



Lake Michigan stocking plan paying off for anglers

MADISON – Lake Michigan boat anglers report catching good numbers of salmon and trout this summer and the Department of Natural Resources has finished its first full year of implementing a new and enhanced stocking strategy to assure strong fish populations and fishing into the future.

"We're happy to see boat anglers are reporting good harvests of fish this year," says Brad Eggold, DNR Great Lakes District fisheries supervisor. "Fish caught this year are large and in good condition. This indicates that the stocking adjustments that Wisconsin and other agencies have made appear to be paying off, and we're excited about what future years will bring.

"The hard work of our hatchery staff has allowed us to fully implement the first year of the

enhanced stocking plan, we've strengthened partnerships with stakeholders, and we've secured funding for a hatchery renovation. All of these will help us provide fantastic fishing on Lake Michigan into the future."



Photo credit: Ren Ryd

Boat anglers are reporting catching Lake Michigan trout and salmon that are large and in good shape, like this 28 pound chinook caught in June.

The Lake Michigan stocking strategy was developed over more than two years with discussion and input from more than 500 anglers, business owners and other stakeholders. This spring DNR started carrying out that plan resulting in:

- Stocking [Lake Michigan with Chinook and coho salmon](#) and brown and rainbow trout under the [new 2018-2020 management plan](#);
- Stocking Skamania steelhead for the first time in a decade;
- Expanding efforts with fishing clubs to place stocked fish in pens in Lake Michigan to get acclimatized and grow bigger before they're released.

As well, DNR secured approval in June from the state Building Commission to go ahead with final design phases for an updated Kettle **Lake Michigan stocking plan**

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New MN DWI law in effect Aug. 1

Little Alan's Law provides consistent application of DWI laws

A new Minnesota law that went into effect August 1 means people convicted of driving while intoxicated – regardless of the vehicle they're driving – will lose their driver's license and be prohibited from operating motor vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles, motorboats and snowmobiles. The state Legislature passed the law following the death of 8-year-old Alan Geisenkoetter Jr., who died in January after being struck by a snowmobile driven by a man whose driver's license was revoked after multiple DWI offenses.

Before the law change, people convicted of DWI in a highway-licensed vehicle still could legally operate ATVs, motorboats and snowmobiles. The changes apply to

violations that occur on or after August 1.

"We have zero tolerance for people who endanger themselves and other people by operating a motor vehicle or recreational vehicle while they're intoxicated," said Col. Rodmen Smith, director of the Minnesota DNR Enforcement Division. "This new law should send the message that drinking and driving – no matter what the vehicle – isn't acceptable and the consequences are severe."

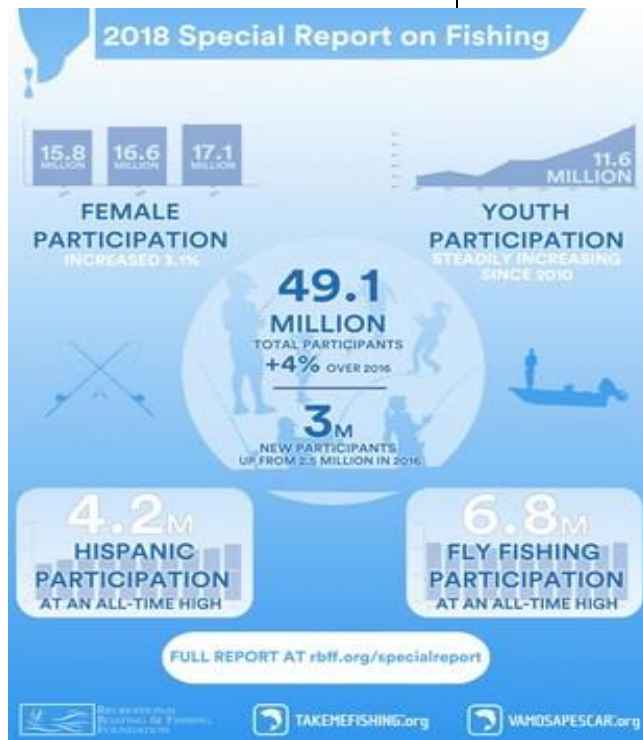
As an example, a person convicted of DWI in a motorboat, or who refuses testing for a motorboat

New MN DWI law

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Fishing nets 2 million more participants

While Americans are collectively checking their phones more than 8 billion times a day, a new industry report shows that they are increasingly fishing for actual fish (instead of just likes and follows). More than 49 million Americans took to the water to cast a line in 2017, demonstrating a year-over-year increase of nearly 2 million anglers according to the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation's (RBFF) [2018 Special Report on Fishing](#).



According to the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation's 2018 Special Report on Fishing, **the number of anglers in the United States grew by 2 million people in 2017**, when more than 49 million Americans took to the water. "These are exciting figures that reflect the sustained growth in our industry," said RBFF president and CEO Frank Peterson. "Getting more Americans to spend time outdoors is a crucial part of protecting our natural resources for future generations. Anglers and boaters help protect our natural aquatic places and the wildlife that lives there through fishing licenses, boat registrations, fishing gear, boat fuel sales and much more."

Created in partnership with The Outdoor Foundation, the Special Report on Fishing provides one of the most comprehensive looks at the state of U.S. fishing and boating participation. Key findings from the 2018 report include:

- 16.5 percent of the US population participates in fishing.
- Americans took 885 million total fishing trips or an average of 18 trips per participant.

- New fishing participants accounted for 6 percent of total participation and tended to be young.

- 11.6 million youth participated in fishing, a 1.2 percent increase.

- 4.2 million Hispanics went fishing in 2017 – a 400,000 person increase and the highest participation rate since the report was created in 2007. On average, Hispanic anglers went on four more outings per year than the general market.

- 84.2 percent of fishing trips resulted in a catch, up slightly from last year.

- 30.1 million people were interested in taking up fishing or rejoining the activity. This is the highest number of Americans interested in fishing since this figure started to be recorded in 2010.

