



## Recreational Anglers, Conservation Groups and Communities Join In Support of the Wise Management of Great Lakes and Saginaw Bay Fishery

A package of bills has been introduced that aims to modernize commercial fishing regulations ahead of the 2020 Great Lakes Consent Decree negotiations. House Bill 4569, sponsored by Rep. Lilly (R-Park Township), House Bill 4567, sponsored by Rep. O'Malley (R-Lake Ann), and House Bill 4568, sponsored by Rep. Wendzel (R-Watervliet), are all part of a tie-barred, three-bill package.

Michigan's commercial fishing regulations have not been updated since the 1970s, and most of the state statute language dates to 1929. Commercial license fees have not been modified since 1968 and are inadequate to fund the program's administration and enforcement. Today, recreational anglers bear the burden of subsidizing the commercial industry... funds that could otherwise be used for habitat improvement, fish stocking, fisheries education programs, and more. This legislation is supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, local, state and national conservation organizations, and communities around the state.

Commercial fishing plays an integral role in how the state manages its fisheries with respect to the 1836 Treaty Waters of the Great Lakes. Being proactive on this issue is important as the state and Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources enter the 2020 Consent Decree negotiations — a process that will affect our state's fisheries, both sport and commercial, for many years to come. The proposed legislation uses a common sense and scientific approach to managing our fisheries resources.

- Creates a list of all species available for commercial harvest, in turn protecting game species.
- Requires commercial fishers to check their nets regularly and regulates the allowable gear in relation to the time of year and location of nets.
- Establishes penalties for the taking, possessing or selling of specific species. Game fish unlawfully taken will incur a higher fine.
- Exceeding bycatch allowances results in fines, and the MDNR shall conduct a study at least every three years to determine the allowable bycatch and adjust quotas accordingly.
- Creates penalties for a person intentionally obstructing the legal taking of fish.
- Requires commercial fishers to report GPS coordinates of their nets to the MDNR.
- This bill package would also align with three 2000 Consent Decree goals related to lake trout (the No. 1 sportfish being caught as bycatch by Michigan commercial fishers), which include restoring self-sustaining, wild populations, and providing a sport fishery for Michigan anglers and tribal parties.

How can you support this legislation? Contact your local member of the House of Representatives AND contact the sponsors of these bills and tell them that you **support** bills 4567, 4568 and 4569:

<b>Representative Jim Lilly</b>	<b>517-373-0838</b>	<b><a href="mailto:jimlilly@house.mi.gov">jimlilly@house.mi.gov</a></b>
<b>Representative Jack O'Malley</b>	<b>517-373-0825</b>	<b><a href="mailto:jackomalley@house.mi.gov">jackomalley@house.mi.gov</a></b>
<b>Representative Pauline Wendzel</b>	<b>517-373-1403</b>	<b><a href="mailto:paulinewendzel@house.mi.gov">paulinewendzel@house.mi.gov</a></b>

It should be noted that a pair of poorly crafted and incomplete competing bills have also been offered in the Michigan Senate and Michigan House of Representatives. These bills would open the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes, including Saginaw Bay, to large scale commercial netting of important game species such as walleye and smallmouth bass, as well as increase commercial allocation of yellow perch and other species. In addition, these bills allow an ocean-based, industrial commercial harvesting technique known as trawling. Trawling has been identified as one of the most destructive commercial fishing techniques in the world. These bills, SB 389 and HB 4790 are sponsored by Senator Kevin Daley (R-Lum), Senator Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth), and Representative Sara Cambensy (D- Marquette). Contact them and tell them that you **oppose** the expansion of commercial netting in the Great Lakes:

<b>Senator Kevin Daley</b>	<b>517-373-1777</b>	<b><a href="mailto:senkdaley@senate.michigan.gov">senkdaley@senate.michigan.gov</a></b>
<b>Senator Ken Horn</b>	<b>517-373-1760</b>	<b><a href="mailto:senkhorn@senate.michigan.gov">senkhorn@senate.michigan.gov</a></b>
<b>Representative Sara Cambensy</b>	<b>517-373-0498</b>	<b><a href="mailto:saracambensy@house.mi.gov">saracambensy@house.mi.gov</a></b>