



Fishing groups denied ‘intervenor’ seat at tribal treaty rights negotiation table

KALAMAZOO, MI – A federal district judge in Michigan denied a request from members of hunting and fishing advocacy groups to intervene in treaty rights negotiations underway among state, federal, and tribal authorities. U.S. District Judge Paul L. Maloney on August 31, 2022, ruled the Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources (CPMR) and Bay de Noc Great Lakes Sports Fishermen did not warrant an upgrade from amici curiae to full intervenor status.

The groups wanted full-party standing in the final weeks of the years-long talks to re-up a settlement over tribal treaty fishing rights in the Great Lakes.

The judge said only sovereigns are allowed full-party status. He also said the groups’ argument that their interests had been abandoned by the state in the treaty fishing rights negotiations was “utterly unfounded,” and their contention they’d been shut out of the process was “completely unsubstantiated.”

Maloney also indicated the timing of the [groups’ request to intervene](#) – the seventh such attempt – was suspect and said the “untimeliness of the motion is the most compelling reason” to deny them.

The judge said allowing the groups to intervene at this late stage would derail the years-long process to draft a successor consent decree by the

approaching end-of-September deadline. The existing parties would be “severely prejudiced” and the pending “product of intense negotiation and compromise — could vanish, causing further delays,” he wrote in his order. The fishing and conservation groups’ request came after a June status conference when the parties said they were nearing the end of negotiations and would meet the September 30 deadline to file a final draft of the successor consent decree with the court.

The Consent Decree from 2000 was originally set to expire in August

Intervenor seat denied

Continued on page 7

In this issue...

First mosquitos of 2023 to test positive for West Nile virus.....	2
Lyme disease & other diseases carried..	3
Lake sturgeon egg take key to restoration success in Red River Basin	4
DNR invites public comment	4
Keep Wisconsin’s waters healthy	5
Lake Erie shoreline on way to becoming marine sanctuary	5
Anglers asked to share details of muskie fishing trips	5
Anglers asked to report marked splake ..	6
Seeking Lake Ontario Natl Marine Sanctuary designation	6
PFBC enacts temporary changes	7
NY muskie fishing seasons open soon...	7
Canada geese molting & management ..	7
Completion of Fourth Lake Boat Launch	8
Public meeting about Lake Ontario	8
Lake Erie open lake angler survey	8
Steal some time outside catching.....	8
2023-24 Migratory bird hunting seasons	8
Meeting on Proposed New Numbrs	9
Invasive Species Awareness Week	9
Summary of 2023 Sturgeon Spawning...	9
Volunteers needed for loon survey.....	9
GLFC welcomes new US Commissioners	10

Boating boosts economy by \$230 billion

NMMA recently announced new data which found the annual economic impact of recreational boating increased 36%, from \$170B in 2018 to \$230B in 2023. The industry’s contributions to the U.S. workforce grew as well, with an 18% increase in jobs supported, from 691,000 in 2018 to more than 812,000 in 2023. Conducted by John Dunham & Associates, the study, last fielded in 2018, measured the U.S. recreational boating industry’s total economic activity as well number of jobs and businesses supported.

“Recreational boating and fishing are a major economic engine in the U.S. and the latest economic analysis underscores the extraordinary growth and demand our industry has experienced coming out of the pandemic,” said Frank Hugelmeyer, NMMA president. “The profound

impact the past few years have had on our industry cannot be denied as we’ve seen Americans seek out boating and fishing in record numbers, driving significant economic output and supporting tens of thousands of small businesses and nearly a million jobs.”

In addition to examining the overall U.S. impact, the analysis breaks down data at the state level. While the top five states remained the same from the 2018 study, their rankings shifted with Florida and California retaining their first and second spots respectively, Texas moved to the third position with Michigan and New York rounding out the top five. Newcomers to the top ten states are Georgia and Minnesota, each saw upwards of a 120% increase in both economic output and job growth.

Boating boosts economy

Continued on page 7

ILL reports first mosquito batches of 2023 to test positive for West Nile virus

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Public Health has confirmed the first three batches of mosquitoes to test positive for West Nile virus in Illinois in 2023, both in Cook County. The North Shore Mosquito Abatement District collected a positive batch of mosquitoes in Evanston on May 30 and the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District collected two positive mosquito batches on May 31 in Park Ridge. The first positive mosquito pool in 2022 was reported on May 24th in Roselle in DuPage County. No human cases of West Nile virus have been reported so far this year.

“The reports about the first batches of mosquitoes with West Nile virus is a good reminder that this is the time of year when Illinois residents should begin protecting themselves from vector-borne diseases,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “We urge everyone—and especially older people and those with weakened immune systems—to take precautions to protect themselves and their families from mosquitoes and the viruses they carry by wearing insect repellent and eliminating standing water around their home where mosquitoes breed.”

Monitoring for West Nile virus in Illinois includes laboratory tests for mosquito batches, dead birds, as well as testing sick horses and humans with West Nile virus-like symptoms. People who see a sick or dead crow, blue jay, robin or other perching bird should contact their local county or city health department, which will determine if the bird will be picked up for testing.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a *Culex species* mosquito, commonly called a house mosquito, that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. Most people infected

with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms; however, in rare cases, severe illness including meningitis, encephalitis, or even death, can occur. People older than 60 and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

Last year, 44 counties in Illinois reported a West Nile virus positive mosquito batch, bird, horse, and/or human case. While 34 human cases of West Nile were recorded in 2022, with eight deaths, IDPH notes human cases are underreported and do not reflect the actual number of cases.

