



Proposal on the table to increase Chinook salmon stocking in Lake Michigan

Chinook salmon stocking in Lake Michigan is likely to increase next spring. After decades of fish stocking decreases to balance the alewife and Chinook salmon populations, the Michigan DNR is seeing good indicators that a modest stocking increase may be warranted in Lake Michigan.

Last year, about 650,000 Chinooks were released from state hatcheries. At a public hearing September 19, the Michigan DNR proposed increasing that number to 1 million. "We have seen several years of good Chinook salmon growth and have a slight increase in the alewife biomass, or abundance of those fish," said Jay Wesley, the DNR's Lake Michigan basin coordinator. "Although the alewife biomass is a fraction of what it was historically,

we have a good 2021-year class and have seen up to six-year classes of alewives in our fisheries surveys—that means there are up to six different age groups in the current population of alewife."

Chinook salmon were introduced to Lake Michigan in the 1960s to control an overpopulation of alewives, a herring native to the Atlantic Ocean. In the late 90s, the DNR added around 3 million Chinook salmon to Lake Michigan every year.

The reduction since then has been a precautionary measure; too many salmon could mean a total collapse of the alewife population. That's exactly what happened in Lake Huron in 2004. A similar collapse in Lake Michigan would be a big blow to the state's \$7 billion sport fishing industry, which relies on well-fed salmon.

But the state says alewife numbers have increased—and now Chinook's should, too.

Locations that could see more stocking include the Little Manistee, Boardman and Big Sable rivers as well as Medusa Creek in Charlevoix. "The proposed 54% increase from 650,000 to 1 million spring fingerlings is a modest increase compared to the estimated 4.5 million wild Chinook salmon in Lake Michigan," said Wesley. "It will allow us to increase numbers at sites like Charlevoix that contribute to the entire lake fishery and reinstate stocking sites like Ludington State Park and Fairport."

Public comment at the meeting last month overwhelmingly supported the proposal. It next goes before a board of biologists – the Lake Michigan Committee comprised of fisheries officials from the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and tribal DNRs, and a citizens advisory council before it can get the green light from the DNRs' chiefs of fisheries. ✧

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Vote November 8

Wisconsin hosting Lake Michigan fisheries management public meeting **Oct. 24**

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR is hosting a public meeting to gather feedback on the future management of salmon and trout in Lake Michigan. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. on Monday, **Oct. 24, 2022**, at Lakeshore Technical College's Centennial Hall West in Cleveland, Wisconsin. The public can also attend virtually via [Zoom](#).

DNR staff will present management options and stakeholders will be able to share ideas and input on these fisheries management initiatives.

"This will be the second meeting for stakeholders to provide comments and input on the management options for 2023 and beyond," said Bradley Eggold, DNR Great Lakes District

Fisheries Supervisor. "We have been working very closely with partners over the last 10 years to respond to both the science and social preferences that drive this excellent fishery and that tradition continues with this meeting."

You can find more information on this meeting, including handouts and presentations from the August 30 meeting on the DNR's [Lake Michigan Fisheries webpage](#). Pre-register for the meeting [using this link](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Join in-person at: Lakeshore Technical College, Centennial Hall West, 1290 North Ave., Cleveland, WI 53015 ✧

DNR seeks input on walleye, trout regulations

The Minnesota DNR is asking for input on special walleye fishing regulations for Island and Round lakes, and lake trout regulations for Caribou Lake in northern Itasca County.

A new lake trout regulation of a 20-inch minimum length and a one fish limit is being considered for Caribou Lake to protect spawning-aged fish and allow them to spawn at least once before being susceptible to harvest. Caribou Lake produces a self-sustaining population of lake trout. DNR has used fish stocking in an attempt to increase trout numbers on Caribou Lake, but stocked fish have not survived, and the population appears dependent on natural reproduction.

The current 17- to 26-inch protected slot limit walleye regulations are being reviewed on Island Lake (near Northome) and Round Lake (near Squaw Lake) in the Grand Rapids area. Survey data suggest that the fisheries could support additional harvest, so fisheries managers are recommending relaxing the existing regulation to a 20- to 24-inch protected slot limit. As an alternative, the protective slot limit could be dropped in favor of the statewide limit (six fish with one over 20 inches).

“The protected slot limits have helped maintain good walleye fisheries in these lakes, but we see some opportunity to offer more harvest and would like to hear from anglers about their experiences on these waters and which regulation option they prefer,” said Dave Weitzel, Grand Rapids area fisheries supervisor.

Anyone can provide input about this and other area proposals currently open for review via an [online survey](https://mndnr.gov/FishRegs) (mndnr.gov/FishRegs) that is available through **Monday, Oct. 17**. General input may also be submitted to *continued bottom column 2*

Share your thoughts on special fishing regulations

Minnesotans can weigh in on proposed special fishing regulations that, if adopted, would become effective next year. The Minnesota DNR is considering experimental and special fishing regulations for the 2023 fishing season that address walleye in Big Sandy Lake (Aitkin County) and Island and Round lakes (Itasca County); panfish in Dyers Lake (Cook County) and Sand Lake (Lake County); brown trout in the Vermillion River (Dakota County); lake trout in Caribou Lake (Itasca County); and northern pike in West Battle, Otter Tail, and Turtle River Chain of Lakes (Fergus Falls and Bemidji area lakes in Otter Tail and Beltrami counties).

Anyone can provide input about these proposals via an [online survey](https://mndnr.gov/FishRegs) (mndnr.gov/FishRegs) that is available through Monday, Oct. 17.

