



Lake Michigan salmon population surges

It's a fantastic season for salmon fishing as the state continues to stock more of the fish in Lake Michigan. This spring, the Michigan DNR stocked Lake Michigan with one million Chinook salmon. It's the high point of years of growth in the lake. In 2022, the DNR put in 800,000 salmon. That was nearly 200,000 more fish than the previous year.

This is the third year in a row where fisheries have been strong and providing opportunity for fishermen to get out and catch the big fish, the Chinook salmon. Fishing is more popular than it's ever been. Anglers are having some great days out on the lake and bringing in some huge hauls. Some of the record catches have been within the past three years.

Scott Heintzelman, the central Lake Michigan unit manager for the Michigan DNR, said he's seen "good catches" this year that have been consistent across the lake. "It's been a very good year all the way around the lake," he said. "I think other states would indicate the same thing as well."

Things were different back in 2013. The alewife population were dying off. The DNR placed fewer salmon in the lake to help the alewife population recover. "Salmon, 90% of their diet is alewife," Eade said. "So they're very dependent on the alewife. Numbers had decreased to the point where we were worried about the fishery crashing as it did in Lake Huron in 2004."

As the alewife population in Lake Michigan has improved, it's allowed the DNR to [put more and more salmon in the lake](#) again. Heintzelman said salmon are naturally reproducing too, playing a "significant" role in the growth of the fish in Lake Michigan. "The conditions in the lake, what it's really done is it's increased survival," Heintzelman said. "I think we're in a really good place in 2023," he continued. "Everybody has basically reported better fishing, improved fishing." Heintzelman said other fish species are doing well right now, including steelhead and brown trout. It's a perfect storm that's helped fisheries.

Salmon population surges

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Minn invites comment on fish/cormorant management at Pelican Lake [Aug 17](#) [Public meeting planned for Aug. 17 in Ashby](#)

The Minnesota DNR is seeking public comment on fish and cormorant population management alternatives at Pelican Lake in Grant County. A public review and comment period will be open until 5 p.m. Thursday, [Aug. 31](#).

The DNR will hold a public meeting to provide information about the alternatives under consideration and receive input. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, [Aug. 17](#) at Destiny Fitness, 28854 State Highway 78, Ashby.

The Minnesota DNR's current preferred alternative would employ lethal measures to remove a portion of the growing double-crested cormorant population on Egret Island that has led to adverse impacts to the Pelican Lake walleye fishery. The Minnesota DNR

will be assessing several alternatives including revising fish management goals, increasing survey efforts to increase understanding of the system, and lethal control of adult cormorants before making a final decision. A 2021 fisheries survey indicates that the Egret Island cormorant population is limiting survival of young (one- and two-year-old) walleyes that are key to producing older age fish.

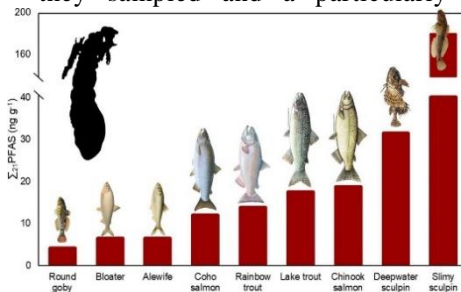
Prior to implementing any lethal control measures, the Minnesota DNR would first need to obtain a permit from USFWS, because cormorants are federally-protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Any management activity must minimize disruption to other bird species nesting nearby,

Comment on fish/cormorant

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Study finds PFAS in all tested Lake Michigan sportfish and their prey

When it comes to PFAS, scientists have found these “forever chemicals” in soil, water and air in sites around the country and the world. Now, researchers have found PFAS in every Lake Michigan fish they sampled and a particularly



toxic form of PFAS in most of the lake’s sportfish.

PFAS is short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which encompass thousands of compounds that don’t break down in the environment. They are used in many everyday items like nonstick cookware, water- or stain-resistant clothing or carpeting, cosmetics, and even toilet paper.

Along with their persistence and growing presence in the environment, these chemicals may have human health impacts, such as impairing one’s immune system, increasing the risk of some cancers, and delaying development in children.

With funding from [Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant](#) (IISG), scientists from the U of Notre Dame—led by biologist [Gary Lamberti](#) and nuclear physicist [Graham Peaslee](#)—set out to assess the presence of PFAS in Lake Michigan fish and how these chemicals move through the lake’s food web, which had not been previously studied.

“We tested over 100 sportfish—Chinook salmon, coho salmon, rainbow trout and native lake trout—and another 100 or so prey fish from all four quadrants of Lake Michigan,” said [Daniele De](#)

[Almeida Miranda](#), a postdoctoral associate working on the project.

They found PFAS in all sampled fish, both predator and prey, and in similar amounts and composition throughout the lake. The good news in terms of Lake Michigan—the study showed PFAS levels were lower there than in most Great Lakes.

Of notable concern though, was the widespread presence and level of PFOS (or perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) in the lake’s fish. These compounds were identified in more than 95% of sampled fish, especially salmon and trout.

“PFOS are a type of PFAS that are very toxic, even in low concentrations,” said Miranda. “For that reason, these compounds were phased out of production in 2002. Over 20 years later, PFOS are still the main PFAS compounds that we are seeing in Lake Michigan fish.”

These dangerous substances were also more likely than other tested PFAS compounds to bioaccumulate, meaning to move up the food chain from smaller to larger fish, potentially resulting in higher concentrations in popular sportfish.

“While bioaccumulation is straightforward with some contaminants, such as PCBs or heavy metals, it’s not with PFAS,” said Miranda. “For some PFAS compounds we found higher levels in predator fish such as Chinook and lake trout, than in prey fish, but sometimes it was more variable.”

Lamberti noted that PFAS uptake by fish can be complicated, and many factors might play a role, such as the smaller fish’s diet or whether they spend time near the lake’s sediments, where PFAS might accumulate. “For example, small bottom-dwelling fish called

PFAS in all tested sportfish

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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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Study says water from near half of US faucets contains potentially harmful chemicals

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) – Drinking water from nearly half of U.S. faucets likely contains “forever chemicals” that may cause cancer and other health problems, according to a government study.

The synthetic compounds known collectively as PFAS are contaminating drinking water to varying extents in large cities and small towns — and in private wells and public systems, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Researchers described the study as the first nationwide effort to test for PFAS in tap water from private sources in addition to regulated ones. It builds on previous scientific findings that the chemicals are widespread, showing up in consumer products as diverse as nonstick pans, food packaging and water-resistant clothing.

