



NY opened Oct. 31 Salmon River Lower Fly-Fishing Area

DEC encourages anglers to Fish 'SMART' to protect resources and other anglers

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that the Lower Fly-Fishing Section of the Salmon River was opened for catch-and-release fishing starting Saturday, Oct. 31, marking the success of actions taken by the Salmon River Flow Management Team to mitigate the impacts of low-water flows at the start of the salmon run. Recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 remain in effect to ensure the health and safety of the public.

Under a federal license, Salmon River seasonal base flows are typically increased from 185 cubic feet/second (cfs) to 335 cfs on September 1, providing that water levels in the Salmon River Reservoir are above a critical threshold. This summer, below-average precipitation resulted in low and declining water levels in the reservoir. The Executive Committee of the Salmon River Flow Management Team, comprised of natural resource agencies and Brookfield Renewable hydroelectric

facility that regulates reservoir water levels, delayed the annual September 1 increase in base flow and canceled scheduled whitewater releases over the Labor Day weekend. These actions conserved reservoir water to maintain suitable flows throughout the salmon spawning run.

Because significant rainfall was not forecasted, DEC recommended delaying the scheduled base flow increase. DEC's recommendation was **NY opened Salmon River Area**

Continued on page 9

Happy Thanksgiving

In this issue...

Mille Lacs Lake allowed 1 walleye	2
Please submit samples for CWD testing	3
Surplus trout means more fishing	3
2020 Lake Erie Fish Survey	3
New fishing access in Broome County ...	3
Learn to hunt game birds	3
2020 Salmon River Hatchery egg take ...	3
Vets, Gold Star Families get free	4
RBFF boat registration continues	4
President signs Natl Fish Habitat	5
PA expanded Sunday hunting	6
Share your thoughts with the DNR	6
Wis Walleye Mgmt Plan virtual meeting ..	6
Lake Superior Management Update	7
New PA PFD regulations in effect	7
DEC acquires 525 acres	8
Michigan red swamp crayfish invasion ...	8
Upper Red Lake walleye regs change	9
Page 1 articles continued	9
4 silver carp fitted with tracking devices	10
Invasive Asian carp used for pet food ...	10
4 th Lake Whitefish virtual meeting	11
DNR stocks coho in NW Indiana	11
Trout stocking via helicopter	11

Happy Thanksgiving
to Everyone

PFBC permit process for fishing guides

During a special meeting held virtually on November 4, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Board of Commissioners acted on two items that were not available for consideration during its recent quarterly business meeting. In both instances, the public comment period associated with each agenda item had not concluded when the regularly scheduled meeting occurred on October 19-20.

The Board voted to amend regulations related to Charter Boat/Fishing Guide operations. An internal review of the current permit application process revealed a cumbersome system that could be made more efficient through an online process. The amendments to Section 51 (Pa. Title 58) will allow for the application and issuance of Charter Boat/Fishing Guide permits online

exclusively through Pennsylvania's online fishing/hunting license portal [The Outdoor Shop Opens in a New Window](#). As part of this change, the requirement to display a decal on charter boats will be removed. Moving forward, Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) will verify applicant provided information during standard field checks. An additional change will require an individual guiding on Commonwealth Waters to have a Pennsylvania fishing license and permits. Under the current language, a loophole was created that allows some nonresidents to guide on Commonwealth Waters utilizing their out of state license with a Pennsylvania Nonresident guide permit. This amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

PFBC permit process

Continued on page 9

Mille Lacs Lake winter anglers allowed 1 walleye starting **Dec. 1**

Winter anglers on Mille Lacs Lake will enjoy a walleye harvest this winter for the fifth season in a row. Starting **Tuesday, Dec. 1**, anglers will be allowed to keep one walleye between 21-23 inches or one fish longer than 28 inches. This is the same regulation as the last two winter seasons.

"It's good news that anglers will be able to harvest walleye again this winter," said Sarah Strommen, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Conservative management continues to sustain good fishing on Mille Lacs."

Mille Lacs was a popular ice fishing destination during 2019-2020. Anglers put in a record of more than 3 million fishing hours on the lake last winter. In each of the previous three winters, anglers spent about 2 million hours fishing on Mille Lacs.

"We want to provide anglers the opportunity to catch and keep some fish when the walleye population can support it," said Brad Parsons, DNR fisheries section manager.

Winter regulations are set after the DNR completes its annual fall netting assessment. The DNR's 2020 assessment found that the walleye population has remained relatively stable over the past four years, having rebounded from population lows seen from 2012 to 2016.

Harvest from the winter of 2020-21 will be counted toward the state's annual share of walleye from Mille Lacs under the 1837 treaty. State anglers share harvest with eight Ojibwe tribes that have fishing rights under the treaty.

The state's allowable harvest for the coming year will be set in early 2021. The DNR will set open water fishing regulations in March 2021 following discussions with the tribes and the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee and after the conclusion of winter fishing.

Conservative fishing regulations in response to population lows have contributed to the recovery, allowing the DNR to offer anglers a harvest opportunity in recent winters and in

May 2019 during the open water fishing season.

Insights from fall assessments

While encouraged by the rebound in walleye abundance, the DNR is taking a cautious approach to managing Mille Lacs' walleye fishery. Survival of walleye to age 3 and older has been inconsistent in recent years.

The 2013 year class continues to be the most abundant class of fish. These fish are mainly 17-21 inches, with faster growing individuals exceeding 21 inches. Year classes from 2009 to 2012 were weak, and had low numbers grow to adults, while those produced since 2013 have had more fish survive to adulthood.

The 2014 year class is below average compared with those from the last 15 years. The 2015 and 2016 year classes appear close to average, and the 2017 year class is well above average. Since 2008, only the 2013 and 2017 year classes have been above average.

"Having multiple year classes approaching maturity makes us comfortable with continuing to harvest some of the 2013 year class under this winter's regulation," Parsons said.

The assessment also looks at food abundance and walleye health. Perch and tullibee are the primary food source for Mille Lacs' walleye. Perch and tullibee from 0 to 2 years old were caught in moderate numbers.

Walleye condition, often referred to as plumpness, remained lower than recent averages. The relatively thin condition of fish suggests that forage was limited during parts of this year. That lack of food contributed to the high catch rates in Mille Lacs early this summer. But that rate dropped in August and September, suggesting that the availability of forage improved later in the summer as fish hatched in 2020 grew and became a part of walleye diets.