For additional details or to comment directly by email, U.S. mail or phone about individual proposals, contact the appropriate [area fisheries office](https://mndnr.gov/Areas/Fisheries) (mndnr.gov/Areas/Fisheries). General input may also be submitted to Jon Hansen at jon.hansen@state.mn.us or 651-259-5239, or via U.S. mail to Fishing Regulations, c/o Jon Hansen, Box 20, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Notice of the new regulation proposals are posted at public accesses. ✧



Walleye, trout regs - continued

Jon Hansen at jon.hansen@state.mn.us or 651-259-5239, or via U.S. mail to Fishing Regulations, c/o Jon Hansen, Box 20, Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155. ✧



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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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Great Lakes Governors & Premiers launch Whitefish Initiative

Campaign to demonstrate how commercially caught whitefish can be more fully used, raising per fish value toward \$3,500

DETROIT – The Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers, representing the Governors of the Great Lakes States and the Canadian Premiers of Ontario and Québec, launched its “100% Whitefish” initiative that includes a diverse group of partner organizations. Dan Eichinger, Michigan DNR Director, helped kick off the initiative in conjunction with a “head to tail” whitefish tasting organized by noted Detroit-area executive chef Doug Hewitt, in collaboration with Motor City Seafood Company. The event also featured remarks from Dr. Thor Sigfusson, Founder and Chairman of the Iceland Ocean Cluster.

The organization’s goal is to demonstrate how 100% of a whitefish

can be used for different purposes and beyond just food. The effort builds on success with the cod in Iceland and with other species elsewhere globally. Organizers believe that a 100% fish strategy holds tremendous promise for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to more completely utilize caught fish, drive greater economic returns, create jobs and help develop rural economies.

The project is being coordinated by a diverse project team including representatives from the following:

- Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers
- Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
 - Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
 - Iceland Ocean Cluster
 - Illinois DNR
 - Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
 - Matis
 - Michigan DNR
 - Michigan Sea Grant
 - Motor City Seafood Company
 - Ontario Commercial Fisheries’ Association
 - Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources & Forestry
 - Wisconsin DNR
- More info: www.gsgp.org. ✧

DEC draft agenda to restore and revitalize New York's Great Lakes Region Public Comment Period Closes **Nov. 11**

The New York DEC released the draft New York’s Great Lakes Action Agenda 2022-2030, a multi-year action plan to guide restoration and conservation, and foster sustainable, resilient, communities in New York’s Great Lakes region. The Action Agenda advances a wide range of efforts to safeguard water quality, improve habitats for fish and wildlife, manage invasive species, promote sustainability, and enhance community resilience to climate change in a region that spans more than 40 percent of New York State’s land area and includes Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and respective watersheds.

"The updated Agenda takes Great Lakes restoration and protection to the next level by building on and further leveraging the successful efforts advanced by the first Agenda released in 2014," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "DEC will continue to strengthen and diversify our partnerships with State and local partners, effectively respond to our

most pressing environmental challenges like climate change, and ensure that present and future generations continue to benefit from the high-quality water and natural resources of the Great Lakes region."

In support of New York’s ecosystem-based management goals, the Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA) promotes collaborative, science-informed decision-making to achieve outcomes that support the needs of people, nature, and the economy. The draft 2022-2030 GLAA includes new cross-cutting priorities that reflect the State’s commitment to inclusion and engagement of diverse stakeholders and historically underserved communities. The updated GLAA also proposes new metrics for evaluating implementation progress and improvements in environmental conditions over time.

The GLAA is funded by the State’s Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), under the Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act, and is administered through DEC’s Great Lakes Program with

collaborating stakeholders and partners. Among the [many environmental victories in the 2022-23 State Budget](#) (leaves DEC website), Governor Hochul succeeded in increasing the EPF from \$300 to \$400 million, the highest-ever level of funding in the program’s history. The EPF provides funding for critical environmental programs and projects such as land acquisition, farmland protection, invasive species prevention and eradication, enhanced recreational access, water quality improvement, climate change resilience, and environmental justice, to ensure all New Yorker’s benefit from sustained ecosystem services, such as drinking water, swimming, and fishing.

The [draft Action Agenda is available](#) on DEC’s website. Comments will be accepted until **Nov. 11, 2022**, and submitted to greatlakes@dec.ny.gov. DEC will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday, **Oct. 25**, at 3 p.m. to introduce the GLAA and invite feedback. [Register at the WebEx website](#). ✧

PFBC seeks applicants for boating facility grant program

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is offering some Boating Facility Grants to help communities capitalize on the surge in new boating activity.

The [Boating Facility Grant Program](#) provides grants for planning, acquisition, development, expansion, and rehabilitation of public boating facilities located on the waters of the Commonwealth.

The PFBC encourages local governments to apply. Nonprofit groups (501c3) including land trusts, conservancies, and watershed associations are also eligible to apply. Private businesses and service clubs are not eligible for direct funding but are encouraged to partner with their local county or municipality.

"Interest in boating continues to remain high among families and individuals looking to get outdoors," said Tim Schaeffer, PFBC Executive Director. "Many existing boating access points quickly reach their capacity with boaters eager to be on the water. Funds awarded through this grant program can help communities improve existing access areas or develop something new to serve local residents and attract recreational boaters to their region."

Applicants can seek grants for site acquisition, development, expansion, prevention of the spread of aquatic invasive species, and rehabilitation of recreational boat access facilities. Eligible construction projects may include boat ramps, courtesy floats, restrooms, access roads, parking areas and signs. Funds may also be used to make facilities ADA compliant.

