



Indiana temporarily suspends Lake Michigan Chinook salmon stocking in 2017 In a refreshingly different move, will increase stocking of Skamania.

The DNR will temporarily cease stocking Chinook salmon in Lake Michigan in 2017 out of concern that there isn't enough food in the lake.

Research has shown that the number of prey fish in Lake Michigan is at historic lows. The decision to reduce Chinook salmon stocking in Indiana waters is part of a multi-state plan to restore balance to the lake's ecosystem and preserve its multi-billion dollar sport fishery.

Biologists hope the lakewide stocking reduction will allow populations of prey fish, such as alewives, to recover.

The Lake Michigan Committee, the group responsible for cooperatively managing Lake Michigan's fisheries, recently announced a 62 percent reduction in lakewide Chinook salmon stocking to take effect in spring 2017. The

committee is made up of representatives from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin and the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority fishery agencies.

Since 2013, Indiana has stocked 200,000 Chinooks annually. The lakewide stocking plan reduces Indiana's Chinook quota to 45,000 Chinooks beginning in 2017. However, given low fall Chinook returns and difficulty obtaining Chinook eggs from out-of-state partners, the DNR's Lake Michigan Management Team decided to suspend Chinook stocking altogether. In the interim, the DNR will use the free hatchery space to rear an additional 45,000 to 50,000 skamania steelhead trout to yearling stage for stocking in Lake Michigan, according to Jeremy Price, north region fisheries

supervisor with the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. Price is also the state's representative to the Lake Michigan Committee.

"We want to consistently give anglers the best fishing opportunities possible," Price said. "These steelhead will survive at much higher rates than Chinook, rely less on alewives for food, offer fishing opportunities for boat, pier and stream anglers alike, and give us complete control of our production cycle."

The interim plan likely will be in place for at least three years while biologists evaluate how alewife populations respond.

"If prey fish abundance recovers to acceptable levels, we plan to add

In temporarily suspends Chinook

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Lake Michigan fisheries comment period on stocking remains open until July 31

The Wisconsin DNR continues to welcome comments on a variety of options to manage the valuable Lake Michigan fishery given ongoing changes in the food web.

DNR recently concluded three public meetings that laid out a variety of challenges and opportunities for the multi-million dollar fishery and those who depend on it for their livelihoods and recreation. A copy of the presentation and summary of stakeholder comments from the June 27 meeting in Cleveland, Wis., can be found by visiting DNR.wi.gov and searching "[Lake Michigan salmon and trout meetings](#)."

The recent meetings focused on a variety of potential management actions to ensure continued diverse opportunities for sport anglers. Topics for discussion included finding the right species mix, stocking numbers, use of net pens, hatchery production,

habitat restoration and the potential to increase focus on species with the greatest chances of thriving given the record low levels of open water forage fish such as alewives and rainbow smelt.

For more info: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/lakemichigansalmonandtroutmeetings.html>

The initiative represents part of an ongoing effort by DNR to ensure anglers' voices are heard. Anglers, charter captains, associated business owners, commercial fishers and other fish enthusiasts are encouraged to provide input to help resource managers maintain a world-class fishery.

Comment deadline is July 31. Email DNRLakeMichiganPlan@wisconsin.gov or mail to: Bradley T. Eggold, Wis DNR, UWM - GLRF - SFS, 600 E. Greenfield Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53204 ✧

Draft Lake Erie Steelhead Plan available for review and comment through August 18th

The 10-year [draft Lake Erie steelhead management plan](#) is out for public comment through August 18th. The draft plan describes the goals and strategies that will guide DEC's decisions related to management of the steelhead fishery in New York's portion of Lake Erie over the next ten years. The plan advances the primary goal of managing Lake Erie steelhead as maintaining a high quality fishery that provides diverse angling experiences and broad angler satisfaction.

Plan Summary

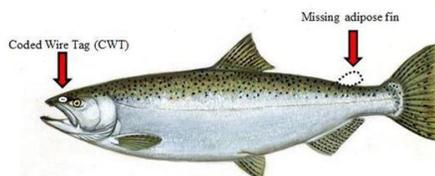
The plan summarizes existing data on steelhead fisheries, and defines six specific objectives that would meet the goal of maintaining high quality steelhead fisheries:

- Maintain average catch rates of 0.33 fish/hour
- Foster production of wild steelhead in areas with suitable water quality and habitat
- Increase stream access
- Protect and enhance stream habitat
- Maintain simple and effective

Lake Michigan anglers asked to aid salmon, trout research-*Anglers asked to save and donate heads of stocked fish*

The Wisconsin DNR is encouraging anglers to aid critical fisheries research by donating the heads of fish they harvest.

The heads of stocked Chinook salmon and lake trout contain tiny coded wire tags. The tags hold important data and are being sought as part of an ongoing and



collaborative effort lake-wide to document fish behavior and provide information that will aid in management of the fishery. Mid-summer is an important time for data

regulations

- Promote responsible stewardship of the resource

Some prominent strategies to achieve these objectives include:

- Develop more effective stocking strategies
- Simplify angling regulations
- Improve steelhead access to high quality spawning areas
- Protect and improve habitat, expand angler access
- Increase public outreach

Surveys will be employed to evaluate the progress towards achieving plan objectives, and knowledge gained from ongoing scientific investigations will guide future management actions.

The [draft management plan](#) is available on the DEC website. The comment period runs through August 1, 2016.

Comments may be submitted: in writing to NYSDEC Lake Erie Unit, 178 Point Drive N., Dunkirk, NY 14048, or by e-mail to fwfishle@dec.ny.gov (type "Steelhead Plan" in the subject line).

✧

collection because salmon from throughout Lake Michigan and parts of Lake Huron travel to Wisconsin's shores to take advantage of the alewives gathered here.

DNR has partnered with local businesses in most major ports along the lakeshore to provide convenient locations for anglers to drop off fish heads. The businesses have been given forms for anglers to fill out and bags to use for freezing the heads.

Anglers should include the following information with each head—date and location of capture, along with the fish species, length, weight and gender. Visit DNR.wi.gov and search "[missing fin clip](#)" for a complete list of locations to drop off heads or read the complete news release [here](#). ✧



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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

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New York unveils fish and eel ladders on Peconic River

Dam will help rebuild Long Island's native fish and eel populations

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Regional Director Carrie Meek Gallagher and DEC Marine Division Director Jim Gilmore were joined by state and local officials and environmental advocacy groups to unveil DEC's completed restoration of the Edwards Avenue Dam, as well as the installation of separate fish and eel ladders at that location.

The restoration of the Edwards Avenue Dam, which is owned by DEC, cost approximately \$967,500 to construct with funding received from NY Works. The construction project replaces a failing concrete dam with a new concrete structure and steel sheeting spillway. The new spillway structure, which meets 100-year flood protection requirements, has raised water levels behind the dam to levels not seen for nearly a decade when the former Edwards Avenue Dam and its wooden plank board flood control structure began failing.

The installation of the fish and eel ladders is part of a long term restoration plan to open 300 acres of

critical spawning habitat for river herring and American eels along the Peconic River. The Edwards Avenue Dam will add 35 acres to this goal. The fish ladder is the second ladder on the Peconic River with the most eastern fish ladder located in the Town of Riverhead's Grangebelle Park. Other barriers to migratory fish on the Peconic River are in various stages of progress and will be completed in the coming years. Long-term goals focus on expanding river herring, specifically alewife, spawning and maturation habitat areas. Alewives are an important forage fish and a favorite of striped bass. Runs of alewife have been declining along the Atlantic Coast largely due to construction of barriers on historical spawning tributaries.

