



## Bighead & silver carp discovered in Pool 2 of Mississippi River, MN

Commercial fishermen under contract by the Minnesota DNR netted two adult invasive carp in Pool 2 of the Mississippi River in the Cottage Grove area on Thursday, July 17. One was a bighead carp that weighed approximately 40 lbs. The other was a silver carp—silver carp are the ones that leap from the water when disturbed—that weighed about 20 lbs.

Pool 2 is the portion of the Mississippi River above the dam at Hastings and extends upstream to the Ford Dam. Backwater lakes included are Baldwin Lake, River Lake, Spring Lake, Mooers Lake and Grey Cloud Slough.

Bighead and silver carp had not been found this far north in the Mississippi River. Until now, bighead carp had not been detected above the mouth of the St. Croix River near Prescott, Wis.; silver carp had not been detected above Pool 5A near Winona.

“The fish were caught as part of our invasive carp detection program,” said Brad Parsons, DNR regional fisheries manager. “This is disappointing but not entirely unexpected.” Parsons said that while it’s unknown how long these fish were in Pool 2, it is known that invasive carp migrate upstream during high water conditions. “Such conditions existed for many weeks this year,” he said.

Parsons said the discovery of these fish does not necessarily mean a breeding population of invasive carp exists within Pool 2. Still, he said both fish were females that contained eggs. “That’s concerning,” he said. “Invasive carp pose a threat to our native fisheries, water recreation and ecosystems.”

The DNR will continue its invasive carp sampling efforts next week in an effort to determine if more or smaller invasive carp are in the

Grey Cloud Slough area. They will do this by setting additional gill nets and trap nets that are designed to catch smaller fish. The sampling nets used by commercial fisherman catch larger fish. The DNR has been intensively sampling the Minnesota, St. Croix and Mississippi rivers for more than two years to assess the presence of all life stages of invasive carp. It is increasing sampling efforts in extreme southern Minnesota later this year (Pools 6 and 8).

Silver and bighead carp are two of four species of invasive carp threatening the Mississippi River and other native ecosystems. They can grow to 60 pounds, and they impact the base of the food chain by consuming large amounts of plankton that native fish also rely on.

Populations of bighead and silver carp are established in the Mississippi  
**Carp in Pool 2 of Mississippi**

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## Fish feats captured through coded wire tag project

MILWAUKEE – In a remarkable feat of distance swimming, tiny Chinook salmon released in Lake Huron two years ago swam their way through the Straits of Mackinac and down through Lake Michigan into the waters off Racine, according to newly released data gathered with the help of Wisconsin anglers.

Brad Eggold, Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, said the 400 mile journey of fish released by the state of Michigan points to the benefits of coordinated management efforts given the mobility of species like salmon. Other fish caught at the Racine checkpoint originated from stocking efforts in Door County, western Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.

The study documenting the movement of fish throughout the lakes also indicates that natural reproduction of Chinooks is picking up steam in Lake Michigan. For Chinooks that are one year old, 55 percent of the population now comes from natural reproduction. What makes these findings possible? Fish heads—containing tiny coded wire tags—that have been saved by attentive anglers and dropped off at key ports and collection points along Lake Michigan's shores.

The tags, which are embedded into the snouts of the young fish, include numbers identifying when and where the fish were stocked. The tags themselves are smaller than a fine sliver of pencil lead, yet when

**Fish feats**

*Continued on page 9*

## Stocking more hard-to-come-by fish

The Michigan DNR's change of direction—from stocking northern muskie to Great Lakes muskie in many of the state's waters—has had its share of bumps in the road, largely because department personnel are having a tough time capturing fish for reproducing.

"These are extremely difficult fish to capture," said recently retired fisheries biologist Liz Hay-Chmielewski. "It's difficult to locate ripe females." Fisheries Division crews from the Lake Erie basin and other management units throughout the state spent three weeks this spring electrofishing in the Detroit River trying to capture muskies. "Every night the crews would leave the shop around 6 p.m. and get back around 3 a.m.," Hay-Chmielewski said. "And they get up and do it again and again. This is year five of a 10-year plan to develop a Great Lakes muskie brood stock in two inland lakes. It's a huge effort. It takes a lot of people to pull this off."

Working out of the Belle Isle Yacht Club, the crew obtained permission from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to work the Canadian side of the river this year, too, but it wasn't as successful as they had hoped according to Hay-Chmielewski. When staff captured ripe females, they put them in floating cages until personnel from the state's fish hatcheries could come out and spawn them. Matt Hughes, who works out of Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery, said the DNR had hoped to produce 1.5 million eggs this spring, but wound up with 430,000.

"When we stock the brood-stock lakes, we know, genetically, what we've contributed each year," Hughes said. "We stock every family so everything that comes out of there is

an equal genetic mix. We have the best contribution we can possibly make."

Hughes expects the hatchery to produce an ample number of fingerlings to supply the brood lakes—anywhere from 3,000 to 6,000 fish, depending on their size. "If they're less than eight inches they get stocked at double the rate they're stocked at if they're more than eight inches," he said.

"The biggest hurdle to jump is capturing the fish," he continued. "Once we get those brood-stock lakes stocked with enough genetics, we'll be able to go there directly and get our eggs. Our efforts will be a lot easier." The change to Great Lakes muskies from northern muskies was made to stock the fish that were native to the Lower Peninsula in that peninsula's lakes and rivers. Northern muskies are native to parts of the Upper Peninsula, though that is the species the DNR has used for its muskie-stocking program for years. "We're just trying to mimic nature more," Hay-Chmielewski said.