Funding requests require a 50% match. For the 2022 round of grants, the PFBC will accept applications from anywhere in the Commonwealth. The deadline for applications is **[December 30, 2022](#)**.

More info: www.fishandboat.com
<https://www.fishandboat.com/Transact/Grants/Pages/BoatingFacilityGrantProgram.aspx>. ✧

Be responsible, angler

One of the basic principles of good ethics is doing what's right even if no one is watching. One of the most common fishing blunders is fishing too close to a fellow angler. However, the definition of "too close" really varies depending on the situation. For example, the distance an angler could ethically fish next to another angler on the Salmon River (Pulaski) during the height of salmon season may be just ten feet, while on a remote trout stream in the Adirondacks, 200 feet might even be considered too close. Below are some suggestions.

- Give other anglers the same amount of space you would like to have.
- Don't encroach on other anglers who may have arrived in your favorite spot first. It's better to try another location and come back when the spot is clear.
- Give non-anglers the space they need to enjoy their activity, as they have as much right to be out there as you do.

More info: [Safe and Responsible Angling chapter](#) in the [I FISH NY Beginners Guide to Freshwater Fishing](#). ✧

DNR to host open houses at hatcheries

MADISON – The Wisconsin DNR is hosting open houses at the Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility and Root River Steelhead Facility in October.

During the open house at the facility in Kewaunee, visitors can watch salmon egg collection, enjoy fishing displays, take a guided tour of the facility and adopt a sturgeon for river release. The Algoma Kewaunee Great Lakes Sport Fisherman will be providing wagon rides, and food and drink will be available for sale. The open house at the Root River Steelhead Facility in Racine will feature guided tours and fish spawning demonstrations. Volunteers from Salmon Unlimited, Trout Unlimited and the Kenosha Sport Fishing and Conservation Association will provide educational fishing stations where visitors can try casting techniques and receive knot- and fly-tying lessons ✧

Learn to Hunt: Sign up for Skills Workshops

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR is hosting several hunting and shooting skills workshops this fall through the end of the Wisconsin hunting license year (March 31, 2023). [The DNR's Learn to Hunt workshops](#) provide a great opportunity for the hunting curious to learn how to hunt safely and ethically in Wisconsin.

Learn to Hunt workshops are open to the public and cater to a variety of skill levels and interests and include multi-day comprehensive introductions to hunting for those new to the sport. Workshops range from beginner shotgunning and archery, pheasant, squirrel, deer, grouse, and rabbit hunting, to hands-on deer butchering.

"There are many wonderful reasons to pursue hunting, and Wisconsin is a perfect place to learn since our state is celebrated worldwide for its outstanding hunting and outdoor opportunities," said Emily Iehl, DNR Hunting and Shooting Sports Program Specialist. "Although taking the first step or finding someone to help you continue learning can feel daunting, we are here to help. We encourage anyone remotely curious about hunting to start small and join us."

Learn to Hunt workshops combine classroom and field instruction before a novice goes hunting with a qualified mentor. Programs are hosted by qualified volunteer mentors from local hunting clubs and other conservation organizations across Wisconsin.

Are you interested in giving hunting a try? Check out the resources below to help you get started.

[Resources to Learn to Hunt](#)

- [View upcoming Learn To Hunt classes.](#)

- [Take a Hunter Safety Education Class.](#)

• If you know a licensed hunter over 18, they may be able to mentor you. Learn more about [Wisconsin's Mentored Hunting Program here.](#) [Sign up to get notified of future classes by email.](#) ✧

Fisheries Staff Spotlight - Chris Legard, Lake Ontario Fisheries Unit Leader

I'm DEC's Lake Ontario Unit Leader and manager of the Cape Vincent Research Station. As a Unit Leader I coordinate fisheries management in Lake Ontario with DEC Region's 6, 7, 8, and 9 and with the Province of Ontario through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee. As the Research Station manager, I supervise [DEC's Lake Ontario fisheries research and assessment programs](#).



I grew up fishing salmon and trout on Lake Michigan and inland lakes and rivers. As a young adult I served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 10 years working on aids to navigation, search and rescue, and commercial fisheries law enforcement in the Great Lakes, Alaska, and Maine (and caught a few fish along the way). After leaving the Coast Guard I finished a bachelor's degree at Oregon State University and a master's degree at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse.

After a brief stint doing Lake Ontario fisheries research with the U.S. Geological Survey in Oswego I joined the DEC in 2013. I spent three years working in our Region 9 office in Buffalo before getting promoted to Lake Ontario Unit Leader and moving up Cape Vincent – AKA the best duty station in all of DEC.

Outside of work and fishing I spend time hiking and canoe camping with family up in the Adirondacks and travel around the eastern US competing in adventure races and marathon kayak races. ✧

How the U.S. Army Corps plans to stop the spread of invasive carp in the Great Lakes

The U.S. Army Corps is using its engineering know-how to create nightmarish river obstacles designed to prevent invasive species from reaching the Great Lakes.

The plan is part of a multi-layered solution intended to contain a growing population of invasive carp in the Illinois River. Over the next six to eight years, the regiment will outfit an engineered channel in the Brandon Road Lock on the Des Plaines River, just outside Chicago, with a series of high-tech barriers that will prevent invasive carp from travelling upstream to Lake Michigan while still allowing boats to pass through.

The first barrier will be underwater speakers that emit noise at a frequency that should turn carp away from entering the channel. Next is an air bubble curtain at the entrance to the channel designed to protect against any small carp that manage to slip through gaps formed by a vessel.