"It's clear fishing continues to be a pillar of America's thriving outdoor culture," said Ivan Levin, deputy director of The Outdoor Foundation. "This is good news for the greater outdoor industry, as fishing is known to inspire people to try other outdoor activities." ✦



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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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F/W Agencies support Recovering America's Wildlife Act in the Senate

Washington D.C. (July 17, 2018) – The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies strongly supports the introduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S.3223) in the U.S. Senate today. Senators James Risch (R-Idaho) and Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia) introduced legislation that recommends funding for conservation of those fish and wildlife species in greatest need across the country.

This bipartisan legislation would authorize \$1.3 billion in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to conserve a full array of fish and wildlife. The Senate bill complements the House version ([H.R. 4647](#)), introduced in December 2017 by Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE-1) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI-12), which has gained strong, bipartisan co-sponsorship due to its innovative approach to solving America's wildlife crisis, with [the current list of co-sponsors growing to more than 75 members](#).

“Our nation's fish and wildlife are the foundation of our natural heritage, held in the public trust for all to enjoy, and cared for by the state fish and wildlife agencies. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would help all species—including many that are hunted and fished and those that are not—continue to thrive,” stated Virgil Moore, President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Director of Idaho Fish and Game. “We applaud Senator Risch from my home state of Idaho and Senator Manchin of West Virginia for their leadership on this important legislation that will help management and conservation of fish and wildlife, and bolster our great outdoor recreation economy.”

“This legislation puts states back in control of conservation efforts and affords them greater flexibility to meet their state-specific needs, while also protecting the legacy of hunting and the value the industry brings to

wildlife conservation,” said Senator Risch, Co-Chair of the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus. “Additionally, by engaging in these proactive, voluntary conservation actions, we will save millions of tax dollars that are otherwise spent on restoring threatened and endangered species.”

“In West Virginia hunting, fishing and outdoor activities are family traditions deeply ingrained in who we are as a state. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will ensure we continue to promote our state's unique wildlife and preserve our rich outdoor traditions. That's why I am proud to introduce this bipartisan bill to make West Virginia ever more wild and wonderful,” Senator Manchin said.

“The Blue Ribbon Panel recommended a proactive approach to conservation funding,” said Greg Hill, President and Chief Operating Officer, Hess Corporation. “The funding model that forms the basis for this legislation is better for taxpayers and businesses and, most importantly, better for the long-term conservation of fish and wildlife species in danger.”

“This bill is complementary to existing natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation programs and will allow all Americans to become investors in fish and wildlife conservation,” said Executive Director Ron Regan. “Our funding model can no longer keep up with the needs of the full array of fish and wildlife in this country. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act provides a modern solution to an age old problem and allows states to more fully implement their State Wildlife Action Plans.”

These critical efforts are supported by the [Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife](#), whose purpose is to create a 21st-century funding model for critically needed conservation of our nation's most precious natural resources, our fish and wildlife. This effort was built upon the strong partnership created by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining

America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources, consisting of members representing the outdoor recreation, retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, conservation organizations, sportsmen's groups and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. ✧

Important Update of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act *important difference between the Senate version and the House version*

Dan Eichinger, Executive Director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs has pointed out that US House version, HR 4647 of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) would automatically apportion the funds to the states while the US Senate version, S. 3223 would make funding subject to the annual appropriations process which often does not work well. To ensure a permanent reliable funding source, please encourage your US Senators to include permanent funding that does not go through the annual appropriations process. ✧

Survey: Help shape the future of boating in Detroit

You are invited to participate in an online survey to help the DNR better understand public opinion about current recreational boating opportunities along the Detroit River. The online survey will be open through Tuesday, **September 4**. Your answers will give important information about when and where boating is currently taking place, as well as where additional recreational boating access or amenities may be helpful. Your responses will be kept confidential. ✧

Garmin USA is ICAST 2018 New Product Showcase Best of Show Winner

The [American Sportfishing Association](#) presented the ICAST 2018 New Product Showcase Best of Show award to Garmin USA for its Panoptix Livescope, the first live scanning sonar for recreational fishing. The Best of Show awards presentation was held at 2:00 p.m. in the New Product Showcase on the show floor.

"We are overwhelmed and excited about winning the ICAST 2018 Best of Show award," said David Dunn, Garmin USA's director of Marine Sales. "Garmin is fighting for a place in the freshwater market. We are here to stay."

Making up a special section of ICAST's show floor, the New Product Showcase provides special visibility for the industry's latest innovations in gear, apparel and accessories. ✧

ICAST 2018 New Product Showcase Awards

Orlando, FL (July 12, 2018) – The 25 New Product Showcase Best of Category awards were presented during the New Product Showcase Awards reception held during ICAST, the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades.

Produced by the [American Sportfishing Association](#) (ASA), the industry's trade association, ICAST – in its 61th year as the association's trade show – is the annual destination for representatives from the global recreational fishing industry to see the latest innovations in tackle, gear, accessories and apparel.

One of the most prominent features for ICAST exhibitors and attendees alike is the New Product Showcase. The New Product Showcase, sponsored by [Fishing Tackle Retailer](#), embodies the sportfishing industry's innovative and entrepreneurial spirit and rewards that ingenuity through the New Product Showcase awards competition.

This year, 974 products, accessories and apparel were entered

by 331 companies into 25 categories, all vying for the overall ICAST 2018 Best of Show award.

"My congratulations go to all of the winners and everyone who participated in the New Product Showcase," said ASA President Glenn Hughes. "Remember, there are also 949 products that also deserve recognition. This year, for the first time, all the New Product Showcase entries are available for viewing on [ICASTfishing.org](#) and on the ICAST app under the Exhibitor listings. I urge you to check them out."

"This year we are living up to our reputation as the world's largest sportfishing trade show," said Trade Show Director Blake Swango. "We have the most attendance and the largest number of exhibitors, ever."