Hay-Chmielewski is optimistic that developing brood-stock lakes with Great Lakes muskellunge will pay off down the road. The brood-stock lakes will provide a reservoir of Great Lakes muskies if something should happen in the Great Lakes. She also said two muskie lakes in her management unit, Belleville Lake and Lake Diane, have received preliminary stockings with Great Lakes strain fish and may get some more this year, if there are any fingerlings left after the brood-stock lakes have been stocked. The DNR is hoping to continue growing this program in the future as the management needs are clearly there.

◇



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### Position Statement

Representing a major interest in the aquatic resources of the Great Lakes states and the province of Ontario, the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council is a confederation of organizations and individuals with a concern for the present and future of sport fishing, our natural resources and the ecosystem in which we live. We encourage the wise use of our resources and a search for the truth about the issues confronting us.

### Inland Seas Angler

#### GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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## Robert James

**Our condolences to the James family. Our good friend and Webmaster will be missed**

## No bighead or silver Asian carp found in Muskingum River sampling

COLUMBUS, OH – An extensive effort to search three Ohio rivers found none of the invasive species of bighead or silver Asian carp, according to the Ohio DNR.

Water samples taken from the Muskingum River showed traces of Asian carp environmental DNA (eDNA). In response to those results, the ODNR Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service deployed electrofishing crews to search for live Asian carp. Electrofishing crews sampled 125 sites in June along the entire stretch of the Muskingum River, as well as portions of the Tuscarawas and Walhonding rivers. While some grass carp were observed, no bighead or silver Asian carp were found.

Ohio and 42 other states allow the sale of sterile (triploid) grass carp. These fish eat aquatic vegetation and

are used for controlling aquatic vegetation in ponds. Ohio law does not allow importation or stocking of fertile (diploid) grass carp. Ohio law has allowed importation and stocking of certified sterile (triploid) grass carp since 1988.

Asian carp monitoring efforts are taking place in the Muskingum River because of two direct water connections to Lake Erie in the river's headwaters. A low-lying agricultural area along Killbuck Creek and a connection between the Tuscarawas River and the Little Cuyahoga River at the Ohio-Erie Canal have been identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as potential aquatic pathways between the Mississippi-Ohio River and Lake Erie-Great Lakes basins.

The nearest eDNA detection is approximately 100 river miles from

the Little Killbuck Creek connection and 120 river miles from the Ohio-Erie Canal connection. Physical barriers prevent Asian carp from crossing the watershed boundary at these locations during normal weather conditions. However, the watersheds have the potential to be connected during extreme flood events. ODNR is coordinating closure studies of both of these sites.

Fish shed cells, blood and tissue as they move through the water column. This material, called eDNA, is suspended in the water and can be collected as part of a surface water sample. Surveillance detects this material and can alert surveyors to the potential of live fish in an area.

Visit [www.ohiodnr.gov/asiancarp](http://www.ohiodnr.gov/asiancarp) for more information about Asian carp and eDNA. ✧

## State Record Freshwater Drum on Lake Ontario

New York DEC Commissioner Joe Martens announced today that James VanArsdall of West Henrietta caught a record breaking freshwater drum from Irondequoit Bay (Lake Ontario) in Monroe County. Caught on June 14, 2014, the fish measured 33.5 inches and weighed 26 pounds 9 ounces and breaks the previous state record by more than 2 pounds.

"This latest state record is another great example of how New York continues to provide excellent fishing opportunities and they continue to grow under Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative," said Commissioner Martens. "From the Great Lakes to Long Island and everything in between, the possibilities are endless for eager anglers."

Freshwater drum are also referred to as "sheepshead" and primarily dwell in large rivers and lakes. Their

pronounced blunt head allow them to be easily identified. With numerous small round teeth made for crushing, drum feed mostly on freshwater snails, clams and crayfish. For more information on this unique fish species visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7014.html>.

VanArsdall's catch is the second newly listed record on the New York Fish & Wildlife App, a free mobile app recently announced under Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative. On May 14, 2014, Eric Lester established a new inland state record when he caught a 60 pound striped bass in the Hudson River. The mobile app provides up-to-date information on fishing, hunting, wildlife watching and other outdoor adventure opportunities in New York State.

The NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative is an effort to improve recreational opportunities for

sportsmen and women and to boost tourism activities throughout the state. This initiative includes streamlining fishing and hunting licenses, reducing license fees, improving access for fishing and increasing hunting opportunities in New York State.

A photo of the record fish can be found on the New York State Freshwater Fishing Records page of DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7935.html>. For more information about the Angler Achievement Awards Program, including a downloadable application form, go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7727.html>. Program details and an official entry form can also be found in DEC's current Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide. For additional information on the Angler Achievement Awards Program call (518) 402-8891 or email [fwfish@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwfish@dec.ny.gov). ✧

## Illinois concealed carry licenses now honored in 23 states

With the recent addition of Nevada and Montana, Illinois residents who have an IL concealed carry license can now carry concealed in the following 23 states; Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, N.Carolina, Nebraska, [Nevada](#), Oklahoma, S. Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont & Wis. ✧

## 19 million fish stocked this spring

The Michigan DNR announced the final totals from its spring fish-stocking efforts. The DNR's Fisheries Division stocked a total of 19,382,390 fish that weighed 383 tons and consisted of 10 different species and one hybrid. To complete this task, it took nearly 400 stocking trips to 739 stocking sites, with drivers traveling more than 100,000 miles over the course of 2,168 hours, using 17 specialized stocking trucks.

"It was another outstanding spring stocking season that will bring significant benefits and fishing opportunities to Michigan," said Ed Eisch, acting DNR fish production manager. "Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff, fish were reared and delivered to stocking sites in excellent condition. The numbers produced and stocked were right on target for almost all areas."