The Peconic River, the longest river on Long Island, is one of only four rivers classified Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers on Long Island and is part of the Peconic Estuary system, one of 28 nationally recognized estuaries in the United States, designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2007, the New York State Department of Transportation and DEC created a new canoe and kayak launch site on the Peconic River at Edwards Avenue. This site, which is adjacent to the Edwards Avenue Dam on property owned by DEC, features a launch site, a protected parking area, and pedestrian path. The newly reconstructed dam and fish and eel ladders are about 150 yards east of the canoe and kayak launch site and can be reached either by paddling to the site or by a short walk from the parking lot.

DEC acquired the Edwards Avenue Dam property in 1996 to allow canoeists and kayakers to fully navigate the Peconic River, which the previous site owner was preventing. Suffolk County conveyed the adjacent Peconic River at Edwards Avenue site to DEC in 2005 after taking possession of the property for non-payment of taxes.

The fish and eel ladders were designed in consultation with the USFWS. Installation was performed under a DEC contract in accordance with DEC regulations. ✧

Mille Lacs bass anglers encouraged to submit fishing reports

Mille Lacs Lake bass anglers can help state fisheries managers learn even more about the lake's top-notch bass fishery by submitting their fishing reports online, a service provided through a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota BASS Nation.

"The bass fishing on Mille Lacs Lake is outstanding and continues to grow in popularity," said Mike McInerny, DNR fisheries research biologist. "The angler-submitted information is valuable data that, when gathered over a number of years, can complement and enhance what we are able to collect through lake surveys."

The lake's productive bass fishery has generated enough buzz in recent years to score a spot on the national stage. This September, the

Mille Lacs area will host the Bassmaster Elite Series "Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship"—a world-class event that will bring the nation's best bass anglers to Mille Lacs.

Whether novice or pro, all bass anglers are encouraged to provide information on number of fish caught, fish size, angler effort and more at www.mnbn.org/creelsurvey. Anglers can do this after a fishing trip or while fishing. Once logged in, anglers can go back and see how they did on past trips, as the site will store that information for them.

The DNR and Minnesota BASS Nation have partnered for more than 12 years to collect data from bass anglers. Anglers interested in bass fishing can participate not only on

Mille Lacs Lake, but on any lake in the state.

"For more than 30 years the DNR has partnered with organizations to look at angler diaries, particularly with muskellunge anglers. This tool for bass anglers works statewide and gives us more information than we can collect by ourselves about bass and bass fishing," McInerny said.

Submitting the information is voluntary and provides the DNR with reliable estimates of size structure of bass in lakes these anglers fish. Size structure is the proportion of small bass to large bass, and this information is used as an indicator of growth and survival of bass.

Learn more about bass fishing in Minnesota at www.mndnr.gov/fishmn/bass. ✧

State Fair Fishin' Pond needs volunteers

The [DNR's Go FishIN program](#) operates the Fishin' Pond during the Indiana State Fair. The Fishin' Pond allows children ages 5-17 the opportunity to fish for free. Parents sign up their kids at the registration table, families listen to a short talk about fishing safety, and then the kids can fish for up to 15 min. After fishing, the whole family can learn more about Indiana fish through a coloring activity and playing with fishy friends. In 2015, 3,700 kids fished at the Pond, and, for many of them, this was their first fishing experience. The program would not be such a success without the wonderful volunteers.

We need hundreds of people to assist kids around the pond during the 17 days (August 5-21) of the Indiana State Fair. Volunteers get free admission to the fair on the day they work, a free fishing pond T-shirt, and the opportunity to fish with kids for a few hours at the pond. If you are interested in volunteering, [please apply to volunteer](#). Registration for the Pond is ongoing. For assistance or questions, email gofishin@dnr.IN.gov; <http://www.in.gov/dnr/5495.htm> ✧

ILL Becoming an Outdoors Woman

Registration is open for the "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" (BOW) workshop at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center/Giant City State Park in southern Illinois, scheduled for September 16-18. This is the first year at this location, which means new classes, and beautiful new scenic class locations. The workshop fee is \$230, which includes meals, lodging, class instruction, use of class equipment/supplies, transportation during the workshop, and lots of fun. There are 90 spots available and registration will close quickly. Participants must be 18 or older. For more info and registration materials: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/BOW/Pages/default.aspx> ✧

New license purchasing system

Indiana's new online system makes it easier to buy fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses. INHuntFish.com requires customers 18 and older to create an online account, using the account to purchase their licenses, and make donations.

Having information saved to an account makes purchasing future licenses much easier for yourself and for any children under age 18 that you list as an associate. If you're already a DNR customer, use your Customer ID located on the top left of your license to log in.

The improvements include:

- Free reprints of licenses.
- The ability to save a license to your smartphone through the print feature. (E-copies of licenses are now valid.)
- An option to print all valid licenses on one piece of paper, no matter when they were purchased.
- The ability to view your active licenses and licenses that have expired in the last 30 days.
- License options adjusted for your age, residency and hunter education status.
- Quick links for hunting, fishing and trapping regulations, the Wild Bulletin e-newsletter, and social media accounts for the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife.
- A "shopping cart" feature that shows what you are buying.
- Email receipts. Accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover. ✧

Work begins on key St. Marys River project

On June 28, we [kicked off](#) a key project to restore the Little Rapids portion of the St. Marys River, following decades of planning by local, state, federal and tribal partners. The [Little Rapids Restoration Project](#) will result in reconnected water flow, improved habitat for native fish populations, revitalized tourism and sport fishing opportunities on the river, and better community access for fishing, and recreation via a new pedestrian walkway. ✧

Basil Seggos new DEC Commissioner

Basil Seggos was unanimously confirmed by the state Senate and has become the 15th Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Seggos previously served as both Deputy Secretary for the Environment and Assistant Secretary for the Environment for Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Since 2012, Seggos has advised the Governor on environmental policy and overseeing the operations of the state's environmental agencies, including DEC, the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, the Environmental Facilities Corporation, and the Adirondack Park Agency. Prior to working in the Governor's office, Seggos served as Vice President of Business Development at the clean-tech private equity company Hugo Neu Corporation, Chief Investigator and Attorney at Riverkeeper, Associate at the Natural Resources Defense Council, and as a legal clerk at the White House.

Seggos graduated from Pace Law School in 2001, where he received the environmental law award and alumni achievement award, and from Trinity College in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts. Seggos is a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's Corps. ✧

Walleye fingerling stockings

Approximately 330,000 walleye fingerlings (1.5 inches long) were raised this year at DEC's Oneida, Chautauqua and South Otselic fish hatcheries for stocking in 20 waters throughout the state. Stocking began in early June. Walleye fingerlings can take up to 3 or 4 years to reach legal size in most waters. Anglers should check the [Freshwater Fishing Regulations](#) Guide for waterbody-specific walleye regulations. ✧

First phase of Buckeye Lake Dam completed ahead of schedule

Dam safety improvements completed over the past eight months—nearly one year ahead of schedule—allow for water levels to be increased two feet above winter pool at the more than 3,100-acre Buckeye Lake.

The first phase of the Buckeye Lake improvements are now complete and provide the community and the residents downstream with a structure that offers significant protections against potential dam failure, as well as allowing for interim water levels to be raised above winter pool.

Following completion of the stability berm and seepage barrier, engineers from Gannett Fleming and ASI, the contractors building the dam, assessed the structure. At that time, they recommended to ODNR that two feet above winter pool would be an acceptable level for the water to be maintained at this stage in the project. ODNR dam engineers have reviewed and accepted that recommendation, with the understanding that proactive lake management will be utilized to keep the water at a safe level.