IDPH encourages the public to *Fight the Bite* by practicing the three “R’s” – reduce, repel, and report:

- **REDUCE** – make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.

- **REPEL** – when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt, and apply an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR 3535, para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.

- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito larvae.

Additional information and data can be found at IDPH’s [West Nile virus](#) website ◇



• Established 1972 •

President

Daniel N. Thomas, *Illinois*

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Michael D. Sanger, *Wisconsin*

Treasurer

Thomas G. Couston, *Wisconsin*

DIRECTORS

Illinois – Robert Gaik

Indiana – Mike Schoonveld

New York – Thomas Marks

Ohio – Rick Unger

Ontario – Darryl Choronzey

Pennsylvania – Ed Kissell

Wisconsin – Robert Wincek

Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

Editor

Jeanette Thomas

Webmaster

Chad Lapa

© Copyright 2023 by Great Lakes Basin Publications, the *INLAND SEAS ANGLERS-GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT* is the newsletter of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council, a federally recognized not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of GLSFC, its officers or staff. Reproduction of any material by paid-up members is encouraged, but appropriate credit must be given. Reproduction by others without written permission is prohibited.

Address Change:

Send six weeks in advance with old mailing label to GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT, P.O. Box 297, Elmhurst, IL 60126, (630) 941-1351 or glsfc444@gmail.com.

Lyme disease and other diseases carried by ticks

It's important for you and your family to be tick free!

Ticks can spread disease. Not all ticks can cause disease and not all bites will make you sick, but as these diseases become more common it's important to learn how to prevent a bite, how to remove a tick and what to do if you think you could have a tick-borne disease.

Lyme disease is the most common disease spread by ticks in New York but there are other serious diseases spread by ticks. And like Lyme, the other diseases will begin to spread to other regions across the state.

Protect Against and Prevent Disease

Deer ticks live in shady, moist areas at ground level. They will cling to tall grass, brush and shrubs, usually no more than 18-24 inches off the ground. They also live in lawns and gardens, especially at the edges of woods and around old stone walls.

Once a tick gets on the skin, it generally climbs upward until it reaches a protected area.

In tick-infested areas, your best protection is to avoid contact with soil, leaf litter and vegetation. However, if

you garden, hike, camp, hunt, work or otherwise spend time in the outdoors, you can still protect yourself.

When to call a doctor after a tick bite

If you develop a rash or flu-like symptoms, contact your health care provider immediately. Although not routinely recommended, taking antibiotics within three days after a tick bite may be beneficial for some persons. This would apply to deer tick bites that occurred in areas where Lyme disease is common and there is evidence that the tick fed for more than one day. In cases like this you should discuss the possibilities with your doctor or licensed health care provider.

Dress to Repel

- Wear light-colored clothing with a tight weave to spot ticks easily.
- Wear enclosed shoes, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Tuck pant legs into

socks or boots and shirt into pants.

- Check clothes and any exposed skin frequently for ticks while outdoors.
- Consider using insect repellent.
- Stay on cleared, well-traveled trails. Walk in the center of trails. Avoid dense woods and bushy areas.
- Avoid sitting directly on the ground or on stone walls.
- Keep long hair tied back, especially when gardening.
- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after going indoors (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that may be on you.
- Do a final, full-body tick check at the end of the day (also check children and pets), and remove ticks promptly

What does Lyme disease look like?

The most common early sign of Lyme disease is a skin rash that has a "bull's eye" appearance. It begins as a reddened area near the tick bite. As the rash increases in size, it clears in the middle and develops a red ring around the outside. A person may experience multiple rashes. The rash often feels warm to the touch, but it's usually not painful or itchy.



Additional tips for tick prevention

- [Tick and Insect Repellent: Deciding on their Use](#)
- [Lyme Disease Alert: How To Remove A Tick](#)
- [Ticks & Lyme Disease Color Brochure](#)
- [Lyme Disease Fact Sheet \(tick-borne borreliosis, Lyme arthritis\)](#)
- [Preventing ticks on your pets \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Additional resources

- [Tick-borne diseases educational materials order form \(PDF\)](#)
- [Tick- and Mosquito-borne Diseases Publications Reference Guide](#)
- [Tickborne Diseases of the United States](#)
- [Symptoms of Tickborne Illness](#)
- [Tickborne Diseases of the United States: A Reference Manual for Health Care Providers](#)
- [Ticks Information](#)
- [Petsandparasites.org](#)
- [Tickcounter.org](#) ✧

Lake sturgeon egg take key to restoration success in Red River Basin

Minnesota DNR is now leading egg take effort in partnership with the USFWS, and Red Lake and White Earth nations.

The FWS, Red Lake Nation and the White Earth Nation recently completed a lake sturgeon egg take operation along the Rainy River in Minnesota. In previous years, lake sturgeon eggs were sourced through Rainy River First Nations in Ontario.

