



Angler Rights Activism

Those who would nix your right to fish are active and organized

Anglers need to be equally vigilant.

Washington DC (February 28, 2024)
– Those who would nix your right to fish in an instant are active and organized—recreational anglers need to be equally vigilant. Nearly half of Australia’s fishable waters are now off limits. Some European countries ban catch and release, claiming it hurts the fish. Think it can’t happen here? Think again...

Animal rights activists in Oregon last year filed Initiative Petition 3 (IP3), which criminalizes injuring or intentionally killing animals, including utilizing breeding practices and raising/killing livestock for food. Proponents have again filed a ballot

initiative for the 2024 November general election. To qualify, they would have to deliver 112,020 signatures for verification to the Oregon secretary of state by July 8, 2024.

The initiative would ban hunting and fishing in the state, as well as raising animals for food. If you want to see just how wacky it is, go to YesOnIP3 here: <https://www.yesonip3.org/about>.

They’ve got money behind them, which is often what it takes to pass a bill into law. They received a recent influx of \$110,000 in campaign donations allowing them to pay signature gatherers. The backers have indicated they intend to pursue a similar path in other states as well.

Twenty-one states guarantee the right to hunt and fish in their constitutions, with twenty of those approved via the voters. While Vermont’s language dates back to 1777, the rest of these constitutional provisions—in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming—have passed since 1996.

There are starting to be louder rumblings from those who see fishing and hunting as outmoded relics of our past, and with a surprising amount of time on their hands, are dithering about putting an end to both.

Those who would nix your right
Continued on page 10

In this issue...

Grt Lakes Fishing Decress take effect ...	2
Commercials/DNR capture 83 carp.....	3
GLC report on uses of Grt Lakes waters	3
Selling a boat? Don't forget 4 tasks.....	4
Study: Nonnative earthworms all over....	4
Commissions strengthen cooperation	5
Volunteers for stream monitoring	5
Annual rainbow trout sampling event	5
New fishing reg for St Croix/Fox-Illinois..	6
DEC to discuss future of Brook Trout	6
Fisheries Outreach Meeting – Mar 14	6
Alarming levels of toxic medicinal drugs.	7
New methods of keeping grass carp at ..	7
Youth Conservation Program dates	7
Public mtg on proposed dam removal....	8
2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge	8
No license required on designated days	8
Exam dates for Licensed Guides	8
Free fishing returns for Family Day	9
IN BOW registration opened	9
Summer employment opportunities.....	10
New WI fishing touorney registration.....	10
Register for Ohio Rivers Symposium	10
Balancing act: A policy success story ...	11

Lake Michigan Fisheries Meeting

March 28 and April 3, 2024

Join us for a seminar on fish biology and fisheries science happening in Lake Michigan. Workshop features speakers from Purdue University and Illinois Natural History Survey. Workshop topics include:

- Tracking largemouth bass in the Chicago River
- Offshore sampling and surveying of the Lake Michigan food web
- Illinois Natural History Survey update on recreational fishing

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 Questions? Email Peter

Register: <https://purdue.ag/spring-2024-fisheries>

Thursday, March 28, 2024

6:00-8:30pm Central Time
Wilmette Harbor Club
20 Harbor Drive, Wilmette, IL 60092
[Google Map](#)

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

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

This workshop seminar is presented by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources, Illinois Natural History Survey, and Wilmette Harbor Club. ✧

Great Lakes Fishing Decree takes effect

The latest Great Lakes Fishing Decree has taken effect, and its guidelines for certain Great Lakes fisheries in Michigan will be in place soon. The new decree includes many updates, including which areas tribal commercial fishers can use, as well as the reporting requirements for the fishing industry.

Updated guidelines for co-management of fishery resources in parts of Michigan's Great Lakes are now in effect for the next 24 years. The new Great Lakes Fishing Decree was approved August 24, 2023, by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan. In the months since the decree's signing, the State of Michigan and tribal governments have been preparing to implement the provisions of the document.

This decree is necessary because five tribes—the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians—reserved fishing rights in the 1836 Treaty of Washington. Those rights were affirmed by federal courts more than four decades ago, resulting in the need for a co-management framework that allows for sharing of the fishery resource. This decree is the third since 1985, and each one has included a fishery management structure that dictates who can fish where, when and how, and what can be brought home or sold.

The most recent iteration includes many updates, but the areas that can be fished by tribal commercial fishers and the reporting requirements for the fishing industry are notable provisions that have taken time to implement.

“Tribal fishing regulations needed to be updated to ensure they are consistent with the changes outlined in the new decree,” said Dave Caroffino, DNR Fisheries Division Tribal

Coordination Unit manager. “In addition, both the state and the tribes have been preparing electronic reporting systems to improve data collection from commercial fishers, wholesale fish dealers and charter captains.”

The information collected from fisheries is vital to management and will be used by the state and the tribes to monitor fish populations and establish regulations in the future.

For more than two decades, the 2000 Consent Decree governed fishing in the 1836 Treaty waters of the Great Lakes, and recreational anglers and boaters grew accustomed to the commercial fishing patterns that resulted from the regulations within that agreement. The Great Lakes ecosystem has changed substantially since 2000. As fishing regulations have been amended in response to those changes, patterns within the commercial fishery are likely to change, too.

“Anglers may see nets in locations they are not used to,” said Nick Torsky, a supervisor within the DNR Great Lakes Enforcement Unit. “It is important to review the updated maps within the decree to understand where commercial fishing nets may be located. Being careful and vigilant for commercial fishing nets while on the water is critical to public safety.”

Commercial fishing nets are marked with staff buoys that extend 4 feet above the surface of the water and have an orange flag that is 16 inches by 16 inches in size. Anglers and boaters who encounter nets should give them a wide berth and not interfere with commercial fishing activity.

To read the Great Lakes Fishing Decree and view the associated maps, visit the [Great Lakes Co-management webpage](#). ✧



• Established 1972 •

President

Daniel N. Thomas, *Illinois*

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Michael D. Sanger, *Wisconsin*

Treasurer

Thomas G. Couston, *Wisconsin*

DIRECTORS

Illinois – Robert Gaik

Indiana – Mike Schoonveld

New York – Thomas Marks

Ohio – Rick Unger

Ontario – Darryl Choronzey

Pennsylvania – Ed Kissell

Wisconsin – Robert Wincek

Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

Editor

Jeanette Thomas

Webmaster

Chad Lapa

© Copyright 2024 by Great Lakes Basin Publications, the *INLAND SEAS ANGLERS-GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT* is the newsletter of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council, a federally recognized not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government.