The water levels at Buckeye Lake will continue to be proactively monitored and maintained at this recommended depth during the recreational seasons, until the dam replacement project is completed, which is scheduled for 2019. When the new dam meets the required safety standards, the water will be returned to full summer pool.

Initial estimates regarding cost and timeline have been significantly reduced thanks to exceptional planning and aggressive timelines. Initial estimates placed the cost of the new dam at \$150 million, but current estimates indicate that the state could achieve nearly a 20% savings on total cost. Also, the completion of the first phase of the project nearly a year ahead of schedule is allowing recreational boating to occur on the lake much earlier.

Phase two of the Buckeye Lake Dam replacement project is currently being designed. ✧

Needed: Volunteers to help youth shoot and fish at U.P. State Fair Aug. 15-21 in Escanaba

The Upper Peninsula State Fair is just a couple of weeks away (August 15-21), and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is hoping to enlist the assistance of sportsmen and women interested in helping kids learn to catch fish or shoot a pellet gun or bow and arrow.

The DNR is looking for volunteers to help staff the fishing pier and archery and pellet gun ranges at the DNR Pocket Park, which is located within the U.P. State Fairgrounds in Escanaba.

“We need volunteers to help teach and work with kids on hands-on fishing, archery and pellet gun activities,” said Janet Canode, education specialist with the DNR’s Marketing and Outreach Division in Lansing.

New this year, the DNR welcomes businesses and organizations interested in sponsoring shifts during the fair, and having their employees or members volunteer as a group. Recognition of the group or business will be posted on a display board at the front gate the day they are volunteering.

Pocket Park shifts run 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Monday (fair opening day) the Pocket Park is open 5 to 8 p.m. and Sunday (fair final day) 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Volunteers must be 15 years or older and pass a background check. Volunteers will receive a hot dog lunch and volunteer T-shirt for helping out.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Janet Canode at 517-284-6033 or canodej@michigan.gov to sign up.

The DNR Pocket Park is open Memorial Day to Labor Day for families to fish and shoot. Call 906-789-0714 for current hours and information. ✧

NY Sea Grant wants proposals for Small Grants Program

New York Sea Grant is requesting proposals for projects that serve to benefit the environment and economy of New York’s Great Lakes basin.

Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded for projects that implement Goal #5 and/or Goal #7 of the Great Lakes Action Agenda. Respectively, these goals are to:

- “conserve and restore native fish and wildlife biodiversity and habitats to achieve and sustain resilient ecosystems and vibrant economies,”
- “enhance community resiliency and ecosystem integrity through restoration, protection, and improved resource management”

Project planning, design, and/or implementation, info management tool development, demonstration projects, and targeted outreach and education initiatives are eligible. Projects must be in or related to the Great Lakes basin of New York.

For more info: Heather Weitzner at hw528@cornell.edu.

Proposals due by Sept. 23, 2016. Grants will be announced the week of Oct. 31, 2016. www.nyseagrant.org/proposals. ✧

Salmon River Fish Hatchery water flow

The project to remove 30+ years of accumulated organic buildup, remove several nonfunctioning valves, and install new valves on the two mile long pipeline that runs from the Lower Salmon River Reservoir to the [Salmon River hatchery](#) is under way. The cleaning process (pigging) uses a foam bullet-shaped cleaner called a “pig” that can be sent through the line to remove any accumulated debris. Crews are replacing old valves and began pigging in July. The project goal is to double the existing water flow from the reservoir to the hatchery. The increased water flow will help the hatchery meet the fish production needs for our fish management programs. [View more hatchery improvement projects](#). ✧

MI DNR urges caution and safety when observing moose

Michigan Conservation Officers are urging motorists to use caution and remember safety when stopping along Upper Peninsula roadways to view and photograph moose or other wildlife. In recent weeks moose have been seen with regularity along a section of U.S. 41 west between Ishpeming and Humboldt in western Marquette County.

“In many cases, motorists stopping along the highway to take pictures of these moose have created traffic hazards and unsafe conditions for pedestrians,” said DNR conservation officer Mark Leadman. “These dangerous actions could cause serious injuries or fatalities.” Conservation officers and police have observed motorists opening doors into traffic, stopping in traffic lanes, making illegal U-turns, not slowing down in areas congested with parked vehicles and pedestrians.

Pedestrians have also walked or run across traffic lanes with vehicles

present or stood focused on moose, not paying attention to passing traffic close behind them. Those stopping to look at or take pictures of moose need to be mindful of their surroundings and think defensively while they are in and out of their vehicles. Moose have been seen along several highways in the U.P. including M-95 and M-28.

Seeing a moose can be a very exciting U.P. experience, especially if it's the first time. Many people want to capture those moments with a photo or video, but in doing so wildlife watchers need to remain safety conscious. Moose are a native species to Michigan, but their numbers declined substantially during European settlement. By the late 1800s, moose had disappeared from the Lower Peninsula and only a handful remained in the U.P.

In the mid-1980s, the DNR translocated 59 moose from

Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada and released them in western Marquette County. The goal of the moose reintroduction was to produce a self-sustaining population of free-ranging moose in the U.P.

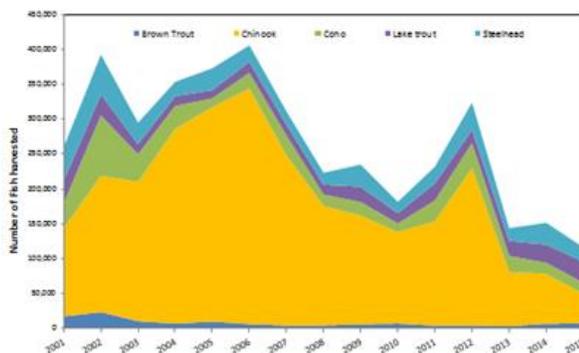
Moose are currently found in two areas of the U.P.: the reintroduced population in Marquette, Baraga and Iron counties, and a smaller remnant population in the eastern U.P. found primarily in Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce and Chippewa counties.

During the most recent moose population survey in 2015, biologists estimated 433 animals in the western U.P., up slightly from 420 animals in 2009. No formal survey of the eastern U.P. moose population is conducted, but local biologists estimate there are fewer than 100 animals, based on field observations and reports from the general public. Find out [more information about moose](#) in Michigan. ✧

Charter Trips increased in 2015 despite lower Chinook catch rate

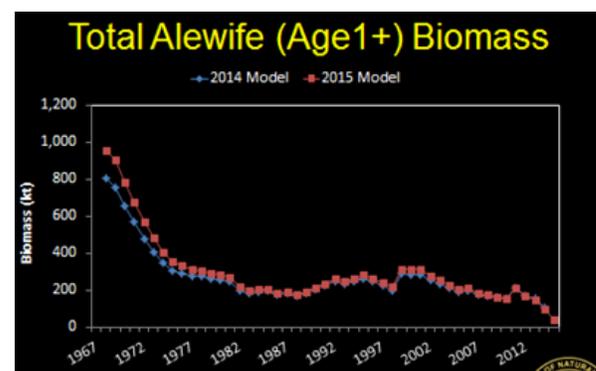
According to Michigan DNR Charter Survey Program data, catch rate declined from 7.3 Chinook salmon per charter excursion in 2012 to 2.3 Chinooks per excursion in 2015. Even so, charter captains logged 12,758 trips in Michigan waters of Lake Michigan in 2015—the highest charter effort recorded since 1991 and a modest increase from 2014. Data for other lakes in the system: Lake Huron (1,756), St. Clair System (1,460), Lake Erie (638), and Lake Superior (633). Lake Michigan excursions increased since 2008, which had 9,750 excursions. This is an indication of better economic conditions with different customer expectations.

