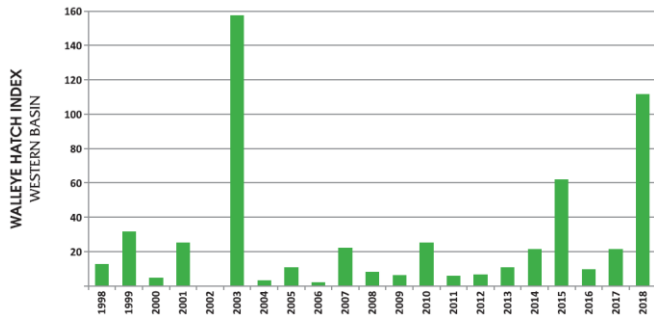




Lake Erie western basin Walleye and Yellow Perch futures look bright

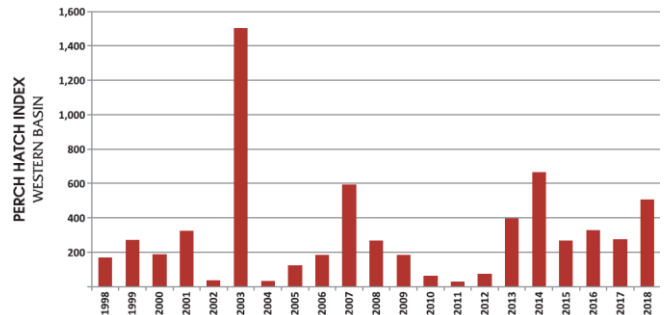
COLUMBUS, OH – Early data gathered by wildlife agencies in the western basin of Lake Erie indicate great news for Ohio anglers. The Ohio DNR says the 2018 walleye hatch appears to be exceptional, the second highest in the history of the Ohio survey, and the yellow perch hatch was strong, well above its long-term average.



Each year in August, wildlife agencies from around the western basin of Lake Erie sample the waters using bottom trawls in search of young-of-the-year walleye and yellow perch, with biologists from the ODNR conducting bottom trawls at nearly 40 sampling locations. Data from these bottom trawl surveys are combined into a basin-wide index, and fisheries biologists compare the figures to previous

years to estimate the success of the walleye and yellow perch hatches. These data provide biologists with an initial estimate of how many young fish will enter the fishable population two years later.

The ODNR 2018 August trawl survey found 112 walleye



per hectare. This is the second highest value on record and far above the 20-year average of 27 walleye per hectare in Ohio waters of the western basin. This year's outstanding hatch combined with the excellent 2015 year-class will ensure an abundance of young walleye to complement the older and larger fish that make up the current Lake Erie walleye population.

Walleye and Yellow Perch futures

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GLSFC 2019 Club, Individual Renewals

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council is budgeting for 2019.

A unique organization serving the entire Great Lakes region, we are also somewhat unique in not accepting advertising, government or financial assistance. Funding is provided through dues and donations from member clubs, individuals, charter captains and volunteers.

To keep our printing and mailing expenses in line and reduce the possibility of any increases, we will be sending out renewal forms electronically to clubs, individuals and captains shortly.

You can jumpstart the process by printing your membership/renewal form below. Complete it and send it with your check to GLSFC, P.O. Box 297, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

[Club renewal](#) [Individuals](#) [Charter Captain](#)

Thanks for your continued support these many years.

E15 gas is a boon for farmers, but rips-off consumers

U.S. oil and natural gas producers are shattering records, overtaking Saudi Arabia and Russia to lead the world in crude oil production. The American energy resurgence is paying off for consumers and shielding U.S. markets from instability overseas.

But drivers may need extra cash to pay the mechanic if regulators keep forcing more ethanol into the fuel supply. Multiple industries have long warned about the risks of higher-ethanol fuels like E15 (15% ethanol), which extensive testing shows can damage engines and fuel systems.

Nearly three out of every four vehicles on the road today are not designed for E15 gasoline, and a number of automakers have even said that E15 may cause damage that is not covered by warranties. It's not just cars. Consumer groups warn that E15 is incompatible with lawnmowers, motorcycles, ATVs, power equipment and boats, and many of these consumers opt for fuel that is entirely ethanol free (E0).

With so many drawbacks, who's asking for more ethanol in fuel?

The Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America and Association of Convenience Stores say "most retailers that sell E15 or E85 have seen minimal sales of these products." By contrast, "there's a significant demand in the market" for "non-blended gasoline" or E0.

Availability of lower ethanol fuel is at risk due to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Finalized in 2007, before the U.S. energy revolution took off, the RFS requires the fuel industry to add more ethanol to the fuel supply each year, regardless of market demand. The idea was to encourage a cheaper, local alternative to reduce reliance on fuel imports from overseas. Ten years later, surging domestic crude oil production has taken care of the reduced imports goal.

As for cheaper energy, the math doesn't add up for a higher ethanol mandate. Ethanol has less energy than gasoline, forcing drivers to fill up more often when using higher ethanol blends. On top of that, the

Congressional Budget Office projects gasoline prices could jump substantially unless the RFS mandate's market-distorting impacts are reined in.

The RFS is more complicated than just warning drivers to stick with standard E10 fuel. For now, yearly ethanol volume requirements can be met while still leaving room for E10 and E0. Without reform, the RFS will eventually require more gallons of ethanol than the fuel supply can accommodate as E10.

In the nation that leads the world in oil and natural gas production, restricting consumer choice does not make sense. It makes even less sense when you factor in the broad swath of collateral damage unleashed by government ethanol policy.

Environmental groups, wildlife protection activists, grocers, restaurant owners and producers of poultry, pork and beef—all have spoken out against the RFS with concerns ranging from environmental and habitat protection to increased food prices and elevated costs for farmers and ranchers.

The outdated, bureaucratic boondoggle that is the RFS should be a prime target for the White House, which has energetically pursued regulatory reforms, achieving real benefits for families and businesses. But the Trump administration may be headed in the wrong direction on ethanol, supporting policies that would push even more E15 ethanol into gas tanks. To its credit, the White House is taking a close look at ethanol policy, convening several stakeholder meetings to find compromise reforms that will satisfy ethanol supporters and everyone else.

Boosting prospects for success is the fact that RFS reform is one of the rare issues that enjoys support from both Republicans and Democrats in Congress. But when it comes to smart ethanol policy, political parties shouldn't matter. The only label that matters is "consumer." It's time to stand up for consumers and fix the broken RFS once and for all. ✧



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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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Outdoor Recreation a Large and Growing Percentage of U.S. Economy

Sportfishing industry welcomes first-ever government statistics on industry's contribution to U.S. economy

BOULDER, Colo. – Outdoor recreation accounts for 2.2 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), according to the final report by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) on the outputs from outdoor recreation. The final report also found that outdoor recreation contributes over \$734 billion to total U.S. gross output, which is the total value of domestic goods and service produced by an industry.

Of special note is that recreational fishing and boating contributes \$38.2 billion to the annual economy—the largest of the core outdoor recreation activities.

“BEA’s final numbers confirm what the outdoor industry has always known: that outdoor recreation truly is an economic force, accounting for over 2 percent of the entire nation’s GDP and growing faster than the economy as a whole,” said Amy Roberts, executive director at Outdoor Industry Association (OIA). “OIA’s analysis shows that Americans spend \$887 billion annually recreating outside. All of this data underscores that outdoor recreation is a significant and growing contributor to the U.S. economy—we strongly encourage members of Congress to invest in public lands as these numbers demonstrate the return on investment.”