Swango also noted, "I also want to congratulate our New Product Showcase award winners and thank all our member companies who submitted products for judging. I also thank [Fishing Tackle Retailer](#) for their sponsorship of this important event." ✧

2018 ICAST New Product Best of Category Award Winners

Best of Category – Boating Accessories – Johnson Outdoors Marine Electronics, Inc.

Product: Minn Kota Ultrex
Contact: **Kathy Dutton** kdutton@johnsonoutdoors.com

Best of Category – Boats and Watercraft – Jackson Kayak

Product: 360 Angler
Contact: **Sonia Cronin** sonia@jacksonkayak.com

Best of Category – Eyewear – Costa Sunglasses

Product: Baffin
Contact: **Shauna Metz** smetz@costadelmar.com

Best of Category – Footwear – Rivers Edge Products

Product: Fish Sandals
Contact: **Michael McFadden** Michael.mcfadden@riversedgeproducts.com

Best of Category – Giftware – Number 6 Brands

Product: Cauldryn Coffee
Contact: **Jason Shinn** jason@number6brands.com

Best of Category – Lifestyle Apparel – AFTCO/American Fishing Tackle Company

Product: Hexatron Performance Fleece
Contact: **Matt Florentine** matt@aftco.com

Best of Category – Technical Apparel – AFTCO/American Fishing Tackle Company

Product: Hydronaut Heavy-Duty Waterproof System
Contact: **Matt Florentine** matt@aftco.com

Best of Category – Electronics – Garmin USA

Product: Garmin Panoptix LiveScope
Contact: **Carly Hysell** carly.hysell@garmin.com

Best of Category – Fishing Accessory – YETI

Product: YETI Tundra Haul
Contact: **Ravanne Harris** rharris@yeti.com

Best of Category – Fly Fishing Accessory – YETI

Product: YETI Panga Backpack 28
Contact: **Ravanne Harris** rharris@yeti.com

Best of Category – Fishing Line – PowerPro

Product: PowerPro SuperSlick V2 Brand

Contact: **John Mazurkiewicz**Contact: jpmazurk@ameritech.net**Best of Category – Kids’ Tackle – AnythingPossible**

Product: Kid Casters DUDE PERFECT Fishing Kit & Casting Game

Contact: **Jason Bauer** jbauer@lilanglers.com**Best of Category – Tackle Management – Tak Logic Lure Lock**

Product: Lure Locker

Contact: **John Skrabo** jskrabo@taklogic.com**Best of Category – Terminal Tackle – Rapala**

Product: VMC NEKO Skirt

Contact: **Bob Bussey** bbussey@rapalaua.com**Best of Category – Freshwater Hard Lure – Westin**

Product: Freddy the Frog

Contact: **Thomas Sanotra** tsa@fairpoint.dk**Best of Category – Saltwater Hard Lure – 13 Fishing**

Product: Octopi

Contact: **Jose Chavez** jose@13Fishing.com**Best of Category – Freshwater Soft Lure – LIVETARGET**

Product: LIVETARGET Hollow Body Crawfish

Contact: **Susan Koppers**Contact: skoppers@livetargetlures.com**Best of Category – Saltwater Soft Lure – LIVETARGET**

Product: LIVETARGET Fleeing Shrimp

Contact: **Susan Koppers**Contact: skoppers@livetargetlures.com

IL Becoming an Outdoors Woman

A limited number of reservations are still available for the “Becoming an Outdoors Woman” (BOW) workshop at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center/Giant City State Park on **September 28-30**. The fee is \$240, which includes meals, lodging, class instruction, use of class equipment/supplies, transportation during the workshop, and lots of fun. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. For more information and registration materials: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/BOW/Pages/default.aspx> ✧

Online reserved hunt applications now available

Hunters can apply online for a reserved hunt by visiting hunting.IN.gov and clicking on the "Reserved Hunt Info" link. The online method is the only way to apply. Applicants must possess a hunting license valid for the hunt for which they are applying. Applications must be completed by the application deadline. Hunters will be selected through a computerized, random drawing. Drawing results will be posted at wildlife.IN.gov within two weeks after application deadlines, and an email will be sent to applicants when results are posted. ✧

Judge has no authority to enforce TMDL in Lake Erie

One day before Gov. John Kasich announced an executive order for Lake Erie that critics claim was written to appease Ohio’s powerful agricultural lobby, the U.S. Department of Justice was making a case in federal court in Toledo for why it believes the state should not be required to impose what is seen as the most aggressive strategy for cracking down on the farming industry’s algae-forming pollution. Take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZWMS7WZ> ✧

Best of Category – Fly Reel – SEIGLER Reels

Product: Seigler MF Fly Reel

Contact: **Russell Seymour** russell@seigler.fish**Best of Category – Freshwater Reel – Shimano American Corporation**

Product: Curado DC Baitcasting Reel

Contact: **John Mazurkiewicz**Contact: jpmazurk@ameritech.net**Best of Category – Saltwater Reel – Shimano American Corporation**

Product: Tekota 500 Levelwind Reel

Contact: **John Mazurkiewicz**Contact: jpmazurk@ameritech.net**Best of Category – Rod & Reel Combo – Lew’s Fishing**

Product: Team Lew’s® Custom Black LFS Combo

Contact: **Tony Mehri** tmehri@hunterspec.com**Best of Category – Fly Fishing Rod – St. Croix Rods**

Product: Mojo Trout

Contact: **Rich Belanger** richb@stcroixrods.com**Best of Category – Freshwater Rod – St. Croix Rods**

Product: Legend Glass

Contact: **Rich Belanger** richb@stcroixrods.com**Best of Category – Saltwater Rod – St. Croix Rods**

Product: Mojo Yak

Contact: **Rich Belanger** richb@stcroixrods.com ✧

Michigan Inland Lakes Convention Oct 3-5 in Grand Rapids

Lake enthusiasts and professionals will come together October 3-5 at the Crowne Plaza in Grand Rapids for the Michigan Inland Lakes Convention, held every other year. Registration for this year's conference is now open. Discounts are available for **early registration until Friday, September 14**, as well as for students and presenters.

