



Silver carp eDNA detected in Lake Michigan tributary

The Michigan DNR and USFWS are collaborating to assess a recent positive environmental DNA (eDNA) result for silver carp—a species of Asian carp—within the lower Kalamazoo River, Allegan County, Michigan.

Two hundred water samples were taken in July 2014 along the Kalamazoo, from below the Caulkins Dam in Allegan County to the mouth of the river. Laboratory results, which take several months to process, were reviewed by the DNR October 2. One of the of 200 samples tested positive for silver carp eDNA. The positive sample was taken from just below the Caulkins Dam.

An additional 200 eDNA samples were collected in the same vicinity in June and resulted in no positive results. The July sample represents the first time that Michigan has experienced a positive result for silver

carp eDNA in Michigan’s Great Lakes waters outside of Maumee Bay.

The findings indicate the presence of genetic material of silver carp, such as scales, excrement or mucus. However, there is no evidence that a population of silver carp is established in the Kalamazoo River. In addition to live fish, genetic material can enter water bodies via boats, fishing gear and the droppings of fish-eating birds. The lower Kalamazoo River is popular for recreational activities including fishing and boating. Activities such as these may increase the possibility of eDNA entering the river without the presence of a live silver carp.

In response to the finding, the DNR:

- Requested additional assistance from the USFWS to implement a third eDNA surveillance effort on the lower Kalamazoo River. An additional 200 samples were collected. Analysis of the samples will be expedited and

results should be available within a month.

- Will increase the presence of DNR staff along the Kalamazoo to enlist anglers to report any Asian carp sightings.
- Will place information in local bait shops to broaden public awareness.

The results from this third round of sampling will inform and guide any future assessment and response actions for silver carp in the Kalamazoo River. “We appreciate the assistance and technical expertise that the USFWS brings to the table in the development and implementation of a comprehensive eDNA surveillance plan to further evaluate the Kalamazoo River,” said Creagh. “We have well-established and practiced protocols for addressing eDNA results. Our coordinated efforts represent an important and prudent response to this detection.”

Silver carp eDNA

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PA reduces price of fishing licenses for 2015 season

For the first time in its history, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) will reduce the price of annual fishing licenses next season, a promotional move agency leaders say is intended to highlight the sport’s affordability to families and younger audiences and to persuade lapsed anglers to return.

Beginning December 1, prices will be reduced by \$1, or approximately 5%, for resident and non-resident annual licenses purchased throughout the year. Anglers who buy 3-year and 5-year licenses will see a reduction of \$3 and

\$5, accordingly, if they buy the license during the month of December. The discounts also apply to gift vouchers for annual licenses purchased throughout the year and to gift vouchers for multi-year licenses purchased in December.

The PFBC sells 850,000 licenses annually, but survey research from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 2011 national survey estimated that 1.1 million people ages 16 and older either fished in the Commonwealth in 2010 or planned to fish in the state in 2011. ♦

Feds announce 5-Year Great Lakes Restoration Plan

Chicago, Ill. – U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, on September 24, released a new [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative \(GLRI\) Action Plan](#) that lays out steps that federal agencies will take during the next five years to protect water quality, control invasive species and restore habitat in the largest surface fresh water system in the world.

McCarthy, who chairs the federal Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, released the plan at a meeting of Great Lakes Mayors in Chicago.

“The new Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan lays out the steps we need to take to get us closer to the day when all Great Lakes fish will be safe to eat, all beaches will be safe for swimmers and harmful algal blooms will not threaten our drinking water supplies,” said McCarthy.

“During the next five years, federal agencies will continue to use Great Lakes Restoration Initiative resources to strategically target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and to accelerate progress toward long term goals.”

“We’re currently engaged in the largest conservation initiative in American history, with more farmers taking action to preserve clean land and water than ever before. As part of that historic effort, many farmers in the Great Lakes region are working hard to help improve water quality downstream,” said U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

“We’re proud to partner with farmers and the many others engaged in voluntary efforts to restore the health of the Great Lakes. Supporting sound conservation practices such as planting cover crops, rotating crops, installing filter strips and restoring wetlands not only helps keep our water clean, it can help create jobs and grow the economy in local communities.”

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was launched in 2010 to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the largest surface fresh water system in the world—to provide additional resources to make progress toward the most critical long-term goals for this important ecosystem.

The GLRI Action Plan summarizes the actions federal agencies plan to implement during Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019 using GLRI funding. They will build on restoration and protection work carried out under the first Action Plan, with a major focus on:

- Cleaning up Great Lakes Areas of Concern;
- Preventing and controlling invasive species;
- Reducing nutrient runoff that contributes to harmful and nuisance algal blooms; and
- Restoring habitat to protect native species.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative resources have helped fund cleanup actions required to delist five Great Lakes Areas of Concern and to formally delist the Presque Isle Bay Area of Concern—a major change from the 25 years before the Initiative, during which only one Area of Concern was cleaned up and delisted.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative resources have also been used to double the acreage enrolled in agricultural conservation programs in watersheds where phosphorous runoff contributes to harmful algal blooms in western Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay and Green Bay.

So far, GLRI resources have been used to fund over 2,000 projects to improve water quality, to protect and restore native habitat and species, to prevent and control invasive species and to address other Great Lakes environmental problems. For more info: <http://greatlakesrestoration.us/> and www.glri.us/actionplan/ ✧



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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.

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Snail invades St. Louis River Estuary

Non-native faucet snails have taken up residence in the St. Louis River estuary according to scientists at the EPA in Duluth, Minn.