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

Address Change:

Send six weeks in advance with old mailing label to GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT, P.O. Box 297, Elmhurst, IL 60126, (630) 941-1351 or glslfc444@gmail.com.

Commercial fishers, Minnesota DNR capture 83 invasive carp

In the latest in a series of tag, track and capture operations, commercial fishers working with the Minnesota DNR captured 82 silver carp and one bighead carp February 13-14 in Pool 5A of the Mississippi River, near Winona. The DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are examining the captured fish to evaluate age, reproductive condition, and information about their origin.

“As with previous captures, it is unlikely that these adult fish were the result of reproduction in Minnesota waters,” DNR Invasive Species Unit Supervisor Kelly Pennington said. “The DNR and partner agencies will continue to use a range of aggressive prevention and management techniques, consistent with the recently updated Invasive Carp Action Plan.”

Over the past several years, the DNR has significantly increased its efforts to tag, track and capture

invasive carp in the Mississippi River. The DNR encourages Minnesotans to stay up to date on these efforts, including the most recent large captures, by visiting the [DNR invasive carp webpage](https://mndnr.gov/invasive-carp) (mndnr.gov/invasive-carp). The webpage also includes a link to a timeline of invasive carp milestones in Minnesota.

Additional information about invasive carp in Minnesota

Invasive carp have been moving upstream since escaping into the Mississippi River from commercial fish farms in Arkansas in the 1970s. These fish compete with native species, and silver carp are known to jump out of the water in a way that can pose a risk to boaters.

Invasive carp have been caught as far upstream as Pool 2 of the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities metro area (bighead, grass and silver), the King Power Plant on the St. Croix River by Oak Park Heights (bighead

and silver), and just downstream of Granite Falls in the Minnesota River (bighead).

State and federal funding sources, including the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund and Outdoor Heritage Fund, have provided key funding for the DNR’s invasive carp detection and response program. Invasive carp captures in Minnesota must be reported to the DNR immediately by calling 651-587-2781 or emailing invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us. People are asked to take a photo and transport the carp to the nearest DNR fisheries office or make arrangements for it to be picked up by a DNR official. A [permit can be requested](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/aquaticanimals/asiancarp/angler_caught_carp_permit.pdf) (files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/aquaticanimals/asiancarp/angler_caught_carp_permit.pdf) to keep captured invasive carp for consumption or disposal. More information about invasive carp is available on the [DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/invasive-carp) (mndnr.gov/invasive-carp). ✧

Great Lakes Commission releases report on uses of Great Lakes waters in 2022

Ann Arbor, Michigan – A report released by the [Great Lakes Commission](https://www.greatlakescommission.org/) (GLC) finds that 40.8 billion gallons of water per day were withdrawn from the Great Lakes basin in 2022, representing about a 3% decrease from 2021 withdrawals. According to the [2022 Annual Report of the Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database](https://www.greatlakescommission.org/2022-Annual-Report-of-the-Great-Lakes-Regional-Water-Use-Database), thermoelectric power production (once-through cooling), public water supply, and industrial use were the primary water use sectors. Just under 5% of the total reported water withdrawn was consumed or otherwise lost from the basin. Considering both consumptive use and diversions, the basin gained a total of 869 million gallons of water per day in 2022.

The report’s findings were shared at the December meeting of the Great

Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Compact Council. Since 1988, the eight states and two provinces in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin have submitted water use data to the GLC, which compiles these datasets into an annual report.

“Water is an increasingly finite resource around the world, and the Great Lakes region is facing an increasingly complex future with the effects of climate change, including intense rainfall events and hotter and drier seasons,” said James Tierney, vice chair of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council and Great Lakes Commission from New York state. “The Great Lakes Commission provides an essential service to the basin by reporting how much of our

Great Lakes water is being used and trends in that usage.”

“With over ten years of water use data across the basin, the Great Lakes Water Use Database annual report allows us to understand short- and longer-term trends in water use across the basin. Fifteen years after the passage of the Great Lakes Agreement and Compact, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River states and provinces have assembled a valuable database of water use information, supporting the region’s efforts to sustainably manage water withdrawals in the Great Lakes basin from Duluth to Montreal,” said Steven Little, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Deputy Secretary, representing current Regional Body chair Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers.

To read the report, visit waterusedata.glc.org. ✧

Selling a boat this year? Don't forget these 4 critical paperwork tasks

SPRINGFIELD, Va., Mar. 4, 2024 – The spring boat-buying season is upon us, much to the delight of boat sellers, some of whom may be eager to unload their boats after racking up off-season storage bills. However, when a boat is sold, sellers need to understand—sometimes for safety reasons—that they aren't in the free and clear until critical paperwork is done right. Here is a seller's paperwork to-do list from [BoatUS](#).

1. Cancel the boat insurance policy. This is the first thing most boat sellers do right. It's super important to cancel a vessel's insurance policy once the sale goes through. Not doing so potentially adds unnecessary risk and potential liability to the seller. Also don't forget to cancel any automatic bank payments that were set up to pay policy premiums.

2. Release the DSC-VHF radio's Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number. If you're selling your boat, remember a key fact about MMSI's: Once issued, the MMSI number stays assigned to the boat (installed VHF radios). The emergency contact information, among other data, requires updating. If a seller forgets to release the MMSI number to the buyer, a future mayday distress aboard the vessel could delay first responders. BoatUS members can release or update an MMSI for no cost at [BoatUS.com/MMSI](#).

3. Have an EPIRB aboard? A seller will need to ensure an Emergency Position-Indicating Rescue Beacon (EPIRB) attached to the boat is updated with new owner contact information. To update an EPIRB go to [NOAA's Beacon Registration site](#) and change the status to

“Sold/Transferred.” Once this happens, the new owner can register the beacon in their name with their own emergency contact information.

4. Contact the state boat registration agency to advise them the boat was sold. Sending a letter by mail or email to your state's boat registration agency acknowledging the boat has a new owner may help prevent future misdirected registration renewal notices. In some states it is a legal requirement to report any change in vessel ownership status within a certain number of days with the name of the purchaser, purchase price and date of sale.

To help make buying and selling easier, BoatUS offers a free Boat Buying and Selling Guide and other helpful resources at [BoatUS.com/Guide](#). ✧

Study: Nonnative earthworms are all over North America, and it's a problem

The quiet invasion of non-native earthworms across North America, once considered benign, has been revealed as a significant threat to the continent's ecosystems. According to a new study led by [Stanford University](#), at least 70 species of invasive earthworms have made their way into North American soil.