The convention focuses on "Working Together for Healthy Lakes" and is being planned by the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership and the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps). Two days of educational presentations, discussions and in-depth workshops focused exclusively on Michigan's inland lakes will be offered. Dozens of Michigan nonprofit and governmental exhibitors will showcase their projects and resources.

"We're excited to be joined by two outstanding keynote speakers at the 2018 convention," said convention coordinator Jo Latimore, with Michigan State University. "One will be Michigan native Lisa Borre, now a prominent inland lake researcher and writer from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in New

York, to share her experiences in local to global collaboration for healthy lakes. We'll also be joined by Bill Creal, former Water Resources Division chief of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, who is currently Research and Innovation director for the Great Lakes Water Authority. He will share his perspectives on effective partnerships to protect our waters."

Lake researchers, water resource professionals, local leaders, residents and vacationers alike are invited to workshops and presentations that will engage, educate and empower. Participants can choose from a variety of concurrent sessions focused on specific issues such as natural shorelines, citizen science, invasive species, water law and natural resources management. On Friday, October 5, attendees will have the option to participate in workshops on becoming Shoreland Stewards Ambassadors, citizen science for aquatic macroinvertebrates, remote sensing for algae concentrations in lakes, and a field trip to invasive species management areas on Reed's Lake.

The convention is a cooperative effort between the many organizations that make up the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, including the Michigan Aquatic Managers Association, Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan State University Institute of Water Research and Northwestern Michigan College. Financial support for the convention is provided by the DNR and the Michigan Lake Stewardship Association.

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership promotes collaboration between locals, professionals, researchers and agencies in order to advance stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes. For more information, visit

www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/convention/ or follow the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership on Facebook and Twitter (@Mich_Lakes). ✧

DNR open house highlights Lake Vermilion northern pike regulation

Anglers can play a role in a proposed fishing regulation change for northern pike on Lake Vermilion that would simplify northern pike regulations by bringing them in line with the new statewide zone regulation starting in May 2019.

Anyone who wants to ask questions and give input about the regulation proposal can attend an open house scheduled by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, **August 22**, at the Tower Civic Center, 402 Pine St., in Tower, Minn.

Lake Vermilion northern pike are currently managed under a special regulation that requires all pike from 24 to 36 inches long to be released and only one fish over 36 inches is

allowed in a three-fish possession limit.

Under the northeast pike zone regulation, all fish from 30 to 40 inches long must be released and no more than one over 40 inches is allowed to be kept in a two fish possession limit.

Spearers would be allowed to take any size pike but would be allowed only one fish over 26 inches in the two fish possession limit.

"We are interested in the public's preference about this because either regulation will help maintain the size of pike anglers enjoy on Lake Vermilion," said Edie Everts, Tower area fisheries supervisor. "Northern pike have done well and average size has increased under the special regulation that began in 2003. But a

shift to the statewide zone regulation would simplify regulations while still protecting a portion of pike."

Public comment on the pike regulation can be submitted through Wednesday, September 26.

Questions or comments may be directed to the Tower area fisheries office, 650 Highway 169, Tower, MN 55790, by calling 218-300-7803, or emailing edie.evarts@state.mn.us.

Additionally, an open house about this proposal and other fishing regulations under review is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **September 26** at the DNR Central Office, 500 Lafayette Road in St. Paul. Staff will take comments on this proposal and other fishing regulations under review around the state. ✧

Outdoor skills workshop for women Sept. 14-16

Women can hike to spectacular views of autumn colors and Lake Superior on the horizon during a three-day fall workshop that teaches a variety of outdoor skills through the Becoming an Outdoors Woman program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Getting to that view includes 330 feet of elevation gain on the Superior Hiking Trail – the kind of physical and mental challenge known well to Jo Swanson, trail development director for the Superior Hiking Trail Association and the keynote speaker for the fall workshop.

“One of my themes is empowerment – learning to overcome fears of adventuring in the outdoors,” Swanson said. “We live in a culture of fear and people react strongly when women go on outdoors adventures, especially when they go alone. The truth is that with planning and preparation, the outdoors can be a very safe place.”

The fall workshop is **Friday, September 14, through Sunday, September 16**, in a new location this year at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center near Finland, Minn. Attendees will hear from Swanson and Minnesota state park naturalists. Session topics include Ojibwa heritage, Voyageurs, archery, canoeing, and the animals, plants and geology of the North Woods.

Linda Bylander, coordinator of the Becoming an Outdoors Woman program, said that along with the new location, the workshop offers a new selection of classes this year.

“Women who attend the fall workshop gain a whole range of experiences in a supportive environment,” Bylander said. “We chose dates when the fall colors should provide a beautiful backdrop.”

The workshop is designed for women ages 18 and up but girls ages 14 to 17 are welcome to attend with parents or guardians. Visit mndnr.gov/bow for more information and to register. ✧

Applications open for \$11 million in Legacy grants

Groups that want to restore, protect or enhance public land or land permanently protected by conservation easements can apply for Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grants that help pay for work on Minnesota prairies, forests, wetlands or other habitat for fish and wildlife.

Nonprofit organizations and government entities are eligible to submit applications for traditional and metro grant cycles until 4 p.m. **September 24**, on the Minnesota DNR website at mndnr.gov/cpl. Applicants may request up to \$400,000 with a total project cost not exceeding \$575,000. Projects also must have a 10 percent match from a source outside a state agency.

In its first nine years of funding, over \$52 million has been granted through the CPL program for habitat projects throughout Minnesota. Funding comes from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, which was created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008.

Three types of CPL grants

For fiscal year 2019, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recommended allocating \$5.5 million for the traditional grant cycle, \$2.5 million for the metro grant cycle (for projects located in the seven-county metro area or within the city limits of Duluth, St. Cloud and Rochester) and \$3 million for the Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP) grant cycle. The ECP cycle is open continuously through May 2019, or until funds run out, with the first funding round due September 17.

