Inland Seas Angler
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Lake Erie Walleye, Yellow Perch 2025 Hatch Results

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Results from the 2025 Lake Erie trawl surveys revealed the walleye hatch as the sixth largest of the past 38 years, according to the Ohio DNR. The 2025 west zone yellow perch hatch ranks as the seventh largest of the past 38 years, while hatches in the central and east zones were below average.

Data from annual trawl surveys indicate spawning success and survival of young walleye and yellow perch. The results allow biologists to predict how many fish will enter the catchable population as 2-year-olds in 2027. These indices are a key piece of information used by the inter-agency Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to determine annual levels of safe harvest for walleye and yellow perch.

In this issue…

Walleye
Lake Erie has maintained its reputation as The Walleye Capital of the World because of its world-class walleye fishing, fueled by above-average hatches in eight of the past 11 years. The 2025 western basin walleye hatch index, which includes trawl sites in Ohio and Ontario waters, was 128 fish per hectare (a standard measure of catch per area). A hectare is equal to approximately 2.5 acres. This is the sixth largest hatch of 38 years of surveys and is well above the average of 57 fish per hectare.

Walleye production in the central basin remained strong, with a 2025 survey index of 26 young-of-year walleye per hectare, well above the long-term average of 8 per hectare. This index ranks fourth of 36 years of surveys. Central basin walleye hatches are likely a small component of the lake-wide population, but tagging studies suggest that fish hatched in the central basin spend more time there as adults compared to migratory walleye from the western basin. Above average central basin walleye hatches may seasonally provide local fishing opportunities when schools of migratory walleye are not present.

Walleye from the strong 2025 hatches should reach catchable size, surpassing the 15-inch minimum length requirement, as early as spring 2027. Walleye fishing is expected to remain fantastic for many years.

Yellow Perch
Lake Erie yellow perch are surveyed and managed as regional populations within discrete management zones. The Division of Wildlife uses these zones to monitor yellow perch hatch success and, by comparing results to previous years, determine safe harvest levels.

West Zone
The west zone (Toledo to Huron) yellow perch hatch, as determined from Ohio and Ontario trawl surveys, was above average in 2025 and should make a noticeable contribution to the catchable adult population in 2027. The survey index was 733 young-of-year yellow perch per hectare, above the average of 467 fish per hectare, and ranking seventh of the survey's 38 years.

Lake Erie 2025 Hatch Results
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Wis Sturgeon Update

The 2026 sturgeon spearing season is almost here! Make sure you are up to date on all the regulations before taking to the ice. This year's season will open on February 14, running until any of the harvest caps are met or for 16 days, whichever comes first. This year's harvest caps are:

Water-body	Juvenile Female Harvest Cap	Adult Female Harvest Cap	Male Sturgeon Harvest Cap
Lake Winne-bago	280	659	981
Upriver Lakes	70	73	245
Winne-bago System	350	732	1,226

Daily harvest reports can be found on the DNR's Sturgeon Spearing webpage throughout the season. A season forecast will be posted to the spearing webpage as the season approaches. Additionally, the 2025 lake sturgeon population report is now available for review. ✧

CBSA announces the end of the Remote Area Border Crossing program

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has announced the end of the Remote Area Border Crossing (RABC) program, which will be replaced with mandatory telephone reporting by September 2026. This change aims to strengthen border security and provide a consistent reporting method for travelers entering Canada through remote areas. The RABC program allowed pre-approved travelers to enter Canada without stopping at a staffed port of entry, but it will now require travelers to report to the CBSA at a port of entry or a designated telephone reporting site. Existing RABC permits will remain valid until September 13, 2026, and new applications will not be accepted. The CBSA has extended the validity of these permits to ensure that current holders can transition to the new reporting system. The new telephone reporting system will be determined in consultation with Indigenous communities, local businesses, and law enforcement partners.

"The CBSA's decision was based on an internal review of the Remote Area Border Crossing Program, which considered security, operational efficiency and the evolving risk environment at Canada's border," the agency wrote in an emailed statement to CBC News.

Under the new system, travelers entering Canada through areas previously covered by the RABC program will be required to report to the CBSA either at a port of entry or at a designated telephone reporting site every time they cross.

Failure to report to the CBSA when entering Canada can result in enforcement action, including fines, seizure of goods or vehicles and possible criminal charges under the Customs Act.

Affected areas include the Northwest Angle, the Pigeon River through Lake of the Woods, the Canadian shore of Lake Superior, the Sault Ste. Marie's upper lock system and Cockburn Island. The RABC program will officially close on September 14, 2026. Existing permits have been extended and will remain valid until 11:59 p.m. on September 13, 2026.

Currently, residents and guests who want to travel from the Northwest Angle in Minnesota via boat into Canadian waters can do so without checking in with CBSA or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) upon their return, as long as they don't touch land, touch a dock, anchor, moor, or exchange goods or services.