“The government’s data confirms what many of us in the industry have known for quite some time. Millions of Americans love to get outside and enjoy time with friends and family, adventuring right out their back doors or off into our iconic wild places,” said Jerry Stritzke, president and CEO of REI Co-op. “This is something that unites us as a nation. Whether they live in a city, suburb or small rural town, Americans cherish their outdoor experiences. It’s also very good for the economy. We appreciate the work of the Commerce Department and, in particular, the

Bureau of Economic Analysis on this analysis and are committed to helping assure the data is kept fresh into the future.”

“I authored the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact (REC) Act because it’s important that Congress has a clear understanding of how much of a major economic driver outdoor recreation is for communities across the country,” said Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colorado). “This report provides important data for Congress and will be extremely useful as I work to gain support for initiatives that highlight the importance of our beautiful outdoors.”

“This report shows that outdoor recreation is an economic powerhouse—and underscores the need to continue investing in measures that preserve our environment and access to public lands,” said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hampshire). “New Hampshire draws visitors from all over the world, which is why expanding outdoor recreation and protecting our environment is fundamental to our tourism industry. My bipartisan legislation with Senator Gardner, which was signed into law, will ensure that we continue to understand the economic impact of outdoor recreation, and I’ll continue to prioritize legislation in Congress to build on that effort.”

“Outdoor recreation continues to be an important part of the American experience, and that’s why I introduced the Outdoor REC Act in 2016. It plays a major role in the Northern Virginia economy by contributing over \$1 billion annually and provides critical jobs to the region,” said Rep. Don Beyer (D-Virginia). “These new numbers give policymakers useful information to underpin legislation that strengthens national recreational policies, which will go a long way toward improving

all Americans’ physical, environmental and economic health.”

“This report is further proof that outdoor recreation is important to our country’s economy. In my home state of Washington, we know this well since outdoor recreation is one of the largest industries in our state,” said Rep. Dave Reichert (R-Washington). “Washington state is the proud home of stunning mountains, beaches, lakes and rivers, drawing visitors from around the world for our hiking, skiing, fishing, climbing and many more outdoor opportunities these lands offer. I am proud to see this report that my colleagues and I successfully authorized in 2016 come to fruition and show what many of us already knew: how important this industry is to our country. It is why I remain committed to advocating for Washington’s public lands and the benefits they bring to my constituents and our economy.”

“Vermont is blessed with unparalleled natural beauty that affords visitors year-round opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors,” said Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vermont). “This report documents what we have always assumed: outdoor recreation creates good jobs and boosts our economy.”

This study is the result of the unanimous passage of the Outdoor REC Act of 2016. OIA and its membership worked with Senators Gardner and Shaheen as well as Representatives Reichert, Beyer, McMorris Rodgers and Welch to move this bill and insure funding to get the study launched. OIA is now looking to Congress to continue to fund this report on an annual basis and produce regional data. For more info from BEA: <https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/outdoor-recreation>; www.bea.gov/

The full report issued by BEA can be found [here](#). ✧

Fall Boating – It takes a little bit more care

Toronto, ON -- Boating in the fall offers colorful vistas, quiet anchorages and excellent fishing but it is not without its challenges that necessitate self-sufficiency and taking some additional precautions to keep from running into trouble.

The Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) and the Ontario Conservation Officer Association (OCA) want to remind all boaters enjoying the fall season on the water to follow these tips to ensure that their excursions are both safe and enjoyable.

Before heading out, be sure to check the weather forecast. The mixing of warm and cold air can quickly spawn high winds and waves making it treacherous for small boats. Fog, too, is an issue at this time of year making visibility difficult. Should boaters find themselves in a fog bank, they should proceed slowly and sound their horn at regular intervals to alert other boaters of their presence.

In October, daytime temperatures can occasionally be balmy but dressing for the water temperature will help slow the onset of hypothermia should the unexpected happen and the boater find himself in the water. Accidental cold water immersion can be shocking, but people shouldn't panic. It may take a minute or so to get their breathing under control after the initial shock but they will have at least 10-15 minutes, even in very cold water, to effect self-rescue before they start to lose muscle control in their arms and legs. This is where an approved lifejacket, either inflatable or inherently buoyant, is an essential part of a boater's wardrobe to keep them afloat after they can no longer swim.

In the fall, there are fewer other boats on the water to offer assistance, if needed. Boaters should be sure to leave a float plan with a responsible person on shore who will know what to do if they're overdue. A marine radio or cell phone will allow them to

call for assistance should the need arise. Having a few tools and spare parts aboard will also allow them to fix minor problems that might otherwise cause them to be stranded out on the water.

It's important that boaters ensure that their boat and engine are in good shape and mechanically sound. Ethanol-based fuel can allow water contamination in the tank. The use of a fuel additive prevents water in the fuel line from freezing which could cause the engine to chug to a halt. If the boat has portable fuel tanks, it's a good idea to have a spare on board as a reserve.

When you head out, be wary of reduced water levels that can result after a long, hot and dry summer season. Some of a boater's favorite shallow water fishing holes may be inaccessible at this time of year. Also, while underway, they should keep a sharp lookout for debris and chunks of ice that could penetrate the boat's hull at speed. ✧

Surveys show walleye overage can be paid back on Lake Mille Lacs

Lake Mille Lacs angler survey results show that state anglers have taken walleye at levels far enough under the state's safe harvest allocation to pay back a harvest overage accumulated in 2016 and 2017, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The survey results through the end of August indicate catch rates were still quite good this summer, but were lower than last year. DNR experts say the lower catch rates are consistent with reports from anglers of seeing more baitfish, as catch rates decline with increases in small-fish forage for bigger fish.

"It's good news that walleye anglers had lots of success on Mille Lacs and that we were able to stay under the state's allocation," said DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr.

The latest survey estimates include walleye harvested by state anglers in the winter, and in the summer those

that died after being caught and released. This is a condition known as hooking mortality. During this time anglers took 42,396 pounds of walleye. Cooler water temperatures and the normal decline in fishing pressure that occur in the fall indicate that total kill for the year will likely remain under 50,000 pounds of walleye, well below the state's safe harvest level allocation of 87,800 pounds.

In 2016 and 2017, state anglers exceeded the allowable harvest by a combined 16,050 pounds and those overages needed to be accounted for in a future year. Since the 2018 state angler kill is well under the allowable harvest, the overage will be eliminated.

Walleye safe harvest level for Lake Mille Lacs is determined annually, based on population status, and predictions of how harvest will affect the walleye population in the future.

The safe harvest level is divided between the 1837 Treaty Bands and state anglers. By agreement, the Bands and the state are required to monitor harvest by their members.

"Although the state and the Bands did not reach agreement on safe harvest level for this year, a kill of 50,000 pounds will be well below allocation regardless of whether safe harvest level is 150,000 or 120,000 pounds," Parsons said.

The DNR conducted its standard fall fish community assessments through September. The DNR's angler creel survey runs through October 31. The agency will announce its winter walleye regulations in early November. Angler survey results and more information about Lake Mille Lacs can be found on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/millelacslake. ✧

RMEF to Congress: Reauthorize, Fund LWCF

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation calls on Congress to renew and permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) with full, dedicated, annual funding.

"For 52 years now, LWCF has provided critical funding for wildlife and riparian habitat, wildlife refuges and national parks, and even community recreation facilities and neighborhood parks," said Kyle Weaver, RMEF president and CEO. "These LWCF-funded projects provide long-lasting benefits for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and all sorts of other recreational pursuits.

