

2019 Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Trail Conference

><> *Bay City, Mich.* ><> *October 16-17, 2019* ><>

“Exploring New Fishing Grounds”

Wednesday, October 16th

Exploring Bay City (Wenonah Park, 111 Center Ave.)

- 12:00 noon **Registration and networking picnic** (provided) at Wenonah Park (located downtown Bay City, on the river).
- 2-3:30 **Community Tours** - exploring history, fishery heritage, and interpretive efforts (and future ideas and opportunities!): Historical Museum, Planetarium showing, and exploring vessels on the water (Bay Sail).
- 2 p.m. – Historical Museum of Bay County:** open to public all Afternoon; guided tour with staff begins at 2 p.m.
- 3 p.m. - Planetarium Showing:** “Mysteries of the Great Lakes” (\$3/person – pay for ticket at registration table)
- 4:00 p.m. **Bay Sail river cruise** – learn about *Science under the Sail* education programs with local Bay Sail organization.
- 6:00 p.m. **Dinner** (on your own)
- 7:00 p.m. **Business meeting** of Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Consortium (open to all, following dinner location TBD)

Thursday, October 17th

DNR Saginaw Bay Visitor Center (3582 State Park Dr.)

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE TRAIL

Exploring New Fishing Grounds

- 7:30-9 a.m. Registration and Networking
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome**, introductions, and opening remarks – *Brandon Schroeder, Mich. Sea Grant*
- 9:30 a.m. **Panel 1: Bay City History and Fisheries Heritage**
- *Laura Ogar, Bay County Environmental Affairs and Community Development*– local government perspective

- **Samuel Fitzpatrick, Bay County Historical Society** – fisheries as part of Saginaw Bay’s rich maritime heritage landscape.
- **Todd Williams, Bay Port Fish Company** - values and traditions of fish and fishing in Saginaw Bay (past, present, future), a local fisherman’s perspective
- **Randy Terrian, recreational fisheries** - exploring the diverse, all-season values of recreational and charter fishing in the Saginaw Bay.

Coffee Break

- 10:45 a.m. **Panel 2: Strategies for researching, documenting local fisheries stories**
- **Stewart McFerran, Journalist** – finding the angle, capturing the story – a journalist’s insights?
 - **John Caplis, Alpena High School Science in the Sanctuary Class (via video)** – engaging students in researching and writing about local fisheries heritage stories
 - **Jim Johnson, Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan** - gathering oral histories and video to capture knowledge and stories from local fishing families
 - **Library of Michigan (invited)** - accessing, leveraging your libraries as research and documentation partners

WEBSITE OPPORTUNITY

Noon **Networking lunch (tours of Bay State Park Visitor Center)**

1:15 p.m. **Keynote speaker:**
 Dave Fielder, Dept. of Natural Resources, Fisheries Research
 Saginaw Bay fishery values and uses, challenges and opportunities

2:00 p.m. **NPS boat documentation project (Justine Christianson, Ntl. Park Service)**

- Learn about a new HAER project opportunity to document Great Lakes Fishery Resources
- Explore values, ideas and opportunities for this project among our network
- Share, discuss ways in which we can support and partner in this project

3:15 p.m. **Final remarks**

3:30 p.m. **Adjourn and safe travels**

Post Conference Opportunities:

Staying in the area a bit longer? Let’s keep exploring!

- **Water treatment plant** – a future interpretive fishing village for Bay City? Visit, hear their ideas, share your ideas (located near Saginaw Bay Visitor Center).
- **Bay Port Fish Company** – visit and tour Bay Port Fish Company’s facilities and fish market (approx. 45 minute drive to Bay Port from Bay City).