



# 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](http://www.mucc.org)

RE: HB 4567, 4568, 4569

Dear members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

Provided for you is a packet of resolutions in support of House bills 4567-4569. Local municipalities 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 who cherish and rely on sport fishing as a means of recreation and economic input sheds light on the necessity of this package.

**Towns/counties that have passed resolutions of support for of HB 4567-4569:**

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

**Organizations and businesses in support of HB 4567-4569:**

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

Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance  
Montmorency County Conservation Club  
Cadillac Sportsman's Club  
Huron Valley Conservation Association  
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  
Odlle 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Trotter".

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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.

**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.







**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 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Holland Michigan 49424 , with a quorum present.

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

Dated: 9/12/19





# CITY OF FERRYSBURG

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

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FAX 616-844-0200  
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## 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.



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 COMMERCIAL 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



## #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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

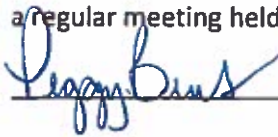
NAYS: Link, Cook

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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy S Burtch, Standish 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](http://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.



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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.

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



