



Ohio Division of Wildlife says 2023 walleye hatch 'exceptional'

Based on 2023 trawl surveys of state water it conducts annually, the Ohio DNR is rating this year's walleye hatch as exceptional. That marks the fifth time in nine years dating back to 2015 that the walleye hatch has earned the division's highest ranking.

The exceptional designation doesn't come with numbers. Those won't be released until around March when Ohio and Ontario combine their completed survey results. The final tallies, which also will include yellow perch, are used to set the take of each species next year.

The Total Allowable Catch (TAC), generally translates into recreational fishing limits in Ohio waters, although a portion of the Ohio yellow perch population is given over to commercial netters.

The trawl surveys are used to gauge the success of the year's hatch and are a general predictor of the numbers that will enter the population as adult fish in two years.

This year's results portend that 20 million or more walleyes will be added during the summer of 2025. Should those fish in the meantime find adequate food supplies, many—if not most of them—will reach the legal 15-inch keeper size in about two years.

Given that walleyes are a long-lived species, exceptional hatches in 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2021 suggest that tens of millions of keepers, including millions of trophies, already are swimming about in Lake Erie.

The DNR announced that, given the latest infusion, walleye fishing in the Ohio waters of Lake Erie is likely to remain outstanding for the next decade and then some. Exceptional walleye catching has been more typical than not each year during recent decades, but activity has

ramped up dramatically from a relative lull that took place not long ago.

And while walleye—and yellow perch—again are there for the taking, successful anglers follow the fish. Both walleye and perch move about based on season, conditions and meanderings of forage fish.

Perch fishing has been good to outstanding in the western lake but not all that productive between Huron and east of Cleveland. Fall typically has been prime time for perch fishing, but the dearth of emerald shiners, which is a preferred bait, and changing perch diets might be affecting the bite.

Walleye, on the other hand, tend to regroup during fall as they begin their winter preparation for the spring spawn. As the days shorten, walleye gather in the relatively shallow islands basin from Huron out west.

A flurry of fishing takes place after dark off piers and breakwaters as the water cools. Some of the walleyes caught are heavy with eggs. ✧

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Lake Michigan Fisheries Meeting, Nov 1 & 9, 2023

Join us for a seminar on fish biology happening in Lake Michigan. Workshop features speakers from Michigan State U., Notre Dame, and Indiana DNR. Topics include:

- Tracking fish with acoustic telemetry
- Emerging research about PFAS in Lake Michigan fishes
- Indiana DNR fisheries report

The seminar is free, but we ask that you register so we can send information and additional resources. You may attend in-person or online. For more information and Zoom link, contact Peter Euclide at peuclide@purdue.edu

Register: <https://purdue.ag/fall-2023-fisheries>

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

6:00-8:30pm Central Time
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Classroom
100 Riverwalk Drive
Portage, IN 46368

Thursday, November 9, 2023

6:00-8:30pm Central Time
Virtual Zoom Event

The workshop seminar is presented by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Indiana DNR, U of Notre Dame, Michigan State U, and Indiana Dunes National Park ✧

Lake Ontario Fishing Boat Survey, Summer Report 2023

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Lake Ontario Fisheries: This report summarizes Lake Ontario fishing quality during summer 2023 (June 1-July 31) and presents results in four lake areas compared with averages from the previous ten years (Fig 1).

The NYSDEC Lake Ontario Fishing Boat Survey has been conducted annually since 1985 to track angler effort, harvest, catch rate, fish size and other important information for management of the Lake Ontario fishery. In 2023, the Lake Ontario fishing boat survey were conducted at



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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 GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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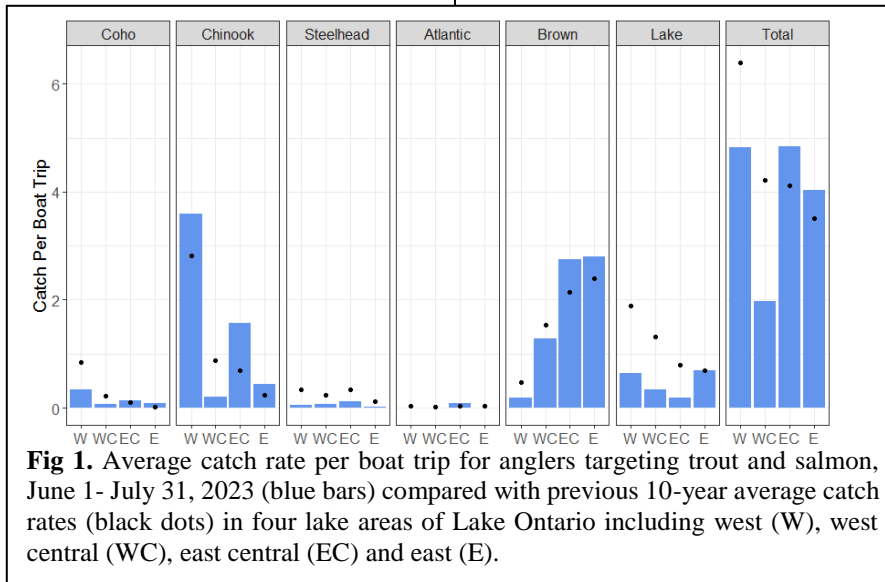


Fig 1. Average catch rate per boat trip for anglers targeting trout and salmon, June 1- July 31, 2023 (blue bars) compared with previous 10-year average catch rates (black dots) in four lake areas of Lake Ontario including west (W), west central (WC), east central (EC) and east (E).

According to anglers surveyed this summer, there was:

- ★ Above average Chinook salmon fishing quality in all lake areas. Angler catch rates for Chinook in 2023 are on track to be among the top five in the 37-year survey.

- ★ A greater proportion of larger, older Chinook salmon compared to 2022 when small young “shakers” made up a significant part of the catch.

- ★ Average or above average brown trout catch rates in the west central and east lake areas.

- ★ Below average rainbow trout and lake trout rates across most lake areas; however, catch rates for these species often drop when Chinook salmon fishing is good because they are targeted less.

- ★ Lower lamprey numbers compared to highs observed in 2022.

20 channels from Niagara River to Henderson Harbor. From June 1- July 31 this year, two survey teams conducted 85 site visits and interviewed 743 boats and 2400 anglers; of which 25% were charter boats.

West Lake Area (Niagara-Point Breeze): Fishing quality for Chinook salmon in this area started off strong in April and early May and cooled off in late May ultimately leading to above average catch rates of 3.4 fish per boat trip for the whole period. Catch rates of other species trended 60-85% lower compared to catch rates during the last 10 years, resulting in a total catch rate of 4.8 trout and salmon per boat trip, which was 24% lower than the average of 6.4 fish per trip. Anglers still managed to catch at least one trout and salmon per trip in 84% of the boats interviewed.

