



Preparing To Go Party and Charter Boat Fishing

by R. Buerger, Stony Brook

Whether you dream of catching a half-ton tuna or only want a dinner of fresh-caught half-pound porgies, charter and party boats offer the opportunity to pursue the fish of your choice. People choose party and charter boats for many reasons. For some, it is an alternative to owning a private fishing boat. For others, it provides the opportunity to fish with first-class tackle and equipment under the guidance of a knowledgeable and experienced captain and crew. For still others, it offers a relaxing change of pace from operating their own boat.

As a customer, knowing what kind of boat is best suited for your fishing needs, how to arrange a trip, and what to expect once onboard can make the difference between a memorable outing and an experience best forgotten.

Party boats (sometimes called head boats or open boats at different ports along the coast) are sportfishing boats open to the public that leave and return to the dock at scheduled times. These boats are typically large (40 to 135 ft. in length) and usually carry 35 or more passengers per trip. Charter boats are similar to party boats, the major difference being that you are able to reserve space on charter boats in advance. Usually these boats cater to large groups of people with something in common, such as company employees, church groups, or clubs. Each charter boat has a minimum group size or price necessary for reserving the boat. Smaller charter boats, often called "six-packers" (usually less than 40-foot long), provide another type of fishing experience. The name comes from the license required to operate these boats, which limits the captain

to no more than six passengers for hire. Due to the limited number of people carried by a "six-packer" boat, the cost per person is considerably higher than the price of a larger charter or party boat trip.

A major factor in determining what type of boat to go fishing on will be the number of people planning to go on the trip. A group of 10 or more will usually mean fishing on a charter boat if the group wants the boat exclusively for their use. Some party boats will accommodate large groups but there usually will be other passengers aboard. The type of fish to be caught will also be a determining factor in organizing a trip. Most fish are seasonal in nature; that is, they will only be in coastal water accessible to anglers during a specific period in the year. If the type of fish to be caught is important, the trip

should be planned to take place during the season when the opportunity for success is the greatest.

Local newspapers and magazines usually carry information and advertisement for sportfishing opportunities in nearby spots. Chambers of Commerce also can provide information about party and charter boat fishing from local ports, and most docks and marinas have information offices. Also, the telephone business directory for many coastal communities has a section listing advertisements for party and charter boat opportunities in local ports, usually listed under the heading "Fishing Parties."

The actual selection of the boat you will fish from may be the most important step to ensure a successful trip. Although most fishing boats look similar, there are a number of things you can do to find the right boat. One of the best ways is to go to the port you plan to fish from and talk with fishermen when they return from their trip. Ask them how comfortable the boat was, what was provided in the price of the trip, were the captain and crew helpful, and did they catch fish? Basically, you want to know if they felt they got what they paid for.

Party and charter boat fishing offers a relaxing, exciting, and productive way to go fishing. Whether you angle for a trophy catch or only a fresh fish dinner, your party or charter boat trip will be more enjoyable if you are properly prepared. A publication covering the many aspects of party and charter boat fishing is available from Sea Grant. See "I WANT MORE" for ordering information.





Community Beach Monitoring Program

by J. Tanski, Stony Brook

LEI Derby Survey Results

by H. David Greene, E. Aurora

From August 8-11, 1985, along the Lake Erie shoreline from Ashtabula County, Ohio to Buffalo, New York, approximately 2,500 anglers took part in the lake's first "big money" derby, the Lake Erie International. To gain a better understanding of its impact on the participating coastal counties and to provide a baseline for assessing changing patterns, a survey to determine the event's social and economic impacts was conducted by the Lake Erie office of New York Sea Grant Extension.

Five hundred and fifty anglers were selected at random from the derby registrant list and sent a questionnaire. Of the 546 forms delivered, 420 were returned for a response rate of 77%.

The economic impact of this four day event to the four coastal counties in which it was held was estimated to be close to \$600,000. Tourist dollar revenue accounted for nearly \$200,000, meaning that about 1/3 was generated from outside the region.

Facilities and services found to be in short supply, and therefore impacting on the quality of the experience, included boat launches, information about fishing, parking and public restrooms.

For copies of the completed survey report, contact: Sea Grant Extension Program, 21 South Grove Street, East Aurora, NY 14052.

Most coastal residents are well aware of the changing nature of their beaches. However, few are as familiar with these changes as homeowners from Fire Island Pines. Rather than simply observing the beaches behavior, they actually measure its dimensions every four to six weeks.

These measurements are part of a volunteer monitoring program initiated in 1983 when representatives of three community groups, the Fire Island National Seashore Advisory Board, the Fire Island Pines Conservation Society and the Fire Pines Property Owners Association contacted Sea Grant for assistance with an experimental erosion control project they were sponsoring. The project called for placing 500 units of artificial "seaweed" just off the beach of this small community on Long Island's south shore. According to the manufacturer, this "seaweed" would build up an offshore bar by trapping sand. Theoretically, the bar would then cause waves to break and dissipate their energy before reaching the beach, thus reducing erosion.

