

**Charter Boat Catch and Effort
from the Michigan Waters of the Great Lakes, 2001**

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Abstract.—Public Act 451 (Part 445) of 1994 requires all charter boat operators fishing state of Michigan waters 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 2001. Charter fishing operators reported making 17,566 charter fishing excursions during April through October. The total number of charter excursions increased slightly (+3%) in 2001 compared to 2000. Approximately 463,000 angler hours were spent fishing by 78,007 charter clients. The distribution of charter fishing excursions was: 67% Lake Michigan, 17% Lake Huron, 11% Lake Erie, 3% Lake Superior, and 2% Lake St. Clair. Over 209,000 fish were reported harvested. The harvest was composed of about 51,200 walleye, 48,800 yellow perch, 45,500 Chinook salmon, 27,600 lake trout, 15,500 rainbow trout, 12,100 coho salmon, and 2,100 brown trout.