

HOOSIER COHO CLUB

April 2017

www.hoosiercohoclub.org

43rd Annual

Hoosier Coho Club Classic

May 6-7, 2017 Michigan City, Indiana

1st Place: \$10,000 Pro
\$2,500 Amateur / \$1,000 24U
(based on 30 boats in Pro, 20 in Am, 20 in 24U)

Pro/Am April 29
Hartman Memorial May 5
Classic May 6-7

SALMON SHOWDOWN

333 CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Complete information at:
www.hoosiercohoclub.org



IN THIS ISSUE

- 2017 Tournament Dates
- 2017 Meeting Schedule
- Tournament Trail
- Sea Quest Lures
- Mike McKee's Commentary
- ITO Flies
- Michigan City Charter Boat Association


FISHING

RESPECT THE FISH

**A NON-ADDICTIVE,
MOOD-ALTERING
NON-SUBSTANCE.**

Common side effects may include joy, happiness, memories, bliss, merriment, sore arms, and feelings of harmony with nature.

**ASK YOUR DOCTOR IF
FISHING IS RIGHT FOR YOU.**



Complete club information and tournament results can found on the Hoosier Coho Club Website

hoosiercohoclub.org

HOOSIER COHO CLUB

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Hoosier Coho Club to promote, preserve, and encourage wise management of anadromous fish (fish ascending streams and rivers to spawn) wherever they may be.

Further goals of the Club are to encourage strict observance of sport fishing laws and practices while denouncing all persons known to be in violation of these laws and practices.

The membership encourages research and development programs related to our sport. The Club also serves as a source of collecting and dispersing information regarding tackle, fishing techniques, laws, legislations, pollution problems, disease, meetings research, and all other pertinent information relating to anadromous fish.

2017 MEETINGS

April 12 2016 Champs

May 10 DNR

June 14 Smoked Salmon
Contest & Awards

September 13 TBA

October 11 Chili Cookoff

November 14 Club Elections



RETURN OF THE CHAMPIONS

The April 12th regular meeting of the Hoosier Coho Club will feature presentations from last year's Classic Divisional Champions. Capt Arnie Arredondo of Phoenix was the winner in Pro Division. Amateur Division winner was Captain John Messina of Nail Bender II with the 24U Division winner Capt Jason Niemzyk of Wet Back. Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and will be held at the Skwait American Legion Post in Michigan City.

The public is invited and a corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served. Drinks are available for purchase through the Post.

Ryan Koepke of ITO Flies will have a wide variety of his tackle line as well as products from other vendors. This will be a great chance to stock up for the upcoming season. The Club will also conduct a raffle with some great prizes.

Sea Quest Lures, Inc.

**Richard E Holm - President
P.O. Box 2122
Portage, IN 46368**



SeaQuestLures, Inc® is owned and operated by Richard E. Holm out of Portage, IN, located adjacent to the Burns Waterway on the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Mr. Holm has been producing lures for over twenty years for his own personal use, only recently making them available for purchase to the public.

His custom-made lures have been utilized in several Great Lakes Regional Fishing Tournaments with increasing success and Mr. Holm will continue to design and develop new and better lures through the use of the research presented in his book, **Exploring Lure Color Above and Below the Water**, which is currently available.

seaquestlures.com

Meet the champs, Coho style

BY MIKE MCKEE - Outdoors columnist

For two days last May, they were the best of the best on Lake Michigan.

On April 12, the three division winners of the 2016 Hoosier Coho Club Classic will discuss how they became champions.

The HCC's annual Salmon Season Kick-Off meeting is set for 7 p.m. at 121 Skwiat Legion Ave., Michigan City. The gathering of champions is free and open to the public. Food and beverages will be available.

Whether you're a weekend fun-seeker or regular contender on the trolling trail, there will be plenty of fishing tips and tactics to be gleaned. Several Classic sponsors will also be there to display their wares.

On hand will be captain Arnie Arredondo (Pro division winner) of Phoenix from Kenosha, Wisc., captain John Messina (Am) of Nail Bender Too from Glenview, Ill., and captain Jason Niemzyk (24U) of Wetback from Three Oaks, Mich. In case you didn't notice, and it says a lot about the scope of the Classic, the winners hailed from three Lake Michigan states, none of which was ours truly. The HCC Classic, in its' 43rd year in 2017, remains the longest running contest of its kind on the Great Lakes.

Arredondo is a veteran charter captain who has won many tournaments, including last year's HCC Pro/Am, which is a single-day tune up for the following weekend's Classic. Actually, Arnie was the best of the best for three days in 2016.