Fishing Boat Survey

Continued on page 7

No silver carp eDNA in new St. Joseph River samples

The Michigan DNR recently announced that no silver carp environmental DNA was found in a September 6 resampling of the St. Joseph River. Following [notification](#) that one of 220 samples taken on the St. Joseph River in June by the U. S. FWS contained eDNA from invasive silver carp, the area was resampled.

A total of 220 new samples were collected from stretches of the river between Lake Michigan and Berrien Springs, and according to the USFWS, none of the samples tested positive for bighead or silver carp eDNA. These species of invasive carp are not known to be in the Great Lakes basin, and this sampling provides an early detection process for their potential presence.

“Based on all the available monitoring data, it is unlikely that live silver carp are present in the St. Joseph River,” said Lucas Nathan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources aquatic invasive species coordinator. “Even with this good news, we will continue to work with our Fish and Wildlife Service partners to monitor the river for any signs of invasive carp.”

In addition to eDNA monitoring, the USFWS has conducted monthly electrofishing and netting in the St. Joseph River for the last two summers to capture and remove grass carp. No silver carp have been observed or captured in these efforts, which will continue through October and begin again next spring.

Boaters and anglers can help

Anglers across the state are encouraged to learn to identify invasive carp. Keep and report any suspected invasive carp captures. Identification and reporting information is available at Michigan.gov/InvasiveCarp. ✧

Bumper hatch of forage fish in Superior

The right combination of factors created conditions for an above-average hatch of cisco and bloater in Lake Superior. Researchers believe the 2022 hatch is the strongest in the 40 years assessments have been taking place in Canadian waters. The strongest to date were the 1988- and 1989-year classes.

Superior always has a cisco hatch, but typically survival rates are low. It’s suspected that colder water temperatures in winter and spring 2022 contributed to the high number.

“Although there is not one clear cause for strong recruitment events, cold winters and ice cover have long been suspected to play a role,” said Fritz Fischer, supervisor at the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit, MNRF.

This is a positive sign for the health of Lake Superior. Although large cisco hatches occur, Fischer said the time between these events has been increasing. “It is also positive that a recruitment event of this magnitude can occur given climate change.

Asked about the significance of this for the sport fishery, Fischer said by 2025 the cisco will be 15 inches long and will be too large for prey for most species. However, for the time in between cisco will provide an increased forage base, which will be a boon to some species, resulting in quicker growth rates. “The increase in growth rates will likely be most noticeable in short-lived fish, for instance, Chinook salmon,” he said. “Other short-lived species like coaster brook trout may also see increased growth rates and ultimate size.”

The adult cisco will also provide angling opportunities. The cisco abundance will also make it tougher for invasive prey species like smelt or alewife. “The next 20 years is going to be a tough time to be an invasive planktivorous fish like smelt or alewife in Lake Superior as they have to compete with this bumper crop of cisco,” Fischer said. ✧

Lake Erie algal bloom shrinking

PORT CLINTON — Lake Erie’s harmful algal bloom has been shrinking for about one or two weeks, but scientists don’t know yet when it will disappear.

“The cyanobacteria bloom in western Lake Erie has an approximate area of 120 square miles, which is a decrease in area since September 14. The cyanobacteria bloom extends from Stony Point, Michigan, to about Port Clinton, Ohio,” Andrew Meredith of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration wrote.

“The western basin bloom is a mix of microcystis and dolichospermum. Sandusky Bay has a local bloom of mixed cyanobacteria,” Meredith wrote. Algal blooms are produced by cyanobacteria, bacteria which behave like algae. Microcystis is the most common form of cyanobacteria producing harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

Last year’s bloom behaved differently from blooms in previous years, so that makes it harder to predict when the bloom will go away, said Richard Stumpf, an oceanographer for the atmospheric administration who focuses much of his attention on Lake Erie’s harmful algal blooms.

While the bloom has weakened in the past two weeks, we cannot currently predict either when it will end or when it will be so small as to be inconsequential. Typically, it diminishes through September and is usually gone at the beginning of October. This is encouraged by dropping temperature and regular occurrence of stronger winds.

Stumpf and other scientists gathered at Stone Laboratory near Put-in-Bay in late June and issued a forecast for the 2023 harmful algal bloom, predicting a relatively small bloom this year. They forecast a bloom that would measure as a 3 in size, on a scale of 1 to 10, with a potential range in severity from 2.5 to 4. Asked how that forecast is holding up, Stumpf replied, “The bloom started early, and was a bit more intense than originally expected. We’ll have specifics in October.” ✧

Michigan adds 9 million fish to local waterways



More than 269 tons of fish, eight different species, plus one hybrid, and a total of 9,335,410 individual fish—it all adds up to successful spring and summer stocking efforts by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and some great fall fishing for anglers.

Stocking is no small task. Over the course of 2,233 hours and more than 89,000 miles, DNR fisheries crews in 17 specialized trucks took 375 trips to stock fish at 705 different sites.

"We had excellent spring and summer stocking seasons that will bring significant benefits and fishing opportunities to Michigan anglers," said Ed Eisch, DNR fish production manager. "With the hard work and dedication of our staff, healthy, high-quality fish were reared and delivered to stocking sites in excellent condition. The numbers produced and stocked were right on target for most areas."

The number and type of fish produced varies by hatchery, as each location's ability to rear fish depends on the source and temperature of the rearing water. In Michigan there are six state and two cooperative hatcheries that work together to produce the species, strain and size of fish needed for fisheries managers. These fish must then be delivered and stocked at a specific time and location to ensure their success

Each hatchery stocked the following fish this spring and summer:

- **Marquette State Fish Hatchery (near Marquette)** stocked 341,423

yearling lake trout, brook trout and splake (a hybrid of lake trout and brook trout) that in total weighed 41,771 pounds. This hatchery stocked 98 inland and Great Lakes sites.

- **Thompson State Fish Hatchery (near Manistique)** stocked 997,431 fish that included yearling steelhead and spring fingerling Chinook salmon. These fish weighed 78,659 pounds in total. This hatchery stocked 54 sites (the majority located on the Great Lakes).

- **Oden State Fish Hatchery (near Petoskey)** stocked 679,488 yearling brown trout and rainbow trout that weighed 96,372 pounds. This hatchery



stocked 123 inland and Great Lakes sites.

- **Harrietta State Fish Hatchery (in Harrietta)** stocked 780,654 yearling brown trout, Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout that in total weighed 95,751 pounds. This hatchery stocked 228 sites (the majority located inland).