More information can be found at mndnr.gov/cpl. Potential applicants are encouraged to review the request for proposal and the “how to apply” tab on the website, which guides users through the application process.

Questions can be directed to: Jessica Lee, CPL grant program coordinator for the DNR, jessica.lee@state.mn.us or 651-259-5233. ✧

Learn fishing basics at an I Can Fish! program at Sibley State Park

Show your kids the fun of casting into the water and the excitement when there’s a tug on the line! Come as a family to the I Can Fish! program at Sibley State Park, MN on Saturday, **August 11** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The hands-on program is for adults and children age 5 and older, and will cover all the basics, from fish identification to casting. All equipment will be provided, and all participants will get a small tackle box to take home. The program fee (\$7/adult, free for children under age 12) includes a Minnesota State Parks and Trails one-day permit.

Reservations are required and can be made online or by phone.

- www.mndnr.gov/reservations.
- 866-857-2757 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily, excluding holidays.

I Can Fish! is part of a series of skill-building programs offered by the DNR’s Parks and Trails Division. Other programs in the series introduce camping, paddling, mountain biking and archery to beginners.

“We provide all the gear along with friendly instructors who can show you how to use it,” said Erika Rivers, director of Minnesota State Parks and Trails. “Our goal is to make it easy for busy families to discover the fun of spending time outdoors together.”

The I Can! programs are made possible with support from the Parks and Trails Fund, created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in November 2008. The Parks and Trails Fund receives 14.25% of the three-eighths percent sales tax revenue that may only be spent to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

For more info—including program dates, times, locations, and minimum age requirements—visit www.mndnr.gov/ican or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat.). ✧

DNR COs seize record amount of illegal crayfish in Michigan

More than 2,000 lbs. of live, illegal red swamp crayfish recently were seized by DNR conservation officers – the largest aquatic invasive species seizure by the Michigan DNR.

Red swamp crayfish are prohibited in both Michigan and Canada. They burrow and create shoreline erosion, creating instability. Additionally, they compete with native crayfish, reducing the amount of food and habitat available for amphibians, invertebrates and juvenile fish.

Conservation officers in St. Clair County were notified Friday, July 13, by U.S. Customs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when a commercial hauler transporting red swamp crayfish was denied entry into Canada and would be returning to Michigan. The commercial hauler was stopped by Canadian officials at the Sarnia, Canada, border crossing in an attempt to leave the United States.

Assisted by customs officials, DNR conservation officers stopped the truck and obtained 55 bags of live crayfish. After interviewing the driver, the officers learned the truck originated from Canada and made stops in Maryland and Arkansas to pick up cargo prior to attempting its return to Canada. The driver did not have appropriate records, other than a few purchase receipts. DNR Law Enforcement Division's Great Lakes Enforcement Unit is conducting further investigation. It currently is unknown if any stops or sales were made in Michigan.

The first concern regarding red swamp crayfish in Michigan was in 2013, when conservation officers learned the illegal crayfish was being used as bait in southwest Michigan. The first live infestations in Michigan were detected and reported in 2017. Confirmed infestations include locations in southeast Michigan.

Native in southeast states of the U.S., red swamp crayfish are the most widespread invasive crayfish in the

Public meeting Sept 18 to review special northern pike regs on Minnie Belle Lake

An open house meeting is scheduled to review special regulations regarding northern pike in Minnie Belle Lake in Meeker County, Minn. Currently, anglers on Minnie Belle can keep northern pike only if they are less than 24 inches or more than 36 inches. Northern pike in that 24-inch to 36-inch slot must be returned to the water immediately. The possession limit is three, with only one fish over 36 inches.

DNR Fisheries is seeking public input regarding the special northern pike regulation on that lake. The special 24 to 36 inch protective slot limit can be kept and continued or removed and replaced with the standard zone regulation, the north-central zone, which has a ten fish possession limit, only two of which can be over 26, and all northern pike from 22 inches to 26 inches must be immediately released.

The meeting will be an open house 6 to 8 p.m. on **September 18, 2018** at the Meeker County Courthouse, 325 N Sibley Ave. in Litchfield. Comments will also be accepted via email to Scott Mackenthun at hutchinson.fisheries@state.mn.us; or by telephone at 320-234-2550. All comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on September 28.

Public comments will also be accepted during an open house 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., September 26, at the DNR Central Office, located at 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN. ✧

world, and often are used in classrooms as teaching tools and at food festivities such as crayfish boils. Any possession of live red swamp crayfish in Michigan is illegal. The DNR is working to increase awareness and reporting of the illegal crayfish, in addition to removing infestations from confirmed locations. ✧

Roadmaps to Fishing Michigan's Great Lakes

If you love to fish then you might want to check out our [Roadmaps to Fishing Michigan's Great Lakes!](#)

These online roadmaps provide information for fishing southeast Michigan's Great Lakes areas (St. Clair System and Lake Erie), Lake Huron, Lake Michigan or Lake Superior. Highlighting places to go at different times throughout the year and the fish species you might find, these maps are perfect for both the seasoned angler or someone new to the sport.

Want to fish southeast Michigan's Great Lakes areas (St. Clair System and Lake Erie), Lake Huron, Lake Michigan or Lake Superior...but you aren't sure when or where to go?

Our Great Lakes Fishing Roadmaps (found below) are starting points to provide you with information on many fishing sites and times of the year when great opportunities exist. Whether you're a seasoned angler or new to the sport these roadmaps can provide great insight into fishing these waters. Take a look (accessible versions also available below)!

