



## Gov. Whitmer approves \$26 million in outdoor recreation development and acquisition grants

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed legislation creating more opportunities for quality outdoor recreation by authorizing \$26 million in Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants.

“Creating more avenues for people to connect with Michigan’s beautiful outdoor spaces encompasses what Pure Michigan means. Investing in Michigan’s beautiful outdoor spaces can help economic growth while providing a physical and mental health boost to Michiganders,” said Gov. Whitmer. “Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund support is critical to opening up more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.”

House Bill 4244, sponsored by Rep. Phil Green, approves funding for

House Bill 4244, sponsored by Rep. Phil Green, approves funding for 64 recreation development projects and land purchases recommended by the board. It is now Public Act 12 of 2019.

The Trust Fund board recommends funding to both state and local agencies for development projects and land acquisitions that will increase the quality and quantity of public outdoor recreation opportunities. This round of grant funding reflects continued support of:

- Trail systems, specifically those – like the Iron Belle Trail – with broad regional and statewide impact.
- Acquisitions of high-quality, unique natural resources including scenic river frontage, geologic features, wildlife habitat and Great Lakes access.

- An extensive range of development projects that expand opportunities across Michigan for camping, fishing, biking, hiking and snowmobiling.

This year the board recommended \$18.6 million in acquisition grants and nearly \$7.4 million in recreation development grants. Of the \$18.6 million recommended to fund acquisition projects, \$12 million would be awarded to local units of government, while the remaining \$6.6 million would be awarded to the Department of Natural Resources to support diverse projects including:

- The acquisition of an improved riverfront trail way along the Detroit River in Wayne County. This critical expansion—the

**\$26 million in outdoor grants**

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## DEC offers \$350,000 in Grants to Protect Hudson River Estuary

New York announced that \$350,000 in competitive grant funding is available to help communities in the Hudson River Estuary watershed increase resiliency to flooding, protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and enhance natural resources. The grants are provided through New York’s Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and are administered by DEC’s Hudson River Estuary program.

The deadline for applications is **July 10, 2019, at 3 p.m.** The Requests for Applications (RFA) for “Local Stewardship Planning” is [available online through the NYS Grants Gateway](#). The Grants Gateway is a web-based grants-management system that streamlines the way grants are administered by the State

of New York. All grant applicants, including government agencies and not-for-profit corporations, must be registered in the NYS Grants Gateway to be eligible to apply for any state grant opportunity. Not-For-Profit applicants are required to “prequalify” in the Grants Gateway system. For more information about Grants Gateway, please visit the [Grants Management website](#) or contact the Grants Gateway Team at: [grantsgateway@its.ny.gov](mailto:grantsgateway@its.ny.gov).

General questions about the Hudson River Estuary grants application process may be directed to Susan Pepe, DEC’s Estuary Grants Manager, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-3506;

**\$350,000 for Hudson River**

*Continued on page 10*

## Commercial fisher captures invasive silver carp in St. Croix River

The Minnesota DNR has confirmed the capture of a silver carp on the St. Croix River. The invasive carp was caught by a commercial fisher near Prescott, Wisconsin, during routine spring netting. "Captures of individual invasive carp are disappointing but not surprising," said DNR invasive fish coordinator Nick Frohnauer. "This silver carp was captured in an area that is heavily fished in the spring, as it is an overwintering area for several species of fish. In 2017, two silver carp were captured at this same location."

The most recently captured silver carp was a 26 1/4 inch male weighing seven pounds.

The commercial fisher had informed the DNR area fisheries office that his crew would be netting in the area. Upon discovering the silver carp in the catch, the commercial fisher immediately contacted the DNR. A DNR invasive carp specialist secured the fish and transported it back to the area office for further processing. DNR staff is working with the commercial fisher to conduct additional netting at the location of this discovery.

Frohnauer noted that while the DNR continues to be concerned about the potential impact of invasive carp in the St. Croix River and other Minnesota waters, individual adult fish captures do not indicate reproduction or an established population of invasive carp in the St. Croix. "In this instance, there was one invasive carp out of the hundreds of fish handled in the haul," Frohnauer said.

Invasive carp progressed upstream since escaping into the Lower Mississippi River in the 1970s. These large fish compete with native species and pose a threat to rivers and lakes. No breeding populations have been detected in Minnesota waters. Individual invasive carp have been caught as far upstream in Mississippi River Pool 2 near the Twin Cities (bighead, grass, and silver), the King Power Plant on the St. Croix River by

Oak Park Heights (bighead), and just downstream of Granite Falls in the Minnesota River (bighead).

The DNR Invasive Species Program has built partnerships with state and federal agencies, conservation groups, university researchers and commercial businesses to prevent the spread of invasive carp. The 2015 closure of the Mississippi River lock at Upper St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis was a major accomplishment of these efforts.

The DNR is actively engaged with several prevention efforts.

- The DNR is an active partner in the Upper Mississippi River Invasive Carp Workgroup. The group includes representatives from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and several federal agencies.
- In partnership with the DNR, the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota is testing and evaluating carp deterrents in Mississippi River locks and dams. Previously, MAISRC had installed and evaluated a speaker system at Lock 8. Development of this technology will continue this year with the installation of an updated speaker system at this location.
- The DNR's Fish and Wildlife Division leads a comprehensive sampling program to monitor fish population changes and impacts of management actions. This includes working with commercial fishers, as demonstrated by this incident. ✧

### 🌀 Notable quote 🌀

"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is a government big enough to take away everything you have."



• Established 1972 •

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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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## NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App

New York anglers and hunters: there's a new FREE smartphone app just for you! Download the New York Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App on the Apple App Store or Google Play store, or by going to the Pocket Ranger website. DEC, in partnership with ParksByNature, announced the launch of the NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App for iPhone and Android.

This FREE, cutting-edge mobile app gives both novice and seasoned outdoorsmen and women essential information in the palms of their hands. Powered by Pocket Ranger® technology, this official app for DEC 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. ✧

## Temporary closure at Lake Paradise access for necessary repairs

Michigan boaters should be aware of a closure at the boating access site at Lake Paradise in Emmet County. The site will close in June to undergo needed construction. It is located in Carp Lake, just 7 miles south of Mackinaw City. It will close **June 10-20** for ramp replacement. Planning to visit the access site? First visit [Michigan.gov/DNRClosures](http://Michigan.gov/DNRClosures) for any updates. For more info: Burr Mitchell, park supervisor, at 231-436-5040 or [MitchellB3@michigan.gov](mailto:MitchellB3@michigan.gov). ✧

## Free Fishing Days

### IN: May 18, June 1-2

Indiana residents do not need a fishing license or a trout and salmon stamp to fish the state's public waters on [Free Fishing Days](#). Parks across the state will be hosting fishing events. Check out [the DNR Calendar](#) for an event near you. ✧

### MI: June 8-9

The 2019 Summer Free Fishing Weekend will be held Saturday and Sunday, **June 8-9**. ✧

## Public meeting on Lake Michigan fisheries management

### May 20

Public Comment period: [May 20-June 30](#)

MADISON – The Wisconsin DNR is continuing to work with stakeholders to determine the future course of fisheries management on Lake Michigan. The Wisconsin Great Lakes sport fishery generates \$185.4 million dollars in economic activity per year and everyone can agree to the goal of optimizing this fishery.