The sturgeon eggs are now at the USFWS National Fish hatcheries in Genoa, Wisconsin, and Valley City, North Dakota, where they will be reared to fingerling size to support DNR and tribal stocking efforts in lakes and rivers throughout the Red River Basin in Minnesota.

Over-harvesting, dam construction and water quality decline decimated lake sturgeon populations throughout Minnesota. Historical accounts suggest that lake sturgeon were abundant until the late 1800s. They were extirpated from the Red River Basin by the mid-1900s and there was little chance that the population could recover on its own.

“Stocking efforts and dam modification projects to improve fish passage are key components to support recovery efforts in the Red River Basin,” said Matt Skoog, Baudette fisheries supervisor, who is leading the egg take effort for the DNR.

Discussions that began in the 1980s led to a collaborative sturgeon recovery effort among the DNR, North Dakota, South Dakota, USFWS, Rainy River First Nations, Red Lake Nation and White Earth Nation. DNR lake sturgeon stocking began in 1997 when the DNR relocated sturgeon from the Rainy River to Detroit Lake and Otter Tail River, followed by initiation of a 20-year stocking program in conjunction with White Earth and Red Lake nations in 2001 and 2008, respectively.

“Since the early 2000s, the DNR, along with its partners, has stocked more than one-half million lake sturgeon fingerlings in the Red River Basin,” said Nick Kludt, DNR Red River fisheries specialist. “Survey results and angler reports suggest that populations are meeting initial

recovery goals and lake sturgeon now inhabit much of the basin.”

Sturgeon grow slowly and can live to be more than 150 years old. The Minnesota state record sturgeon was six-and-a-half feet long when caught and released.

The DNR plans to transition management focus away from intensive stocking efforts to monitoring populations in the coming years. During the next phase of restoration, priority will be placed on targeted stocking efforts on rivers within the basin, identifying spawning locations, evaluating the ability of populations to self-sustain and continuing efforts to remove barriers to fish passage.

“With improved connectivity, the maturing sturgeon population will be able to access historic spawning areas and hopefully, reproduce naturally,” Kludt said. “Future dam modifications, along with targeted stocking and population monitoring, will further promote the success of lake sturgeon recovery efforts.” ✧

DNR invites public comment on Red Lake WMA master plan update

The Minnesota DNR invites people interested in the Red Lake Wildlife Management Area to share their thoughts on a draft update of the WMA’s master plan, which will guide management of the popular hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching destination in northwestern Minnesota.

“Public input is important as we update this plan,” said Charlie Tucker, Red Lake WMA supervisor. “The previous plan was developed in 1980, and we want this update to reflect current public values and attitudes about how the land should be managed into the future.”

The updated master plan will be used to guide management of the Red Lake WMA’s unique forests and peatlands. It will include management goals, objectives and strategies for the WMA throughout the next 10 years.

[Review and comment on the plan](#)

The draft master plan update is available for review on the [DNR website](#) (mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife/red_lake_wma.html).

People can comment on the draft plan through Tuesday, June 20, in a variety of ways, including: using the online form on the [Engage with DNR website](#) (engage.dnr.state.mn.us); providing verbal and written comments at the June 6 open house or June 8 webinar; emailing redlake.wildlife@state.mn.us; or mailing comments to Red Lake WMA Master Plan, Fish and Wildlife Division, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155.

[About the WMA](#)

Red Lake WMA consists of 324,000 acres of state wildlife management area within the Beltrami Island State Forest, making it Minnesota’s largest

WMA. Ancient Glacial Lake Agassiz beach ridges of upland forest are surrounded by extensive wetlands of open bog, brush lands and lowland forest. The WMA also includes a supplemental sub-unit that is managed by the Baudette area wildlife staff. A watershed protection area surrounding the Red Lake Scientific and Natural Area overlaps the southern portion of the WMA. Norris Camp, initially built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933 as the Clear River Camp, houses the WMA headquarters today.

Red Lake WMA provides unique recreational opportunities for users, including spruce grouse and sharp-tailed grouse hunting, unparalleled bird watching, and plenty of space for those seeking solitude. More information and maps of the area can be found on the [Red Lake WMA page](#) (mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife/red_lake_wma.html) and the [WMA finder](#) (mndnr.gov/wmas). ✧

Boaters, anglers asked to keep Wisconsin's waters healthy

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR reminds boaters and anglers to help protect Wisconsin's rivers, streams and lakes during this weekend's Drain Campaign. The annual Drain Campaign, June 2-4, focuses on the importance for boaters and anglers to always drain their livewells and fish buckets before leaving boat launches and fishing access points. Boat inspectors from [Clean Boats, Clean Waters](#) will be at boat launches across the state promoting draining and handing out blue boat towels printed with the "Drain Your Catch" message.

Draining is one of the important steps to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), limiting the spread of microscopic larvae of zebra mussels and of diseases, including the fish virus Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). In addition to draining livewells and buckets, boaters should pull the drain plugs on their boat and tip their motor straight up and down to drain any local water before securing it for the drive ahead.

Anglers should get their catch on ice as soon as possible. The cold will keep fish fresh and reduce bacterial growth. Fish kept in water fill the water with waste, including nitrate and ammonia, both of which are toxic to other fish in the water.