Arredondo may also provide some insight into how Wisconsin anglers bucked the Lake Michigan Committee system and convinced their legislature to not cut their chinook stockings. Messina won the Am division for the second consecutive year and promised to go pro in 2017. Niemzyk dominated the small boat, 24U (for craft 24' or less) division last year.

For more information on Lake Michigan contests, see www.hoosiercohoclub.org.

As for the fishing, its been like the old days of March. Weather, too, which means it has been cold, wet and windy more often than not. And the crowds. Reports of 50 or more vehicles and trailers readying to launch at daybreak have become the norm at Hammond and Portage. Mostly, trollers have been catching limits or near-limits of choice-eating coho. And while the best has been to the west, boaters at Michigan City, New Buffalo and St. Joseph continue to do well, too.

Ten to 40 feet of water, most action in the top 15 with plugs like Thin Fish and jointed Rapalas doing most the catching, although a variety of crankbaits, spoons and dodger/fly combos are also taking coho. Red is the predominant color with chartreuse, green or gold patterns working well at times.

How long it lasts is a guess. After a phenomenal start in March last season, the coho scattered and moved offshore early in April on the heels of silt-stirring storms.

The latest blow left the water inside 40 feet quite murky for this weekend. Hopefully the salmon are still there — and remain for many weeks to come. Big rains blew out Trail Creek on Thursday, but fresh steelhead — and suckers — were continuing to pile upstream earlier this week. Should be good for another couple weeks after muddy conditions subside. Inland, it seems early water temperature-wise, which was in the low 40s on the LaPorte lakes, but crappie, bluegill and bass catches were very good mostly in six feet of water or less.

- Whitefish records: Another week, another state record whitefish on the southern end of Lake Michigan.

While Indiana's record white has been surpassed twice this year and now stands at five pounds, 13 ounces. The Illinois mark, which was previously under five pounds, was beaten for a third time in a month last week and is now a robust 7.5 pounds. More remarkable, Ken Maggiore who caught the big white, also caught a state record burbot of 9.3 pound on the same day from the same shore spot on the same shrimp bait on bottom.

- License expiration: Don't allow your friendly Conservation Officer be the one to remind you Indiana and Michigan fishing licenses expired. Both Indiana and Michigan annual permits are good April 1 through March 31.



ITOFLIES.COM



WELCOME TO ITO FLIES! ONE OF THE BIGGEST SALMON, TROUT AND WALLEYE FLY COMPANIES ON THE GREAT LAKES! WE CREATED THE "EYE FLY" AND MADE THE MAGNUM FLIES WORK!!!

ITO FLIES IS NOW SELLING CUSTOM MADE ITO ROTATORS ON THIS WEBSITE ALONG WITH OWNER HOOKS AND BAY RAT LURES. ALL PRODUCTS ARE TOP OF THE LINE AND ALL HAVE AIDED IN THE CATCHING OF THOUSANDS OF SALMON, TROUT AND WALL-EYE. ITO FLIES IS ALSO THE CREATOR OF THE "EYE FLY" FOR WALLEYE AND THEY HAVE HELPED ANGLERS WIN MANY TOURNAMENTS AND BIG FISH AWARDS. WE HAVE MANY WALLEYE HARNESSSES WITH THE EYE FLY ON THEM OR IF YOU LIKE TO TIE YOUR OWN WE SELL THE 2 INCH EYE FLY IN AROUND 100 COLOR PATTERNS.



mccba

michigan city charter boat association



Brad Kreighbaum
FIN FIRE
CHARTERS



Bill Wiesemann
CLOUD NINE
CHARTERS



Fuzzy Bear
FUZZY BEAR
CHARTERS




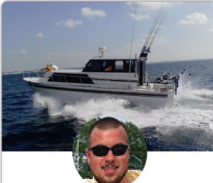
Tony Hofstetter
SALMON HUNTER
CHARTERS



Steve Kreighbaum
CRORKINDILL
CHARTERS



Kevin Malcer
FIRE DRILL
CHARTERS



Tyler Kreighbaum
TIGHT LINE
CHARTERS



Jeff Eck
THE RODFATHER
CHARTERS



Larry Richmann
JUST 1 MORE
CHARTERS



Hunter Engel
BEST CHANCE
CHARTERS

For detailed information about each of these captains, their boats, and charter rates/information go to:

mccba.org



Jerry Ross
ROSS FISHING
CHARTERS