On [May 20](#) at Lakeshore Technical College, department staff along with interested stakeholders will begin the process to shape the course of future management on the lake. At this meeting, department staff will present the latest Lake Michigan survey information and stakeholders will contribute ideas and input on future fisheries management initiatives.

"We have been working with stakeholders in earnest over the last 5 years and have responded to both the science and stakeholder preferences to continue this excellent fishery," said Brad Eggold, Great Lakes District Fisheries Supervisor. "At this meeting, we will begin discussions on the most recent information, answer questions and gather input and comments that will ultimately culminate in a plan for 2020 and beyond."

The meeting is slated for Monday, **May 20** from 6 to 9 p.m. at Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland, Wis. in the East Centennial Hall.

Public Comment period: [May 20-June 30](#). To provide comments send an email to: [DNRLakeMichiganPlan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRLakeMichiganPlan@wisconsin.gov)

OR to provide written comments, send a letter to: Bradley T. Eggold, DNR, UWM - GLRF – SFS, 600 E. Greenfield Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53204 ✧

## DEC to Hold Angler Outreach Meeting on

### May 22

## Biologists to Provide Update on Status of Lake Erie and Upper Niagara River Fisheries

New York State DEC invited the public to learn more about the status of Lake Erie and Upper Niagara River fisheries at a public meeting on Wednesday, **May 22**, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Woodlawn Beach State Park's Lodge, 3580 Lake Shore Rd., Blasdell, New York 14219.

"This annual event provides an excellent opportunity for anglers to interact with the biologists who study and manage Lake Erie and Niagara River fisheries," said DEC Regional Director Abby Snyder. "This year's meeting will feature emerging results about Lake Erie walleye movement, the Cattaraugus Creek fish passage project, Lake Erie prey base, and upper Niagara River habitat work."

The meeting will begin with an informal discussion, followed by a series of presentations on Lake Erie and Upper Niagara River fisheries topics, and will include opportunities for discussion on a variety of fisheries management activities. Key members of Lake Erie and Niagara River's fisheries management community will present information on management and assessment activities for Lake Erie sport fisheries.

This annual meeting is sponsored by DEC's Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit and Region 9 Fisheries offices. Anyone interested is welcome to attend this free event and registration is not required. Contact info: [region9@dec.ny.gov](mailto:region9@dec.ny.gov).

The Lake Erie and the Upper Niagara River rank among New York State's top fishing destinations, especially for walleye, smallmouth bass and steelhead. The 2007 statewide angler survey estimated more than 800,000 angler days spent on these waters and the estimated value of these fisheries exceeded \$22 million to the local New York economy. ✧

## Illinois governor OKs first steps on blocking Asian carp

The governor of Illinois is authorizing steps toward the installation of technologies in a Chicago-area waterway to prevent Asian carp from reaching Lake Michigan. J.B. Pritzker told the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers he's willing to move ahead with preconstruction, engineering and design work for the project at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Des Plaines River near Joliet, Illinois. The location is considered a crucial choke point where the invasive carp could be prevented from migrating upstream toward the lake.

Illinois officials previously have agreed to work with the Army Corps and other Great Lakes states on the project while raising concerns about its cost and potential harm to commercial shipping. Pritzker said in a letter to the Corps that he wants discussions about reducing the project's price tag, estimated at \$778 million. ✧

## Elk and bear license applications on sale till June 1

Michigan [elk](#) and [bear](#) license applications are on sale now through **June 1**; applications are only \$5 each. You can increase your odds, or *even get two tags in a single year*, by picking up [Pure Michigan Hunt](#) applications while you're applying for bear and elk. The Pure Michigan Hunt offers a chance at licenses to hunt elk, bear, spring and fall turkey, antlerless deer and first pick at a managed waterfowl hunt area. Plus, over \$4,000 in blinds, sleds, rifles, shotguns and more go home with the three lucky hunters each year. And all licenses are transferable – winners can keep licenses for themselves or can transfer licenses to a friend or loved one if they choose. Info: [Michigan.gov/PMH](#). For more info or apply for bear or elk licenses, visit [Michigan.gov/Bear](#) or [Michigan.gov/Elk](#). ✧

## NOAA Great Lakes Restoration Funding

NOAA is funding \$7.43 million for two of NOAA's existing partners to continue our work through the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#).

With this funding, NOAA is continuing partnerships with Friends of the Detroit River and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (formerly the Department of Environmental Quality). They will use this funding to bring three projects into the next phases of implementation, which will result in multiple ecological, community and economic benefits for [Great Lakes ecosystems](#) and communities.

[Friends of the Detroit River](#) will restore habitats for native fish species migration, reproduction, growth, and seasonal refuge. One project will help reconnect waterways and [wetlands](#) on Bell Isle to the Detroit River, and restore habitat on the island. The other will build offshore shoals, ridges that create calm water areas for fish habitat and protect shorelines, as well as restoring other habitats on Celeron Island.

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy will be removing contaminated sediments from the [Manistique River Area of Concern](#). Sediments here contain [PCBs](#) from previous industrial activities, which are toxic to fish, wildlife and humans. Removal of 30,000 cubic yards of this contaminated material, more than 2,000 dump trucks worth, will help remove the pollutants from habitat important for several fish species in the area.

NOAA is providing this funding, and our expertise, to contribute to delisting [Great Lakes Areas of Concern](#)—places where pollution has impacted ecosystems and the public's ability to use natural resources. Our partners will leverage this funding to secure additional support, and will contribute their time and local knowledge to produce greater outcomes than we could achieve alone. ✧

## 2nd type of Asian carp found downstream of Lake Monroe



BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) – State wildlife officials say a second type of invasive Asian carp has reached the waters just downstream of Indiana's largest reservoir. The recent find of bighead carp in Salt Creek just below Lake Monroe's dam comes after silver carp have been found since at least 2015 in the dam's tailwaters.

Asian carp haven't been found in the lake, which spans nearly 11,000 acres in Monroe and Brown counties. But the DNR is reminding anglers it's illegal to use small fish taken from the dam's tailwaters as bait.

That prohibition aims to keep juvenile Asian carp from reaching the lake and its upstream tributaries. ✧

## Lake Ontario marine sanctuary

Federal officials have expressed interest in moving forward for a marine sanctuary that encompasses portions of Lake Ontario in Oswego and the surrounding counties. The Great Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary nomination was accepted by NOAA in 2017 and could soon enter the designation process — the next step toward becoming an official marine sanctuary. NOAA officials confirmed the organization has reached out to the entities that nominated the proposed sanctuary to indicate interest in moving forward. Though NOAA officials said the designation process is “not officially a go yet,” the proposed Lake Ontario sanctuary is eligible to be designated a national marine sanctuary and the next step would be NOAA publishing a notice of intent to seek public comment on the proposal.