Because the USGS is a scientific research agency, the report makes no policy recommendations. But the information “can be used to evaluate risk of exposure and inform decisions about whether or not you want to treat your drinking water, get it tested or get more information from your state” about the situation locally, said lead author Kelly Smalling, a research hydrologist.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in March proposed the first federal drinking water limits on six forms of PFAS, or per- and polyfluorinated substances, which remain in the human body for years and don’t degrade in the environment. A final decision is expected later this year or in 2024.

But the government hasn’t prohibited companies using the chemicals from dumping them into public wastewater systems, said Scott Faber, a senior vice president of the Environmental Working Group, an advocacy organization. “We should be treating this problem where it begins, instead of putting up a spotlight after the accident,” he said. “We should be

requiring polluters to treat their own wastes.”

Studies of lab animals have found potential links between PFAS chemicals and some cancers, including kidney and testicular, plus issues such as high blood pressure and low birth weight.

Federal and state programs typically measure exposure to pollutants such as PFAS at water treatment plants or groundwater wells that supply them, Smalling said. In contrast, the USGS report was based on samples from taps in 716 locations, including 447 that rely on public supplies and 269 using private wells.

The samples were taken between 2016 and 2021 in a range of locations — mostly residences but also a few schools and offices. They included protected lands such as national parks; residential and rural areas with no identified PFAS sources; and urban centers with industry or waste sites known to generate PFAS. Most taps were sampled just once. Three were sampled multiple times over a three-month period, with results changing little, Smalling said.

Scientists tested for 32 PFAS compounds — most of the ones detectable through available methods. Thousands of others are believed to exist but can’t be spotted with current technology, Smalling said.

The types found most often were PFBS, PFHxS and PFOA. Also making frequent appearances was PFOS, one of the most common nationwide.

Positive samples contained as many as nine varieties, although most were closer to two. The median concentration was around seven parts per trillion for all 32 PFAS types, although for PFOA and PFOS it was about four parts per trillion — the limit EPA has proposed for those two compounds.

The heaviest exposures were in cities and near potential sources of the compounds, particularly in the Eastern Seaboard; Great Lakes and Great

Plains urban centers; and Central and Southern California. Many of the tests, mostly in rural areas, found no PFAS.

Based on the data, researchers estimated that at least one form of PFAS could be found in about 45% of tap water samples nationwide.

The study underscores that private well users should have their water tested for PFAS and consider installing filters, said Faber of the Environmental Working Group. Filters containing activated carbon or reverse osmosis membranes can remove the compounds.

The USGS study is “further evidence that PFAS is incredibly pervasive and folks who rely on private wells are particularly vulnerable to the harms caused by these chemicals,” Faber said. ✧

Folds of Honor

Veteran Charity friend Folds of Honor provides annual educational scholarships to military families of those service members killed or disabled while in active duty. Since its founding in 2007, Folds of Honor has awarded 35,000 scholarships. And an impressive 91-percent of all funds donated to this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization go directly to these scholarships.



FOLDS of HONOR

In addition to accepting donations, Folds of Honor holds various fund-raising events like Patriot Golf Days to honor military veterans and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our shared freedoms. A Patriot Golf Days’ one-time donation is distributed to Folds of Honor recipients and the PGA HOPE programs, local to the specific donors.

To find out more about the important work by Folds of Honor and to make a donation, visit the organization [here](#). ✧

Province amending baitfish regs

Transporting preserved baitfish and leeches out of, into, and across baitfish management zone (BMZ) boundaries would be allowed under amended regulations introduced by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) late last month.

The two-part [proposal posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario \(ERO\) for public feedback](#) on July 26 until September 11 would also allow temporary movement of live and dead bait out of and back into the bait management zone (BMZ) where it was acquired. Bait must still be used in the BMZ where it was obtained.

The ministry is also looking to allow the commercial salting of bait for sale to anglers. “These proposed changes are intended to increase flexibility for anglers and commercial bait operators while maintaining the ecological integrity provided by the BMZ framework,” the proposal states. “They are also intended to be responsive to challenges that some anglers and commercial bait operators have experienced obtaining and/or transporting bait (e.g., where communities are located near a BMZ boundary, or in remote areas).”

As part of the consultation process, the ministry said it will need to determine what preservation methods would be permitted, such as salt, dehydration, isopropyl alcohol, or mineral oil. If the regulations are amended to enable the transport of preserved bait, other consequential changes would be required to enable commercial operators to preserve their bait with salt, and to buy and sell bait that has been preserved with salt, officials stated.

Ontario’s Sustainable Bait Management Strategy was finalized in 2020 and [since January 1, 2022, anglers and commercial operators been adjusting to new regulations](#) that, among other things, restricted bait transport in and out of the new BMZs (with limited exceptions) to help reduce ecological risks. ✧

Marine Sanctuary on Lake Erie likely won’t impact fishing

The proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would encompass approximately 740 square miles of Pennsylvania’s Lake Erie waters, from the shoreline to the Canadian border. Approximately 75 miles of the proposed sanctuary shoreline would be in Erie County.

NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is considering designating a new national marine sanctuary in Lake Erie, adjacent to Pennsylvania.

Sport fishing is not mentioned in the proposal, but some recreational anglers are nervous about the idea. “Sanctuary” sounds like “no fishing” to some. And this area is famed not only for the lunker smallmouths and walleyes of Lake Erie, but also for steelhead and salmon which grow fast in the lake and then run up the rivers in fall and early winter.

This could be good—that is it’s assumed that fishing will be part of the uses allowed as it has always been. But some anglers are concerned that it could be bad, particularly if some “fish feel pain” types gear up and cram the meetings prior to the designation. Diving is also not mentioned, but all the remarkable shipwrecks in the area currently welcome cold-water divers.

NOAA’s Marine Sanctuary page says this: “The majority of the collective waters in national marine sanctuaries are open to recreational fishing, providing opportunities for anglers of all ages and fostering a sense of responsibility for America’s great outdoors.”

But remember, this is your federal government at work. There is no telling where bureaucracy may take us once the process starts. And the statement says “the majority”—not “all”.

Continued next column

Lake Ontario Fishing Boat Survey Results - Spring 2023

Lake Ontario provides anglers with a diverse world-class trout and salmon fishery worth an estimated \$560 million dollars to NY’s economy.

According to anglers surveyed this spring, there were:

- Above average Chinook salmon fishing in the west and east central lake areas in April and early May with unfavorable winds and slower fishing later in the reporting period;
- Slightly above average brown trout fishing in east central and east lake areas;
- A noticeable lack of larger-sized browns lake-wide;
- Lower lake trout catch rates in 3 out of 4 lake areas, and below average catch rates in the west central area for all species; and
- Lower numbers of lamprey observed compared to record highs in 2022.