Creel Harvest



So why didn't the fishery crash like Lake Huron did when Chinook catch rates dropped in the mid 2000s?

One possible answer is that recession and high gas prices played an important role in the decline of Lake Huron's charter fishery. Another is that Lake Michigan still provides better fishing for Chinook salmon than Lake Huron did in the late 2000s.



The graph above shows the relationship between Chinook salmon catch rate and charter effort. On Lake Huron (blue diamonds) there is a dramatic difference between low-catch rate years and high-catch rate years. Effort on Huron was high in most years when Chinook salmon catch rate was above 2 per trip. On Lake Michigan, catch rate has been above 2 per trip every year since recovery from BKD and charter fishing effort has been remarkably consistent. Full article on [Lake Michigan paradox](#). ✧

Indiana Proposes Walleye Stocking at Shriner Lake

If DNR plans move forward, Shriner Lake, north of Columbia City, could be stocked with 1,200 walleye fingerlings this fall.

The walleyes will measure 6-8 inches long and will be skimmed from a stocking of 6,690 walleyes at Sylvan Lake in Noble County. If successful, the transfer could be permanent. Shriner Lake is a good choice because of its central location between Fort Wayne, Warsaw and Sylvan Lake. The 120-acre natural lake also has ample walleye habitat and plenty of yellow perch, a major food item for walleyes.

Until 1998 the DNR annually stocked rainbow trout in Shriner Lake despite the lack of a suitable public access site. The trout stockings were discontinued because of a policy shift to stock only waters with public access. Since then the DNR acquired and developed an access site at Shriner Lake but did not renew trout stockings due to water quality decline. Walleye habitat requirements, however, are not as stringent as trout. Walleyes are also more popular than trout among anglers.

Comments can be submitted before August 1 by emailing jpearson@dnr.IN.gov. ✧

Conservation World

The IDNR welcomes visitors to the 2016 Illinois State Fair in Springfield to spend some time at Conservation World on the state fairgrounds, August 12-21. Conservation World features nearly 30 acres of family activities including fishing instruction, archery ranges, and expert information on habitat enhancement, state parks, wildlife, fish, and forestry. Conservation World is open daily from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on August 12-21. ✧

Ohio lottery underway for fly-fishing clinics

Anglers interested in learning the art of fly fishing and practicing their skills on a half-mile section of Cold Creek at the Castalia State Fish Hatchery in Erie County are encouraged to enter a lottery for beginning fly-fishing clinics, according to the Ohio DNR.

There are 125 slots available for the popular program. Sessions will be held on Fridays from Sept. 2 through Oct. 7, with the exception of Sept. 23. Submissions for the lottery must be postmarked by Aug. 13.

To apply, submit a postcard listing: name, address, Customer ID number and phone number. The applicant may bring one guest. Only one postcard per applicant is allowed and no duplicates may be submitted. Postcards should be sent to: ODNR Division of Wildlife District Two, 952 Lima Avenue, Findlay, Ohio, 45840 Attention: Beginner Fly Fishing Clinics.

Successful applicants will receive an assigned session date and time. Permits are nontransferable. Anglers age 16 and older are required to have a valid Ohio fishing license. ✧

Sea Grant's 50th anniversary

This year, the National Sea Grant College Program celebrates 50 years of putting science to work for America's coastal communities. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed The National Sea Grant College and Program Act, establishing the Sea Grant Program. Today, the National Sea Grant College program is a network of 33 programs based at top universities in every coastal and Great Lakes state, Puerto Rico, and Guam. These programs represent partnerships between universities and the federal government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), allowing Sea Grant to direct federal resources to pressing problems in local communities. ✧

Minn requires AIS affirmation to buy/renew licenses

Minnesota boaters and nonresident anglers renewing their licenses will now need to sign a card affirming they know the state's aquatic invasive species laws.

Watercraft owners and nonresident anglers must read and sign the affirmation during their regular license renewal, then keep it with them, along with their license. The affirmation demonstrates understanding that Minnesota law requires license holders to:

- **Clean** aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species from watercraft.
- **Drain** lake or river water from all equipment and keep drain plugs out during transport.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water.

Details about the affirmation and other measures that support Minnesota's aquatic invasive species laws are on the [affirmation page](#). ✧

DNR enhancing fish habitat in aging reservoirs

Fisheries biologists are creating new fish habitat in Indiana reservoirs. The 471-acre Sullivan Lake near Sullivan was the first project for the Reservoir Habitat Enhancement Program.

More than 150 man-made structures were placed in six areas in 6 to 10 feet of water. Five structure types were used to accommodate fish of different species and sizes. Most of Indiana's reservoirs were built in the 1950s and 1960s. Trees, logs and roots that once provided cover for fish have decomposed. The new man-made structures will replace the lost habitat. Structures were placed using a special pontoon boat. A map that shows structure locations will be made available to anglers. The next lake to receive these structures will be Cecil M. Harden Lake in 2017. ✧

PFBC Elects New Officers at Quarterly Business Meeting

At its recent quarterly business meeting, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) elected new officers, approved the acquisition of property in Erie County, approved changes to fishing regulations at a popular Centre County lake, and approved a final rulemaking to add and remove several species from the Threatened, Endangered and Candidate lists.

In addition, PFBC Executive Director John Arway provided the public with an update on the S.O.S. – Save Our Susquehanna! – Campaign. Through mid-July, concerned citizens have raised more than \$50,000 for the campaign, which is entering its second year. “The ‘Save Our Susquehanna’ message continues to resonate with anglers, sportsmen’s clubs, conservationists and with

others who care about the river,” said Arway. “We’ve exceeded our goal of \$50,000 and with the Commission’s \$50,000 match, we now have \$100,000 to start working on the first water and soil conservation project along the river.”

Arway announced that the first project will be in Limestone Run, a tributary to the Susquehanna River that runs through Montour and Northumberland counties. PFBC habitat staff will work with a local farmer to stabilize the stream banks to prevent erosion and reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients that enter the creek and ultimately the Susquehanna River.

He also noted that the new 2016 S.O.S. button is now available for \$10 from the Outdoor Shop online and at all fishing license issuing agents. The funds from button sales and donations

to the S.O.S campaign will continue to be used to improve the water quality of the Susquehanna River, which is important for the long-term health of the smallmouth bass fishery.

The Board elected Commissioner Glade Squires as the new president and Commissioner Rocco Ali as vice-president. President Squires resides in Downingtown, Chester County, and represents the PFBC’s Eighth District, which includes Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill counties.

Vice President Ali resides in North Apollo, Armstrong County, and represents the PFBC’s Second District, which includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland counties. ✧

USFWS proposes expansion of hunting & fishing on Nat’l Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to expand hunting and fishing opportunities at 13 national wildlife refuges across the United States. This includes migratory bird, upland game, big game hunting and sport fishing.

Hunting for elk is proposed for the first time in designated areas of Baca National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado, as well as in expanded areas of Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, both in Colorado.

The proposed rule also includes opening sport fishing of state-regulated species for the first time at Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota, and expanding areas available for sport fishing at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge in Indiana. In addition, the proposal modifies existing refuge-specific regulations on more than 70 additional refuges and wetland management districts throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Hunting and fishing are just two of the many recreational activities available to the public across an

unparalleled network of more than 560 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts. There is a national wildlife refuge within an hour’s drive from most major metropolitan areas. The Service manages hunting and fishing programs to ensure sustainable wildlife populations, while offering traditional wildlife-dependent recreation on public lands, such as wildlife watching and photography. In addition, the Service’s [Urban Wildlife Conservation Program](#), launched in 2013, is providing new opportunities for residents of America’s cities to learn about and take part in wildlife habitat conservation.