Info about Mille Lacs Lake, including complete fishing regulations, is available on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/millelacslake. ♦



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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

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Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

Editor

Jeanette Thomas

Webmaster

Chad Lapa

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"Who sets himself up as judge of truth and knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of gods."

Edmund Burke

Urgent: Please submit samples for CWD testing



Michigan Hunters, please drop off the head of deer 1 year or older for CWD testing, if available where you hunt. Testing is crucial to managing this always-fatal disease and we need you to participate.

It's as easy as attaching a filled-out tag to the ear of your harvested deer's head and putting it into the provided barrel. If you have a deer head from harvest this weekend, you can still bring it in for sampling. Find your sampling location on the [CWD webpage](#).

There are also [options to provide a sample](#) even if you want to keep your deer's antlers or have the deer mounted.

Here's a video on [how to prep](#) for sampling, and full information is available on the [DNR website](#).

Every sample counts and gives us information about where disease is. Thank you for helping keep our wild deer healthy! ✧

Surplus trout means more fishing opportunities

[Curtis Creek Trout Rearing Station](#) had a great production season, and as a result, DNR is stocking more than 9,000 surplus rainbow trout statewide. Fish stocked will be six to eight inches long. Find locations and numbers on our newly updated [2020 trout stocking plan](#). ✧

2020 Lake Erie Fish Survey reveals some cool finds

Every September for the past 40 years, DEC [Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit](#) has set gill nets to assess the warm water fish community. The primary goal of the survey is to collect abundance and age structure information for Walleye, Yellow Perch, and Smallmouth Bass—the three most targeted fish species by anglers in New York's portion of Lake Erie. The Walleye and Yellow Perch data also contribute to lake wide assessments that annually determine safe harvest levels of both species. While the focus of the survey is on the more popular sportfish species, the survey also monitors trends in other less-commonly known fish species such as Freshwater Drum and White Perch, along with some truly rare species.

In 2020, one of these rare species – a Stonecat (mini members of the Catfish family) – was caught, as well as some extraordinarily large Spottail Shiners—the first of this species ever sampled in the netting survey!

The results from the warm water assessment are published every March in the Lake Erie Research Unit's [annual report](#). ✧

New fishing access in Broome County

DEC Region 7 Operations, with assistance from the Village of Deposit Division of Public Works, recently constructed a new angler parking area on Oquaga Creek (Broome County). The Deposit Midget Baseball program received a State grant to convert the site from a former milk plant into a sports complex and community park. As part of the multi-use plan for the site, the DEC parking area provides a formal designated area for anglers to access Oquaga Creek and the [Public Fishing Rights \(PDF\)](#) easement that extends upstream. ✧

Learn to hunt game birds

Learn how to harvest fresh, local food by participating in one of our free hunting or fishing workshops. Equipment provided at most events.



Dec. 5 – [Women's Learn to Hunt: Pheasant, Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area](#)

Dec. 6 – [Learn to Hunt: Pheasant, Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area](#)

Find out more about the [Learn to Hunt, Trap, & Shoot Program](#) or the [Learn to Fish Program](#). Additional workshop listings can be found at [wildlife.IN.gov](#). ✧

2020 Salmon River Hatchery egg take complete

Salmon River Hatchery staff completed egg collections for Chinook and coho salmon on October 21, 2020, resulting in over 1.6 million Chinook salmon eggs and 860,000 coho salmon eggs. Chinook and coho salmon are stocked in Lake Ontario tributaries every year and provide a world class fishing experience in the open lake and [tributaries](#). Chinook salmon hatched from eggs collected in 2020 will be held in the hatchery for a relatively short period of time and stocked in April/May 2021. Raised in the hatchery for a longer period, coho salmon that are hatched from eggs collected in 2020, will be stocked as yearlings in spring 2022.

You can find more information about [Lake Ontario fisheries management](#) and the [Salmon River Fish Hatchery](#) on DEC's website. ✧

Veterans, Gold Star Families get free entrance to national parks, refuges, other public lands

Veterans and Gold Star Families will be granted free access to national parks, wildlife refuges and other Federal lands managed by the Department of the Interior starting on Veterans Day this year and onward.

“With the utmost respect and gratitude, we are granting Veterans and Gold Star Families free access to the iconic and treasured lands they fought to protect starting this Veterans Day and every single day thereafter,” said Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt.

Entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation sites will be waived for Veterans and Gold Star Families. They will have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle, from serene to high octane, including hiking, fishing,

paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing and climbing.

Many Department managed lands have direct connections to the American military, such as frontier forts, Cold War sites, battlefields, national cemeteries, and memorials. These special places pay tribute to our veterans and serve as reminders of their courage and sacrifice throughout the history of our nation, from Minuteman National Historic Park where colonists stood in defense of their rights, to Yellowstone National Park, which was protected from vandalism and poaching by the 1st U.S. Cavalry before the National Park Service was established, to Mount Rushmore where modern warriors attend reenlistment ceremonies.

Details on program

For purposes of this program, a Veteran is identified as one who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and is able to present one of the following forms of ID:

- Department of Defense Identification Card
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver’s license or identification card

Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a “qualifying situation,” such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

The Interagency America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program already includes a free annual pass for active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents. Other free or discounted passes are available for persons with permanent disabilities, fourth grade students, and senior citizens age 62 years or older. ✧

RBFF boat registration continues to bring boats back to the water

Registration reminders in 14 states spurs thousands of registrations

The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) announced the results of its Boat Registration Reactivation Program. In all, nearly 30,000 boats in 14 states were re-registered as a direct result of this year’s program.

While the 2020 edition of the program saw nearly half as many letters sent to four fewer states versus last year—a product of sensitivities around the coronavirus and ensuing pandemic—key metrics like response rate and gross program registration fees are up over 2019 among states who participated in both years.

“Even through extreme adversity, our Boat Registration Reactivation Program continues to bring boaters back to the water,” said RBFF President & CEO Frank Peterson.

Partnering with 14 states across

the country, a total of more than 315,000 letters were distributed to owners of boats with lapsed registrations. The letters drew nearly 30,000 individuals to re-register their boats, leading to gross program registration fees of more than \$1.2 million. With RBFF fully funding this program, all registration fees brought in from the program goes directly back to state agencies to run critical conservation programs.

“RBFF’s Boat Registration Reactivation Program seemed almost too good to be true, but it turned out better than expected for us in 2020,” said Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Assistant Secretary Mike Miller on the agency’s first time partnering with RBFF on this program. “The timing was perfect, with Kansans anxious to spend time on the water

during the pandemic. Not only did the program generate revenue through the renewal of nearly 1,000 lapsed registrations, it also provided a unique opportunity to clean up our boater database, which proved to be an equally valuable outcome.”