Every boater and angler has a role to play in protecting Wisconsin's lakes and rivers. Everyone should follow these prevention steps, required by Wisconsin state law, to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in our waters:

- Inspect boats, trailers, equipment
- Remove all attached aquatic plants and animals
- Drain all water from boats, vehicles and equipment, including livewells and buckets containing fish
- Never move plants or live fish away from a waterbody
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash

Lake Erie shoreline on way to becoming marine sanctuary

President Joe Biden's administration took the first step toward designating the Pennsylvania-owned section of Lake Erie as the state's first national marine sanctuary. A formal designation could take several years, and it wouldn't change existing regulations around the use of the lake. The announcement sets up a public comment period before the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration writes a draft plan for the [sanctuary](#). The designation would apply to an approximately 740-square-mile area of water off Pennsylvania's 75 mile-long shoreline. It would attract federal funding to help find and preserve shipwrecks in the lake and boost education and outreach around the area's history.

That history includes being home to indigenous people who once lived there, its role as a hub on the Underground Railroad, and a maritime history as hosting the nation's largest fleet of steamboats before the Civil War. The area possibly includes scores of yet-to-be-discovered shipwrecks, according to NOAA.

There are 35 known shipwrecks in the area, from pre-Civil War steamboats to speedboats, tugs and barges lost before 1940, the agency said. There are two other national marine sanctuaries in the Great Lakes and a third in Lake Ontario nearing designation, all focused on shipwrecks. There are 15 total national marine sanctuaries, some of which focus on preserving endangered aquatic life, as well as two marine national monuments. Erie County first requested the designation in 2015. ✧

Column 1 continued

- Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer
- Additionally, only use leftover minnows when fishing with them on the same body of water. They can be used on other waters only if no lake or river water or other fish have been added to their container. ✧

DNR asks anglers to share details of muskie fishing trips

Michigan is asking anglers to participate in the muskie angler survey to help Michigan DNR biologists obtain valuable data on this important sport fish. "Muskie are difficult to survey, so biologists are dependent upon information provided by anglers to help us manage this species, says DNR fisheries biologist Neal Godby in Gaylord. "Angler survey reports give us insight into the relative abundance of muskellunge in a waterbody, size structure of the population, and whether the muskellunge in that waterbody are creating a fishery."

The [DNR's online muskellunge angler survey](#) gathers information about muskellunge angler demographics and catch data, such as length of fish caught, angler effort, water body fished and methods used. Since 2014, fisheries managers have used survey data to recommend fishing regulation changes to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, evaluate the muskellunge stocking program and understand more about self-sustaining populations. The survey is your opportunity to contribute to the proper management of this species.

Whether your trip results in a muskellunge catch or not, you can offer valuable information about your fishing experience in Michigan waters. The survey is limited to one entry per person, per trip. However, we encourage you to complete a survey for every fishing trip you target or encounter muskellunge.

[View the summary for past survey data.](#)

Muskellunge season is open to catch and immediate release year-round, with the possession season opening statewide the first Saturday in June. For additional season dates and fish length lengths, see the [2023 Michigan Fishing Guide](#). ✧

Lake Superior anglers asked to report marked splake



Anglers fishing Lake Superior can help the Michigan DNR evaluate the splake fishery by reporting marked splake. Splake, which are a hybrid cross between lake trout and brook trout, have been stocked in Lake Superior most years since 1971, with annual stocking since 1990.

Since 2021, marked splake have been stocked in Lake Superior. At the Marquette State Fish Hatchery, staff from the DNR's Lake Superior and Northern Lake Michigan management units, as well as field staff from across the state, put in long hours carefully

marking the splake by hand. These fish then get stocked at three Lake Superior ports: Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Bay and Munising. Splake stocked at each port get a unique mark specific to each location for further analysis. The goal is to create nearshore fishing opportunities in the smaller bays of Lake Superior, where some fisheries are available year-round.

The data we collect from anglers assists in making decisions on how to best manage Michigan's fisheries," said Patrick Hanchin, Lake Superior Basin coordinator. "Every marked splake reported matters to the data collection process. We'll be marking splake through 2025, with the evaluation study being conducted through 2030.

When anglers catch a splake, they should inspect it for missing fins or a jawbone clip, which indicate it has

been marked. Marked fish then can be reported at Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField to give information such as species, length, weight, sex, and date and location caught, or by contacting a [local DNR office](#).

Anglers also can report marked splake to DNR creel staff stationed at various ports along the Lake Superior shoreline. Because they're genetically tied to both lake trout and brook trout, splake can take the external appearance of the parent species, making them difficult to distinguish. Creel staff can help to correctly identify the fish, distinguish marks on fish and record angler trip data. Everyone is encouraged to provide their fishing trip information when approached by DNR creel staff.

Anglers are reminded that other natural resources agencies and tribal units mark a variety of fish species for different evaluation purposes. For more information on fish marking in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/TaggedFish. ✧

Seeking Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary designation

Oswego, NY – National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) designation brings economic, environmental, recreational, historic, cultural and educational benefits to NMS waterfront communities. New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is collaborating with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and representatives of a four-county region to support designation of a Lake Ontario NMS. The proposed Lake Ontario NMS covers 1724 square miles, with 43 known shipwrecks (as old as the 1700s), one submerged aircraft, and potential to add more sites. Its assets include the David W. Mills, New York State's first Submerged Cultural Preserve and Dive Site in the Great Lakes region; and the St. Peter on the National Register of Historic Places. Oswego

County Administrator Philip Church applied for Lake Ontario NMS designation in 2017 on behalf of Oswego, Jefferson, Cayuga and Wayne counties.