- **Platte River State Fish Hatchery (near Honor)** stocked 2,350,685 fish that included yearling Atlantic salmon and coho salmon and spring fingerling Chinook salmon that in total weighed 158,038 pounds. This hatchery stocked 48 sites (the majority located on the Great Lakes).

- **Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery (near Kalamazoo)** stocked 1,469,465 fish that included yearling steelhead, yearling muskellunge and spring fingerling Chinook salmon that in total weighed 121,467 pounds. Wolf Lake

also stocked 11,473 channel catfish obtained from the Ohio DNR (weighing 2,828 pounds), as well as 33,679 skamania steelhead (weighing 3,511 pounds). This hatchery stocked 49 sites (the majority located on the Great Lakes).

- **A cooperative teaching hatchery at Lake Superior State University (in Sault Saint Marie)** stocked 28,646 Atlantic salmon weighing 2,510 pounds into the St. Marys River.

Included in this year's total fish stocked were 2.7 million walleye spring fingerlings, fish that were reared in ponds by the DNR and tribal partners with extensive support provided by local sporting organizations. These fish were stocked at 90 inland lakes and rivers and Lake Michigan.

Fish stocking is a critical DNR activity. These efforts help support [a Great Lakes fishery valued at more than \\$7 billion.](#)

Fish are reared in Michigan's state fish hatcheries anywhere from one month to 1½ years before they are stocked.

It should be noted that some hatcheries will provide fish for a few additional stockings (consisting of brook trout, rainbow trout, coho salmon, walleye, lake sturgeon and muskellunge) to be made this fall. The lake sturgeon will come from the cooperative hatchery in Tower, Michigan that is operated with Michigan State University.

The public is welcome at any of Michigan's state fish hatcheries to see firsthand the fish rearing process. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/Hatcheries. Learn more about fishing opportunities, management and resources – including the [DNR's Fish Stocking Database](#), showing where many of these fish were stocked – at Michigan.gov/Fishing ✦

Illinois ends DDT tests on fish

Illinois has ended the testing of fish from lakes and rivers for organochlorine pesticides such as DDT.

The Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH), in conjunction with the Ill. EPA announced the discontinuation of the statewide testing.

The progress made in improving the safety of fish found in Illinois waterways is an incredible victory for public health and a testament to the success of sensible health and safety regulations. Banning dangerous pesticides like DDT has made our water cleaner, our food safer, and our state healthier.

Dr. Michael Woods, at the Department of Agriculture, said Illinois farmers continue to seek the highest yields possible using the best practices. "To render any contaminant testing obsolete while Illinois farmers continue to produce at historic levels is a success story for the entire state."

Organochlorine pesticides like DDT were in widespread use across the U.S. dating back to the 1940s. Concerns about the impact of DDT on wildlife, particularly bald eagles, and on people led to its ban for agricultural use in the U.S. in 1972. Bans on other organochlorine pesticides followed in the 1980s, although concerns remained about levels of the chemicals in the state's fish population.

In the early 1970s, the state implemented the Illinois Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program, testing fish from lakes, rivers and streams. Lake Michigan was sampled annually; samples were drawn from rivers and large streams every five years, along with periodic testing of other public lakes. Testing measured whether samples contained pesticides, metals or other dangerous chemicals at a level that would render them unsafe.

Since then, pesticides are no longer found in unsafe amounts. Those advisories and associated resources can be found online at <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/toxicology/fish-advisories.html>. ✧

Starry Stonewort found in Jackson Park Inner Harbor

The Keller lab at Loyola University Chicago is working to determine which aquatic invasive species are established in harbors along Chicago's Lake Michigan shoreline. This work is supported by Illinois DNR and financial support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

As part of this project graduate student Alex Quebbemann sampled for macrophytes at Jackson Park Inner Harbor on August 15th, 2023. Samples were collected by dragging a rake across the bottom of the harbor and did not include roots of parts of the plant that are directly on the bottom. Alex returned samples of some species to the lab for identification. One sample was provisionally identified as starry stonewort. Photos of the sample were sent to experts who supported this identification but could not be 100% sure without directly seeing a sample.

On August 30th, 2023, Alex and Prof. Reuben Keller returned to Jackson Park Inner Harbor. Additional samples of the plant were collected, this time by swimming and hand collection. Collecting by hand meant that the full plant was collected. Upon inspection, many of the characteristic star-shaped bulbils were found. Combined with the overall morphology and growth habit of the plant this allows a definitive identification of starry stonewort.

During the second visit we found that starry stonewort covers an area of at least several hundred square meters. Over this area it was growing densely with few other macrophytes present. A full survey was not attempted due to time and water condition constraints.

A record of this finding will be deposited in the USGS NAS database and shared with other common and similar databases per their protocols. That database recognizes establishment in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Starry Stonewort has been found in two other locations, the upper Fox River basin and Lake Zurich in Illinois but is not common. ✧

DNR to host Open Houses at Various Fish Hatcheries and Spawning Facilities

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR announced the dates for fall open houses at two fish hatcheries and two fish spawning facilities. Over the next month, the DNR will host open houses at the [Root River Steelhead Facility](#) and the [Wild Rose Fish Hatchery](#).

These free events will give attendees a chance to see fish up close and learn how hatcheries and spawning facilities help sustain Wisconsin's fish populations.

Join the DNR at a fish spawning facility on [Saturday, Oct. 14](#) from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Root River Steelhead Facility. The event will take place at 2200 Domanik Dr, Lincoln Park in Racine and will feature guided tours and fish spawning demonstrations. Volunteers from Salmon Unlimited, Trout Unlimited and the Kenosha Sport Fishing and Conservation Association will be on-hand to provide educational fishing stations where visitors can try new casting techniques and receive fly-tying lessons.

The second open house will take place on [Saturday, Oct. 28](#) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery's education center, located at N5871 State Road 22 in Wild Rose. This event will celebrate the annual fall salmon migration. There will be games and educational activities set up for people of all ages, including learning to cast workshops, fish identification tips or the chance to "swim" upriver like salmon on their migratory journey to spawning areas. Other fish activities include fish printing on tote bags, building a spinnerbait, making Kool-Aid clay and touring the original 1908 hatchery and the modern operation. ✧

DNR offers Beyond Becoming an Outdoors-Woman events

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Becoming an Outdoors Woman program will offer a two Beyond BOW events this fall at venues in Emmett and Marquette counties.

The BOW program gives women, 18 and older, an opportunity to improve their outdoor skills in a relaxed, noncompetitive atmosphere. In addition to being fun to participate in, many of the BOW and Beyond BOW classes offer instruction on important outdoor skills, safety and appropriate outdoor clothing attire.