Another sign of the increased interest in boating and fishing, response rate for the 2020 program was 10.76%, well above the [direct mail benchmark of 2%](#) and a .51% increase over 2019. To [learn more about the program](#), please [contact Joanne Martonik](#).

Overall, the Boat Registration Reactivation Program has reeled in more than 410,000 boat registrations, resulting in more than \$15,000,000 in gross program registration fees since first launching in 2012. ✧

President signs National Fish Habitat partnership S. 3051

President Trump signed S. 3051, The America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE Act) into law at the White House on October 30, 2020. The ACE Act passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support and unanimous consent.

Now enacted into law, this bill reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and codifies the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP), two of the most successful voluntary conservation efforts in the nation. The law also reauthorizes the Chesapeake Bay Program and creates funding authorizations for other crucial conservation programs.

The National Fish Habitat Partnership is an unprecedented effort to protect, restore, and enhance fish and aquatic communities in the U.S. Since 2006, NFHP has completed over 1,000 projects in 50 states. From freshwater to estuarine and coastal projects, NFHP protects, restores, and enhances fish habitat nationwide, leveraging federal, state, tribal, and private funding resources. NFHP is comprised of 20 individual Fish Habitat Partnerships, which focus on improving fish habitat and aquatic communities at regional and local levels. Annually, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides funding and technical assistance to the 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships to implement aquatic conservation projects nationwide. The work of the National Fish Habitat Partnership is also supported by many federal, state, and local agencies as well as regional and national conservation organizations.

Upon signature into law, the National Fish Habitat Partnership is authorized from FY21- FY25 at \$7.2 million annually. The National Fish Habitat Board will report to Congress, particularly the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

The law expands the National Fish Habitat Board to 26 members, broadening the membership to include representation from the following groups: a national private landowner organization, an agricultural production organization, local government involved in fish habitat restoration, corporate industries, and a private sector or landowner representative of an active Fish Habitat Partnership. On an annual basis, the Board will submit a priority list of projects for funding consideration to the Secretary of the Interior. Technical and Scientific Assistance funds are authorized to be appropriated for FY21 – FY25 up to \$400,000 annually to each of the following agencies: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Geological Survey in support of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Within one year of enactment, the agencies receiving Technical and Scientific Assistance funds, led by the Department of the Interior, will develop an interagency operational plan outlining the implementation needs and interagency agreements.

"Today, with President Trump's signing of the ACE Act, we celebrate the culmination of over a decade of effort to codify the National Fish Habitat Partnership with organic legislation. The Partnership, and the thousands of people involved in local, grassroots projects, have done remarkable work protecting, enhancing, and restoring fish habitat across the country," said Ed Schriever, Chairman of the National Fish Habitat Board. "This Congressional recognition of the program marks the beginning of an exciting chapter for the Partnership and the American people whose pleasure, passion and livelihoods are derived from healthy habitat and vibrant fishery resources."

"Americans are continuing to utilize public lands and waters in record numbers, many of them for the first time," said Sara Parker Pauley,

Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation and President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. "The ACE Act will be indispensable to our natural resources, enabling stewards to ensure our citizens experience the outdoors the way they deserve, with healthy habitats and flourishing species. We thank Congress for recognizing the success and necessity of existing programs while taking steps to address urgent needs such as chronic wasting disease through this bill."

"NOAA Fisheries is excited for the National Fish Habitat Partnership to be recognized by Congress," said Samuel Rauch, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NOAA Fisheries. "We look forward to continuing to protect, enhance, and restore important fish habitats across the coastal U.S. in support of sustainable fisheries and communities as a proud NFHP partner."

A coalition of conservation organizations commended the sponsors of this bipartisan legislation for their commitment to fish and wildlife conservation: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE), Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), and Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) as well as Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA), Rep. Robert Wittman (R-VA), Rep. Joe Cunningham (D-SC), Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX), and Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) in getting it to the President's desk for signature during this Congressional session. ✧



PA Expanded Sunday hunting opportunity almost here

The first ever day of regulated Sunday big-game hunting will take place on **Sunday, Nov. 15**, for archery deer hunting only.

In total, there are three Sundays, all in consecutive weeks, when limited big-game hunting will occur in 2020. **Sunday, Nov. 22** is open for bear hunting during the statewide general bear season, and **Sunday, Nov. 29** is open for deer hunting during the firearms deer season.

On those three Sundays, hunters on private land are required to carry written permission from the landowner. Please list the landowner's contact information, especially a phone number if possible, on the permission slip. If a game warden needs to check the validity of a permission slip, providing the landowner's phone number will help expedite the process, allowing the hunter more quickly to get back to hunting.

Except on Sundays, Nov. 15, Nov. 22 and Nov. 29, only foxes, coyotes and crows may be hunted on Sundays during open seasons.

Sunday hunting long has been prohibited by state statute, though foxes, coyotes and crows were exempted from the ban years ago and, more recently, the three new days of Sunday big-game hunting were approved through the passage of Senate Bill 147, sponsored by Sen. Dan Laughlin, R-Erie. Without further legislation, the Game Commission cannot further expand Sunday hunting opportunities.

Hunters are more than excited for the new Sunday hunting opportunities awaiting them in the coming weeks, Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans said. ✧

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*"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them."*

**Thomas Jefferson**

## Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming virtual meetings



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

With COVID-19 public health and safety in mind, most upcoming meetings have been changed to virtual meetings or conference calls. Frequently check the [DNR boards, commissions, committees and councils webpage](#) for updates.

The links below will take you to the webpage for each group, where you will find specific meeting information and, when finalized, meeting agendas. Please check these pages frequently, as meeting details and agendas may change and sometimes meetings are canceled.

### November meetings

- [Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee](#) – **Nov. 19**, 9 a.m., virtual (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517-284-6135).
- [Michigan Historical Commission](#) – **Nov. 19**, 10 a.m., virtual (Contact: Michelle Davis, 517-335-2585).
- [Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup](#) – **Nov. 19**, 10 a.m., conference call (Contact: Annalisa Centofanti, 517-284-6112).
- [Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council](#) – **Nov. 20**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., virtual (Contact: Kimberley Korbecki, 517-284-5876). ✧

## Wisconsin Walleye Management Plan virtual meeting **Nov. 17**

**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host a regional public meeting to discuss updating the [Wisconsin Walleye Management Plan](#).