For a [full report](#) visit our website. ✧

Erie County, Pennsylvania submitted a nomination in 2015, and NOAA is now considering sanctuary designation to protect the region’s maritime heritage resources, including a nationally significant collection of shipwrecks. As part of the designation process, NOAA will establish a local Sanctuary Advisory Council—and it would be wise for local anglers and divers to volunteer to serve on this council.

NOAA says this area represents a historically and culturally rich region where the long relationship between human activity and the maritime environment has created “meaning and a sense of place, which is expressed and preserved in a wide variety of maritime cultural resources, from sacred places and cultural practices, to lighthouses and historic shipwrecks.” Together, these tangible and intangible elements form a rich maritime cultural landscape. ✧

Walleye and saugeye successfully stocked across Indiana waterways

This year, the Indiana DNR stocked Indiana waterways with walleye and saugeye – fish that are known for being excellent table fare and for the skill it takes to catch them.

Because there is no natural reproduction of walleye and saugeye in most of Indiana, the DNR runs a program to spawn and stock these fish every spring across multiple waterways for anglers to catch.

Spawning operations in late March to early April, which are organized at Brookville Lake, resulted in 35.7 million fertilized walleye eggs. The eggs yielded 24.3 million walleye fry (seven to ten day old fish, less than one inch long), 281,468 walleye fingerlings (average 1.4 inches), and 81,181 saugeye fingerlings (average 1.6 inches). Walleye fry were stocked at the end of April, and walleye and saugeye fingerlings were stocked in late May and early June. Additional walleye fingerlings are being held

in state hatcheries to grow for fall stockings.

Stocked bodies of water, with their county in parentheses, include:

- Walleye fry: Bass Lake (Starke), Brookville Lake (Franklin, Union), Mississinewa Lake (Wabash), Monroe Lake (Brown and Monroe), Patoka Lake (Orange, Dubois, and Crawford), and Shafer Lake (White).
- Walleye fingerlings: Cagles Mill Lake (Owen and Putnam), Lake of the Woods (Marshall), Pike Lake (Kosciusko), Prairie Creek Reservoir (Delaware), Shafer Lake (White), Summit Lake (Henry), and Tippecanoe River/Oakdale Dam (Carroll).
- Saugeye fingerlings: Glenn Flint Lake (Putnam), Huntingburg Lake (Dubois), Koteewi Park Lake (Hamilton), and Sullivan Lake (Sullivan).

The statewide bag limit for walleye, sauger, and saugeye is six

fish per day, in combination. For walleye, the minimum size limit is 14 inches for waters south of State Road 26 and 16 inches for waters north of S.R. 26. Exceptions to the walleye size limit are Bass Lake (Starke) and Wolf Lake (Lake), where the minimum is 14 inches; Lake George (Steuben), where the minimum is 15 inches; and Wall Lake (LaGrange), where the minimum is 16 inches with a two-fish daily bag limit.

There is no size limit on sauger or saugeye except on Huntingburg Lake (Dubois), Glenn Flint Lake (Putnam), Sullivan Lake (Sullivan), and on the Ohio River, where the minimum size limit is 14 inches. Typically, walleye and saugeye grow to 14 inches after two years and 16 inches after three years.

Learn more about fishing for walleye and saugeye at wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/walleye-fishing. Learn more about fish stocking in Indiana at bit.ly/INFishStocking ✧

Bloodsucking Sea Lampreys are Biting Back in America's Great Lakes

A creepy, parasitic fish that thrives by sucking the blood out of its hosts – earning the nickname "[vampire fish](#)" – is making a comeback in the Great Lakes after the pandemic interrupted population control of the species. The fish, which has a circular row of teeth, a serrated tongue, and an eel-like shape, is called the sea lamprey.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, sea lampreys are native to the northern and western Atlantic Ocean but invaded the Great Lakes around the early 19th century through the Welland Canal, which connects Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. "Within a decade, they had gained access to all five Great Lakes, where they quickly set to work preying on the lakes' commercially important fishes, including trout, whitefish, perch, and sturgeon," the NOAA wrote. "Within a century, the

trout fishery had collapsed, largely due to the lamprey's unchecked proliferation."

By the 1960s, sea lampreys reduced the annual commercial catch of lake trout in the upper Great Lakes from about 15 million to half a million pounds. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, along with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, has been responsible for managing the population of this highly invasive species, and the agencies have done so with considerable success.

The fishery commission touts on its website that sea lamprey populations have been reduced by 90 percent "in most areas of the Great Lakes." But between 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing travel restrictions interrupted the agencies' ability to go out and perform some of the population

management operations. Now, fishery managers say the population of the parasitic fish has ticked up across the Great Lakes, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

It's unclear how much the population exactly increased, but according to a 2022 report from *Undark Magazine*, a nonprofit science publication, crews responsible for population control were only able to treat about 25 percent of the target streams in 2020. The following year, the teams reached 75 percent of their targets, the publication reported.

Treatment can be expensive and laborious, requiring the carefully-timed application of pesticides called lampricides to reduce the population. Controlling the lamprey population is estimated to cost around \$15 to \$20 million a year. ✧

Federal Ammo protests DNR rule banning Lead Ammunition sends letter of concern to Minnesota DNR Commissioner

The Honorable Sarah Strommen
Commissioner, Minnesota DNR

Federal Ammunition has been in Anoka, MN for more than 100 years. We are the world leader in ammunition design and manufacturing, and we proudly employ more than 1,500 Minnesotans. These are high quality local jobs. The city, county and neighbors have historically supported what we do because of the social, economic, and philanthropic benefits we bring to the region.

We are astonished by the recent Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) order banning the use of traditional ammunition on 56 Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) across the state. The order will affect thousands of hunters who pursue game within these SNAs each year, and greatly harms one of Minnesota's economic engines; the firearms and ammunition industries.

Federal's position on the use of lead ammunition is driven by science, therefore it must be concrete, not theoretic. We support science driven decisions by professional wildlife managers, which in this case is the consumer's choice. Those same professionals have a responsibility to implement regulations backed by the integrity of facts. Wildlife managers who fail to follow the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation undermine the foundation of the most successful wildlife management paradigms.

Minnesota DNR policy should focus on maintaining and growing hunting opportunities for all, not catering to the opinions of the extremes. This DNR decision was made in isolation – no alternative viewpoints or stakeholder perspectives considered. An issue as important as this should have full transparency as well as stakeholder input and should be determined through the legislative process and not via agency directives. Constituents have no recourse and therefore cannot

hold anyone accountable at the ballot box.

This action builds barriers to resident and non-resident enjoyment of our hunting heritage and the great outdoors. It will contribute to a price spike for Minnesota ammunition consumers. Alternative hunting ammunition (made of copper, tungsten, or bismuth) is significantly more expensive to manufacture and to purchase than traditional counterparts.

