



NSSF Rejects FWS Rule banning traditional ammo and fishing tackle on new refuges

WASHINGTON, D.C. – NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, rejects the USFWS Final Rule that bans the use of traditional lead ammunition on eight National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and fishing tackle on seven NWRs in exchange for opening hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands. The announcement banning the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle is devoid of any scientific evidence that traditional ammunition causes detrimental population impacts. These efforts only appease anti-hunting special interest groups and are harmful to the long-term **conservation gains subsidized by Pittman-Robertson excise taxes** paid by the firearm and ammunition industry.

USFWS **announced** 48 new distinct hunting opportunities across approximately 3,000 acres of NWRs, in a Proposed Rule in June. NSSF **condemned the proposal then** and urged USFWS to reconsider. This is another illustration of the Biden administration’s Department of the Interior (DOI) and USFWS kowtowing to anti-hunting activists by promulgating policies that lack sound scientific data.

“This administration claimed it would follow the science, yet at every turn they have outright ignored it to appease anti-hunting activists,” said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. “These policies are detrimental to hunters and anglers as they unnecessarily create price barriers to participation. We have pleaded with USFWS to follow the science as they

promised, yet they are not acting in the best interest of the public or evidence-based wildlife conservation. The need for Congress to pass the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act has never been more urgent.”

Requiring the use of **alternative ammunition** would put a significant cost barrier to participation in hunting and fishing on lands. Alternative ammunition is, on average, 25 percent more expensive than traditional lead ammunition and less available. That barrier would “price out” many hunters and anglers and decrease the **excise tax funding** paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers they support. NSSF believes hunters should be free to decide to use traditional or alternative ammunition that best suits their needs when the scientific evidence does not support restrictions. **NSSF Rejects FWS Rule**

Continued on page 6

In this issue...

- Outdoors recreation is a \$394 billion..... 2
- DNR sets winter walleye fishing regs 3
- MN DNR certifies state record coho..... 3
- Become an Angler Education Instructor . 3
- Signal crayfish confirmed in Minnesota.. 4
- Staying safe on cold water responsibly .. 4
- Commission approves changes to regs . 5
- State Forest Nursery accepting orders... 5
- Host a Free Fishing Weekend this winter5
- Nominations open for Marine Fisheries.. 6
- Save with 2024 Holiday Gift Pack 6
- Walleye, lake trout could become MI commercial catch..... 7
- Nonres college students can purchase .. 8
- Meeting on feral pigs & released mink ... 8
- Public comment on updated Admin rules9
- Salmon River restoration project..... 9
- Fish passage improvements on Saranac9
- Fall is prime time for muskies..... 9
- Whitefish and cisco sport gillnetting 9
- Tips for hikers and hunters10
- Lodge to be built at Potato Creek.....10
- SD record 16 lb. 8 oz. walleye caught...10
- Veterans Day.....10
- Thanksgiving11
- St Croix Rods Product Review..... 12-14

Late fall fishing opportunities abound for Lake Michigan anglers

Each November and December in Lake Michigan, native lake trout move near shore to spawn. Once the water temperatures are below 55 degrees, anglers can find success fishing for lake trout by casting from boats at the Port of Indiana submerged reef or shores such as Michigan City Pier and Portage Lakefront Park. We recommend jigging with blade baits, spoons, or tube jigs. Anglers can also try trolling with downriggers that have dodgers and flies or spin-n-glows set near the bottom.

November is also the time when native lake whitefish move near shore to spawn.

They provide great fishing opportunities from roughly Thanksgiving until Easter. Anglers can occasionally find whitefish at the Port of Indiana public shore fishing site. Single eggs, small pieces of salmon skein, or small pieces of night crawler fished on the lake bottom are successful fishing techniques for many anglers. The lake whitefish are one of Lake Michigan’s tastiest fish—try baking, frying, grilling, or boiling them in a classic Wisconsin fish boil.

Find more info: [DNR: Fish & Wildlife: Lake Michigan Fishing](#) ✧

Outdoors recreation is a \$394 billion business annually

WASHINGTON – The USFWS recently released the results of the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. The survey, coordinated by the Service, shows that U.S. residents over the age of 16 took over 1.7 billion trips in 2022 to participate in outdoor activities like fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, recreational boating and target shooting. In doing so, outdoor enthusiasts spent an estimated \$394 billion on equipment, travel, licenses, and fees last year alone.

“Time spent in nature is an important part of the human experience and can provide lifelong memories, connections to others, healthy activities, and a sense of rest and healing,” said Service Director Martha Williams. “These numbers demonstrate how important our public lands and wild places are not just for the well-being of people who enjoy them, but as an economic engine that provides thousands of jobs and sustains businesses, economies and communities throughout the nation.”

The 2022 Survey, which offers a snapshot view of participation rates and was conducted by the NORC at the University of Chicago, finds that 148 million U.S. residents watched wildlife in 2022 while 40 million went fishing and 14.4 million hunted. This means that roughly 57% of Americans 16 years of age or older participated in wildlife watching, 15% fished and 6% hunted last year. These trips equaled a combined total of 14 billion days spent in the field, on the water and around the home viewing wildlife, an all-time high.

These activities represent an economic powerhouse, where participants together spent \$394 billion in 2022—the most ever recorded in any National Survey, adjusted for inflation.

The Survey has been conducted approximately every 5 years since 1955. The 2022 Survey is the first national survey to use a “push to web”

approach, enabling respondents to complete the survey online. Respondents could also call in or fill out and mail in their questionnaire. These options, combined with a new, shorter questionnaire, gave participants more choices and made the survey more convenient to complete than in prior years, but the changes in methodology mean that 2022 results should not be directly compared to results from any previous survey. Other changes to the 2022 Survey include data collection on recreational motorized boating and recreational shooting sports for the first time.

“We are grateful to the more than 100,000 survey respondents from households across America who took part in the 2022 Survey,” added Director Williams. “Because of this participation, the National Survey continues to serve as the nation’s definitive wildlife-related recreation database and a crucial source of information on participation rates and economic impacts of outdoor activities across the nation.” This year’s survey design recognizes that in addition to wildlife-dependent activities like hunting and fishing and wildlife-watching, recreational boating and target shooting are also important nature-dependent pastimes that link people to wildlife and wild places. For many, these activities are a lifestyle and gateway to the outdoors and a connection to nature that creates lifelong memories.