The study presents the largest database of alien [earthworms](#) to date, shedding light on a critical yet underappreciated ecological issue. “Earthworms tell the story of the Anthropocene, the age we live in,” said study senior author Professor Elizabeth Hadly. “It is a story of global homogenization of biodiversity by humans, which often leads to the decline of unique local species and the disruption of native ecosystem processes.”

Nonnative earthworms have colonized much of the North American continent, posing a threat to native ecosystems. Writing in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, researchers documented the presence

of scores of nonnative earthworm species across the continent, calling them a “serious threat” to biodiversity because of their role as “ecosystem engineers.”



reports of nonnative earthworms intercepted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A machine learning analysis of species richness revealed that nonnative earthworms are probably the dominant species across 73 percent of the continent, with 28 percent of North America now devoid of its original earthworm species.

Overall, the researchers pinpointed 70 unique species of alien earthworm, the majority of which originate from Europe and Asia. The use of earthworms for fishing bait and the sale of vermicomposting materials are partly to blame, the researchers write,

and the creatures tend to enter the continent from coasts and areas with airports.

The environmental changes wreaked by the new arrivals vary, from taking over areas with few native earthworms to spurring changes in the plant composition of forests and other areas. Earthworms are often seen as positive forces in their native habitats, but the researchers point out that nonnative species can have the opposite effect. The invaders' slow movements and feeding habits can cause soil compaction that precludes plant growth, reduce biodiversity, enable invasive plant takeovers and hurt trees such as the sugar maple.

“Because it is virtually impossible to remove established populations of alien earthworms,” the researchers write, “the best management option is to focus on prevention and early detection.” They call for policies to prevent the future spread of the alien earthworms, noting that climate change will probably drive future invasions. ✧

Commissions strengthen cooperation on Great Lakes protection

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a ceremony held March 6, the [Great Lakes Fishery Commission](#) (GLFC), the [Great Lakes Commission](#) (GLC), and [International Joint Commission](#) (IJC) formally signed the first-ever memorandum of understanding between them. The agreement sets a clear path for advancing the commissions' existing shared goals and objectives, such as developing a Great Lakes science plan, coordinating science vessel activities, and promoting annual Great Lakes Day events.

Each commission plays a different but complementary role in Great Lakes management and represents important stakeholders in advancing sound policies and projects. The IJC helps Canada and the United States prevent and resolve issues over the use of the waters they share, including through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; the GLC represents the interests of the Great Lakes provinces and states on priority issues; and the GLFC ensures fishery management is based on science and highly coordinated among the state, provincial, and U.S. tribal jurisdictions in the basin.

"Our three commissions, although having different mandates and missions, very much benefit from joining forces to achieve our shared objectives: Great Lakes restoration and management based on rigorous science," said Marc Gaden, executive secretary of the GLFC. "While we have worked well together for decades, this MOU steps up our level of collaboration and renews our commitment to each other to seek synergies, share information, and support each other's work."

The agreement was signed following the Semiannual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, and in advance of Thursday's annual Great Lakes Day celebration, including the Great Lakes Day Congressional Breakfast Reception. ✧

DNR seeking volunteers for stream monitoring in Central and NE Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR is seeking volunteers to help monitor streams and rivers in several river basins located in central and northeastern Wisconsin, specifically the Lower Fox, Upper Fox and Wolf River and Northeast Lakeshore basins. Sampling is essential for monitoring water quality improvements, assessing implementation activities and evaluating long-term land use changes.

There are multiple monitoring locations in each basin that need volunteers, and more than one volunteer can sample each site. Sampling occurs once a month from May through October, which is prime algae growing season, making it easier to determine which streams are affected by elevated nutrient and suspended sediment concentrations.

Monitoring locations are located at or near road crossings and are chosen for their ease of access. Volunteers should be comfortable wading into the water, but no previous water quality experience is needed. Volunteers will be trained on DNR protocol, and all equipment will be supplied except for boots/waders.

When sampling, each volunteer will need to fill three bottles with water from the stream and take up to two field measurements; the entire process takes about one hour each month. The samples then need to be packed on ice in the provided cooler and dropped off at the closest U.S. post office to be shipped to the State Laboratory of Hygiene in Madison for analysis.

The Lower Fox, Upper Fox and Wolf River and Northeast Lakeshore basins have [total maximum daily loads](#), which identify a need for pollutant reductions to meet water quality standards and provide a framework to meet those standards. The volunteer programs help to fulfill monitoring goals.

DEC Region 8 announces annual rainbow trout sampling event on March 21

New York announced it will be sampling the rainbow trout run at Naples Creek, Ontario County, on **March 21**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Sampling starts at Naples Creek Bridge, which is located on State Route 245, 0.25 miles east of Route 21 junction in the village of Naples. The annual rainbow trout sampling draws onlookers of all ages who come to observe DEC's fisheries staff at work. Spectators are encouraged to observe safely as they enjoy this truly educational experience.

Naples Creek and its tributaries are popular for their spring runs of wild rainbow trout. DEC Region 8 Fisheries staff net rainbow trout, record each fish's statistics, and release the fish back in the creek. The sampling results are made available to the public prior to the April 1 opening of Finger Lakes tributary season which runs through December 31. The main bodies of the Finger Lakes are open to fishing year-round. ✧



Continued from Column 2

Volunteers are crucial for these monitoring programs. The DNR would not be able to monitor as many waterbodies without volunteers' help. Water resources are important for many reasons, including recreation, habitat and health. This program is a great way for volunteers to learn about the water quality in their area and how they can become involved.

For more information about volunteering at these sites, contact Katherine Wendorf at Katherine.Wendorf@wisconsin.gov or 920-296-5126 or visit the DNR website:

- [Lower Fox River Basin](#)
- [Upper Fox and Wolf River Basins](#)
 - [Northeast Lakeshore Basin](#) ✧

New fishing reg for St. Croix and Fox-Illinois Rivers

The Wisconsin DNR reminds anglers of the new fishing regulations that went into effect **March 1**, on the St. Croix and Fox-Illinois rivers in northwestern Wisconsin and Waukesha County. These new regs change bag and length limits for gamefish and establish refuges on the St. Croix and Fox-Illinois Rivers.