As of early September 2018, LWCF funding provided more than \$108 million in funding that assisted 80 different RMEF land projects that permanently protected more than 152,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

"The Priority Recreational Access program is a key facet of the LWCF program," said Blake Henning, RMEF chief conservation officer. "It helps maintain and expand access to our public lands."

One example of the LWCF Priority Recreational Access program is the [Middle Creek](#) project in south-central Colorado. RMEF recently teamed up with the Bureau of Land Management and other partners to permanently protect and conserve a 28-acre property that improved access to 8,500 acres of adjacent public land.

LWCF helps conserve wild and undeveloped places, cultural heritage and benefits fish, wildlife and recreation. Its funding comes from royalties paid by energy companies drilling for oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf. The royalties bring in \$900 million annually, most of which is diverted to other federal programs.

RMEF urges sportsmen, women and all other Americans who cherish conservation and our public lands to contact their elected representatives and urge them to renew and fully reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. ✧

Indiana bass fishing heats up

Anglers can catch a variety of fish while stream fishing through the year, but fall is a good time to target bass. As the water cools, many fish will be migrating to the deeper stream and river pools for the winter. As they move, they will be searching for some easy meals. After the summer rains, the streams are typically lower and clearer, which can concentrate bass to the deeper areas. Use stealth to catch these elusive and skittish bass without warning the entire pool. Stay low. And when approaching a likely area, stay quiet. During the fall, smallmouth bass are primarily feeding on crayfish. Using life-like crayfish imitation soft plastics, crankbaits, or tube jigs can be the ticket to high catches. The great advantage to stream fishing is the vast number of publicly accessible streams that anglers can wade. To find great fishing spots with or without a boat, check out the [Where to Fish Finder](#). This shows the public access sites for Indiana's lakes and streams. ✧

NY Family Fishing Festival

Want to find a sport the whole family, from toddlers to grandparents, can enjoy? Try fishing. The perfect place to start is at the annual Fall Fishing and Children's Festival, which will be held **October 20** at [Hempstead Lake State Park](#), 10-4 p.m. More than 1,000 trout will be stocked for this event.

Participants fish for free—no freshwater fishing license is required. Learn how to fly-fish, cast and identify local fish. Loaner rods are available, along with free bait and fish cleaning. Children's activities will include pumpkin decorating, an inflatable bounce house and face painting. The main event is a casting contest in which participants can "catch" a pumpkin or "hook" a prize.

Cost: \$6 for those 12 and older. For more information about the Fall Fishing Festival, or if you have weather concerns, please call DEC's I FISH NY number, 631-444-0283. ✧

What happens to surplus salmon after fall egg-take efforts?



Michigan's seasonal salmon runs are a busy time for DNR staff. During the runs, large numbers of Chinook and coho salmon return to their native streams to spawn, and afterward they die. The DNR maintains several sites (weirs) to block these fish and then collect their eggs and milt (sperm) for use in [state fish hatcheries](#).

Egg collection is one of the most important things the DNR does to support an ample, healthy salmon population. Once the egg-take needs are met, salmon in prime condition are available for sale to the public.

When fall salmon runs are done and egg collection is completed, people can purchase the surplus salmon from a small number of retailers. These are fish that have been harvested by the DNR at weirs in the same area.

The preparation and sale are handled by American-Canadian Fisheries, a private vendor that assists the DNR with the salmon harvest. ACF harvests the salmon for human- and pet-food markets, as well as excess eggs for bait and caviar markets. ACF pays the DNR a flat per-pound rate for the salmon and eggs collected, and then makes suitable-quality fish available wholesale to distributors who market the fish. [This year's retailers are located in the northern Lower Peninsula.](#)

Interested in purchasing some of the surplus salmon? The DNR recommends directly contacting individual retailers to confirm the timing and pricing of a purchase. For more info: [Aaron Switzer](#), 231-325-4611, ext. 15 or [Elyse Walter](#), 517-284-5839. ✧

Mepps Squirrel Tail Recycling Program

Antigo, WI – Mepps continues to ask hunters to save their squirrel tails. The tails are used for their hand-tied, dressed hooks of their world-famous, fish-catching lures. They've been recycling squirrel tails for over half-a-century.



“Squirrels are good eating and we can reuse their tails for making the world's #1 lure,” explains Mepps Communications Director, Josh Schwartz. “Consider harvesting squirrels for the 2018 hunting season.”

Mepps buys fox, black, grey and red squirrel tails and will pay up to 26 cents each for tails, depending on quality and quantity. Plus, the cash value is doubled if the tails are traded for Mepps lures.

Schwartz reminds everyone, “We do not advocate harvesting of squirrels solely for their tails.”

For details on the Squirrel Tail Program, either visit our web site www.mepps.com/squirrels or call 800-713-3474.

For more info contact: Josh Schwartz, 715.623.7556 jschwartz@mepps.com ✧

Illinois receives \$3.3 million for outdoor recreation

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Ryan K. Zinke, on September 18 announced a \$3.3 million distribution from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to Illinois for state-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects.

This is part of a \$100 million distribution from the LWCF to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia. LWCF funds are non-taxpayer dollars derived from Outer Continental Shelf lease revenues and are awarded through federal matching grants administered by the National Park Service.

Secretary Zinke made the announcement at Acadiana Park in Lafayette, Louisiana. “In the last 53 years,” Zinke said, “the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its State and Local Assistance Program has provided over \$4.2 billion to help states protect special places and bring outdoor recreation opportunities to local communities across the country.”

The LWCF was established by Congress in 1965 to ensure access to outdoor recreation resources for present and future generations. The LWCF invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to permanently conserve outdoor recreation areas for public use and enjoyment. The funds

enable state and local governments to improve park and other recreation areas in their communities by rehabilitating and upgrading existing parks, creating brand new parks in places that have none, and developing and expanding trail systems that link communities to each other and to additional outdoor recreation opportunities.

Since the inception of the LWCF, over \$4.2 billion from responsible offshore oil and gas development has been made available to state and local governments to fund more than 43,000 conservation projects throughout the nation. The allocation for the State and Local Assistance Program is determined by a formula set in the LWCF Act. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov/lwcf.

Fiscal Year 2018 LWCF regional apportionments by State:

State	Total
Illinois	\$3,353,349
Indiana	\$1,959,895
Michigan	\$2,601,068
Minnesota	\$1,751,154
New York	\$4,650,277
Ohio	\$2,950,544
Pennsylvania	\$3,180,438
Wisconsin	\$1,800,071

✧

DEC to repair two Lake Champlain boat launches in October

Peru Dock Boat Launch will be temporarily closed October 9-17
Willsboro Bay Boat Launch will have restricted use during repairs

Needed repairs on two boat launches on Lake Champlain will be undertaken in October. DEC will replace a culvert under the exit lane of the Peru Dock Boat Launch which is causing problems for boat motors and trailers exiting the boat launch and address other water drainage issues at the site. The repairs will begin October 9 and are expected to be completed on **October 17**.

DEC will add riprap (cobble sized stone) to the lake bottom at the end of the ramp at the Willsboro Bay Boat Launch to fill a significant drop-off at the end of the ramp created by boaters power loading their boats onto trailers.