Each National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation is a wealth of information allowing stakeholders, researchers, and agency partners to examine changes in recruitment, participation, and retention in outdoor activities over time. Find additional Survey resources for current and past surveys.

The in-depth 2022 Survey findings are available online now and accompanying addendum reports will be produced in the coming months. ✧



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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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DNR sets winter walleye fishing regulations for Upper Red, Mille Lacs lakes

The walleye limit for Upper Red Lake will decrease from the five allowed during open water season to four this winter while the Mille Lacs Lake walleye limit will remain at one. “Fall netting assessments on both lakes suggest these harvest levels will keep walleye populations sustainable and healthy,” said Brad Parsons, fisheries section manager for the Minnesota DNR. “We’re pleased to offer anglers harvest opportunities on both lakes.”

Effective Wednesday, Nov. 1, anglers fishing on the state waters of Upper Red Lake can keep up to four walleye with one longer than 17 inches.

Beginning Friday, Dec. 1, Mille Lacs Lake anglers can keep one walleye 21-23 inches long or one longer than 28 inches.

The DNR sets winter regulations for these lakes after completion of annual fall population assessments.

Results from Upper Red showed an optimal level of walleye spawning stock and a high overall net catch rate, especially of nearly mature walleye.

Mille Lacs’ results found slightly lower walleye numbers than in 2022. But the continued strong presence of walleye born in 2013 and 2017 and acceptable numbers of walleye born in 2021 and 2022 suggest there are adequate numbers of younger fish to keep the population sustainable as they mature and reproduce to replace fish caught by anglers.

Complete winter fishing regulations are available on the [Upper Red Lake regulations webpage](https://mndnr.gov/fishing/upper-red-lake-regulations) (mndnr.gov/fishing/upper-red-lake-regulations.html) and the [Mille Lacs Lake regulations webpage](https://mndnr.gov/fishing/millelacs) (mndnr.gov/fishing/millelacs.html).

✧

Minnesota DNR certifies a state record coho salmon



An angler caught a 10-lb., 14-oz. coho salmon from Lake Superior in St. Louis County that the

Minnesota DNR has certified as a state record, breaking the previous record from 1970.

David Cichosz caught the salmon on September 4 while on a charter fishing trip with his wife Chris Sky. Cichosz said it was a beautiful morning in which Sky caught the first fish, a nice lake trout, and they proceeded to nearly catch their limit of lake trout before starting to fish for salmon. With Captain Kent Paulsen driving the boat they were sitting back enjoying the morning when Sky noticed the rod really moving.

“I quickly grabbed it and was off on the fight. I kept thinking to myself, ‘am I gaining any line on this fish?’” Cichosz said, adding that he was tempted to tighten the drag but Paulsen told him to leave it and let the fish take out line. “Once the fish broke the surface, I could tell by our captain’s response that we had a big fish.”

After they weighed the fish and took pictures, they found a certified scale at a grocery store in Duluth, and turned in the paperwork to the DNR.

“I am thankful for the record but at the end of the day, I am happy to just share the joy of fishing with new friends and fellow [anglers] and to be on the lake with my wife,” Cichosz said.

The DNR announces state records in news releases, on social media and on its website. ✧

Become an Angler Education Instructor

Passionate Wisconsin anglers, recreation leaders, fishing club members, classroom teachers, community center staff and civic leaders are encouraged to attend. This training will certify you as an [Angler Education Instructor](#). We’ll have dryland fishing skills practice and provide you with tips and materials to effectively lead fishing clinics and programs in your community.

Successful program models include adult education, community fishing outings, meet-ups for young adults, after-school fishing clubs, summer enrichment classes, day camps, school-family events and helping Scouts earn merit badges.

A light dinner will be served.

When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.,

Where: Newburg Fireman's Hall Newburg Fire Department, 508 Main St, Newburg, WI 53060. Participants may also attend virtually via Zoom.

Cost: This workshop is free. Your registration confirms your attendance. If you must cancel, please notify Cal Sinclair at Calvin.Sinclair@wisconsin.gov or 608-419-2078 or Theresa Stabo at Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.gov or 608-577-6332.

To Register: [Please complete the online registration form](#). Please indicate on your registration form if you will be attending in person or virtually. Virtual registrants will be emailed a Zoom link in advance of the event.

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, **Nov. 29, 2023.**

Can’t make this workshop but want to hear about others? [Sign up to receive email announcements about upcoming Angler Education opportunities](#). You may unsubscribe at any time. ✧

Signal crayfish confirmed in Minnesota

The Minnesota DNR has confirmed the presence of signal crayfish, an invasive non-native species, in Lake Winona, adjacent to Alexandria in Douglas County. This is the first confirmation of signal crayfish in Minnesota waters.

A commercial harvester contacted the DNR after trapping two signal crayfish in Lake Winona. Since the first catch, the harvester has found eight additional signal crayfish in Lake Winona. The DNR followed up with trapping in Lake Winona and in two adjacent connected lakes but did not capture additional signal crayfish.

One female was among the 10 adult signal crayfish captured and removed from Lake Winona. At this time, there is no evidence of reproduction; no eggs or juveniles have been found.



Signal crayfish are larger and more aggressive than Minnesota crayfish and the invasive rusty crayfish. They eat aquatic plants, detritus, fish eggs, smaller crayfish species and other beneficial native invertebrates. Signal crayfish might outcompete native species for food and habitat. Signal crayfish can spread between connected waterways or be transported by people. They can also crawl over land at night and during wet weather.

“Importing live, non-native crayfish to Minnesota is illegal without a permit,” DNR Aquatic Invertebrate Biologist Don Eaton said. “Regardless of species, it is illegal to release non-native plants or animals into the environment. We deeply appreciate that people harvesting crayfish are keeping a close watch on their catch and that, in this case, the harvester quickly reported this unusual-looking crayfish to the DNR.”

Signal crayfish are bluish-brown to reddish-brown in color, with large, smooth claws and a smooth carapace—the protective covering over their head and mid-section. They

have a white or pale blue-green patch near their claw hinge, which looks like a signal flag.

People who think they might have observed signal crayfish or other invasive species should note the exact location, take photos, keep the specimen, and submit their observations to [EDDMapS](http://eddmaps.org/project/midwest/tools/investedwaters/?page=map) (eddmaps.org/project/midwest/tools/investedwaters/?page=map) or their [local invasive species specialist](mailto:local.invasive.species.specialist@mndnr.gov) (mndnr.gov/invasives/ais/contacts.html). To help confirm sightings of signal crayfish, photos of the blue-green patches on claws, the bright red coloring on the underside of the claws and full-body views from above and below are ideal. Placing the crayfish next to a ruler or other size reference is also helpful.