[2018 Roadmap to Southeast Michigan Great Lakes Fishing: So Much Fun!](#)

[2018 Roadmap to Fishing Lake Huron: Get Hooked on Huron!](#)

[2018 Roadmap to Fishing Lake Michigan: Meet Your Match!](#)

[2018 Roadmap to Fishing Lake Superior: Have a Super Time!](#)

[2018 Roadmap to Southeast Michigan Great Lakes fishing: So Much Fun!](#) (accessible version)

[2018 Roadmap to Fishing Lake Huron: Get Hooked on Huron!](#) (accessible version)

[2018 Roadmap to Fishing Lake Michigan: Meet Your Match!](#) (accessible version)

[2018 Roadmap to Fishing Lake Superior: Have a Super Time!](#) (accessible version) ✧

Share your thoughts with the DNR at August meetings

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to providing Michigan citizens the opportunity to share input and ideas on policy decisions, programs and other aspects of natural resource management and outdoor recreation opportunities. One important avenue for this input is at meetings of the public bodies that advise the DNR and, in some cases, also set policies for natural resource management.

The following [boards, commissions, committees and councils](#) will hold public meetings in August. The public is encouraged to attend. The links below will take you to the webpage for each group, where you will find specific meeting locations and, when finalized, meeting agendas.

Please check these pages frequently, as meeting details and agendas may change and sometimes meetings are canceled or rescheduled.

August meetings

- [Accessibility Advisory Council](#) – Aug. 21, 10 a.m., DNR Traverse City

Customer Service Center. Meeting location is barrier-free and an interpreter will be present. (Contact: Mike Holsinger, 517-284-5946)

- [Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee](#) – Aug. 16, 6 to 8 p.m., Flynn Pavilion, Bell Isle, Detroit (Contact: Renee Parker, 517-284-6135)
- [Lake Huron Citizens' Fishery Advisory Committee](#) – Aug. 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jay's Sporting Goods, Clare (Contact: Randy Claramunt, 231-347-4689)
- [Michigan Historical Commission](#) – Aug. 15, 10 a.m., Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, Ann Arbor (Contact: Michelle Davis, 517-373-6362)
- [Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board](#) – Aug. 21, 3 p.m., Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee (Contact: Barry James, 906-475-7857)
- [Michigan State Waterways Commission](#), Aug. 30, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Ontonagon Village Offices (Contact: Michelle Wieber, 517-284-6138)
- [Natural Resources Commission](#) – Aug. 9, 9 a.m., Lansing Community College – Downtown Campus (Contact: Cheryl Nelson, 517-284-6237)
- [Natural Resources Trust Fund Board](#) – Aug. 15, 9 a.m., Quality Inn, Escanaba (Contact: Jon Mayes, 517-284-5954)
- [Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup](#) – Aug. 14, 1:30 p.m., conference call, dial 877-336-1829, access code 2663581# (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517-284-6112)
- [State Historical Records Advisory Board](#) – Aug. 23, 10 a.m., Michigan Library and Historical Center, Lansing (Contact: Michelle Davis, 517-373-6362)
- [State Parks Advisory Committee](#) – Aug. 9, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Lansing Community College Auditorium - West Campus, Lansing (Contact: Renee Parker, 517-284-6135)
- [Timber Advisory Council](#) – Aug. 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Weyerhaeuser, Escanaba (Contact: Kimberley Korbecki, 517-284-5876) ✧

Rule changes proposed to Ohio Wildlife Council

COLUMBUS, OH – Changes to the 2019-2020 fishing season were among the regulations proposed to the Ohio Wildlife Council at its scheduled meeting on Wednesday, July 11, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Several other changes presented to the council were voted on which had previously been presented to the council earlier this year. These changes were approved and become effective later this month.

Black Bass Fishing

Several changes were proposed for black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass) in the Lake Erie sport fishing district. Currently, the season for black bass in the Lake Erie sport fishing district is closed from May 1 through the last Saturday in

June. It was proposed to remove this closure to provide a year-round open season for black bass, providing anglers with more opportunities. Additional proposed rules would establish a daily bag limit of one black bass with an 18-inch minimum size limit from May 1 through the fourth Saturday in June to continue to protect the fishery. Outside of this period, the existing black bass regulations of a five-fish daily limit with a 14-inch minimum size limit would still apply.

Crappie Fishing

Changes were proposed to crappie size and bag limits at certain waters. It was proposed that the 30-fish daily bag limit and the 9-inch minimum size limit for crappie be removed at the following lakes and reservoirs:

Acton, Cledening, Hargus, Highlandtown, Knox, Madison, Nimisila, Rush Creek and Springfield lakes; C.J. Brown, Clear Fork, Griggs and West Branch reservoirs. Removal of these regulations is expected to improve the crappie fisheries at these locations as well as provide anglers more opportunities to harvest fish from these areas.

Additional proposed rule changes include allowing camping at K.H. Butler Wildlife Area in Gallia County; increasing the annual fee for watercraft docking permits at ODNR Division of Wildlife owned docks; and changes to ginseng harvest requirements.

A complete list of proposed rules changes can be found at wildohio.gov. ✧

Ohio State Parks Duck Blind Lotteries **Aug. 18**

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ohio DNR is holding a lottery for more than 280 permits to hunters wishing to construct a blind to hunt ducks and geese on select Ohio State Park lakes this waterfowl hunting season. All but one of the drawings will be held the morning of Saturday, **August 18**, at 18 state parks. Portage Lakes will hold its lottery on Thursday, **August 16**. At all parks, applications will be taken locally with the lottery drawings following registration.

Interested applicants must appear in person at a participating state park office with proof of a 2018 Ohio hunting license, Ohio wetlands habitat stamp endorsement in the applicant's name and a signed 2018 federal duck stamp. Applicants under the age of 18 are encouraged to have a parent or legal guardian present to sign the permit contract and provide the required license and stamps.

Hunters can apply for only one duck blind permit, and no one can apply or draw for another person. There is a \$50 non-refundable fee for the state park lottery winners. Most locations accept cash, check or credit card for payment, except Portage Lakes where payment is by cash (exact change) or check only. Lottery winners have 45 days to construct their blinds, and all blinds must be dismantled by March 15, 2019.

