



Exceptional Walleye Hatch Recorded for Lake Erie's Central Basin

COLUMBUS, OH – Preliminary results from the fall trawl survey in Ohio’s portion of the central basin of Lake Erie show an exceptional hatch of walleye and an average hatch of yellow perch, according to the Ohio DNR.

ODNR results from the 2018 survey indicate that young-of-the-year walleye catch rates were the highest recorded in the past 20 years of the central basin trawl survey (32 fish per hectare). This year’s results, combined with the excellent 2015 year-class, will ensure adult walleye abundance in the central basin will continue to increase.

Trawl survey results for yellow perch indicate the hatch was the highest observed since 2014 (40 fish per hectare) and just below the long-term average (45 fish per hectare) for the central basin. In the individual management units, the western portion of the central basin (Huron to

Fairport) index was 28 fish per hectare, below the average of 42 per hectare. The index in the eastern portion of the central basin (Fairport to Conneaut) was 51 fish per hectare, above the average of 41 per hectare.

Because of low oxygen conditions that are often present in the central basin, trawl surveys are conducted later in the year than in the western basin of Lake Erie. Annual trawl surveys assess fish communities from Vermilion to Conneaut. Specific target species for the fall surveys include young-of-the-year and yearling yellow perch and walleye. Ohio central basin survey results, along with data collected by agencies

from New York, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada, provide biologists with an initial estimate of how many young fish will enter the fishable population two years later.

During the upcoming months, assessment data from all Lake Erie agencies will be combined to estimate the hatches and population size of walleye (lakewide) and yellow perch (individual basins) of Lake Erie. These estimates will be utilized to determine jurisdictional quotas.

Information on ODNR Lake Erie research and management programs, fisheries resources, fishing reports, maps and more are available at wildohio.gov. ✧

Ohio to invest nearly \$10M to help protect Lake Erie

TOLEDO, OH – The Ohio DNR and the Ohio EPA recently received approval from the State Controlling Board to begin funding nearly \$10 million in projects aimed toward helping to keep dredged material out of Lake Erie. These projects are part of Ohio’s “Healthy Lake Erie Fund” efforts and will be managed by local officials and sponsors from Toledo, Lorain and Conneaut, the communities where these monies are being invested. These projects represent a portion of Ohio’s dredged material management program developed jointly by the Ohio EPA, ODNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with input from local stakeholders.

“Lake Erie is Ohio’s greatest natural resource, and ensuring its health is vital for the continued success of the communities, businesses and families who depend on it,” said ODNR Director James Zehringer. “These projects represent a shared commitment between federal, state and local partners in helping to protect this great lake for generations.”

These projects will not only help improve and protect Lake Erie water quality, they will aid the navigation of vessels traveling in and out of the ports located in Toledo, Lorain and Conneaut. Dredged material removed from these Lake Erie ports will be beneficially reused to provide nutrient rich soil for use in construction and habitat restoration projects. This material will also be used to improve conditions at brownfield sites in these communities. By placing and repurposing dredged material at these soon to be constructed sites, the waters of Lake Erie will be improved by reducing nutrient and sediment loads into Lake Erie.

These projects will provide opportunities for local economic development and job creation through public-private partnerships and will support continued maintenance and operation of the federal navigation channels by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally, these efforts

Ohio to invest nearly \$10M

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EPA Re-Establishes Great Lakes Advisory Board

CHICAGO – The USEPA is the re-establishing the Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB) following EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler's approval of the Board's charter.

"EPA values the advice it has received on the GLRI from the Great Lakes Advisory Board," said EPA Region 5 Administrator and Great Lakes National Program Manager Cathy Stepp. "Thanks to Acting Administrator Wheeler, we will continue to benefit from the Board's leadership and expertise on matters affecting the Great Lakes basin."

The GLAB was originally established in 2012 pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Its charter was subsequently renewed in 2014 and 2016, but expired in 2018.

EPA is now re-establishing the GLAB, which will provide advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator through the Great Lakes National Program Manager. The GLAB will advise on matters related to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada.

The GLAB will be composed of approximately 15 fifteen members who will serve as representative members of non-federal interests. Nominations for membership will soon be solicited through the Federal Register and other sources. EPA will consider candidates representing a broad range of interests, including business groups, environmental organizations, academia and state, local and tribal governments.

The Board will meet in person or by electronic means twice a year. In-person meetings will be held in the Great Lakes region.

For more info on the GLAB re-establishment, visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/13/2018-27050/re-establishment-of-the-great-lakes-advisory-board>. [Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem. ✧

Black Lake sturgeon season set for **Feb. 2**

One of Michigan's most anticipated angling opportunities – the annual lake sturgeon fishing season on Black Lake in Cheboygan County – will start at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2. The 2019 total season limit on Black Lake is seven lake sturgeon. To reduce the chance of exceeding that limit, officials will close the season if one of two scenarios occurs:

- The sixth fish is harvested.
- Five fish have been harvested at the end of any fishing day.

Daily season fishing hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The season will end either at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, or when one of the above scenarios is met, at which point DNR personnel on the lake will notify anglers to immediately stop fishing for lake sturgeon.

Registration is required to participate in the season. The DNR Onaway field station (5 miles north of Onaway on Route 11) will host early registration 2 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1. "Early registration is a great opportunity for anglers to pick up their fishing identification flags and talk with DNR staff about season logistics and sturgeon populations," said DNR fisheries biologist Tim Cwalinski.

Anglers are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the early registration Friday, but those unable to do so may register the next day at the registration trailer at Zolner Road ending on Black Lake. Morning registration begins at 7 a.m. each day of the season.

Anyone who successfully takes a lake sturgeon must contact an on-ice DNR employee and register the fish at the Zolner Road trailer registration site. Registration may include an examination of the fish's internal organs and removal of a piece of fin tissue for DNA analysis and aging.