SUNSET HIKE

Marquette County: 6 p.m. EDT
Wednesday, Oct. 25th

Description: Our evening hike will begin with some daylight, about 45 minutes before the sun sets. Instructors will provide hot water and a variety of tea and hot chocolate packets. We'll get to our destination with plenty of time to enjoy a hot beverage while we wait for the sun to set. After the sun sets, we'll return to the vehicles via the same trail.

Location: Participants will meet at a trailhead about 5 miles outside of Marquette (must have a Recreation Passport or State of Michigan day pass to park).

Experience: We plan to hike between 2-3 miles. The trail is moderate, with about 300 ft. of elevation gain in the first mile.

Required Items:

- Headlamp (the sun will set while we're out there)
- Hiking shoes/boots
- Clothing and outerwear appropriate for the weather/conditions.
- Insulated Mug (if you want a hot beverage at the destination)

Registration materials for the Beyond BOW workshop are available at Michigan.gov/BOW closer to the event.

CABIN CAMPING

Wilderness State Park, Emmett
County: 4 p.m. EDT November 3-5

Description: Wilderness State Park is a public recreation area bordering Lake Michigan, 5 miles southwest of Mackinaw City in Emmet County in Northern Michigan. The state park's 10,512 acres include 26 miles of shoreline, diverse forested dune and swale complexes, wetlands, camping areas, and many miles of hiking trails. The park is also a designated dark sky preserve offering stellar views of the sky and is just 9 miles from Headlands Dark Sky Park. The terrain is a mixture of dense coniferous forest and mature hardwood forest, with pockets of open meadows and carpets of wildflowers in the spring. There is an abundance of small ponds mixed in with coniferous wetlands.

Lodging: We will be staying in rustic bunkhouses, which are large log cabins built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s. Our lodging will have bunk beds and is equipped with a cafeteria-style folding table and a wood stove. Each participant will have a bunk bed to herself for sleeping and storing luggage. There is electricity in the lodging quarters. There is no running water. However, water is available at park headquarters. Please bring appropriate water containers for transport back to the cabins. There are lights, a ceiling fan and outlets, but no refrigerator. There is a fire pit and picnic table outside. Vault toilets are nearby. Flush toilets and showers are not available. Parking is nearby, but participants will still need to carry their belongings up to a few hundred yards.

Experience:

- Skill Level: Beginner
- Activity Level: Moderate
- No special equipment needed (See packing list for more details)

Activities will include:

- Hiking (Example hike: 3.5 miles, mostly flat)
- Knot tying
- Backcountry camping
- Backcountry stoves and water filters
- Wilderness survival
- Navigation/deer scouting hike
- Archery
- DIY first aid kit (*Supplies are provided, and you get to take yours home)
- DIY fire starting kit (*Supplies are provided, and you get to take yours home)
- Yoga
- Other evening entertainment

We will enjoy some activities together, while for others we will break into smaller groups. This means that you will not get to do all the above activities, but a selection of them. At registration, we will ask you to rank activities in order of preference and will assign schedules accordingly. No specific guarantees for particular class assignments can be made.

Registration materials for the Beyond BOW workshop are available at Michigan.gov/BOW closer to the event.

BOW WINTER WORKSHOP

The traditional Winter BOW workshop will be held at the Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay, **February 23-25, 2024.**

Registration materials for the winter event are on the website. Those signed-up for BOW email notifications will receive an email when event details and registration materials are available on the DNR website.

To keep up with the latest on BOW, sign-up for email notifications at Michigan.gov/BOW. ✧

News from the Hudson River Estuary Program

A group of enthusiastic individuals from [Camphill Hudson](#), a nonprofit organization supporting people of differing abilities, recently volunteered to help with the Sloop Club's *Waterfront Wednesdays* at Henry Hudson Waterfront Park. From a table selling cookies and craft items, the volunteers raised money to help restore American shad to the Hudson River.

[American shad](#) is a migratory species that has a long history in the Hudson River. Indigenous people and colonial Americans fished for shad for sustenance, often smoking the flesh and consuming the roe (eggs) as a delicacy. American shad continued to be an important recreational and commercial fishery throughout the 20th century, but stock depletion resulted in the closure of the fishery in 2010.

This year in March, DEC released the [Recovery Plan for Hudson River American Shad \(PDF\)](#). The plan outlines the efforts undertaken to recover the stock since its collapse and develops a transparent and science-based roadmap for reopening the shad fisheries.

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Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to providing Michigan residents the opportunity to share input and ideas on policy decisions, programs and other aspects of natural resource management and outdoor recreation opportunities.

One important avenue for this input is at meetings of the public bodies that advise the DNR and, in some cases, also set policies for natural and cultural resource management. Frequently check the [DNR boards, commissions, committees and councils webpage](#) for updates.

The links below will take you to the webpage for each group, where you will find meeting details such as location and agenda (when finalized). Please check these pages often, as meeting details may change and sometimes meetings are canceled.

- [Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee](#) – Tuesday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. (Patrick Hanchin, 231-330-5290).
- [Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council](#) and [Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council joint meeting](#) – Wednesday, Oct. 11, 3 p.m. EDT (Stacy Welling Haughey, 906-226-1331).
- [Michigan Natural Resources Commission](#) – Thursday, Oct. 12, 9 a.m. (NRC@Michigan.gov).
- [Northern Inland Lakes Citizens Fishery Advisory Com](#) – Friday, Oct. 13, 11 a.m. (Neal Godby, 231-340-2621).
- [Lake Erie/Lake St. Clair Citizens Fishery Advisory Com](#) – Monday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m. (Jim Francis, 517-242-3593).
- [Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee](#) – Tuesday, Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m. (Jay Wesley, 269-204-7057).
- [Michigan Wildlife Council](#) – Friday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m. (Pam Vance, 517-284-6056). ✧

Fishing Boat Survey

Continued from page 2

[West Central Area \(Bald Eagle-Irondequoit\)](#): This area had a particularly tough spring of fishing in 2023. Based on the boats interviewed, catch rates of all species were down especially Chinook (by 77%) and lake trout (by 74%) compared to previous 10-year averages.

[East Central Area \(Bear Creek-Oswego\)](#): Fishing quality was above average for four of the six trout and salmon species in this area including coho (by 30%), Chinook (by 126%), brown trout (by 28%), and Atlantic salmon (by 127%). Brown trout and Chinook catch rates were 2.8 and 1.6 fish per boat respectively with relatively minor contributions from the other species. Lake trout were especially absent from the creel in this area, down about 76%. Overall, 78% of boats interviewed caught at least one fish, and averaged 4.8 trout and salmon per trip which is 18% higher than the 10-year average.