NYSG has provided public education on New York's Great Lakes underwater resources in partnership with maritime museums statewide, county tourism offices, and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway. In 2022, NYSG collaborated with Church, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Great Lakes Regional Coordinator Ellen Brody, Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Vice Chair and Member-at-Large Katie Malinowski, H. Lee White Maritime Museum, and WPBS Public Television for an 8-minute story

highlighting the proposed Lake Ontario NMS. NOAA provided video for the story that first aired on August 23, 2022, as part of WPBS Weekly: Inside the Stories, a weekly current affairs show. Local media published note of the availability of the segment online. WPBS Senior Producer Joleene DesRosiers noted that other PBS affiliates, including Detroit Public TV, requested the opportunity to air the segment.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries manages a national network of the sanctuaries in U.S. waters. NMS designation is authorized by the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, NOAA, and the U.S. Congress. NYSG and partners are working to bring NMS designation to Lake Ontario. ✧

PFBC enacts temporary changes to Atlantic striped bass regulations

HARRISBURG, Pa – Pennsylvania announced temporary changes made to Striped Bass fishing regulations within the Delaware Estuary, Delaware River, and West Branch Delaware River, effective June 3, and remain in effect through the remainder of 2023. These changes are in accordance with action by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board during its May 2023 quarterly meeting to approve an emergency action to implement a 31-inch maximum size limit for Striped Bass recreational fisheries. Specific to the Pennsylvania portion of the Delaware Estuary, Delaware River, and West Branch Delaware River, the legal harvestable slot limit for Striped Bass will be 28 inches to less than 31 inches from June 3, 2023, through December 31, 2023. All daily limits and gear restrictions will remain the same.

Harvest and delayed mortality of caught and released Striped Bass have reduced the coastal population below levels needed to sustain high-quality recreational angling experiences. Due to the negative impact on the fishery, harvest restrictions are needed to help rebuild the coastal stock.

These regulation changes do not apply to inland populations of Striped Bass. Please see the [2023 Fishing Summary and Boating Handbook](#) for minimum size and creel limits for inland waters. ✧

Boating boosts economy

Continued from page 1

New economic impact infographics for the U.S. and by state are now available for download by NMMA members and industry stakeholders [here](#).

These infographics are helpful tools to use in meetings with decision makers or marketing the importance of recreational boating to local and national economies. ✧

Intervenor seat denied

Continued from page 1

2020 but was extended by a federal court order until the parties negotiate a new agreement. The decree placed an emphasis on Great Lakes whitefish and lake trout management.

The five Indigenous Tribes that are party to negotiations with the state include Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. The U.S. government also is a full party.

CPMR and the Bay de Noc group argued Great Lakes fishery resources are “threatened through abandonment of sound biological principles” by Michigan state officials, who they contend have also wrongfully abandoned the roughly 50-50 allocation of the fishery under the last decree.

Amy Trotter, CPMR’s treasurer, said the organization is still reviewing the judge’s decision with their lawyers, but said “on the surface, that we continue to disagree with the court on the adequate representation of the state of Michigan as it relates to recreational fishers.” The group is considering an appeal and all legal avenues, she said, but pointed out it was not all bad news for the fishing and conservation groups.

“One thing that was a bright spot in the ruling and in the discussion at the court last week, was that the judge did say that upon presentation of the successor consent decree to the court, the court will permit all parties in America to file objections to the proposed decree,” Trotter said. “We’re eager to file those.” State and tribal officials both declined comment, citing an ongoing confidentiality agreement connected to the negotiations. ✧

NY muskie fishing seasons open soon

Season starts June 1 for Inland Waters, June 15 for Great Lakes Waters

New York announced that the fishing seasons for muskellunge begin on June 1 in inland waters and on June 15 in Great Lakes waters (Lake Erie, Upper Niagara River, Lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River).

“New York provides some of the best muskellunge fishing opportunities anywhere in the world,” said Commissioner Seggos. “I encourage anglers seeking a challenge and a unique trophy-fishing experience to cast a line and try their hand at landing one of these elusive predators.”

New York’s minimum size regulations reflect the muskellunge’s trophy status. The minimum size limit for inland waters is 40 inches. The limit is 54 inches for Great Lakes waters. Review the Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide for more information.

Muskies can be found in 13 lakes and 19 rivers in New York, with the most renowned fisheries in the St. Lawrence River, Upper Niagara River and [Chautauqua Lake](#). Other quality muskie waters include: [Waneta](#), [Greenwood](#), [Bear](#), and [Cassadaga](#) lakes and the [Susquehanna](#), [Chenango](#), and Great Chazy rivers ✧

Shedding feathers: Canada geese molting and management

In late June and early July, Canada geese will molt to replace their damaged and lost feathers. For one month, they will be rendered flightless and select open areas near a food source and water to undergo these changes. Whether you live in a rural area with ponds and fields or an urban area with mowed lawns and parks, be aware of common goose conflicts with humans. ✧

DEC announces completion of Fourth Lake Boat Launch improvements

The New York DEC announced the Fourth Lake Boat Launch in the town of Inlet, Hamilton County, opened May 20 for the season. The boat launch closed last fall to undergo rehabilitation repairs and improvements to the site. Improvements include new pavement, line striping, directional arrows, new kiosk, and new access dock. In addition, fencing was installed along the property border.