The CBSA says replacing the program with telephone reporting builds on systems already used elsewhere in Canada and more closely aligns with how travelers report to U.S. Customs and Border Protection when entering the United States in remote areas.

Historically, about 11,000 people have held RABC permits each year. Roughly 90 per cent of them are American, according to the CBSA.

The CBSA says it will be announcing more information soon. "To support continued access while ensuring the safety and security of Canada's border, additional telephone reporting sites will be added prior to September 14, 2026," the agency wrote. "The location of the new telephone reporting sites will be decided in the coming months in consultation with Indigenous communities, local businesses, and law enforcement partners." ✧

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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.

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New EPA rules could cause invasive species spread in Great Lakes

LANSING, MI – Michigan is asking a federal appeals court to strike down an Environmental Protection Agency regulation that could negatively impact the Great Lakes. Attorney General Dana Nessel filed an amicus brief on Friday, Dec. 26, asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to strike down EPA standards that don't require existing ships on the Great Lakes to install treatment systems for ballast water discharge.

Under the EPA standards finalized in September 2024, only new vessels in the Great Lakes require treatment systems.

Ships hold ballast water in tanks to regulate their weight. The water in the tanks can contain invasive species that spread to a new environment when released. "The harms caused by invasive species spread through ballast water are catastrophic, well documented, and felt by the people who live and work around the Great Lakes," Nessel said in a press release.

Nessel, joined in the filing by attorneys general from Illinois and Vermont, argues the standards violate a 2018 amendment to the Clean Water Act directing the EPA to issue ballast water discharge standards. The filing argues the EPA ignored the direction and "(relies) on justification not permitted" under the Clean Water Act, the release said.

Michigan had stricter ballast water regulations in place until the federal standards were created in 2024, the release said. Zebra mussels, native to the Black, Caspian and Azov seas in Eurasia, were introduced to the Great Lakes in the late 1980s from ballast water tanks. Zebra mussels cost the region $200 million every year, Nessel said in the release.

After the 2024 EPA change, golden mussels, an invasive species from China, were found at a California port. Without regulation, those golden mussels could end up in Great Lakes ports, Nessel said. ✧

Animal rights group pushes ban on live bait fishing

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA), with support from recreational fishing community partners, released a new policy brief detailing efforts by an international animal rights organization to restrict the use and sale of live bait in US waters. To date, significant restrictions on the interstate sale and purchase of live bait have been proposed in Colorado, Delaware, New Hampshire and New York. Though these bills and regulations have fortunately been unsuccessful, ASA expects this anti-fishing campaign, led by a group named Upstream Policies*, to continue its efforts to restrict access to live bait.

Since Upstream Policies' founding in 2023, the animal rights organization has framed its goal to ban all live bait as an effort to prevent invasive species. Although the live bait trade has been identified as a potential vector for the unintentional movement of invasive species, policymakers have established, and continue to review, laws and regulations to mitigate these risks. Many states have regulations on permitted bait species while licensing and permitting bait dealers and suppliers. Numerous states also work with the aquaculture industry to develop standards, testing and certification processes to mitigate potential pathogen risks. Public outreach campaigns additionally engage anglers to encourage safe bait handling and disposal processes.

"The importance of live bait in sport fishing cannot be understated," said Connor Bevan, ASA's Inland Fisheries Policy Director. "As roughly two-thirds of anglers fish with live bait each year, proposed restrictions on the interstate sale of live bait would significantly impact anglers across the country. Given existing, proven, science-based safeguards, the stringent restrictions proposed by animal rights activists on the interstate sale and purchase of live bait are both unwarranted and harmful to anglers and businesses nationwide."

Each year, 67% of anglers fish with live bait, spending $345 million nationwide. For many, live bait serves as a gateway to fishing, helping new anglers of all ages and backgrounds to have successful first trips on the water. Live bait is also particularly important to certain recreational fisheries, including ice fishing, where anglers commonly rely on minnows and shiners to fish effectively on hard water.

Last week, Mr. Bevan joined representatives from the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and the National Aquaculture Association at the National Association of Sportsmen's Caucuses Summit to discuss this anti-fishing campaign and its proposed restrictions with state legislators. ASA thanks its sportfishing community partners for their support and contributions to the report, and we will continue to work with these partners to oppose restrictions on the interstate sale and purchase of live bait in upcoming state legislative sessions.

For more information and to view the full report, please visit this link. ✧

Snowmobilers: Operate safely; be extra careful on ice

The Wisconsin DNR reminds snowmobilers to be aware of unsafe ice and stay sober on the trails this season. "Ice conditions can be unpredictable with fluctuating temperatures, and with International Snowmobile Safety Week coming up January 10-18, we urge snowmobilers to be extra careful when driving on ice," said Lt. Jake Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. "Remember that no ice is ever completely safe, and that even areas that seem thick and covered with snow may be hiding patches of black ice that could break apart under the weight of the machine and riders."

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions, but they are monitored locally. Local fishing clubs, outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for local current ice conditions. However, the best idea for safe winter fun is to not travel over ice.