The number and type of fish stocked vary by hatchery, as each location's ability to rear fish varies because of water supplies and temperature. In Michigan, there are six state and two cooperative hatcheries that work together to produce the species, strain and size of fish needed by fisheries managers. These fish must then be delivered at a specific time and location for stocking to ensure their success. The DNR maintains a public database of fish-stocking records which can be reviewed at [www.michigandnr.com/fishstock](http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock). ✧

## Lake Erie Sport Fishing Workshop, August 29 - 31

Whether you've been fishing on Lake Erie for ages but want to learn some new tricks, or you want to find out if fishing would be a fun new hobby for you, the Lake Erie Sport Fishing Workshop at Ohio State's Stone Lab is for you. In this three-day workshop, Stone Lab's expert instructors will teach you fishing techniques, show you how to use technology to improve your fishing experience, and take you to some of the best fishing spots on Lake Erie.

An intensive workshop designed to give a background in technical concepts used by anglers with a focus on fishing experience. Stone Laboratory vessels will be used for walleye and smallmouth bass fishing; rowboats will be available during off hours for pursuit of largemouth bass and panfish. Lectures will provide background in gamefish behavior and fishing techniques. Personal fishing gear is recommended but not required. A valid Ohio fishing license must be obtained prior to arrival.

Fee is \$450 and includes room and meals for 2 nights and 3 days. <http://stonelab.osu.edu/applnow/> ✧

## IL Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop Sept. 26-28

The IDNR invites women to register for the next 'Becoming an Outdoors Woman' workshop, September 26-28 at Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton. BOW workshops are designed to provide introductory instruction in outdoor-related activities. Classes are conducted in a casual and non-competitive atmosphere by experienced instructors. The cost is \$170 per person including the workshop, meals, class supplies and equipment, overnight lodging, prizes and more. Registration is limited, so sign up today. Workshop and registration materials can be found at [www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/bow](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/bow). ✧

## Plan for 2015 MN fishing tournaments

Anglers who want to host fishing tournaments in 2015 can apply now, at [www.mndnr.gov/fishing/tournaments](http://www.mndnr.gov/fishing/tournaments). The application period is now open, and preference is given to applications received by September 26. Permits are required for most tournaments with more than 25 boats, or an entry fee more than \$25, or ice fishing contests exceeding 150 participants. A fee ranging from \$60 to \$200 is required, due at time of application. Permits are not required for certain types of contests, including youth tournaments. A lottery is used to allocate permits if the number of applications exceeds monthly limits.

The DNR limits the size and frequency of tournaments based on lake size, and also keeps two weekends each month free of permitted tournaments. The application fee is designed to recover administrative costs and free up dollars for fish management programs. For detailed tournament regs, call: 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367; online at [www.mndnr.gov/fishing/tournaments](http://www.mndnr.gov/fishing/tournaments). ✧

## Discovering places to go fishing in Michigan

The Michigan DNR has a section of their website that can help you find great places to go fishing in Michigan. The *Family Friendly Fishing Waters* section of the website connects interested individuals with local fishing opportunities. The *Family Friendly Fishing Waters* website can be found at [www.michigan.gov/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/fishing) and features a map of Michigan. Just click on the county you are interested in and you will be provided with a list of one or more family-friendly locations to fish. Every county in the state has one or more locations featured with more than 230 total spots highlighted throughout Michigan.

## \$40,000 fine and court order for commercial fishing violations

A Lake Erie commercial fishing boat captain has been fined a total of \$40,000 for commercial fishing violations.

Melchiorre Pace of Leamington, captain of the commercial fishing vessel "AD-CO II," pleaded guilty to violating the terms and conditions of a commercial fishing license. Pace was fined \$40,000 for submitting Daily Catch Reports (DCRs) with false information. Pace also pleaded guilty to failing to maintain an accurate and complete commercial fishing logbook. He received a court order requiring him, for a period of three years, to only operate commercial fishing vessels that have a Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry monitored GPS unit installed.

Court heard that between May 24 and July 16, 2013, conservation officers investigated the commercial fishing activities of Pace. The investigation revealed that Pace was submitting DCRs containing false information in relation to the location where he was conducting his commercial fishing activities. He was also falsely reporting the length of time that he left his gill nets in the water and he declared less than half of the total length of gill nets that he was actually using. The investigation also showed that Pace had entered false information in his commercial fishing logbook. On multiple occasions, Pace declared in his logbook that he set gill nets in areas where he did not. He also set gill nets in locations that he failed to record in his logbook.

Justice Lucy C. Glenn heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Chatham, on July 10, 2014.

To report a natural resource violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). ✧

## Conservative MN deer season set; hunting licenses on sale from Aug. 1

Hunters can expect a conservative 2014 deer season designed to rebuild deer numbers across much of the state, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said.

"Hunters should check the 2014 hunting regulations closely because only one deer can be harvested in 95 percent of the state," said Leslie McInenly, big game program leader for the DNR. "To shoot a doe, hunters may have to apply for a permit in areas where they haven't in the past and, in some places, no antlerless harvest will be allowed."

In 69 of Minnesota's 128 deer permit areas, hunters must be chosen in a lottery to shoot an antlerless deer. Only bucks can be hunted in 14 areas. In 38 areas, hunters have the choice of shooting a doe or a buck. Bonus permits allowing hunters to shoot more than one deer may only be used in seven permit areas and for some special hunts.

Northeastern Minnesota hunters will feel the greatest impact from a bucks-only season. In bucks-only areas, no antlerless deer may be harvested by any hunter, including those with archery or youth licenses. McInenly said that most of these areas are now below goal and that this year's conservative approach is consistent with the DNR's long-term commitment to manage deer populations at established goal levels.