## Voice Your Opposition Of Wind Turbines In Lake Erie!

The Michigan Boating Industries Association and property owners are urging boaters to raise their voice in opposition of the proposed Icebreaker wind power turbines in Lake Erie.

Nicki Polan, executive director of MBIA says: "MBIA is not opposed to alternative sources of energy. But, regarding wind farms in our Great Lakes, we find far too many unanswered questions and documented risks to the health and aesthetics of these unique and often times fragile bodies of water. We stand opposed to plans such as the one being considered in Ohio now and we encourage all boaters and boating businesses to join us in communicating this to Ohio."

Michigan borders on four of the five Great Lakes including a large portion of Lake Erie. Many Michigan residents boat on Lake Erie, and many Michigan businesses and citizens live and work along its shores. Only 2.5% of the world's water is fresh water, and 20% of that is coming from the Great Lakes. "Building wind turbines

in Lake Erie will threaten clean water, boating access, one of the world's best perch and walleye fisheries, bird migration, the safety and health of coastal residents, and so much more," said Polan.

The initial goal of the Icebreaker plan is to place 6 wind turbines, with a final goal of 1,200 wind turbines in Lake Erie, costing \$24 billion.

"Wind power has proved to be very high cost with low return," said MBIA Board Member Jim Coburn of Coburn & Associated in Macomb, Mich. "Many wind turbine projects in the U.S. and overseas have been abandoned because of this. Why this is even being considered in our Great Lakes is beyond me."

The case against turbines is extensive, including the fact that exploding and burning turbines can be commonplace. Each turbine contains over 400 gallons of industrial lubricants in their gearboxes. Gearbox seals are known to fail and will leak oil into the waters below. But when they burn there is no way to reach and

extinguish them. As the 300-foot turbine blades burn, they create toxic emissions polluting the air and waters below.

Make your voice heard by sending a simple email to Ohio Power Siting Board asking them to: "Please Save Our Lake Erie. DO NOT permit wind turbines."

You can comment online at: <https://www.opsb.ohio.gov/Contact-Us/>. Be sure to reference "Icebreaker Proposal, Case number: 16-1871-EL-BGN"

Contact the following Ohio leaders in Washington D.C.:

1. Senator Rob Portman – 37 West Broad St., Rm 300, Columbus, OH 43215 | 614-469-6774
2. Senator Sherrod Brown – 200 N. High St., Rm 614, Columbus OH 43215 | 614-469-2083
3. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur – 17021 Lorain, Cleveland, OH 44111 | 246-767-5933
4. Congressman Dave Joyce – 8500 Station Street, Mentor, OH 44060 | 440-352-3939 ✧

## Ohio reminds Ohioans of dangers of cold water

**COLUMBUS, OH** – While the weather in Ohio will gradually warm up, it is important for residents to know that the water temperature in Ohio's waterways is still extremely cold, according to the Ohio DNR.

"Hypothermia sets in rapidly when people enter cold water because people lose the use of the muscles in their arms and legs, which makes it very difficult to get safely back to shore," said Glen Cobb, chief of the Division of Parks and Watercraft. "People should avoid getting into the water when the water is extremely cold, and if they are boating or paddling, it is critical to wear a life jacket and dress for the water temperature."

Water temperatures are slower to respond to the change of seasons. Lake Erie's water temperature is still

approximately 45 degrees, and water temperatures in Ohio's inland lakes and rivers are also very cold. Information on how to dress for the water temperature is available at [watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/coldweatherboating](http://watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/coldweatherboating).

Almost 90 percent of boating fatalities are due to drowning, and nearly half of those are attributed to the effects of immersion in cold water. Total immersion in cold water is very painful, with extremities rapidly becoming numb. The disoriented people can quickly panic while losing coordination of their limbs. With these combined reactions, the victim may drown quickly.

Falling into cold water triggers the body's cold water immersion responses, beginning with an uncontrollable gasping reflex. The

victim may hyperventilate and find it difficult to get air into his or her lungs. A well-fitted life jacket will keep a person's airway out of the water—which is most important when the gasping reflex begins. Heart rate and blood pressure increase dramatically, increasing the risk for cardiac arrest. The best prevention for this danger is to wear a life jacket. Wearing a life jacket while boating is as important as wearing a seat belt while in a car.

A person's ability to keep his or her head above water and stay afloat varies. Cold water reduces body heat up to 25 times faster than cold air. Factors that may alter these estimates include clothing or protective gear, the individual's health condition and water conditions. ✧

## Something Spectacular: My Great Lakes Salmon Story

By Howard A. Tanner

The new autobiography from Dr. Howard Tanner, father of the Great Lakes salmon fishery, is an important contribution to the annals of history and an engaging read.

As the new chief of the Michigan Department of Conservation's Fish Division in 1964, Howard A. Tanner was challenged to "do something . . . spectacular." He met that challenge by leading the successful introduction of coho salmon into the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes.

This volume illustrates how Tanner was able to accomplish this feat: from a detailed account of his personal and professional background that provided a foundation for success; the historical and contemporary context in which the Fish Division undertook this bold step to reorient the state's fishery from commercial to sport; the challenges, such as resistance from existing government institutions and finding funding, that he and his colleagues faced; the risks they took by introducing a nonnative species; the surprises they experienced in the first season's catch; to, finally, the success they achieved in establishing a world-renowned, biologically and financially beneficial sport fishery in the Great Lakes. Tanner provides an engaging history of successfully introducing Pacific salmon into the lakes from the perspective of an ultimate insider ✧

## Fishing Information Booklet

The 2019 *Illinois Fishing Information* guide is available at many IDNR license and permit vendor locations, and in PDF format online at this link: <https://www.ifishillinois.org/regulations/2019FishingGuide.pdf>. Regulations in the guide took effect on April 1, 2019. A reminder to anglers and would-be anglers: Illinois Free Fishing Days will be during the Father's Day ✧

## Trump signs bill to fund state-level gun range expansion

President Donald Trump signed [H.R. 1222](#), the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, at The White House. The President signed the NSSF-priority bill May 10, just two weeks after the bill was passed by Congress.

The legislation is titled Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, but is known more simply as the Range Bill. It deals with Pittman-Robinson funds, which have been compounding from ammo and gun manufacturing excise tax revenues since 1937.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation's (NSSF) Larry Keane [notes](#) that the Range Bill "gives the states more flexibility in how they can use their Pittman Robertson allocation to pay for the construction of new ranges and expansion or improvements to existing ones."

If a state wildlife agency decides to build a new recreational shooting range that cost \$1 million, the state would only need to apply \$100,000 of state funds to access the remaining \$900,000 from Pittman-Robertson funds, instead of the \$250,000 down payment currently required.

The "Range Bill" has been a sustained-effort priority for NSSF and is a crucial step forward in promoting, protecting and preserving hunting and the shooting sports. While it had broad support from both Republicans and Democrats in both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, previous attempts to pass the legislation were derailed for reasons unrelated to the actual legislation.