While the exact dates of the repairs on the Willsboro Bay Boat Launch have not been determined, it will take place during the next several weeks. While the repair work is underway only one ramp will be closed and boaters will be able to use the other ramp. ✧

DNR seeking input on Lake of the Woods and Rainy River regs

Angling regulations that would change on Lake of the Woods and the Rainy River in northern Minnesota were the topic of an open house for the public to give input on the proposals Monday, **Oct. 8**, at Lake of the Woods School.

The changes under consideration by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would reduce the number of walleye and sauger allowed to be kept in the winter on the lake, and on the river allow only catch-and-release fishing for those fish in the spring. The changes would take effect on March 1, 2019.

Winter walleye & sauger proposal

The proposed winter regulations would match the current summer regulations on Lake of the Woods, reducing the aggregate walleye and sauger limit to six, with no more than four walleye. The protected slot limit would remain in effect.

Rainy River spring season proposal

The proposed regulation change is a catch-and-release season that would be in effect March 1 to April 14 on the Rainy River and Fourmile Bay. Increasing pressure and harvest focused on pre-spawn male walleye have impacted the spawning population in the Rainy River.

The current Rainy River spring season regulation allows anglers to keep two walleye or sauger, and requires the immediate release of walleye 19.5 inches in length or larger. This regulation would maintain the spring fishery while protecting the long-term sustainability of the Rainy River spawning population and reducing the overall harvest of walleye from the Lake of the Woods-Rainy River system.

Comments will be accepted through Thursday, **Oct. 18**. Those not attending the meeting can provide comments by calling the Baudette area fisheries office at 218-634-2522 or by emailing baudette.fisheries@state.mn.us. ✧

Whitefish sport netting to open on northern lakes

Recreational netting for whitefish and cisco will be open this fall on lakes that are less susceptible to sudden temperature changes.

Whitefish and cisco sport netting is open to Minnesota residents only. About 700 Minnesotans participate each year. Whitefish netting is a specialized opportunity for people to enjoy Minnesota lakes. There are multiple regulations they need to know before netting so interested anglers should check the DNR website at <http://bit.ly/WhitefishNetting18> for specifics.

Whitefish netting schedules are based on expected water temperatures. As the water temperature cools, game fish head to deeper water while tullibee come to shallow water for fall spawning. The DNR allows netting when there is little chance that game fish populations would be negatively impacted by recreational netting in shallow water. Game fish incidentally taken in nets must be returned to the water immediately. For complete regs, see the website at <http://bit.ly/WhitefishNetting18>. ✧

16 parcels offered for sale Oct 26, Nov 1 & 8

The Minnesota DNR will offer 16 parcels for sale in three public oral bid auctions in October and November. Property information, auction instructions and a map of the parcels can be found on the [DNR's land sale webpage](#). The properties include unimproved recreational land in Beltrami, Benton, Big Stone, Fillmore, Hennepin, Houston, Itasca, Kanabec, Lake, Mille Lacs, and Wadena counties. More information about the parcels can be found on the [DNR's land sale webpage](#). Details, parcel info and the latest updates are available at: mndnr.gov/lands_minerals/landsale/. Also call 651-259-5432, 888-646-6367 or min.landsale@state.mn.us for more information. ✧

Two invasive species identified as new threats to Michigan

Spotted lanternfly, a leaf-hopper native to China and India, and Japanese chaff flower, a plant from East Asia, have been added to the state's [invasive species watch list](#) due to the threats they pose to agriculture.

Already found in Delaware, New Jersey and Virginia, [spotted lanternfly](#) is spreading through eastern Pennsylvania. Nymphs and adults suck sap from stems and leaves of more than 70 plants and crops including grapes, apples, hops, walnuts and other hardwood trees.

[Japanese chaff flower](#) displaces native plants by forming large, dense stands in floodplains, forested wetlands and disturbed habitat. It currently is found along the Ohio and Big Sandy rivers, reaching counties in nine states including Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Spotted lanternfly nymphs are wingless and beetle-like, with black and white spots, developing red patches as they mature. Adults are 1 inch long. Their folded wings are gray to brown with black spots. Open wings reveal a yellow and black abdomen and hind wings that are bright red with black spots and black and white bands at the edge.

Though spotted lanternflies cannot fly long distances, they lay eggs on nearly any smooth surface, including cars, trailers and outdoor furniture. Freshly laid eggs have a gray, waxy, putty-like coating, while hatched eggs look like rows of brownish, seed-like deposits.

If you're visiting areas known to be infested with spotted lanternfly, be sure to thoroughly inspect vehicles or anything left outside before returning to Michigan.

Japanese chaff flower grows to 6 feet tall, with opposite, simple leaves and a bottle brush-shaped green flower with no petals. Deer heavily browse this plant, and seeds spread by attaching to animals and clothing.

For more info: michigan.gov/invasives or contact [Joanne Foreman](mailto:Joanne.Foreman@state.mn.us), 517-284-5814. ✧

Potential Asian carp deterrent to be tested below Barkley Dam

Kentucky to deploy wall of sound to battle invasive fish

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Asian carp have become a major concern in the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers and many other rivers within the Mississippi River basin. Asian carp also continue to expand their ranges up many river systems throughout the Mississippi River and Ohio River basins.

In response to the looming threat of invasions, several federal and state agencies and universities are working together to test a sound and air bubble system (bio-acoustic fish fence) that could be installed below lock chambers to deter fish passage. These systems have not been tested on Asian carp below dams, and the research is needed to assess the technology's efficiency at reducing fish movement beyond the system.

Bio-acoustic fish fence (BAFF) technology was invented and has been

used in Europe, by the United Kingdom company Fish Guidance Systems, LTD (FGS). This company's technology has been chosen for testing in the downstream approach to the lock chamber at Barkley Dam in Kentucky.

The Nashville District and Research and Development Center (ERDC) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S.G.S., USFWS, USEPA, U. of Minnesota, FGS, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources are combining funding, technology or staff to construct a research plan that should put a BAFF system in the downstream approach to the lock chamber in early 2019.

The extent of Asian carp movement from the tailwater into the reservoir will be assessed using

multiple techniques including an existing and expanding telemetry receiver array.

Tests for the BAFF were initially projected to begin this month; however, significant structural modifications will be required to protect the BAFF from large, heavy debris that would be pushed or pulled through the lock chambers, delaying the project until early 2019.

The BAFF will be deployed in the downstream approach of the Barkley lock chamber. The additional time until deployment will also allow for various aquatic community samples to be taken and assessed to satisfy permit requirements for all projects that may affect the biota or the USACE's operational procedures for recreational and commercial passage through the locks. ✧

2018 Wis fall hunting and trapping forecasts

Fall hunting and trapping seasons in Wisconsin are well underway, and a number of hunting and trapping forecasts are now available to help hunters and trappers prepare for their time in the outdoors. For more info: [2018 Wisconsin Fall hunting and trapping forecasts](#) ✧

DEC announces small game hunting seasons

New York announced that several small game hunting seasons opened October 1 in addition to several special youth-only hunting seasons for pheasants and waterfowl prior to the start of the regular season. Season dates, bag limits, and other hunting regulations for New York's suite of small game species can be found in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide, which can be obtained from a license issuing agent, and on [DEC's website](#). Read more: [Start of Small Game Hunting Seasons](#). ✧

NGOs challenged to back up their rhetoric

The following letter was sent to the top ten environmental NGOs on September 18, challenging them to a debate on the topic "Is there a conflict between economic growth and environmental protection?" Recipients included the National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society and the Izaak Walton League. **View letter:** www.steadystate.org. ✧

Halloween camping available

Many Indiana State Parks are offering Fall Festival and Halloween events, [October 19-21](#) and [October 26-28](#). Some parks still have camping openings for these weekends. Check your favorite park for availability and reserve your site at camp.IN.gov. ✧

Deer license bundle: 3 deer, 4 seasons

Indiana deer archery season began October 1, and you have several choices of license you can purchase. A deer bundle license can be used in [all seasons](#) (except the deer reduction zone season) and gives the hunter the privilege to harvest up to three deer (3 antlerless OR 1 antlered and 2 antlerless). If you hunt in more than one season, this is the license deal for you. Season dates, legal equipment, and all other deer hunting laws apply. Cost: \$65 for residents, \$295 for non-residents, \$65 for non-resident youth. Resident youth must purchase a youth hunt/trap combo license, which includes deer hunting privileges. ✧

40th annual Lake Erie walleye assessment

The Michigan DNR will conduct its annual walleye assessment in the west basin of Lake Erie near Monroe, Michigan, beginning **October 8** and continuing through October 12. For more info: michigan.gov/fishresearch.

