



WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE A QUALITY FISHERY

3862 N. Ocqueoc Road • Millersburg, MI 49759

May 6, 2012

Jeff Gray
Superintendent
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
500 W. Fletcher
Alpena Michigan 49707

Re: Marine Sanctuary Expansion

Dear Mr. Gray:

The Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association supports the expansion of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary if the current Memorandum of Understanding, dated December 30, 2002, will continue to be valid which allows the State of Michigan to manage the commercial and recreational fisheries within the Sanctuary boundaries without interference from the US government. If this Memorandum of Understanding is updated, the new agreement must also continue to ensure Michigan's right to manage the fisheries within the Sanctuary without interference from federal agencies.

Since the Sanctuary was established, we have noticed an increased knowledge and interest in the biological and historical aspects of Lake Huron. The Sanctuary and staff have enhanced the awareness of these resources to students and people of all ages. Through the educational efforts, there has been an increase in respect for the shipwrecks and other artifacts. The Sanctuary has been a focal point for natural resource conservation and awareness by encouraging communities, organizations and others to conduct meetings at the Sanctuary Headquarters. The Sanctuary has been an asset and expanding the boundaries will not only protect more of the resources but also allow for coordination over a larger area to enable more individuals to become familiar with these important resources.

Sincerely,

Richard Colonna
President
Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association
989 734-0760