Deer hunting licenses, lottery applications and special hunt applications are available at any DNR license agent, by telephone at 888-665-4236 or online at [www.mndnr.gov/buyalicense](http://www.mndnr.gov/buyalicense). Lottery winners will be notified in October. Current and up-to-date information is available online at [www.mndnr.gov/hunting/deer](http://www.mndnr.gov/hunting/deer). Information about deer management and upcoming deer population goal setting during the next two years is available at [www.mndnr.gov/deer](http://www.mndnr.gov/deer). ✧

## MN DNR 2014 wolf season survey shows stable population

Hunters and trappers can now apply for the 2014 wolf season, the Minnesota DNR announced.

A total of 3,800 hunting and trapping licenses will be available, 500 more licenses than last year's seasons. The statewide target harvest of wolves is 250, 30 more than last year. The early season begins Saturday, November 8. The latest population survey results estimate that 470 wolf packs and 2,423 wolves lived in Minnesota's wolf range this past winter, 212 more wolves than estimated on the survey conducted in winter 2013.

"Estimates show a stable population with no significant change from the 2013 estimate of 2,211 wolves," said Dan Stark, DNR large carnivore specialist. "We will continue to evaluate the wolf population annually to ensure the wolf population remains well established across northern and central Minnesota."

Hunters and trappers can now apply for 2,300 early-season and 1,500 late-season licenses. The deadline to apply for the hunting and trapping license lottery is Sept. 4.

To apply, applicants need to pay a \$4 fee, show proof of a current or previous hunting license and choose one of three available license options, using the season's letter designation when buying. The bag limit is one wolf and licenses are not zone-specific. Lottery winners will receive a wolf hunting booklet.

Wolf license fees are \$30 for residents and \$250 for nonresidents. The early season purchase deadline is Friday, October 31, with surplus licenses going on sale at noon on November 5. The late season purchase deadline is November 21, with surplus licenses going on sale at noon on November 26.

For more info on wolf hunting: [www.mndnr.gov/hunting/wolf](http://www.mndnr.gov/hunting/wolf). Wolf management information is available at [www.mndnr.gov/wolves](http://www.mndnr.gov/wolves). ✧

## Reservations available online for IL pheasant hunting program

### Online applications for IDNR-managed sites began Aug. 4

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Controlled pheasant hunting opportunities will be available at 20 Illinois DNR sites this fall, and the 2014-15 season dates and permit reservation information are now available online.

Sixteen of the sites are operated by the IDNR, while four other sites are operated in a public/private partnership arrangement between the IDNR and concessionaire T. Miller, Inc.

“Now is the time to begin planning for participation in our controlled pheasant hunting program this fall,” said IDNR Director Marc Miller. “Thousands of hunters enjoy the opportunity to experience pheasant hunting through our controlled pheasant program each year. It also provides youth hunters with an ideal opportunity to have a successful hunting experience.”

The online permit reservation system for 15 IDNR-operated sites opened on August 4, and permit information, season dates, and other information are available. Detailed information and permit reservations are also available for the four sites managed by T. Miller, Inc. Hunters need to review the application instructions and season information accessible online prior to submitting an application.

On IDNR-operated sites, the daily permit fee for the controlled pheasant program is \$30 for resident hunters and \$35 for nonresident hunters. The daily permit fee applies to each hunter. Hunters will be required to pay for reserved permits in advance over a secure Internet system using an American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or Visa credit card. The credit card account will be billed when hunters submit an application. A transaction fee of \$2.50 will be assessed for each application, except for applications submitted for the Illinois Youth Pheasant Hunt.

Of the 16 sites operated by the IDNR, six provide only the Illinois Youth Pheasant Hunt opportunity for young hunters between the ages of

10-15. Those six sites are the Clinton Lake State Recreation Area in DeWitt County, Edward Madigan State Fish and Wildlife Area in Logan County, Mackinaw River State Fish and Wildlife Area in Tazewell County, Pere Marquette State Park in Jersey County, Sangchris Lake State Park in Christian and Sangamon Counties, and the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Randolph County.

Online permit reservations for the first lottery period on IDNR-operated sites were accepted from August 4 through August 11. Two additional one-week lottery periods are scheduled thereafter. Hunters need to review the application instructions and season information on the controlled pheasant hunting website prior to submitting an application. To navigate to the controlled pheasant hunting website once the IDNR website [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) has been accessed, hunters should follow these directions:

- ▶ Click on "Upland Game" from the drop down menu under the "Hunting/Trapping" button on the toolbar,
- ▶ Then click on "Controlled Pheasant Areas" under the "Quick Links" heading.

IDNR-operated controlled pheasant hunting sites will continue to have a portion of their hunter quota allocated to standby hunters. Standby hunters acquire permits and pay permit fees at the site hunter check station on the day of the hunt. Standby permits are also available for the Illinois Youth Pheasant Hunt if the site hunter quota is not filled by young hunters with reserved permits prior to the hunt date.

Hunters without computers are encouraged to gain access to the controlled pheasant hunting online reservation system by checking with family or friends with a computer or by using a computer at their local public library. Completing a permit reservation online takes less than five minutes.

For complete details, check the controlled pheasant hunting website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) or the T. Miller, Inc. website at [www.tmillerinc.com](http://www.tmillerinc.com). ✧

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### Carp in Pool 2 of Mississippi

*Continued from page 1*

River and its tributaries downstream of Pool 16 in Iowa. Bighead carp have been found in Lake Pepin and the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, and as far north as the mouth of the St. Croix in Prescott, Wis. But there is no indication bighead or silver carp are reproducing in the Minnesota waters of the Mississippi or St. Croix rivers.