[East Area \(Catfish-Association Island Henderson\)](#): Fishing quality was at or above average for four of the six trout and salmon species in this area including coho salmon, Chinook salmon, brown trout and lake trout. Unlike the west area, the catch was dominated by brown trout (2.8 fish per trip) and lake trout (0.7 per trip) with less contributions from Chinook (0.4 per trip) and coho salmon (0.1 per trip). Overall, boats averaged 4.0 trout and salmon per trip which was 15% better than the 10-year average, and 64% of boats interviewed caught at least one fish.

[Charter trips](#) made up 18% of Lake Ontario boats trips, however they usually have more anglers on board, and can fish with more rods leading to overall higher catches per boat trip. For example, in spring 2023, charters landed an average of approximately 2.5 times the number of fish than non-charter boats.

For the full report, click here; [Lake Ontario Fishing Boat Survey, Summer Report 2023](#) ✧

NOAA releases 2023 report to Congress on International Fisheries Management

NOAA Fisheries' biennial report to Congress identifies nations and entities that the United States will work with to address IUU fishing and forced labor activities, and to support effective management of protected species and shark catch.

[Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing](#) is a serious global problem that threatens ocean ecosystems and sustainable fisheries critical to global food and economic security—putting law-abiding fishermen and seafood producers in the United States and abroad at a disadvantage. [Bycatch](#) can negatively affect the conservation of protected marine life. Nations that do not have regulatory programs in place to effectively reduce or mitigate bycatch of protected species caught in association with fisheries threaten the sustainability of those ecosystems or other transboundary resources shared with the United States. There are also growing concerns regarding the status of many shark stocks and their exploitation in global fisheries.

In biennial reports to Congress, NOAA Fisheries identifies nations and entities that the United States will work with over the next two years to address IUU fishing and forced labor activities, and support effective management of protected species and shark catch. In the following report, certification determinations – a determination on whether actions were taken to remedy the identified activities -- are announced for the previously identified nations. A negative certification may result in denial of U.S. port access for fishing vessels of that nation and potential import restrictions on fish or fish product.

In its *2023 Report*, NOAA Fisheries identified seven nations and entities for IUU fishing:

- Angola, Grenada, Mexico, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, The Gambia, and Vanuatu.

Identifications for the PRC and Taiwan include information related to seafood-related goods produced through forced labor. The PRC and Vanuatu are additionally identified for shark catch without a regulatory program comparable to that of the United States. This is the first time, as part of this report, that NOAA Fisheries identified nations for shark catch, and considered forced labor in the seafood sector when making IUU fishing identifications.

Certification determinations

The *2023 Report* also announced certification determinations for thirty-one nations and entities identified for IUU fishing and/or bycatch of protected marine life from its *2021 Report*.

IUU Fishing

- Costa Rica, Guyana, Senegal, and Taiwan received positive certification determinations for taking actions to remedy the IUU fishing activities identified in the *2021 Report*.
- Mexico, the PRC, and the Russian Federation received negative certifications for failing to take actions to remedy their reported activities.

Protected Marine Life Bycatch

- Croatia, Egypt, European Union, Grenada, Guyana, Japan, Mauritania, Morocco, the People's Republic of China, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, and Taiwan received positive certifications for taking corrective actions to address their protected marine life bycatch activities identified in the *2021 Report*.
- Algeria, Barbados, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Namibia, Senegal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, and Turkey received negative certifications for not having a regulatory program comparable to that of the United States to reduce bycatch of sea turtles in pelagic longline fisheries in the

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas waters beyond any national jurisdiction.

Additionally, Mexico has been negatively certified for its lack of a comparable regulatory program to reduce or minimize bycatch of endangered North Pacific loggerhead sea turtles.

NOAA Fisheries will work with nations and entities to address the identified activities—which helps ensure that the fish and fish products the United States imports are caught sustainably and legally.

- [2023 Report to Congress on Improving International Fisheries Management](#)
- [Summary of 2023 Report](#) ✧

Wis Walleye Management Plan available

We've been working hard with external partners to update our Walleye Management Plan. Coupled with the [Wisconsin Walleye Initiative](#), this updated management plan will guide DNR management of one of our state's most popular and sought-after species.

Here are some highlights:

- A statewide daily bag limit of three walleyes that is expected to go into effect April 1, 2024
- New angling regulation options for biologists that will address specific management scenarios that are becoming more common around the state, like high-density populations with slower growth and declining populations in need of rehabilitation
- Shoreline habitat considerations for landowners
- Improving our understanding of all aspects of walleye habitat and how we can enhance and protect it
- Strengthening partnerships and opportunities
- Stocking strategies ✧

Lake of the Woods Algae Bloom 2023 is on its way

After a hot June but cool and sometimes smoky July, the algae bloom on Lake of the Woods started to develop in late July and early August as usual. Blooms began in the southern Big Traverse Bay and in the Morson-Sabaskong area to the south-east. By late August, the bloom covered 34% of the lake and has progressed northward through middle channel to Oak Point. Satellite-derived measures of chlorophyll-a (a pigment in the algae) ranged above 40 µg/L (red in the satellite image) indicating severe bloom formation in a few locations (anything above 10 µg/L is considered a bloom).

Algal blooms in Lake of the Woods typically peak in the late fall, and progress into the north-central area of the lake. Thus, more extensive blooms are expected to come later, expanding in extent and severity into the fall. A complete report on the annual bloom conditions will be available later in the fall, once the satellite tracking is complete for the season. [Read more](#) ✧

Wisconsin Municipal Dam Grant Application Period Open

The 2023-25 Municipal Dam Grant application period opened on September 5, 2023! The Municipal Dam Grant program provides a cost-sharing opportunity for eligible engineering and construction costs for dam maintenance, repair, modification or abandonment and removal up to a maximum award of \$1 million. The 2023-25 Biennial Budget provided \$4 million for dam grants and the majority will be committed to the Municipal Dam Grant program. **This grant cycle will prove to be highly competitive.** Please keep this in mind when completing the application. The updated Municipal Dam Grant application form and instructions, along with additional reference materials, can be found on our [Municipal Dam Grant](#) website. **A fully completed application and all required attachments must be received on or before close of business on March 1, 2024 to be considered for funding.** ✧

Reminder: Inland Trout Fishing Season Closes Oct. 15

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR reminds anglers that the general inland trout fishing season will close on Sunday, Oct. 15, at which point trout anglers will no longer be allowed to fish inland streams, springs and spring ponds for trout or salmon. Trout and salmon can still be harvested from most inland lakes or ponds, though there are some exceptions. Check the [2023-2024 Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations](#) for details.