Once inside the channel, there will be more acoustic deterrents, followed by an electric barrier. The Corps plan to include electric insulation in the channel to reduce the safety risk to vessel operators and lock staff. Finally, there will be a flushing lock near the end of the channel. This would shoot water downstream through the lock, carrying away any fish eggs or larvae that managed to pass through the other barriers.

Politicians and environmental groups are in full support of the high-tech gauntlet. "Invasive species are a growing threat to our entire inland waterways system and to the countless Illinois communities and businesses that rely on strong and vibrant aquatic ecosystems," said U.S. senator Tammy Duckworth "The Brandon Road Project is critical in protecting the Great Lakes' exposure to [invasive] carp."

The invasive carp, which include black carp, grass carp, silver carp, and bighead carp, were brought to North

America from Asia in the 1960s and 70s, quickly taking root in U.S. waterways, driving out native species. The carp reproduce rapidly, eating up to 20 per cent of their body weight in plankton each day. They can weigh up to 40 kilograms, reaching a meter in length.

The [invasive carp](#) have replaced all native species in certain sections of the Mississippi River, and make up 50 per cent of the fish by weight in sections of the Illinois River. Both rivers feed into the Des Plaines River, which, through the Chicago River, connects to Lake Michigan.

Thanks to initiatives implemented by both the U.S. and Canadian governments, the carp have yet to establish themselves in the Great Lakes or any Ontario waterways, although a [silver carp was captured in Lake Calumet](#), the largest body of water in Chicago, and only a few kilometers from Lake Michigan, in early August. After an intensive two-week monitoring period, no other invasive carp were spotted in the area.

If an invasive carp did manage to find its way into the Great Lakes, experts say they could decimate the region's \$7 billion-a-year fishing industry.

In January, U.S. President Joe Biden committed [\\$225.8 million](#) in funding to the Brandon Road project. This is enough to start pre-construction. The estimated cost for the entire project is over [\\$858 million](#). Based on current predictions, the corps plans to award construction contracts for the channel and barriers in 2024, with work expected to be complete between [2030 and 2032](#). ✧

[How invasive carp catch a lift with ducks](#)

[Good enough to eat? This state is hoping to revamp Asian carp's image](#)

Williamstown native, NY Sea Grant Specialist recognized by Women of Fisheries

WILLIAMSTOWN, NY – New York Sea Grant Great Lakes Fisheries and Ecosystem Health Specialist Stacy Furgal has recently been recognized by Women of Fisheries as one of six co-authors on an article on lake trout stocking into Lake Ontario.

Stacy Furgal, a Great Lakes Fisheries Specialist with New York Sea Grant, recently worked with Alexander Gatch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and three other colleagues on a study that used acoustic telemetry to gather information about the mortality and dispersal of stocked lake trout in Lake Ontario. In all, 38 hatchery-reared, age-1 lake trout were fitted with acoustic tags, a novel approach for these young fish. This allowed researchers to calculate the magnitude and timing of post-release mortality and movements at a much finer scale than previously possible.



Over a 15-month period, mortality of tagged fish was estimated at 26% and researchers found tagged fish stayed in the area for up to two months following stocking. This indicates the stocking area contains favorable conditions for these young fish, but warmer water temperatures and other factors cause fish to later move into deeper habitats. “Using acoustic telemetry allowed us to collect fine-scale movement data and offered some insight into juvenile lake trout behavior that can be used to inform future restoration research, particularly when identifying/

evaluating future stocking locations and considering suitable locations for survival of naturally reproduced juveniles,” noted Stacy. Future work will include a lab-based experiment that will evaluate acoustic tag retention and mortality for stocked lake trout that will help researchers improve their estimates.

The article was published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. Women of Fisheries, Inc. is a Florida-based nonprofit organization of more than 1,700 women that aims to connect, support, and amplify the voices of women in fisheries science.

Women of Fisheries posted recognition of Furgal’s work with collaborators from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and University of Vermont to evaluate the post-stocking status and dispersal of juvenile lake trout released into Lake Ontario.

That posting appeared as the “August Research Highlight: Stocking, key to recovery of a native top predator” on August 8, at womenoffisheries.org/.

Established in 1966, the National Sea Grant College Program promotes the informed stewardship of coastal resources in 34 joint federal/state university-based programs in every U.S. coastal state (marine and Great Lakes) and Puerto Rico ([click here](#) to learn more about Sea Grant’s locations nationwide – see the drop-down menu under “Sea Grant Programs”). The Sea Grant model has also inspired similar projects in the Pacific region, Korea and Indonesia.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG), one of the largest of the state Sea Grant

programs, is a cooperative program of the State University of New York (SUNY) and Cornell University, with administrative offices at Stony Brook University, extension administration at Cornell University in Ithaca, and extension specialists located in Stony Brook, Kingston, Brooklyn, Elmsford, Buffalo, Newark and Oswego. ✧

INDNR stocks channel catfish statewide

To provide additional angling opportunities, the IN DNR annually stocks channel catfish statewide in publicly accessible waters. All stocked channel catfish are produced by state personnel at the following DNR hatcheries (county): Cikana (Morgan), Driftwood (Jackson), and East Fork (Davies). All locations should be stocked by the end of October or early November. The channel catfish range in size from 8-10 inches. Once stocked, these fish acclimate to their new environment quickly and don’t take long to start biting. Anglers are encouraged to harvest the catfish, as they make great table fare.