Since this method had never been used in Long Island waters, the sponsors, after initial meetings with Sea Grant, decided to implement a program that would provide information on the performance of the installed device. A Sea Grant specialist, working with members of the sponsoring organizations and SUNY researchers from the Marine Research Center at Stony Brook developed a low cost monitoring program that quantitatively measures the effects of the "seaweed" on adjacent beaches.

Civic leaders recruited volunteers from the community and provided funding. Sea Grant provided information that allowed the volunteers to build their own surveying instruments and trained them to gather beach and wave data. A MSRC researcher designed a sampling scheme and selected the sites for the surveys. The National Parks Service assisted by providing additional manpower and transportation.

As a result of this cooperation, over 300 volunteers have participated in taking daily measurements and monthly beach profiles at 9 stations along a mile of beach. The work started in

the Spring in 1984 and is scheduled to continue until at least the summer of 1986. Because the seaweed was installed in the summer of 1985, this project will provide a year's worth of both pre- and post-installation data on the behavior of beaches.

The data collected by the volunteers is analyzed and interpreted by MSRC personnel. Although gathered by "amateurs," the quality of the beach data is very high. Results from the first year show an average error of less than $\pm 3\%$ which is more than adequate to accurately detect the magnitude of changes expected. A report on the first year's results has been prepared, but the real impact of the seaweed on the beaches will not be known until the summer of this year when a full year of post-installation data is available.

Although the primary purpose of the project was to evaluate the performance of the experimental erosion control device, the program has a number of other equally important benefits. Regardless of whether the seaweed works or not, this study will provide valuable information upon which planning and management decisions can be made. For example, state and local agencies are already planning on using the results of this work as a basis for evaluating future permits in other areas. In addition, the monthly surveying has given the volunteers and the community a much better understanding and awareness of the dynamic nature of their beach.



Great Lakes Diversion and Consumptive Uses

The Center for the Great Lakes sponsored a legal seminar on "Great Lakes Diversion and Consumptive Use," December 11-13 in Cleveland, Ohio. Robert Reis, principal investigator for the New York Sea Grant Law Program, SUNY Buffalo Law School, and Kevin Brown, staff attorney for the Law Program, participated in the seminar.

The Great Lakes are a unique and vital resource which shapes the environment and economy of the region. The Great Lakes cover 95,000 square miles and drain a land area twice that large. The lakes hold nine-tenths of the fresh surface water in the United States. The Great Lakes basin is the industrial heartland of North America; the region supports one fifth of all U.S. manufacturing and almost one-half of all Canadian manufacturing. Thirty-five million people live and work in the region.

The waters of the Great Lakes basin have long been taken for granted. Recent developments, however, have fostered recognition that the Great Lakes provide an expansive, yet fragile and exhaustible supply of water. The depletion of the Ogallala aquifer and emerging water short-

ages in southern and western regions of the United States have rekindled interest in some sectors for massive Great Lakes water diversion schemes to mitigate the shortages. Meanwhile, the recent United States Court decision in *Sporhase v. Nebraska* held unconstitutional a state statute which sought to limit interstate transfers of water. Projections by the International Joint Commission to the year 2000 indicate significant increases in consumptive uses within the Great Lakes basin with attendant impacts upon lake levels. Increased incidents of ground and surface water contamination reduce the availability of high quality water. Small changes in lake levels can have large impacts on navigation, hydropower generation and ecological systems.

The fact that the availability of Great Lakes water has long been taken for granted is reflected in the present legal and regulatory framework for Great Lakes water quantity management. Unlike the regulatory schemes in water scarce regions, regulatory measures in the Great Lakes basin are minimal. Moreover, the regulatory framework is poorly understood and it is questionable as to whether this framework is capable

of providing Great Lakes basin jurisdictions with the authority to protect their shared water resources from harmful diversions and consumptive uses.

The seminar was undertaken to provide an information base and identify the legal options necessary to ensure the informed development of legally defensible and operationally sound regional water management strategies. To this end the seminar objectives included:

1) the identification and discussion of the federal, state provincial and international legal frameworks governing water quantity management in the various Great Lakes jurisdictions;

2) the analysis of the legal options available to the Great Lakes jurisdictions, both singly and collectively, in addressing the diversion and consumptive uses issue under current and alternate legal frameworks.

In future *Coastline* articles, we will summarize the significant findings of the seminar. Particular subject summaries will include: public international law and water quantity management in the Great Lakes basin; United States and Canadian federal, state and provincial legal frameworks for water quantity management in

(continued on page 4)

I Want More!