The regulations on the St. Croix River now include:

- **Channel catfish:** No minimum length limit; daily limit of five channel catfish and only one over 24" may be kept per day.
- **Flathead catfish:** No minimum length limit; daily limit of two flathead catfish and only one over 24" may be kept per day.
- **Northern pike:** No minimum length limit; daily limit of three northern pike and only one over 30" may be kept per day.
- **Panfish:** Daily bag limit of 15 of each panfish species (bluegill/sunfish combined, crappie and yellow perch).
- **Walleye and sauger:** Daily bag limit of four walleye or sauger in total, with a 15" minimum length limit for walleye and no minimum length for sauger. Only one walleye or sauger over 20" may be kept per day.
- **White and yellow bass (combined):** No minimum length limit; daily bag limit of 10 white and yellow bass in total.

These regulations also create two new fish refuges to help protect spawning fish. One is on the St. Croix River, spanning from the State Highway 8 bridge upstream to the St. Croix Falls Dam, effective March 1 through June 15, and the other is on the Fox-Illinois River, from Madison Street in Waukesha upstream to the Barstow Dam, and effective March 1 through May 1, 2024. Fishing is not allowed in these two refuges during these periods.

Anglers can find a complete list of the 2024-2025 fishing regulation changes on the [DNR's fishing regulations webpage](#). All license requirements apply. ✧

DEC to discuss future of Brook Trout Pond Management **March 16**

New York State DEC) announced that DEC will hold two public information sessions in March to discuss a new draft Adirondack Brook Trout Pond Management Plan currently under development by DEC. The plan, once adopted following public review and input, will guide the State's actions for the next 15 years for managing pond-dwelling Adirondack brook trout.

"Hearing from stakeholders is essential to ensuring DEC's brook trout pond management is biologically sound and takes into account fishing activities for this iconic species," Commissioner Seggos said. "The Adirondack Park is one of only two locations in the lower 48 states that supports ponded brook trout fisheries. That's why it is essential that DEC creates a new roadmap to secure the future of these populations and address the challenges facing this valuable ecological and recreational resource."

DEC has scheduled an in-person public information session on March 16 from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Warrensburg DEC Office, 232 Golf Course Road, Warrensburg. DEC fisheries managers will meet with the public to explain the proposed approach, answer questions, and solicit feedback to inform completion of the draft plan under development. During the session, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, provide comments, and engage DEC fisheries managers and biologists in discussion. Public feedback will inform the ongoing development of the draft Adirondack Brook Trout Pond Management Plan, which will be released this year for formal public comment.

The brook trout is New York's state fish and an iconic symbol of the Adirondacks. Brook trout generally live in small- to moderate-sized streams, lakes, and ponds, wherever cold water is available; brook trout are emblematic of good water quality and highly valued by anglers. <https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases> ✧

DEC to hold Fisheries Outreach Meeting in Alexandria Bay **March 14**

Biologists to provide update on Lake Ontario's Eastern Basin and St. Lawrence River black bass population

New York is inviting the public to learn more about the status of Lake Ontario's Eastern Basin and St. Lawrence River black bass population at a rescheduled public meeting on **March 14 in Alexandria Bay, Jefferson County**. Biologists will provide an update on the fisheries' black bass population, share angler survey results, discuss management, and obtain input from the public. The event, originally scheduled for January 17, was postponed due to weather.

Lake Ontario's Eastern Basin and St. Lawrence River are among New York's most important fisheries. The Lake Ontario sport fishery is valued at more than \$546 million per year; the Eastern Basin black bass fishery is a significant contributor to that value. The St. Lawrence River sport fishery is valued at more than \$134 million per year and is among the top bass fisheries in the country. The popularity of black bass fishing has grown in recent years, drawing anglers to the region from across the country and around the world.

All are welcome to attend this free event and registration is not required. Following the presentation, the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage DEC fisheries managers and biologists in discussion. Those unable to attend can send questions to fwfish6@dec.ny.gov.

What: Lake Ontario Eastern Basin and St. Lawrence River Black Bass Public Meeting, Thursday, **March 14**, at 6 p.m.
Where: Alexandria Central School, 34 Bolton Avenue, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

For further information, contact DEC Region 6 Fisheries Manager Jana Lantry at (315) 785-2263, or DEC Lake Ontario Unit Leader Chris Legard at (315) 654-2147. ✧

Study reveals alarming levels of toxic medicinal drugs in the St. Lawrence River

A recent study reveals alarming levels of toxic medicinal drugs like caffeine and ibuprofen in water and sediment samples in the St. Lawrence River. The pollution originates from wastewater treatment plants and poses immediate risks to the health of both the river and its aquatic life.

St. Lawrence River has been found by scientists to be suffering from pharmaceutical pollution, containing toxic medicinal drugs and threatening aquatic life, according to a new study as of February 2024. Researchers involved in the study tracked down the pollution by collecting water samples from the Montreal City part of the river and its tributaries in Quebec, Canada.

Toxic substances such as caffeine, diclofenac, ibuprofen, and venlafaxine were detected not only in water samples from the river but also in collected sediments near a major wastewater effluent. The collection took place in several years along the stretch of the river and dozens of its tributary rivers, which contained significant levels of pharmaceutical compounds and chemicals.

The new research paper was published in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*, where scientists from the University of Montreal in Canada tracked down [pharmaceutical pollution](#) in surface waters of St. Lawrence River. The research team conducted a reconnaissance survey from 2017 to 2021 and found 27 pharmaceuticals and metabolites in the river's watershed.

These toxic medicinal drugs pose a risk both to the health of the river and its inhabitant aquatic animals. The findings of the study also pointed out that the pharmaceuticals found in the river could cause an immediate risk for the aquatic organisms in the context of chronic exposure. The said pollution is caused by the elimination of pharmaceutical compounds by wastewater treatment plants.

New methods of keeping grass carp at bay

A study will look at methods to keep grass carp from spawning in Lake Erie's Sandusky River. Although Ohio allows sterile grass carp to be used for vegetation control, fertile fish have found their way into the river and Lake Erie. The state has been using a variety of control methods in the past, but the study will look at the most economical way to thwart spawning.