A recurring concern of recreational shooters, and those considering entering the sport, is proximity and access to a safe range. This new law would make it easier for states to enable recreational target shooters to enter the sport, which in turn would generate continued contributions to Pittman-Robertson funds and the conservation programs which it supports. ✧

## BOW Women's Guided Fishing Trip on Lake Ontario

Enjoy a six-hour guided fishing trip for King Salmon, Coho Salmon, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and/or Steelhead with Captain Dave Wilson aboard his 28' Baha Cruiser! All fishing equipment is provided. No fishing experience necessary! Boat has an enclosed bathroom with plumbing. Fish cleaning is available for a fee at the dock. Lodging is available nearby in Oswego. Open to women age 18 and over. **July 6th, 2019** 5:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m., **July 14th, 2019** 5:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m., **August 11th, 2019** 5:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Oswego Marina, Oswego, NY

**What to Bring:** Valid NYS fishing license, camera, warm clothing, sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, raincoat, rain pan, soft-soled shoes, food, snacks, and drinks, cooler to take your catch home!, motion sickness medication (just in case). **Fee: \$150 per person.** Pre-registration is required. Max four women per trip. Contact Captain Dave Wilson at **315-481-5716** or [captaindavewilson@yahoo.com](mailto:captaindavewilson@yahoo.com) ✧

## Looking out for the little fish

A new bill just introduced in Congress will help to ensure the smaller fish in the ocean, known as forage fish, will be sustainably managed. The Forage Fish Conservation Act would require that the critical role species like herring, sardines, shad and anchovies play in the marine ecosystem be accounted for when federal fisheries managers set catch limits on them. The important relationship between healthy forage fish populations and healthy sportfish populations has long been established. Forage fish provide food for nearly all recreationally important fish species, as well as seabirds and other marine life.

**Ask your Members of Congress to cosponsor this common sense, bipartisan bill today.** ✧

## High School Fishing Clubs, an opportunity for Industry

A recent study from RBFF, B.A.S.S., FLW, and the Student Angler Federation (SAF) shows plenty of opportunity to engage a more diverse audience, but what's the takeaway for our industry partners? Well, in addition to diving into demographics and sentiment, the study revealed some great insights into the economic impact of high school fishing clubs and the equipment they prefer.

### Here's what we found, and what it means for you:

- Clubs advance fishing skills. *Manufacturers and retailers have an opportunity to step in and educate members on equipment and techniques.*
- Clubs stimulate tackle sales: members spend nearly 2x as much on tackle than their non-member peers (\$658 vs \$332 per year). *Higher-priced brands may find value in creating new customers through relationships with high school clubs.*

- 92% of members are very likely to purchase additional fishing tackle in the next 6 months. *Make sure that tackle purchase comes from your brand or store; build a relationship with a local club now.*
- 50% of club leaders reported that getting funding was a challenge; 41% cited difficulty finding coaches and volunteers. *Consider sponsoring or partnering with local clubs to foster loyalty to your organization. Don't have money or equipment to donate? Get face time with your local anglers and develop a more personal relationship with current and future customers.*
- Access to equipment is a major barrier: 32% of clubs require access to a boat; 48% require members to provide their own tackle. *Boat manufacturers, dealers, and rental organizations have a huge opportunity to partner with high school fishing clubs to provide access and reduce barriers to entry.*

- Club members can be influential. *Develop a relationship with clubs and their anglers in hopes of creating brand-loyalty and strong brand advocates.*

### High School Anglers' Top 5 Rod & Reel Brands:

- Lew's
- Abu-Garcia
- Shimano
- Bass Pro Shops
- 13 Fishing

### High School Anglers' Top 5 Clothing Brands:

- Huk
- Columbia
- Under Armour
- Bass Pro Shops Brand
- Magellan

Didn't make the list? Even more reason to start working with local clubs to gain recognition for your brand.

For the full study: [RBFF Resource Center](#). ✧

## WI public meetings on statewide inland trout management plan

The public will have an opportunity to comment on a statewide Inland Trout Management Plan at a series of upcoming meetings.

Wisconsin DNR staff will present information on the draft 10-year statewide management plan and invite all interested members of the public to learn about trout management in Wisconsin. The DNR will also be accepting feedback at these meetings and through a public comment period.

The Trout Management Plan provides direction for inland trout management in Wisconsin. It covers brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and lake trout in inland lakes, ponds and streams of Wisconsin. This includes tributaries of the Great Lakes upstream from the first impassable barrier such as a dam and naturally occurring falls.

The plan will address many important fisheries management activities such as monitoring and research, habitat improvement,

stocking, land management, land/easement acquisition and more.



The plan communicates the direction and focus of the DNR on inland trout management for the next 10 years. Specifically, it guides the allocation of resources, identifies constraints, and prioritizes management activities. This plan addresses many important fisheries management activities such as monitoring and research, habitat improvement, stocking, fishing regulations, land management, and land/easement acquisition.

To view the draft plan: search [dnr.wi.gov](#), for [Inland Trout Management Plan](#). Joanna Griffin, trout coordinator, 608-264-8953

The meetings will be held:

- **May 29, La Crosse** - 6-8 p.m. La Crosse DNR Service Center, B19-20 3550 Mormon Coulee Rd; Contact: Kirk Olson 608-785-9017
- **June 3, Wausau** - 6-8 p.m. Marathon County Public Library, 300 North First St. There is a 3-hour parking limit in the library's main lot. There are nearby [parking ramps](#). Dave Seibel 715-623-4190 x3112
- **June 4, Fitchburg** - 7-9 p.m. Fitchburg DNR Service Center, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd; Contact: Justin Haglund 608-341-9465
- **June 5, Spooner** - 6-8 p.m. Spooner DNR Service Center, RM 112, 810 W Maple St. Contact: Craig Roberts 715-416-0351 ✧

## Daily lake trout possession limit on Grand Traverse Bay reduced for 2019

Anglers fishing for lake trout in the waters of Grand Traverse Bay this year need to be aware of a new regulation now in effect. At the latest meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in Lansing, the commission acted to reduce the daily possession limit of lake trout in these waters from two fish to one.



The lake trout season for the waters of the Management Unit MM-4 (covering the ports of Elk Rapids, Traverse City and Northport) runs January 1 through September 30. The previous daily possession limit was two fish with a 15-inch minimum size limit. Effective immediately, and for the rest of the 2019 season, the daily possession limit is one fish with a 15-inch minimum size limit. Most anglers at a March 6 public meeting in Traverse City preferred this change over other regulatory options.

"We would encourage anglers to keep the first lake trout they catch and then shift to targeting other species," said Heather Hettinger, a local DNR fisheries biologist. "Lake trout are not good targets of catch-and-release fishing, because about 40% of those that are caught and released won't survive to be caught again."