Questions? Call the DNR's Gaylord Customer Service Center at 989-732-3541, visit michigan.gov/fishing or contact [Tim Cwalinski](#), 989-732-3541, ext. 5072 or [Elyse Walter](#), 517-284-5839. ✧



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Position Statement

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

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Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

Editor

Jeanette Thomas

Webmaster

Chad Lapa

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DNR ice warning for aerated lakes

The Minnesota DNR has issued its annual ice safety warning for lakes with winter aeration systems. Aeration creates areas of thin ice and open water that are extremely hazardous to people and pets. Open water areas can shift or change shapes, depending on weather conditions, and leaks may develop in air lines, creating other areas of weak ice or open water.

The updated list of aerated lakes and more information is available at mndnr.gov/eco/lakeaeration.

“We’re urging people to use caution anytime they venture onto lake ice, especially at night,” said Amanda Yourd, DNR hydrologist and aeration coordinator. “Extreme care should be taken on aerated lakes.”

Aeration systems help prevent winterkill of fish populations by adding oxygen to the lake and, in certain situations, to protect shorelines from ice damage. They are generally operated from the time the lakes freeze until the ice breaks up in the spring. About 280 lakes will have aeration systems operating on them this winter. Private hatchery operators also use aeration systems, usually on small lakes without public accesses.

A permit from the DNR is required to install and operate an aeration system. Permit holders must publish public notices, post warning signs and inspect the systems at least once every seven days. Liability insurance is generally required of private groups or citizens operating aeration systems in protected waters. Watch for notices in local media identifying aerated lakes. DNR staff regularly inspect systems for safety.

Some municipalities may have ordinances that prohibit entering into the thin ice marked area and/or prohibit the night use of motorized vehicles on lakes with aeration systems in operation. These local regulations are often posted at accesses where they apply. For questions concerning aeration or thin ice, call a [regional or area fisheries office](#) or the DNR at 888-646-6367.

◇

Opening of Conditional Shellfish Harvesting Programs

Shellfish harvesting is only allowed from waters that are monitored and designated safe for human consumption. Shellfish that live in areas with degraded water quality have a higher chance of possessing bacteria and toxins that can make people sick. To protect consumer health, NYSDEC completes year-round water quality analyses to determine and classify

by [shellfish harvest areas](#) as open or closed.



Under certain conditions water quality can improve to the point where these normally closed areas meet the sanitation standards for certified shellfishing areas. [Conditional harvesting programs](#) allow shellfish diggers to take shellfish from areas that are usually classified as uncertified, which means closed for shellfish harvesting. Conditional programs operate during colder months, usually from mid-December through mid-April, when bacteria levels in the water are lower and there is less rainfall-related runoff.

Shellfish harvesters are responsible for knowing the daily status of a program and should **always call the program phone number before going out to harvest.**

Programs currently open:

- [Dering Harbor, Town of Shelter Island](#): November 21, 2018 – April 26, 2019.
- [Middle Bay, Town of Hempstead](#): December 5, 2018 – April 26, 2019.
- [Oyster Bay Harbor, Town of Oyster Bay](#): December 12, 2018 – April 26, 2019.
- [Centerport Harbor, Town of Huntington](#): December 13, 2018 – April 5, 2019. ◇

Comment on upper Cattaraugus Creek Fisheries Mgmt Plan

New York announced the release of the Draft Upper Cattaraugus Creek Fisheries Management Plan for public comment. The plan provides a roadmap for management practices following the planned fish passage project at the Springville Dam. DEC is accepting public comments on the draft plan until **[January 25, 2019](#)**.

Cattaraugus Creek provides some of the most diverse trout fishing experiences in the State. Lower Cattaraugus Creek is regarded as one of the premier destinations in North America for steelhead, and upper Cattaraugus Creek provides excellent angling for resident rainbow and brown trout. This plan seeks to enhance Cattaraugus Creek as a premier destination in Western New York for a high-quality sport fishery.

Construction of a selective fish passage system at Springville Dam will allow steelhead access to additional miles of high-quality habitat and create new fishing opportunities in upper Cattaraugus Creek. The draft plan focuses on the addition of lake-run steelhead in the 34 miles of the main stem of Cattaraugus Creek and its numerous tributaries above Springville Dam.

DEC’s goal is to manage the upper Cattaraugus Creek and its tributaries as a high-quality, all-year sport fishery. The plan proposes a variety of strategies to achieve this goal, including improved and increased angler access, maintaining responsible stewardship of fisheries resources, enhancement of critical fish habitats, and utilizing adaptive management to achieve success.

The full draft [Upper Cattaraugus Creek Fisheries Management Plan](#) is available on DEC's website.

To comment, email with the subject line "Upper Cattaraugus Creek Plan" to fwfishle@dec.ny.gov or send written comments via U.S. Mail to: Jason Robinson, Unit Leader, Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit, 178 Point Drive North, Dunkirk, New York 14048-1031. ◇

Illinois calls on Michigan for immediate help in funding invasive carp battle

Michigan's \$8 million offer rejected, but should be put toward immediate efforts, not 10 years from now

Outgoing Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner has rebuffed an offer of \$8 million by Michigan to help support a planned waterway project to block the invasive Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes.

Rauner, a Republican, said in a letter this month to term-limited Gov. Rick Snyder that Michigan's offer of \$8 million to support operations and maintenance at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Lake Michigan "isn't of much use" until after the improvement project there is completed in 10 years.

"In that context, the Michigan offer lacks the true sense of urgency required to protect the Great Lakes for the next decade," Rauner said in a statement.

Both Republican governors are leaving office at year's end, with Snyder being succeeded by Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, and Rauner by J.B. Pritzker, also a Democrat.

"We do not believe it is appropriate—especially given our

lame-duck status—for us to accept funds and bind Illinois to a project that is not final, and whose true costs are years from being calculated," Rauner wrote.

Snyder had not responded to Rauner as of Thursday, spokesman Ari Adler said.

"Gov. Snyder would encourage Gov.-elect Whitmer to continue pursuing this issue with the new governor of Illinois next year to ensure the Great Lakes are protected as much as possible as soon as possible from the threat of Asian carp," Adler said.

Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Will County is the planned site for construction of a first-of-its-kind flushing lock, engineered channel, and acoustic fish deterrent with an electric barrier system to prevent the upstream transfer of Asian carp and other aquatic nuisance species. The projected construction cost of the project approaches \$800 million.

In his letter to Snyder, Rauner said scientists at the Illinois DNR

estimate an investment of \$8 million would double current contractual commercial fishing and monitoring efforts and allow for expanded efforts and a significant reduction in Asian carp breeding and juvenile populations.

Rauner sent Snyder an initial draft intergovernmental agreement suggesting the two states continue working together on their mutual goal of fighting Asian carp migration. Continued collaboration is necessary to ensure ongoing protection for the Great Lakes while additional measures at Brandon Road are engineered and designed. The states were successful in a mutual effort this year to accelerate the Brandon Road timeline with the federal government.

"In the meantime," Rauner said, "I will encourage the incoming administration to seriously consider your fair-share funding formula, applied to construction as well as operations and maintenance, after they are fully briefed on the issue and project." ✧

Snowmobilers focus on Safety this winter

The Illinois DNR is reminding snowmobile operators and riders to use caution and focus on safety this winter when conditions are right for snowmobile riding.

"Every year throughout the state, our officers respond to accidents involving snowmobiles, many of which could have been prevented had reasonable and proper precautions been taken," said IDNR Conservation Police Chief Rafael Gutierrez. "We want winter recreation enthusiasts to have a good time, while at the same time focusing on safety."

There were 15 reported snowmobile accidents, two of which resulted in fatalities, during the 2017-2018 season in Illinois.

In most instances, knowing the trail and traveling at a reasonable rate of speed for trail conditions can prevent accidents. It's also important to be alert and sober. In North

America, more than half of snowmobile fatalities involve intoxicated operators.

While the IDNR encourages everyone to take a snowmobile safety course, state law requires that persons at least 12 years of age and less than 16 years old must have in their possession a valid Snowmobile Safety Education Certificate of Competency issued by IDNR in order to operate a snowmobile alone. Details on safety course options are available on the IDNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety/Pages/SnowmobileSafety.aspx>

Basic safety tips for safe snowmobiling:

- Never consume alcohol before or during a ride;
- Know your equipment, and make sure that equipment is in proper working order;

- Wear sensible, protective clothing designed for snowmobiling, like a full-size helmet, goggles or face shield to prevent injuries from twigs, stones, ice chips, and flying debris;
- Avoid wearing long scarves, which may get caught in moving parts of the snowmobile;
- Know the terrain you are going to ride;
- Be aware of trails or portions of trails that may be closed;
- Drowning is one cause of fatalities; when not familiar with the thickness of the ice or water currents, avoid these areas;
- Know the weather forecast, and especially the ice and snow conditions in the area;
- Always use the buddy system and never ride alone or unaccompanied;
- Travel at a reasonable rate of speed for visibility and conditions. ✧

Congress passes a Farm Bill packed with Conservation

Farm bills provide opportunities for large-scale conservation actions that would make U.S. President and NRA Life member Teddy Roosevelt proud. They also can be opportunities for sweeping environmental zealotry that can put big dollars behind nonsensical and ideological attacks on property rights and more. The 2018 Farm Bill just passed by both houses of Congress (by 369-47 in the House and 87-13 in the Senate) and, as this was being written, was awaiting a signature from President Trump.

Thanks to efforts from NRA-ILA and a long list of hunter-conservationist groups, an active Trump administration and many members of both houses of Congress, this farm bill offers a spreadsheet of smart conservation initiatives.

This five-year farm bill includes funding and programs that will benefit wildlife conservation:

- The [Conservation Reserve Program](#) will provide contracts for 27 million acres of private land by 2023, allocating around \$2 billion annually for farmers to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production to help wildlife.
- The [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) will provide \$450 million per year (totaling \$2.25 billion over five years) for financial assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands.
- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program will allocate \$9.2 billion over five years to allow agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices to improve wildlife habitat.
- Through the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#), which will provide \$300 million annually (\$1.5 billion total), the Natural Resources Conservation Service will help restoration and sustainable use of natural resources.
- The [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) will allocate \$3.9 billion over five years to help farmers maintain and improve existing conservation systems—and payments

may be increased based on conservation project performance.

The Farm Bill also reauthorized the [Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program](#) (VPA-HIP) by allocating \$50 million in ongoing support. The NRA was an original sponsor and promoter of Open Fields' inclusion and funding in the successive Farm Bills, advocating for funding for "walk-in access" programs. Funding has been used by states from Oregon to Arizona to Kentucky to open private lands to hunters. Created via the 2008 Farm Bill, the program was reauthorized with an additional \$40 million in the 2014 Farm Bill. [Since then, more than 950,000 acres have been made available for public access through VPA-HIP.](#)

In addition, the Farm Bill includes help to address the increasing feral hog populations across the United States. Also, as wildfires have become catastrophic in many areas of the West, the bill includes a provision to enhance active forest management on federal lands to reduce their threat. It extends an authority that expedites the removal of insect-and-disease-killed trees that too often have become fuel for devastating wildfires. [Active forest management, which the farm bill encourages, will benefit wildlife and help to prevent the catastrophic wildfires that destroy wildlife habitat.](#)

It is easy to miss how critical these programs are for conservation nationwide. For example, thanks to Farm Bill funding, over the past 25 years the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) "has worked with landowners to protect more than 4.4 million acres of wetlands and agricultural lands, a value of over a billion dollars that has resulted in improved soil health, water and air quality and wildlife habitat. [Read more about the easement successes around the nation.](#)" the NRCS says.