Anglers can use the DNR's [Trout Regulations and Opportunities User Tool \(T.R.O.U.T\)](#) to find trout fishing locations across the state. The DNR encourages anglers to continue practicing responsible catch and release. Advice on responsible catch and release can be found on the DNR's [Responsible Catch and Release webpage](#).

The general inland trout season will reopen on May 4, 2024. ✧

Ohio Sea Grant, DNR launch 'Erie ProH' certification for fishing guides

Lake Erie anglers who rely on charter guides for fishing will soon have a richer experience thanks to a new certification program from the Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife (ODOW) and Ohio Sea Grant.

The program, Erie ProH, launched last month as a voluntary course that ensures fishing guides and crew members have detailed knowledge of fishery topics and can act as responsible stewards of the lake. A total of 59 guides have enrolled in the course and 47 had completed it throughout August.

"The idea is to empower guides to promote their industry and sustainable fishing in Lake Erie," said Tory Gabriel, Ohio Sea Grant. "We're helping guides be confident in the information they provide to their anglers while out on the water."

The online, self-paced course includes eight separate lessons on topics such as sportfish ecology, release and harvest, harmful algal blooms, aquatic invasive species, and guiding responsibility and safety. The course is not a substitute for the annual Lake Erie Fishing Guide license required by the ODOW to guide fishing trips on Lake Erie.

"The idea behind this was to develop a body of basic knowledge about Lake Erie packaged in a way so everybody on the lake can speak the same language, have the same facts, and clear up any misconceptions," said Angela Greene, education specialist for Ohio Sea Grant.

Fishing guides who complete the course are recognized as "Erie ProH Certified" for five years and listed for anglers to find in a registry on Ohio

Sea Grant's website. They will receive a digital and print certificate, an onboard resource guide, and a vessel sticker. Through this certification, anglers can find guides that are environmental stewards, while guides can distinguish their business and enhance market visibility.

The program, modeled after a successful Florida Sea Grant program, was developed through a partnership between the Ohio Division of Wildlife and Ohio Sea Grant. A team of experts from both institutions compiled information that Angela Greene, OHSG education specialist, then translated into modules for the course.

For more info on the program, including a full list of contributors, visit go.osu.edu/ErieProH. For questions, contact Greene at green.792@osu.edu. ✧

DEC announces 26th Annual Youth Waterfowl Program

Instructional Class on [Saturday, Oct. 21](#), Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day on [Saturday, Nov. 4](#)

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is holding its 26th Annual Youth Waterfowl Program for young hunters on Long Island ages 12 to 15, on Saturday, Oct. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023. The ample hunting opportunities on Long Island offer a perfect location to share the skills necessary to become safe and responsible members of the hunting community.

DEC collaborates on the youth program with the New York Conservation Officers Association, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, Tanglefree, Peconic River Sportsman's Club, and the South Shore Waterfowlers Association.

The Youth Waterfowl Program is a special event to help junior hunters prepare for and participate in Youth Waterfowl Days. The program includes instruction in:

- hunting ethics and regulations;
- waterfowl identification;
- firearms safety review;
- retriever and decoy use;
- cold water survival and boating safety; and
- trap shooting.

The Youth Waterfowl Program instructional course is set for October 21, and the designated hunting day is November 4. **Applications for the Youth Waterfowl Program are due by [October 13](#)**. Space is limited to 25 students ✧

How much plastic is in Lake Michigan?

The problem of plastics in the Great Lakes is a subject of "The Blue Paradox," an immersive, educational exhibition on view at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The exhibition explores the pervasiveness of plastic. ✧

Illinois fall trout season opens **Oct. 21** in locations statewide

The 2023 Illinois fall trout season will open Saturday, [Oct. 21](#) at 59 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state, and the Illinois DNR is warning anglers that warm weather will delay some early stockings this fall.

The early catch-and-release season, opened October 7, will be stocked later than expected because of forecasted and observed warm water temperatures. Trout stocked in waters warmer than 70 degrees will experience high mortality. IDNR will stock the early catch-and-release sites as soon as water temperatures cool and will provide updates on [ifishillinois.org](#) and social media channels for [ifishillinois.org](#) and IDNR.

No trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites until the regular fall season opens at 5 a.m. October 21. The daily catch limit is five trout.

All anglers, including those who participate in the early catch-and-release season, must have an Illinois fishing license and inland trout stamp, which are available at IDNR license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores, and other retail outlets. [Check the IDNR website for locations](#). Fishing licenses and trout stamps [can be purchased online](#) with a credit card.

For information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites open at 5 a.m. on opening day. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite sites prior to the open date. Online resources are also available [for taking kids fishing](#).

IDNR reinstated its Catchable Trout Program in 1994. The program is funded in part by those who use the program through the sale of inland trout stamps. The Illinois DNR stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the fall season. An additional 80,000 trout are **Illinois fall trout season**

Continued next column

Lake Michigan Fisheries Meeting, Nov 1 and Nov 9, 2023

Calling all anglers, charter captains, and lake enthusiasts!

Join us for a seminar on fish biology, ecology, and fisheries science happening in Lake Michigan. Workshop features speakers from Michigan State University, University of Notre Dame, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Workshop topics include:

- Tracking fish with acoustic telemetry
- Emerging research about PFAS in Lake Michigan fishes
- Indiana DNR fisheries report

The seminar is free, but we ask that you register so we can send information and additional resources. You may attend in-person or online. For more information and Zoom link, contact Peter Euclide at peuclide@purdue.edu

Register: <https://purdue.ag/fall-2023-fisheries>

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

6:00-8:30pm Central Time
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Classroom
100 Riverwalk Drive
Portage, IN 46368
[Google Map](#)

Thursday, November 9, 2023

6:00-8:30pm Central Time
Virtual Zoom Event

The workshop seminar is presented by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Indiana DNR, U of Notre Dame, Michigan State U, and Indiana Dunes National Park ✧

Illinois fall trout season

Continued from previous column

stocked for the spring season, which begins each April. For more information on trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities, visit <https://www.ifishillinois.org>. ✧

Fishing Lake Superior this fall? DNR asks anglers to report marked splake

Many anglers say fall fishing for splake on Lake Superior is an experience unparalleled anywhere else in Michigan. When temperatures begin to drop and leaves start to turn, the splake bite picks up as the fish move nearshore.

Splake—a hybrid cross between lake trout and brook trout—have been stocked in Lake Superior most years since 1971, with annual stocking since 1990.