It is our belief the action taken was done based on theoretic claims of population harm while Bald Eagles and other raptors flourish. In fact, the MN DNR states the eagle recovery is a "conservation success story" and that the population has exceeded its recovery goal and continues to grow by over 30 nesting pairs per year.

There are significant negative environmental and economic consequences that follow this short-sighted policy. Traditional lead ammunition is almost entirely composed of recycled materials sourced here in Minnesota whereas alternative types of ammunition require mining or resource extraction imported from overseas or other states. Sourcing and employing locally is the right thing for Minnesota's environment and economy.

We are consistently the largest contributor in the nation to the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund (WRTF). We are an important stakeholder in Minnesota's management of wildlife and wild places. We are proud to support conservation through the federal excise tax, an 11% excise tax on every ammunition purchase. In 2022, the firearms and ammunition businesses combined to generate more than \$3.6 billion in economic output throughout the nation, putting Minnesota in the Top 10 for jobs, economic activity, and excise tax contributions. This policy undermines that support and dismisses industry

input and ironically will hurt the very population it is intended to help. With less ammunition sold, there will be less money funding conservation through the Pittman-Robertson federal excise tax program.



In summary, this decision is made in contradiction to the science as it creates no measurable wildlife benefit. It dismisses strong

Minnesotan/American jobs while promoting unnecessary and intensive resource extraction. This is yet another razor's cut at an outright ban of traditional ammunition, and ultimately, hunting as a scientific management tool.

We respectfully request that this rule be withdrawn and request a meeting with you, your staff, and the Governor. This order did not include a legislative process, public comment period or industry dialogue and the only certain result is harming hunters, Minnesota's work force, and the future of wildlife management funding in Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Jason Vanderbrink
President and Chief Executive Officer
Sporting Products, Vista Outdoor ✧

A Pearl of Wisdom

Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives. ☪

2020 Ontario fishing survey results revealed

The latest version of Ontario's recreational fishing survey has been released. The survey, conducted every five years since 1975, provides a comprehensive provincial perspective on angling.

This year it is titled "Selected results from the 2020 recreational fishing survey in Ontario: Fisheries management zones, provincially significant inland fisheries, and Great Lakes." The 72-page document is filled with interesting facts about the angling preferences, spending habits, and locations preferred by Ontario's anglers.

- There were 795,733 active anglers in the province.
- In total, ice anglers spent 13,366,413 days on the hard water, with FMZs 16 and 15 drawing the most anglers.
- Walleye was the most popular fish pursued in open water and when ice fishing.
- Walleye was the most popular species caught and harvested in the northwest; smallmouth bass and, to a lesser extent perch, were the most caught and harvested species in the south.
- Anglers spent \$1,618,217,000 in 2020 in Ontario. This was deflated from 2015 due to border restrictions that prevented foreign anglers from visiting the province.
- The catch and harvest rates declined in almost all FMZs from 2005 to 2020, though remained largely unchanged from 2010 to 2020.
- Lake Simcoe, Nipissing, and Rice Lake are the three most visited provincially significant inland fisheries, respectively. The Grand River is Ontario's most visited river.
- The three areas that experienced the most fishing activity were Georgian Bay, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario.

Bait Regulation in Ontario

The province is divided into four distinct baitfish management zones (BMZs), between which live or dead baitfish and leeches may not be transported (with some exceptions). Within their home BMZ, anglers can trap baitfish for use within that zone. To use baitfish or leeches outside of their home BMZ, anglers must purchase their bait from a licensed retailer within the BMZ they will be fishing, retain a receipt and use or dispose of their bait within two weeks from when they were purchased.

In Ontario, it is illegal to dump the contents of a bait bucket (water, soil, or other material) or live or dead bait (including fish eggs, gametes, or fish parts) either directly into the water or within 30 metres of it. This includes dumping onto the ice.

Some species cannot be used because they are sport fishes, endangered, or invasive. For example, it is illegal to use [Rudd](#), [Tubenose Goby](#), [Round Goby](#), and [Ruffe](#) as bait.

Crayfish can be used as bait, including the invasive [rusty crayfish](#), but only on the same waterbody that they were caught in. Crayfish, dead or alive, cannot be moved across land.

For a complete list of permitted baitfish, rule exceptions, and other bait-related regulations, visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/bait> ✧

- FMZ 16 and 15 had the most active anglers in the province, with 167,761 and 164,604, respectively.
- The Great Lakes FMZs were also heavily fished.
- The amount of fishing activity in southern Ontario was about 3.3 times higher than that in the north. This is an increase over previous surveys. ✧

DEC detects Chilodonella & Bacterial Disease in recent Seneca Lake Alewife Fish Kill

New York DEC announced a common parasite and a bacteria contributed to a large fish die-off in Seneca Lake. DEC staff collected samples of alewife, a forage fish, after being notified on June 20, about the lake-wide die-off. Samples were analyzed for DEC by Cornell U. College of Veterinary Medicine and determined to be caused by *Chilodonella* and *Aeromonas hydrophila*. *Chilodonella* is a common parasite found in most waters. *Aeromonas hydrophila* is a bacteria that causes a disease in fish called Motile *Aeromonas* Septicemia. Neither the parasite nor bacteria have human health impacts.

A similar die-off of alewives attributed to *Chilodonella* occurred in Seneca Lake in 2017. No appreciable impact to the alewife population was noted in the most recent incident. DEC is continuing to monitor the fishery.

DEC encourages anyone that encounters a fish kill in DEC Region 8 to contact Regional Fisheries staff at (585) 226-5343 or fwfish8@dec.ny.gov. Obtaining samples shortly after a fish die-off can better the chances of determining the cause. ✧

New York State 2023-24 hunting & trapping licenses now on sale

New York announced that hunting and trapping licenses and Deer Management Permits (DMPs) for the 2023-24 season are now on sale. Licenses and permits [can be purchased online](#), at any of [DEC's license-issuing agents](#), or by telephone at 866-933-2257. Hunting and trapping licenses are valid from September 1 through August 31 each year, while annual fishing licenses are valid for 365 days from date of purchase ✧

ICAST 2023 New Product Showcase Best of Category Winners

This year's [ICAST New Product Showcase](#) featured 1,087 new products from 292 companies. After 37 category winners were crowned, American Tackle Company came out on top as the sole owners of "Best of Show." The business has won category awards before, but this is their first Best of Show win at ICAST.