Faucet snails are native to Europe. They have been in North America for over a century but were noted in Lake Superior for the first time in 2010, at the marina in Washburn, Wis. In Minnesota, they have most notably affected Lake Winnibigoshish and surrounding lakes where their presence contributed to the death of thousands of scaup and coots. Faucet snails host intestinal parasites that wreck the internal organs of snail-eating water birds. When they invade, dense populations of faucet snails also crowd out native invertebrates.

A team from the Duluth EPA is using the St. Louis River estuary for investigations designed to test more effective ways of detecting newly arrived non-native organisms.

Anett Trebitz, Research Ecologist at EPA, reported the presence of the non-native snail to the Minn. and Wis. DNRs. Taxonomists contracted by the EPA identified the snails. Aquatic invertebrate experts Kurt Schmude, U. of Wisconsin, and Robert Dillon, College of Charleston in S. Carolina, confirmed the finding.

"We collected the faucet snails in sweep-net samples taken in 2012," said Trebitz. "The densest colonies are near Grassy Point and Barker's Island."

Sweep-nets are typically used to collect organisms living in aquatic vegetation in shallow water, the kind of habitat faucet snails seem to prefer.

Minnesota Sea Grant offers a Faucet Snail WATCH ID card and other invasive species identification cards. They are available free at local bait stores, by calling (218) 726-6191, or by viewing and ordering them online at www.seagrant.umn.edu. Report new infestations to Sea Grant or a DNR Invasive Species Specialist. To learn more about the EPA's invasive species research, log on to www.epa.gov/med/tasks/task6-4a.htm. ✧

Lake Erie algae winding down

The likelihood of another algae outbreak this year on Lake Erie with the potential to contaminate drinking water is winding down.

Algae on the lake will stick around into October, but the threat of a large harmful algae bloom developing again this year appears to be over, said Jeff Reutter, director of the Ohio Sea Grant Program, which studies water quality issues. "I don't think we're going to see anything significant," he said.

Residents who get their drinking water from western Lake Erie have been keeping a close watch on the algae since early August when toxins produced by blue-green algae fouled the water supply for 400,000 people in NW Ohio and SE Michigan. Toledo was forced to issue a do-not-drink advisory for two days.

About four weeks later, some residents of a small Canadian island were warned not to use their well water because of potentially toxic algae in the lake.

The threat of toxic algae outbreaks generally begins in mid-summer and lasts through mid-September. This year's algae bloom has been called "significant" by forecasters but it was much smaller than the record-setting 2011 outbreak that spread from Toledo to Cleveland.

Blooms of blue-green algae have been on the rise in Lake Erie for more than a decade but the issue has taken center stage since the drinking water in Toledo was contaminated. The algae growth is fed by phosphorus mainly from farm fertilizer runoff and sewage treatment plants.

In recent weeks, both farm industry groups and state and federal lawmakers have pledged to spend millions on cutting down on the pollutants that feed the algae. The legislation would require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to publish a health advisory and provide immediate federal guidance on a safe drinking standard for microcystin, a toxin produced by algae that can cause headaches or vomiting when swallowed. ✧

Modifications to Trail Creek lamprey barrier may improve fishing

Fall fishing opportunities on Trail Creek in NW Indiana should improve thanks to a change in how that stream sea lamprey barrier operates.

The seasonal modification to the LaPorte County barrier will make it easier for salmon and trout to move upstream, while still blocking sea lamprey, according to DNR Lake Michigan fisheries biologist Brian Breidert. "Anglers should be excited about this change," Breidert said.

The change involves the lower end of the fishway, the fish ladder. From Sept. 1 to Dec. 1 each year, the lower end will operate as a pool and weir fishway, while the upper end still will be maintained as a vertical slot, with removable trapping equipment. The change was carried out by the Indiana DNR and USFWS with cooperation from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The change also will reduce the time spent by DNR staff to trap fish, evaluate them, and then transfer them back to the stream.

Selective fall trapping still will be used as a management tool to collect biological data during fall and to help Lake Michigan fisheries staff gauge the strength and timing of salmon and steelhead runs. Trapping is also necessary during spring and summer to remove upstream migrating sea lamprey and to collect skamania steelhead broodstock, which provide for the future of the skamania fishery.

Sea lampreys are a pest in the Great Lakes. They are native to the Atlantic Ocean and made their way into the Great Lakes in the early 1900s via the St. Lawrence Seaway. An adult sea lamprey can kill more than 40 pounds of fish in its lifetime.

"Sea lampreys are incredibly destructive and must be controlled," said Bob Hecky, chairman of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. "The billion dollar Lake Michigan fishery depends on effective sea lamprey barriers like the one on Trail Creek." ✧

Surplus salmon available to the Mich public again this fall

The public again is invited to purchase surplus salmon that has been harvested at DNR weirs around the state

Seasonal salmon runs include large numbers of fish returning to their native streams to spawn and die. The DNR maintains multiple sites (weirs) where fisheries biologists and technicians collect eggs and milt (sperm) from Chinook and coho salmon for use in state fish hatcheries. Once egg-take needs are met, fish in prime physical condition are made available to the public by American-Canadian Fisheries, a private vendor that assists the DNR with the salmon harvest.

ACF harvests the salmon for human and pet-food markets, as well as excess eggs for the bait and caviar markets. ACF pays the DNR a flat, per-pound rate for the salmon and eggs collected. They then make suitable-quality fish available wholesale to distributors who market the fish.

"We work closely with ACF to maintain a professional approach to dealing with the returning salmon and to ensure the harvest is done in the most environmentally friendly way," said Aaron Switzer, the DNR's acting northern Lower Peninsula hatchery manager. "The number of fish returning to our rivers is large enough that the DNR needs the assistance of private partners like ACF to help in this area of fishery management."