The [DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/invasives/trade-pathways.html) (mndnr.gov/invasives/trade-pathways.html) has information about [signal crayfish](http://mndnr.gov/invasives/aquaticanimals/signal-crayfish.html) (mndnr.gov/invasives/aquaticanimals/signal-crayfish.html) and about pathways by which non-native, prohibited and invasive species are typically introduced ✧

Staying safe on cold water is everyone’s responsibility



Some people in Minnesota have put away their boats for the year, but plenty of others will squeeze out every bit they can of the open-water season, whether they’re chasing game, targeting fish or paddling lakes and rivers. To anyone on or around the water this fall, the Minnesota DNR offers this reminder: Your safety is your responsibility. With water temperatures consistently dropping, unexpected falls into the water are more likely to end in tragedy because even strong swimmers can become incapacitated quickly in cold water. Coupled with fewer people on the water to potentially help in an emergency, it’s vital that people take steps to ensure their safety.

While more boating-related accidents happen during the busy summer, a higher percentage of cold-water incidents are fatal and survival rates drop drastically. “The water this time of year is unforgiving,” said Capt. Adam Block, DNR boating law administrator. “Taking safety precautions is the best way to ensure a day on the water doesn’t turn tragic.”

The easiest and most effective way to stay safe and survive a fall into the water is to wear a life jacket (foam is better than inflatable during the cold-water season), not just have one along.

People can reduce the likelihood of a fall overboard by distributing weight evenly in the boat and abiding by the manufacturer’s weight limits. Having a means of communication is important, too, as is making sure other people are aware where you’re going

and when you plan to return. Changes in weather that result in shifting winds and storms can also lead to a treacherous situation, so it’s vital for anglers and hunters to keep an eye to the sky.

In addition to staying safe on the water, people who are hunting should always follow the four rules of firearms safety: Treat each firearm as if it is loaded; always control the muzzle of your firearm; be sure of your target and what is beyond; and keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you’re ready to shoot.

For more information, including how to survive a fall into cold water, visit the [Minnesota DNR’s cold water safety webpage](http://mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/cold-water.html) (mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/cold-water.html). ✧

Commission approves changes to fishing regulations

Several changes to fishing regulations were approved by the [Michigan Natural Resources Commission](#) during its meeting in Escanaba. The updated regulations, outlined below, took effect October 13, 2023.

Statewide: The phrase “attempting to take” has been removed in reference to fishing for Arctic grayling since grayling currently are being raised in preparation for a limited, future stocking program. This will allow anglers to catch and immediately release grayling. It will not allow anglers to possess the species.

Statewide: A northern pike regulation wording change now states where northern pike 24 inches or greater are allowed on waters where up to five northern pike of any size may be taken, with only one 24” or greater allowed in the daily possession limit.

The following waters were added where up to five northern pike may be kept, with only one 24” or greater allowed in the daily possession limit:

- Black Lake tributaries and Black Lake River from Alverno Dam upstream (**Cheboygan County**).
- Norway and Rock lakes (**Dickinson County**).
- Chain Lakes (**Iosco County**).
- Dawson Lake (**Iron County**).
- Lake Ann (**Menominee County**).

Additional approved regulations:

- Dowagiac River (**Berrien County**): The upstream boundary for Type 4 trout regulations has been changed from “Niles Dam site” to “from source downstream” since the dam has been removed.
- Reid Lake (**Alcona County**) was removed from Type B trout regs.
- Youngs Lake (**Luce County**) was removed from Type A trout regs.
- Half Moon Lake (**Muskegon County**) was removed from Type C trout regulations.

The online Michigan Fishing Guide ([Michigan.gov/DNRDigests](#)) and regulations hotline (888-367-7060) will be updated to reflect these changes. ✧

State Forest Nursery accepting seedlings orders

The Minnesota DNR State Forest Nursery is now accepting orders for spring 2024 seedlings. With approximately 3 million seedlings available for the spring planting season, this is a great opportunity for landowners to reforest their property to create wildlife habitat, shelterbelts, or a woodland oasis.

Since 1931, the Minnesota DNR’s State Forest Nursery has developed techniques to ensure the highest-quality seedling stock. The State Forest Nursery offers 26 species of native bareroot trees and shrubs. However, seedling selection and availability decreases after the first few weeks of sales. Visit the [State Forest Nursery seedling ordering webpage](#) ([mndnr.gov/forestry/nursery/ordering.html](#)) to view the available species and access the tree seedling order form.

A minimum order of 500 seedlings is required when purchasing from the State Forest Nursery. This is roughly the number of seedlings needed to plant one acre of bare land. Orders can be tailored in increments of 100 for each species. Prices vary depending on species, with the price as low as \$195 for 500 seedlings. The State Forest Nursery also offers two pre-selected seedlings packets, simplifying the decision-making process. The conifer packet includes 250 white spruce and 250 red pine seedlings to add more greenery to woodlands in winter. The fruiting trees and shrubs packet features a mixture of chokecherry, black cherry, nannyberry, hackberry, and wild plum to create a pollinator-friendly habitat.

Seedlings must be planted within Minnesota. The last day to order seedlings is Friday, March 29, 2024.

Landowners interested in planting fewer than 500 seedlings are encouraged to contact their local [Soil and Water Conservation District](#) ([maswcd.org](#)) to learn if they offer a tree sale program. Some SWCDs also offer planting services. ✧

Host a Free Fishing Weekend event this winter

The Wisconsin DNR invites organizations across Wisconsin to host free fishing events for the public on [Free Fishing Weekend](#), January 20-21, 2024.

Fishing clubs, civic groups, churches, trade associations and municipal recreation departments are among the many types of groups the DNR encourages each year to provide free fishing events for all ages and share their fishing skills with their communities.

Organizations planning an event can borrow basic gear for their event from one of [60 tackle loaner sites](#) around the state. Almost half of the sites are at state parks located on water.

The DNR encourages organizations to consider a state park as a site for free fishing events. Contact park staff at tackle loaner sites to make arrangements, but please note that state park admission fees and trail passes are not waived as they are during Free Fun Weekend in June.