Marked splake have been central to that stocking effort since 2021, as part of an evaluation study. At the Marquette State Fish Hatchery in Michigan’s central Upper Peninsula, 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 are then stocked in the spring at three Lake Superior ports: Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Bay and Munising. Splake stocked at each port are given a unique mark or fin clip consisting of a single fin or a paired clip, which has two fins. The goal is to create nearshore fishing opportunities in the smaller bays of Lake Superior, where some fisheries are available year-round.

The evaluation study will be conducted through 2030. It is designed to help fisheries managers understand the percentage of stocked fish caught by anglers, the home range of splake, and harvest metrics such as harvest rates and fish size at harvest by year and location.

“Preliminary study results indicate that most splake remain in close proximity to their respective stocking locations,” said George Madison, a Michigan DNR fisheries biologist for the Western Lake Superior Management Unit. “Splake are known to prefer

shallow water habitats, meaning these fish are accessible with small boats or shore casting during the open-water periods on Lake Superior. Splake are also readily available through the ice during winter fishing months.”

Identifying the fish

So far, fisheries managers have learned that identifying the correct fin clip on splake can be difficult to do while fishing. This creates challenges when considering the reported data for the evaluation study. When looking at a caught splake, anglers should inspect it for missing fins or a jawbone clip, indicating that it has been marked. Some clipped fins can be misshaped or missing or appear abnormal.

Marked fish then can be reported through the DNR’s [Eyes in the Field app](#) to give information such as species, length, weight, sex, and date and location caught, or by contacting a [local DNR fisheries 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, determine the marks on the fish and record any angler trip data.

“If you’re fishing for splake on Lake Superior this fall, we encourage you to talk with DNR creel staff, who are scheduled through the end of October,” said Madison. “It takes just a few minutes to share information about your fishing trip, but those details mean better data and greater understanding about splake abundance and behavior.”

Anglers are reminded, too, that other natural resources agencies and tribal units mark a variety of fish species for

different evaluation purposes. For information on fish marking in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/TaggedFish. ✦

A Little Knowledge ...



Lake Superior:

- Today some 600,000 people live along the lake’s 1,700-mile shoreline, but more than half are clustered in Thunder Bay, Duluth, Marquette, and Sault Ste. Marie.
- Superior is the broadest freshwater lake in the world. It could tuck within its shoreline New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and most of Connecticut combined.
- There are 350 known wrecks. Fall storms create 30-foot waves.
- Duluth is the 17th biggest port in the U.S., despite being iced-in three months a year. It ships more than 40 million tons of materials annually; half of which is iron ore.

And A Little Humor

Metric Conversions

(for the rest of us)

- 1 millionth of a mouthwash: *1 microscope*
- Time between slipping on a peel and hitting the pavement: *1 bananosecond*
- Weight an evangelist carries with God: *1 billigram*
- 1,000 aches: *1 megahurtz*
- Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mph: *1 knot-furlong*
- Basic unit of laryngitis: *1 hoarsepower*
- 1,000 grams of wet socks: *1 literhosen*
- 10 rations: *1 decoration*

Lake Ontario April prey fish survey results and Alewife assessment, 2023

[WeidelEtal_2023LkOntario_AprilPreyfishAlewifeReport.pdf \(glfc.org\)](#)

ABSTRACT

The April bottom trawl survey and alewife population assessment provides science to inform Lake Ontario fisheries management. The 2023 survey included 215 trawls in the main lake and embayments and sampled depths from 6.5 to 252 m (21 – 827 ft.). The survey captured 1,012,178 fish from 32 species with a total weight of 12,136 kg (26,700 lbs.). Alewife were 92% of the catch by number while Rainbow Smelt, Deepwater Sculpin, and Round Goby, comprised 3%, 3%, and 1% of the catch respectively. To improve the accuracy of prey fish biomass and density estimates we reanalyzed trawl sensor data from each of three participating survey vessels and created vessel-specific relationships predicting how bottom trawl bottom contact time, wing width, and area-swept varies with depth.

Total Alewife biomass increased in 2023 due to growth and survival of the abundant 2020 year class (now age-3) and an abundant 2022 year class (age-1). The 2023 mean Alewife biomass (81.1 kg·ha⁻¹) was the largest since whole lake sampling began in 2016 and was the ninth largest value observed in the modern time series (1997-2023, maximum value in 2000 = 91.8 kg·ha⁻¹). The 2023 Alewife density (6795 n·ha⁻¹) was the greatest density observed in the modern time series. These high biomass and density values are due to above average Alewife reproductive success in 2020 and 2022. Simulation modeling suggests the 2024 and 2025 Alewife biomass index may be substantially higher than the 2023 observations.

In 2023, the Rainbow Smelt biomass index increased relative to the 2022 index, as did the biomass index for Cisco. In contrast, Emerald Shiner and Threespine Stickleback, biomass values continue to be low (< 0.01 kg·ha⁻¹). Three Bloater, were captured during the 2023 survey. Hydroacoustic sampling conducted during the bottom trawl survey estimated prey fish densities in pelagic habitats not sampled by the bottom trawl (3 m below the surface to 3 m above the lake bottom) and these densities were hundreds to thousands of times lower than bottom trawl-based densities. These results support the idea that, in April, when the warmest water is on the lake bottom, Alewife and most other pelagic prey fish are near the lake bottom and can be effectively sampled with bottom trawling.

This report presents the results from the multi-agency 2023 Lake Ontario April prey fish survey and Alewife assessment. Results are tailored to inform the Fish Community Objectives: 2.3 “Increase prey fish diversity—maintain and restore a diverse prey-fish community including Alewife, Cisco, Rainbow Smelt, Emerald Shiner, and Threespine Stickleback” and 2.4 “Maintain predator/prey balance—maintain abundance of top predators (stocked and wild) in balance with available prey fish” 14. This research is also guided by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Ecosystems Mission Area, Species Management Research Program to “provide science that is used by managers, policy makers, and others for decisions that protect, conserve, and enhance healthy fish and wildlife populations”.