Please check the items which interest you and send to the Sea Grant Extension Program office nearest you (unless otherwise indicated). Checks should be made payable to **Cornell University**.

_____ **Preparing to Go Party and Charter Boat Fishing.** 1986. Robert Buerger. Pamphlet, 4 pp. \$.50. (Order from the Stony Brook office.)

_____ **Considerations in Starting a Bed & Breakfast Business.** 1985. J. Mulcahy. Booklet, 10 pp. \$1.00.

The following technical reports are available from the New York Sea Grant Institute, 37 Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207. Checks should be made payable to **New York Sea Grant Institute**.

_____ **Marine Recreational Fisheries. Coastal Fishing Access: Needs and New Initiatives.** 1984. M.P. Voiland, Jr. 8 pp. \$.75.

_____ **Artificial Reefs: Marine and Freshwater Applications.** 1985. F.M. D'Itri. 27 pp. \$1.50.

_____ **Demonstrating Fish Products to Consumers at Large Public Gatherings.** 1985. Ryan, O'Dierno, Regenstein. 4 pp. \$.50.

_____ **Focus Groups as a Tool in Food Product Development.** 1984. Baker, Bruce, Cumming. 3 pp. \$.50.

New York Stream Protection Act: Part II

by Kevin Brown, Sea Grant Law Program, SUNY Buffalo

Exception to Permit Requirements: Emergencies; Certain Agricultural Activities

The provisions of State Environmental Conservation Law section 15-0505, subdivisions 1, 2, 3 and 4, (covering the excavation and fill in navigable waters) do not apply to emergency work which is immediately necessary to protect persons or property, provided the Department is given written notification by registered mail or telegraph within 48 hours of commencement and completion of the work. Such emergency work must be performed in a manner that will cause least disturbance or damage to the environment.

The exempted agricultural activities include the crossing of streams or water courses by livestock or farm vehicles and the withdrawal of water for irrigation where the withdrawal does not require altering the bed or banks of the stream in any manner. Likewise, no permit is required for a farm pond erected upon lands devoted to farming for the purpose of soil conservation, propagation of fish, irrigation, watering of livestock, maintenance of wildlife or general farm use and which is formed with an earth embankment.

Form of Application

Permit applications under ECL section 15-0501, 0503 and 0505 are governed by such rules and regulations as the Department of Environmental Conservation adopts to implement Title 5 [see 6 NYCRR Part 608] and the provisions of ECL Article 70 Uniform Permit Procedures and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR part 621. Part 621 regulations simplify permit applications by combining applications for a number of permits including stream protection, wetlands, and state pollutant discharge elimination system (SPEDES).

The requirements of section 15-0501 are in addition to the requirements of section 15-0505, excavation or fill permits and applicable wetlands regulations. Under the Uniform Procedure of Article 70 all such applications necessary are combined for Department action.

Enforcement of Title 5 of Article 15

A violation of section 15-0501, 15-0503 or 15-0505 constitutes a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or by imprisonment not to exceed one year or by both, and in addition thereto a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars. [ECL 71-1107(1)]

A subcontractor, employee or agent of such person or public corporation, or of a state department who knowingly and intentionally acts, or the prime contractor of such person, public corporation or state department who acts with or without intention to violate the provisions of title 5 of article 15, in disregard of specifications provided in a construction contract protecting against stream damage, is guilty of a violation punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars, nor more than two hundred fifty dollars or by imprisonment for not more than fifteen days or by both and, in addition, thereto a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars.

New Telephone Numbers

Effective March 3, Cornell University changed over to a privately-owned telephone system. As a result, those wishing to contact the Sea Grant Extension Program at Cornell University should now call the following numbers:

Program Information (607) 255-2832
Publications (607) 255-2811

Great Lakes Diversion

(continued)

the Great Lakes basin; regional approaches to Great Lakes water quantity management, particularly the Great Lakes Charter; and proposed strategies for managing Great Lakes water quantity.

The New York Sea Grant Law Program intends to compile from existing sources and our own original research, bibliographies on treaties, compacts, federal, provincial and state law, conferences, papers and other materials concerning the waters and diversion of waters on the Great Lakes. The objective is to create a resource base for future work on legal and policy issues confronting Great Lakes jurisdictions.

COASTLINES is published quarterly by the New York Sea Grant Extension Program. This program is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the State of New York, and the New York Sea Grant Institute. Subscriptions to Coastlines are free for New York residents. Two-year out-of-state subscriptions are \$4. Request Coastlines from Sea Grant Extension Program, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853.

Coastal Erosion and Real Estate Property Values

by C. O'Neill, Brockport

New York's coast is a very dynamic resource, of which many miles are naturally subjected to moderate-to-severe shoreline erosion. This erosion is a long-term process, measured in decades and centuries. When looked at on a day-to-day basis, a section of the coast may not appear to be eroding badly at all with little or no visible change some years. During other years, as much as ten or more feet of property depth may disappear.