During Free Fishing Weekend, most Wisconsin waters are included, except for spring trout ponds. Review information about the [early trout season](#) and the [trout regulations](#) for clarification as you plan your event because some waters may be catch-and-release only. All other [fishing regulations](#), including size and bag limits and species restrictions, will also be enforced. This includes Wisconsin’s side of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

Organizations are invited to [register their events with the DNR](#) for additional promotion to the public. After registering, organizations can request materials to hand out at their events, like fishing regulations, fish wildcards and posters.

The deadline to register events is January 11, 2024. ✧

Nomination period is now open for the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

NOAA Fisheries is seeking nominations to fill vacancies on the [Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee](#). The Committee advises the Secretary of Commerce on all marine life matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. It researches, evaluates, and provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary and NOAA on agency policies, activities, science, conservation, and regulatory programs critical to the mission and goals of NOAA Fisheries.

Committee members are highly qualified, diverse individuals with experience in:

- Commercial, recreational, aquaculture, tribal, indigenous, and non-commercial fisheries and businesses
- Seafood industry, including processing, marketing, restaurants, and related industries
- Marine, ecosystems, or protected resources management and conservation

NSSF Rejects FWS Rule

Continued from page 1

The USFWS [announced](#) three NWRs are proposing to expand opportunities for hunting. These refuges are Cahaba River NWR in Alabama, Everglades Headwaters NWR in Florida and Minnesota Valley NWR in Minnesota. The proposed rule, appearing in the [Federal Register](#), includes proposals to phase out lead ammunition and tackle at eight NWRs. The Final Rule is to be posted in days.

NSSF urges Congress to quickly pass U.S. Rep. Robert Wittman's (R-Va.) Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act, [H.R. 615](#), which would ensure America's number one resource of conservation funding remains in place and that hunters, recreational shooters and anglers throughout the nation can continue to enjoy America's sporting heritage. Excise taxes paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers have contributed over [\\$16 billion since 1937, or \\$25 billion when adjusted](#)

- Human dimensions, social sciences, and economic issues associated with marine resources and working waterfronts

Nominees should possess expertise in one of these areas. They may be from:

- Tribes or indigenous groups
- Environmental organizations
- Academia
- Consumer groups
- Other marine life interest groups

A diverse membership ensures that the Committee has the expertise needed to consider the breadth of NOAA's mission and the Committee's responsibilities.

Nominees must be able to commit to two in-person [annual meetings](#) and year-round subcommittee work. Membership is balanced geographically across all U.S. geographic regions, including the Western Pacific and Caribbean. NOAA also considers the ethnic,

[for inflation](#), for wildlife and habitat conservation. It is the leading funding source for wildlife restoration. Over \$1.6 billion was apportioned to the states for wildlife conservation projects last year, with [\\$1.19 billion](#) of that sourced to excise taxes paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers. The bill passed the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee on a bipartisan vote earlier this year.

Rep. Wittman's legislation, along with U.S. Sen. Steve Daines's (R-Mont.) companion legislation [S. 1185](#) of the same name, would require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to provide site-specific peer-reviewed scientific data in cooperation with state agencies that demonstrates traditional lead ammunition or fishing tackle is causing detrimental wildlife population impacts before prohibiting their use by hunters and anglers.

The [Final Rule](#) published last year to similarly ban traditional ammunition and fishing tackle while

racial, and gender diversity and various abilities of the United States population. Individuals serve for a term of 3 years. Members may serve a second consecutive term, if reappointed.

[More background on MAFAC](#)

A member may not be a federal employee; a state official, their designee, or an appointed member of a regional fishery management council; a registered federal lobbyist; or agent of a foreign principal. All members serve voluntarily and service is without pay. However, all travel and related expenses to attend meetings are reimbursed. The Committee functions solely as an advisory body complying fully with the [Federal Advisory Committee Act](#).

[Nomination instructions and guidelines](#)

For questions or more information, contact Katie (Denman) Zanicowicz, katie.denman@noaa.gov. ✧

opening hunting and fishing opportunities was part of a "sue and settle" litigation between the Center for Biological Diversity and the USFWS and was implemented without scientific evidence or consultation of state agencies. ✧

Save with the 2024 Holiday Gift Pack

The \$99 Indiana Park Holiday Gift Pack includes:

- A 2024 Indiana resident State Park Annual Entrance Pass.
- A \$65 gift card (you choose either an Inns card for hotel lodging or a Camp card for site reservations).
- A 1-year (6 issue) subscription to Outdoor Indiana magazine.

All for just \$99. You save \$31. Offer ends December 31 or when sold out. Limited quantity available.

Holiday Gift Packs are also available for seniors and nonresidents.



Walleye, lake trout could become Michigan commercial catch

LANSING, MI— Lakon Williams of Bay Port Fish Company operates three Lake Huron fishing boats on Saginaw Bay and says her nets are routinely filled with walleye. Amanda Holmes of the Fishtown Preservation Society operates two Lake Michigan fishing boats out of Leland and says her nets are routinely filled with lake trout.

They can't keep those fish. Neither species can be legally harvested by state-licensed commercial fishers in Michigan, but a bill in the Legislature aims to change that.

Introduced in October by Rep. Jason Morgan, D-Ann Arbor, House Bill [5108](#) would overhaul Michigan's outdated commercial fishing statute to, among other things, add popular game fish such as walleye, lake trout and yellow perch to the state's Great Lakes commercial fishing allowance.

"The goal of this bill is to help make sure that we're supporting our fishing industry in the state and reviving a part of our economy that, historically, was much larger," said Morgan, the son of a former Pinconning commercial fisherman who watched the generational family business struggle before it was eventually closed and sold by his late father. By reinvigorating the state's commercial fishing industry, consumers could "actually access fish in our restaurants and businesses that are caught by Michigan fishers," he said.

Commercial operators see the bill as a lifeline thrown to a dying industry. On the opposite side are sportfishing and conservation groups who are not happy. Action alerts went out last month from groups like the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) and Michigan Trout Unlimited urging members to defend recreational fishing and oppose Morgan's bill.

Both sides say the underlying legal statute that governs commercial fishing is decades out of date. However, [previous efforts to pass an overhaul](#) under the Republican-controlled legislature in 2019 fizzled out amid arguments over how to do that, forcing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to [update regulations by administrative order](#). That approach hasn't worked very well. Commercial interests sued the DNR in 2021 after it issued an order shortening the fishing season and reducing allowable net depth.