Best of Fishing Lifestyle

Novelties and Wellness

Product: The GoMist Drink and Misting Bottle | ExtremeMist Personal Cooling Systems

Motorized Boating Accessories

Product: PowerPole Move ZR | Power-Pole®

Non-Motorized Boating Accessory

Product: BOTE WATER HAMMOCK | BOTE

Boats and Watercraft

Product: Old Town Sportsman BigWater ePDL + 132 | Johnson Outdoors Watercraft, Inc.

Footwear

Product: Ankle Deck Boots - Black | AFTCO

Fishing

Product: LiveScope™ Plus Ice Fishing Bundle LI with ECHOMAP™ UHD2 93sv | Garmin USA

Eyewear

Product: King Tide 8, Black 580G Blue Mirror | Costa Sunglasses

Lifestyle Apparel for Women

Women's Coverup Dress | Huk Performance Fishing

Lifestyle Apparel for Men

Ocean Bound Hooded Performance Shirt | AFTCO

Denny Le denny@aftco.com

Warm Weather Technical Apparel for Women

Product: Mojeaux 1/4 Zip Performance Shirt | AFTCO

Warm Weather Technical Apparel for Men

Product: Channel Hooded Performance Shirt | AFTCO

Cold Weather Technical Apparel for Women

Product: Women's Barricade Rain Suit | AFTCO

Cold Weather Technical Apparel for Men

Product: Gale Pullover | Blackfish Gear

Best of General Tackle

Soft and Hard Coolers

Product: Flop Box 10 | Flop Industries

Electronics

Product: Westin EscapeCam | Westin Fishing

Cutlery, Hand Plies or Tools

Product: BUBBA Pro Series Smart Fish Scale | BUBBA

Fishing Accessory

Product: ENGEL USB Rechargeable Lithium-Ion XL Live Bait Aerator Pump | ENGEL Coolers

Kids' Tackle

Product: ProfISHiency Next Gen Crazy Combo | Anything Possible Brands

Tackle Management

Product: Pontoon Boat Tackle Center | Boat Outfitters

Terminal Tackle

Product: VMC Swingin' Ned Rig Jig | Rapala

Custom Tackle and Components

American Tackle Tsuka 2 Complete Carbon Handle | American Tackle Company

Fishing Line

Product: Mastiff Fluorocarbon | Shimano

Best of Fly Fishing

Fly Fishing Waders & Wading Boots

Product: G4Z Stockingfoot Wader | Simms Fishing Products

Fly Lines, Leaders, Tippet and Line Accessories

Product: BUZBE Colony 8T (THIN) | BUZBE

Fly Fishing Packs, Bags & Luggage

Product: Flyweight Vest Pack | Simms Fishing Products

Fly Fishing Technical Apparel and Accessories

Product: Master M6014 Edition | Renzetti, Inc.

Fly Fishing Reel

Product: Cheeky Spray Fly Reel | Cheeky Fishing

Fly Fishing Rod

Product: Hardy Marksman Z | Pure Fishing, Inc.

Best of Lures

Freshwater Soft Lure

Product: Berkley PowerBait Nessie | Pure Fishing, Inc.

Saltwater Soft Lure

Product: Mulletron LT (Line Through) SwimBait | Z-Man Fishing Products

Freshwater Hard Lure

Product: ChatterBait Elite EVO | Z-Man Fishing Products

Saltwater Hard Lure

Product: MIRRolure The Duke Dog | L&S Bait Company

Best of Rods

Freshwater Rod

Product: St. Croix Mojo Bass TRIGON | St. Croix Rods

Saltwater Rod

Product: NRX+ Inshore | Shimano

Rod & Reel Combo

Product: Abu Garcia ZATA Baitcast Combo | Pure Fishing, Inc. ✧

95 parcels of state-managed land available via online auctions in August, September

Lake frontage, river frontage and vacant forested acreage surrounded by private ownership are just some of the 95 parcels available in the next round



of surplus land auctions from the Michigan DNR. Surplus land sales are a regular part of the DNR's strategy to manage 4.6 million acres of public land owned by the people of Michigan.

Land is available in a dozen counties throughout the Lower and Upper peninsulas: Alger, Allegan, Chippewa, Dickinson, Iosco, Lake, Kent, Mackinac, Midland, Montcalm, Oscoda and Presque Isle. Several of the largest parcels are in Alger, Chippewa, Dickinson, Iosco, Midland, Oscoda and Presque Isle counties, while lakefront and riverfront parcels are in Allegan, Chippewa, Iosco, Lake, Montcalm and Presque Isle counties.

Six online auctions will feature available land parcels by county:

- Aug. 16 – Dickinson County.
- Aug. 22 – Oscoda County.
- Aug. 23 – Presque Isle County.
- Aug. 29 – Allegan and Kent counties.
- Sept. 6 – Midland County.
- Sept. 7 – Iosco County.

“Offering state-managed public lands at auction is the final step of a lengthy, ongoing land review process, built on a conservation framework, that ensures these lands’ best use for the benefit of Michigan residents, visitors and natural resources,” said Scott Whitcomb, acting DNR deputy director.

“Many of the sale parcels are forested or have road frontage, but are better suited for private ownership for a number of reasons,” Whitcomb said.

“Much of the land is isolated from other DNR- managed property, and that can create management challenges. Other parcels are included for auction because they offer limited public opportunities for quality outdoor recreation experiences.”

How bidding works

Interested bidders may pre-register and get more information about the online auction schedule at www.tax-sale.info. All bidders must register before a property's auction date. Absentee bids can be made up to 30 days before the auction.

The “interactive” bidding portion of an auction will open at 10 a.m. on that auction date. At that time, bidders will be able to see current high bids for each property. Bidders can continue to place bids on a property until 7 p.m. that day, when bidding closes and the winning bidder is determined.

A detailed list including minimum bid, acreage, maps and location information of offered properties can be found at Michigan.gov/LandforSale. Interested bidders are encouraged to review the [DNR Land Sales: Terms and Conditions](#).

Sale property details

Properties for sale range in size from under an acre to 200 acres.

- There are over 20 properties 40 acres or larger available mostly throughout the U.P. and the northern Lower Peninsula.
- Notable waterfront properties that are accessible include a Montcalm County property with frontage on the Flat River (Lot #10074) and two properties in Presque Isle County along the Rainy and Little Rainy rivers (Lot #s 10081 and 10082).

- In addition, notable large-acreage properties that are accessible include a 40-acre property in Chippewa County along South Riverside Drive (Lot #10023), a 35-acre Lake County property along Kings Highway (Lot #10049), a 40-acre parcel in Midland County on the northwest corner of the Gordonville and Alamando Road intersection (Lot #10070), and several properties in Presque Isle County between 40 and 120 acres in size (Lot #s 10081, 10082, 10083 and 10088).