The study, headed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, will look at a variety of barriers that could be used to control spawning. The main options are a bubble curtain that would direct the fish towards an area where they can be removed, an acoustic barrier, or a combination of both. These would only be operated during spawning time to minimize interference with native fish species and not disrupt daily life of local people and would be placed so as to not interfere with recreation or commercial fishing efforts or cause flooding. ✧

Rainbow trout to be released in a lake near you in 2024

The Ohio DNR will release 85,000 rainbow trout across the state beginning March 13. The 95 stocking locations were chosen to give as many anglers as possible a chance to reel in these feisty fish in March, April, and May. Trout releases are designed for high angler success and harvest. Find a complete list of release dates and locations at ohiodnr.gov/troutstockings. Fishing techniques can be found at wildohio.gov ✧

Continued from Column 1

In the US, surveys on national water quality conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2018 show that almost 50% of its rivers and streams and over 33.3% of the country's lakes are polluted. This makes them unfit for drinking, fishing, and swimming, as cited by the Natural Resources Defense Council ✧

DEC sets Youth Conservation Program dates

**Hunter Safety Courses offered
April 20 and 21 for Youth 12 to
16 Years Old**

DEC's Hunter Education unit is offering a two-day program on youth hunting safety on April 20 and 21. These hands-on courses are part of the State's Youth Conservation Program designed to introduce students between the ages of 12 and 16 to the basic principles of conservation, hunter education, and general outdoorsmanship.

The course will take place on April 20 and 21 at the Peconic River Sportsman's Club in Manorville and is open to youth who have not yet taken their Hunter Education course. Applications must be returned by April 1 and can be found on DEC's [Hunter Education Program webpage](#) under the "Long Island Youth Conservation Program" section.

This class is limited to 35 participants. Participants who successfully complete the program will receive their Hunter Education Training Certificate. This certificate is required to purchase a hunting license.

The Youth Conservation Program is part of the New York Open for Hunting and Fishing initiative. Since 1994, DEC's Hunter Education Program, the New York State Conservation Officers Association, and the Peconic River Sportsman's Club have sponsored this regional hunter safety event. The Open for Hunting and Fishing Initiative is an effort to improve recreational activities for in-state and out-of-state sportsmen and sportswomen and to boost tourism opportunities throughout the state. It includes the streamlining of hunting and fishing licensing and reducing license fees, improved access for fishing at various sites across the state, and increasing hunting opportunities in various regions.

For more information or to register: (631) 444-0255 or [email](#). Read more details in the [full press release](#). ✧

DNR recreation and fishing guidebooks are online

Your latest guides to exploring Indiana's great outdoors are now available at your fingertips and at a DNR property near you. The 2024 Indiana Recreation Guide is available now at on.IN.gov/recguide. And your 2024-2025 guide to Indiana fishing, the Indiana Fishing Regulations Guide, is available at on.IN.gov/fishingguide. The DNR's 2024 Indiana Recreation Guide is the source for information on state parks, state forests, lakes, fish & wildlife areas, nature preserves, state park inns, and other DNR properties. The guide includes a great facilities chart and information about accessibility and fees. Soon, free printed copies of each will be available at local retail outlets, state parks, lakes and other DNR properties. ✧

DNR to host public meeting **March 14** on proposed Devoe Lake Dam removal

The Michigan DNR will host a public meeting Thursday, March 14, to solicit feedback on the proposed removal of the Devoe Lake Dam, located in the Rifle River Recreation Area in Ogemaw County.

The meeting will run 7 to 8 p.m. at the Rose Township Hall, 3380 Lupton Road in Lupton. DNR staff will provide an overview of the proposed project, followed by an opportunity for people to ask questions and provide comments. "We're hoping to hear from park users, anglers and community members about the proposed removal of the dam," said Tricia Weisend, Rifle River Recreation Area supervisor. "While Devoe Lake's size shouldn't change significantly, we expect a boost for the fishery. The March 14 meeting will be a good opportunity to talk with the community." ✧

You're invited: Join the 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge

Indiana anglers are invited to participate in the 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge, a virtual fishing tournament that offers the opportunity to win prizes and contribute to fisheries management by providing Indiana DNR fisheries biologists valuable data on the state's [walleye](#), [sauger](#), and [saugeye populations](#). The tournament runs from March 30-June 30.

The Midwest Walleye Challenge was piloted in Iowa during the past two years. This year it will be offered across the Midwest as part of a larger fisheries research project funded by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Anglers will be able to submit both their catches and their time on the water for multiple categories, including a "Tough Luck" category for those who log fishing trips but don't catch anything, a "Most Waterbodies Fished" category for those who log trips from multiple rivers, lakes, and streams, and a standard "Longest Fish" category, in addition to random prize drawings for everyone who takes part. Participants will use the free mobile app, [MyCatch](#), to submit photos of their catch on a measuring device so length and species can be determined. Once the photo is reviewed, and the catch is confirmed, it will appear on a live leaderboard so anglers can see their current ranking in the tournament. Interested in participating?

View the rules, register for the tournament, and join the fun! [2024 Indiana - Midwest Walleye Challenge | Angler's Atlas \(anglersatlas.com\)](#)

Some 13 agencies, including Ontario and 12 states are involved. ✧

No freshwater fishing license required to fish on designated days

NY Gov Kathy Hochul announced the five designated Free Fishing Days in New York will take place on: **June 29 to 30**, **September 28** (National Hunting and Fishing Day) and **November 11** (Veterans Day). During these days, the fishing license requirement is waived for freshwater fishing on New York's waters. The Free Fishing Days program began in 1991 to give people who might not fish a chance to try the rewarding sport of freshwater fishing at no cost, to introduce people to a new hobby, and to encourage people to support conservation by purchasing a [New York State fishing license](#). Read more about Free Fishing Days in the [full Governor's press release](#). ✧

2024 exam dates for Licensed Guides Program announced

DEC announced that examinations are scheduled for individuals seeking to become licensed guides in New York State. The exams being offered are for guiding in the following categories: camping; fishing; hiking; hunting; whitewater rafting/canoeing/kayaking; rock climbing; and ice climbing. A guide is a person at least 18 years of age who offers services for hire, part or all of which include directing, instructing, or aiding another individual in fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, whitewater rafting/canoeing/kayaking, or rock and ice climbing. For exam dates and applications deadlines, along with other important details, visit the [Licensed Guide Program webpage](#) on DEC's website. For questions or assistance; Phone: 518-402-8985; Email: SpecialLicenses@dec.ny.gov ✧

Some people are so open-minded their brains fall out.

Quoted by Rick Warren

Free fishing returns for Family Day weekend

Family Day weekend returns with the opportunity to go fishing anywhere in Ontario without having to purchase a license or carry an Outdoors Card.