Lawmakers did manage to pass a [limited fisheries bill in 2022](#) that increased allowable net depths, allowed for trawls and expanded the whitefish season. However, both camps say regulations need updates that go beyond the margins. Morgan said he wants his bill to be a "starting point" for that. He thinks there's a "sweet spot" to be found among the competing interests, but conservation groups say they're already working with another Democrat to sponsor competing legislation.

"We've been through this fire drill before," said Amy Trotter, MUCC director. "The biggest concern we have is that it would create a commercial harvest opportunity for some of our prized sport fishing species." Morgan's bill went to the House natural resources committee in October and is unlikely to be heard until next year, as Democrats are busy moving a raft of pent-up priorities before potentially losing their House majority due to members up for mayoral seats. They adjourn for the year this week on a schedule that allows Michigan to hold its presidential primary on February 27.

As written, the bill would allow commercial fishers to harvest 25 percent of the walleye, lake trout and perch populations in Michigan's Great Lakes waters each year. Smallmouth bass and panfish such as

rock bass, crappie and sunfish would be added to the statewide allowable list as bycatch. The bill would increase commercial license fees, but ease restrictions on allowable net types and length of time allowed for tending to them. It would ease penalties on certain license violations, and licenses could apply to more than one boat.

Quotas would be set based on "sound scientific estimates of fish populations through data gathering and analysis within each commercial fishing zone open to commercial fishing" and "allow for profitable commercial fishing enterprise and sustainable future populations." In Bay Port, Williams is buoyant at the potential.

Today, Michigan commercial boats are mostly limited to catching whitefish, a lucrative species which is on the decline due, in part, to invasive mussels and a long-term reduction in Great Lakes ice cover that's needed to protect shallow spawning areas. Expanding allowable species is imperative, she said.

[According to the DNR](#), only about 50 state licenses remain in Michigan today compared to more than 300 in 1968 when the licensing system was developed. Only about 35 are fished annually, but Williams said that number is actually far lower. "I think there's eight fisheries that fished this year," Williams said. "More of our commercial fisheries are seeming to perish. And a lot of sports people would say, 'good.'"

That may sound harsh, but she's not wrong. Michigan oriented its Great Lakes fisheries management around recreational fishing starting in the 1960s and 70s with onset of Pacific salmon stocking. The state began to crack down on certain types of commercial nets, such as gill nets, which indiscriminately kill any fish of a certain size, regardless of species.

Michigan Commercial Catch

continued

Restrictions on gill netting were a factor in Michigan's indigenous tribes breaking away from the state-licensing system and asserting treaty rights to use traditional net types. Today, tribal commercial fishing is governed by a negotiated court agreement between the state, tribes and federal government. The latest iteration of that was [approved this summer](#).

Recreational fishing generates roughly [\\$2.3 billion](#) in economic activity in Michigan, according to a 2019 MUCC report. That includes the cost of charters, travel, gear spending and more. It also includes the cost of recreational fishing licenses, which pays into DNR management costs.

Recreational fishing advocates say the commercial fishing industry pays almost nothing toward the cost of managing a resource it benefits from economically. They also argue that Morgan's bill inappropriately conveys a conditional property right to a public trust resource. ✧

Nonresident college students can purchase Ohio resident hunting, fishing licenses

Nonresident students who do not reside in Ohio but are actively enrolled in an Ohio college or university can now purchase Ohio resident hunting and fishing licenses, according to the Ohio DNR. The opportunity came after Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly approved the change in July. Nonresident students must be actively enrolled full-time at an accredited Ohio college or university and reside in Ohio to qualify for residency. If students meet those requirements, they may purchase resident hunting licenses, fishing licenses, and permits, including apprentice licenses for those who are new to the activity. ✧

DNR to host meeting on future risks of feral pigs and released mink

Public invited to share feedback on proactive review of agency roles and policy

Several Minnesota state agencies are reviewing how to prevent negative impacts on the environment and human health from feral pigs and farmed mink let loose in the wild.

"This is an opportunity to proactively identify any gaps in our management," said Leslie McInenly, wildlife populations and regulations manager with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "A team of subject matter experts from multiple state agencies has been meeting this fall to conduct this review."

The Minnesota DNR, in cooperation with the Board of Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Health, is asking people to share their perspectives in an online questionnaire. Additionally, the Minnesota DNR will host an online public meeting from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesday, **Nov. 14** that will include a brief overview of agency roles and responsibilities, a discussion of potential changes in state management, and an opportunity for participants to offer input. Registration will not be required. The questionnaire and meeting information can be found on the [Minnesota DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/wildlife/escaped-animals.html) (mndnr.gov/wildlife/escaped-animals.html).

The state's review will be presented to the Minnesota State Legislature in February 2024. In response to recent reports of feral pigs near the U.S.-Canada border, and mink-related disease outbreaks and releases of farmed mink in other states and countries, the 2023 Legislature directed the agencies to review current legal authorities and responsibilities, identify any need to clarify or modify responsibilities for feral pig and mink management, and develop policy recommendations to further prevent negative impacts on the environment and human health.

"This review is an opportunity to ensure the state of Minnesota has the necessary policies and structures in place to respond to any environmental, animal health or public health concerns related to feral pigs or mink," McInenly said. "State agencies have a history of collaboration with each other on these sorts of topics, as well as collaboration with partners such as the United States Department of Agriculture."

Feral pigs, which can result from intentional introductions of wild boar species or escapes of domestic animals, are a recognized concern for natural resource managers and the agricultural community due to substantial impacts they can have on ecosystems, native species, and agricultural crops. Although Minnesota does not have an established population, feral pigs have been reported in most states and populations have been expanding in recent decades.

Mink farms and released mink recently garnered attention due to the animals' susceptibility to diseases that can also impact humans, such as SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses. Mink farming has declined over the decades in Minnesota and is currently practiced on a very limited scale.

In addition to the online comment that is open through Tuesday, **Nov. 28**, and the November 14 meeting opportunity, written comments may also be submitted through November 28, by emailing leslie.mcinenly@state.mn.us or sending mail to Feral Swine and Mink Report, Minnesota DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55082. ✧

DNR seeking public comment for updated Natural Resources Administrative Rules

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR announced it will hold a public hearing on proposed permanent rules to revise chapters NR 1, 11, 45, 51, 115 and 116 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, relating to a variety of DNR property management regulations. The public may submit comments on the proposed revisions through **December 10**.

The rule updates for this package include important topics such as department fee structures, vehicle and boat use regulations, camping rules and hours of operation, technology regulations, rules relating to the possession of animals, general property use rules and property-specific rules. All rules under consideration in this rule package are specific to DNR-managed lands only and do not govern non-DNR lands.