Anglers interested in harvesting channel catfish need to follow bag and size restrictions. In most lakes and reservoirs, the statewide regulation is 10 channel catfish per day in lakes, with no more than one being longer than 28 inches; however, there are a few lakes that have a different bag limit. They are listed at eregulations.com/indiana/fishing/basic-fishing-information under Special Regulations Waters, channel catfish stocking locations, numbers, and sizes are listed at: wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/indiana-fish-stocking.

To view all fishing regulations, check out our fishing guide at: on.IN.gov/fishingguide ✧

DEC and Great Lakes Consortium announce research grants for Lake Ontario & St. Lawrence River

Researchers to examine methods to protect water quality and improve health of Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Syracuse-based Great Lakes Research Consortium (GLRC) recently announced nearly \$90,000 in grant awards for three research projects that will address priority issues identified by New York's [Great Lakes Action Agenda](#) and support science needs of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2023 Cooperative Science Monitoring Initiative on Lake Ontario. Award recipients are University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Upstate Freshwater Institute, and Syracuse University.

"The Great Lakes are complex and dynamic ecosystems providing millions of New Yorkers with clean water for drinking, fishing, and swimming," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "Supported by the State's Environmental Protection Fund, these grants fund key research opportunities to engage scientists and advance collaboration to protect the future health and vitality of these critical waters."

"Grants through the Great Lakes Research Consortium support small-scale research that takes the initiating steps toward addressing critical and emerging Great Lakes issues and establish foundational data for subsequent and larger applied research and demonstration projects," said GLRC Director Gregory L. Boyer, Ph.D.

This small grants program is funded by New York's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and administrated by the Great Lakes Research Consortium, a nonprofit organization of 18 colleges and universities in New York State, plus nine affiliated campuses in Ontario, Canada, dedicated to collaborative Great Lakes research and science

education. Learn more at the [SUNY ESF GLRC website](#) (leaves DEC website). Among the many environmental victories in the enacted 2022-23 State Budget, Governor Kathy Hochul and legislative leaders increased the EPF to \$400 million, the highest-ever level of funding in the program's history.

Research Project Awardees

The University at Buffalo (UB) was awarded a GLRC grant of nearly \$30,000 to investigate whether the hatchery-based rearing of lake trout is impairing their ability to naturally reproduce after stocking into Lake Ontario. Stocking is currently restoring the lake trout fishery in Lake Ontario.

UB Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences Trevor J. Krabbenhoft, Ph.D., and Ph.D. student Christopher Osborne, will work with a team of university, State, and federal partners to compare the genetic makeup of four strains of hatchery-raised lake trout with that of wild-origin lake trout and transfer of the same to wild-born offspring as a possible indication of impediment to natural lake trout repopulation in the Great Lakes.

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) was awarded a GLRC grant of \$30,000 to investigate the role of the invasive species round goby in the transfer of legacy and emerging contaminants in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

ESF Assistant Professor in Environmental Biology Roxanne Razavi, Ph.D., and ESF Assistant Professor in Chemistry Alexander B. Artyukhin, Ph.D., will collect contaminant exposure data from both nearshore and offshore populations of the round goby, which is an important part of native and sportfish diets. This project also includes a podcast outreach component that will engage high school students.

The Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI) and Syracuse University (SU) were jointly awarded a GLRC grant of \$30,000 to investigate the distribution, abundance, and concentrations of organic micropollutants (OMP) and microplastics in the Lake Ontario basin.

UFI Director David A. Matthews, Ph.D., and SU Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Teng Zeng, Ph.D., will evaluate the surface waters from three embayments and three nearshore locations along Lake Ontario; the sites selected represent areas impacted by nearshore development, density of septic systems, municipal wastewater input, human population density, or different land uses. The field and analysis methods used will be broadly applicable to help identify potential areas of accumulating OMPs and microplastics Great Lakes-wide.

Great Lakes Action Agenda

The Great Lakes Action Agenda advances a wide range of efforts to safeguard water quality, improve habitats for fish and wildlife, manage invasive species, promote sustainability, and enhance community resilience to climate change in a region that spans more than 40 percent of New York State's land area and includes Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and respective watersheds. DEC recently announced the release of the draft New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda 2022-2030, a multi-year action plan to guide restoration and conservation, and foster sustainable, resilient, communities in New York's Great Lakes region. The draft is available for public comment until November 11 and a webinar is planned for October 25. Additional [information can be found on DEC's website](#). ✧

DNR seeks input on Big Sandy Lake walleye regulations

The Minnesota DNR is asking for input on special walleye fishing regulations for Big Sandy Lake and connected waters in Aitkin County.

The current regulation, in place since 2011, was implemented to improve catch rates of larger fish and to improve reproduction. The regulation is now due for review before a decision is made to extend, change or allow it to expire.

“The Big Sandy Lake walleye population is entirely sustained by natural reproduction, so regulations that focus on reproductive conditions are a critical component of fish management in this system,” said Rick Bruesewitz, Aitkin area fisheries supervisor. “Since the current regulation was implemented, the abundance of 14- to 18-inch walleye has increased substantially and reproduction has improved and stabilized. As part of the review process, it’s important for us to hear from anglers about their experience on the water.”

Anyone can provide input about this and other area proposals currently open for review via an [online survey](#) (mndnr.gov/FishRegs) that is available through Monday, Oct. 17. General input may also be submitted to Jon Hansen at jon.hansen@state.mn.us or 651-259-5239, or via U.S. mail to Fishing Regulations, c/o Jon Hansen, Box 20, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

A Twin Cities metro area open house to receive input on all proposals was held on October 5.