Most of the properties included in the auction were designated as surplus during the DNR's [state land review](#). The review aims to examine isolated state-managed parcels that are 200 acres or less with a substantial private-public boundary. Certain properties, such as boating access sites and designated trails are removed from the review, as they have been confirmed to contribute to the department's mission. The review process is conducted on a county-by-county basis throughout the entire state. There are ample opportunities during the review for each group of counties, including before the DNR director makes a final decision on a parcel.

Separate from the online auctions, the DNR is offering additional properties (listed for sale at their former minimum bid prices) that were not sold in previous auctions. These properties are available for immediate purchase only via the [BuyNow](#) list.

Auction proceeds will help provide future outdoor recreation opportunities in keeping with the DNR's mission to conserve, protect and manage the state's natural and cultural resources for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

For more information about the sale of surplus, state-managed public land, contact DNR resource specialist [Michael Michalek](#) at 517-331-8387. ✧

BOW program offers archery deer hunt workshop in Washtenaw County

The Michigan DNR's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program, in partnership with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, is offering a Beyond BOW archery deer hunt workshop for women. The program is for properly licensed women 16 and up with no previous hunting experience or who would like to expand on their hunting skills and abilities.

The event will be held **October 5-8** at Sharon Mills County Park in Manchester in Washtenaw County. Enrollment is limited to eight participants. Deadline for registration is **September 1, 2023**. The cost of this event is \$50 per participant. Lunch will be provided Friday and Saturday, while additional meals will be the participants' responsibility.

Campsites are reserved at [Hayes State Park](#) and will require the DNR State Parks recreation passport sticker for entry. Class information and registration materials are available online at [Michigan.gov/BOW](#).

There will be a mandatory video orientation for registered participants prior to this event. This will be a rain or shine activity. Participants will take part in educational sessions and hunting on Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission lands.

One of the properties, the Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve, was created through a unique partnership between the DNR and Washtenaw County.

The DNR owns 717 acres of land in Norvell Township in Jackson County, while Washtenaw County owns 405 acres in Manchester Township, primarily through the county Parks and Recreation Commission's Natural Areas Preservation Program. Normally, there is no public hunting permitted on Washtenaw County parks lands. However, unique programs such as this Beyond BOW hunting workshop will help with preservation of natural resources, given significant deer browse on county lands.

Compound archery or crossbow equipment are both acceptable. Much of the equipment for the hunt will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their personal archery equipment. Proper safety and hunting techniques will be taught and followed.

➤ On Thursday, Oct. 5, participants will learn about deer biology and habitat, hunting as a management strategy, hunting ethics, laws, and safety, and hear from BOW mentors

about what this program means to them.

➤ On Friday, Oct. 6, general archery safety, shooting, tree stand, hunting blind safety and set up and scouting methods will be taught. Participants will then be paired with mentors and prepare for hunting.

➤ On Saturday, Oct. 7, participants and mentors will hunt in the morning and evening and can hunt Sunday if they choose. Following any successful harvest, the participants will be able to personally field dress and properly register their harvest.

To attend this event, you must have a Michigan base license and a deer or universal antlerless deer hunting license, which are available as an apprentice option and purchased prior to attending the workshop. License purchase is available at any [DNR license agent](#) or online at the [DNR's licensing webpage](#).

For more info, contact Adam Shook, DNR Wildlife Technician, at 248-756-4357 or email at [ShookA1@Michigan.gov](#). For more information on the DNR's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program, or to sign-up for BOW email updates, visit the program webpage at [Michigan.gov/BOW](#). ✧

Whitmer approves \$23.3 million in outdoor grants

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently signed legislation authorizing \$23.3 million in Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants.

"Since 1976, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has helped us protect our precious natural places and invested in accessible outdoor public recreation. Today's grants will fund 45 projects across the state, making our state a better place to live," said Gov. Whitmer.

House Bill 4437 approves funding for the 45 recreation development projects and land purchases recommended by the board. It is now Public Act 119 of 2023.

The Trust Fund board recommends funding to both state and local agencies for development

projects and land acquisitions that will increase the quality and quantity of public outdoor recreation opportunities. This round of grant funding reflects continued support of:

- Acquisitions of high-quality, unique wildlife and fish habitat for conservation and public access.
- Trail systems, specifically those that have broad impact.
- An extensive range of development projects that expand opportunities across Michigan for outdoor recreation, including development of urban parks and playscapes, sports field enhancements and river access.

This year the board recommended \$15 million in [acquisition grants](#) and \$8.3

million in recreation [development grants](#):

- Of the \$15 million recommended to fund acquisition projects, \$4.3 million would be awarded to local units of government, while the remaining \$10.7 million would be awarded to the DNR for diverse projects.
- All of the \$8.3 million recommended to fund development grants would support 30 local government projects.
- Collectively, the \$23.3 million of Trust Fund grants is matched with over \$15.8 million of additional funding for a total of \$39.1 million being invested in land acquisition and development projects across the state. ✧

Salmon population surges

Continued from page 1

“Communities and economies depend on those fisheries, brings lots of people to town,” he said. “They’re in the restaurants, they’re in the hotels, the campgrounds, it’s a big positive for the area.”

The DNR still cautioned that although alewife numbers have improved, they’re still at “pretty historic low levels.” Going forward, experts say it’s a balancing act between helping the fishing industry and making sure there aren’t too many salmon in the lake. “Not overdo it to where we knock those alewife numbers off to extreme lows again where you see these fisheries really drop off,” Heintzelman said. But for now, things are looking great for fish habitats and for fisheries.

“It’s a good year to brush off your salmon gear and get on the lake,” Heintzelman said. Anglers will have a lot of salmon to catch. ✧

PFAS in all tested sportfish

Continued from page 2

sculpin had the highest PFAS concentrations of all the fish tested,” he said.

Also part of this IISG project, Peaslee developed a quick and affordable screening tool using technology that involves particle induced gamma-ray emission (PIGE) for analyzing PFAS and the researchers adapted the process for sampling fish tissues. This new approach provides a measure of total fluorine levels, which are a useful indicator of the presence and the amount of PFAS in fish.

The PIGE method was tested using a subset of this project’s sample fish and next steps include expanding that number.

The research team expects this first look at PFAS and their movement through the Lake Michigan food web to help decision makers evaluate the extent of these pollutants in the ecosystem and in sport fish, which may ultimately be on someone’s dinner plate. ✧

Wis DNR Nonresident Hunting and Fishing License Fee Increase

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR announced a fee increase for many nonresident hunting and fishing licenses as a result of the final 2024-2025 budget. The fee changes range from \$5-\$40 and are only for nonresidents. Licenses for the 2023-2024 season are valid through March 31, 2024. The last time license fees for residents or nonresidents increased was 2005.