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$144.7 billion in economic activity across the United States according to the Service’s [National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#), published every five years. More than 90 million Americans, or 41 percent of the United States’ population age 16 and older, pursue wildlife-related recreation. The Service’s report

Banking on Nature shows that refuges pump \$2.4 billion into the economy and support more than 35,000 jobs. More than 47 million visits are made to refuges every year.

The Service proposes expanding hunting and sport fishing on the following refuges:

Indiana - [Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge](#) and Management Area: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing.

Michigan - [Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge](#): Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting.

New York - [Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expand migratory game bird hunting and big game hunting.

The Service is seeking comments pertaining to the proposed rule. Go to www.regulations.gov, docket no. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2016-0007, for additional information. Comments must be received by August 15, 2016. ✧

Sportfishing Industry presents the ICAST 2016 "Best of Show" Awards

This year, more than 1,000 tackle products and accessories were entered by more than 240 companies into 24 "Best of Show" categories in the New Product Showcase, all vying for the overall ICAST 2016 "Best of Show" award.

The complete list of winners is:

- Freshwater rod: St Croix
- Saltwater rod: Lew's Fishing Tackle
- Fly fishing rod: St Croix
- Freshwater reel: Lew's Fishing Tackle
- Saltwater reel: PENN Fishing Tackle
- Fly Reel: Pflueger
- Hard lure: Savage Gear
- Soft lure: Squidnation
- Lifestyle apparel: Under Armour
- Technical apparel: Plano Synergy
- Boating accessory: Johnson Outdoors Minn Kota
- Boat: Johnson Outdoors Watercraft
- Combo: Lew's Fishing Tackle
- Electronics: Johnson Outdoors Humminbird
- Eyewear: Costa
- Fishing accessory: Yeti
- Fishsmart: Adventure Productions
- Fly fishing accessory: Boomerang
- Footwear: Shimano
- Giftwear: Weego
- Kids: Steinhäuser
- Line: Pucci
- Tackle management: Cobra
- Terminal tackle: Trapper Tackle
- Best of Show: Johnson Outdoors Minn Kota ✧

Crayfish monitoring begins in U.P.

The Michigan DNR announced its annual effort to monitor crayfish populations in the Upper Peninsula. Approximately 140 sites across the U.P. will be sampled to determine the distribution of native and invasive crayfish.

The DNR's Fisheries Division and MSU have been working together since 2014 on a crayfish study to better understand populations throughout the state. Crayfish populations are often under-represented when it comes to natural resource sampling, but these organisms have a big influence on the communities they inhabit.

So far the study has focused its sampling efforts on the waters of the Lower Peninsula, resulting in detailed information on the distribution of Michigan's eight native crayfish species, along with the one known invasive—rusty crayfish. The project will now expand to include the U.P. with field crews beginning their sampling efforts this month.

"This study is primarily evaluating potential introduction pathways for invasive crayfish," said the project's principal investigator, Dr. Brian Roth from MSU. "The U.P. sampling will provide the DNR with statewide information on crayfish populations that can be used to inform invasive species management and evaluate current status of the native populations."

Rusty crayfish are the most widespread invasive crayfish in Michigan, initially introduced to the state's waters via the live release of unused bait. Native to Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, the rusty crayfish has the ability to negatively alter aquatic habitats and organisms.

"The rusty crayfish's feeding behavior reduces the native plant community and removes spawning, feeding and shelter habitats for many of Michigan's popular fish species and can lead to population declines," said DNR aquatic invasive species coordinator Seth Herbst.

For more info on rusty crayfish, visit Michigan.gov/invasives ✧

IN temporarily suspends Chinook

Continued from page 1

Chinook back into our stocking mix," Price said.

Indiana's Lake Michigan fisheries biologist Brian Breidert said suspending Chinook stocking was "certainly not a desired outcome." But he added that nearly 70 percent of Chinooks that boat anglers catch in Indiana are wild, not stocked.

"So we will continue to have an open-water Chinook fishery in Indiana," Breidert said.

The latest Chinook reduction comes on the heels of a lakewide stocking cut implemented in 2013. That effort saw success, but prey fish recovery was hampered due to poor alewife spawns in consecutive years.

The Lake Michigan Fisheries Management Team will have an informational meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. CDT on August 10 at the American Legion Post 451, 121 Skwiat Legion Ave., Michigan City. More info on Lake Michigan fishing: dnr.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild/3625.htm. ✧

DNR launches bait shop locator app to assist public

The Michigan DNR recently launched a new tool on its website that assists individuals with locating retail bait shops across Michigan. The [Retail Bait Shop Locator](#) is a comprehensive map featuring licensed bait retailers that sell minnows, wigglers and crayfish to the general public.

The web-based app can be found by visiting Michigan.gov/fishing and clicking on Fishing in Michigan, and then Commercial Bait Industry in the left navigation. The Retail Bait Shop Locator is not a downloadable app, but is compatible with all types of electronic devices. Always call any listed retail outlet found in the application before making a trip to purchase bait, some locations are seasonal or have varied hours and may not carry an angler's preferred bait. The site will be updated with new information and retail locations for bait purchase as necessary. [Retail Bait Shop Locator](#) ✧

DEC: Be on lookout for Great Lakes lake sturgeon

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminded anglers to be aware of spawning lake sturgeon in New York's Great Lakes waters, Great Lakes connecting channels, and in tributaries of the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, Finger Lakes and Oneida Lake. DEC staff receive numerous reports of lake sturgeon caught by anglers targeting walleye.

Lake sturgeon are listed as a threatened species in New York, therefore, there is no open season for the fish and possession is prohibited. Anglers should not intentionally target these rare fish. If an angler catches a sturgeon, they should move to another area or change fishing gear to avoid catching another. Anglers

who do unintentionally hook one should follow practices to ensure that the fish are returned to the water unharmed including:

- Avoid bringing the fish into the boat if possible.
- Use pliers to remove the hook; sturgeon are almost always hooked in the mouth.
- Always support the fish horizontally. Do not hold sturgeon in a vertical position by their head, gills, or tails.
- Never touch their eyes or gills.
- Minimize their time out of the water and return them to the water immediately once they are freed from fishing gear.

Lake sturgeon populations are recovering as a result of protection

and stocking efforts by DEC and several partners. Several populations in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River appear to be recovering due to protection efforts. Other populations are supported by stocking.

Lake sturgeon are one of three species of sturgeon native to New York. The other two species are shortnose sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon which are found in tidal portions of the Hudson River and marine waters of the state.

For further information visit the DEC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service websites links below:

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/26035.html

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7008.html

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/26045.html

www.fws.gov/midwest/sturgeon/ ✧

Summer Urban Fishing Clinics

Learning how to fish is fun, easy and free for youngsters and families throughout Illinois this summer thanks to the Illinois DNR Urban Fishing Program. Free fishing clinics are scheduled at 20 sites throughout the state. Clinics provide free instruction and fun for kids.

The free Urban Fishing Program clinics are targeted toward children ages 16 and younger, but anyone interested in learning basic fishing techniques may attend. Instructors present information on fish and other aquatic life, rules and regulations for fishing, as well as basic instruction on baiting a hook, tying a knot, casting, important tactics on how to catch fish, fishing ethics, and how to handle and return fish to the water. As part of each clinic, participants are provided with rods, reels, bait and tackle for 90 minutes of catch-and-release fishing.