The Michigan Department of Community Health recommends you use caution when eating certain kinds and sizes of fish from Michigan lakes and streams. For current advisories, the Eat Safe Fish Guide should be consulted. It is available online at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish or by contacting MDCH at 1-800-648-6942.

The following Michigan retailers are selling salmon harvested at DNR weirs:

Andy's Tackle Box
14573 Coates Highway
Brethren, MI 49619
231-477-5737

AuSable River Store
680 W. River Road
Oscoda, MI 48750
989-739-5332

Hank and Sons
16441 Coates Highway
Brethren, MI 49609
231-477-5450

Lixie's Fish Market
2699 Lixie Beach
East Tawas, MI 48060
989-362-5791

Pappy's Bait & Tackle
17092 Caberfae Highway
Wellston, MI 49689
231-88-4142

R & J Resort
3070 Keith Road
Brethren, MI 49619
231-477-5549

Tippy Dam Campground
17974 Old House Road
Wellston, MI 49689
231-848-4448

Wellman's Bait & Tackle
410 S. State St. #309
Oscoda, MI 48750
989-739-2869
✧

Oct. 23 meeting to discuss perch strategies

MILWAUKEE – To help identify potential options for yellow perch management in Lake Michigan, the Wisconsin DNR and Wisconsin Conservation Congress will convene a public meeting on October 23 at the U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences.

The meeting will build on the findings of the [Lake Michigan Yellow Perch Summit \[PDF\]](#) in March and focus on potential management strategies for the important near-shore perch fishery. Featured speakers will include specialists from DNR, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USEPA and Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel outdoors editor Paul Smith also will present a brief talk on the history of yellow perch in the city of Milwaukee.

Brad Eggold, DNR Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor, said the meeting aims to bring attendees up to speed on the latest scientific findings related to yellow perch and solicit feedback on viable strategic options in high-priority areas.

Among the highlights of the October 23 meeting, set to run from 5:30 to 9 p.m., will be discussion of changes in the food web and an overview of yellow perch populations throughout the lake. John Janssen, a professor with UW-Milwaukee's School of Freshwater Sciences, and Fred Binkowski, a senior scientist with the school, will discuss where bottlenecks in perch reproduction are occurring and whether perch sourced from wild broodstock and raised through cutting-edge aquaculture techniques could potentially rebuild

near-shore populations.

Eggold said the meeting will include a discussion session in which participants, scientists and fisheries management experts will collectively explore management options for the future including the possibility and feasibility of public-private partnerships for habitat improvement and fish rearing efforts, as well as identification of high-priority near-shore areas.

For more information on the public meeting, set for October 23 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences, 600 E. Greenfield Ave, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "[yellow perch meeting](#)."

For more info: Brad Eggold, 414-382-7921, bradley.eggold@wisconsin.gov. ✧

Off-highway vehicle trail closures begin in November

The Minnesota DNR will restrict recreational use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) in some areas during the upcoming firearms deer hunting season. Vehicles affected by the restrictions include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and registered off-road vehicles (ORVs) such as four-wheel drive trucks that are not being used in conjunction with deer hunting by a licensed deer hunter.

The restrictions, which apply to state forest trails and access routes but not to state forest roads, aim to protect recreational riders from potentially unsafe riding conditions and to minimize conflicts between deer hunters and recreational riders who may inadvertently disturb them.

Licensed deer hunters may still use these routes in conjunction with their hunting activity:

- Before legal shooting time.
- From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- After legal shooting hours.

Effective dates of the recreational riding restrictions will be:

- Nov. 8 – 23 for the northeastern Minnesota 100 Series deer season.
- Nov. 8 – 16 for the Minnesota 200 Series deer season.

Because recreational OHV trails located in southeastern Minnesota close November 1 each year, no additional OHV riding restrictions are necessary in that part of the state.

While many recreational OHV riders have voluntarily opted not to ride forest trails during deer hunting and small-game seasons, recreational OHV riding has become a year-round sport for many. DNR officials remind everyone who visits Minnesota's state forests this fall to put safety first. For more info, http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/hunting/2014/deer_map.pdf or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367. ✧

Carp monitoring September Summary

Monitoring occurred in the Chicago Area Waterway System and upper Illinois Waterway downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier. NO BIGHEAD CARP OR SILVER CARP were any found in new locations upstream or downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier.

Electrofishing:

- Crews from IDNR, USFWS, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed 191 electrofishing runs (47.75 hrs.) upstream of the Dispersal Barrier during the weeks of September 14 and September 22.

- Crews collected 13,875 fish of 44 species during electrofishing.

- No Bighead or Silver Carp were reported captured or seen during electrofishing upstream of the barrier.

Netting:

- Contracted commercial fishing crews and IDNR biologists set 3 miles of net (27 sets) at the four fixed sites and 10 miles of net (88 sets) at random and additional sites within the North Shore Channel, North and South branches of the Chicago River, Cal-Sag River, Little Calumet River, Lake Calumet, and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal upstream of the electric dispersal barrier during the week of September 15.

- Crews collected 195 fish of 6 species during commercial netting.

- No Bighead or Silver Carp were reported captured or observed during commercial netting in the North Shore Channel, North and South Branches of the Chicago River, Cal-Sag River, Little Calumet River, Lake Calumet, and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. ✧

IL Public Areas Hunting Report

The latest edition of the IDNR *Illinois Public Areas Hunting Report*—with details on public lands hunting effort and harvest—is now available online at: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/IllinoisPublicHuntingAreasReport.pdf>. ✧

Water safety during waterfowl season

With the season open, the Minnesota DNR is reminding everyone to think safety on the water, especially during waterfowl season. In 2013, two people died in duck hunting related boating accidents. One fatality was caused by an accidental discharge of a firearm. Overloading, swamping, capsizing are the most common causes, while lack of life jacket use is the most common contributing factor.