Finally, the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP), which is

also funded by the Farm Bill, is a land conservation program in which farmers and ranchers are given yearly payments to keep them from farming or grazing environmentally sensitive lands. The goals of this program include re-establishing valuable cover to help improve water quality, preventing soil erosion and benefiting wildlife populations. Anyone who has hunted upland birds, waterfowl or even deer on private lands (or nearby public lands) has benefited from the maintenance and protection of this habitat. ✧

Thousands want the US to give part of Minnesota to Canada

At the northernmost point of Minnesota is a small bit of land separated from the rest of the United States by Lake of the Woods. The area – referred to as "the Northwest Angle" – is roughly 123 square miles and is connected by land to Canada's Manitoba province. Most of the territory is owned by the Red Lake Indian Reservation.

As of 2010, the area's total population was just 2010.

Last month, a petition was launched urging lawmakers to give the Northwest Angle to Canada. "Make America great by correcting this critical survey error," reads the petition, which so far has 3,500 signatures. The document will need 100,000 signatures before it is addressed by Congress.

The existence of the Northwest Angle dates back to the late 1700's, when Benjamin Franklin helped negotiate the Canada-US border. In drawing the border, Franklin and others relied on a map that failed to indicate the source of the Mississippi River and wrongly depicted Lake of the Woods as an oval. The border was redrawn in 1818, but the Northwest Angle remained.

Based on interviews, people living in the Angle don't seem to care what happens. ✧

MI DNR new director, Daniel Eichinger

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently announced the appointment for Daniel Eichinger, who joins the DNR as the department's new director.

Eichinger most recently served as executive director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the nation's most effective state-based conservation organization. In that role, he led MUCC's return as a driving force for conservation and our outdoor heritage. Under his leadership, MUCC revamped its organizational structure, grew membership and launched new programs to connect people with nature.



From 2007 to 2012, he worked in various capacities with the Department of Natural Resources, first as legislative liaison, where he was heavily involved in passing the innovative Recreation Passport to fund state parks. Later, he helped establish the first Policy and Regulations Unit for the agency's Wildlife Division.

Eichinger holds bachelors and master's degrees in fisheries and wildlife from Michigan State University, as well as a master's of public administration.

"Conservation is a team sport," he said. "I look forward to working with our partners to continue the thoughtful stewardship of the extraordinary natural and cultural resources that so deeply define us as Michiganders." ✧

Pure Fishing appoints Harlan Kent as CEO

In conjunction with the acquisition of the business by Sycamore Partners, Pure Fishing announced the appointment of Harlan M. Kent as Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Mr. Kent succeeds Neil Eibeler, who has stepped down from the business.

Kent comes to Pure Fishing with over 30 years of experience working with and leading some very recognizable brands including Performance Sports Group, Totes Isotoner, and Yankee Candle Company. He is particularly passionate about established, branded companies with great teams, and throughout his career, has built a proven track record of driving profitable growth across multiple channels of distribution.

"The market has already seen investment activity from Pure Fishing with the recent launches of the Berkley® and Abu Garcia® Student Angler Program and the Berkley Cast for Cash bait contingency program, and will continue to see more roll out over the coming months," said Jon Schlosser, VP of Marketing for Pure Fishing. "As an avid angler, Harlan sees the value Pure Fishing brings to the industry and we are thrilled to have him on board as we continue to invest in the business and its brands." ✧

GLMRIS Brandon Road Study review extended to **Feb 22**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has extended the review period of "The Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) – Brandon Road Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Will County, Illinois." The end of the review changed from January 7, 2019 to **February 22, 2019**. The report is posted to the project website at <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/GLMRIS-BR>. ✧

2019 Annual Lake Committee Meetings

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission will hold its 2019 Lake Committee Meetings March 25-29, 2019, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. [Please click here to view the meeting notice](#). This notice includes a draft agenda and lodging information. ✧

Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic

Mark your calendars for **February 22-24** when the annual National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic comes to Illinois for the first time at the Schaumburg Convention Center. The event includes programs, seminars, displays and vendors with a focus on wildlife conservation, upland game bird hunting, dog training, and wildlife habitat management and restoration. Staff and volunteers from the IDNR and Illinois Conservation Foundation will be there to answer questions and discuss programs. For more info: <https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Pheasant-Fest.aspx> ✧

Ohio overrides Kasich's veto, secure protection for gun owners

Ohio lawmakers voted to override Gov. John Kasich's (R) veto and secure a law to protect gun owners in the state.

On December 20, 2018, Breitbart News [reported](#) that Kasich vetoed protections for gun owners. The bill he vetoed, HB 228, put the onus on the state in cases involving a claim of a gun being used in self-defense. HB 228 required the state to prove that self-defense was not a justifiable claim under certain circumstances rather requiring the gun owner to prove that it was. The goal of the bill was to preserve the gun owners' ability to be innocent until proven guilty.

WOSU Public Media [reports](#) that the Ohio House and Senate both overrode Kasich's veto with two-third majorities. ✧

Mackinac Straits oks agreement to build multi-use tunnel, remove pipelines from Straits

Snyder signs agreement that will increase stewardship, inspection requirements on Line 5

The Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority (MSCA) approved an agreement with Enbridge Energy Limited Partnership to build a multi-use utility tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac. The tunnel will house a replacement segment for the Line 5 pipeline that sits on the bottom of the Straits and other utilities.

In addition, the authority, which held its inaugural meeting in St. Ignace, approved the transfer of a property right that will allow Enbridge to construct the tunnel in bedrock beneath the Straits.

Also, Gov. Rick Snyder and leaders of the departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality signed a separate agreement with Enbridge. This Third Agreement carries forward provisions of two previous agreements with the company—one in November 2017 and one in October 2018. The Third Agreement requires Enbridge to undertake an enhanced inspection and stewardship regimen. The agreement also includes interpretations of the 1953 easement for the dual pipelines on the bottom of the Straits, as well as ongoing financial assurance requirements for the pipelines.

The approved agreements will soon be posted on the [mipetroleumpipelines.com website](http://mipetroleumpipelines.com).