Urban Fishing clinics are presented on weekdays, usually with morning and afternoon sessions. Locations and reservation/contact phone numbers for the clinics are below (check with the locations for local schedules):

► Riverside Park in Moline or Butterworth Pond in East Moline – 815-625-2903

► Glen Oak Park in Peoria – 309-688-3667 ext. 208

► Crystal Lake Park in Urbana – 217-367-1544

► Fairview Park in Decatur – 217-422-5911

► Washington Park in Springfield – 217-546-3970

► Frank Holten State Park in East St. Louis -- 618-874-7920 or 618-250-2446

► Gordon Moore Park in Alton – 618-917-6296

► Evergreen Park Lake in Carbondale – 217-415-0043

► Veteran's Park in Mt. Vernon (June) – 618-242-6890 or 618-314-0437

► Foundation Park in Centralia (July) – 618-532-4311 or 618-314-0437

► Chicago Park District/IDNR Urban Fishing Clinics – 312-771-9741

(parks include: Gompers, Marquette, Columbus, Douglas, Humboldt, Jackson, McKinley, Sherman, and Washington Parks in Chicago)

Last year, the Urban Fishing Program's coordinators, summer interns, and a network of fisheries volunteers, conducted or sponsored a total of 1,681 fishing and non-fishing programs for nearly 80,000 participants. For more information on

fishing in Illinois, call the IDNR Division of Fisheries at 217-782-6424 or check the website at www.ifishillinois.org. ✧

New Susquehanna River Boat Launch

NYSDEC crews partnered with the Town of Kirkwood to create a new boat launch on the Susquehanna River on a stretch locally known as "Stillwater." The ramp, which is located off NYS Rt. 11 on Geiger Lane, is now open to the public at no fee. ✧

Part 40 Marine Fish - Party and Charter Boats

This proposed rulemaking reinstates a provision in 6 NYCRR Section 40.1 that was inadvertently repealed in 2015. Prior to 2015, DEC regulations allowed party and charter boat license holders, while on board their vessels, to fillet striped bass for their customers. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/106216.html> ✧

Designs due Aug. 12 for Minnesota Trout and Salmon Stamp

Wildlife artists can submit entries for the 2017 Minnesota Trout and Salmon Stamp August 1, until 4 p.m. Friday, August 12.

Trout or salmon must be the primary focus of the design, though other fish species may be included in the design if they are used to depict common interaction between species or are common inhabitants of Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Brown trout designs are not eligible this year.

To see more information, visit www.mndnr.gov/contests/stamps.htm or call 651-296-6157. ✧

Surplus land in Mackinac County on sale Aug. 11

The Michigan DNR is preparing 53 state-managed public properties for sale by live public auction August 11, 2016, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. These surplus properties are in Bois Blanc Township. The auction will begin at noon at the Kewadin Casino, 2186 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie.

On-site registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. the day of the auction. Interested bidders may preregister and get more information on the live auction at www.tax-sale.info.

Michigan. Parcels range in size from under an acre to 22.5 acres. Details about each property (including the minimum bid amount, map, property descriptions and conditions of sale) are available at www.tax-sale.info. Additional details and conditions of sale also are published on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/landforsale.

Interested bidders are encouraged to review [Land Sales and Auctions Terms and Conditions](#).

Printed property information may be requested from DNR Real Estate Services Section, P.O. Box 30448, Lansing, MI 48909-7948. For general information: Michael Michalek at 517-284-5950. ✧

Michigan decision on chumming regulations

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) decided to regulate chumming in Michigan at its monthly meeting July 14. These regulations went into effect immediately.

Following the NRC's decision, anglers will be prohibited from using organic chum material on any designated trout streams (Types 1-4). [download the Michigan Fishing Guide](#) (pg. 39).

Chumming is the practice of luring or attracting fish by tossing organic material or bait into the water. Material commonly used as chum includes fish eggs, corn, rice, noodles, oatmeal and maggots.

Chumming has become a divisive social issue in recent years as some anglers use fish eggs to attract steelhead. The DNR has assessed that chumming is not causing a negative biological impact at the fish population level.

While much of the debate over chumming involves angler ethics, not biological impact, a recent study conducted in Oregon suggests certain chemicals found in egg cures (preservatives) may increase mortality for juvenile salmonids when ingested. In addition, there may be additional risks to fish populations from disease transmission from untreated eggs, especially if they originate from areas of the country that have diseases not currently found in the Great Lakes. ✧

DEC and Kingston open fishing dock on Rondout Creek Site provides first fishing access on Kingston's waterfront

New York and the City of Kingston announced the opening of the first publicly accessible fishing dock on the Rondout Creek in downtown Kingston.

The floating dock provides legal access and recreational opportunities for those who do not own boats. ✧

DEC comment period open for changes to Free Fishing Days

DEC is considering expanding the number of free fishing days that are offered and wants to set those days in regulation so they are consistent from year to year. This initial public review process will assist DEC in determining if it will move forward with this proposal to formally establish these additional days.

In addition to Free Fishing Weekend (last full weekend of June), the proposed rulemaking will specifically designate six additional Free Fishing Days that will occur throughout the year. The proposed dates are as follows:

- Presidents Day Weekend (February) – Saturday and Sunday before Presidents Day
- 3rd Weekend in May
- National Hunting and Fishing Day (4th Saturday in September)
- Veteran's Day

To submit comments, send an email to regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov with the following subject line: "Possible Amendment to Free Sport Fishing Days." To ensure we receive and can properly review your suggestions, you must leave the subject line as it appears on the email. Input will be collected through August 31, 2016. ✧

Wingshooting Clinics

Wingshooting clinics will be conducted this summer and fall in Illinois at IDNR sites, cooperating gun clubs, and hunting preserves. Most clinics are conducted on weekends. Clinics for youth (age 10-15) and women provide instruction on safely firing a shotgun at a moving target with reasonable reliability. Hunter clinics are hands-on, and include extensive live fire at a variety of clay target presentations on sporting clays courses specifically designed for teaching typical hunting situations.

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/programs/wingshooting/WingshootingDates.htm> ✧

Two new tools to help NY freshwater anglers

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has unveiled two new tools that will help rookie and veteran freshwater anglers alike improve their skills.

DEC has developed a new instructional manual entitled "The I FISH NY Beginners' Guide to Freshwater Fishing." The new manual is part of a series of publications DEC has produced recently designed to get more people involved in the sport of fishing in New York State.

DEC also stocks more than 2.3 million catchable-size brook, brown and rainbow trout in over 309 lakes and ponds and roughly 2,900 miles of streams across the state each spring. To offer a better angling experience, DEC recently collaborated with the Office of Information Technology Services to provide the trout stocking data on the Open NY (Data.NY.GOV) website.

"Fishing is a proud and economically important tradition in New York and our 'I FISH NY Beginners' Guide to Freshwater Fishing' and the new portal for fish stocking data are both designed to provide detailed information on the best places to fish in New York," Commissioner Seggos said. "People of all ages and angling abilities will find these tools helpful as they fish the more than 7,500 lakes, ponds and reservoirs and 70,000 miles of rivers and streams New York is home to."

The I FISH NY Beginners' Guide to Freshwater Fishing manual can be downloaded at DEC's website. The guide is composed of nine modules:

- The Fishes of New York
- Basic Fishing Tackle and Techniques
- Care of Your Catch
- Safe and Responsible Angling
- Intermediate Fishing Tackle and Techniques
- The Waters of New York
- Fisheries Management
- Aquatic Life
- Ice Fishing

The beginners' guide provides important information for those desiring to get started in the sport of fishing while also providing a resource for educators to teach students about fish and the sport of fishing. The manual will also prove helpful to those conducting free fishing events as part of the Governor's expanded free fishing clinic program. Organizations or groups interested in conducting an event can find instructions and an application form on DEC's website at the Conduct a Free Fishing Clinic webpage.