"The message is simple: life jackets save lives," said Maj. Greg Salo, operations manager, DNR enforcement. A U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket is required for every person on board all boats, including duck boats. Plus, for boats 16 feet and longer, there must be one U.S. Coast Guard-approved flotation seat cushion on board, to throw to someone in distress.

Life jackets are now made with the waterfowler in mind and are available in camouflage colors, including inflatable life jackets and belt-pack. "They have mesh in the upper body that allows you to shoulder a gun," Salo said. "That way, you don't have to keep taking the vest off when you shoot."

The DNR offers these water safety tips for duck hunters:

- Don't overload the boat; take two trips if necessary.
- If wearing hip boots or waders, learn how to float with them on.
- Stay near shore and avoid crossing large expanses of open water, especially in bad weather.
- Share trip plans with someone and advise them to call for help if traveling party does not return on schedule.
- In case of capsizing or swamping, stay with the boat; even when filled with water it will still float and is more likely to be seen by potential rescuers.

The DNR has a "Water Safety for Duck Hunters" publication, available by calling the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367; it is also available at <http://tinyurl.com/k3s6doq>. ✧

Lake Sturgeon released into Genesee River

New York DEC was joined by federal and local partners earlier this month to release 1,000 fingerling lake sturgeon into the Genesee River as part of an effort to restore a healthy population of this native fish species. This event, in its fourth year, will increase the opportunity for lake sturgeon populations to re-establish and thrive in the river.

DEC and federal partners are implementing a restoration plan that includes a minimum of five years of fingerling stocking in selected tributaries of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River to facilitate reestablishing lake sturgeon populations in those waters. The Genesee River had a substantial lake sturgeon presence into the early 1900s that included "monster" sturgeon. The river has been the focus of recent restoration activities that included habitat evaluation, stocking of 1,900 fingerlings in 2003 and 2004, stocking of 1,000 fingerlings in 2013, and an evaluation of the success of those fish. Results indicate that a number of those released sturgeon are residing in the Genesee River and nearby Lake Ontario and growing well, with weights ranging from 10 to 25 pounds. ✧

IL resident archery deer and turkey permits

Illinois **resident** Archery Deer and Turkey seasons are open October 1, 2014-January 18, 2015 (archery closed November 21-23 and December 4-7 in counties with firearm deer season). Resident combination archery deer permits, resident antlerless-only archery deer permits, and resident archery fall turkey hunting permits are available over-the-counter from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. Find a vendor near you at this link: <http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/ VendorListing.aspx> ✧

Belle Isle harvest festival Oct. 18

Every member of the family will find something to do—like costume contests and pumpkin painting—at the Belle Isle harvest festival 10 - 7 p.m. Oct. 18. Hosted by the Michigan DNR with support from Detroit-area businesses the inaugural event includes activities for all ages.

Belle Isle harvest festival festivities will take place under tents in the open space to the south of the White House park administrative building on Inselruhe Avenue. The schedule includes:

- Face painting, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Pumpkin painting, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Fall-themed games for children and adults, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.
- Tractor-pulled hayrides, 1:15 to 3:15 p.m.
- Trick-or-treating through multiple candy stations, 5 to 7 p.m.
- Costume contest for children, adults and family pets, 4 p.m.
- Roasting marshmallows over a campfire, 5 to 7 p.m.

Throughout the day, visitors can enjoy "spook-tacular" music, warm cider and donuts under the main tent and a straw bale maze. Learn more by visiting the [online event listing](#). Additional information about Belle Isle Park is found at www.BelleIslePark.org. ✧

IL non-resident deer and turkey permits

The remaining non-resident Illinois combination archery deer permits, as well as non-resident antlerless-only archery deer permits and non-resident archery fall turkey permits, are available over-the-counter from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. Season dates are Oct. 1, 2014-Jan. 18, 2015 (archery closed on Nov. 21-23 and Dec. 4-7 in counties with firearm deer season). Find a license and permit vendor near you at this link: <http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/ VendorListing.aspx>. ✧

MN DNR seeks volunteers to join fish species work groups

Volunteers are being sought to join five citizen-agency work groups that will discuss how the Minnesota DNR manages fish. There will be work groups for bass, catfish, panfish and walleye, and one that will focus on both northern pike and muskellunge.

Volunteers may apply to one of the five groups. The application period is open Oct. 1 to Nov. 19. "Citizens can nominate themselves," said Don Pereira, DNR fisheries chief. "These groups are about enhancing communication between citizens and the agency. In recent years these work groups have addressed angler concerns in detail."

Work groups of 10 to 15 people each include volunteers and DNR staff who meet two to three times per year to discuss new research, population and harvest trends, and fisheries management. Participants will be selected by the DNR and can choose to serve a term of either two or three years. Meetings average four to six hours including travel time. The groups are advisory and do not make decisions on policy or fish management.

"The work groups support effective management of the state's fisheries," Pereira said. "We are seeking members who will reflect a range of public interests in fish management including recreation, effects on local economies, water quality, habitat and more."

For more information or to find an application form, see www.mndnr.gov/fisheries/management. ✧

III. Waterfowl Digest

Review this season's Illinois waterfowl regulations with the *Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2014-2015*, available online on the IDNR website at this link: www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/DigestWaterfowlHuntingRegulations.pdf. ✧

Fall trout fishing season opens Oct 18

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The 2014 Illinois fall trout fishing season opens October 18 at 50 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state. New this fall will be catch-and-release fly fishing at a handful of sites beginning October 4. Fly fishing anglers can use their gear to catch and release trout on selected sites. No trout may be kept during this period. Fly fishing anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning October 18. Waters noted with a (**) are open for early fly fishing.