The DNR also urges snowmobilers to ride sober. Not only is it illegal to operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol, but it also puts you, your passengers and other recreators at risk. Wisconsin saw several alcohol-related deaths in 2025.

Here are more safety tips:

- Remember: ice is never completely safe under any conditions.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or float coat, should you fall through the ice and to help retain body heat.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas.
- Slow down when traveling at night.
- Know if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows that have currents that can thin the ice.
- Watch for pressure ridges or ice buckling. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water.

Visit the DNR's Ice Safety webpage for more information on staying safe on the ice and refer to the Wisconsin snowmobile regulations for laws for operational restrictions, safety tips and more. ✧

Loyola study finds muskrats key to restoring Great Lakes wetlands

CHICAGO – A new study from Loyola University Chicago finds that muskrats — the humble, semi-aquatic rodents long overshadowed by beavers — may play a crucial role in restoring the health of the Great Lakes wetlands.

Researchers discovered that muskrats significantly reduce the spread of invasive plants like hybrid cattails and European frogbit that threaten native biodiversity. "They're expansive wetlands, and they're hugely ecologically important for migrating birds, for water birds that nest in them, for fish and for the life cycles of other aquatic organisms," said Shane Lishawa, a senior research associate with Loyola's School of Environmental Sustainability.

The study, conducted in partnership with the University of Connecticut and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, found muskrats cut invasive cattail cover by 71% and frogbit by 88% in one northern Michigan marsh.

The research team says increasing muskrat populations could become a valuable tool for wetland restoration in the Great Lakes region, where invasive species and development have dramatically reduced native habitats. "This is a hopeful approach to dealing with invasive species," Lishawa said. "It takes advantage of natural herbivores that are already present and native to this region." According to federal data, more than half of the region's original wetlands have been lost due to drainage and construction. ✧

Continued from column 3

Learn more about catfishing at wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/catfish-fishing.

Learn more about walleye fishing at on.IN.gov/walleye. ✧

DNR stocked channel catfish and walleye this fall

The Indiana DNR has stocked 70,000 channel catfish in 131 locations and 57,000 fall fingerling walleye in 11 locations since mid-October to expand fishing opportunities across the state.

The channel catfish range in size from 7-12 inches long. The fall fingerling walleye average 5 to 8 inches long, typically reaching 14 inches after two to three years of growth and 16 inches three to four years after stocking.

All stocked channel catfish were stocked in publicly accessible waters after being raised by Cikana (Morgan County), Driftwood (Jackson County), and East Fork (Daviess County) state fish hatcheries.

"Once stocked, channel catfish acclimate to their new environment and start biting quickly while the walleyes will take a few years to reach legal size," said fisheries biologist Tom Bacula.

Fall fingerling walleye were stocked in Big Turkey, Crooked, and Clear lakes (Steuben), Fish, Pine/Stone lakes (LaPorte), Loon and Sylvan lakes (Noble), Pretty and Wall lakes (Noble), Winona Lake (Kosciusko), and the St. Joseph River (St. Joseph). Those walleye were purchased from a commercial fish supplier and grown at Fawn River State Fish Hatchery. In addition to these lakes, there are multiple other lakes stocked with walleyes by privately funded lake associations. A stocking permit from DNR is needed to do any stocking.

For all fish stocking locations and plans, visit on.IN.gov/fish-stocking.

Continued bottom column 2

U.S. House passes bill to extend critical Great Lakes fisheries research

Great Lakes Fishery Commission celebrates successful passage

WASHINGTON – The U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation to reauthorize a critical Great Lakes fisheries research program, sending the bipartisan bill to President Donald Trump for his signature.

The Great Lakes Fishery Research Reauthorization Act, introduced by Ohio Republican Sen. Jon Husted and Michigan Democratic Sen. Gary Peters, would extend the program for five years through fiscal year 2030. The House passed the bill on December 15, while the Senate unanimously approved it last month.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission) is celebrating the successful passage of the Great Lakes Fishery Research Reauthorization Act (GLFRAA) by the House and Senate, extending critical financial support for the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Great Lakes Science Center through fiscal year 2030. This bipartisan legislation ensures continued federal funding and stability for science that underpins the long-term health of Great Lakes fish populations, ecosystems, and the region's $5.1 billion fishing economy.

"Whether commercial or recreational, fishing is a staple of Ohio's culture and economy, generating $5.5 billion for our state," said a statement from Husted, who lives in the Columbus area. "Millions of Ohioans rely on—and enjoy—the experience and the bounty of fishing, from catching and eating perch or walleye to pursuing the many other sport fish found in Lake Erie and its tributaries. A healthy lake is essential to this way of life, and the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center is on the front lines of ensuring Lake Erie remains a thriving and sustainable fishery."

The program provides dedicated funding to the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center to conduct research supporting the region's fishing industry. The center is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with field stations throughout the Great Lakes Basin, including one in Huron, Ohio.