For more info: 800-WILDLIFE or visit wildohio.gov. ✧

Wingshooting Clinics

Wingshooting clinics are planned summer and fall in Illinois at IDNR sites, cooperating gun clubs and hunting preserves. Most clinics are conducted on weekends. Wingshooting clinics for youth (10-15) and women provide instruction on safely firing a shotgun at a moving target with reasonable reliability. Clinics are hands-on, and include extensive live fire at a variety of clay target presentations on sporting clays courses. Clinic schedule and info: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/wingshooting/Pages/default.aspx>. ✧

DEC applications for sponsored pheasant hunt program

The New York application period for DEC's sponsored pheasant hunts is now open. Applications to participate in the program are due **September 1, 2018**. The program enables interest groups to obtain pheasants for use in sponsored hunts involving youth, women, novices, veterans, and people with disabilities.

In addition to raising 30,000 adult pheasants for DEC's pheasant stocking program, staff at DEC's Reynolds Game Farm in Ithaca raise an additional 2,000 pheasants annually to be used in sponsored hunts across New York State.

Through their participation, volunteers teach novice hunters important messages about hunting safety, hunting ethics, and the fine tradition of pheasant hunting in New York State. This program helps provide a memorable experience for people to begin a lifelong pursuit of hunting and outdoor recreation.

Applications must be received by the appropriate wildlife office no later than September 1. Successful applicants will be notified by phone and will be responsible for making arrangements with the Reynolds Game Farm to coordinate a time, date, and location to pick up the pheasants. ✧

IDNR Accepting Applications for Archery Deer Hunting on Private Property

The Illinois DNR is accepting applications archery deer hunting on private land this October through the Ill Recreational Access Program (IRAP). Application deadline is **August 24**. For applications for IRAP (Illinois Recreational Access Program) Archery Deer Hunting sites: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IRAP/Pages/Archery-Deer-Hunting.aspx>. ✧

DEC seeks participants for 2018 summer wild turkey survey

Since 1996, DEC has conducted the Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey to track wild turkey populations and estimate the number of wild turkey poults (young of the year) per hen statewide. Weather, predation, and habitat conditions during the breeding and brood-rearing seasons can all significantly impact nest success, hen survival, and poult survival. This index allows DEC to gauge reproductive success and predict fall harvest potential.

During August, survey participants record the sex and age composition of all flocks of wild turkeys observed during normal travel. Those interested in participating can download a Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey form along with instructions and the data sheet directly at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48732.html. In addition, survey cards can be obtained by contacting a regional DEC office, calling (518) 402-8883, or e-mailing wildlife@dec.ny.gov (type "Turkey Survey" in the subject line). Participants can also submit observations on-line. Visit the DEC website link above and click "Summer Wild Turkey Sighting On-line Report."

Additional info:

- Summer Turkey Sighting Survey: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48732.html
- Citizen Science Initiatives: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/1155.html
- DEC Office Info: www.dec.ny.gov/about/50230.html ✧

IL Archery Deer Permits

Illinois Resident and non-resident combo and antlerless-only archery deer permits will be available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors beginning August 7. Find a vendor link here: www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx. ✧

Lake Michigan stocking plan

Continued from page 1

Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery. At 70 years old, the facility has reached its useful lifetime and plans call for major improvements to the hatchery that will allow production of more fish for stocking in Lake Michigan with less groundwater and energy use and better conditions for fish and staff. The request for proposals to refurbish the hatchery is expected to go out this winter, with construction beginning shortly thereafter.

Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery Renovation

In addition, the DNR is embarking on a public-private partnership with Coolidge Springs Trout Farm in Fifield, Wis. to raise 50,000 steelhead annually to meet the stocking plan for the next three years. For more information on Lake Michigan fishing, visit the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, and search "[Lake Michigan fisheries](http://dnr.wi.gov)." ✧

New MN DWI law

Continued from page 1

DWI, would have their driver's license suspended and be prohibited from operating ATVs, motorboats and snowmobiles for one year. Additionally, first-time DWI offenders operating off-road recreational vehicles or motorboats also will be subject to chemical use assessments, conditional release and plate impoundment – the same as a DWI in a highway-licensed vehicle.

The Minnesota DNR and other law enforcement agencies in the state, along with ATV and snowmobile groups, supported the law change, which passed the Legislature with bipartisan support and was signed into law in May by Gov. Mark Dayton. ✧

Fall Wild Turkey Shotgun Season

Hunters may apply through **August 20** for the second lottery for 2018 Illinois Fall Wild Turkey Shotgun Season permits. Season dates are October 20-28, 2018. More info: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/TurkeyHunting.aspx> ✧

Practice Leave No Trace

Follow proper trail etiquette to maintain minimal impact on the environment and the natural resources of the Adirondacks, as well as ensure an enjoyable outdoor experience for all visitors by following the [Seven Principles of Leave No Trace](#).

Always carry out what you carry in. Pack extra baggies to ensure you can pack out any trash and food scraps.



It's easy to think that throwing your apple core or banana peel into the woods won't have lasting effects, but imagine; you aren't the only one to think this way. How many apple cores and banana peels are scattered throughout our trails and forests?

It takes months for an apple core to decompose and up to two years for a banana peel to decompose. It may not have a visual impact but in that time of decomposition, it has attracted wildlife and permanently impacted their survival patterns.

Carrying out all trash and scraps will protect our wildlife from negative impacts, reduce wildlife encounters, and preserve the pristine beauty of our forests. ✧

Did You Know...

