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**Charter Boat Catch and Effort from the Michigan Waters  
of the Great Lakes, 1999**

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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-seven percent of approximately 500 charter fishing operators complied with the law by returning their completed catch reporting forms in 1999. These operators reported making 17,881 charter fishing excursions during April through October. The total number of charter excursions decreased slightly (-2%) in 1999 compared to 1998. Approximately 497,000 angler hours were spent fishing by some 82,400 charter clients. The distribution of charter fishing excursions was: 64% Lake Michigan, 18% Lake Huron, 13% Lake Erie, 3% Lake Superior, and 2% Lake St. Clair. Over 273,000 fish were reported harvested. The harvest was composed of about 102,000 yellow perch, 65,000 walleye, 39,300 chinook salmon, 33,800 lake trout, 12,000 coho salmon, 12,000 rainbow trout, and 5,600 brown trout.