The USGS Great Lakes Science Center uses program funding to conduct research on invasive species such as Asian carp and sea lamprey, conduct surveys for sport fish management, and monitor impacts of harmful algal blooms on fisheries. During House floor debate on the bill, Illinois Democratic Rep. Mike Quigley displayed a poster of a sea lamprey to illustrate the threats facing the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Michigan Democratic Rep. Debbie Dingell, whose district includes the Great Lakes Science Center, noted during the floor debate that the work of the center and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has reduced invasive sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes by more than 90 percent. ✧

2026 Black Lake sturgeon season opens Feb. 7

The 2026 lake sturgeon fishing season on Black Lake in Cheboygan County, Michigan, will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. All anglers must register online to participate in the fishing season, and those age 17 or older must have a valid Michigan fishing license.

The harvest limit for the 2026 season on Black Lake is six lake sturgeon. Officials will close the season when one of two scenarios occurs:

- The sixth fish is harvested.
- Five fish have been harvested at the end of any fishing day.

Fishing hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day of the season. The season will end either at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, or when one of the above scenarios is met, at which point anglers will be notified via text message and on the ice by Michigan Department of Natural Resources personnel that they must immediately stop fishing for lake sturgeon.

Anyone who wants to participate must register online by close of business Friday, Feb. 6. Get more registration and season information at Michigan.gov/Sturgeon.

Participating anglers must bring their own bright red flags (1-foot diameter or larger) to hang on their fishing shanties. Season officials emphasize that anglers are required to hang one or more flags in highly visible locations on their shanties so DNR personnel can readily identify which anglers are sturgeon fishing.

Anglers harvesting a lake sturgeon must immediately contact DNR personnel on the ice. Official registration of each harvested fish will take place at a DNR trailer located on or near the ice at the end of Zollner Road in the northwest part of Black Lake. Harvest registration may include an examination of the fish's internal organs and removal of a piece of fin tissue for DNA analysis or aging.

Ice conditions may vary greatly, and anglers should always use extreme caution when ice fishing. The Black Lake sturgeon season start date will not be postponed due to weather or other conditions. The season may be canceled up to 48 hours prior to the start of the season if circumstances pose a significant safety risk to anglers and staff (per Fisheries Order 240). The DNR will post any updated information to the department website and notify anglers via text message and email if any changes occur.

Visit Michigan.gov/IceSafety for tips to stay safe on the ice. ✧

MSU research helps safeguard Great Lakes from invasive grass carp

Research from Michigan State U is protecting the Great Lakes from a dangerous threat looming specifically in and around Lake Erie. For roughly a decade, MSU scientists have been studying grass carp, one of four carp species invasive to U.S. freshwater ecosystems (bighead carp, silver carp and black carp are the other three).

All four species share similarities that can dramatically disrupt the ecological communities they find themselves in, such as the size they can grow to by being lavish feeders (upward of four ft. long and 100 lbs.) and the prolific rate at which they can reproduce—amplified by the fact that there are no natural predators in the Great Lakes to neutralize their presence.

Whereas silver and bighead carp feed on plankton and can compete with the juvenile life stages of important Great Lakes species such as walleye, yellow perch and lake whitefish, grass carp feed on aquatic vegetation and can disrupt riverbanks and lakefronts, affecting fish, bird and wildlife populations and promoting increased algal blooms and decreased water clarity.

While recent attention has been given to preventing bighead and silver carp from migrating into Lake Michigan by implementing deterrent measures as they move northward through the Mississippi River basin, grass carp have been detected in the Great Lakes basin since the 1980s. Presently, grass carp have been detected in each of the Great Lakes except for Lake Superior, with the greatest number of detections coming from Lake Erie.

In 2015, urgency to control grass carp increased considerably when natural spawning was documented as occurring in Lake Erie's watershed.

According to MSU Fisheries and Wildlife assistant professor Scott Colborne, the carp aren't breeding in the Great Lakes themselves, but rather nearby tributaries. That's where he and team members from MSU's Quantitative Fisheries Center—which is supported, in part, by MSU AgBioResearch— have stepped in to study the intricacies of their behavior in these river systems and use what's learned to better catch and contain them.

Colborne is taking over for Travis Brenden, a professor in the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and director of the Quantitative Fisheries Center, as principal investigator of the project. While the initial research related to grass carp was spearheaded and funded by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Division, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has become the primary funder of grass carp research conducted at MSU since 2021, with an overall aim for the projects to foster a greater understanding of grass carp behavior in nearshore areas of the Great Lakes to improve control efficiency.

"A large amount of the telemetry work that has been conducted has been in the Sandusky River, which is believed to be the primary spawning tributary for grass carp in Lake Erie," Brenden said. "From the telemetry work, a region of the river was identified where lots of tagged fish were detected, but grass carp strike teams had little success in capturing fish using boat electrofishing. ✧

Fall fingerlings stocked in Michigan waters near you!