Improvements to public safety included addressing the steep grades at the entry and exit to allow vehicles to safely access Route 28 and the boat launch, providing additional space with better delineated parking spots for maneuvering trailers, and the addition of dedicated ADA parking with accessible access to the floating dock. ✧

DEC hosts public meeting about Lake Ontario June 21

New York and regional fisheries managers will be on-hand at an upcoming public meeting hosted by DEC partners in Mexico. DEC experts will talk about the current state of the Lake Ontario sport fisheries and take questions on a wide array of management actions and research taking place on the lake and tributaries. Interested anglers will have the opportunity to speak directly with staff after a brief presentation. **The Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Association** is hosting the meeting in DEC's Region 7, which is comprised of Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, and Tompkins counties. **When:** June 21, beginning at 7 p.m., **Where:** VFW Hall, 5930 Scenic Avenue, Mexico, NY 13114. For more info: Chris Legard, Lake Ontario Unit Leader, 315-654-2147 or chris.legard@dec.ny.gov. ✧

Lake Erie open lake angler survey update – April 2023

Spring yellow perch fishing on Lake Erie is in full swing! Almost 80% of Lake Erie anglers were after yellow perch this April! Anglers were rewarded with an average harvest of 33 perch per boat and a catch rate of 2.6 perch per hour, which are both well above average (14.1 per boat; 1.5 per hour). Just over 7% of April yellow perch anglers achieved a 50-fish limit with an average length of 11.6 inches. Good perch fishing should continue through May.

Anglers out targeting pre-spawn smallmouth bass also found success, catching bass at a rate of 1.65 fish per hour, which is well above the survey average of 1.05 per hour. The walleye season opened on May 1 and the fishing should continue to heat up as the month progresses! ✧

Steal some time outside catching steelhead this summer

Head to Lake Michigan to fish for skamania steelhead this June. These migrating rainbow trout are on the move in Lake Michigan and its tributaries to spawn in freshwater. Strong south winds during the heat of summer cause an upwelling of cool water and bring steelhead action close to shore.

Live bait suspended under a bobber works great for trout, as do small jigs or lures like spinnerbaits and spoons. These fish pull on the line quickly, so make sure you have a quality rod. You will also need a [trout/salmon habitat stamp and a valid 2023-2024 fishing license](#) to fish for skamania steelhead.

You can fish for steelhead in many places. Our favorites are the mouth of Burns Ditch at Portage Lakefront Park, in Michigan City at the pier at Washington Park, and the DNR/Coast Guard Access in the inner harbor. [Check DNR fishing reports online](#) or call the Indiana DNR's Lake Michigan Office for more information at 219-874-6824. ✧

2023-2024 Migratory bird hunting seasons

Indiana's migratory bird hunting seasons for 2023-2024 have been submitted to the USFWS. Seasons include those for mourning dove, waterfowl (i.e., ducks, coots, mergansers, and geese), woodcock, snipe, and sora rails.

The bag limit for dark geese may include any combination of five per day. Dark geese are Canada geese, white-fronted geese, and brant geese, with no limitations by species. The daily bag limit for light geese (snow and Ross's geese) remains 20. There are no changes in duck bag limits from 2022-23. This includes the scaup daily bag limit, which is one during the first 15 days of the season, and two for the remainder of the season.

Note that in the central zone this year, the second segment of the duck season and the third segment of the goose season opens on the Friday after Thanksgiving. The duck season closes on Saturday, Jan. 13. Past Indiana waterfowl hunter surveys indicated that Indiana duck hunters strongly preferred for the hunting season to open on the Friday after Thanksgiving rather than the Saturday. Find more info here: on.IN.gov/gamebird-seasons. ✧

The Star Spangled Banner

O say can you see by the dawn's early light

*What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched,
were so gallantly streaming?*

*And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave*

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave



Meeting on Proposed New Numbers for Lake Michigan Whitefish

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR will host a virtual public meeting to gather stakeholder feedback regarding the proposed new total allowable catch numbers for Lake Michigan lake whitefish for the 2024 fishing season. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, **June 21** at 6 p.m. via [Zoom](#). The public can join the meeting beginning at 5:45 p.m.

DNR staff will share information using a PowerPoint presentation and recommend joining the meeting via computer to see the information. Although the call-in number will allow attendees to listen to the discussion, they will be unable to view the presentation.

Where: Virtual [Join this meeting on Zoom](#). Join by phone: 833-928-4608, Meeting ID: 896 3882 7815. For more info, meeting notes and presentations from previous meetings on the DNR's [Lake Michigan Whitefish Management webpage](#). **Contact:** Brad Eggold, DNR Great Lakes District Fisheries Supervisor [Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov](#) or 414-303-0138 ✧

It's New York State's Invasive Species Awareness Week!