The public may review the scope statement, rule package and plain language summary on the [NR 45 rule webpage](#). The DNR encourages the public to learn more about the rule changes and provide comments by joining a virtual hearing on **Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom**. Registration is required, and participants can register at any time until the hearing is concluded.

All comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before December 10, 2023. Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail or email and will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearing.

Submit written comments and questions to: Wisconsin DNR, Attn: Brigit Brown, P.O. Box 7921, 101 S. Webster St, Madison, WI 53707. DNRFWPPRGuidance@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-1295.

The rule is also available for review and comment on [the Wisconsin State Legislature's website](#). ✧

Salmon River Restoration Project

This past summer, the DEC and USFWS, through funding from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), started a habitat improvement project at the Trestle Pool site on the Salmon River. This effort is designed to remove a “pinch point” in the river created by the existing railroad bridge abutments and center pier. Under high-flow conditions, the river was slowed down above the trestle, causing an accumulation of bedload (sediment) in the river channel. The accumulation caused the river to over widen and created the excessive bank erosion and the channel braiding. By removing these structures and constructing a floodplain on the south side of the river, the bedload will be properly transported by allowing high flow events to spill out into the floodplain. Additional project features are planned for next year to get the river back closer to its natural state. ✧

Fish passage improvements on the Saranac River

Fish in the Saranac River are about to experience some new-found freedom. Deconstruction to remove the remnants of the Indian Rapids Dam and Frenzenburgh Falls Dam in Plattsburgh is just about complete, which means fish will now be able to move more freely on that stretch of river. The projects are a combined effort of NYS Electric & Gas (NYSEG), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Trout Unlimited to improve fish passage before a fish ladder is installed at Imperial Mills Dam. The fish ladder combined with the removal of the two dams will allow fish to access upper sections of the Saranac River for the first time in over 120 years!

For [more detailed information on this project](#), visit the USFWS website. ✧

Fall is prime time for muskies

We're not just dreaming of that 30-point buck, we've also got muskies on the brain! Fall is a great time to have your line in the water, especially if you're on the hunt for a musky. With temperatures falling, muskies are looking for an easy meal to help them increase their winter energy reserves. With 700+ lakes, rivers and streams with thriving musky populations, there is no shortage of places to wet a line. Just make sure to know the regulations for where and how you are fishing. [Find a fall musky fishing location in your area online](#). ✧

Whitefish and cisco sport gillnetting to open on select Grand Rapids and Tower area lakes

The Minnesota DNR has set dates for recreational netting of whitefish and cisco, also known as tullibee, on eight lakes in the Tower area, and on six lakes in the Grand Rapids area. About 700 people obtain special permits to net for whitefish and cisco (tullibee) each year. Fishing regulations require netters to purchase both a whitefish netting license and an angling license.

The Minnesota DNR bases netting schedules on expected water temperatures, fish abundance and the vulnerability of game fish. As the water temperature cools, whitefish and cisco come to shallow water for fall spawning. Other species head to deeper water, so there is little chance their populations will be harmed by recreational netting in shallow water at that time. Fish other than cisco and whitefish incidentally taken in nets must be returned to the water immediately.

Complete information about sport gill netting by lake, minimum mesh sizes, and fishing regulations can be found on the [Minnesota DNR website \(mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing\)](#). ✧

Tips for hikers and hunters venturing afield this fall

- Tell someone intended destinations and return times. If plans change, notify them;
- Dress for the weather; account for both location and elevation changes;
- Become familiar with planned hiking trails or hunting areas;
- Wear bright clothing; blaze orange or blaze pink. Allows hikers and hunters to be seen more easily.
- Pack the [10 Essentials](#), especially a light source, map, and first aid kit.
- For more tips on sharing the woods this fall, [check out this recent DEC video](#). ✧

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Lodge to be built at Potato Creek State Park

Indiana broke ground on the [Lodge at Potato Creek](#), which will be the first state park lodge in Indiana built since 1939. The lodge will be the eighth to join the Indiana State Parks Inns system.

The lodge will include 120 guest rooms, a full-service dining room that seats 150, a conference center with three break-out rooms and capacity for 350 guests, an indoor aquatic center, a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces for small gatherings, a mini-nature room for programs and exhibits, a café, a gift shop, and access to the lake.

The lodge will provide four seasons of outdoor recreation for guests, with activities ranging from bike riding and boating in summer to ice fishing and hiking in winter, and spring and fall activities. ✧

S. Dakota State Record 16 lb. 8-oz Walleye caught

Angler Aaron Schuck of South Dakota appears to have caught the new South Dakota State Record Walleye out of the Lake Oahe while pulling a WNC Reaper crankbait October 27, 2023. He weighed the fish on the certified scales at Oahe Sunset Lodge and Steakhouse and his information was verified and taken by S. Dakota Game Fish and Parks Department officers. He has filled out all the necessary paperwork and submitted and GFP is in the act of processing the information now. If his fish is certified he will have bested the previous record by 6 ounces with his 33” walleye. Schuck had 187’ of line out when the fish bit so the fight took more than a minute to land the behemoth. Schuck took the fish to have it mounted. ✧

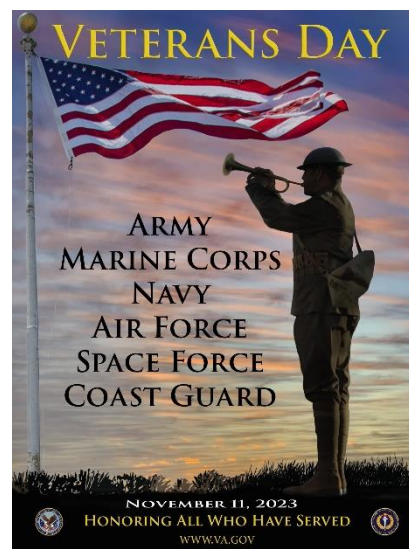
“It is the Soldier”

It is the soldier, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the
press.
It is the soldier, not the poet
Who has given us freedom of
speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus
organizer
Who has given us the freedom to
demonstrate.
It is the soldier, not the lawyer
Who has given us the right to a
fair trial.

It is the soldier
Who salutes the flag,
Who serves under the flag,
Whose coffin is draped in the
flag,
Who allows the protester to burn
the flag.