Notification of the proposed changes to special fishing regulations have been posted at the accesses to each lake included in the proposal. If enacted, the proposed regulations would take effect for the 2023 fishing season. ✧

Illinois fall trout fishing season opens **Oct. 15**

SPRINGFIELD – The 2022 Illinois fall trout fishing season will open Saturday, **Oct. 15**, at 59 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state. An early opportunity at select trout sites, the fall catch-and-release fishing season, will open October 1. No trout may be kept during the catch-and-release period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning October 15. For the 2022 fall trout season, no trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites until the season opens at 5 a.m. October 15. During the season, the daily catch limit is five trout. For more information, visit www.ifishillinois.org. The fall trout season offers opportunities for families to get outdoors and enjoy fishing. Resources are available for taking kids fishing at https://www.ifishillinois.org/Kids_Fishing/kidsfishing.html. ✧

Ohio approves change to three fishing lines statewide

During its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 5, the Ohio Wildlife Council voted to approve a proposal to allow a maximum of three fishing lines statewide, according to the Ohio DNR. The rule will take effect on **January 1, 2023**. ✧

Indiana Hunting seasons beginning in September

Snipe: Sept. 1–Dec. 16

Sora: Sept. 1–Nov. 9

Early teal: Sept. 10–25

Pheasant: Sept. 14 – Nov 27

Dove: Sept. 1–Oct. 16

Canada geese (all zones): Sep. 10–18

Deer reduction zone: Sept. 15–Jan. 31, 2023

Youth deer: Sept. 24–25 ✧

IDNR 2022 waterfowl hunting updates

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois DNR is reminding waterfowl hunters of key dates and other information regarding the 2022-2023 waterfowl seasons.

2022-2023 waterfowl seasons

This is the second year of a five-year waterfowl season plan that was developed in 2020. This fall, Illinois will open the regular duck, Canada goose and snow goose seasons on October 22 in the North Zone, October 29 in the Central Zone, November 12 in the South Central Zone, and December 3 in the South Zone.

White-fronted goose (speckle-belly) seasons will open October 24 in the North Zone, November 5 in the Central Zone, and on the same dates as duck season in the South Central (Nov. 12) and South zones (Dec. 3).

The daily limit is six ducks of any species; however, daily limit can consist of no more than the following: four mallards (of which no more than two can be hen mallards), three wood ducks, two redheads, two canvasback, two black ducks, one pintail and one mottled duck.

Scaup (bluebills) will have a daily limit of two for the first 45 days of the season in each zone and one for the last 15 days of the season in each zone.

The daily bag limit of mergansers is five, only two of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit for ducks and mergansers is three times the daily bag limit (18 and 15, respectively) by species and sex.

During the regular season, Canada goose daily limits will be three with a possession limit of nine. White-fronted goose daily bag limits will be two with a possession limit of six. The snow goose daily bag limit is 20 birds, with no possession limit, during the fall and winter seasons.

The spring Light Goose Conservation Order will open January 20 in the North Zone and February 1 in the Central, South Central, and South zones, ending April 30 in all zones. There is no daily bag or possession limit on snow, blue, and Ross' geese during the spring conservation order. ✧

DNR fisheries manager Gary Whelan earns national honor

In his nearly 40 years as a professional fisheries biologist – 35 of those with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Gary Whelan has touched and influenced fisheries management in many and long-lasting ways. Because of that body of work, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies last month honored Whelan with a special recognition award.

[AFWA's prestigious awards program](#) honors individuals and organizations for their exemplary commitment to conservation stewardship. Special recognition awards, like Whelan's, are given to those with a distinguished record of accomplishments.

Whelan has held several positions in the DNR Fisheries Division and currently serves as the program manager responsible for the division's research section and Fish Health Program. On any given day, he works on issues that run the gamut from understanding micron-scale pathogens and running the operations of a complex research system, to evaluating the aquatic landscape ecology of the United States with partners from across the state and country.

"Thanks to Gary Whelan's curiosity, meticulous standards and professionalism, the health and longevity of fish and aquatic resources in Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes region are significantly better positioned for future challenges and changes," said DNR Director Dan Eichinger. "It is not an overstatement to say that Gary's passion for fisheries conservation has directly contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of fish health, and we are deeply grateful that he has done the bulk of his work on behalf of Michigan fisheries."

Whelan is credited with helping to guide state, regional and national fisheries management efforts through a range of fish pathogen challenges, such as bacterial kidney disease, whirling disease (a trout parasitic

disease) and viral hemorrhagic septicemia. He has strived to see that fish and aquatic health issues are elevated in recognition and understanding at those levels. Whelan also produces a one-of-a-kind, twice-yearly national summary of fish and aquatic animal health with the help of many colleagues across the country.



His efforts in analyzing and mitigating the effects of hydropower projects on Michigan rivers have resulted in large improvements in habitat conditions, as well as associated fisheries, and have become a model for other states. He continued his work in Michigan aquatic issues by overseeing the DNR Fisheries Division's Habitat Management Section for seven years.

Whelan's varied career includes helping to implement Consent Decrees with Native American Tribes, in particular the 2000 Consent Decree covering waters ceded through the 1836 Treaty of Washington. This agreement has governed allocation, management and regulation of state and tribal fisheries in these Great Lakes waters.

"For decades, Gary has been a leader in bringing awareness to fish health and habitat on a local and national scale," said DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. "His commitment to scientific and research-based decisions has benefited fisheries initiatives for current and future generations."