More than 648,000 fish were added to 76 locations statewide

This past fall, the Department of Natural Resources worked hard to stock fish in waters across Michigan—fish that will provide angling opportunities in seasons to come. The fall 2025 effort saw DNR crews stock seven different species at 76 locations throughout the state: 648,557 fish, weighing in at a total of 8.6 tons.

Seven species were stocked this fall:

- Marquette State Fish Hatchery (near Marquette) stocked 27,915 fall fingerling and 250 adult brook trout that weighed a combined 3,022 pounds. These fish were stocked at a total of 27 locations in the Upper Peninsula.
- Oden State Fish Hatchery (near Petoskey) stocked 140,366 fall fingerling rainbow trout that combined weighed 7,508 pounds and were stocked at four locations in the Upper and Lower peninsulas.
- Thompson State Fish Hatchery (near Manistique) stocked 3,008 Great Lakes strain muskellunge that weighed 304 pounds in Lake Hudson and Thornapple Lake. Thompson also stocked 329,085 fall fingerling steelhead weighing 2,413 total pounds in six locations.
- Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery (west of Kalamazoo) stocked 64,532 fall fingerling steelhead weighing a combined 917 pounds in Crystal Lake.
- Harrietta State Fish Hatchery (near Cadillac) stocked 17,548 fall fingerling brown trout and 24,520 fall fingerling rainbow trout. These fish were stocked in four locations with a combined weight of 1,573 pounds.

DNR fisheries management units also stocked fall fingerling walleye this year.

- Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit stocked 33,580 Muskegon strain fall fingerlings weighing 1,373 total pounds in 20 locations.
- Central Lake Michigan Management Unit stocked 2,507 Muskegon strain fall fingerlings weighing 160 pounds total in three locations.
- Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit stocked Little Bay de Noc with 5,211 fall fingerlings (Little Bay de Noc strain) weighing a combined 88 pounds in five locations; 2,815 of these walleye fingerlings were raised in a co-op partner pond tended by the Bay De Noc Great Lakes Sportfishermen.

To find out if any fish were stocked in your favorite fishing spots, visit the DNR's fish stocking database at michigandnr.com/fishstock/. ✧

Status of Sea Lamprey abundances in the Great Lakes

Abundances return to pre-pandemic levels after resumption of regularly scheduled treatments

ANN ARBOR, MI – The annual Status of Sea Lamprey Control report for 2025 has recently been released by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission). The report highlights that adult sea lamprey abundances increased in Lake Superior but decreased in Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario.

According to the report, adult indices in 2025 appear to have returned to levels seen before the COVID-19 pandemic, when lampricide treatments were limited during 2020 and 2021. The number of adult sea lampreys captured during 2025 was 37,800 adults, which is just below the 3-year pre-COVID average of 38,167 (2017-2019). Although some indices remain affected by elevated populations resulting from limited treatments during COVID, the resumption of treatment efforts indicates an encouraging shift in abundances, as the decreases observed in the 2024 adult indices for Lakes Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Ontario have continued into 2025.

The report highlights the necessity of continued sea lamprey control and research into innovative control measures. Sea lampreys—native to the Atlantic Ocean—are an invasive species that have posed a constant, significant threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem. Feeding on the blood and bodily fluids of fish, attaching to prey with a tooth-filled suction cup mouth, a sea lamprey can consume up to 40 lbs. (18 kg) of Great Lakes fish. Control efforts are critical to the protection, preservation, conservation, and management efforts around the basin, and the 2025 report further elucidates that lampricide treatments are highly effective in controlling sea lamprey populations.

"If we are unable to control sea lamprey populations, our native fish populations would suffer immensely," said Earl Provost, vice chair of the Commission. "As we saw in 2022 and 2023, sea lamprey populations can easily skyrocket if control efforts cease. We are just now getting back to a semblance of what it was like before the COVID-19 pandemic, and there is still much work to do."

REPORT DETAILS, BY LAKE:

LAKE SUPERIOR: The 3-year average shows the abundance remains above target for Lake Superior. Stream-specific estimates showed the Bad and Tahquamenon rivers contributed the most to the lake-wide index estimate in 2025 (46% and 40%, respectively). Notably, the adult sea lamprey catch in the Tahquamenon River was the second highest on record, with a catch of 2,156 adult lampreys. In addition, the Brule and Middle Rivers had below-average spawning runs in 2025, likely due to lampricide applications on both streams in 2024.

LAKE MICHIGAN: The 3-year average of adult sea lamprey abundance decreased in 2025, but remains above target for Lake Michigan. However, the index of abundance has remained relatively stable around the target level for the past 10 years. Stream-specific estimates showed that the Manistique and Big Manistee Rivers contributed most to the lake-wide index estimate in 2025 (37% and 22%, respectively).

LAKE HURON: The 3-year average of adult sea lamprey abundance decreased in 2025, but remains above the target for Lake Huron. Stream-specific estimates showed that the Echo and Cheboygan Rivers contributed most to the lake-wide index estimate (28% and 26%, respectively).