June 5th – 11th is New York's Invasive Species Awareness Week (NYISAW)!

The mission of NYISAW is to promote knowledge and understanding of invasive species and the harm they can cause. Organizations across all of New York State are offering over 60 exciting events this year, such as interpretive hikes, volunteer days, webinars, movie screenings, and fun family activities! By participating in NYISAW, you can help protect your community's natural spaces, learn about the emerging invasive species, meet your neighbors, get outdoors, and even win prizes! We hope you join us! Find events and more information. ✧

A Summary of The 2023 Sturgeon Spawning Season

Now that the 2023 sturgeon spawn has concluded, here's a recap:

Peshtigo River: Cold water temperatures led to a longer pre-spawn than normal. Spawning started on May 6 and ended May 19. High water levels made it difficult to determine just how many sturgeon were present below the Peshtigo Dam this spring.

Lower Fox River: Spawning on the Lower Fox River began on May 8, continuing through May 12. Sturgeon were seen staging earlier this year, and at its peak, hundreds of sturgeon were visible below the De Pere Dam at one time.

Wolf River: The sturgeon spawn on the Wolf River during this spring was very distinct. Warm weather in mid-April caused water temperatures to rise to 60 degrees (Fahrenheit). During this time, the Wolf River was also in flood stage from significant run off from snow melt and rain. This caused a portion of lake sturgeon to spawn throughout the system from about April 14 through April 21. The fish that did spawn were utilizing habitat deeper in the water due to the higher water levels. During this time, the DNR was able to handle 230 lake sturgeon throughout the system.

Cold weather and even a snowstorm in late April caused water temperatures to drop below 50 degrees and spawning halted. As Wisconsin weather finally returned to normal with a slow warm-up for the rest of April and into May, large numbers of lake sturgeon spawned started to spawn. This group of fish seemed to spawn in large numbers and for a short period of time. During this time, fish spawned in one day at the Sturgeon Trail in New London and Bamboo Bend in Shiocton. The spawn at the Shawano dam only lasted about 4 days. During this second spawn, almost 600 fish were handled.

Volunteers needed in select Minnesota counties for DNR loon survey

Minnesota DNR is seeking volunteers to help monitor the loon population in Aitkin, Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca and Lake counties. Volunteers are needed for a minimum of one morning during the June 30 through July 10 monitoring period, to count the number of adult and juvenile loons on pre-selected lakes. Volunteers can choose one or more lakes on which to count the number of adult and juvenile loons. They will then report these observations to the DNR for data analysis.

Volunteers must commit to completing one or more assigned lakes and are encouraged to consider participating in the program for multiple years. Surveys can be conducted from shore on smaller lakes or by boat or canoe on larger lakes. Volunteers use an online system to reserve and manage their lake assignments, view maps and information for their lakes, and print data collection sheets. The online system was funded by a donation from the Minnesota United professional soccer team, whose mascot is a loon.

To sign up as a survey volunteer and select a lake, go to the DNR's [loon monitoring program page](#) and click on "Volunteer Map." Select an available lake, add it to the volunteer cart and sign up to become a loon surveyor. ✧

Continued from column 2

Of the 115 females handled (78 newly tagged fish), the average female measured 66.3 inches, with the biggest female being 79.3 inches. The DNR handled 715 males (327 newly tagged fish), averaging 58.0 inches, and the largest male was 75.4 inches. While the warm weather and high water made this an interesting spring, DNR staff were able to get the information they need. ✧

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission welcomes new U.S. Commissioners

Biden appoints Karen Diver, Shannon Estenoz, and Kendra Wecker to binational commission

ANN ARBOR, MI – President Biden has appointed Ms. Karen Diver of Minnesota, Ms. Shannon Estenoz of Florida, and Ms. Kendra Wecker of Ohio to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission), a binational, treaty-based organization charged with cross-border collaboration in the interest of maximizing sustained productivity of fish stocks of shared concern between Canada and the United States. Commissioners Diver, Estenoz, and Wecker will work with their American and Canadian colleagues to establish the Commission's programs, identify priorities, and take other measures necessary to protect and maintain the \$6 billion Great Lakes fishery.

Established in 1954 by the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has three primary duties: to support fisheries research; control the invasive sea lamprey in the Great Lakes; and facilitate fishery management among provincial, state, U.S. tribal, and federal agencies, which it does through implementation of the consensus-based agreement, A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries. The Commission consists of four Canadian commissioners appointed by the Privy Council of Canada, and four U.S. commissioners (plus one alternate) appointed by the President. Commissioners are supported by a secretariat, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"Commissioners serve a critical role in protecting the Great Lakes basin," said James McKane, the Commission's chair. "The Commission is committed to maintaining strong and productive relationships between Canada and the United States and our success requires dedicated individuals who understand our mission, appreciate the necessity of binational cooperation, forge lasting

and meaningful relationships with leaders, lawmakers, and officials representing a wide community of Great Lakes stakeholders."