This virtual meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, **Nov. 17**, at 6:30 p.m. for Crawford, Richland, Grant, Sauk, Iowa and Lafayette counties. Individuals from those counties with an interest in walleye management should [contact Max Wolter](#). Pre-registration is required.

The current plan serves as a guide for one of the most sought-after fish species in Wisconsin and outlines seven goals and strategies for walleye management. The updating process will include a review of the existing plan, an analysis of available data and trends and public input on angling and management preferences.

The DNR is seeking public input on stocking priorities, regulation acceptance and agency resource allocation among other things. Public input on the planning process will be gathered through:

- Comments from the public on walleye management preferences and issues via this [public input form](#);
- Detailed random mail/online surveys of fishing license holders (both resident and non-resident) to scientifically gauge angler attitudes about management options; and
- Regional virtual meetings with stakeholder groups and individuals to discuss local management issues and partnership opportunities.

Future walleye meetings for other counties can be found on the DNR's [public meetings calendar](#). ✧

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"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

Thomas Jefferson

Lake Superior Management Update to be held on **Nov. 18**

BAYFIELD, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, Nov. 18** at 6 p.m. to discuss the management of Lake Superior's unique resources. The November 18 virtual meeting will address:

- the proposed new lake trout quota;
- the proposed new cisco quota; and
- potential rule change options associated with the quota changes.

"While these will be the primary topics discussed, there will be an opportunity for participants to give input on any fisheries management topic," said Brad Ray, DNR Lake Superior fisheries supervisor.

Lake trout are the primary target for recreational anglers in Lake Superior and cisco are the native prey of lake trout. Therefore, it is necessary to use the best science available to effectively manage these two fisheries and maintain the progress that has been made to protect these species from over harvest.

"Quotas for lake trout and cisco are used to maintain sustainable populations and are typically evaluated every three years," Ray said. "Recent data suggests that current harvest limits may be too high, and we should update the quotas to maintain sustainable fisheries. This meeting will also allow us to update the public on the surveys used to monitor lake trout and cisco populations and the rationale for the updated quotas."

Members of the public can access the meeting via [Skype](#) or by calling 866-715-6499 and entering passcode 7599820721#.

Due to the significant, community-wide impacts of the Lake Superior fishery, the DNR actively engages with diverse stakeholders to develop, implement and evaluate management goals and activities as

continued bottom of column 3

New PA PFD regulations in effect

With vibrant, changing foliage as a colorful backdrop to any adventure during the fall season, the lure of a relaxing paddle along a scenic river, stream, or lake is hard to resist. To ensure that boaters return home safely, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) reminds boaters to always wear a life jacket.

Beginning on November 1 and lasting through April 30, boaters are *required* to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or on any kayak, canoe, or paddleboard. The requirement applies to all Pennsylvania waters.

"This year, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people boating well into the fall months, including many first-time boaters," said Ryan Walt, PFBC Boating and Watercraft Safety Manager. "The water temperature is dropping rapidly beginning this time of year, and even on sunny days when air temperatures are comfortable and warm, the water can be cold enough to put boaters at risk for sudden cold-water immersion. A life jacket can keep your head above water until help arrives."

Sudden cold-water immersion, or cold-water shock, occurs when a person is unexpectedly plunged into cold water below 70°F resulting in an involuntary gasp where water is often inhaled. This uncontrollable reaction causes panic, hyperventilation, inhalation of water, and inhibits the ability of a person to swim.

According to Pennsylvania boating accident reports, nearly 80% of all boating fatalities occurred because boaters were not wearing life jackets. A disproportionate number of deaths happen between November and April.

Individuals who plan to fish, boat or hunt from a boat this fall or winter should follow these Cold Water Survival Safety Tips:

- Always wear a life jacket, even when not required. Many life jackets also offer insulation from cold air.

Read approval labels to be sure the life jacket is appropriate for your boating activity.

- Never boat alone.
 - Leave a float plan with family or friends so that someone knows where you are departing from and where you intend to arrive back ashore.
 - Become familiar with the waters you plan to boat in advance of your trip.
 - Bring a fully charged cell phone with you in case of emergency and store in a waterproof bag or container.
 - Wear clothing that continues to insulate when wet, such as fleece, polypropylene, or other synthetics.
 - If you are about to fall into cold water, cover your mouth and nose with your hands to reduce the likelihood of inhaling water.
 - If possible, stay with the boat. Get back into or climb on top of the boat.
 - While in cold water, do not remove your clothing.
 - If you cannot get out of the water, and you are wearing a lifejacket, get into the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP). In this position, individuals bring their knees to their chest and hug them with their arms.
 - Once out of the water, remove wet clothes and warm up as soon as possible.
 - Seek medical attention when necessary. Err on the side of caution. Some effects of exposure to cold temperatures can be delayed.
- To learn more, visit the [Water Safety](#) and [Wear It Pennsylvania](#) pages on the PFBC website. ✧

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*Continued from column 1*

outlined in the [Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan](#). This plan was approved on May 27, 2020 and requires that two meetings are held annually to communicate survey results to the public.

More information on Lake Superior fisheries management can be found on the DNR's [fisheries website](#). ✧

## DEC acquires 525 acres in western New York for wildlife management

**Parcel offers Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Wildlife Viewing along scenic Clear Lake in Erie County**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the recent acquisition of 525 acres in the town of North Collins, Erie County, to create the Clear Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The land offers hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other recreational opportunities and becomes the largest State-owned WMA in Erie County.

"The new Clear Lake Wildlife Management Area will provide outstanding wildlife-based recreational opportunities for visitors while protecting important habitat for many local species," said DEC Region 9 Director Abby Snyder. "DEC will continue to work with our public and private partners to conserve critical parcels like this that connect our communities to natural resources."

Transferred to DEC by the New York State Office of Mental Health, the Clear Lake WMA includes the Clear Lake Reservoir and surrounding scenic property. The 43-acre lake offers excellent wildlife viewing opportunities and provides important habitat for turtles, salamanders, and waterfowl such as Canada geese, wood ducks, and mallards. The lake was constructed in the 1920s for use as a water reservoir for the former Gowanda Psychiatric Center and was later used by the Collins Correctional Facility.

Health is pleased to have helped the Department of Environmental Conservation transform an unused parcel of land into a magnificent wildlife area that will provide outdoor recreational opportunities for people and families in Western NY."

An ideal location for wildlife habitat, the parcel's diverse landscape includes mature forest, wetlands, brush land, and open fields that support a variety of species including ruffed grouse, wild turkey, woodcock, white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrat, raccoon, red and gray fox, and migratory songbirds.