LAKE ERIE: The 3-year average of the adult sea lamprey index decreased in 2025 and is below the target for Lake Erie. Population estimates were generated using mark-recapture data for three of five index streams. The population estimates for Cattaraugus and Youngs Creeks were modeled due to insufficient recaptures of marked sea lampreys. Stream-specific estimates showed the Cattaraugus (modeled) and Big Creeks contributed most to the lake-wide index estimate (36% and 26%, respectively).

LAKE ONTARIO: The 3-year average of the adult sea lamprey index decreased in 2025, but remains above the target for Lake Ontario. However, it is worth noting that adult sea lamprey abundance from 2023 to 2025 significantly reduced from 56,000 to 11,584. Population estimates were generated using mark-recapture data for four of five index streams. The population estimate for Sterling Creek was modeled due to insufficient recaptures of marked sea lampreys. Stream-specific estimates showed the Humber and Black rivers contributed most to the lake-wide index estimate (37% and 31%, respectively). Due to lampricide applications in 2024, spawning runs were likely diminished in four of the five index streams.

For more information on status, visit www.glfc.org/status.php

As a response to the cataclysmic damage to the Great Lakes fishery caused by sea lampreys, the governments of Canada and the United States established the Commission in 1955. Through the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, the Commission is charged with sea lamprey control and research, fisheries research, and fisheries management coordination. Sea lamprey control and research are conducted in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Geological Survey. Sea lamprey control primarily consists of the use of lampricides and barriers, with trapping sea lampreys as a means to measure abundance. Additionally, the Commission is evaluating the use of chemosensory cues as a means to influence migratory and spawning behaviors. For more information, visit www.glfc.org/sea-lamprey.php. ✧

Minnesota DNR proposes to reduce statewide walleye limit from 6 to 4

New rules would also clarify the regulations for anglers on border waters

Minnesota anglers would be able to keep four walleyes instead of six in a proposal by the Minnesota DNR to update a statewide inland water walleye fishing regulation that's been in place since 1956. The rule change if approved, would go into effect **March 1, 2027**. The current regulation of only one walleye over 20 inches in possession would remain in place.

"The DNR is taking proactive steps to help ensure future generations can continue to enjoy the excellent walleye fishing we have in Minnesota," said Brad Parsons, fisheries section manager. "Over the last 70 years that the current limit has been in place, many factors have changed, including climactic conditions, invasive species introductions and fish-finding technologies."

The proposed rule would also clarify that, when fishing regulations for inland waters are different from rules listed in other parts of the fishing regulations, the rules in other parts of the regulations take precedence. Examples include border waters regulations, when waters are closed to taking fish, or waters with other restrictions on taking fish. This change would be applicable to all species.

The Minnesota DNR is inviting comments on the proposed rule changes until 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5. People may submit comments by:

- Email to fisheries.rulemaking.comments.dnr@state.mn.us. Mention "walleye limit" in the subject line of the email.
- Phone to the Minnesota DNR at 651-259-5235.
- Mail to Fisheries Rules and Regulations Coordinator, Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

"We have discussed this walleye limit proposal informally for a long time, including working with anglers and interested groups to see if this is something anglers would support. Now we're going through the formal process to propose the change and gather input," Parsons said. "This proposal is informed by what fisheries research and sampling data point to about walleye in the future."

More information about the proposal, including previous public input and factors the DNR considered, is available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/fisheries/management/walleye-limit.html). ✧

Eggs today, trout and salmon tomorrow, egg collections wrapping up at DNR facilities

In all, fisheries staff collected more than 16 million trout and salmon eggs this season

The DNR stocks fish in Michigan waters every year, providing fishing opportunities and helping maintain healthy ecosystems. Where do the fish being stocked come from? It begins with collecting fish eggs, and the DNR has been working hard this fall gathering the necessary eggs to produce fish for stocking. Fall egg collections have been completed for wild Chinook and coho salmon and for captive broodstocks of brown, brook and lake trout. Egg collection for rainbow trout will soon begin.

Chinook salmon eggs were collected September 29 through October 8 at the Little Manistee River Weir. Eggs and milt (sperm) are gathered from fish during the annual salmon run. At the weir, salmon swim up a fish ladder and into holding ponds. From there, fish are brought into the facility, where eggs and milt are collected and the eggs are fertilized.

"We experienced another strong run of wild Chinook salmon this season," said Aaron Switzer, DNR fish production manager. "The run at the Little Manistee was robust enough to provide for all of Michigan's egg needs. We were also able to provide eggs to Indiana and Illinois state-owned fish hatcheries. Once hatched, reared and stocked, these Chinook salmon support and enhance the Lake Michigan salmon fishery."

Coho salmon eggs were collected at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery Weir from October 16 through October 28. "We collected nearly 6 million coho salmon eggs at the Platte River weir. This includes approximately 3 million eggs for Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin," said Switzer. "All four states work together cooperatively each year to ensure Lake Michigan continues to receive Pacific salmon to supplement the fishery."