To give better access to fishing stocking information, DEC collaborated with the Office of Information Technology Services to provide searchable fish stocking data on the Open NY (Data.NY.GOV) website. Previously, the fish stocking information was only available in county listings on the DEC website. There are two different data sets to choose from the Open NY website:

- Current Season Spring Trout Stocking contains the current year DEC spring stocking information for "catchable sized" brown, brook and rainbow trout. This data set will be renewed annually in mid-March.
- Fish Stocking Lists from 2011 to 2015 contains the actual fish stockings by DEC and Essex, Onondaga and Warren counties for all fish species. This data set is particularly useful for people who want to fish in "put-grow-and-take" waters where fish are stocked at a small size and allowed to grow to a size anglers can keep. Now, an angler will be able to look back at the stockings over the past five years in their search for a fishing destination. This data set will be updated in May the year after stocking was completed.

There are also two different ways to view the stocking information. The links above will take you to a spread sheet-like dataset that allows you to filter the data on any of the columns

(such as County, Waterbody, Species and size). But you can also search the data with a user interface that allows you to search multiple fields and then use graph features to add additional filters. The links for the user interfaces available on the Open NY website are:

- Current Season Spring Trout Stocking
- Fish Stocking Lists (Actual): Beginning 2011

The new stocking data sets will help anglers to plan their fishing trips to take advantage of the plentiful fishing opportunities in New York State.

The I FISH NY fishing promotion efforts along with the trout stocking info on the Data.NY.GOV website are part of Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative. This initiative is designed to improve recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women and to boost tourism activities throughout the state. It includes streamlining fishing and hunting licenses, reducing license fees, and improving access to fishing and hunting in New York State.

Under the 2016-17 budget, Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative provides \$3 million for State land access projects and \$4 million for hunting and fishing infrastructure. The 2015-16 budget also created a new capital account, which, along with federal Pittman-Robertson funds, will be used to manage, protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat and will improve and develop public access for fish and wildlife-related recreation. This year's commitment builds on the previous \$6 million in funding for 50 new projects to provide access to approximately 380,000 acres of existing State lands for recreation, including boat launches, bird-watching areas, trails and hunting blinds, and \$8 million for upgrades and improvements to fish hatcheries statewide. ✧

Know the difference: Invasive versus common carp

There's a lot of talk around the Great Lakes these days about carp, especially invasive or Asian carp. What about common carp, those monsters of Michigan waters anglers love to battle with fly rods? Are these fish one and the same and what's the big deal about carp anyway?

The issue can be confusing.

To better understand the important differences, it's best to start with a definition of what an "invasive" species is. "Invasive species are those species which are not native to a particular area – in this case Michigan – and whose introduction causes harm or would be likely to cause harm to the state's economy, human health or environment," said Joanne Foreman, communications coordinator for the Michigan Invasive Species Program.

Just because a species is not native does not make it invasive. "Whether fruits, vegetables, livestock or field crops, most non-native species are not harmful and many provide benefits to Michigan, from boosting the economy to beautifying landscapes," said Nick Popoff, head of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Aquatic Species and Regulatory Affairs Unit. "When it comes to fish, some non-native species beneficial to Michigan through sportfishing enjoyment have included coho and Chinook salmon and brown and rainbow trout."

Invasive species are those particular non-natives that pose potential harm.

As the name "invasive" suggests, these species can out-compete native species by reproducing and spreading quickly in areas where they have no natural predators, thereby changing the balance of the ecosystems Michigan relies on for recreation, commerce, food and jobs.

Means of introduction

From the emerald ash borer and sea lamprey to rusty crayfish and Eurasian watermilfoil, numerous invasive species have found their way to Michigan, often by interesting

means.

Some traveled here in the ballast water of ships. Others escaped from pet stores or were household pets that go into the wild where they adapted to local conditions. Still others hitched rides on planes, trains and automobiles.

In the case of all carp species, they intentionally were introduced to North America.

Common carp

Common carp were brought to the United States during the late 1800s as an esteemed food of European and Asian markets. Native to Eurasia, common carp are found today in the Great Lakes, large inland lakes and reservoirs, small and large rivers, swamps, canals and drains. Many frequent places where water quality is less than ideal.

An increasing number of sport anglers enjoy battling these fish and some charter operators now offer carp excursions.

Common carp average 15 to 32 inches and 4 to 31 pounds. They have triangular heads, blunt snouts and small barbels (fleshy, whisker-like filaments) at the corners of their mouths.

Because they have been widely distributed and their demand as a food source has diminished, common carp sometimes are referred to as a nuisance species. However, they are not considered invasive in Michigan.

Invasive carp

There are four carp species that are described as invasive – bighead, silver, grass and black.

In the 1970s, invasive carp were brought to the U.S. from Asia, primarily to eat algae in the ponds of aquaculture operations located in the South. During flooding events, these fish escaped into the Mississippi and Illinois rivers and have been migrating north toward Lake Michigan.

Because the invasive carp problem is a binational and multistate issue, U.S. federal and state

governments are working together with Canada on a resolution.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in a partnership with state and federal agencies, has erected electric barriers in the Chicago Area Waterway System and a berm in Indiana to try to keep the carp from reaching the Great Lakes.

The Michigan DNR is among the leading agencies advocating for additional efforts to stop the spread of these fish.

The watch list

Michigan maintains a "[watch list](#)" for invasive species. Species on the watch list have never been confirmed in the wild in the state or have very limited distribution. If they are encountered, they should be reported as soon as possible.

"Early detection and timely reporting of these species are crucial for increasing the chances of preventing establishment and limiting potential ecological, social and economic impacts," Foreman said.

Bighead, silver, grass and black carp are on the watch list. They also are "prohibited" invasive species in Michigan.

Prohibited and restricted species

Some invasive species are legally designated by the state of Michigan as either "prohibited" or "restricted," making them unlawful to possess, introduce, import, sell or offer for sale as live organisms, except under certain circumstances.

- The term "prohibited" is used for invasive species that are not widely distributed in the state. Often, management or control techniques for prohibited species are not available.

- The term "restricted" is applied to invasive species that are established in the state. Management and control practices usually are available for restricted species.

Michigan's Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act (Part 413 of Act 451) established the list of **Invasive vs common carp**

Continued on page 14

Invasive vs common carp

Continued from page 13

prohibited and restricted species, which is regularly amended by Invasive Species Orders.

Bighead and silver carp

Of the four invasive carp species on the watch list, bighead and silver carp pose the most concern.

“Bighead and silver carp are spreading to lakes, rivers and streams in the Mississippi River and Great Lakes region. They have been moving steadily north, but are not yet established in the Great Lakes,” said Seth Herbst, a fisheries biologist and the DNR Fisheries Division’s aquatic invasive species coordinator. “These two species like large lakes and connecting rivers, and if introduced would have the ability to adapt to Michigan’s cold winters.”

Biologists expect that if these invasive carp make it to Michigan waters, the fish will disrupt the food chain that supports native fish of the Great Lakes, such as walleye, yellow perch and lake whitefish – which could diminish fishing opportunities for sport and commercial anglers.

“Due to their large size and rapid rate of reproduction, bighead and silver carp pose a significant threat to the ecosystem of the Great Lakes Basin,” said Tammy Newcomb, DNR senior water policy advisor and fisheries research biologist. “Silver carp leap high out of the water when disturbed by watercraft. Boaters can be and have been injured by these leaping fish. Fear of injury could diminish the desire for recreational boating activities in areas inhabited by these fish.”

Bighead and silver carp have eyes situated below their toothless mouths. Silver carp may grow to longer than 3 feet and weigh up to 60 pounds, while bighead carp are even larger—up to 5 feet long, weighing up to 90 pounds. Adult bighead carp are dark gray, with dark blotches. As the name implies, silver carp are silver colored with white bellies.