Clear Lake WMA will be actively managed by DEC Region 9's Bureau of Wildlife with the primary goal of preserving and enhancing the property's wildlife habitat and providing active wildlife-dependent recreation. In addition, non-wildlife dependent recreational activities such as hiking, kayaking, and canoeing are also allowed as long as these activities do not impede or interfere with the primary wildlife management usage goals of the area. Prohibited activities at Clear Lake WMA include swimming, camping, horseback riding, mountain biking, target shooting, or the use of motorized boats, boat trailers, ATVs, or snowmobiles. Please check on-site signage for authorized activities when visiting.

Clear Lake WMA can be accessed on the north side of Genesee Road in North Collins, west of Route 75. DEC recently installed two parking areas to improve public access to the site. The parking area located on the lake's east side is designated for use by visitors hand-launching small boats, kayaks, or canoes. Please note that use of trailers is not allowed.

[WMAs](#) are lands owned by New York State under the control and management of DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife. These lands are acquired primarily for wildlife reproduction and survival, as well as providing for wildlife-based recreational opportunities. WMAs provide exceptional areas for the public to interact with a wide variety of wildlife species. There are 123 WMAs across the state, comprising approximately 235,000 acres.

Since the early 1900s, the WMA program established permanent public access to lands in New York State for the conservation and promotion of its fish and wildlife resources. Clear Lake WMA will be maintained by federal funding from the Pittman Robertson Act, now known as Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, which apportions revenues generated from the excise taxes on the sale of firearms, ammunition and archery equipment to state wildlife agencies for conservation efforts and hunter education programs.

[Maps and additional information about Clear Lake WMA](#) can be found on DEC's website. ✧

## Michigan red swamp crayfish invasion webinar **Nov 17**

The newest crayfish invader in Michigan draws a spectrum of opinions. Although many associate red swamp crayfish with crawfish boils, they are also one of the world's most widespread invasive crayfish species and can have a range of negative impacts. Join us to learn about the risks red swamp crayfish pose, the ongoing response efforts and the research underway to improve control efforts. Presenters Dr. Lucas Nathan, aquatic invasive species coordinator for the Michigan DNR, and Dr. Brian Roth, associate professor at Michigan State U. will share their field experience and answer questions. **November 17, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.** ✧



OMH Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said, "The Office of Mental

## Upper Red Lake walleye regs change for winter season

Anglers fishing during the winter season on Upper Red Lake in northern Minnesota will have a three-walleye bag limit, with only one walleye longer than 17 inches allowed.

Heavy winter fishing over the last four years necessitated more restrictive regulations. Winter angling on Upper Red Lake averaged 1.6 million angler hours with a harvest of 130,000 pounds annually over this period. The new regulations, which became effective Sunday, Nov. 1, lower the possession limit from the four-walleye limits in place during the 2020 open water season and the 2019-2020 winter season.

"Anglers should remember to bring a good measuring device along with them on their trip to Upper Red Lake," said Andy Thompson, Bemidji area fisheries supervisor with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Many walleye will measure just above, and just under, the 17-inch size restriction."

The Red Lake Nation and the Minnesota DNR manage walleye harvest on Red Lake under a joint harvest plan that the Red Lakes Fisheries Technical Committee revised in 2015.

The DNR will determine next year's open water harvest regulations after the winter fishing season. An Upper Red Lake Citizen Advisory Committee reviews walleye harvest totals and regulation options and provides recommendations for regulations for the state waters of Upper Red Lake.

Upper Red Lake fishing regulations are available at [mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing](http://mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing) ✦

## NY opened Salmon River Area

*Continued from page 1*

based on abnormally high-water temperatures coupled with low-water flow in Salmon River tributaries, including Beaverdam Brook, where migrating Chinook salmon access the DEC Salmon River Fish Hatchery for egg collections that support the State's

successful stocking program. Increasing base flows prematurely would have likely enticed the Chinook salmon already "staging" in Lake Ontario to enter the Salmon River on their spawning migration, which could have stranded and/or killed fish if temperatures remained high. These fish cannot reach DEC's hatchery without sufficient water levels in Beaverdam Brook.

To increase the probability that sufficient numbers of salmon reached the hatchery to sustain the salmon stocking program, on September 15 DEC did not open the Lower Fly-Fishing Section of the river to fishing. This section, situated just below the hatchery, is typically where large numbers of salmon and anglers congregate. Temporarily closing this section under the low-flow conditions allowed adequate numbers of salmon to reach the hatchery for another year of successful egg collection. To view a map of the [Salmon River Lower Fly Fishing Section](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/decsalmonriver.pdf), go to [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\\_pdf/decsalmonriver.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/decsalmonriver.pdf).

Anglers are encouraged to be respectful of the resource and other anglers by using ethical angling techniques. [Additional information can be found at DEC's website.](#)

DEC reminds anglers that several new Great Lakes tributary angling regulations became effective on April 1, 2020. For more information and exceptions, consult the DEC Freshwater Fishing Digest or visit DEC's [Great Lakes and Tributary Regulations website](#).

This fall, Great Lakes tributary anglers should take precautions to stop the spread of COVID-19 while enjoying the outstanding salmon and trout fishing on Lake Ontario tributaries. At popular angling destinations like the Salmon River, angler density can become high enough to make social distancing difficult. DEC is placing signage at popular locations reminding anglers to be SMART when fishing this year:

- Socially distance at least six feet apart;
- Mask – Wear one when you cannot maintain social distancing,

especially in parking lots and along footpaths;

- Avoid sharing gear when possible;
- Respect your fellow anglers and the resource by providing space and practicing ethical angling; and
- Take out what you bring in or place trash in receptacles.

For more information about how to [PLAY SMART \\* PLAY SAFE \\* PLAY LOCAL](#), visit DEC's website.

DEC's Salmon River Fish Hatchery is instrumental to maintaining healthy runs of salmon and trout and is a very popular destination. To help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to protect hatchery staff and operations, the Salmon River Hatchery and its grounds remain closed to visitors until further notice. ✦

## PFBC permit process

*Continued from page 1*

Commissioners voted to amend regulations related to the sale and purchase of fish. The amendment to Section 63.19 (PA Title 58) will exempt byproducts from PFBC recognized fish cleaning stations from regulations requiring a fish to remain in-tact until reaching its place of consumption. Currently, cleaning station operators are required to grind carcasses and place byproduct into wastewater treatment or landfills. The amended regulation will allow for the sale of byproducts to other entities for further beneficial use such as fertilizer in agriculture. This amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

"It is known that entities would be willing to pay for the fish waste, so this result is a benefit to both the environment and the operators of the fish cleaning stations," said Daniel J. Pastore, PFBC District 1 Commissioner. "Instead of throwing the waste into a sewage treatment plant, it can be recycled for agricultural purposes, and it's good for the cleaning stations because they can actually sell that waste and recover some of the cost of operating the cleaning station." ✦

## 4 silver carp fitted with tracking devices on Mississippi River

### *Data will help agencies learn more about invasive carp*

As part of extensive efforts to prevent the spread of invasive carp, four silver carp were recently captured, fitted with tracking devices and released in Pool 8 of the Mississippi River near La Crosse, Wisconsin.