Smartphone App use and today's angler

FERNANDINA BEACH, FL. – With technology affecting every aspect of our lives, from the way we work and live at home and even to the way we recreate, it's no wonder it's also making an impact on old-time American pursuits such as recreational fishing. That impact may be a little slower in coming for many—but not all. Results from a recent survey at AnglerSurvey.com reveal that while 85 percent of active anglers own a smartphone, only 25 percent of those anglers use apps related to fishing.

With so many owning smartphones, not making better use of helpful apps such as solunar tables, weather and tide charts would seem at odds. However, the number one reason cited for not using fishing-related apps is that most, 56 percent, simply don't recognize the need for one or haven't realized how apps can help improve their time on the water. Others, 46 percent, also cited the desire to leave technology behind when fishing, seeking a more basic experience outdoors. Other top reasons cited included wanting to keep their hands free (20 percent), not realizing fishing-related apps even existed (19 percent) and the fear of losing or damaging their phone (12 percent). Respondents could cite more than one reason in the survey.

But of those 25 percent of anglers who have discovered the benefits of using fishing-related apps, the top choices include Fishing and Hunting Solunar Time (19 percent), Navionics (19 percent), Fish Brain (16 percent), Tide Charts Near Me (11 percent), Fishidy (9 percent) and Tides Near Me (9 percent). Other popular options included Windy, Onx Hunt and iBobber. More than 39 percent cited "other" as their favorite apps weren't listed.

And when were most of these apps used? Seventy-one percent of app-using anglers use them prior to hitting the water, while 53 percent use them while fishing. Only 14 percent make use of them after they are done fishing for the day. ✧

Exciting new deep-sea coral reefs discovered

Amazing deep-sea coral habitat was recently discovered during a NOAA Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program co-sponsored research expedition with partners including from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the U.S. Geological Survey, and academia on the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution-operated *R/V Atlantis*. Researchers uncovered previously unknown dense forests of cold water corals and a reef estimated to run for at least 85 linear miles (almost as long as Delaware). This was a two week expedition between Virginia and Georgia to collect critical baseline information on deepwater habitats and high-resolution mapping with daily dives using human occupied vehicle, *Alvin*. [Learn More >](#) ✧

Invasive species sighted in eastern St. Lawrence River

The head of the St. Lawrence River Institute says they have found an invasive species, new to this area, in the river this year. Dr. Jeff Ridal, the executive director of the institute, made the revelation while highlighting their fish survey they do with Akwesasne called FINS (Fish Identification Nearshore Survey).

"In fact, we have this year (found a new species) and it's not the nicest one. It's an invasive species called the Tubenose Goby. Relative of the Round Goby that everyone knows and in fact it's making its way into the river," Ridal said.

The bottom-feeder fish is normally found in the Black and Caspian seas between Europe and Asia, but showed up in Canada near Windsor in the late 1980s. It's been occasionally sighted in the river near Kingston, according to Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program. They eat the young of other bottom-dwelling fish.

On the flip side, Ridal says they are seeing more sensitive species making a comeback ✧

Two new non-native zooplankton species in Great Lakes

In August 2018, Cornell University Biological Field Station confirmed the presence of two new non-native species of crustacean zooplankton in the Great Lakes: the cladoceran *Diaphanosoma fluviatile* and the copepod *Mesocyclops pehpeiensis*. Both species were found in plankton samples collected in western Lake Erie during 2015-2017 with the collaboration of U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office.

D. fluviatile is native to South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. In the United States, *D. fluviatile* has been previously reported from Florida, Louisiana, and central Texas. This Lake Erie observation marks a dramatic northward expansion for this species. *M. pehpeiensis* is native to temperate and tropical areas of Asia. Its presence in Mexico, Cuba, and the southern United States (Louisiana, Mississippi, and the District of Columbia), first reported in the 1990s, is largely attributed to the transfer of ornamental aquatic plants.

The USFWS has filed environmental risk screening summary reports for these two species that includes previous observations of these species. According to USFWS, the ecosystem risk posed by these two species is uncertain because the effects of past introductions of these species outside their native habitat have not been studied.

<https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/AN/S/erss/uncertainrisk/Mesocyclops-pehpeiensis-ERSS-May2018.pdf>

U.S. EPA has posted an announcement of these findings on the Great Lake Restoration Initiative website <https://www.glri.us/node/130>. Cornell Biological Field Station has posted the announcement at <https://cbfs.dnr.cornell.edu/>.

With these new detections, a total of four new zooplankton species have been reported in the Great Lakes in the past three years. However, none of these zooplankton species are present in any abundance. ✧

NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App

There's a new FREE smartphone app for New York anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts! Download the NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App on the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play store](#), or by going to the [Pocket Ranger website](#). This FREE, cutting-edge mobile app gives outdoorsmen essential information. Powered by Pocket Ranger® technology, this DEC app will provide up-to-date information on fishing, hunting and wildlife watching and serve as an interactive outdoor app using today's leading mobile devices. Using the app's advanced GPS features, users will be able identify and locate New York's many hunting, fishing and wildlife watching sites. They will also gain immediate access to species profiles, rules and regulations, and important permits and licensing details. ✧

Fall trout stocking gets underway in October

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission announced the start of fall trout stocking activities during October. From early October through December, the addition of more than 111,000 hatchery raised adult rainbow, brown and brook trout will ensure that many popular waterways are ripe with opportunity for individuals enjoying a day along the water. In October alone, PFBC hatchery staff will supply trout to portions of 90 waterways in 47 counties. Stocking dates and locations are available at www.fishandboat.com by hovering over “Fish” in the upper right tab, then selecting “[Stocking Schedules](#).” Visitors can search by individual county or view a comprehensive list by clicking the “Go - Fall Stockings Statewide” button in the middle of the page. Volunteers and media are encouraged to participate. ✧

MN DNR seeks input on walleye regs on key state lakes

Anglers interested in walleye fishing on Kabetogama, Namakan, Sand Point, Crane and Little Vermilion lakes in northern St. Louis County were invited to participate in public meetings to review the current walleye regulation on these lakes that make up the Namakan Reservoir.

There were two meetings: October 2, in Kabetogama; and October 4, in Crane Lake.

The DNR presented options to modify the current size and bag limit, and one option to extend the regulation as-is. The current regulation has been in place since 2007 and expire March 1, 2019. Input will help determine if they are modified or extended to achieve fish management objectives.