This specific regulation change is not listed in the printed version of the 2019 Michigan Fishing Guide; however, it is reflected in the electronic version of the guide found at [www.Michigan.gov/Fishing](http://www.Michigan.gov/Fishing). The change also is noted on the DNR's Fishing Regulations Hotline (888-367-7060). ✧

## Remember to clean, drain, and dry this boating season

As the weather warms and more people get out on their boats, the Indiana DNR reminds boaters to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by cleaning, draining, and drying their watercraft when they are finished on the water.

"This week we celebrate Invasive Species Awareness week by highlighting how the public can do their part in protecting Indiana's lakes and rivers from aquatic invasive species," said Eric Fischer, aquatic invasive species coordinator for DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native aquatic animals, plants, microorganisms, and pathogens that can hurt native aquatic plants and wildlife, harming the environment, human health, and businesses. They arrive in a variety of ways, including on trailers, on boat hulls and motors, on fishing gear, and through the pet trade.

- **Clean:** When leaving the water, clean all equipment that touched the water. This includes watercraft hulls, trailers, shoes, waders, life vests, engines and other gear. Remove all visible plants, algae, animals and mud.
- **Drain:** Drain accumulated water from watercraft or gear, including live wells and transom wells, before leaving the ramp or public access point.
- **Dry:** Once home, let all gear dry for at least five days before using it in a different water body.

If you suspect you have found an aquatic invasive plant, fish, mollusk, or crustacean, report it to the Division of Fish & Wildlife at [dnr.IN.gov/6385.htm](http://dnr.IN.gov/6385.htm), through the Report IN app at [eddmaps.org/indiana](http://eddmaps.org/indiana), or by calling the Invasive Species Hotline at 866-NO-EXOTIC (866-663-9684). ✧

## Wisconsin seeks comment on fish passage guidance thru **May 20**

**Contact(s):** Jean Rombach-Bartels, Secretary's Director, Northeast Region, 920-662-5114

MADISON –The Wisconsin DNR has released for public review and comment a draft fish passage guidance that sets forth the department wide procedures for decisions related to fish passage at dams in Wisconsin and is applicable to all department divisions and programs.

The draft guidance is available for public comment from **April 30, 2019 for 21 days, through May 20, 2019**. The department developed the guidance based on the agency's **Strategic Analysis of Fish Passage in Wisconsin in 2018**. The guidance also outlines the communication pathways, integrated internal evaluation and decision-making procedures for fish passage projects.

"We hope citizens, local municipalities, tribes, partner agencies and businesses that have an interest in how the department evaluates and makes decisions related to fish passage will review and provide their input on this important guidance document," said DNR Northeast Regional Secretary's Director Jean Rombach-Bartels, who led a multi-disciplinary work group that created the strategic analysis and assisted with developed of the draft guidance.

Written comments may be submitted to **Jean Rombach-Bartels**, Director, Northeast Region, 920-662-5114. For more information about fish passages, please visit the DNR's website at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "**fish passage**." ✧

### ☞ *Notable quote* ☜

As Benjamin Franklin said, "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."



## USACE publishes Hydrilla Risk Assessment for the Great Lakes Basin

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the Engineer Research and Development Center, has published a risk assessment that summarizes the potential for hydrilla introduction within the Great Lakes.

The basin-wide risk assessment was completed under contract by Ecology and Environment, Inc., with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and identified five watersheds that could be at a higher risk for introduction of hydrilla: Southeastern Lake Ontario, St. Clair-Detroit, and portions of Western, and Southern Lake Erie.

Hydrilla is a highly invasive aquatic plant species that was first introduced to the southern United States in the 1960s from Asia. More recently there have been a noticeable number of infestations in the glacial lakes of the Northeast and Midwest, as well as within the Great Lakes Basin. Hydrilla infestations have potential to cause significant ecological and economic losses.

‘The first step in managing any

species is identifying the extent of its possible range. For potential invasive species, this means identifying suitable habitat where the species may successfully establish if introduced,’ said Matt Barnes, Texas Tech University. Species distribution and dispersal modeling were key components of the risk assessment to support the prediction of which Great Lakes watersheds are the most vulnerable to hydrilla introduction and establishment, and targeting priority areas for management and monitoring.

Overall, potential hydrilla infestations were evaluated basin-wide in terms of what the impacts may be, where in the Great Lakes Basin environmental impacts from hydrilla may be more likely to occur, and how extensive those impacts may be by the year 2025. ‘The findings of this risk assessment suggest that funding agencies and management practitioners should devote significant and increasing attention and resources to the threat posed by hydrilla to the

Great Lakes Basin,’ said Kris Erickson of Ecology and Environment, Inc.

Examples of best management practices include specific actions focused on prevention, early detection, and response such as management and monitoring. The first step to prevent the spread of hydrilla is public education directed toward water users, including passive recreation users, boaters, and fishermen. In addition, report recommendations include early detection efforts at nearshore, littoral zone habitats for the Great Lakes watersheds at highest predicted risk.

<http://hydrillacollaborative.com>.

For additional information about the Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control Research Program visit: <https://apcrp.el.erdc.dren.mil/>.

Read More at: <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases/Article/1846792/usace-publishes-hydrilla-risk-assessment-for-the-great-lakes-basin/> ✧

## \$26 million in outdoor grants

*Continued from page 1*

West Riverfront Park Trail Connection—will link the east and west portions of the riverfront into the future Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park. This collaborative project includes funding from the Department of Transportation and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation.

- A new Tahquamenon River access site, providing even more recreation opportunities at this popular eastern U.P. destination.
- In the northern Lower Peninsula’s Presque Isle County, the acquisition of roughly 80 acres of primarily upland aspen forest, 1,680 feet of Little Ocqueoc River corridor, 12 acres of wetlands and excellent winter deeryard and habitat for a variety of wildlife. The property, which will be part of the state forest system, will consolidate state

land management in this area, will be managed for timber and wildlife and fisheries habitat, and will offer prime recreation opportunities including hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, camping, snowmobiling and wildlife watching.

Of the \$7.4 million recommended to fund development grants, \$6.8 million would support 30 local government projects and \$540,000 would support four DNR projects. Collectively, the \$26 million is matched with nearly \$16 million of additional funding for a total of \$41.9 million being invested in land acquisition and development projects.

‘I am proud that this legislation authorizing Trust Fund grants enjoyed such strong, bipartisan support throughout the Legislature,’ said DNR Director Dan Eichinger. ‘This action sends the message that Michigan places a high value on quality, outdoor recreation

opportunities, and that we’re committed to protecting our beautiful, natural spaces for everyone’s use and enjoyment.’

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is a restricted fund that was established in 1976 to provide funding for public acquisition of land for resource protection and outdoor recreation, as well as for public outdoor recreation development projects. It is funded through interest earned on funds derived from the development of publicly owned minerals, primarily oil and gas, and can only be used for public outdoor recreation. Over the past 40 years, the Trust Fund has granted more than \$1 billion to local units of government and the DNR to develop and improve public outdoor recreation opportunities in Michigan.

Descriptions of the [development projects](#) and [acquisition projects](#) approved by Gov. Whitmer are available at [Michigan.gov/MNRTF](http://Michigan.gov/MNRTF).