The annual free fishing opportunities aiming to get more people into the outdoors pursuit takes place Mother's Day weekend (**May 11-12**), Father's Day weekend (**June 15-16**), and Family Fishing Week from **June 29-July 7**.

Check out family fishing events planned across the province or plan your own family event. And get a free digital fishing package by visiting www.ontariofamilyfishing.com. You can also enter to win a \$500 fishing prize pack.

"Fishing is a family-friendly activity that is easy to learn and can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities on thousands of lakes and rivers in Ontario," Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry [Graydon Smith stated](#). "Family Day weekend is a great time to get out with your family and enjoy this fun activity. Just remember to stay safe and fish responsibly." Rules still apply.

Conservation limits and all other fishing regulations still apply during these times. Canadian residents participating must carry identification issued by the provincial or federal government, showing their name and date of birth. Outside of free fishing periods, anyone ages 18-64 must have an Outdoors Card and a fishing license. All veterans and active Canadian Armed Forces members residing in Ontario can enjoy free recreational fishing in the province, whenever and wherever fishing is allowed.

To read the 2024 Fishing Regulations Summary and read up on your own Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ), [click here](#). ✧

Youth Indiana turkey hunting & reserved hunts

The 2024 youth turkey season is April 20-21, and limits will be placed on the number of youth hunters allowed to hunt FWA properties on both days. Youth hunters and their guardians can apply for these special opportunities until 11:59 p.m. on March 17. Youth age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can participate but must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age. The youth hunter must possess a valid license to take a wild turkey. The adult partner must possess a turkey hunting license and game bird habitat stamp if participating in the hunt (i.e., calling turkeys) unless exempt from license requirements. The youth hunter may take only one bearded or male wild turkey during spring, which includes both the youth and regular spring turkey seasons. [The youth must comply with all other turkey hunting regulations](#). The youth's adult partner must not possess a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field, except for a handgun carried lawfully. [Reserved Youth Turkey Hunts on DNR properties](#) ✧

Becoming an Indiana Outdoors-Woman registration opened March 1

Registration for the annual Indiana Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop, which is open to women ages 18 and older, opened March 1. This year's BOW workshop will be held May 3-5, at Ross Camp in West Lafayette. BOW is designed for women to learn outdoor skills in a relaxed, low-pressure environment. Participants will choose four activities from more than two dozen offerings, including fishing, archery, geocaching, wild edibles, wildlife tracking, shooting muzzleloader guns, and outdoor cooking. For more info: [About Indiana BOW](#) ✧

The traitor appears as 'a friend'

"A nation can survive fools, even ambitious ones. But, it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banners openly. But, the traitor moves freely among those within our gates. His sly whispers rustling through galleys, heard in the very hall of government itself, for the traitor appears as 'a friend.'

He speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and wears their face and garments.

He appeals to the despicability that lies deep in the hearts of all men and thus rots the soul of a nation.

He works secretly to undermine the pillars of the City. He contaminates the body politic, so that it can no longer resist.

A murderer is less to be feared."
Cicero, 42 BC ✧

Summer employment opportunities

Summer Camps Staff Needed!

We're seeking nature loving staff for the Summer Camps Program. Summer Camps combine environmental education, hunter education, and outdoor recreation to create an adventurous experience for campers 11-13 years old or 14-17 years old. Working at a NYSDEC camp is a great opportunity to gain practical outdoor, naturalist, teaching, leadership, and many other transferrable skills while living in a beautiful setting. Working with youth is an incomparable experience that will stick with you for a lifetime.

There are four camps:

- Camps Colby—Adirondacks;
- Pack Forest—Adirondacks;
- Camp DeBruce—Catskills; and
- Camp Rushford—Western NY.

[Learn more about camp and employment](#). To apply, please send a resume, cover letter, and unofficial transcript to campemploy@dec.ny.gov. ✧

Those who would nix your right

Continued from page 1

California and Rhode Island have language in their respective constitutions guaranteeing the right to fish, but not to hunt. Advocates also consider Alaska's constitutional language—"Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use"—as meeting the test because of its strong case law history.

The good news is that American angler interests are backed by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), the nation's largest trade association for the recreational sportfishing industry. Recently, ASA VP of Government Affairs Mike Leonard spoke at the annual NPAA conference in Fort Myers, Florida on the topic of advocacy, what ASA is doing on your behalf, and what you can do as an individual to protect your fishing interests.

Leonard's engaging presentation highlighted three key themes:

- DO NOT take fishing for granted.
- DO NOT sit on the sidelines.
- Stop with the infighting.

He went on to talk about knowing the issues in your area, joining fishing organizations that work to protect sportfishing like the NPAA and the ASA, and keeping up with the issues that could affect your ability to access the vast amount of aquatic resources available in this country at asafishing.org. Watch [Leonard's presentation](#)

Florida has a right to hunt and fish amendment working towards approval this year. Here's the text:

Fishing, hunting, and the taking of fish and wildlife, including by the use of traditional methods, shall be preserved forever as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. This section does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section 9 of Article IV.

If your state does not have a "right to fish" law, it may be time to call on your legislators. ✧

New DNR fishing tournament registration requirement takes effect April 1

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR announced fishing tournaments that are statewide or regional in nature, seasonal without specific fishing dates or that have fewer than 20 boats or 100 participants will be required to register with the DNR starting April 1. Registration of these tournaments will be free of charge.

The DNR regulates fishing tournaments or organized competitive fishing events where money or prizes are awarded to protect fish populations from overharvest and to avoid crowding or conflicts among waterbody users. Larger tournaments and some specialized tournaments are monitored and regulated through a paid permit system, but there is little information on unpermitted tournaments. This registration requirement will help the DNR gather data on the number and types of tournaments held on Wisconsin's waterbodies.

Tournament organizers will be able to [submit their registrations using simple online](#) or paper forms that ask for organizer contact information and event information, including waterbodies to be fished, dates, target species and expected number of boats or participants. Only one registration is required per calendar year for tournaments that recur as part of a series. Registrations are required to be submitted 72 hours before the start of a tournament. Once submitted, registrations are complete, and no approvals are required.

A screening tool that asks questions about the planned tournament will help organizers determine whether they need a registration or permit. Processes and regulations for tournaments that require permits are unchanged.

Register now for the Ohio Rivers Symposium on **March 22**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – There's still time to [register for the 3rd Ohio Rivers Symposium](#), which will be held on Friday, March 22, in Columbus. Hosted by the Ohio DNR, this year's event is focused on the connection between groundwater resources and healthy streams. Registration closes on March 15.