The current experimental regulation for walleye requires the immediate release of walleye 17-28”. One walleye more than 28” long is allowed in a possession limit of four walleye. Anglers are currently allowed four walleye in a combined limit of six walleye and sauger.

In addition to retaining the current regulation, another option under consideration would modify the protected slot to match the current Rainy Lake regulation of an 18-26” protected slot limit with one walleye over 26”. A third option could be to set a harvest slot that would not only protect a similar size range of larger fish as the protected slot, but also protect smaller fish from harvest. All options could be combined with a four-fish aggregate bag limit for walleye and sauger; a reduction of two sauger from the current limit.

Angler preferences will influence these regulations.

People unable to attend a meeting may submit written comments to the DNR area fisheries office, 392 Highway 11 East, International Falls, MN 56649; by phone at 218-286-5220; or via email to kevin.peterson@state.mn.us. All comments must be received by Monday, **Oct. 15**. ✧

New mapping tool showcases Michigan's outdoor recreation industry

The Michigan DNR and NRC created the Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council, a group geared toward increasing awareness of manufacturing, retail and service companies that support outdoor recreation.

A new DNR interactive map, at michigan.gov/mi-outdoorrec, allows users to navigate the state to find outdoor recreation businesses, as well as explore industry research. The site also offers a signup option to receive email updates on the work of the council and industry developments.

Public listening sessions—opportunities to talk with consumers, retailers and other outdoor enthusiasts about industry relevance and challenges—also are under way. Set dates include January 9 at a meeting of the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance in Houghton. More dates and locations will be shared as they're finalized. For more details or to RSVP, email DNR-Outdoor-Rec@michigan.gov. ✧

Fifth annual ladies' guided pheasant hunt Oct. 21 in Belding

The Michigan DNR, along with [Pine Hill Sportsman's Club](#) and the Grand Valley chapter of [Pheasants Forever](#), will host a ladies' pheasant hunt on [Sunday, Oct. 21](#), at 3329 Johnson Road in Belding. Registration and coffee begins at 9 a.m. Participants will warm up with shooting clay pigeons on the skeet range, then hunt with a guide for three pheasants, learn to clean their birds and enjoy a gourmet lunch. Beginners are welcome. Registration is limited to 12 ladies, 18 years of age or older. The cost for the day is \$45 per person. Guns are available for beginners, if needed. All participants will go home with memories and a special gift.

Pre-registration is required. Call Scott Brosier at 616-874-8459 to sign up. ✧

Share your thoughts with the DNR at **October** meetings

The Michigan DNR is 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.

The following [boards, commissions, committees and councils](#) will hold public meetings in October 2018, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Check these pages frequently, as meeting details and agendas may change or are canceled.

- [Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee](#) – **Oct. 18**, 9 to 11 a.m., Belle Isle Nature Center, Detroit (Contact: Renee Parker, 517-284-6135)
- [Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council](#) – **Oct. 18**, 6 p.m., Munising Township Hall (Contact: Stacy Welling Haughey, 906-226-1331)
- [Equine Trails Subcommittee](#) – **Oct. 17**, 1:15 to 4:30 p.m., Doherty Hotel, Clare (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517-284-6112)
- [Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee](#) – **Oct. 10**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jay's Sporting Goods, Clare (Contact: Randy Claramunt, 231-347-4689)
- [Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board](#) – **Oct. 16**, 3 p.m., Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee (Contact: Barry James, 906-475-7857)
- [Natural Resources Commission](#) – Work session - **Oct. 10**, time and location to be determined (Contact: Cheryl Nelson, 517-284-6237)
- [Natural Resources Commission](#) - Meeting – **Oct. 11**, 1 p.m., MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Lansing (Contact: Cheryl Nelson, 517-284-6237)
- [Natural Resources Trust Fund Board](#) – **Oct. 17**, 1 p.m., Outdoor Adventure Center, Detroit (Contact: Jon Mayes, 517-284-5954)
- [Northern Inland Lakes Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee](#) – **Oct. 19**, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuscarora Township Hall, Indian River (Contact: Tim Cwalinski, 989-732-3541)
- [Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup](#) – **Oct. 19**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jay's Sporting Goods, Gaylord (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517-284-6112)
- [Trails Advisory Council](#) – **Oct. 9**, 10 a.m., Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, Roscommon (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517-284-6112)
- [Urban and Community Forestry Council](#) – **Oct. 30**, 10 a.m., Michigan State University, Natural Resources Building (Contact: Kevin Sayers, 517-284-5898) ✧

Winterize your boat, save time and money later

Once boating season winds down, it's time to start thinking about protecting your watercraft for next season. The time and effort you spend now will have a definite effect on your boat's performance and time, effort and money come spring. Keep in mind that your insurance policy may not cover damage due to lack of maintenance. The best place to store your boat during the winter is under cover in a climate-controlled boat storage area; however, this can be expensive. Shrink wrapping your boat or covering it with a tarp or other sturdy cover are options too. A great first step is to make a checklist of all tasks that need to be accomplished, including reviewing the owner's manual for manufacturer's recommendations for both your boat and motor. Check out [suggestions for winterizing your boat](#) courtesy of Discover Boating. ✧

Record hybrid sunfish caught in Michigan

Michigan has a new state-record hybrid sunfish, out of Lake Anne in Grand Mere State Park. Joel Heeringa, of St. Joseph, Michigan, caught the fish July 9 while still-fishing with a crawler. The record fish weighed 1.8 lbs. and measured 11.7”.

The record was verified by Brian Gunderman, a DNR fisheries unit manager for southern Lake Michigan. Because the fish was believed to be a hybrid, additional identification was required, delaying final confirmation.



For more information, visit michigan.gov/masterangler or contact [Brian Gunderman](#) at 269-685-6851, ext. 145. ✧

Walleye and Yellow Perch futures

Continued from page 1

The ODNR August western basin trawl survey also found the 2018 yellow perch hatch to be very good at 511 yellow perch per hectare. This is above the 20-year average of 316 yellow perch per hectare in Ohio waters of the western basin. This above average yellow perch hatch should help bolster the yellow perch population in the western basin and maintain quality yellow perch fishing.

Initial reports from bottom trawl surveys conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Ontario waters of the western basin showed similar results, with walleye catches well above average and strong yellow perch catches. During the upcoming months, Ohio and Ontario bottom trawl data will be combined to estimate the basin-wide hatches of walleye and yellow perch. These estimates will be used in the process to determine jurisdictional quotas. ✧

Overwhelming public support for stronger, immediate protections to block Asian carp

New survey finds over 7 in 10 back 'fair share' funding proposal in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin

A first-of-its-kind public opinion poll shows an overwhelming majority of people who live near the Great Lakes support immediate action to install additional structural protections that can keep Asian carp from moving out of Illinois rivers and into the Great Lakes.

The poll – commissioned by the [Great Lakes Partnership to Block Asian Carp](#) – is the first effort to survey residents in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin about their understanding of the risk of invasive carp.

In addition, the poll gauged support for potential solutions recommended by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to stop the non-native fish from entering the Great Lakes. These include a proposal by Gov. Rick Snyder to help fund the ongoing operations and maintenance of the additional security improvements based on each state's respective share of the Great Lakes. Under this "fair share" scenario, the state of Michigan would pay the most of any state by covering nearly half of the installation costs, while a state such as Illinois would pay only 2 percent or less. Michigan also has offered to pay the share of any state that cannot pay its own portion to block Asian carp and has dedicated state funds in the upcoming 2019 budget for this purpose.