The Illinois catchable trout program is funded entirely by those who use the program through the sale of inland trout stamps. Approximately 80,000 trout are stocked by IDNR at various locations just prior to the opening of the fall trout season.

For more info: www.ifishillinois.org.

◇

Meeting at Cabela's on Muskie management Oct 18

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) will host an afternoon meeting on Saturday, October 18, at Cabela's in Hamburg to update anglers on the progress made to date on muskie management and to receive additional angler feedback on musky fishing and management in Pennsylvania.

The meeting will be held on October 18 at 1 p.m. at the Cabela's store in Hamburg, located north and east of Harrisburg at 100 Cabela Drive, Hamburg, PA 19526. The meeting also will include time for structured discussion and questions and answers that anglers have regarding musky management in Pennsylvania. For a tentative agenda: PFBC [website](#).

To ensure there is enough seating available, RSVP by registering [online](#) or calling or emailing Mackenzie Ridgway, 814-359-5110 or mridgway@pa.gov ◇

Report on Harmful Algal Blooms released

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, has announced the release of a report titled: "Influence of Open-Lake Placement of Dredged Material on Western Lake Erie Basin Harmful Algal Blooms." It concluded that open-lake placement of dredged material does not contribute to the development of harmful algal blooms in the Western Basin of Lake Erie.

The study was performed by engineering consulting firms Ecology and Environment and Limno Tech, at the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District office and Engineer Research Development Center.

Background

The proliferation of Harmful Algal Blooms in Western Lake Erie Basin poses great concerns for the region. It is well established that Harmful Algal Blooms have caused taste and odor problems in drinking water, made drinking water treatment difficult, fouled beaches, reduced available oxygen for fish and other aquatic species, and caused human health problems due to the production of toxins.

It is in the public interest to determine the root causes of Harmful Algal Blooms, and to then develop and implement strategies aimed toward reducing or eliminating them. It is important to apply a rational and objective scientific approach to evaluate the potential influence of placement of dredged material in the Western Basin of Lake Erie as it may relate to the production of Harmful Algal Blooms.

Study Purpose

The purpose of the study was to answer the question: "What is the Potential for Placement of Toledo Harbor Dredged Material in the Western Lake Erie Basin to Influence Harmful Algal Blooms?" The study was conducted over 18 months and involved field sampling, laboratory analysis, and lake ecosystem modeling. Extensive water quality monitoring was conducted throughout six months of the 2013 dredging

operation.

Findings

Open-lake placement of dredged material is not a source of bioavailable phosphorus contributing to Harmful Algal Blooms. Maumee River is the dominant source of bioavailable phosphorus contributing to Harmful Algal Blooms.

Open-lake placement of dredged material does not contribute to the development of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Western Basin of Lake Erie ◇

Waterway Restrictions due to installation of new fish barrier on the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal, Romeoville, IL

This U.S. Coast Guard Advisory is to inform the maritime industry and waterway users that the U.S. Coast Guard will enforce a segment of the Safety Zone in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal near Romeoville, IL. This immediate action is necessary to protect the waterway and its users from hazards associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers installation of a new permanent fish barrier. This restriction will be intermittently active on the waters of the CSSC between Mile Marker 296.1 and Mile Marker 296.7 on the following dates:

Intermittently from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, from Oct. 8, 2014 to Nov. 26, 2014.

The Captain of the Port Lake Michigan reminds mariners that the requirements of the Regulated Navigation Area (RNA) between Mile markers 295.5 and 297.2 of the CSSC (as contained in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations 165.923) remain enforced. For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Information Bulletin, please contact Commander Dan Somma at 414-747-7163. For specific information on the nature of operations taking place, please contact Ms. Lynn Whelan with the Army Corps of Engineers at 312-846-5330. ◇

Coast Guard warns boaters of hypothermia risk

The Coast Guard is warning Lake Michigan mariners that falling water temperatures pose safety risks even as air temperatures remain seasonal.

Cmdr. Max Moser, deputy commander of [Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan](#), in Milwaukee, urges mariners to dress for the water temperature and not the air temperature. Moser also warns how unpredictable and dangerous Lake Michigan weather conditions can be, especially during seasonal transitions. "Survival time is greatly diminished for someone immersed in water below 70 degrees," said Moser.

"Cold water drains a body's heat up to 25 times faster than cold air. In addition to a life jacket, we recommend mariners wear a dry suit in a cold water environment in order to increase the chances of surviving a fall into the water."

The National Weather Service reports that the water temperature in Lake Michigan has dropped to near 53° F, while the average air temperatures remain near 60° F. Updated water temperatures can be

found on the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Forecast System](#).

In preparation for colder temperatures, Coast Guard crew members around the Great Lakes are transitioning from summer life jackets to insulated coveralls and dry suits.

The Coast Guard offers these tips to help keep you safe:

- ▶ Always wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket, and dress for the lake temperature. A life jacket allows a person to float with a minimum of energy expended and allows the person to assume the Heat Escape Lessening Position (H.E.L.P.): bringing the knees close to the chest and holding them in place by wrapping the arms around the shin portions of the legs.
- ▶ Never go out on the water alone. Use the buddy system.
- ▶ Ensure your vessel is seaworthy and inspect it thoroughly. Contact the local Coast Guard Auxiliary for a free vessel safety check.
- ▶ Always check and monitor the marine weather forecast before and

during any trip out onto the lakes. High winds and dropping temperatures are good reasons to postpone an outing.