In addition to egg collection from wild fish, captive broodstocks (fish kept at a hatchery to produce eggs and milt) provide many of the eggs that will become stocked fish: 880,000 Arctic grayling eggs; 333,500 brook trout eggs; 297,000 lake trout eggs; 2.6 million brown trout eggs and 1.5 million rainbow trout eggs. An additional 357,000 splake eggs (brook trout and lake trout hybrid) also will be collected to support Michigan's fisheries management objectives.

At Oden State Fish Hatchery, egg collections for brown trout occurred through mid-October. Rainbow trout egg collections at Oden will begin in December and continue until mid-January. These captive egg collections will occur every one to two weeks over the season. Captive broodstock egg collections for brook and lake trout at Marquette State Fish Hatchery have already been completed, and Arctic grayling egg collection is planned for early spring 2026.

To learn more about Michigan's state fish hatcheries or to plan a trip, visit Michigan.gov/Hatcheries. ✧

Free youth ice fishing clinics in Milwaukee County Parks Jan. 31

Looking for some winter fun for the whole family? Bundle up and bring the children out for a fun, beginner-friendly introduction to ice fishing. The Wisconsin (DNR), Milwaukee Cty. Parks and local fishing clubs will offer free youth ice fishing clinics at select Milwaukee Cty. Parks on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Locations:

- **Greenfield Park:** 2028 S 124th Street, West Allis
- **Scout Lake:** 6201 W Loomis Road, Greendale
- **Dineen Park:** 6901 W Vienna Avenue, Milwaukee
- **McCarty Park:** 8214 W Cleveland Avenue, West Allis

What to Expect:

- Hands-on instruction for youth ages 15 and under.
- Ice fishing basics, safety information and how-to tips to help build confidence on the ice.
- Fishing equipment is available to use during the clinic, but participants should bring their equipment if able.
- Family-friendly atmosphere with helpful volunteers and instructors.
- Small children must be accompanied by an adult.

Ice Safety Tips:

Ice fishing can provide fun for the whole family. Still, it is important for anglers of all ages to understand and use basic ice safety principles because conditions can change quickly.

Knowing how to prepare, what to look for and how to make safe decisions helps reduce risk and builds confidence for winter fishing outings.

The following ice safety tips are recommended for all planning fun on frozen lakes and ponds.

- Carry a cell phone. Share your fishing plan with another – including where and return time.
- Dress appropriately – including a life jacket or a float coat if you break through the ice.

Minn. DNR requesting feedback on regulation books

Anglers, hunters and trappers are invited to share their thoughts with the Minnesota DNR about the regulations books published annually to inform people about how they can legally hunt, trap and fish in the state.

"We are interested in understanding how people access, understand and use the information in these regulations books," said Sarah Middleton, DNR wildlife rules and regulations coordinator.

The DNR produces three regulations books each year for fishing, hunting and trapping, and waterfowl hunting. The regulations books consolidate complex legal requirements into a comprehensive format for public use.

The DNR encourages people to share their thoughts using an online questionnaire on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/qr/rt-regs-book) through Monday, March 16. People can also submit feedback by email to Sarah.Middleton@state.mn.us or to the DNR Section of Wildlife, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

The DNR will analyze feedback and plans to continue engagement efforts throughout 2026. Copies of the regulations books are on the Minn. DNR fishing regulations webpage (mndnr.gov/regulations/ fishing) and hunting regulations webpage (mndnr.gov/regulations/ hunting). Printed copies are also available wherever DNR licenses are sold. ✧

Continued from column 1

- Wear ice creepers on footwear to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- If you fall in, remain as calm as possible and try to call out for help.
- If you attempt to rescue another, use a rope or something similar to avoid falling through.
- The DNR does not monitor ice conditions. Check with local fishing clubs and outfitters for conditions.

Contact: Laura Schmidt, DNR Fisheries Biologist, 414-416-0591 or Laura.Schmidt@wisconsin.gov ✧

Mixsawbah SFH salmonid update

Indiana DNR biologist Rob Ackerson provides an inside look at Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery. This presentation offers details on Indiana's trout and salmon program history. Additionally, this presentation highlights why hatcheries remain essential today and provides current stocking numbers and a demonstration on key stages of salmonid production. This presentation was recorded during the IISG Fall Fisheries Workshop hosted on November 5, 2025. The hatchery was constructed in 1974 for the propagation of trout and salmon to enhance Indiana's Lake Michigan fishery. Mixsawbah annually produces 670,000 salmonids, with a total weight of about 35,500 lbs. Production includes Chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead trout. Most of these fish are stocked into tributary streams to Lake Michigan. In Indiana, these streams are Trail Creek in LaPorte County and the East Branch of the Little Calumet River in Porter Cty. ✧