The DNR continues to take a multi-pronged approach to managing Asian carp including:

- Monitoring for invasive carp by using targeted surveying and contracted commercial fishing.
- Partnering with the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, which is researching ways to prevent the spread and to manage populations of invasive carp.
- Improvements to the Coon Rapids Dam to make it a better fish barrier.

This discovery of invasive carp highlights the importance of recently passed federal legislation that will close the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock by June 2015. The agency maintains that this is the best approach to keeping invasive carp out of the upper Mississippi River watershed. Gov. Mark Dayton has been a strong supporter of closing the lock.

For more information on invasive carp in Minnesota: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasive-carp/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasive-carp/index.html) ✧

## Pure Michigan Hunt winners can now transfer winning licenses to other hunters

New this year, Pure Michigan Hunt winners can now transfer one or all of their licenses to another eligible hunter.

This will allow hunters—and their friends and family members—to buy as many Pure Michigan Hunt applications as they want for both themselves and others. Instead of needing to know other hunters' driver's license numbers, addresses and birthdates to apply on their behalf, Pure Michigan Hunt winners now have the ability to give one or more of their licenses away to whomever they choose or keep all of the licenses for themselves.

"This is a great opportunity for everyone," said Katie Keen, Department of Natural Resources

wildlife outreach technician. "For instance, if you know of someone who has been applying for an elk license for many, many years and you are the Pure Michigan Hunt winner, you may give that elk tag to that person."

From March 1 to December 31 every year, applicants may apply as many times as they would like for \$5 (per application). Each entry puts the applicant's name in the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing, in which three winners are selected and announced in January. These three lucky hunters win all hunting licenses that cannot be purchased over the counter (elk, bear, spring and fall turkey, and antlerless deer) and first pick on opening morning at any managed

waterfowl hunt area. Winners also receive a prize package valued at more than \$4,000.

Applying for the Pure Michigan Hunt is one more way hunters and non-hunters can support conservation efforts. Thus far, Pure Michigan Hunt application sales have generated more than \$350,000 for wildlife habitat management and restoration in Michigan, including wildlife planting and opening maintenance, prescribed burns, duck and goose banding, and other efforts.

Visit [www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt](http://www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt) to learn more, to apply and to view the entire hunter's prize package donated by Michigan organizations and businesses. ✧

## Report cites need for prudent management, cooperation to preserve yellow perch fishery

MADISON – Continued prudent management of Lake Michigan's yellow perch population is needed to ensure enough spawning stock remains to take advantage of years in which lake conditions permit young fish to survive.

That's among the conclusions of a new report drawing on the expertise and ongoing research of participants at the Lake Michigan Yellow Perch Summit held in Chicago in March, 2014. With yellow perch accounting for approximately 17 percent of the sport catch in Lake Michigan, the report highlights the significance of the fishery while documenting the unsettling environmental changes that have led to a continued population decline since the peak of the 1980s.

"The summit explored factors behind the low survival rates of young perch as well as steps that could be taken to strengthen the population," said Brad Eggold, southern Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "The short answer is that, unless we can get rid of the quagga mussel, the

yellow perch population will continue to be negatively affected. In Wisconsin, we're fortunate to have very well-informed sport anglers who understand the need to protect spawning populations to maintain the wild fish that we do have."

Those who remember the abundant perch fishery of the 1970s and '80s recognize the ecological changes brought first by the invasive zebra mussel and followed by the even more destructive quagga mussel. Both invaders siphon nutrients from the water column and concentrate them at the bottom of the lake—out of reach of newly hatched larval perch that float and feed near the lake's surface. By protecting spawning fish, the hope is that variations in hatching times will allow enough perch to emerge coincident with a zooplankton hatch that might ensure greater survival.

The report also:

- encourages support for programs designed to prevent or slow the spread of other invasive species that might further destabilize the perch population;

- identifies the need to enhance vegetated habitats in Lake Michigan wetlands and near shore areas to provide nurseries for juvenile perch and increase invertebrate food production;
- urges continued cooperative research among the states to monitor and assess yellow perch populations; and
- encourages efforts to monitor phytoplankton, zooplankton and macro-invertebrates in near shore areas and continue cost-benefit analysis of stocking models.

To view the Lake Michigan Yellow Perch Summit, search the DNR website [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) for "[Lake Michigan management reports](#)" and click on the link for "[Lake Michigan yellow perch summit summary report \[PDF\]](#)."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Brad Eggold, southern Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor, [bradley.eggold@wisconsin.gov](mailto:bradley.eggold@wisconsin.gov), 414-382-7921; Jennifer Sereno, communications, [Jennifer.sereno@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jennifer.sereno@wisconsin.gov); 608-770-8084. ✧

## USFWS awards grants to 4 Midwestern states Supports recreational boating and clean water

A total of \$16.6 million in grants will be awarded to 21 states under the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) program of the USFWS. More than \$700,000 was awarded to four states in the Midwest Region including Illinois (\$100,000), Indiana (\$362,140), Michigan (\$200,000) and Missouri (\$50,000). CVA funding promotes and assists recreational boaters with properly disposing of on-board septic waste among recreational boaters, keeping our water resources in good condition for public uses like fishing and drinking.

For more info on grant awards:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA2014Funding.pdf>. ✧

## New York crossbow hunting regulations

New York Regulations specify when a crossbow can be used during the respective seasons to hunt deer, bear or turkey. Read the entire [New York Crossbow Hunting Regulations by clicking here](#):

Crossbows may also be used to take deer or bear during limited portions of bowhunting seasons as follows, provided that the hunter possesses the muzzleloading privilege:

- During the last 14 days of the early bowhunting season in the Southern Zone (Nov. 1-14, 2014);
- During the last 10 days of the early bowhunting season in the Northern Zone (Oct. 15-24; this includes the 7-day early muzzleloader season in the Northern Zone);
- Only Bow/Muzz tags, DMPs or DMAPs may be use during these times.