Well-rounded commitment to conservation

Whelan's dedication and passion for fish, wildlife and habitat conservation go beyond his daily job duties, as evidenced by numerous national leadership roles and work on many prominent projects aimed at protecting fish health. These include chairing the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Great Lakes Fish Health Committee, as well as working on conserving fish habitats on spatial scales ranging from individual fish and waters to the entire United States through the Instream Flow Council and the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

Whelan is recognized for forming and being one of the first leaders of the Instream Flow Council, which assists state, provincial and territorial fish and wildlife agencies in better fulfilling their public trust responsibility to protect aquatic resources. The council emerged out of the National Instream Program Assessment Project, an AFWA multistate grant project to which Whelan contributed.

Whelan also participated in Landscape Conservation Cooperatives steering committees and, most notably, his AFWA-related significant contributions and leadership roles in the inception, development and implementation of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. NFHP is a voluntary, nonregulatory effort that uses 20 unique partnerships to deliver fish habitat conservation, guided by national and partnership goals, to the highest-priority fish habitat issues and ensuring that projects either protect or improve fish habitat.

A part of the National Fish Habitat Partnership since 2004 (when serving as a member of the National Fish Habitat Initiative Core Work Group charged with writing the original National Fish Habitat Action Plan in 2004-2006), Whelan currently co-chairs the NFHP Board's Science and Data Committee and serves as a

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Several Hunting Seasons begin in September

Special Antlerless Deer, Early Bear, Canada Goose and Squirrel Seasons approaching

September marks the beginning of several hunting opportunities in New York. Hunting seasons for squirrel and Canada goose began September 1 in upstate New York, and the early bear season and early antlerless deer season began September 10 in select wildlife management units (WMUs).

Early bear and early antlerless deer seasons began September 10. Canada Goose Hunting Seasons Opened September 1

Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration

All migratory game bird hunters must register annually for HIP through DEC's licensing system. The HIP registration is legally required and helps state and federal biologists estimate hunter participation and harvest of migratory game birds. HIP registration identifies active hunters who receive follow-up surveys from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service. Providing a valid e-mail address during HIP registration will ensure that you can participate in hunter opinion and harvest surveys. For more information on how biologists

estimate harvest and to see harvest data for New York and the rest of North America, please visit: [Migratory Game Bird Harvest Survey](#).



There are two options to [register with HIP](#): online at the DEC hunting license website, or via the automated phone system, available by calling 1-866-933-2257. At the end of either process, you will be given your HIP registration number. Migratory game bird hunters must carry this number while hunting.

Safety

During all hunting seasons, hunters

should remember to follow the primary rules of gun safety: assume every firearm is loaded; keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction; keep the safety on and finger off the trigger until ready to shoot; and always be sure of your target and what is beyond it. For more information on [hunter safety](#), visit DEC's website; [watch videos about hunter safety](#) and [tree stand safety](#) for more tips on how to prevent accidents. Hunters should also be prepared to cool and process harvested game quickly to preserve meat quality.

Hunters should also remember that several changes enacted in 2021 continue this year. Hunters and anyone accompanying them must wear a solid or patterned fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink hat, vest, or jacket when hunting deer or bear with a firearm. Hunting hours for deer and bear now include the full period of ambient light from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Finally, 12- and 13-year-old hunters can hunt deer (not bear) with a firearm or crossbow when accompanied by an experienced licensed adult. ✧

Gary Whelan

Continued from page 9

member of the board staff – roles he has held since the inception of the partnership.

With NFHP's codification by the America's Conservation Enhancement Act Title II of Public Law 116-188 in October 2020, Whelan has focused on implementing the partnership through the ACE Act. His roles in the National Fish Habitat Partnership were paramount in developing, in 2010 and 2016, the first-ever national fish habitat assessments in the U.S., titled "Through a Fish's Eye" ([fishhabitat.org](#)). This assessment provides the most detailed and actionable analysis of fish habitat using nationally consistent data for

fish and habitat stressors, and, globally, is one of a kind.

In addition to those roles, Whelan also provides key leadership as the second vice president of the American Fisheries Society; he will advance to president of the society in 2025-26, the first state fisheries biologist to hold that position since 2003. He also serves the society as current president of the Fisheries Administration Section and vice president of the Habitat Section.

"Receiving such national awards and recognition from one's peers is always both an honor and humbling experience," said Whelan. "I have been blessed in my career with so many opportunities to touch fisheries and aquatic conservation from the

tinest of scales to the largest, and hope my work has left our state's and nation's fisheries and aquatic resources in a bit better condition than when I started."

Whelan received a bachelor's degree in fisheries science from the University of Wyoming and a master's degree in fisheries management from the University of Missouri. Throughout his career, Whelan also has published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers, making significant contributions to the collective fisheries science knowledge base. ✧



Halloween trivia

Who Celebrated Halloween First?

Most scholars agree that Halloween as we know it originated some 2,000 years ago, when Celtic people in Europe celebrated the end of the harvest and the start of a new year in a festival called Samhain (pronounced "sow-win"). People also believed they could commune with the dead more easily during that time, lighting big bonfires to ward off spirits, according to The American Folklife Center.

Bats are a Halloween Symbol

Nowadays, many of us associate bats with Halloween — and that has its historical roots, too. The Druids' Samhain bonfires attracted bugs which, in turn, tempted bats to come enjoy a tasty meal. In later years, various folklore emerged citing bats



as harbingers of death or doom. In Nova Scotian mythology, a bat settling in a

house means a man in the family will die. If it flies around and tries to escape, a woman in the family will perish instead.

Romans Had Their Own Fall Festivals

The Romans conquered most Celtic territory by 43 A.D. and brought their own fall festivals with them at that time, according to History. Their October celebration called Feralia also commemorated the passing of the dead. Another holiday, Pomona, honored the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. That's one reason people often bob for apples during Halloween festivities.