When viewed as a natural process, coastal erosion by itself is not a problem. However, when that erosion impacts upon societal uses of the coast such as homes, businesses, parks, and highways, depletion of the coastal resource does become a problem. Much development already exists in many erosion-prone areas, and more is being built or planned each year. Sometimes this is because coastal erosion is poorly understood and is ignored during development planning; sometimes people are simply uninformed. Other times, folks are lulled into a feeling of security by the existence of some sort of coastal erosion control structure.

Often, the desire to own a house on the shore overweighs the more practical aspects of erosion and possible loss of property. When determining the value of such coastal properties, people frequently fail to take into account the very different physical character of shoreline property, looking only at such values as aesthetics or the prestige of owning a home on the shore.

An erosion rate of two feet per year may not sound like much, but over the space of only 25 years, a house that's 100 feet back from the top edge of a bluff will lose 50 feet, or one-half of its yard! And that's assuming only "average" erosion. Consider what would happen if during two of those years the erosion rate increased to 6 or 8 feet per year!

How do you take coastal erosion into account when considering the value of shoreline property? The value of shoreline property is really a combination of the value of the land itself, the value of any structures and improvements on that land, and the aesthetic value (beauty/prestige) added as a result of its shoreline location. For example, a lot which might sell

for \$5,000 inland could easily sell for \$25,000 or more if located on the shore. That additional money is the property's aesthetic value.

Research by the Coastal Zone Laboratory of the University of Michigan indicates that well-informed individuals perceive that a house is threatened by erosion well before the structure is actually damaged and, as a result, the market value of that house will often decrease as an eroding shoreline draws nearer. As the distance between the house and the bluff decreases, so does the perceived value of the house. The research also shows that when erosion strips the face of a bluff of its vegetative cover, people perceive that much of the visual beauty is lost as well. Further, by this time the bluff face is usually very steep and easy access to the water's edge is cut off. This results in a drop in the property's aesthetic value, as well.

Another aspect of the impact of coastal erosion on the value of shoreline property is how much the existence of an erosion control structure adds to the value of the property. This is difficult to answer since it depends upon both the site and the specific structure being discussed. Does a \$20,000 bulkhead add \$20,000 to the value of a \$150,000 year-round home? Would the same bulkhead add \$20,000 to the value of a \$25,000 uninsulated, 3 room sea-

sonal cottage? The impact of that bulkhead would probably not be the same in both cases. Its value could reasonably be expected to be greater the greater the value of the property it is protecting.

How all of these things affect the value of any particular coastal property will be very site specific. Further, at any point prior to the actual or imminent loss of the house it may still be possible to find a buyer for the property who will pay a price far above what common sense might indicate. It's very difficult to take personal tastes and expectations into account when determining the market value of a piece of shoreline property. What one potential buyer values highly may be almost unimportant to another.

But in all cases, whether the property is the future site of a new home or an existing shoreline house, we should be aware of the varying impacts of coastal erosion and coastal erosion control structures on the property's value. A knowledge of these factors can help the seller, the realtor, and the potential buyer to determine the actual value of the property and how it may change over time with continued erosion. The Sea Grant Extension Program can provide information on coastal erosion processes and control to help you make decisions when buying shoreline property.



Marine Educators Annual Conference

The National Marine Educators Association Annual Conference will be held August 4-9, 1986, at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. Presentations will cover a variety of aspects of marine and aquatic education: curricula, programs, research, cultural and natural history. For registration information, contact Ohio State University, Department of Conference and Institutes, Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210. 614-422-8571.

New Seafood Publication Available

"*The Northeast Seafood Book*," billed as "A Manual of Seafood Products, Marketing and Utilization," has recently become available for distribution. The result of a two-year research, compilation and editing effort assisted by New York Sea Grant and others, this 269 page book fills a gap in current seafood literature. It is a practical, well organized and intelligent guide for seafood promoters, marketers, preparers and educators. *The Northeast Seafood Book* promises to soon become an invaluable reference piece on seafood.

The contents of this manual provide well researched, detailed coverage of a wide variety of seafood subjects including pricing, product variety, public health concerns, nutrition, buying tips, species review, quality maintenance, and "how to" information. It covers such diverse

topics as: cleaning fish to reduce contaminants; effects of processing on seafood nutrition; making sushi at home; storage of smoked seafoods; fisheries management; communicating seafood information to the media. Its impressive range of topics and the thoroughness with which they are discussed can not be found in any single reference source currently in print.

The book was written by Susan M. Faria, Seafood Marketing Specialist for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. It is cosponsored by the Division, the New England Fisheries Development Foundation, and the Northeast Marine Advisory Council. Copies are \$15.00 each and can be obtained by sending a check to: Cornell University, Sea Grant Extension Program, Fernow Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-3001.

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