✧

## Backcountry Hunters & Anglers at Muster in the Mountains **June 22 & 23** in Morris, PA.

Our host, BHA Life Member **Richard Kacin**, and President and CEO **Land Tawney** are putting on the largest Eastern U.S. BHA gathering to date and want you join them, along with BHA staff, chapter leaders, members, friends, partners and other public land owners, to celebrate public lands with the usual BHA mix of comradery, competition, education, entertainment and feasting.

This is a **free event**, including lunch and dinner Saturday, **June 22**. It is important that you **RSVP** by **June 1** if you plan to attend so we can plan properly. This is a **family-friendly event**, so bring the whole clan. We will have some special things for youngsters. **Arrival** is Saturday, June 22 any time after 8 a.m. **Events** start at 10 a.m.

**Things to bring:** Camping gear (if camping), camp chair, water bottle, bows and fly rods for competitions, sunscreen and other personal items.

**Backcountry Olympics:** A friendly competition showcasing outdoor skills and grit. Participants should be dressed to run, jump, climb and maybe get wet and muddy.

**Wild Game Cookoff:** We are looking for **9 teams** of two chefs to square off using **Camp Chef** gear. Teams supply wild game ingredients. Email [chris@backcountryhunters.org](mailto:chris@backcountryhunters.org) for details, rules and to register. First come, first-served registration.

**Accommodations** for those wishing to stay overnight, there will be free **onsite camping** and not-free **off-site hotel** or bed and breakfast options—see the list on the event [webpage](#).

**Event Address and Google Maps link** will be emailed to those that **RSVP** in early June.

[Click Here](#) for **More details** and to **RSVP**. Questions? **Chris Hennessey**: [chris@backcountryhunters.org](mailto:chris@backcountryhunters.org). ✧

## \$350,000 for Hudson River

*Continued from page 1*

[HREPgrants@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HREPgrants@dec.ny.gov). A [description of the grant and application process](#) is available on the DEC website.

### Eligible project types for Local Stewardship Planning Grants, \$350,000

The minimum grant award is \$10,500 and the maximum award is \$50,000. Additional points are given to projects in environmental justice areas and projects that support regional economic development strategies. The four categories of local projects and programs support planning for:

- Hudson River shoreline communities to adapt land uses and decision-making to factor in climate change, flooding, heat, drought, and sea-level rise projections;
- Making water infrastructure more resilient to flooding and/or sea-level rise;
- Conservation of natural resources by creating a natural resources inventory, open space inventory/index, open space plan, conservation overlay zone, open space funding feasibility study, or connectivity plan; and
- Watershed and source water management planning. ✧

## Wis Conservation Congress Spring Hearings Update

Over 10,700 people participated in the annual Spring Hearings input opportunity this year. The public hearings were held in all 72 counties on April 8 for people who wanted to attend and comment on proposals in person. In addition, a new online option was available to individuals this year who couldn't attend. While 3,402 attended a hearing in person, another 7,310 participated using the online opportunity. The Spring Hearings webpage has recently been updated with the results of the April 8th Spring Hearing, which are [now available](#). ✧

## Bernhardt confirmed as Sec'y of the Interior

Mr. David Bernhardt was recently confirmed as the 53rd Secretary of the Interior.

As an avid hunter, shooter and fisherman, Secretary Bernhardt is committed to conserving America's outdoor heritage. Under his leadership, the Department of Interior will continue to pursue conservation policies that respect the rights of America's outdoorsmen and women.

The U.S. Senate [confirmed](#) Secretary David Bernhardt to permanently lead the Department of the Interior. NSSF strongly supported his nomination, and his confirmation vote was a topic of discussion during the annual Fly-In. Secretary Bernhardt was endorsed by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Senate's Committee on the Energy and Natural Resources. She noted in the committee vote to advance his nomination that he had previously been confirmed twice by the Senate. Secretary Bernhardt already has a track record of opening public lands to hunting and recreational shooting, which reduces barriers and obstacles many find to being able to participate in the shooting sports. ✧

## Michigan Great Lakes Fishing Roadmaps

Looking to plan some Great Lakes fishing trips in 2019? We've got some great resources to help you out! Check out our Roadmaps to Fishing Michigan's Great Lakes; available for lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior, as well as the St. Clair System and Lake Erie.

Just pick the port you'd like to fish out of, the time of year you'd like to fish, and we'll tell you what species you might find.

For most ports opportunities are available all year long—just waiting for you to enjoy them!

[Great Lakes Fishing Roadmaps ▶](#)

✧

## \$185,000 in awards to improve Hudson River access sites and manage scenic vistas

*Grants Support State's Efforts to Expand Access to Recreation and Encourage New Yorkers to Get Outside*

The New York State DEC Hudson River Estuary Program in partnership with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) recently awarded contracts for two community projects to improve the resiliency of Hudson River access sites and more sustainably manage scenic vistas.

"Governor Cuomo has made significant investments to create new and expanded access to recreation along the Hudson River and encourage New Yorkers to get outside and enjoy nature," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "New York State is prioritizing preserving our natural resources and recognizes the need to bolster the resiliency of these sites along the river in the face of increasing flood risks and severe weather events."

A \$49,855 contract was awarded to WSP USA Inc./Louis Berger to aid Hudson River communities planning

efforts for sea-level rise and flooding at shorefront parklands and river access sites along the Hudson River estuary. WSP will conduct site visits, evaluate existing flood models and climate predictions, and develop recommendations and guidance that includes a library of resources and an online tool for decision-making to reduce flood vulnerabilities. In addition, WSP will create a network of Hudson River user groups, riverfront property owners, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders to share and learn from each other's experiences in developing resilience measures.

A \$134,980 contract was awarded to Saratoga Associates to assist riverfront landowners and historic sites in managing scenic vistas while protecting natural resources and wildlife habitat. Saratoga Associates is partnering with New York State College of

Environmental Sciences and Forestry (SUNY ESF) to develop a series of ecologically-friendly Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified through research of existing visual and ecological conditions along the Hudson River. The Saratoga team also will conduct a review of current practices being used at public properties adjacent to the Hudson. The project will result in technical assistance guides that apply ecological and landscape architectural standards to avoid impacts to the landowners' property, habitat, and natural areas. The Saratoga team will also provide training sessions and undertake two demonstration projects using the BMPs.

DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program focuses on the tidal Hudson and its adjacent watershed from the federal dam at Troy to the Verrazano Narrows in New York City. ✧

## Bill to Conserve Forage Fish Will Promote Healthy Sportfish Populations

*The Act would require managers to consider impacts on the ecosystem when setting forage fish catch limits*

The sportfishing industry expressed its support for a new bill in Congress to ensure the smaller fish in the ocean that serve as the food source for most marine sportfish, known as forage fish, will be sustainably managed. Introduced by Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Brian Mast (R-Fla.), Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.), Fred Upton (R-Mich.), Billy Long (R-Mo.) and Jared Huffman (D-Calif.), the Forage Fish Conservation Act would require that the role forage fish play in the marine ecosystem be accounted for when federal fisheries managers set catch limits on them.