Trash Decomposition Timeline

- Aluminum Can 80 to 100 years
 - Plastic 6-pack Holder 100 years
 - Orange or Banana Pee Up to 2 years
 - Plastic Film Container 20 to 30 years
 - Plastic Bags 10 to 20 years
 - Glass Bottles 1,000,000 years
 - Plastic Coated Paper 5 years
 - Nylon Fabric 30 to 40 years
 - Leather 1 to 5 years
 - Wool Socks 1 to 5 years
 - Tin Cans 50 years
- ✧

DNR to host open house **Aug. 23** on proposed boating access site on East Grand Traverse Bay

The Michigan DNR will host a public open house **August 23**, to encourage the public to weigh in on a proposed development of the Old Mooring boating access site on East Grand Traverse Bay in Peninsula Township (Grand Traverse County). The open house will run 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Peninsula Township Hall meeting room, 13235 Center Road. DNR staff will be available to answer questions and gather input from the public regarding site analysis and a proposed design concept. People are welcome to attend at any time during the open forum. For more information on this project, contact [Annamarie Bauer](mailto:Annamarie.Bauer@dnr.state.mi.us) at 231-775-9727. ✧

Illinois Controlled Pheasant Hunting Reservation info now available online

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Controlled pheasant hunting opportunities will be available at 18 Illinois DNR sites during the 2018-19 hunting season. Dates and permit reservation information are now available online. Online application period for IDNR-managed sites begins **August 6** until 1:00 p.m. on August 13.

Sixteen of the sites are operated by the IDNR, while two other sites continue to be operated in a public/private partnership arrangement between the IDNR and concessionaire T. Miller, Inc. The daily fee for permits acquired online for controlled pheasant hunting is \$30 for resident hunters and \$35 for nonresident hunters. Two additional one-week drawing periods are scheduled thereafter. For complete details, check the controlled pheasant hunting website at www.dnr.illinois.gov or the T. Miller, Inc. website at www.tmillerinc.com. ✧

NY lifts restricted access to WMAs to give public a peek

New York is opening several otherwise restricted Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) to the public in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties from **August 11 through August 26, 2018**. Portions of these WMAs are marked as "Refuge" or "Wetlands Restricted Area" to allow waterfowl and other listed species to breed and raise young without interference from people.

During the 16-day period, Upper and Lower Lakes and Wilson Hill WMAs in St. Lawrence County, including the posted Wetland Restricted and Refuge areas, will be open to visitors each day from sunrise to sunset. Perch River WMA in Jefferson County will also be open to visitors with two exceptions—Mossentine parking lot and dike will be closed due to construction, and the lower pool dike at the new control structure and beyond is also closed. Visitors will be asked to keep a safe distance from the construction areas and obey the posted signs. Also, the Perch Lake proper will be open but hours are noon to dusk each day.

Perch River WMA encompasses 7,800 acres in the towns of Brownville, Orleans, and Pamela. It can be accessed from State Route 12, Allen Road, Buckminster Road, Vaadi Road, and Perch Lake Road. The Perch Lake proper (accessed by Perch Lake Rd.) will be open from noon until sunset each day. Fishing will be allowed but motorized boats are not permitted.

Upper & Lower Lakes WMA is located about two miles west of the village of Canton along State Route 68 in St. Lawrence County. This WMA, the largest in the region, is an 8,770-acre upland/wetland complex between the Grasse and Oswegatchie rivers.

Wilson Hill WMA is in northern St. Lawrence County, approximately six miles west of the village of Massena off State Route 37. Situated along the St. Lawrence River, the 4,000-acre area consists of several large pools of open water marsh bordered by a combination of dense cattails, brushy wetlands, forest, and upland meadow. Fishing is not allowed in Nichols Pool.

DEC will be conducting habitat and wildlife management projects on the WMAs throughout the 16-day period. Please avoid any operating machinery and pay attention to temporary signage. [For additional information](#), bird lists and maps, contact DEC's Regional Wildlife Office at 315-785-2263 or visit the DEC web page. ✧

Other Breaking News Items: **(Click on title or URL to read full article)**

[Governor talks tough on Lake Erie](#)

Ohio Gov. John Kasich on Wednesday insisted he will not back down after a state regulatory panel last week balked at his administration's request to immediately declare a large chunk of the Maumee River Basin in "distress."

[Grass carp found in Lake Huron](#)

The Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation (GBGLF) issued an alert calling for Ohio and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to begin grass carp eradication measures immediately.

[Who boats on Lake Erie? Breaking down Ohio boat registrations](#)

Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Watercraft requires all boats to be registered, including kayaks, canoes and inflatable boats

[Maiden voyage to Arctic for Canadian Coast Guard ship](#)

The Samuel Risley joined the Canadian Coast Guard fleet in the fall of 1985 and during most of the navigational season, the ship operates out of the Coast Guard base in Parry Sound, Ontario providing icebreaking and aids to navigation duties on the Great Lakes.

[Bill proposed to keep invasive species from Great Lakes](#)

A proposed federal law being re-introduced by two New York State legislators would broaden the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's powers to regulate nonnative species and keep them from being imported or sold in the United States

Mentored Goose Hunt for Women and Youth

DEC Region 6 Environmental Conservation Officers and staff and Oneida and Madison County Sportsmen are offering a mentored goose hunt for youth and women ages 12 and up on **September 22 and 23, 2018** (you must attend both days). All participants must have a valid hunting license, and everyone ages 16 and up must also have a Federal Duck Stamp. There are a limited number of openings.

For more information contact: Scott Faulkner 315-225-0192, ECO Steve Lakeman 315-734-0648, ECO Ric Grisolini 315-240-6966. Registration begins on July 26, 2018 at <http://www.cnymyhunts.org/> ✧

Upland Game Permits

Hunters may apply through **August 31** for the Illinois 2018 Free Upland Game Hunt Permit program. Applications must be made online, and successful applicants will receive a confirmation by mail. Application information is available at this link: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/Free%20Upland%20Game%20Hunt%20Instructions.pdf>. ✧

[These birds – and federal red tape – could harm the Great Lakes](#)

A federal judge's ruling in 2016 halted wildlife management agencies from their practice of killing limited numbers of double-crested cormorants to control their populations. That ruling—and the lack of progress on solutions since—has cormorant populations rising again, leading to concerns that that the voracious birds will harm local fisheries as they did in the early 2000s

[Long-stalled Lake Erie wind project gets tentative green light](#)

The Ohio Power Siting Board has given the preliminary go-ahead to six wind turbines planned for Lake Erie, about eight miles northwest of Cleveland. The project would be the first freshwater wind farm on the Great Lakes and the first in the nation.

End