Crossbows may be used to take the following small game species during their respective open seasons, wild turkey, any other small game or upland game birds and unprotected wildlife (e.g. red squirrels and woodchucks) at anytime. ✧

## Wingshooting clinics available statewide

Wingshooting clinics will be conducted at sites throughout Illinois through early November. Most clinics are conducted on weekends. Wingshooting clinics are held on IDNR sites, cooperating gun clubs, hunting preserves, and farms. Wingshooting clinics for youth (age 10-15) and women provide instruction on safely firing a shotgun at a moving target with reasonable reliability. Hunter wingshooting clinics are hands-on, and include extensive live fire at clay target presentations on sporting clays courses specifically designed for teaching typical hunting situations. For the wingshooting clinic schedule and more information: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/programs/wingshooting/wingshooti nghome.htm>. ✧

## ON enforcing rules on use of live invasive species for bait

Conservation officers (Cos) are patrolling local waterways this summer to ensure anglers avoid using live invasive species as bait.

Gobies are an aggressive fish, originally from Asia, that present a serious threat to North American waters. An invasive species easily caught by hook and line, gobies are common in the Great Lakes. In order to prevent their spread, it is illegal to possess live gobies, or to use them as bait either dead or alive. If caught, they should be destroyed.

COs are monitoring compliance with Ontario's sport fishing and public safety-related legislation. Anglers are reminded it is illegal to bring any crayfish, salamanders, live fish or leeches from outside Ontario into the province for use as bait. Anglers are only allowed to use fish species designated as baitfish for bait.

For further information on fishing regulations, please consult the [Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary](#), available at [ontario.ca/fishing](http://ontario.ca/fishing). ✧

## Now is the time to take a hunter safety course

With the fall hunting seasons just around the corner, the Minnesota DNR is urging hunters to sign up now for a hunter education class.

Besides ensuring the ability to hunt this year, taking the class sooner rather than later means more time for scouting hunting locations, sighting-in rifles, practicing shotgun skills and securing permission to hunt on private lands. Minnesota hunters born after December 31, 1979, must take a DNR hunter education firearms safety training course and receive a certificate of completion before buying a license for big or small game. Classes fill up fast. Find a class <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/firearms/index.html> or call 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367. ✧

## MN hunters can target Canada geese in Aug.

Hunters can harvest Canada geese in west-central Minnesota August 9-24. Individual hunters are allowed to shoot up to 10 Canada geese per day, but there is no limit to the number of Canada geese a hunter can possess.

"The state's Canada goose population remains high, and more goslings hatched this year than last," said Steve Cordts, waterfowl specialist for the DNR. "In the western portion of the state, large numbers of Canada geese continue to damage crops. The August management action is one way to control goose numbers."

The August goose harvest will open only in the intensive harvest zone in west-central Minnesota, with shooting hours from a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. A small game hunting license, special goose permit and state waterfowl stamp are required. A federal waterfowl stamp is not needed in August; however, it is needed beginning in September.

Details on the August goose management action can be found at [www.mndnr.gov/waterfowl](http://www.mndnr.gov/waterfowl). ✧

## Fish feats

*Continued from page 1*

entered into a database maintained by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists, they provide a powerful narrative about the lives of these fish.

"We could not undertake this type of research without the support of an educated and dedicated group of anglers willing to save the fish heads and bring them in to our collection points," says Eggold. "The results continue to provide incredible insights into the movement and reproduction of Chinook salmon while demonstrating the benefits of interstate cooperation. For example, anglers harvesting fish in Racine are catching fish stocked everywhere in Lake Michigan and in some cases, fish stocked in Lake Huron."

While the natural reproduction data varies somewhat by year—in part due to inconsistencies in the number of fish heads collected—a six-year time series dating from 2006 to 2011 indicates natural reproduction levels well above 50 percent. The results represent good news for anglers, whose license purchases have provided the funding to support biological research, as fisheries managers will continue to fine-tune stocking strategies based on the latest scientific data.

Eggold says state agencies with jurisdiction surrounding Lake Michigan as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like to encourage anglers to continue providing fish heads so the research can progress through additional years.

While the tiny coded wire tags placed in the snout of the fish may be difficult to see, anglers can tell whether their salmon or trout carries a tag because the adipose fin on the fish's back, just in front of the tail, will be missing.

DNR appreciates the efforts of the more than 200 anglers who participated last year and the businesses that serve as collection points. These businesses have been given a supply of forms for anglers to fill out and bags to use for freezing the heads. The forms ask anglers to include basic information such as the

date of capture, capture location, fish species, length, weight and gender.

For more information, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search for "adipose missing fin." ✧

## Commercial trapnets in Lake Huron

Since 2001, two commercial operations have been operating in central Lake Huron and DNR has been working to avoid conflicts between user groups through communication. These two commercial fisheries usually fish a total of 17 trap nets between North Point of Thunder Bay and the Greenbush area south of Harrisville.

These commercial fishers report their net locations with the DNR and we post them here ([pdf map](#)) to assist anglers and boaters in avoiding these nets. Fishers change their net locations often and this map is not updated in real time (some lag before updating) so anglers and boaters should not depend only on this map of net positions but should watch for buoys and markers.

Each state-licensed commercial trapnet is marked with three staff buoys and black or orange flags. In addition to staff buoys, nets are also marked with several red, yellow, white, or orange floats that are at least two gallons in size. The nets are set deep enough to allow for recreational and commercial boat traffic to move freely at the surface but fishermen should be mindful of the net location to avoid loss of fishing gear.