▶ Carry a registered personal locator beacon in addition to a marine radio to alert the Coast Guard and local safety agencies of potential distress. Consider a waterproof hand-held model that can be worn.

▶ Carry all required and recommended safety gear, such as visual distress signals, a sound-producing device and a fire extinguisher.

▶ Carry your visual distress signal and whistle in the pocket of your life jacket so they're close at hand in an emergency.

▶ If boating with pets, keep in mind that animals also need the added protection of flotation. Like their human companions, animals are just as susceptible to the harsh elements, including the effects of hypothermia. Several manufacturers make life jackets specifically for dogs and cats, in a variety of sizes. ✧

Silver carp eDNA

Continued from page 1

In preparation for response to findings of bighead, silver or black carp in Michigan's waters of the Great Lakes and tributaries, MDNR has conducted field and tabletop response exercises to prepare for a possible invasion of Asian carp species such as silver carp. Field exercises, funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, were conducted in the St. Joseph River in 2013 and the Western Basin of Lake Erie in September 2014. In addition to these exercises, nearly 1,800 eDNA water samples have been collected this year from Great Lakes tributaries in southwest and southeast Michigan.

With implementation of the recently signed Council of Great Lakes Governors' Aquatic Invasive

Species Mutual Aid Agreement, the response exercises brought together staff from other Great Lakes state and federal agencies, including Canada and Ontario, to test response scenarios and various equipment and gear used to capture Asian carp species. Michigan has a comprehensive Asian Carps Management Plan to guide prevention, early detection and management responses. In addition, the state has recently launched a comprehensive invasive species effort to address threats to Michigan's waters and land.

Asian carp, including bighead and silver carp, pose a significant threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem, the \$7 billion fishery, and other economic interests dependent on the Great Lakes and its tributaries. Silver and bighead carp are likely to compete with native and recreational

fish species and are known to quickly reproduce.

A video demonstrating how to identify bighead and silver carp can be viewed on the USFWS YouTube channel at <http://youtu.be/B49OWrCRs38?source=govdelivery>. A video focused on identification of juvenile Asian carp species can be viewed at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153--317128--s,00.html>.

Identification guides, frequently asked questions, management plans and an online reporting form for Asian carp sightings are available online at michigan.gov/asiancarp.

More information on eDNA is available here: <http://www.asiancarp.us/edna.htm>. Results of eDNA monitoring from the Midwest region are posted here: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/eDNA.html>. ✧

NY releases State Open Space Conservation Plan for public comment

Public Comments accepted through December 17

NY DEC Commissioner Joe Martens and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) Commissioner Rose Harvey released the 2014 State Open Space Conservation Plan for public comment. The plan guides State Environmental Protection Fund investments in open space protection. Public comments on the draft plan will be accepted until December 17 and a series of public hearings will be held across the state from October 21 to October 23.

The Draft Plan makes recommendations on how open space conservation will help accomplish Governor Cuomo's goals, which include: ensuring clean water, air and land for a healthy public and vibrant economy; greening New York's economy; protecting natural resources and promoting outdoor recreation; increasing and improving the visitor experience; creating a 21st century parks system that is aesthetically compelling, energy and operationally efficient, and built to last; and working to address climate change.

Building upon the recommendations of Regional Advisory Committees, the Commissioners now ask the public to make recommendations on how open space conservation programs can make the state better prepared and more resilient in preparation of future storms and climate change. Governor Cuomo created the NYS 2100 commission in response to Superstorm Sandy to generate recommendations to improve resilience and strengthen the state's infrastructure in the face of natural disasters and other emergencies. Many of the open space recommendations included in the 2100 Commission report are integrated into the draft plan.

The draft plan was created through the work of nine Regional Advisory Committees composed of representatives of county governments and people knowledgeable in open space

conservation selected by DEC and State Parks. The nine committees correspond to DEC's nine administrative regions. Each committee was asked by the Commissioners to review the existing 2009 plan, including the list of priority open space conservation projects, as well as policy recommendations, to make New York's comprehensive open space conservation program stronger in the future.

The Commissioners invite the public to comment in writing and at the public hearings. Specifically, comments could offer suggestions on:

- how the state and its partners can promote and enhance existing and new state lands as tourism destinations as part of a comprehensive open space conservation program;
- how the state can make public lands attractive to a diversity of New Yorkers;
- how DEC and State Parks can offer better access for sportsmen and women;
- how DEC and State Parks can work to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for New Yorkers and visitors of all abilities through Universal Access;
- where DEC and State Parks can further develop Universal Access; and
- what the state can do to acquire and make more accessible lands near and in urban centers.

"The draft plan covers a lot of ground," Commissioner Martens added. "We urge the public to review the draft plan and give us comments that can strengthen the State's Open Space Conservation program in the future."

Public comments can be submitted by email to LF.OpenSpacePlan@dec.ny.gov or mailed to DEC by December 17 to: Open Space Conservation Plan
625 Broadway

Albany, NY 12233

An electronic version of the draft plan is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/317.html>.

A series of public hearings will be held October 21 to October 23 throughout the state. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/98770.html> ✧

Boater sentenced in Hudson River crash

Jojo John, who pleaded guilty in June to two counts of vehicular manslaughter in a fatal July 2013 boat crash on the Hudson River, was sentenced September 17 to two years in prison.