"The poll results clearly demonstrate that Great Lakes residents understand that the time to act on Asian carp is now," Gov. Snyder said. "We formed the Block Asian Carp partnership earlier this year to urgently address the threat invasive carp pose to our waters. The public's support for immediate action affirms the importance of those efforts. It's time to move forward with additional security measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam that will protect our Great Lakes and economic future."

Highlights of the survey include:

- More than 9 in 10 respondents from each state believed it was important to immediately increase protections to block the spread of Asian carp to the Great Lakes at the recommendation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- More than 7 in 10 respondents from each state are likely to support the "fair share" funding proposal given the specific percent their state would be asked to pay.
- Support rises to more than 8 in 10 respondents likely to support the proposal when told Michigan would pay the share of any state that cannot pay its own portion to block Asian carp.
- Support for the fair share funding proposal is bipartisan, with more than 8 in 10 Republicans and Democrats in each state supporting their state's funding contribution.

"People across the Great Lakes region recognize that Asian carp pose a major threat to their state's economy and environment and they believe it is critical to increase protections immediately to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes," Alliance for the Great Lakes Vice President for Policy Molly Flanagan said.

"The poll results show that more than 80 percent of the respondents want leaders in each of the Great Lakes states to work together to prevent Asian carp from entering new rivers and lakes, including the Great Lakes," Flanagan said.

The online five-state survey was conducted by the national research firm Qualtrics from August 22-September 8, 2018, and is based on more than 3,000 responses. The sample was balanced to closely reflect each state's age, race/ethnicity, gender and geographic makeup.

The survey oversampled Illinois residents as Illinois is the only state

identified by the Army Corps with the necessary rights of way, public water authority and jurisdiction to serve as the Corps' nonfederal sponsor. An estimated \$8 million is needed annually to provide the nonfederal share of funding to operate and maintain the Corps' proposed stronger safeguards. Findings from Illinois show:

- When told the Army Corps of Engineers recommends adding new protective measures in Illinois to block the spread of Asian carp to the Great Lakes, 94 percent of Illinois respondents say it is important to increase the protections immediately.
- 86 percent of Illinois respondents agree that all states connected to the Great Lakes should work together to prevent Asian carp from entering additional rivers and lakes, including the Great Lakes.
- 54 percent of Illinois respondents say they are at least moderately familiar with Asian carp.
- 76 percent of Illinois respondents say that Asian carp are a major or moderate threat to the Great Lakes.
- 78 percent of Illinois respondents support a funding proposal that would require Illinois to pay 2 percent or less of the costs to block Asian carp based on the state's share of the Great Lakes.
- When told that Michigan will pay the costs of any state that cannot pay, support among Illinois respondents increases to 87 percent.
- In Illinois, 85 percent of Republicans, 80 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of independents support a funding proposal that would require Illinois to pay 2 percent or less of the security system upgrade costs to block Asian carp.
- When respondents are presented with the case for and against immediate action to prevent Asian

carp from entering the Great Lakes, 88 percent were likely to support immediate action.

The strong Illinois results mirror the sentiments of members of the Chicago Association of Realtors who are concerned the risk of Asian carp entering the Great Lakes, especially Lake Michigan, could permanently harm the city's quality of life. "There are very few great downtowns like Chicago that are on the water," Brian Bernardoni, the association's senior director of government affairs and public policy, said. "Lake Michigan is one of our state's best assets, and its destruction by Asian carp would be inexcusable. It could not only lower property values but could limit our ability to attract and recruit talent who want to live in communities that are walkable and provide easy access to outdoor recreation like boating, kayaking, sailing and fishing."

The interstate Block Asian Carp partnership is a diverse coalition founded by Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, the city of Chicago and the province of Ontario, which have committed to providing financial or policy support for the Army Corps' tentative plan. The coalition members are united in support of the Army Corps' recommendation to install a suite of prevention technologies at Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois, the most effective proposal yet developed to prevent the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

"A regional partnership approach strikes the right balance to protect the recreational opportunities offered by the Great Lakes Basin and preserve our waterways for current and future generations to enjoy," National Marine Manufacturers Association Director of Federal Government Affairs Mike Pasko said.

LafargeHolcim, the Zurich-based global leader in the building materials industry that is the world's largest cement producer and operates an underground mine in Joliet, is among the newest members to join the partnership and endorse the fair share state payment plan introduced by Gov. Snyder. "LafargeHolcim believes that the Tentatively Selective

Plan, issued by the Corps of Engineers for Brandon Road Lock and Dam, is a good starting place to find a compromise that ensures that proper deterrents are utilized to protect the ecosystem and commercial navigation of the Great Lakes," Michael LeMonds, LafargeHolcim vice president of land, environment and government affairs for the United States, said.

Asian carp are an invasive species from China. They are currently in the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. Asian carp—especially silver and bighead carp, the two species of greatest concern—harm river and lake ecosystems by eating all available food, causing other, native fish species such as bass, trout and salmon to starve. They also jeopardize human safety when the often-100-pounds-or-more fish jump from the water and injure boaters. In 2017, an Asian carp was found just 9 miles from Lake Michigan.

"Residents and leading stakeholders across the Great Lakes Basin are almost unanimous in their belief that doing nothing and continuing with the status quo is not a viable option," Michigan DNR Director Keith Creagh said. "Michigan stands ready to go beyond the call of duty to support immediate action at the Brandon Road Lock because we know funding the Army Corps' plan will provide the most layers of protection that will keep invasive carp from destroying the Great Lakes," Creagh said.

The Block Asian Carp partnership also announced an online petition Great Lakes residents can sign to encourage elected officials and policymakers to help protect the Great Lakes against invasive carp. To sign the petition, visit www.BlockAsianCarp.org.

To hear what Illinois residents have to say about the devastating effects Asian carp have had on recreation and commercial fishing in their once-thriving communities on the Illinois River, [watch this video](#) shot on location in Bath, Chillicothe and Havana, Illinois—"ground zero" for Asian carp. ✧

NRC to consider higher brook trout possession limits on some U.P. streams

The DNR Natural Resources Commission in Lansing will recommend a small number of Upper Peninsula stream segments for inclusion under a 10-brook trout possession limit. The regulation was put in place earlier this year for 33 U.P. streams, while the brook trout possession limit for all other inland streams in Michigan is five or fewer.

If approved, the additional streams would bring the total number of streams under the 10-fish possession limit to 40, representing 11% of the 14,100 miles of Type 1 streams in the U.P. Type 1 waters generally are small, spring-fed streams with stable flows and cold summer temperatures, as described in the DNR's [Management Plan for Inland Trout in Michigan](#). These waters may have self-sustaining populations of relatively slow-growing trout and may be difficult to fish because of dense vegetation.

The following stream segments will be considered in October:

- ◆ Montreal River (Gogebic County), upstream of U.S. 2 (31 miles).
- ◆ Presque Isle River (Gogebic County), upstream of U.S. 2 (155 miles).
- ◆ W. Branch Sturgeon River (Dickinson County), upstream of Calumet Mine Road (81 miles).
- ◆ Upper Dead River (Marquette County), upstream of Silver Lake Basin (23 miles).
- ◆ Days River (Delta County), mouth upstream to M-35 (21 miles).
- ◆ N. Branch Stutts Creek (Schoolcraft and Alger counties), M-94 upstream (28 miles).
- ◆ McAlpine Creek (Mackinac County), Millecoquins Lake upstream (52 miles).