There are also trap nets in Saginaw Bay and Native American fisher trapnets north of Thunder Bay permitted under the 1836 Consent Decree. These nets are not depicted on this map

For more info: [Commercial trapnets in Central Lake Huron](#) ✧

## Photo contest underway for Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Calendar

MADISON – People have until the end of August to enter their favorite photographs from a Wisconsin state park, forest trail or recreation areas in a contest to be included in the 2015 Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Calendar. This is the sixth year the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks has sponsored the photography competition.

"There are lots of activities happening at Wisconsin state parks during the four seasons," said Patty Loosen, state Friends group liaison with the Department of Natural Resources. "So we're asking for entries that include in addition to the beautiful scenery, activities like geocaching, art in the park, stargazing, candlelight skis, kayaking, horseback riding, and mountain biking."

The deadline for all submissions is Sunday, August 31, 2014.

Submissions are only accepted from amateur photographers ages 14 and over. Professional photographers who earn more than half of their income taking pictures are not eligible.

Photographs must have been shot within the past three years (since January 1, 2012) and only one photo entry for each season (spring, summer, fall, winter) will be accepted with a total of 4 entries per person.

A panel of Friends of Wisconsin State Parks board members and staff will review accepted entries and select the winning photos. Photo awards will be presented at the organization's Annual Awards banquet in October, 2013. For more information and details [friendswiparks.blogspot.com](http://friendswiparks.blogspot.com) and click on the tab for "photo contest."

✧

# 2014 ICAST New Product Showcase Award Winners

## *ICAST 2014 Overall Best of Show Category Winners*

Best of Show - Freshwater Rod - Duckett Fishing  
Product - Micro Magic Pro

Best of Show - Saltwater Rod - Shimano American Corp.  
Product - Terez Stand Up

Best of Show - Fly Fishing Rod - G. Loomis, Inc.  
Product PRO4x Short Stix

Best of Show - Freshwater Reel - Pure Fishing, Inc.  
Product- Abu-Revo Beast

Best of Show - Saltwater Reel - Pure Fishing, Inc.  
Product - PENN Battle II Spinning

Best of Show - Fly Fishing Reel - 3TAND, LLC  
Product - TF-70 Sealed Fly Reel

Best of Show - Hard Lure - SPRO Corporation  
Product - BBZ-1 Rat

Best of Show - Soft Lure - Okuma Fishing Tackle Corp.  
Product - Savage Gear 3D PVC Crab

Best of Show - Lifestyle Apparel - Pelagic, Inc.  
Product - 4TEK Fish Finder Boardshort

Best of Show - Technical Apparel – STORMR  
Product - Fusion Bib

Best of Show - Boating Accessory - Johnson Outdoors  
Product - Minn Kota Ulterra Trolling Motor

Best of Show - Boats - Johnson Outdoors Watercraft  
Product - Predator XL

Best of Show - Combo - Lew's Fishing Tackle  
Product - American Hero Baitcast Combo

Best of Show - Electronics - Johnson Outdoors  
Product - Humminbird ONIX 8SI

Best of Show - Eyewear – Costa  
Product - Hamlin - 580P Mirror Lenses

Best of Show - Fishing Accessory - Lit-Industries, LLC  
Product - Lit Coolers

Best of Show - FishSmart Tackle - Cuda Fishing Tools  
Product - Cuda Grip & Scale

Best of Show - Fly Fishing Accessory - Plastica Panaro SRL  
Product - M2300 - Fly Caddy

Best of Show - Footwear - Columbia Sportswear  
Product - Megavent PFG

Best of Show - Giftware - Helter Skeletons, Ltd.  
Product - Authentic Skeletal Articulation

Best of Show - Kids' Tackle - ZEBCO Brands  
Product - ZEBCO Splash Combos

Best of Show - Line - Pure Fishing, Inc  
Product - Berkley IronSilk

Best of Show - Tackle Management - ENGEL U.S.A.  
Product - UC30-RH

Best of Show Terminal Tackle - Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle  
Product - TroKar TK619

ICAST 2015 will be held at the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, July 14 - 17, 2015.  
For complete ICAST information, visit [www.ICASTfishing.org](http://www.ICASTfishing.org) ✧

## Anglers reminded importing some baitfish is unlawful

The Michigan DNR is reminding anglers that importing certain baitfish species is prohibited. The DNR has recently received numerous questions regarding the importation of baitfish into Michigan and points these inquiries to the Susceptible Fish Species list in Fish Disease Control Order 245.

The release—both intentional and unintentional—of live baitfish is one of the best ways to spread fish

diseases. To protect Michigan's world-class fisheries, imported baitfish should be inspected and certified that they are free of diseases, such as viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus. Popular baitfish species on the Susceptible Fish Species list include, but are not limited to: bluntnose minnow, emerald shiner, Pacific herring, spottail shiner and white sucker.

It is unlawful to bring any of

these species into Michigan unless they have been approved by the DNR for importation, which requires being certified by approved laboratories as disease-free. This includes bringing baitfish into Michigan for commercial, recreation or personal use. For more info: Fish Order 245 here: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/FO\\_245.10\\_317517\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/FO_245.10_317517_7.pdf). ✧

## New federal grant program provides outdoor recreation in densely populated areas

MADISON – Wisconsin communities with populations of 50,000 or more people are eligible to apply for a new federal grant program that specifically targets providing public outdoor recreation in densely populated urban areas.

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program aims to help states expand the public outdoor recreation opportunities. In Wisconsin the program has been administered by the Department of Natural Resources since 1965.

For fiscal year 2014, Congress set aside an additional \$3 million specifically designated for the new "National Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program" to specifically target public outdoor recreation in densely populated areas of the country. Each state is allowed to submit two applications to compete nationally for funds that will be used to promote connecting people to outdoor places in their communities.

