

**Charter Boat Catch and Effort from the Michigan Waters  
of the Great Lakes, 1998**

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*Abstract.*—Legislation enacted in 1992 by the State of Michigan requires all charter boat operators to report sportfishing catch and effort to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The objective of the catch and activity reporting system is to obtain a continuous annual record of the number, type, and location of fish harvested by charter boat clients in Michigan.

Ninety-eight percent of approximately 500 charter fishing operators complied with the law by returning their completed catch reporting forms in 1998. These operators reported making 18,171 charter fishing excursions during April through October. The total number of charter excursions increased by 14% in 1998 compared to 1997. Approximately 495,000 angler hours were spent fishing by some 82,600 charter clients. The distribution of charter fishing excursions was: 68% Lake Michigan, 18% Lake Huron, 9% Lake Erie, 3% Lake Superior, and 2% Lake St. Clair. Over 243,000 fish were reported harvested. The harvest was composed of about 64,300 yellow perch, 54,000 walleye, 45,900 lake trout, 39,800 chinook salmon, 17,300 coho salmon, 15,100 rainbow trout, and 2,600 brown trout.