- Charles M. Province



Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving, which occurs on the fourth Thursday in November, is based on the colonial Pilgrims' 1621 harvest meal. The holiday continues to be a day for Americans to gather for a day of feasting, football and family.

Thanksgiving in North America: From Local Harvests to National Holiday

Most Americans are familiar with the Pilgrim's Thanksgiving Feast of 1621, but few realize that it was not the first festival of its kind in North America. Long before Europeans set foot in the Americas, native peoples sought to insure a good harvest with dances and rituals such as the Green Corn Dance of the Cherokees.

The first Thanksgiving service known to be held by Europeans in North America occurred on May 27, 1578, in Newfoundland, although earlier church-type services were probably held by Spaniards in La Florida. However, for British New England, some historians believe that the Popham Colony in Maine conducted a Thanksgiving service in 1607. In the same year, Jamestown colonists gave thanks for their safe arrival, and another service was held in 1610 when a supply ship arrived after a harsh winter. Berkley Hundred settlers held a Thanksgiving service in accordance with their charter which stated that the day of their arrival in Virginia should be observed yearly as a day of Thanksgiving, but within a few years an Indian uprising ended further services. Thus, British colonists held several Thanksgiving services in America before the Pilgrims' celebration in 1621.

The Pilgrims, with a puritanical rejection of public religious display, held a non-religious Thanksgiving feast, aside from saying grace.

In 1623, the Pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation, Massachusetts, held another day of Thanksgiving. As a drought was destroying their crops, colonists prayed and fasted for relief, the rains came a few days later. And not long after, Captain Miles Standish arrived with staples and news that a Dutch supply ship was on its way. Because of all this good fortune, colonists held a day of Thanksgiving and prayer on June 30. This 1623 festival appears to have the origin of our Thanksgiving Day because it combined a religious and social celebration.

Festivals of Thanksgiving were observed sporadically on a local level for more than 150 years. They tended to be autumn harvest celebrations. But in 1789, Elias Boudinot, Massachusetts member of the House of Representatives, moved that a day of Thanksgiving be held to thank God for giving the American people the opportunity to create a Constitution to preserve their hard won freedoms. A Congressional Joint Committee approved the motion and informed President George Washington. On October 3, 1789, the President proclaimed that the people of the United States observe "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer" on Thursday, the 26th of November.

The next three Presidents proclaimed, at most, two days of thanksgiving sometime during their terms of office, either on their own initiative or at the request of a joint Resolution of Congress. One exception was Thomas Jefferson, who believed it was a conflict of church and state to require the American people to hold a day of

prayer and thanksgiving. President James Madison proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving to be held on April 13, 1815, the last such proclamation issued by a President until Abraham Lincoln did so in 1862.

Most of the credit for the establishment of an annual Thanksgiving holiday may be given to Sarah Josepha Hale. Editor of Ladies Magazine and Godey's Lady's Book, she began to agitate for such a day in 1827 by printing articles in the magazines. She also published stories and recipes, and wrote scores of letter to governors, senators and presidents. After 36 years of crusading, she won her battle. On October 3, 1863, buoyed by the Union victory at Gettysburg, President Lincoln proclaimed that November 26 would be a national Thanksgiving Day, to be observed every year on the fourth Thursday of November.

Only twice has a president changed the day of observation. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in order to give depression-era merchants more selling days before Christmas, assigned the third Thursday to be Thanksgiving Day in 1939 and 1940. But he was met with popular resistance. In 1941, a Congressional Joint Resolution officially set the fourth Thursday of November as a national holiday for Thanksgiving.

We have both Native Americans and immigrants to thank for the opportunity to observe a day of thanksgiving.

From The Smithsonian



St. Croix Rods Product Review

If you haven't checked your calendar lately, Christmas is right around the corner, and what better choice to make than to give a fishing rod for a family member, partner, friend, or yourself.

In 1977 in Park Falls, WI, a small town in northern Wisconsin, the Schluter family took over a struggling fishing rod company to create fishing rods that give anglers the upper hand. That passion exists today with the same family and a few local residents that make state-of-the-art rods that are the envy of the industry.

St Croix makes three dedicated walleye rod series... [Eyecon](#) (\$145-\$165, made in their Fresnillo, Mexico factory), new [Avid Series Walleye](#) (\$200-\$250, made in the Park Falls, factory), and [new Legend Tournament Walleye](#) (\$270-\$320, also made in their Park Falls, factory).

Avid Walleye is the newest series and represents a tremendous combination of performance and value in an American-made, comprehensive, walleye-specific rod series. Some important terms to remember:

Rod Power

The term "Power" describes how much force it takes to bend the rod. Rod power varies to accommodate a range of lure weights and line tests. Choose your rod power based on the lures and lines you use most often.

Rod Action

Action indicates how much the rod bends along the blank when pressure is applied to the tip. A fast-action rod bends mostly at the tip, medium-action rod bends around the middle, and a slow-action rod flexes in the lower third of the blank.

Long Vs Short Fishing Rods

A short (6 feet or less) rod is ideal if you want to make short, accurate casts. When pinpoint accuracy is less critical, or you want a longer cast in open water, a long rod (over 7 feet) is the way to go.

1. [EYECON](#) Line

The [Eyecon](#) line comes in 17 spinning models, from 5'8" to 8', priced from \$145 to \$165



The [Eyecon](#) walleye line was created to give walleye anglers the upper hand regardless the technique. Engineered with a new modified split handle configuration on most models as well as customized technique

specific foregrips, Eyecon brings balance and light weight versatility to your arsenal. Designed in Park Falls and handcrafted in Fresnillo, Mexico.

Click on the [Eyecon](#) web site name to give you more detailed info.

CONSTRUCTION & TECHNOLOGY:

- SCII graphite and linear S-glass construction
- Fortified Resin System
- SeaGuide Aluminum Oxide guides with black frames
- SeaGuide Atlas Performance stainless (SS304) guides
- Sea Guide black PVD coated tip top
- Kigan Master Hand 3D guides featuring slim, strong aluminum-oxide rings with black frames
- SeaGuide IPSA reel seat with thread covering nut and black hood
- Premium-grade EVA cork handle w/tailored foregrips
- Kigan hook-keeper
- Two coats of Flex Coat slow-cure finish
- Manufacturer's 5-year limited warranty

2. [AVID SERIES WALLEYE](#) Line

The [Avid Series Walleye](#) line comes in 16 spinning models, from 5'8" to 8', priced from \$200 to \$250.