Other important project goals are engaging and empowering youth and underserved communities; providing job training or employment opportunities for youth and veterans; expanding public-private partnerships; and improving recreational opportunities for all. Grant Levels are \$500,000 for the maximum and \$250,000 for the minimum amount per project proposal.

Eligible applicants include states; political subdivisions of the state such as cities and counties; and federally-recognized tribal governments representing or serving jurisdictions delineated by the Census Bureau from the 2010 Census as having populations of 50,000 or more people consisting of densely settled territory. In Wisconsin this includes Appleton, Beloit, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Janesville, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine, Sheboygan, Wausau, West Bend, and several state border areas.

Eligible projects include land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities including active sports facilities. Ineligible projects include facilities that support semi-professional or professional athletics such as baseball stadiums or soccer arenas; indoor facilities such as recreation centers or facilities that support primarily non-outdoor purposes like dining facilities or certain overnight accommodations (lodge/hotel); and acquisition of lands, or interest of land, that completely restricts access to specific persons (e.g. non-residents of a community).

Priority will be given to projects that implement the following goals:

- directly connects people to outdoor places in their communities;
- engages and empowers underserved communities and youth;
- provides opportunities for youth employment or job training;
- involves and expands public-private partnerships, particularly to provide leveraging of resource;
- relies on a high degree of coordination among all levels of government to improve recreation opportunities for all; and
- implements a goal or meets a need identified in the [2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#).

All projects that are awarded will be subject to federal rules requiring that any park or other outdoor recreation area that benefits from assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, whether for acquisition or development activities, be maintained for public outdoor recreation purposes forever. This requirement is applied to the park or recreation area as a whole, regardless of the extent of the Land and Water

Conservation Fund assistance in the project. A condition will be recorded against the deed of the assisted property acknowledging the outdoor recreation protection is in perpetuity

Detailed information on matching shares, the application, review and award process, deadlines and other information are available by searching the DNR website [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) for keyword "grants" and then clicking on the button for "find grants" and the link for "[Land & Water Conservation Fund \(LWCF\) - Nationally Competitive Program](#)."

For more Info: Lavane Hessler, 715-839-3709 or 608-267-0497 or [Lavane.Hessler@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Lavane.Hessler@wisconsin.gov). ✧



### Renew watercraft registration by phone or online

Watercraft owners in Illinois are reminded that boat registrations (except for non-powered watercraft) are good for three years and have expiration dates of June 30. Watercraft owners can renew registration online or by phone by calling 1-866-867-3542 or at: <https://www.il.wildlifelicenses.com/vehicle.php?action=vehiclekup>.

Non-motorized watercraft, canoes, kayaks and paddle boats, are no longer required to be titled or registered in Illinois. Non-motorized watercraft owners are now required to purchase a Water Usage Stamp for \$6.00 per calendar year for each of the first three vessels, and \$3.00 each for any additional vessels (plus an agent fee of \$.50 will be charged per vessel). The annual stamps expire on December 31 each year. Water Usage Stamps are available from all DNR Direct license and permit vendors at this link: <http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/VendorListing.aspx>. ✧

## **Other Breaking News Items:**

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

### **[Michigan's Charter Fishing catch rate slips in 2013](#)**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Lake Michigan anglers complained in 2013 about catching fewer though bigger Chinook salmon than prior years, but charter fishing captains had a pretty good year. They logged 11,875 fishing trips, the second highest number since 2009; the highest being 2012 when they reported 12,236 charter trips.

### **[Ohio farmers point to algae law loophole](#)**

Ohio farm groups and environmentalists say a new state law that will certify fertilizer use doesn't go far – or fast – enough.

### **[EPA plans comment period on dioxin cleanup plan](#)**

Federal officials will accept public comments for two months on a plan to clean up soil contaminated with dioxin in frequently flooded areas along the Tittabawassee River in Michigan's central Lower Peninsula.

### **[Asian Carp blocked from entering Great Lakes, remain a threat](#)**

Over the past decade only a few individual Asian carp have been found in the Great Lakes and representatives say there are none in the water bodies at this time, yet they remain a significant threat.

### **[Botulism kills ducks along Grand Traverse Bay](#)**

State biologists say about two dozen wild ducks have died of type C botulism along Lake Michigan's Grand Traverse Bay. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources said Tuesday its laboratory in Lansing detected the disease in the mallard carcasses.

### **[Heavy rains force millions of gallons of raw sewage into area waterways](#)**

Monday's rains overwhelmed sewer systems across metro Detroit, forcing millions of gallons of untreated and partially treated sewage into rivers and lakes. "As far as the significance of the volumes, this is incredible," said Laura Verona of the Michigan Department of

### **[Lake Erie fish should be safe to eat, scientists say](#)**

PORT CLINTON – Fish caught from Lake Erie should be safe to eat despite toxic algae in the lake's Western Basin, scientists said. Tests done last year and in 2011 — the worst year on record for massive harmful algal blooms showed the fish were not contaminated

### **[Lake Erie's algae explosion blamed on farmers](#)**

The slimy green problem is back with a vengeance. Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, that choke up huge portions of the lake have reemerged as an annual summertime scourge after nearly disappearing for more than a decade.

### **[Lake Michigan salmon, where have you gone?](#)**

Most of our charter boats are coming in with 0 to 3 fish per trip. Most of these are lake trout. I caught two king salmon in the month of July. Nobody is catching kings from Indiana to Racine right now....

### **[Waukegan reaches milestone in harbor cleanup](#)**

Waukegan Harbor has reached a pivotal moment in its history — one that city leaders hope will revive its sagging economy — with the culmination of a 30-year, \$150 million cleanup to rid the shoreline of contamination left by the city's former industrial giants along Lake Michigan.

End