Black carp

Black carp are the largest of the four invasive carp species. They can be

over 6 feet long and weigh more than 150 pounds. These fish have blackish-brown-bluish scales and an almost white belly.

So far, bighead, silver and black carp have not been found in Michigan waters. There is no evidence that these three carp species have colonized or are present in any numbers in the Great Lakes.

Grass carp

“Grass carp have been detected in low numbers in all the Great Lakes, except Lake Superior, since the early 1980s (Lake Erie in particular) and have historically been introduced into waterways for aquatic nuisance vegetation control in some Great Lakes states,” Popoff said.

Grass carp can grow to more than 5 feet long and weigh more than 80 pounds. They have eyes that sit in line with their mouths, or slightly above, and scales that look to be crosshatched.

“In the mid-1980s, a grass carp sterilization program was put in place to reduce the risk of introduced fish reproducing and reaching nuisance levels that would result in detrimental impacts,” Herbst said. “The sterilization program has worked to some extent, but fertile fish are still being captured in locations where only sterile fish introduction is authorized.”

Despite the reduced threat of grass carp, Michigan is still taking a proactive approach with regulations, enforcement, and using a scientific approach to increase the effectiveness of control efforts.

Knowing the difference between common and invasive carp is not as difficult as it might seem at first, once you know the facts.

“Educating ourselves and others on these species can go a long way in the fight against the proliferation of these non-native, invasive species of carp—fish that have the potential to dramatically damage or destroy Great Lakes ecosystems, causing untold losses to Michigan’s economy and world-class natural resources,” Foreman said.

[Watch Michigan DNR staff](#) training to catch invasive carp in Illinois. ✧

Inspecting your lifejackets is a must!

This safety alert reminds all vessel operators to routinely inspect their lifejackets to ensure they are suitable for service. Recently Coast Guard inspectors in Key West, Florida discovered two vessels that had over 60 lifejackets that were required to be removed and destroyed. It was discovered that the unicellular foam buoyant material within the nylon outer shell had degraded significantly over time, broke apart, crumbled and in some instances was reduced to dust. The lifejackets were properly stored, kept dry, and not under direct sunlight; however, the location was very hot at times.

These particular lifejackets were made in China and about nine years old. The distributor is no longer in business. Over the years, the Coast Guard has distributed a number of other safety alerts related to lifejackets and personal flotation devices (PFDs). The archive of alerts can be accessed at the following site: www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg545/alerts/96_14SA.pdf.

As a result of this discovery the Coast Guard strongly recommends vessel operators inspect their Type 1 unicellular plastic foam lifejackets for potential indications of failure or degradation, specifically:

- Compression: The lifejacket may be compressed from many years of stowage.

- Loss of resiliency: The lifejacket is excessively hard, stiff or brittle. Normally after compressing the lifejacket to about half its initial thickness, the foam should expand to its original dimension in a short time.

- Shrinkage: A physical reduction in size may be indicated by "wrinkling" of the coating on vinyl dipped type or by a loose fitting shell on a fabric-covered lifejacket.

- Manufacturer: While the potential for problems applies to all older PFDs, those manufactured by "The Safeguard Corporation" should be closely examined.

Questions? HOS-PF-fldr-CG-INV@uscg.mil. ✧

The riskiest science quiz you will ever take!

How many Americans live and work in areas exposed to potentially damaging earthquakes?

1. About 10% of the population
2. About 25%
3. About 50%
4. Almost all

The correct answer is nearly 50% of the population. More than 143 million Americans live and work in areas of the 48 contiguous states that are exposed to potentially damaging ground shaking from earthquakes. When the people living in the earthquake-prone areas of Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. territories are added, this number rises to nearly half of all Americans.

About 143 million people live and work in areas with some potential for damaging shaking, a level that could at least lead to damage in structures. Approximately 57 million people are in areas with a moderate chance of such shaking, and 28 million people in areas that have a high potential to experience damaging shaking.

The USGS shaking calculations consider the chance of an earthquake occurring in a 50-year time frame, as that is the typical lifetime of a building. This time frame is thought to be reasonable for life-safety considerations when designing buildings and other structures.

Which States Have the Strongest Shaking Potential?

When one considers very strong ground shaking levels, the 10 states with the highest populations exposed (in descending order) are California, Washington, Utah, Tennessee, Oregon, South Carolina, Nevada, Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois. Although this level of shaking is estimated to occur relatively infrequently, it could cause significant damage and casualties. The difference between those areas at risk from moderate versus strong shaking depends on a variety of factors, including the location of fault lines and the seismicity rates of the area.

Start with Science

These new estimates are derived from the recently updated [U.S. National Seismic Hazard Maps](#), which identify where future earthquakes will occur, how often they will occur, and how strongly the ground will likely shake as a result. Researchers analyzed high-resolution population data and infrastructure data to determine populations exposed to specific levels of earthquake hazard. The population data are from [LandScan](#), and the infrastructure data are from the [Homeland Security Infrastructure Program](#) (HSIP) database.

“This new research helps us better understand the scale of earthquake hazards and ultimately strengthen the nation’s ability to protect Americans against future events,” said Kishor Jaiswal, a USGS research structural engineer as well as the lead author of the study. “Of particular concern is the significant amount of critical infrastructure located in high earthquake-hazard areas, ranging from private and public schools to health care facilities and fire stations. The USGS is dedicated to continuously updating research on population and infrastructure exposure as communities change and new science is available on earthquake behavior.”

Earthquakes due to human activity—or induced seismicity—were not accounted for in these estimations. [USGS scientists are currently researching](#) ways to understand potential ground shaking from induced earthquakes and incorporate that knowledge in U.S. National Seismic Hazard Maps. Similarly, the amplification of ground shaking due to different soil types was not considered, which could lead to a further increase in the number of people exposed to stronger shaking. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Small walleye good sign for future of Lake Erie fishing](#)

Many of the walleye were young and too small to keep, but they did not stop biting for a big crowd of government officials from throughout Ohio who came to town for the 37th annual Governor’s Fish Ohio Day.

[Anglers enlisted in water fight](#)

Anglers are to the Great Lakes what the military is to the U.S.: the last line of defense against invaders. “Anglers are kind of the eyes and ears on the water for us,” said Seth Herbst, aquatic invasive species coordinator for the fisheries division of the Michigan DNR.

[Anglers object to plan for Lake Michigan Chinook stocking reductions](#)

All parties agree on the goal: a healthy fishery in Lake Michigan. But the means to get there is receiving serious debate. And some are even questioning the need to do anything, given the current relatively rosy state of affairs

[30,000 walleye fingerlings hatched in Ogdensburg stocked in St. Lawrence River](#)

In New York, the St. Lawrence River Walleye Association recently stocked 30,000 walleye fingerlings in the St. Lawrence River.

DNR considers cisco management plan

Whatever you want to call it, the Lake Superior cisco is actually one of the most important fish in the big lake. And for the first time, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is considering a management plan for cisco.

Annual alewife buildup hits lake shoreline

It's an annual tradition. Dozens of small fish, called alewives, die and wash up on Racine area shorelines, in Wisconsin, causing a noticeable stink.

Cormorants face vigilante justice in new Ontario bill

Earlier this month, MPPs quietly gave second reading approval to a private member's bill that would add the cormorant to the list of birds—including crows and starlings—that can be shot on sight. Conservative MPP Robert Bailey (Sarnia-Lambton) told the Legislature that his Bill 205 is designed to deal with what he called a population explosion among cormorants.

Editor Note: Stay safe out there!

End