"Recognizing the important relationship between healthy forage fish populations and healthy sportfish populations, the recreational fishing community has long advocated for forage fish conservation," said Mike Leonard, VP of Government Affairs for the [American Sportfishing](#)

[Association](#) (ASA).

In 2014, the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management, chaired by Bass Pro Shops Founder and CEO Johnny Morris and Maverick Boats President Scott Deal, [released a report](#) identifying key policy changes to the federal marine fisheries management system to benefit fisheries conservation. One of the six key recommendations of that report was improving management and conservation of forage fish.

"The Forage Fish Conservation Act is consistent with the Morris-Deal Commission's recommendation, by incorporating important considerations for forage fish into the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act," said Leonard. "Because these integral parts of the marine food web are becoming increasingly targeted for

commercial exploitation, it is important that forage fish management accounts for their role in marine ecosystems."

Forage fish provide food for nearly all recreationally important fish species, as well as seabirds and other marine life. Meanwhile, human demand for these nutrient-rich species continues to increase.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act is not currently designed to account for the unique role of forage fish in the marine ecosystem, instead relying on traditional single-species management approaches. The Forage Fish Conservation Act would require that the impacts on fish populations and the marine ecosystem be considered before allowing harvest on any currently unmanaged forage species, and that predator needs be accounted for in existing management plans for forage fish. ✧

## Sportfishing industry leader testifies on Drift Gillnet phaseout

### Phasing out mile-long drift gillnet use will dramatically decrease bycatch, including recreationally important fisheries

Alexandria, VA – May 8, 2019 –Bill Shedd, president of the American Fishing Tackle Company (AFTCO) and a 25-year Chairman of the [American Sportfishing Association's](#) (ASA) Government Affairs committee, testified before Congress on the impact of drift gillnets on sportfish populations.

The U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a legislative hearing on May 8 on multiple bills including the bipartisan *Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act* (H.R. 1979), which is supported by ASA. H.R. 1979 would align federal law with California state law and modernize the swordfish fishery by phasing out mile-long drift gillnets that contribute to significant bycatch. Shedd's testimony helped to elevate how the bill would greatly reduce the amount of bycatch, which includes important fish for recreational anglers.

"When commercial fishing methods cause excessive amounts of bycatch that impacts sportfish populations, something must be done," said ASA's Pacific Fisheries Policy director Danielle Cloutier, PhD. "Making sure fish populations remain healthy means we must transition away from outdated fishing methods, such as mile-long drift gillnets, and replace them with alternative gear that is sustainable both from a conservation and economic prospective, as H.R. 1979 would do if passed."

Cloutier noted, "Shedd's testimony before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife makes the case that it's time to close this loophole in federal law that still allows for the use of drift gillnets. Once the drift gillnet fishery is phased out, we will be better able to manage marine life and make sure that abundant sportfish populations are available for future generations."

"There have been decades of effort trying to clean up the California

swordfish fishery, yet it remains one of the most indiscriminate fisheries in the country," said Shedd. "Passage of H.R. 1979 will greatly reduce unnecessary bycatch, help produce a higher quality seafood product and even increase the number of recreational and commercial fishing jobs in the California swordfish fishery. This is an opportunity to take a sustainable replacement for drift gillnets and make the fishery bigger."

Shedd's full testimony to help phase out the use of drift gillnets in California's swordfish fishery can be found by [clicking here](#). Additionally, anglers can [take action](#) by contacting their members of Congress and asking them to support H.R. 1979.

Drift gillnets are nearly-invisible nets, fifty yards deep and up to a mile long. The nets drift freely overnight in the ocean and catch valuable swordfish. But, drift gillnets also ensnare 70, or more, other species of ocean wildlife. This results in over half of the catch being discarded as unwanted waste, and approximately 20 percent of this is already dead upon release. Recognizing the indiscriminate nature of drift nets, the United Nations banned large-scale drift nets on the high seas twenty years ago. Federal waters off the coast of California are the only area in the U.S. where this gear is still allowed.

The committee hearing is a continuation of ASA's years-long effort to phase out the use of drift gillnets at the federal and state levels including:

- Supporting the U.S. Senate's reintroduction of the bipartisan [Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act](#) in March 2019.
- Advocating for passage S.B. 1017 that was [signed into law](#) in September 2018 by California Governor Jerry Brown to end use of drift gillnets in state waters.
- Highlighting science-based data in a [Southwick Associates report](#) in July 2018 that makes

the economic case for eliminating California's drift gillnet fishery.

Announcing support for the U.S. Senate's work to introduce the bipartisan [Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act](#) in May 2019. ✧

## IDNR schedule of 2019 Waterfowl Blind Site Drawings

Upcoming waterfowl hunting blind site random drawings will be held at several public hunting areas in Illinois in July and August. Duck and goose hunters must register in person for waterfowl blind site drawings and must be present at the drawing—held at each location designated below immediately after the registration period—to claim their blind sites. Mail-in registrations are not accepted. Unless otherwise stated, blind allocations for these sites are good for one year.

To participate in a drawing, all applicants must present a 2018 or 2019 regular Illinois hunting license (no apprentice or youth license), a 2018 or 2019 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp at the time they register, unless exempted by law, and valid photo identification. Applicants must be at least 16 years old by the date of the drawing.

Schedule for 2019 blind drawings:

- **Sunday, July 21, 2019 (Blinds allocated for two years)**
- **Saturday, July 27, 2019 (Blinds allocated for one year)**
- **Sunday, July 28, 2019 (Blinds allocated for one year)**
- **Saturday, August 3, 2019 (Blinds allocated for two years)**

For details of drawing locations and times: [IDNR Announces Schedule of 2019 Waterfowl Blind Site Drawings](#)

Additional hunting info <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/FactSheets/Pages/default.aspx>. ✧

## Confined Spaces: Silent & Invisible Killers

### A U.S Coast Guard Safety Alert

This is a reminder that despite decades of work to improve confined space entry by maritime safety organizations, training institutions, and vessel owners/ operators, the risks have not been eliminated. This is illustrated by a recent casualty where three persons were asphyxiated while working onboard a laid-up Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU). Although the investigation is not yet complete, the following information is being conveyed with the continued hope that it will highlight this hazard with the aim to prevent recurrence.

Ten crewmembers were onboard the MODU preparing it for a heavy lift transport to an overseas ship breaking facility. They were successful in dewatering three of the MODU's four legs. However, the de-ballasting system was inoperable in the fourth leg because piping and valves had been previously removed. To continue pumping, the crew rigged a portable diesel engine driven pump to discharge the tanks.

Each leg had six decks. The first two uppermost decks had access hatches that allowed easy transfer of



crew and equipment between the decks. The remaining decks were accessed via manhole hatches that were too small to allow passage of the portable pump and had to be enlarged. As each ballast tank was fully discharged, the manhole cover at the bottom of the tank was enlarged and the pump was lowered. Once they

reached the lowermost ballast tank, the pump was set up with its suction hose in the tank and discharge hose exiting the leg via a hole torched through its side shell plating. A second smaller hole was also cut to serve as an air supply vent.