“From the beginning of this four-year process, our fundamental goal has been to protect the Great Lakes against an oil spill through a solution we know will work,” said Snyder.

“These actions will result in the removal of the oil pipeline from the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac, maintain critical infrastructure connections between our peninsulas, provide energy security for residents of the Upper Peninsula and northern Michigan and create good-paying jobs,” he said. “Enbridge will pay 100 percent of the costs for design, construction, operation and maintenance of the tunnel, and will shut down the current Line 5 segment

in the Straits once the tunnel is complete.”

Public Act 359 required the MSCA to enter into an agreement to build a tunnel, provided the agreement met certain criteria. In keeping with those criteria, the agreement approved by the authority will:

- Include a plan for recruiting, training and using Michigan workers for the tunnel project.
- Allow for multiple utilities to use the tunnel.
- Provide that the tunnel is built to last and will contain potential oil spills in the Straits of Mackinac.
- Limit liability for the state, the authority and members of the authority.
- Require that all necessary government approvals be obtained for the tunnel.
- Prohibit the use of eminent domain to acquire property for the project.
- Ensure the state bears no cost for design, construction, operation and maintenance of the tunnel.
- Ensure that any privately owned portion of the project – including the above-ground entrances and any utility lines within the tunnel – is subject to taxation.
- Reimburse the Mackinac Bridge Authority for any net loss of profit for leasing space for telecommunication lines.

The Tunnel Agreement contains milestones for construction progress as well as financial penalties for Enbridge for missed deadlines, provided delays are within Enbridge’s control. Once the tunnel is complete, ownership will be turned over to the MSCA, which will be able to lease space within the tunnel to additional utilities.

The increased stewardship mandated in the Third Agreement between the state and Enbridge will apply unless there is a delay beyond

Enbridge’s control as defined in the agreement. The Third Agreement also requires that as soon as possible upon completion of the tunnel and construction of the Line 5 replacement segment, Enbridge will deactivate the dual pipelines in the Straits.

Previous agreements charge Enbridge with:

- Replacing the portion of Line 5 that lies at the bottom of the St. Clair River near Port Huron with a new pipe in a tunnel beneath the river to protect drinking water supplies for a significant population in southeast Michigan.
- Instituting accelerated risk-reducing measures at 13 priority Line 5 water crossings, in addition to requiring actions at 68 other crossings as identified with state input in a previous Enbridge report.
- Assuring the Straits pipeline is not operating when high waves would severely hamper response to a potential oil spill. Enbridge staff must be present at the Straits to shut down the line within 15 minutes – even if power is lost – when wave heights hit 6.5 feet for at least an hour. The state will provide a new radar system to supply better, real-time wave-height data at the Straits.
- Assuring that at least \$1.8 billion in financial assurance be provided by Enbridge to respond to a potential oil spill in the Straits or anywhere along Line 5 in Michigan.
- Paying for cameras to be installed at the Straits to support new regulations from the U.S. Coast Guard prohibiting ships in the area from dropping their anchors—one of the most serious threats to Line 5 and other utility lines on the bottom of the Straits.
- Prohibiting heavy crude oil from running through Line 5 and not increasing the volume or type of petroleum products that moves through the line. ✧

Ohio's Shale Third Quarter Production Totals

COLUMBUS, OH – During the third quarter of 2018, Ohio's horizontal shale wells produced 5,545,536 barrels of oil and 605,716,125 Mcf (605 billion cubic feet) of natural gas, according to figures released by the Ohio DNR.

Natural gas production from the third quarter of 2018 showed a 31.44% increase over the third quarter of 2017, while oil production increased 31.79% for the same period.

	2017 Quarter 3 (Shale)	2018 Quarter 3 (Shale)	Percentage Change
Barrels of Oil	4,207,674 bbl	5,545,536 bbl	31.79%
Mcf of Natural Gas	460,844,826 Mcf	605,716,125 Mcf	31.44%

The ODNR quarterly report lists 2,242 horizontal shale wells, 2,198 of which reported oil and natural gas production during the quarter. Of the wells reporting oil and natural gas results:

- The average amount of oil produced was 2,523 barrels.
- The average amount of natural gas produced was 275,576 Mcf.
- The average number of third quarter days in production was 84.

All horizontal production reports can be accessed at oilandgas.ohiodnr.gov/production.

Ohio law does not require the separate reporting of Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) or condensate. Oil and gas reporting totals listed on the report include NGLs and condensate. ✧

Pymatuning Creek designated Ohio Wild and Scenic River

KINSMAN, OH – Pymatuning Creek became the 15th river in 50 years to join the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program. Flowing through Ashtabula and Trumbull counties, 30.66 miles of Pymatuning Creek was designated as an Ohio wild and scenic river.

A designation ceremony and journal entry signing by ODNR Director James Zehringer was held at the Peter Allen Inn and Event Center in Kinsman. More than 50 local officials, conservation organizations, landowners and supporters of the Pymatuning Creek attended.

“Ohio pioneered the nation’s river conservation movement 50 years ago with the passage of the first Scenic River Act, and it is exciting to designate a new wild and state scenic river during this 50th anniversary,” said Zehringer. “The communities along Pymatuning Creek came together to express unanimous support for this designation, and we are grateful to them for making this commitment to preserve this valuable natural resource.”

Located in northeast Ohio, the Pymatuning Creek watershed supports an exceptionally beautiful river valley and adjacent wetland complex system. Pymatuning Creek features superb natural characteristics and a variety of recreational opportunities. It joins other high-quality northeast Ohio streams in the

system of wild and scenic rivers.

Scenic rivers retain most of their natural characteristics at a time when many rivers reflect the negative impacts of human activities. Pymatuning Creek features a contiguous wooded riparian corridor, as well as diverse populations of plants and wildlife. The forested river corridor protects the river by acting as a filter by removing potential pollutants, which results in excellent water quality. The Pymatuning Creek corridor supports an exceptional variety of plant and animal species, as well as outstanding recreational fish populations, including northern pike and yellow perch, which are not common in Ohio’s rivers and streams.