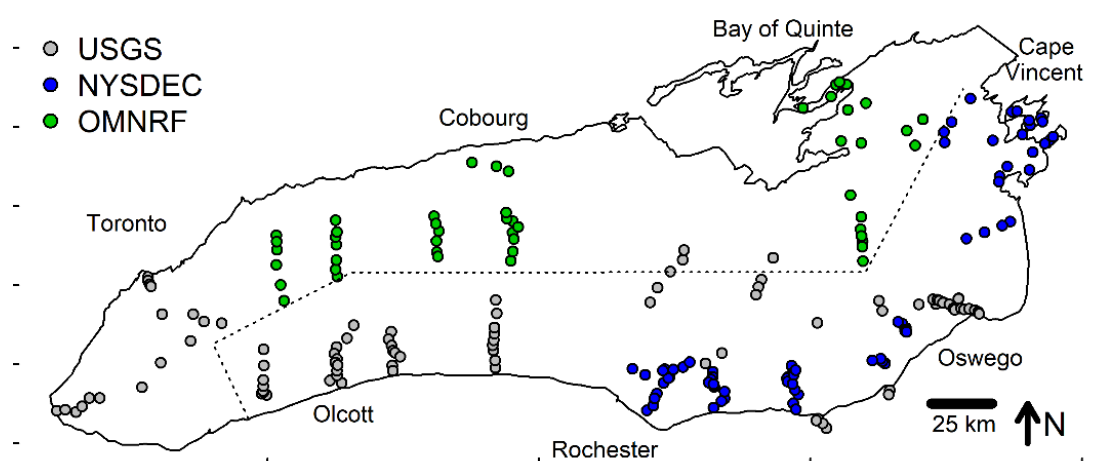


Figure 1. Lake Ontario bottom trawl sites from the 2023 multi-agency April prey fish survey. The dotted line represents the U.S. – Canada border

Survey timing, extent, and catch

The 2023 April bottom trawl survey conducted 215 trawls in main lake and embayment sites (Fig.1), at depths from 6.5 to 252 m (21 – 827 ft.). The survey captured 1,012,178 fish from 32 species with a total

weight of 12,136 kg (26,700 lbs.) and 288 kg (634 lbs.) of dreissenid mussels (Table 1). Numerically, Alewife were 92% of the catch while Rainbow Smelt, Deepwater Sculpin, and Round Goby, comprised 3%, 3%, and 1% of the catch respectively).

Table 1. Number of fish captured in Lake Ontario during the 2023 April bottom trawl survey. Individual dreissenid mussels are not counted; however, the total catch was 288 kilograms (634 lbs.). The density and biomass columns represent the lake wide, area-stratified mean value. The “NA” represents not available

Species	Genus Species	Number (n·ha-1)	Proportion	Density (kg·ha-1)	Biomass
Alewife	<i>Alosa pseudoharengus</i>	930029	0.92	6923.53	85.73
Rainbow Smelt	<i>Osmerus mordax</i>	28507	0.03	202.52	1.09
Deepwater Sculpin	<i>Myoxocephalus thompsonii</i>	28411	0.03	275.04	7.41
Round Goby	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>	13369	0.01	94.59	1.74
Yellow Perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	6427	0.01	58.18	0.46
Spottail Shiner	<i>Notropis hudsonius</i>	2443	0	18.54	0.16
Trout-perch	<i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i>	2218	0	16.93	0.15
White Perch	<i>Morone americana</i>	326	0	3.54	0.30
Threespine Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	100	0	0.94	0.00
Lake Trout	<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>	91	0	0.51	0.86
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	83	0	0.71	0.04
Slimy Sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i>	41	0	0.70	0.00
Lake Whitefish	<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>	30	0	0.84	0.13
Rockbass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	20	0	0.21	0.00
White Sucker	<i>Catostomus commersonii</i>	17	0	0.16	0.07
Emerald Shiner	<i>Notropis atherinoides</i>	12	0	0.09	0.00
Freshwater Drum	<i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i>	10	0	0.51	0.86
Cisco	<i>Coregonus artedii</i>	9	0	0.46	0.08

Brown Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	7	0	0.06	0.02
Common Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	6	0	0.05	0.35
Walleye	<i>Sander vitreus</i>	5	0	0.07	0.01
Lake Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	4	0	0.02	0.06
Bloater	<i>Coregonus hoyi</i>	3	0	0.01	0.00
Smallmouth Bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	3	0	0.03	0.02
Black Crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	1	0	0.01	0.00
Bluntnose Minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>	1	0	NA	NA
Burbot	<i>Lota lota</i>	1	0	0.01	0.06
Grass Pickerel	<i>Esox americanus</i>	1	0	NA	NA
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmonides</i>	1	0	NA	NA
Northern Pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>	1	0	NA	NA
Sea Lamprey	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	1	0	NA	NA

The 2023 Alewife biomass and density indices increased relative to 2022 and were among the highest values estimated in the modern time series, 1997 to 2023. While the adult biomass index was predicted to increase in 2023, the above average catches of age-1 Alewife (2022 year class) contributed to both the greater biomass and density increases observed in 2023. The biomass estimate for the 2022 year class (captured as age-1) was slightly below the high value observed for the 2020 year class. We note that the adjustments to the vessel specific area swept estimates shifted some of the

biomass and density values relative to previous year's figure. These shifts tended to increase these index values compared to estimates based on a single area swept relationship applied to all vessels. Alewife condition, measured as the predicted weight of a 165 mm fish (6.5 inches), declined in 2023 relative to 2022 which is expected given the observed increases in biomass and density.

To read the full 16page report: [Lake Ontario April prey fish survey results and Alewife assessment, 2023](#) ✧

Other Breaking News Items:**(Click on title or URL to read full article)****[Arctic grayling could be coming back to Michigan](#)**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources plans to stock adult Arctic grayling in select Upper Peninsula, Michigan lakes this fall as part of an effort to reintroduce the once iconic fish. The Arctic grayling was abundant in northern Michigan until the 1930s when intense logging wiped out its shaded spawning habitat

[Great Lakes Fishery Commission treats Tahquamenon River for parasitic sea lamprey](#)

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission says they will be treating for sea lampreys in Michigan's Tahquamenon River on September 29

[Historians race to find Great Lakes shipwrecks before quagga mussels destroy the sites](#)

The Great Lakes' frigid fresh water used to keep shipwrecks well preserved. Now, an invasive mussel is destroying shipwrecks, forcing archeologists and amateur historians into a race against time to find as many sites as they can

[Beyond Brandon Road: Monitoring 18 other points invasive carp could enter Great Lakes](#)

While much of the focus of the fight to protect the Great Lakes from invasive carp centers is on the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, the USACE has identified an additional 18 places where invasive carp could theoretically cross into the Great Lakes

[From homebodies to prolific swimmers, researchers track Chicago River fish to find out where they are going and why](#)

Researchers from the Shedd Aquarium, Purdue University, and the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant are tracking the movements of 80 individual fish in the Chicago River system using acoustic telemetry.

[Outdoors: Alarm bells sound as traces of invasive carp found in Michigan river](#)

The eDNA of silver carp has been detected in a water sample taken from the St. Joseph River near Berrien Springs, Michigan, as part of a regular U.S. Fish and Wildlife program to monitor Michigan waterways for the invasive bighead and silver carp. However, a positive eDNA sample does not necessarily indicate the presence of live fish

End