A commercial fishing operation contracted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to conduct netting in the area captured the invasive carp. Contract commercial netting operations will continue this fall while river conditions permit.

The recent netting operation came in response to captures of invasive carp in Pool 8 during spring carp surveillance. The DNR is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Wisconsin DNR and commercial fishing operators to conduct large-scale netting, studies of the captured carp, and increased monitoring.

When notified of the recent carp captures, specialists with the USFWS quickly mobilized to fit the carp with tracking devices and get them back into the river. While individual invasive carp have been previously tagged and tracked in Minnesota and Wisconsin waters of the Mississippi, this is the first time more than one has been tagged in a single operation.

Along with continued netting and monitoring, the four newly tagged silver carp will be tracked to learn more about their movements and habits.

“The more we can learn about these fish, the more effectively we can work to prevent their spread,” said DNR invasive fish coordinator Nick Frohnauer. “The ability to now track four silver carp gives us important data not only about how they act individually but also how they might move together and among schools of other fish.”

Invasive carp have been progressing upstream since escaping into the Mississippi River in Arkansas in the 1970s. These large fish compete with native species and pose a threat to

ivers and lakes. No breeding populations have been detected in Minnesota waters to date. Individual invasive carp have been caught as far upstream as Pool 2 of the Mississippi, 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).

Prior to last spring, all of the invasive carp captured in Minnesota had been single fish or small numbers of fish. Higher numbers earlier this year likely were related to prolonged high water conditions during the summer of 2019. During high water, gates at the locks and dams on the river remain open to allow flood waters to pass. These “open river” conditions allow easier upstream movement of fish from downstream portions of the river. Since then, water levels have receded, reducing the opportunity for invasive carp to move through locks and proceed upriver.

The DNR 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 in 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. Currently, the University of Minnesota is also consulting on a sound, bubble and light deterrent

at Barkley Lock and Dam in Kentucky. Carp are sensitive to sound and light, and curtains of bubbles may also inhibit their movement.

- The DNR’s Fish and Wildlife Division leads a program to monitor fish population changes and impacts of management actions. This includes maintaining relationships with commercial fishing operators.

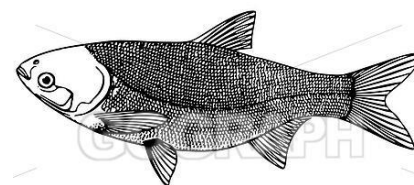
State funding sources, including the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Outdoor Heritage Fund, have provided key funding for deterrent actions and the DNR invasive carp detection and response program.

Invasive carp captures must be reported to the DNR immediately. People capturing an invasive carp should call 651-587-2781 or email [invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us). Take a photo and transport the carp to the nearest DNR fisheries office or make arrangements for it to be picked up by a DNR official. Do not release captured invasive carp. A [permit can be requested](#), to keep captured invasive carp for personal use.

More information about invasive carp is available on the [DNR website](#).  
◇

## Invasive Asian carp used for pet food

An innovative Canadian company is launching a dog food made from the invasive Asian carp that currently threaten the Great Lakes. The Montreal-based company expects to import 50 to 100 tons of Asian carp over the next year from fishers in Illinois. ◇



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## Fourth Lake Whitefish virtual meeting **Nov. 17**

**MADISON, Wis.** – Later this month, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host a fourth virtual meeting to hear from anyone interested in Lake Michigan whitefish.

This virtual meeting will be held on **Tuesday, Nov. 17**, from 6 to 8 p.m. Members of the public can access the meeting beginning at 5:45 p.m. via [Zoom](#) or by calling 1-301-715-8592 with meeting ID 881 4642 4587

DNR fisheries managers will be developing new regulations for lake whitefish for the commercial industry and would like stakeholder participation from a wide variety of sources. This will be the fourth of several public meetings over the next year to get feedback on the Lake Michigan whitefish fishery.

At this meeting, lake whitefish quota numbers for Green Bay and Lake Michigan will be discussed.

Fisheries staff will share information using a PowerPoint presentation during this meeting. The call-in number will allow attendees to listen to the discussion. However, to better understand the information and see the presentation, the DNR recommends the public attend using a computer via the [Zoom](#) link.

**Information, meeting notes and presentations from previous meetings on [Lake Michigan Whitefish Management](#) can be found on the DNR's [fisheries webpage](#).** ✧



## DNR stocks coho salmon in NW Indiana

More than 36,000 coho salmon were recently stocked in multiple rivers and streams in northern Indiana.

Bodine State Fish Hatchery released coho salmon into the Little Calumet River and Trail Creek. A total of 14,000 fish were stocked into the East Branch of the Little Calumet. About 22,000 fish were planted into Trail Creek. These fish were approximately 7.2 inches long.

Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery stocked approximately 16,500 coho salmon into the Little Calumet and 8,500 into Trail Creek on October 29. Fish stocked were approximately 6.5 inches long. When finished, each Lake Michigan tributary will have received nearly the same number of fish or about 30,500.

Coho salmon stocked this fall will stay in the streams until next spring, when they will migrate to Lake Michigan. They will spend one to two years there until they return to the streams where they were stocked for spawning.

Anglers should take care when fishing these areas. These fish are currently under the legal size limit and are sensitive to being caught. If you are catching undersize coho, consider moving to a different area of the stream or try switching your method of fishing. These new fish are crucial to the continued existence of the northwest Indiana trout and salmon fishery.

For more information about Bodine State Fish Hatchery, visit [wildlife.IN.gov/5459.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/5459.htm). ✧



## Trout stocking via helicopter means more fish for anglers

Anglers will have the opportunity to catch trout on remote lakes in northeastern Minnesota following helicopter-based fish stocking efforts this fall.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources typically uses trucks to stock fish, but traditional methods can't be used in some of the state's difficult-to-reach lakes. In those waters, airplanes have been used for years to provide aerial stocking.