John, 36, of Nyack, crashed the powerboat he was driving into a barge that was being used for construction on the new Tappan Zee Bridge, killing two of his friends, bride-to-be Lindsey Stewart, of Piermont, and Mark Lennon, of Pearl River, who was to be best man at the wedding. Both were 30. Lennon and DiIorgi said the owner of the barge shared blame. Both also were critical of the district attorney's office, which they said protected the barge owner. Lennon said the sentence marked another step in a "terrible nightmare which our family has yet to wake up from." ✧

New York offers new hunting resource webpage

As part of a statewide effort to promote outdoor recreation and make hunting information easily accessible to sportsmen and sportswomen, the State (DEC announced the creation of the I Love New York Hunting webpage, a new outdoor recreation feature that will be available at the I Love New York website and tourism offerings. People can access the site at: www.ILOVENY.com/hunting. ✧

Spotted Gar discovered in Chicago for the first time

Illinois DNR Fisheries biologists searching for Asian carp in Chicago waterways instead found an ancient fish that has never been seen in the area before. DNR biologist Frank Jakubicek said that catching a spotted gar was an unexpected treat.

While the discovery of the species in the channel is interesting in itself, the biologist said it is also a sign of the changing water quality in the area. Spotted gar thrive in clear water and prefer quiet pools and streams with lots of aquatic vegetation as opposed to brackish waters. The appearance of one of these fish in Chicago waterways could mean that the area's water is becoming cleaner.

The gar, later released, may have come up from Lake Michigan or from the Mazonia Fish and Wildlife Area near Braidwood. ✧

IL Clean Vessel Grants

The Illinois DNR is soliciting applications for grants to be awarded through the federal Clean Vessel Act grant program. Local governments and operators of private marinas, boat yards and yacht clubs may apply for the grants to build or upgrade marine sewage disposal systems and renovate pumpout stations used by recreational boaters. These grant funds help provide facilities for boaters to dispose of their waste in an environmentally safe manner. Applications must be sent to the Illinois DNR by November 5, 2014. The Department will forward proposals to the USFWS for consideration. Applicants whose projects are approved will be reimbursed for up to 75% of allowable expenses to construct or renovate stations and waste reception facilities. Detailed information about the program and application forms is available by calling 217-782-2602. ✧

DNR releases 2014 deer season forecast

The Michigan annual deer season forecast ([2014 Deer Hunting Prospects](#)) is now available online. DNR biologists predict that, overall, hunters this season will see similar success rates as in 2013. The forecast is designed to give hunters a better idea of what to expect in the woods this season and includes:

- Regional information breakdowns for the Upper Peninsula, the northern Lower Peninsula and the southern Lower Peninsula.
- An overview of important changes for this license year, including information on multiple-year deer regulations, the new hunting and fishing license options, deer management unit boundaries for southern Michigan, and more.
- Updates on wildlife health and diseases.

For more tips and info on having a successful deer season, visit the DNR website www.michigan.gov/deer. ✧

Changes at Lac qui Parle goose hunt

A number of changes will greet goose hunters at the Lac qui Parle Refuge controlled hunt this year, including elimination of the need to register for blinds in advance, according to the Minnesota DNR. The key changes are that hunters will no longer need to apply for blinds in advance, register at the main office or pay the \$3 blind fee. There will be no morning or afternoon drawings. And the controlled hunt area boundaries will be smaller.

The 2014 goose season within the Lac qui Parle Refuge runs from October 16, through December 30.

This year, hunters will use blinds on a first-come first-served basis. These and other regulations are explained in the 2014 Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Handbook. It can be found online at www.mndnr.gov/hunting/waterfowl. ✧

WI first-time license buyers get a price break

MADISON – A \$5 first-time buyer's license for Wisconsin residents makes it easier than ever for family and friends to join in Wisconsin's hunting, fishing and trapping traditions.

Under a 2012 law, certain hunting, trapping and fishing approvals are sold at a reduced fee to people who have not been issued that same type of license, or a conservation patron license, or a sports license, in any of the previous 10 years. For Wisconsin residents, \$5 will buy you an annual license for fishing or trapping, or many hunting seasons. Nonresidents also get a price break. For more info on the DNR's web site by typing in the key words, "[first-time buyer](#)." ✧

MI changes to license structure

The Michigan DNR reminds hunters of recent changes to the state's hunting license structure. The new license structure took effect March 1, 2014.

Among the most significant changes affecting deer hunters, a **base license** is now required for all hunters. The base license provides critical funding for habitat and conservation work on both public and private land and supports the work of conservation officers and field staff to ensure safe, legal hunting practices are followed. The purchase of a base license includes small game hunting. Whether they choose to hunt small game or not, hunters' base license dollars will be used to enhance and expand hunting opportunities, which benefits hunters of all species.

More information about the new hunting license structure, including [license prices, and frequently asked questions](#) is available at www.michigan.gov/dnr under "In the Know." Also see the [Hunting and Trapping Digest](#) and [Antlerless Deer Digest](#). ✧

Fall Reminder: PA game lands are hunting grounds first

Fall hunting seasons and restrictions are back in place on all tracts comprising Pennsylvania's 1.4 million-acre state game lands system. Unlike state or county parks, or even state or national forests, the primary purpose of Pennsylvania's state game lands is to provide habitat for wildlife, and hunting and trapping opportunities for Pennsylvanians.

While many secondary recreational uses of game lands unrelated to hunting or trapping traditionally have been permitted during summer months, such uses are tightly restricted beginning the last Saturday in September, which typically occurs just before the start of the statewide archery deer season.