Commissioner Karen Diver, a member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, has spent her career working to strengthen Native American communities. She is Senior Advisor to the President of the University of Minnesota for Native American Affairs and is responsible for building research partnerships and university policies that respect tribal traditions, languages, and governance. Prior to her appointment to the Commission, Diver was Chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Vice-President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), and chairwoman of the MCT Finance Corporation. Additionally, from 2015-2017, Diver served as President Obama's Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs, where she assisted with inter-agency efforts, policy, and regulatory changes to benefit 567 Native American tribes.

Commissioner Shannon Estenoz, a fifth generation native of Key West, Florida, has spent more than 20 years as an active leader in the fisheries and wildlife community and has deep knowledge in large-scale ecosystem management and restoration. Currently, Estenoz is Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the U.S. Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the Commission, she served as Chief Operating Officer of The Everglades Foundation, as the U.S. Department of Interior's Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives, and as Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. In addition, Estenoz has served

roles with the World Wildlife Fund, the National Parks Conservation Association, and three Florida Governors.

Commissioner Kendra Wecker, an avid outdoor enthusiast who emphasizes the importance of wilderness, has spent her career working in conservation to protect the wildlife resources of Ohio. She currently serves as Chief of the Division of Wildlife for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Before that, Wecker served as Wildlife Diversity Coordinator and Information and Education Executive Administrator for ODNR. Wecker has also served as Legislative Chair of the Ohio Wildlife Management Association and served on the Board of Trustees for the Ohio Biological Survey. During her time with ODNR, Wecker received multiple awards including Wildlife Conservationist of the Year from the League of Ohio Sportsmen.

Ethan Baker, U.S. commissioner, vice-chair, and Mayor of the City of Troy, Michigan, applauded the appointments and stated, "I welcome the new commissioners to the table and look forward to each of them sharing their skills and expertise. All of us at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission are committed to the protection, preservation, and future of the fishery, and we are grateful for the fresh perspectives our new colleagues will bring."

"The addition of such qualified commissioners strengthens our ability to serve the Great Lakes communities and further maintain the critical relationship between Canada and the United States for the benefit of all those who rely upon and enjoy the Great Lakes fishery," added McKane.

✧



Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Lake Erie Charter Industry Rebounding From Slump

Lake Erie anglers fondly recall the late '80s as a heyday for walleye – a time when Ohio anglers were allowed to catch 10 fish a day and the big-eyed predators seemed an endless resource. At its height in 1988, the Ohio charter fishing industry supported 1,221 licensed captains and nearly 5 million walleyes were taken.

Bracing for Climate Impacts on Lake Erie

While Lake Erie's fisheries are thriving now, climate change will present challenges down the road—even if the most recent survey of licensed charter boat captains doesn't spell it out in so many words. Climate change wasn't listed as a separate issue in the [Ohio Sea Grant's survey](#), said Tory Gabriel, the grant's extension program leader and a

For Atlantic Canada, Fishing Season Brings Yet More Violence/

East Coast fishers have weathered arson, gunshots, and harassment. Conflict and turmoil will likely continue until the Canadian government addresses Indigenous rights head-on. In the early morning dark of April 12, 2023, violence erupted along a Nova Scotia riverbank after a man engaged a woman and a youth in a heated

World's lakes shrinking, but Great Lakes on the rise

New data published by the journal Science shows most of the world's lakes are shrinking. But according to Environment Canada, lakes in Southwestern Ontario are slowly rising — contradicting that trend.

COMMENTARY: Annual spring die-off of Lake Erie fish causing concern

In recent weeks a lot of folks have noticed a plethora of dead fish washing up on the shorelines around Western Lake Erie, and in East and West Harbor. With the public worried that something might be killing our beloved yellow perch or walleye, the Lake Erie Fisheries Administrator for the Ohio Division of Wildlife

Lampricide treatments under way to kill invasive sea lamprey

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service has begun ridding Great Lakes tributaries of invasive sea lamprey by applying lampricide. These treatments happen every two to three years, with the most recent being in 2021

DNR asks Michiganders for help in reporting marked splake in Lake Superior

The Michigan DNR is asking for help in reporting marked splake when fishing on Lake Superior. Splake are a hybrid cross between lake trout and brook trout, and have been stocked in Lake Superior since 1971. The data collected from anglers assists the DNR in making decisions on how to best manage Michigan's fisheries.

Great Lakes water levels up from historical average

Snowmelt and recent rain have brought Great Lakes water levels up. This spring rise is normal – and water levels are projected to increase even more this month. Water levels for the Great Lakes are still lower than their record high from a couple of years ago. However, all the lakes are up from their long-term average, by between six and 13 inches, as of May 5.

Chicago environmental group presses for action on lake Erie

Robert Michaels, a Chicago environmental senior attorney for the Environmental Law & Policy Center, hopes his ongoing legal tussle with the Ohio EPA and the USEPA will force closer regulation of the industrial-sized livestock farms that produce large amounts of manure in Lake Erie's watershed.

Ohio ODNR chief identifies perils of invasive species at Chase Symposium

Great Lakes invaders such as zebra mussels and sea lampreys were a few of the species that briefly took center stage recently when the director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources spoke at the annual Edith Chase Symposium

Researchers seeing climate change affect ice coverage on Lake Erie

With the environment warming because of climate change, researchers are noticing some drastic fluctuations. This year, Lake Erie had little to no ice coverage which has effects on other lake processes like water levels, fish hatches, and algal blooms.

End