[New Nonresident Hunting Fees](#)

- Annual Small Game: \$90
- Five-Day Small Game: \$60
- Deer: \$200
- Archery and Crossbow: \$165
- Turkey: \$65
- Furbearing Animal: \$165

[New Nonresident Fishing Fees](#)

- Individual One-Day: \$15
- Individual Annual: \$55
- Individual Four-Day: \$29
- Individual 15-Day: \$33
- Family Annual: \$70
- Family 15-Day: \$45

[New Nonresident Combination License Fees](#)

- Conservation Patron: \$620
- Sports License: \$295

Hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased online via [Go Wild](#), any [DNR Service Center](#) or from an [authorized sales agent location](#) ✧

Reserved hunt applications open

Indiana DNR is currently taking applications for a variety of reserved hunts for deer, pheasant and waterfowl, as well as youth hunts. To enter the public drawings, you must have a valid hunting license and email address.

Hunts opening **August 20:**

- Waterfowl (FWA and IPLA hunts)
- Deer (FWA, IPLA and State Park hunts)
- Pheasant (GBA and IPLA hunts)
- Youth Pheasant (GBA hunts) ✧

Squirrel hunting season opens Aug. 15

Whether you’re an experienced or novice hunter, Indiana squirrel hunting is a sport you can enjoy. The season opens statewide on August 15 and runs through January 31, 2024. When in the woods, locate oak, hickory, and walnut trees, and you will likely find squirrels in the area. ✧

Comment on fish/cormorant

Continued from page 1

which are also protected by state and federal laws. Control measures would be completed by U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services in early spring. The need for future permits and associated lethal control would be determined by monitoring Pelican Lake bird and fish population levels.

Egret Island was gifted to the Minnesota DNR Scientific and Natural Areas Program in 2007 and has been managed as a bird sanctuary. In addition to supporting one of the largest colonies of breeding cormorants in Minnesota, the island also provides nesting habitat for the American white pelican, great blue heron and several other colonial waterbird species. It is closed to the public from April 1 to July 15 each year to protect nesting birds.

Comments can be submitted in person at the public meeting, on the [Engage with DNR webpage](#) (engage.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries-public-input-wildlife-public-input), or via mail to DNR Northwest Region Office, 2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601. All comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31.

Additional background, data, and details about the alternative assessment completed to date can be found on the [Engage with DNR webpage](#) (engage.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries-public-input-wildlife-public-input). Information on Egret Island is available on the Minnesota [DNR website](#) (mndnr.gov/snas/sna00974). ✧

Minnesota DNR seeks input on proposed special fishing regulations

The Minnesota DNR is asking for input on several special fishing regulation proposals. Each year, the Minnesota DNR proposes new special fishing regulations that apply to individual waters and asks the public for input about the proposals. The regulations, if enacted, are reviewed on a regular basis.

The Minnesota DNR is proposing either new or changes to existing experimental and special fishing regulations for the 2024 fishing season that address the following topics:

- Northern pike in Gull Lake chain (Cass and Crow Wing counties) – A proposed experimental regulation is intended to provide better protection for large northern pike and reduce enforcement complexities by applying the same regulation to all connected waters.
- Northern pike in Pearl Lake (Stearns County) – An experimental protected slot limit is expiring in 2024 and survey data indicate the regulation is not achieving management objectives. The proposal would allow the regulation to expire and revert to the North Central Zone northern pike regulation.
- Crappie and sunfish in Clearwater and Maple lakes (Wright County) – In an effort to maintain and hopefully increase size quality of both crappie and sunfish, the proposal would reduce the daily limits in both lakes, which have heavy fishing pressure.

- Sunfish in First, Second, Third and Fourth Crow Wing lakes (Hubbard County) – To reduce angler confusion and facilitate easier enforcement, the proposal would combine all four Crow Wing lakes and the connected Crow Wing River into one regulated waterbody with a daily limit of five sunfish.
- Sunfish in Winnibigoshish Lake and connected waters (Beltrami, Cass, Itasca counties) – To facilitate easier enforcement, the proposal would include Lake Winnibigoshish in the reduced daily limit for sunfish that is already in effect for connected Cut Foot Sioux and Little Cut Foot Sioux lakes.
- Northern pike in Balsam, Haskell and Scrapper Lakes (Itasca County) – This proposal would apply one of two slot limits for northern pike to all three connected lakes. Currently, Balsam Lake has a protected slot limit, but the two connected waters do not.
- Walleye in Big Sand Lake (Hubbard County) – The walleye population in Big Sand Lake has not responded to various special regulations, including the current slot limit. This proposal would repeal the special regulation and apply the statewide regulation, which is not expected to impact the existing walleye fishery.

Anyone can provide input about these proposals via an [online survey](#)

(mndnr.gov/fishregs) that is available through Friday, **Oct. 20**. For additional details or to comment directly by email, U.S. mail or phone about individual proposals, contact the [area fisheries office](#) (mndnr.gov/

[areas/fisheries](#)) for the proposal(s) on which you wish to comment. 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/Jon Hansen, Box 20, Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

The Minnesota DNR is also hosting in-person open houses in each county where the proposed changes would apply and one in the Twin Cities metro area to cover all proposals.

For those who want to attend one of the in-person meetings, information can be found on the [Minnesota DNR website](#) (mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing/fishing-regulations-meetings.html) or by calling an [area fisheries office](#) (mndnr.gov/areas/fisheries).

The meetings will take place on various dates between Thursday, Sept. 7, and Thursday, Oct. 5. The metro area open house will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, at the DNR's Central Office, 500 Lafayette Road in St. Paul.

Notification of the proposed changes to special fishing regulations has been posted at the accesses to each lake included in the proposal. ✧

DEC updates Great Lakes Action Agenda to guide restoration of Great Lakes Region

DEC has released the updated [New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda 2023](#), a strategic, ecosystem-based action plan to guide restoration and conservation, and foster sustainable, resilient communities in New York's Great Lakes region.

DEC will be engaging with the public and stakeholders to facilitate implementation. To learn more and to get involved with regional sub basin work groups to support implementation, contact greatlakes@dec.ny.gov.

NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda is a plan to conserve, restore, protect, and enhance NY's Great Lakes lands and waters.

NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda implements shared goals to improve water quality and ecosystem health through ecosystem-based management (EBM). EBM is a systems approach that balances the needs of people, nature and the economy through science-informed decision making.

GLAA Work Groups

Four work groups work to implement GLAA goals, to achieve sustainable outcomes at the watershed scale.

Work group meetings are held twice a year and are open to everyone – including environmental organizations, academic institutions, state and federal agencies, local government and private citizens.

What do the work groups do?