Ohio pioneered the river preservation movement in 1968 with the passage of the nation’s first Scenic Rivers Act. This legislation created a state program to protect Ohio’s remaining high-quality streams for future generations.

The Ohio Scenic Rivers Program provides three categories for river classification: wild, scenic and recreational. Criteria examined include the stream’s length, adjacent forest cover, biological characteristics, water quality, present use and natural conditions. Designation also requires support from local communities, public officials and landowners. ✧

HuntFishNY Mobile App

DEC’s mobile app, NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife by Pocket Ranger, has added an e-license and game harvest reporting feature. Hunters, trappers and anglers can now have



proof of holding a license right on your mobile device! Hunters, please be aware that you must still have your backtag and carcass tags with you while hunting. The app also contains links to hunting and fishing information and regulations, as well as DEC contacts for sporting license information or law enforcement.

The NY Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife App, and HuntFishNY feature can be downloaded from the [Apple app store](https://www.apple.com/app-store) or [Google Play store](https://www.google.com/play-store). To access the e-license feature, simply click on the e-License/Report Harvest icon within the app.

NOTE: You will need a DEC Automated Licensing System (DECALS) user name and password to access your license documents through the app. If you have not yet created an online user name and password, visit the [DECALS website](https://www.dec.state.ny.us/decals). Questions? Call our sporting license hotline at 866-472-4332. ✧

Coast Guard reauthorization includes look at improving 911 system for boaters

SPRINGFIELD, VA – A sign of the times, the U.S. Coast Guard reports that it's common for recreational boaters today to use cellphones to call during a boating emergency. While [BoatUS](#) urges every vessel to have a working VHF radio with DSC (digital selective calling), the nation's recreational boating advocacy, services and safety group also recognizes that cellphones are firmly embedded in boaters' lives. But what happens when a boater tries to call [911](#) for emergency or routine on water assistance? Will the call go to the closest, most relevant rescue agency for a swift response?

Unfortunately that's not always the case. But a provision in the recently passed Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization of Act of 2018 aims to improve reliability of the 911 system when recreational boaters need emergency help. In an effort to ensure timely dispatch of the closest potential rescue asset or on-water assistance provider, the Act requires the USCG to review its policies and procedures to "formulate a national maritime Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) policy." There are more than 6,000 PSAPs in the U.S. – local 24/7 call centers with trained dispatchers that receive 911 emergency telephone calls and route them to the proper emergency service.

"This effort will help minimize the possibility of maritime calls being improperly routed and to assure the U.S. Coast Guard is able to effectively carry out its maritime search-and-rescue mission," said Tina Cardone, executive director of the Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing (C-PORT). C-PORT members, made up of on-water towing industry companies from across the country, contributed to the legislative effort. This included TowBoatUS Mystic owner Capt. Jeff Dziedzic. ✧

Checklist to dress before winter activities

Even mildly cold environments can lead to hypothermia. Symptoms of exposure to cold conditions develop quickly, including shivering, shallow breathing, confusion and loss of coordination. All these can be avoided by wearing proper clothing and layering.

Use the following checklist to dress before winter activities:

- **No cotton touching skin:**

The key is to avoid cotton materials. Cotton absorbs sweat and water and stays wet, causing a person to become cold. Start with a polyester blend, or merino wool, as a first layer, which will provide heat even when wet.

- **Fleece or wool sweater:**

Follow that first non-cotton layer up with one or two layers of insulation, such as a fleece or wool sweater.

- **Wind/waterproof jacket:**

The top layer should be waterproof or water resistant. A rain jacket that can be unzipped after warming up during outdoor activity is ideal.

- **Hat, gloves or mittens:**

A hat and gloves are important for any winter activity. Mittens are best for those who tend to get cold fingers. If people get warm, they can always take their hat and gloves off for a few minutes.

- **Warm footwear:**

Footwear should also start with a non-cotton sock. Wool or polypropylene socks are soft, warm and lightweight. They don't bunch up inside boots and will keep feet warm, even if sweating. Winter boots or waterproof hiking boots are necessary. Ice-traction devices can be invaluable during mild winters, which are often characterized by icy conditions.

- **Snow pants or gaiters:**

Snow pants are great for cold weather, but some people opt to wear gaiters, which fit over boots and cover pants up to the knee. Gaiters keep snow and water out of boots without the bulkiness of snow pants.

Beyond dressing properly, tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Leave a note, a text or a voicemail. ✧

Minnesotans 16 or older fish free with kids Jan. 19-21

Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend is this Saturday, Jan. 19, through Monday, Jan. 21. During the weekend, Minnesota residents age 16 or older can fish or dark-house spear without an angling or spearing license if they take a child younger than 16 fishing or spearing.

"This weekend is a way to encourage anglers to take a kid fishing," said Jeff Ledermann, education and skills team supervisor with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Ice fishing is a great way to get outdoors in winter."

Before heading out, anglers or spearers should check ice conditions locally. Visit mndnr.gov/icesafety for ice safety guidelines and <http://bit.ly/TakeaKidIceFishingWeekend> for more information about taking kids fishing. ✧

Ohio to invest nearly \$10M

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address the requirement to utilize Healthy Lake Erie Funds to promote the beneficial use of dredge material and meet the July 1, 2020 ban on open-lake disposal of dredge material into Lake Erie.

The state continues to pursue additional projects along the Lake Erie coast that will help to improve water quality and restore nearshore and coastal habitats. This includes projects at each of the federal navigation channel harbors and a suite of projects that are being undertaken in the Sandusky Bay where dredge material will be beneficially reused to restore in-water wetlands and associated fisheries habitat. ✧

Ice Fishing Safety

Ice fishing can be great fun, but you need to take ice fishing safety seriously. Review important ice fishing safety information on the I Fish Illinois website: <https://www.ifishillinois.org/programs/ice.php> ✧

Camp Santanoni to host three weekends of winter open houses

Three Winter Weekend events will be held for the sixth consecutive year at Camp Santanoni in the Adirondacks, New York. The events will take place [January 19-21](#); [February 16-18](#); and [March 16-17](#). Cross-country skiers and snowshoers will have access to the historic camp properties in the town of Newcomb in Essex County to rest, tour the buildings, and view interpretative displays.