Christians Tried to Replace Halloween

Fast forward a few centuries, and the festivals that would become Halloween evolved. Several Christian popes attempted to replace "pagan" holidays like Samhain with their own religious observances. By 1000 A.D., All Souls' Day on November 2 served as a time for the living to pray for the souls of the dead. All Saints' Day, or All Hallows, honored the saints on November 1. That made October 31 All Hallows Eve, which later became Halloween.

Women Bobbed for Apples — And Husbands

In the 1700s and 1800s, women performed rituals on Halloween in hopes of finding a husband. Single ladies used to throw apple peels over their shoulders, hoping to see their future husband's initials in the shapes where they fell. They also



competitively bobbed for apples at parties, believing the winner would marry first. And in a ritual that just sounds downright creepy, some thought standing in a dark room with a candle in front of a mirror would make their future husband's face appear in the glass. Blood Mary, anyone?

The Irish Introduced Jack-o-Lanterns

The holiday we celebrate today really started taking off in the middle of the 19th century, when a wave of Irish immigrants left their country during the potato famine. The



newcomers brought their own superstitions and customs to their new homes, including the jack-o'-lantern. But back then, they carved them out of turnips, potatoes and beets instead of pumpkins.

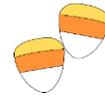
Halloween Focuses on Treats Today

By the end of the 1800s, more communities were partaking in a more secular (and safer) set of rituals. People started holding Halloween parties that included more harmless games, fall seasonal treats and fun costumes over witchcraft and mischievous troublemaking.



Americans Spend a Lot on Candy

Trick-or-treating skyrocketed in popularity by the 1950s, when Halloween became a true national event. Today, over 179 million Americans celebrate the holiday — and spend about \$9.1 billion



annually in the process, according to the National Retail Federation. That's a lot of miniature candy bars!

Halloween is Not an Official Holiday

Many Americans love Halloween wholeheartedly, but the day isn't a federal holiday. Despite all of the festivities that happen in the evening, Halloween is still a work day and most businesses and banks follow their regular hours. So if you're rushing home to answer your doorbell, you're certainly not the only one.

Remember - Vote November 8

The welfare of your family, your lifestyle, and possibly your very future could depend on it.
What kind of a country do you want? A constitutional republic with law and order ... or lawlessness?

Other Breaking News Items:**(Click on title or URL to read full article)****[100% whitefish is 100% smart planning](#)**

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers recently announced a new initiative called “100% Whitefish” that aims to use all of the fish. The group is looking to Iceland for guidance and as an example. That country, among others, has pioneered using all of the fish it catches in various products, greatly increasing the value of the catch while developing new products and markets.

[Bringing back the giant Lake Erie sturgeon; stocking Maumee River and maybe the Cuyahoga](#)

The effort to replenish the decimated lake sturgeon population in Lake Erie has shown early signs of success, but it will be decades before biologists know if they have accomplished their mission

[Canadian Coast Guard names light icebreaker – the CCGS Judy LaMarsh](#)

The Canadian Coast Guard recently purchased a light icebreaker that will supplement its operations in the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence, and Atlantic regions. Today, it was officially announced that icebreaker has been named the CCGS *Judy LaMarsh*

[DEC releases draft Great Lakes action agenda to help restore, protect & revitalize NYS region](#)

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation recently released the draft “New York’s Great Lakes Action Agenda 2022-2030,” a multiyear action plan to guide restoration and conservation, and foster sustainable, resilient communities in New York’s Great Lakes region

[DNR raises sturgeon to reintroduce into Lake Michigan](#)

As lake sturgeon populations have decreased in Lake Michigan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources hopes to reintroduce and rehabilitate the lake sturgeon population through a streamside rearing program

[Uncrewed sail drones are quietly counting fish more accurately in Lake Superior](#)

Since their launch August 6th, two uncrewed, drone-operated sailboats are quietly collecting data from Lake Superior to study the accuracy of fish abundance estimates in the Great Lakes

[In the Great Lakes, the pandemic disrupted sea lamprey control](#)

A cross-border program keeps sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes at bay. But a two-year disruption was never part of the plan. Now experts predict there will be at least a temporary surge to lamprey populations in the lakes following a dip in control efforts during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Lawmaker pushes for Chicago to join the race for 1st offshore wind farm on the Great Lakes: ‘This is not pie-in-the-sky.’](#)

Illinois state Rep. Marcus Evans has introduced a bill that lays the groundwork for a proposed wind farm in Lake Michigan, about 10 miles from the shores of the Southeast Side of Chicago.

[See photo of ‘huge’ goldfish found in Lake Erie](#)

The Ohio Division of Wildlife is reminding pet fish owners not to release their aquarium fish into state waters, since they can harm native fish species. Technicians found what appeared to be a foot-long goldfish during a fish survey this month on Lake Erie in Fairport Harbor, the division posted Monday to its Facebook page

[Recent study finds contaminants of emerging concern in the St. Lawrence River](#)

A recent study out of Université du Québec à Rimouski has identified new combinations of contaminants in the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario that could affect biodiversity

The Grand Inquisitor will tolerate no criticism!

“When they took our Fourth Amendment, I was quiet, because I didn't deal drugs.

When they took our Fifth Amendment, I was quiet, because I was innocent.

When they took our Second Amendment, I was quiet, because I didn't own a gun.

Now, they've taken our First Amendment, and I can say nothing.....” ✧

End