Avid Walleye Rods are designed and handcrafted in Park Falls, WI with St. Croix Rod proprietary technologies: IPC, ART, TET, FRS.

Avid Series - continued**CONSTRUCTION & TECHNOLOGY:**

- SCIII+ Carbon Fiber blank technology
- Stainless steel guide rings and frame
- Integrated Poly Curve (IPC) tooling technology
- Taper Enhancement Technology (TET)
- Advanced Reinforcing Technology (ART)
- Fortified Resin System (FRS)
- Lightweight nylon reel seat
- Super grade cork handle with cork composite accents and butt cap
- Manufacturer's 15-year warranty
- Made in the USA

For those with a true passion for walleye fishing, this is the preferred rod of walleye guides and tournament pros, known for its extreme light weight, sensitivity, and superb in-hand feel. The advanced manufacturing processes used to create the Avid's SCIII+ carbon fiber blank – Integrated Poly Curve (IPC®) tooling technology, Taper Enhancement Technology (TET), Advanced Reinforcing Technology (ART), the Fortified Resin System (FRS) – represent the state of the art in precision rod crafting, and you can sense the quality on every cast. This rod is fitted with stainless steel guide frames and rings, St. Croix's lightweight nylon reel seat, and super-grade cork handles with cork composite accents.

St. Croix walleye rods in the Avid Series come in distinctive lengths, powers, and weights in its spinning rod models.

AVID SERIES® WALLEYE SPINNING RODS

MODEL	LGTH.	PWR.	ACTION	LINE WT. (LB.)	LURE WT. (OZ.)	PCS.	HANDLE	PRICE
ASWS58HF	5'8"	H	FAST	8-17	3/8-1	1	1	\$200
ASWS63MLXF	6'3"	ML	X-FAST	4-8	1/16-3/8	1	1	\$200
ASWS63MXF	6'3"	M	X-FAST	6-10	1/8-1/2	1	1	\$200
ASWS66MLF	6'6"	ML	FAST	4-10	1/8-3/8	1	2	\$210
ASWS66MF	6'6"	M	FAST	6-12	1/4-5/8	1	2	\$210
ASWS68MXF	6'8"	M	X-FAST	6-12	3/16-5/8	1	3	\$215
ASWS70LXF	7'0"	L	X-FAST	4-8	1/8-3/8	1	2	\$220
ASWS70MLF	7'0"	ML	FAST	4-10	1/8-3/8	1	3	\$220
ASWS70MM	7'0"	M	MOD.	6-12	1/4-5/8	1	3	\$220
ASWS71MMF	7'1"	M	MOD. FAST	6-20	3/16-5/8	1	5	\$220
ASWS71MF	7'1"	M	FAST	6-20	5/16-7/8	1	5	\$220
ASWS73MLXF	7'3"	ML	X-FAST	4-10	1/8-3/8	1	3	\$225
ASWS73MXF	7'3"	M	X-FAST	6-20	1/8-3/8	1	5	\$225
ASWS76MLXF	7'6"	ML	X-FAST	4-10	1/8-3/8	1	4	\$235
ASWS76MLXF2	7'6"	ML	X-FAST	4-10	1/8-3/8	2	4	\$240
ASWS80MLF2	8'0"	ML	FAST	4-10	1/8-3/8	2	4	\$250



Continued

3. [LEGEND TOURNAMENT WALLEYE](#) Line



The [Legend Tournament Walleye](#) line comes in 16 spinning models, from 5'8" to 8', priced from \$270 to \$320. [Legend Tournament Walleye](#) Rods are designed and handcrafted in Park Falls, WI with St. Croix Rod proprietary technologies: IPC, ART, TET, FRS.

The high-modulus SCIV+ Carbon Fiber blank and its technology make for stronger, more sensitive St. Croix walleye rods. Exclusive manufacturing processes for the rod blank include Integrated Poly Curve Technology (IPC) for smoothing transitional points; Advanced Reinforcing Technology (ART) for increasing strength by a factor of 10X without making the rod thicker or heavier; Taper Enhancement Technology (TET) cutting process improves action and sensitivity; Fortified Resin System (FRS) is an advanced "super-resin" and curing system that increases rod strength. St. Croix completes these well-balanced walleye rods with high-end components and supports them with a 15-year warranty.

CONSTRUCTION & TECHNOLOGY:

- Technique-specific walleye rods
- SCIV+ Carbon Fiber Blank Technology
- Integrated Poly Curve (IPC) eliminates all transitional points for smoother actions, increased strength, and greater sensitivity
- Advanced Reinforcing Technology (ART) is exotic carbon fiber material that adds 10X the strength with virtually without increases in blank diameter or weight
- Taper Enhancement Technology (TET) for precision, pattern design, and cutting
- Fortified Resin System (FRS) combines a fortified super resin with computer-operated curing ovens; rods are 33% stronger than those built under standard methods
- Alconite guide rings with stainless steel frames
- Nylon reel seat
- Super grade cork handle with cork composite accents and butt cap
- Tournament Blue Pearl finish
- Manufacturer's 15-year Warranty
- St. Croix Legend Walleye Tournament Spinning Rod is made in the U.S.A. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[USFWS nets invasive carp through electrofishing on St. Joseph River](#)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted an electrofishing operation on the St. Joseph River in Benton Harbor, Michigan, on Tuesday, surveying for grass carp and other invasive species.

[New bill could open certain sport fish to commercial fishing](#)

A bill introduced in the Michigan Legislature last week could expand commercial fishing in state waters. House Bill 5108 would allow commercial harvest of certain sport fish previously off-limits to commercial fishers, including species like lake trout, walleye, and yellow perch.

[Fishing for keeps: The debate over a new steelhead bag limit](#)

Michigan's Natural Resources Commission is considering a new limit to the number of steelhead people can harvest. The proposal is causing a stir.

[Algal bloom is gone until next summer, but new questions emerge](#)

Now that western Lake Erie's algae season is finally over, scientists will spend the next several months taking heed of what just happened in hopes of making the region more resilient to climate change impacts they believe are here now

[Brule River protected: Goodbye railroad crossing, hello trout and salmon](#)

A crumbling railroad grade abandoned nearly a century ago has been removed in a project aimed at protecting fish spawning habitat in Nebagamon Creek near Douglas, Wisconsin. The project rebuilt and naturalized 500 feet of Nebagamon Creek, the largest tributary to the Brule River, which is among the best spawning rivers for Lake Superior trout and salmon.

End