- Foster communication and collaboration among partners within each of the four sub-basins and across the state's Great Lakes watershed.
- Implement and evaluate projects and programs to achieve GLAA goals.
- Connect stakeholders to resources, technical assistance, expertise, and information.

NY's GLAA Collaborator's Webinar Series: To promote collaboration this fall, this webinar series will invite speakers to share their collaborative GLAA and EBM project ideas, research findings, and success stories. Contact us at greatlakes@dec.ny.gov to share your ideas.

- View a recording of the December 17, 2020 webinar: [The OUTSTEPS.org Research Network: A Community Platform for Stakeholders and Universities in the Lower Great Lakes](#)
- View a recording of the September 30, 2020, [Coastal Resiliency and Morphodynamic Responses to Storm Surges and Seiches in Eastern Lake Erie webinar](#).

GLAA Projects and Partners Webinars: Learn about partners and projects working to protect, restore, and enhance NY's Great Lakes lands and waters, in support of NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda. The series continues every other week through the summer. [Learn more and register](#) (PDF).



- View a [recording of the June 16, 2020 Great Lakes Action Agenda and Accomplishments webinar](#).
- View a [recording of the June 30, Water Quality Projects webinar](#).
- View a [recording of the July 14, Natural Resource Projects webinar](#).
- View a [recording of the July 28, Sustainability and Resiliency projects webinar](#).
- View a [recording of the August 11, Education and Research Initiatives webinar](#).

NY's GLAA is achieving shared goals! The [Great Lakes 2022 Report](#) is now available. Contact greatlakes@dec.ny.gov to learn more and become involved in a GLAA work group. Previous reports are available upon request.

Sub-Basin Work Groups and Partner Priority Areas for EBM Priority areas were identified by each GLAA regional work group to advance collaboration at a watershed scale and promote long term ecosystem health and resilience. These watersheds will showcase to other areas how EBM can benefit people, nature, and economies. EBM priority watersheds are highlighted in green on the map.

A pilot effort is underway to develop Integrated Watershed Action Plans for two partner priority areas for EBM, the Cattaraugus Creek and Sterling-Wolcott Creek watersheds. [Learn more about this project here](#).

- Lake Erie (Lake Erie and Niagara River lands and waters)
- Focus areas include reducing polluted runoff, protecting important lands for wildlife and resiliency, and engaging communities in sustainable land use practices and stewardship.
- **Partner Priority Area: Cattaraugus Creek** Partners are protecting and conserving the natural resources of the Cattaraugus Creek watershed by:
 - increasing aquatic habitat and connectivity for brook trout and other native species;
 - enhancing resiliency to localized flooding by using natural, green infrastructure approaches;
 - reducing sediment and nutrient loadings to improve water quality within the creek and along Lake Erie; and

- promoting awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of Cattaraugus Creek.

Southwest Lake Ontario: (Genesee River and coastal western Lake Ontario lands and waters)



- Focus areas include reducing nutrients and sediment runoff, restoring and protecting habitats along shorelines and waterways and engaging communities in sustainable land use practices and resiliency planning.
- **Partner Priority Area: Black & Oatka Creeks**
Partners are improving water quality and waterway health within the Black and Oatka Creek watersheds by:
 - engaging local decision makers in implementation of the Black and Oatka Creek watershed mgmt plans,
 - providing watershed training opportunities for communities,
 - implementing green infrastructure projects.

Southeast Lake Ontario: (Coastal eastern Lake Ontario, and

Oswego River, Oneida Lake, and Finger Lakes lands and waters)

- Focus areas include improving agricultural practices to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff, protecting drinking water resources, promoting stewardship along shorelines and waterways, and enhancing community resiliency to flooding and erosion.
- **Partner Priority Area: Wolcott and Sterling Creeks**
Partners are improving shoreline and waterway health within the Wolcott and Sterling Creek watersheds by:
 - implementing agricultural best management practices such as cover crops and riparian buffers,
 - addressing faulty on-site septic systems,
 - promoting nature-based shorelines approaches, and
 - applying integrated invasive species management.

Northeast Lake Ontario - (Black River and St. Lawrence River lands and waters)

- Focus areas include improving on-site septic treatment, conserving and protecting important fish and wildlife habitats, restoring aquatic connectivity, and supporting smart growth and community revitalization.
- **Partner Priority Area: Goose Bay**
Partners are enhancing habitat, recreational uses, and community stewardship of the Goose Bay watershed by:
 - implementing aquatic habitat restoration projects,
 - applying an integrated approach to invasive species management, and
 - promoting land use best practices, such as planting native vegetation and septic maintenance. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Floating accommodations prohibited as of July 1

A regulatory change prohibiting floating accommodations from docking overnight on provincial waterways comes into effect on July 1, 2023. “With these changes, we are taking action to protect our waterways by preserving access to lakes and rivers, ensuring access for recreational users, and reducing the potential for pollution of lakes and rivers.”

Fish Ohio Day celebrates commitment to a healthy Lake Erie

On the 43rd Governor’s Fish Ohio Day on Thursday, July 20, legislators, natural resources administrators, tourism officials and the media flocked to Port Clinton, Ohio to pay homage to what many say is the greatest of the Great Lakes. [Read the full story by The Beacon.](#)

Research vessels are on the Great Lakes, but there’s no crew on board

The U.S. Geological Survey along with conservation agencies from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ontario are utilizing three uncrewed research vessels in the Great Lakes. The surface vehicles, called saildrones, are wind-powered and can stay out on the water 24 hours a day for months, gathering fish population data.

Senate committee approves funding for new Soo Lock

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted to provide the Army Corps of Engineers the full \$235 million it had asked for to continue construction on a new Soo Lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Nearly \$1.2 billion spent at one site to deter invasive carp from Great Lakes; other entry sites still possible

A coalition of organizations is developing an innovative and expensive engineering project at the 96-year-old Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Des Plaines River south of Chicago to block invasive carp from reaching Lake Michigan

[Bloodsucking sea lampreys made a comeback in the Great Lakes during Covid](#)

Invasive, bloodsucking sea lampreys are startling fishers and tourists alike in the Great Lakes, following a population spike during the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Tribal leaders, environmental advocates decry Enbridge appeal of Line 5 ruling](#)

Canadian energy giant Enbridge has appealed a federal court ruling in Wisconsin to shut down its Line 5 pipeline that runs through Michigan. That action was met with strong criticism from environmentalists and tribal leaders

[Army Corps begins dredging work at Ludington, Pentwater harbors](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the start of \$1.25 million dredging operations at two Lake Michigan harbors in Ludington and Pentwater, Michigan, to keep the federal navigation system safe and open for commercial and recreational traffic

End