A 9.8-mile round trip cross-country ski or snowshoe excursion traverses from Camp Santanoni's Gate Lodge to the remote lakeside main lodge. The trip provides a moderate physical activity and a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors.

During the three Winter Weekend events, cross-country skiers and snowshoers will be able to visit both the Gate Lodge and Main Lodge, view displays about the great camp, and take interpretive tours with AARCH staff. While people may visit Camp Santanoni 365 days a year, the buildings are not typically open to the public during the winter months.

The wood stove heated Artist's Studio, a log and stone building near the main lodge on the shores of Newcomb Lake, will be open as a warming hut. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own cup to enjoy free coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. The Adirondack Interpretive Center will provide snowshoes at the Gate Lodge for any visitors without their own.

Staff from ESF's AIC will be hosting a **Wildlife Animal Tracking program** at the Farm Complex from 1 - 2 pm on January 19. This is a fun learning experience for families and children of every age.

Reservations are not required. Contact AARCH at 518-834-9328 for more info. Additional information about Camp Santanoni, the AIC, and the Newcomb area is available at the [DEC Camp Santanoni website](#), [Adirondack Architectural Heritage website](#), [Adirondack Interpretive Center website](#), and the [town of Newcomb website](#). ✧

Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings

The following Michigan [boards, commissions, committees and councils](#) will hold public meetings in January. 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.

January meetings

- [Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee](#) – Jan. 17, 9-11 a.m., Belle Isle Nature Center, Detroit (Ron Olson, 517-284-6136)
- [Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup](#) – Jan. 18, 10 a.m. to noon, conference call: dial 1-877-336-1829, access code 2663581 (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517-284-6112)
- [Pigeon River Country Advisory Council](#) – Jan. 25, 5 p.m., Corwith Township Hall, Vanderbilt (Scott Whitcomb, 989-983-4101)
- [Western Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council](#) – Jan. 16, 5:30 p.m., Baraga Lakeside Inn, Baraga (Stacy Welling Haughey, 906-226-1331) ✧

\$100,000 for the world record

Recently a bounty was set that [could have your customers scrambling to the water](#) before warm weather breaks. The target? A 22 lb., 5 oz. largemouth bass. A hefty, six-figure check awaits the angler who can beat George Perry's 1932 IGFA all-tackle, world record bass of 22 lbs., 4 oz. The company behind the prize, Stanley Jigs, says all you have to do to win is enter their contest and catch the fish on one of their baits. Details in the [full release on our website](#). ✧

Do non-native species count as biodiversity?

There have been calls for biodiversity and ecosystem assessments to count non-native species as well as their native counterparts as positively contributing to biological diversity. Daniel Simberloff, Gore Hunger Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Tennessee and member of the Invasive Species Specialist Group of IUCN's Species Survival Commission, explains why this approach is misguided and would hinder our ability to achieve international conservation and development goals.

According to influential international publications, such as the UN-mandated Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, humans rely on ecosystems for physical purposes (e.g. food), as well as spiritual and aesthetic reasons. Maintaining diverse ecosystems is therefore important to ensuring quality of human life.

Despite the potential long-term impacts of non-native species, there have been controversial calls in both popular science writing (Fred Pearce, *The New Wild*) and in the [scientific literature](#) for non-native species to be counted equally with native species in biodiversity assessments, for example in those used to track progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This negates the importance of the changes that invasive species make to ecosystem functions.

It is misguided and potentially disastrous to consider native and non-native species as equal from the standpoint of both ecosystem services and conservation goals, including the Aichi Targets of the CBD and UN Sustainable Development Goals. The reasons are elaborated in a [recent article](#) by 26 invasion scientists from around the world, but I would like to comment on three particular issues relevant to both ecosystem services and the IUCN mission.

Firstly, the Convention on Biological Diversity—the multilateral

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Do non-native species count as biodiversity?

treaty initiated in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro to conserve biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use and the equitable sharing of its benefits—suggests that humanity should value biodiversity for its “actual or potential use or value for humanity”. Article 8h specifically recognizes the threat non-native species pose to this use or value. The associated Aichi Targets, adopted in Nagoya in 2010, indicate progress toward achieving the CBD goals through Target 9 – preventing and controlling alien species, and Target 12 – preventing extinction of native species by alien species. Simply including non-native species in the tally of total biodiversity produces a misleading appearance of progress toward CBD goals.

Secondly, if one accepts the premise that a primary purpose of biodiversity is for human use, the complex nature of biodiversity and the interactions within ecosystems are poorly understood. For the best-studied service—production of gross biomass, such as food or fiber—particular species or types of species (such as rice or wheat), rather than the total number of species, are crucial to producing the service. In addition, losing a phylogenetically distinct species because of non-native invasive species is an irrevocable loss of history that we ought to mourn in its own right, not just for the services it could have provided to humans had we saved it.



Kudzu, a perennial vine invasive, smothering native vegetation

Finally, ecosystem services are not discrete; the species providing one service, like production of food, often influence the provision of other services, such as adequate supplies of clean water. It is difficult to prove that an increase in the total number of species, as opposed to sets of particular species, leads to an increase in the number of services provided. One would have to understand the contribution of all these species—native and non-native—to all ecosystem services to determine the importance of species number and species interactions for ecosystem

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services provision. This sort of ecological research is in its infancy and scientists cannot yet answer such questions. We cannot yet specify all the services that ecosystems provide, much less the role the interactions between species play in providing them.



Water hyacinth, an invasive aquatic plant that impact activities, such as fishing, water transport and infrastructures.