The symposium will feature opening remarks from ODNR Director Mary Mertz and expert presentations delivered by representatives from The Ohio State University, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Geauga Park District, and the Miami Conservancy District on topics such as the new H2Ohio Rivers Initiative, watershed planning, native brook trout and coldwater habitat, and an update on Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program. Craig Nelson, with the ODNR Division of Geological Survey, will deliver the keynote address, Aquifers of Ohio: An Overview.

When: Friday, March 22, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 pm, Villa Milano Conference Center located at 1630 Schrock Road in Columbus ([Map](#)) **Cost:** \$60, includes lunch, break refreshments, and conference materials. Virtual and student options available at reduced price. **Register:** [Sign up online](#) or text/call (614) 935-8471 by March 15. ✧



Continued from Column 2

Anyone interested in hosting a fishing tournament in Wisconsin can visit the DNR's [Fishing Tournaments webpage](#) for information about tournament requirements, registration deadlines and permit and registration forms. ✧

Balancing act: A policy success story in the Great Lakes

Implementing the 'swish and spit' method successfully reduced the risk of AIS introductions from ballast water.

The Great Lakes remain one of the most heavily invaded freshwater systems in the world. Ballast water from cargo ships crossing the ocean inadvertently brought in many aquatic invasive species (AIS), accounting for the introduction of 40% of all nonindigenous aquatic species in the Great Lakes. However, collaborative efforts have led to pioneering research and policy changes that have reduced this threat.

The problem with ballast water

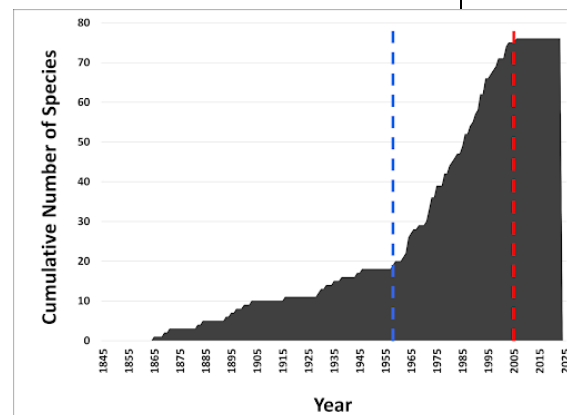
In 1993 a team of scientists led by Ed Mills at Cornell University first made the connection between the growing rate of introductions of non-native species to the Great Lakes and ballast water. Ships carry ballast water to adjust buoyancy (i.e. the upward force that keeps objects afloat) and ensure they do not tilt to one side during their voyage. Loading and unloading cargo redistributes a ship's weight. Water is either discharged or taken on by pumping water into ballast tanks to rebalance the ship. This process is essential for a cargo ship's stability, which improves handling in rough seas, maintains sailing speed and efficiency, and protects both ship and cargo. The exchange of ballast water usually occurs when ships are at port, but it can occur while in transit in open waters.

When ships pump in ballast water, they also take in aquatic organisms and sediments. Organisms trapped in ballast tanks can range from larger fish and aquatic plants to microscopic zooplankton and bacteria. When the ballast water is discharged, these trapped organisms are released as well. Since the Great Lakes is connected to a global shipping network, many non-native species have been introduced to the Great Lakes through this pathway.

While non-native species were introduced at a low rate to the Great Lakes basin prior to 1959, enlarging

the St. Lawrence Seaway caused a rapid increase in AIS introductions from ballast water. The St. Lawrence Seaway facilitates the access of transoceanic ships and AIS to the Great Lakes and shipments through the Seaway are an important driver for the regional economy. The St. Lawrence shipping canals opened in 1847, and the technology for ballast water exchange was introduced in the 1880s. Then in 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway was enlarged to allow more ships into the Great Lakes. The problem became so bad between 1980-2000, about 80% of new invaders introduced came from ballast water. Since 1959, 65% of new AIS introductions were from ballast water. Several of the most notable and impactful AIS entered the Great Lakes in ballast water discharge include zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), quagga mussels (*Dreissena rostriformis*), and round gobies (*Neogobius melanostomus*). Despite its necessity for safe shipping practices, ballast water became a concern due to the environmental and economic hazard impacts caused by the invasive species it inadvertently carried into the region.

Figure 1. Shows the number of aquatic invasive species (AIS) introduced to the Great Lakes. The blue dashed line represents the enlargement of the St. Lawrence Seaway Canal in 1959. The number of AIS rapidly increased afterward. The red dashed line



represents the adoption of new regulations for NOBAB ships entering the Great Lakes in 2006. After 2006, the introduction of new AIS from ballast water exchange quickly levels off.

Working together to solve the problem

In an early effort to reduce AIS ballast water introductions, guidelines for ballast water exchange were first introduced by Canada in 1989, made voluntary in the U.S. in 1990 and later made mandatory by U.S. law in 1994. Transoceanic ships entering the Great Lakes from freshwater or brackish-water ports with "Ballast on Board" (BOB) had to exchange their ballast water while at sea or seal their tanks while in the Great Lakes. Freshwater organisms discharged into salty ocean water would be unable to survive there and any saltwater organisms taken up in the ocean would not be able to survive in freshwater in the Great Lakes. Despite high compliance by ships, AIS were still entering the Great Lakes at alarming rates.

In the early 2000's, researchers turned their attention to "No Ballast on Board" (NOBOB) ships that had pumped all the ballast out (so as to carry maximum cargo) prior to crossing the ocean. These NOBOB ships accounted for over 80% of ships entering the Great Lakes, but were exempt from ocean ballast water exchange requirements at the time because they were assumed to be empty of ballast. Dr. David Reid, a physical scientist at the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) in Ann Arbor, Michigan, helped spearhead research on NOBOB ships. Dr. Reid's initial work building a shipping database helped reveal links between NOBOB ships and AIS introductions. Dr. Reid then

put together and secured funding for a team of researchers from NOAA and several universities in collaboration with industry partners. Dr. Reid's research team demonstrated that the 'empty' ballast tanks of NOBOB ships still carried residual ballast water and sediments. This residual was typically much less than 1% of the total ballast volume, but became concentrated with sediments that settled in the bottom of the tanks as water was pumped in and out.

Furthermore, the researchers demonstrated that microorganisms, and invertebrates with dormant stages could survive in the residual ballast water and sediments. When these ships arrived at their first Great Lakes port of call and started off loading cargo, they took on fresh ballast water which mixed with the residuals in the NOBOB tank, which would then be pumped out into the Great Lakes when the ship took on new cargo before making its return voyage. AIS living in the residual ballast of NOBOB vessels was still being discharged into the Great Lakes.