The restrictions remain in place through the third Saturday in January, a date that ensures the game lands system adequately serves hunters through the close of the flintlock muzzleloader deer season. Off-road vehicles including ATVs are not permitted anywhere or at any time on game lands. The requirement doesn't apply on Sundays, when hunting for most game species isn't permitted. ✧

PA archery season underway

The PA archery deer season began October 4, and its return is prompting the Pennsylvania Game Commission to issue some helpful reminders. Archers can hunt for antlered or antlerless deer from October 4 to November 15, and during the late archery deer season, which runs from December 26 to January 10.

This is a statewide season, however, as announced previously, all hunting and trapping seasons, including the statewide archery season, have been temporarily closed within seven townships in Pike and Monroe counties. For details of the closure news release (Release #85-14), click here: [PA News Release #85-14](#) ✧

Pheasant season opens Oct. 18 at noon

MADISON – Wisconsin pheasant hunting opens statewide October 18 at noon. The season will run through December 31.

Several other seasons open October 18, including bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse in Zone B and Hungarian partridge. The bobwhite quail and Hungarian partridge seasons open at noon, while the ruffed grouse season opens with the start of legal shooting hours.

Hunters are encouraged to review the [Wisconsin Small Game Hunting Regulations \[PDF\]](#) booklet for rules and season structures. For an in-depth look at this year's fall bird hunting seasons, check out the department's [2014 Fall Hunting and Trapping Forecast \[PDF\]](#).

Hunters should look for areas that contain adequate winter cover, such as cattail marshes and dense brush intermixed with cropland, hay and idle grasslands. These areas provide food and nesting cover, and it will be important for hunters to identify high-quality habitat and concentrate their hunting efforts in those areas.

Bag Limits: On October 18 and 19, the daily bag limit is one pheasant cock, while the possession limit is two. For the remainder of the season (October 20 through December 31), the daily bag limit is two pheasant cocks, with a possession limit of four.

Some public hunting grounds offer both hen and rooster pheasant hunting, and some properties also have 2 p.m. closure times, which are only in effect on weekdays from October 20 to November 2.

This fall, DNR wildlife biologists plan to release approximately 75,000 game farm pheasants on 92 public hunting grounds in Wisconsin. These numbers are similar to last year's stocking efforts, and show a significant increase over previous years.

Hunters can view a summary of stocked properties at [dnr.wi.gov](#), keyword "[pheasant](#)." ✧

PA to buy easement on Fourmile Creek

PFBC staff has been authorized to purchase for \$20,000 a property easement of approximately 1,230 linear feet on both sides of Fourmile Creek in the Borough of Wesleyville, Erie County. The creek provides significant steelhead fishing opportunities in the area. The easement will include the stream corridor and will extend at least 35 feet back from the top of the bank. In addition, the Lake Erie Regions Conservancy agreed to grant the PFBC easements for parking and a footpath to provide access to Fourmile Creek. ✧

PA stocking change for Class A trout streams

PFBC approved a change to the stocking policy for Class A wild trout streams which would permit stocking on these waters under rare circumstances, and only after the executive director requests and receives approval from the board. Currently, stocking is prohibited on all Class A waters, which represent the best of the naturally reproducing trout fisheries.

For a complete copy of the meeting schedule and the full agenda: [www.fishandboat.com/minutes.htm](#). ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Lake Michigan Salmon Runs proving slower than average](#)

Fall is the time of year when Lake Michigan salmon start nosing their way up natal streams to spawn and die. State fish managers, however, are uncertain about what to expect this season. Many of the salmon runs on the lake shoreline are slower than average.

[New federal rule allows freighters to dump cargo remnants into Great Lakes](#)

A federal rule that went into effect earlier this year allows what has been a long-time practice in Great Lakes commerce: shipping vessels, under certain conditions, washing down residues in their cargo holds left behind after their deliveries.

[Scientists: Lake Erie silt dumping isn't fueling algae](#)

A study released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finds that sediment dumped into the lake isn't a main source of the phosphorus that feeds the algae

[Boardman River weir yielded half of what they normally see](#)

The Boardman River weir yielded 304 Chinook salmon and 388 coho salmon on Sept. 23, and the weirs on the Platte River passed just under 10,000 coho salmon, all about half of what they typically see, DNR officials said.

[Pink salmon, sea lamprey surprise catches in local rivers](#)

Steelhead trout start to leave their summer waters of Lake Erie at this time of year and head up the Northeast Ohio rivers and streams. When aquatic biologist Mike Durkalec of the Cleveland Metroparks surveyed some of those waters in recent days, he found some

[DEC's Great Lakes Action Agenda webpage](#)

DEC's Great Lakes Watershed Program reports bi-annually on the work of organizations across New York's Great Lakes Basin that apply an ecosystem based management approach towards implementing projects that meet one or more of the ten goals of the action

[Lake Erie walleye have successful hatch this year](#)

Ohio Division of Wildlife fisheries experts have rated this spring's Lake Erie walleye hatch as the best in the last four years.

[Work could start this fall on berm through Indiana marsh to block Asian carp from Great Lakes](#)

Work could start this fall on a nearly two mile-long earthen berm through a northeastern Indiana marsh that's considered a possible pathway for Asian carp to reach the Great Lakes.

[EDITORIAL: Congress takes on Lake Erie algal blooms while Ohio lawmakers remain MIA](#)

Ohio's congressional delegation understands the critical role Lake Erie plays in quenching the thirst of more than 11 million consumers and is taking steps to protect it, but state lawmakers continue to tread water in the wake of the harmful algal bloom.

[Federal, state agencies using eDNA to battle spread of Asian carp](#)

Kelly Baerwaldt, the Asian carp/eDNA Coordinator for the USFWS sees western Lake Erie as a potential crime scene. "We're sampling DNA from the environment, looking for the genetic material of Asian carp. It might be tissue from a live or dead fish, or it

End