The NRC will meet [October 11](#), at the MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, 4125 Beaumont Rd, in Lansing. For more info: michigan.gov/nrc. ✧

Sec'y Zinke expands Hunting and Fishing opportunities at 30 National Wildlife Refuges

WASHINGTON – Continuing his efforts to increase access to public lands, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will open more than 251,000 acres to new or expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 30 national wildlife refuges across the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [National Wildlife Refuge System](#). This will now bring the number of units where the public may hunt to 377 and the number where fishing is permitted to 312.

This will open more new acres to hunting and fishing than in the past and takes steps to simplify regulations to more closely match state hunting and fishing regulations. The final rule also outlines expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 136 national wildlife refuges. The changes will be implemented in time for the 2018-2019 hunting seasons.

"American sportsmen and women contribute over a billion dollars a year to fund conservation. Without hunters and anglers, we wouldn't be able to conserve wildlife and habitat; and, without access to our public lands like National Wildlife Refuges, many hunters would have nowhere to go," said Secretary Zinke. "The last thing I want to see is hunting to become an elite sport, rather than a tradition passed on from generation to generation. Today's announcement protects critical conservation funding, and ensures sportsmen have access to public lands for generations to come."

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$156 billion in economic activity in communities across the United States in 2016 according to the Service's [National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#), published every five years. More than 101 million Americans—40% of the U.S. population 16 and older—pursue wildlife-related recreation—hunting, fishing and birding among others.

"Hunting and fishing are family activities that pass down from generation to generation. National wildlife refuges provide all Americans with places to hunt, fish, observe the natural world firsthand

and experience the great outdoors." said Cynthia Martinez, Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System. "We are pleased to be able to offer hunting and fishing opportunities and other recreational activities where they are compatible with national wildlife refuge management goals."

The Service manages hunting and fishing programs to [ensure sustainable wildlife populations](#) while also offering other wildlife-dependent recreation on public lands, such as wildlife watching and photography. The Refuge System is an unparalleled network of 566 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts. There is a national wildlife refuge within an hour's drive of most major metropolitan areas.

Hunting and/or fishing will expand or be opened on the following regional refuges:

Illinois

- [Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expands existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

Illinois and Missouri

- [Great River National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expands existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

Illinois and Wisconsin

- [Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge](#): Opens migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting to all legal species in the State of Illinois.

Indiana

- [Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expands existing migratory game bird, upland game, big game hunting and sport fishing

Michigan

- [Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge](#): Opens hunting of certain migratory bird, small game, and furbearers, and expand existing migratory game bird and big game hunting.

Minnesota

- [Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge](#): Opens certain gamebird and small mammal hunting for the first time, and expand existing migratory

game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

Ohio

- [Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge](#): Opens white-tailed deer hunting for the first time.
- [Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge](#): Opens hunting of certain gamebirds, small mammals and furbearers for the first time, and expand existing migratory game bird and big game hunting.

Pennsylvania

- [Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expands existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.
- [John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum](#): Opens white-tailed deer hunting for the first time.

Wisconsin

- [Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge](#): Opens hunting of certain gamebirds, small mammals and furbearers for the first time, and expand existing migratory game bird and big game hunting.

More than 53 million Americans visit refuges every year. National wildlife refuges provide vital habitat for thousands of species and access to world-class recreation, from fishing, hunting and boating to nature watching, photography and environmental education. In doing so, they support regional economies to the tune of \$2.4 billion dollars per year and support more than 35,000 jobs.

Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, the Service permits hunting and fishing along with four other types of wildlife-dependent recreation, including wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife observation and interpretation, when they are compatible with an individual refuge's purpose and mission. [Hunting](#), within specified limits, is currently permitted on 340 wildlife refuges and 37 wetland management districts. [Fishing](#) is currently permitted on 278 wildlife refuges and 34 wetland management districts. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:
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[State to reduce stocking of Chinook salmon in Lake Ontario in response to baitfish decline](#)

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation will reduce the stocking of Chinook salmon in Lake Ontario by 20 percent next year in order to reduce the declines in the alewife populations that salmon prey on

[Invasive snakeheads found in Susquehanna tributary](#)

With snakeheads living in many of the Bay's creeks and rivers, such fears have generally been put to rest, at least for now. But there is concern about the localized effect the Octoraro snakeheads might have on American eels and Chesapeake logperch.

[The debate over fish farms on the Great Lakes](#)

Aquaculture in the Great Lakes is currently prohibited, however proponents are pushing to expand the industry by touting potential economic benefits. Opponents are concerned aquaculture would damage the environment.

[Boaters protest Galloo Island wind project in Lake Ontario](#)

A flotilla of boats set off for Galloo Island on Thursday morning in protest of a planned wind farm on the Island in Lake Ontario. [Read the full story by the Watertown Daily Times.](#)

[Study shows economic impact of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#)

Each federal dollar spent on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) generates roughly \$3.35 in economic development from recreation, tourism and other industries, according to a new study on the program's socioeconomic benefits.

[Coast Guard: Pilots of foreign ships may not refuse to work during labor disputes](#)

Reversing a policy statement from 24 years ago, the Coast Guard has told Great Lakes ports, ship operators, and labor unions it will no longer allow pilots who provide navigational guidance for foreign ships to refuse to work during labor disputes.

[Milwaukee's National Weather Service office taking over open lake forecasts for Lake Michigan](#)

For decades Lake Michigan's open lake forecast has been handled by the National Weather Service office in Chicago. But starting this week, it will be done by the Milwaukee office, which is actually based in the Waukesha County community of

[Up to 50 million goldfish in Lake Ontario, hurting ecosystem](#)

An estimated 40 million to 50 million goldfish inhabit the waters of Lake Ontario, threatening native species

[How do you lure in sea lampreys? With the smell of baby sea lampreys, MSU research finds](#)

Chemical treatments, traps and barriers have greatly reduced the number of sea lampreys in the Great Lakes over the past few decades. But a Michigan State University professor has found what could be a new weapon in the arsenal: a chemical found in

[Wilderness preserved: Conservationists preserve large tract of Great Lakes land.](#)

The Nature Conservancy of Canada has just succeeded in acquiring a large, 13 square kilometer stretch of property at Black Bay

[U.S. House approves authorization for replacement Soo Lock](#)

The water-infrastructure bill, which passed on a voice vote, next heads to the U.S. Senate, where its passage and the president's signature would be the first concrete step in decades toward building the new lock.

[Tracking muskies in southern Lake Michigan: Latest caught at Michigan City, IN](#)

An angler caught and released a large muskie while fishing from a pier in Michigan City on Sunday evening. The catch follows several years of muskie sightings in Lake Michigan. It's believed that the fish ventured down from Green Bay and may be linked

[DEC's Don Einhouse retires on top of Lake Erie Fisheries Program](#)

Fisheries biologist Don Einhouse retired recently after 37 years on New York's Department of Environmental Conservation. His efforts were focused on Lake Erie, the body of water he used to fish growing up

[St. Lawrence Seaway system need upgrades according to government report](#)

A new report has found that shipping along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway system does not live up to its potential and that traffic along the international waterway has dropped off significantly since 1980.

[A looming threat to the Niagara River](#)

Researchers are concerned that climate change has caused a decline in populations of the emerald shiner, an important food source for sport fish in the Niagara River, which could lay the groundwork for the eventual collapse of the river's ecosystem.

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