But recently, pilots in the DNR Enforcement Division's Aviation Unit – which assists other agency divisions with creel counts, wildlife-population surveys and habitat-improvement efforts, in addition to its typical enforcement work – created and constructed a helicopter-based system that makes stocking more effective and efficient.

"The main benefit of using a helicopter is that more of the stocked fish survive, so there are more for anglers to catch," said Chris Lofstuen, the Enforcement Division's chief pilot. "Among all the other benefits of using helicopters, one aspect is most important—they're safer."

Since the helicopters can hover 5 feet above the water and drop fish into the water, the survival rate of stocked fish is about 100%. When they're stocked from an airplane, which drops fish from 100 feet while traveling 100 mph, the survival rate is about 85%. Also, the possibility of spreading aquatic invasive species is mitigated because helicopters don't land on the water. ✧



## PFBC approves various fishing regulations on trout, bass

HARRISBURG, Pa. – During its formal quarterly business meeting held virtually on October 19-20, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Board of Commissioners voted to adopt an experimental fishing regulation on a newly designated Keystone Select Stocked Trout Water located in Centre County.

The Miscellaneous Special Regulation along section 03 of Bald Eagle Creek located within the Soaring Eagle Wetland in Huston Township, Centre County is identical to the current Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (58 Pa. Code §65.6) regulation; however, all tackle types will be permitted. As such, the regulation allows for year-round angling with all tackle types and harvest of up to three trout per day at least nine inches in length from June 15 through Labor Day, with no harvest permitted the remainder of the year. The regulation is designed to provide for an extended period of catch-and-release angling with all tackle types for stocked trout; then, as stream conditions become less favorable for trout survival due to decreased flow and elevated water temperatures, harvest is permitted under a reduced creel limit.

"This experimental regulation is appropriate for this section of stream for several reasons," said William C. Brock, District 3 Commissioner. "By designating this section as a Keystone Select Stocked Trout Water with a higher concentration of trophy-size fish, we are providing an opportunity to anglers that was previously unavailable in this part of the state. Secondly, by allowing fishing with all tackle in this high-use location, we'll be able to study and evaluate the survival of fish that were released after being caught by baited hooks versus lures on similar waters statewide."

The amendment will go into effect on January 1, 2021.

In Centre and Mifflin counties, the Board voted to approve a Miscellaneous Special Regulation on Penns Creek, Section 03, by extending

the current regulations until further notice. The regulation along this Class A wild trout stream containing a robust population of wild Brown Trout allows for the use of all tackle types and harvest of up to two trout per day that are at least seven inches but less than 12 inches in length from the opening day of trout season through Labor Day. No harvest is permitted for the remainder of the year. This regulation, originally implemented in 2014, was set to expire on December 31, 2020. The amendment will go into effect on January 1, 2021.

As part of the meeting, PFBC staff announced the publication of the new *Strategic Plan for Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania 2020-2024* (also known as the "Trout Plan"), which will guide specific goals and objectives of the PFBC's trout management program through 2024. The goal of this plan is to ensure that adequate protection is afforded to Pennsylvania's wild trout resources and that fisheries provided through the management of wild trout and stocking of adult and fingerling trout provide high-quality angling opportunities in Pennsylvania.

"Anglers should be excited about the finalization of the trout plan, because they had a part in forming it," said David Nihart, PFBC Coldwater Unit Leader. "Whether you are a die-hard stocked trout angler, a wild trout enthusiast, or you enjoy both, there is something in the trout plan that will appeal to you. Trout fishing is a favorite pastime for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians, and we will use this plan to guide our decisions as we work to manage and protect our trout fisheries now and for future generations."

The trout plan identifies 43 specific issues facing trout management and offers 137 strategies for addressing those issues. The plan can be viewed on the PFBC website (<https://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/Fisheries/TroutPlan/Documents/TroutPlan2020.pdf>).

Commissioners approved amendments to Striped Bass fishing regulations which had been previously implemented on a temporary basis by the Executive Director and have been in effect since April 1, 2020. In accordance with a fisheries management plan adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Striped Bass Management Board intended to reduce fishing mortality by 18%, the PFBC changed minimum size requirements and slot limits for harvesting Striped Bass in the Delaware Estuary, Delaware River, and West Branch Delaware River, and enacted a mandatory circle hook requirement for anglers using bait while fishing for all species within the Delaware Estuary. A news release issued on March 29 describes these changes in detail. Temporary regulation changes were set to expire on December 31 unless the Commission votes to adopt the regulations permanently.

In other action, Commissioners approved the designation of six stream sections to the list of Class A wild trout streams. The board also approved the addition of 16 new waters to the Commission's list of wild trout streams. These additions will go into effect upon the publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. A list of waters proposed for wild trout stream and Class A Wild Trout Stream designation can be found on the PFBC website.

Commissioners approved the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking pertaining to trout stocking in Class A Wild Trout Streams (58 Pa. Code §57.8a). While stocking is not permitted or advisable in the vast majority of Class A wild trout streams across Pennsylvania, there are 13 stream sections currently stocked by the PFBC that meet internal decision-making criteria to qualify for continued stocking. These stream sections are in proximity to high-density human population centers and are heavily fished streams of a size and character that can support a fishery

featuring both stocked and wild trout. Additional criteria will allow for consideration of continued stocking of stream sections that have historically played host to special activities, such as youth fishing derbies that benefit communities socially and economically, prior to being designated as Class A wild trout streams. Under the amendment, prior to seeking Board approval for any exemptions that would allow for continued stocking of newly designated Class A wild trout streams, the Executive Director would consult the PFBC's internal decision-making criteria set forth in the *Operational Guidelines for the Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania Waters* scheduled for update in December 2020. Consideration will only be given to requests for continued stocking in stream sections within one year of the section being designated as Class A and posted in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*; however, entities that previously received an exemption or a Special Activities Permit for continued stocking from the Commission between 2010 and the effective date of this amendment will be eligible for consideration. No wild Brook Trout streams will be considered for an exemption. If approved on final rulemaking at a future meeting, the amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

In Erie County, the Board voted to adopt a new Miscellaneous Special Regulation on Lake Pleasant. The new regulation will prohibit the use of live or dead fish as bait (i.e., minnows); however, it will allow for the use of "salted minnows" and terrestrial invertebrates (i.e., worms) for angling purposes. Additionally, the regulation will prohibit the release of fish in the lake, except for those caught while angling at Lake Pleasant. This prohibition aims to preserve the existing ecosystem characteristics of Lake Pleasant, a pristine glacial lake, and protect native and at-risk species from harmful impacts that may be associated with non-native species. The regulation will go into effect January 1, 2021.