Despite substantial progress in predicting the impact of some non-native species on ecosystem services, we are far from being able to understand which specific invaders produce devastating ecological impacts. Which invaders should we be especially concerned with? Which should we strive hardest to control or eliminate in order to achieve CBD goals and sustain important ecosystem services?

The IUCN mission recognizes the value of all biodiversity, and the IUCN Species Survival Commission strives to create “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth.” The flood of non-native species that is homogenizing ecosystems is erasing the very differences that we value and rely upon to sustain life on earth. We should not delude ourselves into thinking that simply by increasing the numbers of species locally or regionally, we are meeting international and highly important conservation targets.

By considering only native species, biodiversity assessments would more closely match the measure of biodiversity with IUCN’s mission to “influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.”

<https://www.iucn.org/crossroads-blog/201812/do-non-native-species-count-biodiversity> ✧

Trump Signs the Modern Fish Act

Alexandria, VA – The recreational fishing and boating community is celebrating the enactment of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (Modern Fish Act), which was signed into law by President Trump on December 31. The Modern Fish Act finally recognizes in federal law the differences between recreational and commercial saltwater fishing and adds more management tools for policymakers to use in managing federal recreational fisheries.

The Modern Fish Act, introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Garret Graves (R-La.), enjoyed strong bipartisan support from a long list of cosponsors representing coastal and non-coastal states alike. On December 17, the Senate unanimously passed the Modern Fish Act (S. 1520) followed by overwhelming approval in the House (350-11) on Dec. 19.

The Modern Fish Act is a critical first-step solution towards establishing a framework for expanding access to recreational saltwater fishing, while ensuring conservation and sustainability remain top priorities in fisheries management. We thank President Trump and Congress for making the Modern Fish Act the law of the land and look forward to working with them in the coming years to advance policies that protect and promote recreational saltwater fishing.

“The recreational fishing industry is grateful to see this legislation enacted,” said Glenn Hughes, president of the [American Sportfishing Association](#). “We look forward to continuing to work with Congress, as well as NOAA Fisheries and the regional fishery management councils, to improve the management and conservation of our marine fisheries.”

“This bill becoming law is the most significant step forward in federal recreational saltwater fishing management in the forty-plus years of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Recreational fishermen, conservationists and businesses united around a set of principles and worked together to get this bill passed and we will continue to work together on priorities like forage fish management and improving data collection in the future.

For details on House and Senate passage of the Modern Fish Act and additional industry perspectives, [click here](#).

The Modern Fish Act will provide more stability and better access for anglers by:

- Providing authority and direction to NOAA Fisheries to apply additional management tools more appropriate for recreational fishing, many of which are successfully implemented by state fisheries agencies (e.g., extraction rates, fishing mortality targets, harvest control rules, or traditional or cultural practices of native communities);
- Improving recreational harvest data collection by requiring federal managers to explore other data sources that have tremendous potential to improve the accuracy and timeliness of harvest estimates, such as state-driven programs and electronic reporting (e.g., through smartphone apps);
- Requiring the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the process of mixed-use fishery allocation review by the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional Fishery Management Councils and report findings to Congress within one year of enactment of the Modern Fish Act, and
- Requiring the National Academies of Sciences to complete a study and provide recommendations within two years of the enactment of the Modern Fish Act on limited access privilege programs (catch shares) including an assessment of the social, economic, and ecological effects of the program, considering each sector of a mixed-use fishery and related businesses, coastal communities, and the environment and an assessment of any impacts to stakeholders in a

mixed-use fishery caused by a limited access privilege program. This study excludes the Pacific and North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Councils.

Passage of the Modern Fish Act proved that marine recreational fishing is a nonpartisan issue, and anglers are closer than ever to being properly recognized in federal law.

The Modern Fish Act, introduced by Senators Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) in July 2017, enjoyed strong support across the aisle from more than a dozen Senate cosponsors representing coastal and non-coastal states alike. In addition, a coalition of organizations representing the saltwater recreational fishing and boating community endorsed the Modern Fish Act and highlighted the importance of updating the nation’s fisheries management system to more accurately distinguish between recreational and commercial fishing.

In 2014, the priorities of the recreational fishing and boating community were identified and presented to federal policy makers by the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management in a report “A Vision for Managing America’s Saltwater Recreational Fisheries.” This diverse group made up of a variety of fisheries stakeholders is also referred to as the [Morris-Deal Commission](#), named for co-chairs Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, and Scott Deal, president of Maverick Boat Group. Four years later, many of the recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission are found in the Modern Fish Act.

“Through the legislative process, the Modern Fish Act has proven to many on Capitol Hill that recreational fishing is worthy of recognition as a driving force for American jobs and the national economy—not just a sport,” said Jim Donofrio, president of the [Recreational Fishing Alliance](#).
✧

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

[Meeting informs public on new Lake Superior fishing agreement](#)

A public meeting on January 10 discussed the Lake Superior Fishing Agreement. The Wisconsin DNR, and the Red Cliff and Bad River Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa have been working collaboratively since 2014 on a fishing agreement.

[Illinois Lt. Gov: Michigan's carp money would be too little, too late](#)

It's not that Illinois is being rude, or even dismissive, it's just that Michigan's promise of \$8 million to help keep Asian carp in the Il...

[Marine sanctuary plan could later include Door and Kewaunee waters](#)

The waters off of Door and Kewaunee counties in Wisconsin could eventually become part of the proposed Wisconsin-Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary

[Moving companies say Illinois at or near top state to move from in 2018](#)

Illinois remains at, or near, the top of states with the highest percentage of people leaving compared to arriving, according to data from

[Petition aims to give the Northwest Angle to Canada](#)

A petition has been started to get the U.S. government to give the Northwest Angle to Canada

[Wisconsin-Lake Michigan marine sanctuary supporters hopeful as Tony Evers takes office](#)

Plans to establish a National Marine Sanctuary along part of the coast of Lake Michigan in Wisconsin were rejected by former Governor Scott Walker, but community members are hopeful incoming Governor Tony Evers may support the project.