *Charter Boat Catch and Effort from the Michigan Waters of the Great Lakes, 2001*. Copies of this report, as mandated by law, were mailed to all charter operators during March 2002 along with reporting forms to be used in 2002 and grid maps of the Great Lakes. The remaining charter excursions (2%) took place on tributaries to the Great Lakes.

Charter anglers spent 463,537 hours fishing Michigan's waters of the Great Lakes in 2001. The total catch was 51,232 walleye, 48,859 yellow perch, 45,536 chinook salmon, 27,602 lake trout, 12,181 coho salmon, 15,546 rainbow trout, and 2,091 brown trout. Tables 1 through 5 present the harvest and effort for each lake or lake and river system.

In addition to the annual report which was sent to charter fishing operators, two MDNR Fisheries Technical Reports will be submitted to the Fisheries Division publication process during 2002. Reports will be submitted upon publication.

Rakoczy G. P., and D. Wesander-Russell. 2002. Charter boat catch and effort from the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes, 2000. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Technical Report, Ann Arbor, in review.

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Dated: September 30, 2002

Table 1.—Total catch per hour, catch per excursion, number caught, and fishing effort (angler hours, trips, and charter excursions) for charter boats on Lake Michigan, 2001.

Species	Total catch per hour	Total catch per excursion	Month							Season
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Coho salmon	0.036	0.991	707	1,563	1,486	1,192	4,957	1,644	34	11,583
Chinook salmon	0.117	3.184	203	5,151	2,234	7,785	16,601	5,179	71	37,224
Rainbow trout	0.045	1.228	131	750	1,980	4,925	4,765	1,414	392	14,357
Brown trout	0.006	0.165	632	297	137	329	450	77	7	1,929
Lake trout	0.049	1.335	26	2,480	3,431	4,932	4,454	284	2	15,609
Yellow perch	0.035	0.956	1,552	751	2,456	3,164	2,458	678	120	11,179
Walleye	0.006	0.172	7	278	410	333	368	256	356	2,008
Other	0.004	0.100	37	553	210	31	154	84	104	1,173
Lamprey on:										
Chinook salmon			2	22	7	43	74	15	0	163
Lake trout			6	30	49	80	50	4	0	219
Angler hours			9,243	32,171	44,598	80,941	112,460	33,914	4,556	317,883
Angler trips			1,656	5,224	7,344	13,401	18,227	5,762	648	52,262
Anglers										
Resident			1,308	3,640	5,165	9,540	13,459	4,130	263	37,505
Nonresident			348	1,589	2,179	3,861	4,772	1,632	385	14,766
Charter excursions			269	1,129	1,620	2,998	4,132	1,354	190	11,692

Table 2.—Total catch per hour, catch per excursion, number caught, and fishing effort (angler hours, trips, and charter excursions) for charter boats on Lake Huron, 2001.

Species	Total catch per hour	Total catch per excursion	Month							Season
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Coho salmon	0.005	0.107	28	105	83	43	50	12	0	321
Chinook salmon	0.123	2.737	100	607	805	2,157	3,759	748	3	8,179
Rainbow trout	0.017	0.381	123	201	208	302	275	28	0	1,137
Brown trout	0.002	0.047	2	8	18	41	55	15	0	139
Lake trout	0.109	2.421	10	1,267	2,213	1,780	1,757	206	0	7,233
Yellow perch	0.027	0.602	0	0	98	268	289	1,138	6	1,799
Walleye	0.035	0.778	1	14	70	1,531	704	4	0	2,324
Other	0.014	0.318	1	101	170	344	311	22	0	949
Lamprey on:										
Chinook salmon			4	20	46	84	180	26	0	360
Lake trout			0	29	40	32	41	4	0	146
Angler hours			1,043	6,251	11,326	18,932	23,112	5,549	24	66,235
Angler trips			166	1,065	1,970	3,306	4,041	983	8	11,539
Anglers										
Resident			149	1,020	1,736	2,838	3,515	858	4	10,120
Nonresident			17	45	234	468	526	125	4	1,419
Charter excursions			60	277	502	882	1,029	236	2	2,988

Table 3.—Total catch per hour, catch per excursion, number caught, and fishing effort (angler hours, trips, and charter excursions) for charter boats on Lake Erie, 2001. Note this includes fish caught in Michigan or Ohio waters but landed at a Michigan ports.

Species	Total catch per hour	Total catch per excursion	Month							Season
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Coho salmon	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chinook salmon	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainbow trout	0.000	0.002	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Brown trout	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake trout	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow perch	0.567	14.921	3	134	259	1,126	14,577	12,103	1,281	29,483
Walleye	0.852	22.431	377	5,116	23,853	14,239	655	83	1	44,324
Other	0.023	0.598	8	364	549	200	29	20	12	1,182
Lamprey on:										
Chinook salmon			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake trout			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Angler hours			628	6,374	23,228	13,828	4,453	3,112	404	52,027
Angler trips			81	1,134	4,712	2,700	838	619	80	10,164
Anglers										
Resident			51	1,066	4,212	2,371	724	553	80	9,057
Nonresident			30	68	519	344	114	66	0	1,141
Charter excursions			23	227	887	520	174	128	17	1,976

Table 4.—Total catch per hour, catch per excursion, number caught, and fishing effort (angler hours, trips, and charter excursions) for charter boats on Lake Superior, 2001.

Species	Total catch per hour	Total catch per excursion	Month							Season
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Coho salmon	0.017	0.570	0	8	109	74	53	28	0	272
Chinook salmon	0.006	0.205	0	11	55	6	20	6	0	98
Rainbow trout	0.003	0.101	0	4	19	8	10	7	0	48
Brown trout	0.001	0.034	0	12	2	1	0	1	0	16
Lake trout	0.301	9.979	0	218	1,132	1,517	1,514	360	19	4,760
Yellow perch	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walleye	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0.000	0.002	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Lamprey on:										
Chinook salmon			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake trout			0	0	10	11	8	2	0	31
Angler hours			0	629	3,778	4,973	5,074	1,282	54	15,789
Angler trips			0	88	483	696	755	191	9	2,222
Anglers										
Resident			0	59	258	339	361	86	4	1,107
Nonresident			0	29	225	357	400	105	5	1,121
Charter excursions			0	22	101	150	157	45	2	477

Table 5.—Total catch per hour, catch per excursion, number caught, and fishing effort (angler hours, trips, and charter excursions) for charter boats on St. Clair system (Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and the Detroit River), 2001.

Species	Total catch per hour	Total catch per excursion	Month							Season
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Coho salmon	0.000	0.012	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Chinook salmon	0.003	0.081	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	35
Rainbow trout	0.000	0.002	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Brown trout	0.001	0.016	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Lake trout	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow perch	0.551	14.776	47	216	1,028	1,033	1,541	1,674	859	6,398
Walleye	0.222	5.949	677	656	275	557	300	111	0	2,576
Other	0.300	8.048	36	95	605	1,125	1,192	377	55	3,485
Lamprey on:										
Chinook salmon			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake trout			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Angler hours			1,331	1,415	1,839	2,409	2,334	1,853	423	11,603
Angler trips			203	228	304	374	358	280	73	1,820
Anglers										
Resident			195	225	296	363	314	266	73	1,732
Nonresident			16	3	8	11	44	14	0	96
Charter excursions			56	58	71	92	85	59	12	433