Commissioners approved revisions to the limits of two stream sections managed with Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (DHALO) angling regulations (58 Pa. Code § 65.6). In McKean County, the limits of Kinzua Creek Section 04 managed under DHALO regulations will be revised to remove 0.27 river miles (RM) from the Guffey Road Bridge (Rocky Road) downstream to the Allegheny National Forest boundary near Westline. In Snyder County, the limits of Middle Creek Section 04 managed under DHALO regulations will be revised to remove waters from 0.6 RM upstream from Pine Swamp Road downstream to 0.6 RM upstream from Covered Bridge Road. Sections of both streams removed from DHALO regulations will revert to Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations on January 1, 2021.

In his report to the Board, Executive Director Tim Schaeffer noted that a surge of fishing and boating activity across the Commonwealth in 2020 has continued into the fall season, citing a 20% increase in fishing license sales compared to 2019.

"The more than 970,000 licensed anglers in Pennsylvania this year are the most in nearly 25 years, and we have never had so many people paddling in kayaks and canoes. We thank you for choosing to fish and boat in your free time and look forward to welcoming you back to the water next year."

Schaeffer noted that, to date in 2020, there have been 10 recreational boating fatalities in Pennsylvania and that at least nine victims were not wearing life jackets. One incident remains under investigation. He reminded boaters that from November 1 through April 30, all boaters on boats under 16 feet in length, including all canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards, are required to wear a life jacket.

Schaeffer reminded the public that applications are currently being accepted for both the Boating Facility Grant Program and the Erie Access Improvement Grant Program. The deadline to apply for both programs is December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding real estate matters, the Board authorized the disposition of property rights at the Appletree Access located in Exeter Township, Luzerne County to PennDOT. In obtaining an easement on a section of the 1.4-acre property, PennDOT plans to build a temporary road through the Access to address traffic during its planned replacement of the SR 92 bridge over Lewis Creek. PennDOT will be required to pay fair market value for the easement rights, will allow the Access to remain open during construction, will accommodate all Commission operational needs during construction, and will mitigate for any losses or impact caused by the Project. The Access area will be restored to a condition equal to or better than its current condition at the conclusion of the Project. The Project will not have any long-term impacts on the Access. The disposition of the listed property rights will be subject to staff performing the necessary due diligence and addressing any issues that arise during that process.

In Cumberland County, Commissioners authorized the acquisition of flowage and maintenance easements on approximately five properties around Children's Lake located in the Village of Boiling Springs, South Middleton Township, Cumberland County. A flowage easement is the right to periodically flow water on, inundate, and flood an area without liability for damages resulting from such action. In spring 2021, the PFBC is scheduled to begin a dam rehabilitation project at Children's Lake to repair and replace the dam's primary and auxiliary spillways and address structural and drainage issues. The project will also allow for placement of ADA-compliant sidewalks and railings, construction of streetscape features, sediment removal, and ecological assessments. To bring the dam into compliance with current DEP dam safety standards, the dam rehabilitation project will include raising the dam approximately 1.3 feet. This will increase the overall safety of the structure but may cause the reservoir depth to temporarily

increase during large precipitation events. This will require the acquisition of additional flowage easements to address the temporarily inundated areas. Additionally, the rehabilitation of the dam structure will require the acquisition of a maintenance easement on a portion of the dam structure, and on the effluent stream's southerly retaining wall, which are not located on Commission property. The maintenance easement will give the Commission the right to access, construct, repair, operate, and maintain that portion of the dam and the effluent stream's retaining wall and area adjacent to it. In pursuing the easements, the Commission will pay the estimated fair market value or

accept donations of the required easements, which are estimated to cover approximately .6 acres in total and be valued at less than \$100,000.

The Board voted to approve adjusted royalty payments for the sale of sand and gravel extracted from Commonwealth waters. Currently, four companies maintain permits which allow the dredging of material from navigable waters in Pennsylvania. Current royalty rates related to the sale of these materials were adopted in 2011 and are set to expire on December 31, 2020. These adjustments establish royalty rates from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2030 under the same scale as previous rates. The amended rates will go into effect upon

publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

The next meeting of the PFBC Board of Commissioners is scheduled for January 25-26, 2021 at the PFBC Headquarters located at 1601 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA. If an in-person meeting is not possible due to continued public health concerns, information regarding a virtual meeting will be announced later.

The meeting was streamed live on Facebook and can be viewed here:

- [Monday session Opens In A New Window](#)
- [Tuesday session Opens In A New Window](#) ✧

## **Other Breaking News Items:**

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

#### **First-of-its-kind wind project planned for Lake Erie**

Lake Erie and Cleveland could soon be home to the first offshore wind facility in the Great Lakes, and the first freshwater wind farm in North America.

#### **Big walleye hatches leading to 'unprecedented' population, 'phenomenal' fishing**

Even as fishing in Lake Erie, the "Walleye Capital of World", has certainly been living up to its name over the past two years, experts are projecting it could be on the verge of getting even better.

#### **East Peoria businessman aims to take a bite out of Asian carp population in Illinois River**

A businessman from central Illinois has combined two wildly divergent opportunities into what is now likely the only legal cannabis and Asian carp business partnership on the planet

#### **Coast Guard offers advice for winter weather, survival tips**

The U.S. Coast Guard is reminding people of the dangers presented by cold weather as cold air and water temperatures significantly decrease survival time for anyone immersed in the water or exposed to the elements.

#### **Water from the Erie Canal now flowing into Lake Ontario tributaries to improve fishing experience**

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced changes aimed at benefiting the fishing experience in the state. The new pilot program, as part of the Reimagine the Canals initiative, uses water from the Erie Canal to enhance fishing opportunities in Western

#### **Lake Michigan, Huron, water levels rising**

Great Lakes water levels have been rising in the past few months, according to the Army Corps of Engineers, and that raises concerns about the impacts that can occur along the shore, such as coastal flooding and erosion

#### **Lake Superior caribou may be gone from mainland**

The good news is that Lake Superior's last surviving wild caribou appear to be thriving on their new island homes on Ontario's Slate Islands, though hope is dwindling that any caribou remain on the Ontario mainland of Lake Superior's North Shore, with an

#### **Saginaw Bay's marine ecosystem revival**

The results of a multi-year assessment found that conditions in the inner-bay were suitable for restoration, and identified the Coreyon Reef as a priority restoration site. With financial support from the Environmental Protection Agency and Saginaw Bay

End