Seven of the crew onboard were involved in the dewatering operation and this casualty. They were experienced mariners, but lacked MODU experience. The Superintendent, Captain, Rigging Master, Fitter, and an AB (AB2) were on a dinner break while another AB (AB1) and the Electrician were assigned to oversee the dewatering operation. Without notifying anyone, AB1 descended into the leg presumably to check the pump. The Electrician became concerned when he failed to see AB1 on deck and descended into the leg himself, only to find AB1 collapsed and unconscious near the pump. Although nearly overcome by the exhaust fumes himself, he was able to safely escape.

Once on deck, the Electrician notified AB2 and the Fitter about AB1's collapse. AB2 then descended to assist AB1 while the Fitter went to notify the Captain. The Captain, Ship Superintendent and Fitter then notably, and without safety equipment, descended into the leg to assist AB1. Upon entering the upper part of the MODU's leg, they noticed AB2 had collapsed and was now unconscious one level above AB1. At that time, the Fitter was overcome by the vapors and collapsed next to AB2. The Captain and Ship Superintendent then managed to escape the leg with assistance from the Rigging Master who had entered the leg with a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) brought onboard from another vessel. In the end, AB1, AB2 and the Fitter died, while the Captain and Ship Superintendent were airlifted to a hospital and survived.

The quality and recency of the Confined Space Entry training the crew received is unknown. Other than the Rigging Master, each of the crew

who entered the leg spaces may have lost situational awareness. Studies have shown that humans often miss the obvious cues of a situation while under stress and because their focus is upon another effort or action that needs to be accomplished.

Of major concern to investigators was the Captain's decision to enter the space with two other persons without personal protective gear and a SCBA. Several sources indicate that over 50% of the workers in enclosed / confined spaces die while attempting to rescue their coworkers. It appears that the hazardous nature of this operation wasn't fully appreciated. This included the dangers of the MODU's ballast tanks and their limited access, the exhaust of the operating diesel pump and minimal, if any, external air circulation. At the time, those who perished and even those who attempted to access the tank without a SCBA did so without a full appreciation of the invisible and silent killer they were facing.

As a result of this and other related casualties the Coast Guard **strongly encourages all** who work or may be employed onboard vessels in any role to:

- Obtain the requisite level of knowledge and training of confined space entry procedures including emergency and rescue procedures;
- Ensure crews undergo periodic confined space training and participate in routine and practical onboard emergency drills;
- Verify all required confined space entry and rescue safety equipment is onboard, maintained, tested and fully functional; and
- Continually appreciate the dangers involved in confined space entry and educate yourself by further study. A good place to do this are the [reports found on this webpage](#).

Developed by the Investigators of the Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur and the Office of Investigations and Analysis. Questions may be sent to [HQS-PF-fldr-CGF-INV@uscg.mil](mailto:HQS-PF-fldr-CGF-INV@uscg.mil). ✧

## Anglers asked to report marked Steelhead

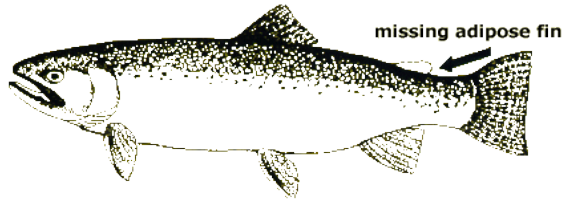
### *Steelhead marked with an adipose fin clip and tagged internally*

Steelhead fishing and catching tagged fish contribute to Great Lakes research efforts. With spring steelhead fishing underway on Lake Michigan tributaries, state fisheries biologists are asking anglers to assist with an important steelhead research program. Wisconsin DNR biologists are asking anglers to report marked fish by submitting reports about what they caught, where and when.

Steelhead stocked into Lake Michigan tributaries during 2018 and recently in spring 2019 were marked with an adipose fin clip and tagged internally with coded wire tags. Steelhead are typically stocked as yearlings or at age 1, so steelhead initially marked and tagged in 2018

are now two years old and about 15 to 20 inches.

"These fish have now reached catchable and harvestable size, so we're asking anglers who catch steelhead with the adipose fin clip to let us know," says Nick Legler, DNR biologist based in Sturgeon Bay.



*This diagram shows a fish with ONLY a missing adipose (back) fin.*

Anglers have already caught some marked steelhead, with a few also showing up in reports from state egg collection facilities: the [Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility](#) on the Kewaunee River and [Root River Steelhead Facility](#) on the Root River. Anglers are encouraged to help, by collecting information and samples through either a volunteer return program accessible through [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), search "[missing fin](#)," or the Great Lakes Angler Diary at <https://glanglerdiary.org/>.

Overall, the Great Lakes Mass Marking program seeks to evaluate

salmonid wild production, movements, growth, and stocking methods. Also important to steelhead management is an evaluation of different genetic strains, such as Chambers Creek and Ganaraska strains. These will help guide steelhead management.

Collectively, all Chinook salmon and lake trout were marked with adipose fin clips and coded wire tags from 2011-2016. Since 2017, lake trout are still clipped and tagged, Chinooks are now just clipped, while steelhead are now clipped and tagged.

"Great information has and continues to be collected from past and remaining tagged Chinooks," Legler says. "This new focus on tagged steelhead is an exciting next chapter for the Great Lakes Mass Marking program, sure to provide useful information to help manage and sustain a great fishery in Lake Michigan for years to come. This effort is thanks to the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, USFWS, Kettle Moraine Fish Hatchery, and many collaborators around Lake Michigan. For more info: Nick Legler at 920-746-5112 or [nicholas.legler@wisconsin.gov](mailto:nicholas.legler@wisconsin.gov). ✧"



*DNR fisheries technicians Derek Apps (front) and Roman Frey (back) with a steelhead processed at the Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility on April 10, 2019.*

### **Other Breaking News Items:**

**(Click on title or URL to read full article)**

[With the threat of Asian carp growing, could eating them be the answer](#)

[CultureShift's](#) Amanda LeClaire speaks with [Andrew Reeves](#), the author of a new book called [Overrun: Dispatches From The Asian Carp Crisis](#) about how invasivorism works and what people can do to help get rid of invasive fish

[Lyme disease cases in Illinois expected to continue to rise this year](#)

An expert says Lyme disease cases in Illinois will likely continue to rise this year after having shown a gradual increase in recent years

[Red swamp crayfish could be next Great Lakes invasive](#)

The red swamp crayfish can reproduce multiple times a year. Females can carry up to 900 eggs. That means rapid population growth and possibly trouble for the Great Lakes

[US wants to establish Lake Ontario national marine sanctuary in Upstate NY](#)

NOAA plans to designate a new national marine sanctuary along the coast of Lake Ontario to protect historic shipwrecks and artifacts. New York communities expressed interest in this designation, and hope that it will spur further tourism to the region

End