In addition to his scholarly contributions, Dr. Reid played a pivotal role in policy development related to ballast water management. His collaborative efforts with government agencies, research institutions, and industry stakeholders aided the development of regulatory frameworks aimed at reducing the risks associated with NOBOB ships. By engaging with policymakers, Dr. Reid helped shape the trajectory of environmental policy and sustainable

shipping practices in the Great Lakes. Dr. Reid also envisioned and established the NOAA-led Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System (GLANSIS) which continues to track non-native species in the Great Lakes today, gathering evidence needed to measure the impact of Great Lakes invasive species and evaluate the success of AIS management strategies in the region.

In direct response to this research, Canada (2006), and the United States (2008), implemented stricter rules requiring ships entering the Great Lakes to rinse their ballast tanks with saltwater to remove and kill potential AIS. This method of ballast water exchange was nicknamed the "swish and spit." All transoceanic ships were required to rinse tanks with saltwater at sea or equivalent salinity conditions (>30 ppt), which is outside the salt tolerance of most freshwater aquatic species. These regulations have been enforced by checking ships' records and examining water salinity, with the majority of ships complying. Non-compliant ships can also be denied entry to the Great Lakes, and required to turn around and go back to an area with salt water to complete the exchange. This management regulation for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System continues to be one of the most stringent in the world.

A success story
Implementing the "swish and spit" method successfully reduced the risk of AIS introductions from

transoceanic ballast water. Since 2006, there have been no confirmed introductions of AIS to the Great Lakes through ballast water exchange (Figure 1). There are no other regulations that are linked to such a significant reduction in AIS invasion rates. This rare success story is an example of what can happen when scientists, policy makers, regulators, and industries work together to find solutions. NOAA GLERL and partners recognized Dr. Reid for his contributions in September 2023.

On-going research
Researchers continue to explore and introduce improved methods for treating ballast water, such as filtration, chemical, heat, and ultraviolet treatments. The successful prevention of new AIS from transoceanic ships has also allowed researchers and policy makers to turn their attention to freighter ships that sail exclusively in the Great Lakes (commonly referred to as 'lakers'). Ballast water from lakers remains largely unregulated, despite evidence that lakers help spread invaders within the Great Lakes basin. Environmentalists have called for new regulations and standards for lakers given the success of ballast regulations on transoceanic ships. The implementation of such regulations faces logistical hurdles and significant costs, highlighting the need for further research and policy measures to safeguard the economic and ecological resources of the Great Lakes. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:
(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[COMMENTARY: Time is running out to keep invasive carp out of Lake Michigan](#)

Great Lakes' communities and industries would be deeply harmed if Invasive carp get into the Great Lakes and its tributaries and inland lakes.

[Ontario anglers watch their ice fishing community melt. Is there hope?](#)

At Lake Simcoe in southern Ontario, February has traditionally been the peak of ice fishing season. But this year, the lake's freezing cycle is in purgatory, continuing to fuel what many locals are calling Ontario's worst ice fishing season in decades.

[Grass carp invasion threatens Great Lakes biodiversity and economy](#)

The escalating threat of invasive grass carp in Canada's Great Lakes has prompted the Invasive Species Centre to initiate a comprehensive public awareness campaign.

[Advocates push for law requiring life rings at Lake Michigan entry points in Indiana](#)

A group of water safety experts and other advocates headed to the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis to argue in favor of the Lake Michigan Rescue Equipment Act. The bill would require life ring stations on piers and public access points along Lake Michigan

[County funds sought for Lake Ontario salmon and trout pens](#)

A study in Niagara County, NY, determined sport fishing put \$58.55 million into the local economy in 2022. One facet of the county's success story is the fishing pens operated and maintained by the Lake Ontario Trout & Salmon Association. The Niagara

[Want a healthy walleye fishery? Stock some muskie](#)

As apex predators, adult muskie occupy the very top tier of the Great Lakes food chain. The Michigan Muskie Alliance is advocating for stocking of muskie to promote balanced fisheries

[Mapping the Great Lakes: Proposed legislation would fund lakebed exploration](#)

A proposed bill in the U.S. House of Representatives would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct high-resolution bathymetric mapping of Great Lakes lakebeds and authorize \$200 million in appropriations.

[Michigan DNR explores new plan to dredge Sleeping Bear Dunes river](#)

The state of Michigan is exploring a new plan to resume dredging of the Platte River mouth at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials say they are looking into equipment options to ease boater

[Whitefish are on brink in Michigan. Can they learn to love rivers to survive?](#)

For decades, whitefish have struggled to breed on the rocky reefs of lakes Michigan and Huron, where their eggs are under attack by invasive species and other threats; but scientists believe that decades of restoration work have made rivers capable of supporting

[Indiana wetlands bill could affect Great Lakes, Mississippi River](#)

Conservation groups and water policy experts feared that a Supreme Court ruling last year would create a patchwork of state wetland protections, threatening water quality in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds. Now they say that fear is becoming a reality with a new Indiana law that will roll back protections for many of Indiana's most regulated wetland

[How safe are Great Lakes fish to eat? Depends on who you ask](#)

Researchers at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, examined fish consumption advisories for the upper St. Lawrence River issued by New York State, the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and the Akwesasne Mohawk community. They found

[A new crude oil and natural gas pipeline could be built under the Great Lakes](#)

Line 5 opponents have filed a federal lawsuit in Chicago, and environmentalists are appealing to state and federal agencies to stop the proposed pipeline and tunnel.

[Report: Great Lakes not as icy most winters](#)

Minnesota is seeing a glaring lack of snow and lake ice this winter, and a new report underscores how climate trends are leading to diminished ice seasons on the Great Lakes. Findings issued by the nonprofit Climate Central note that all five lakes have

[Rep. Huizenga breaks down effort to boost Great Lakes funding](#)

The bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force introduced the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Act of 2024 Tuesday in Washington. Right now, the GLRI is set to expire at the end of the 2026 fiscal year, but this legislation would reauthorize it for

[Enbridge, Bad River Band take fight over oil pipeline to U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals](#)

The gridlocked battle between a Wisconsin tribe and a Canadian oil giant has entered its next legal round. On Thursday, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments about whether Enbridge Energy's Line 5 oil pipeline can continue to transport oil on the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's reservation

END