Dispose of a Christmas tree the right way

The Christmas tree that brought joy to your home now needs to be removed. Disposing of it properly is more than just a matter of convenience. Done right, it can help reduce waste, protect the environment, and support community projects. Real Christmas trees are biodegradable and can be reused or recycled, giving them a meaningful purpose even after the holidays. In certain communities, conservation groups collect Christmas trees for use in erosion control or as underwater habitats for fish. The trees are strategically placed to trap sediment, slow water movement, and provide safe shelter for aquatic life. To participate, contact local environmental organizations to see if they accept tree donations for such projects. If you have a large pond on your property, consider turning the tree into a fish habitat. Anchor the tree with a heavy rock or concrete blocks and sink it to the bottom of the pond. ✧

Lake Erie 2025 Hatch Results

Continued from page 1

Surveys in the past decade have shown a trend of more consistent hatch success in the west zone. This year's strong hatch, along with contributions from previous years, is expected to support the trend of good yellow perch fishing in 2026 and beyond across the west zone.

Central and East Zones

The central basin is split into two management zones for yellow perch: the central zone (Huron to Fairport Harbor) and the east zone (Fairport Harbor to the Ohio-Pennsylvania border). Survey catches were below average in the central and east zones, with indices of 10 and 5 young-of-year perch per hectare, respectively.

This year, frequent, strong winds limited survey days in the central basin and fewer trawls than usual were completed. Many anglers caught limits of large yellow perch near central basin harbors in late fall 2025, especially near Lorain and Cleveland, indicating that good seasonal opportunities still exist despite lower population sizes.

Variability in regional yellow perch hatch success is expected on Lake Erie because of the size of the lake, differences among basins and zones, and prevailing weather conditions. Hatch success is largely determined by the timing and availability of favorable conditions for both spawning and survival of newly hatched yellow perch in the spring and summer. Strong lake-wide yellow perch hatches are rare.

For more information on the Lake Erie fisheries and to find fishing reports, maps, and more resources, visit wildohio.gov. Download the HuntFish OH mobile app for fishing information on the go. ✧

Who go unarmed in "paradise" had better be absolutely certain that's really where they are!
Anonymous

Salmon everywhere' one year after Klamath Dam removal

A year after the historic removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) scientists are seeing salmon reoccupying just about every corner of their historic habitat.

Following the dam removals, salmon are repopulating nearly every corner of their historic habitat. Initial reports indicate a strong return of fall-run Chinook salmon, with over 7,700 Chinook salmon recorded swimming upriver past the former Iron Gate dam site.

Salmon have been observed spawning in areas that have been inaccessible for over a century. For instance, fish-counting stations have recorded 208 adult Chinook salmon in Jenny Creek and 260 in Shovel Creek.

The removal of the dams has led to improved water conditions, with natural seasonal fluctuations in water temperatures benefiting salmon. Monitoring has shown a decrease in the prevalence of harmful parasites and algal blooms, contributing to a healthier ecosystem.

Approximately 440 miles of new spawning habitat have been made available due to the dam removals. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has invested over $30 million in habitat restoration projects within the Klamath Basin to support the recovery of salmon and other anadromous fish species.

The ultimate goal of the dam removals is to establish viable, self-sustaining populations of salmon. The success seen in the first year post-removal is a promising indicator of the river's recovery and the potential for future salmon populations to thrive.

The Klamath River's recovery serves as a powerful example of nature's resilience and the positive impact of collaborative conservation efforts. The return of salmon not only benefits the ecosystem but also supports Tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries in the region. [2] ✧

Wis Fisheries Management Public Meetings

The Wisconsin DNR will host a series of informational meetings across the northern regions of the state to educate the public on various fisheries management and habitat topics.

Lower Green Bay Area Fisheries Monitoring:
Presenters: Sam Schaick and Jason Lins, DNR fisheries biologists, Jessica Brandt, DNR Lake Michigan AOC project management specialist, Brie Kupsky, DNR Green Bay program coordinator, and Mandy Sharkey, DNR Lake Michigan Area of Concern project management specialist, Jan. 28, 2026
– Virtual or Green Bay DNR Service Ctr (2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313)

Green Bay Walleye Management Updates
Presenter: Jason Breeggemann, DNR fisheries biologist, Feb. 2, 2026
– Virtual or Green Bay DNR Service Center (2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313)

35 Years of Fisheries Management in Ceded Territory
Presenters: Lawrence Eslinger and Gene Hatzenbeler, DNR fisheries biologists, Mark Luehring, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Section Leader, and Aaron Shultz, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist, Feb. 12, 2026
– Virtual

100 Years of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage Fishery
Presenters: Zach Lawson, DNR fisheries biologist, Feb. 19, 2026
– Virtual

Status and Management of Walleye in Northwest Wisconsin
Presenters: Kyle Broadway, Craig Roberts, Nate Thomas and Max Wolter, DNR biologists, Feb. 26, 2026
– Virtual
✧

IGFA and the National Park Service connect people to parks through recreational fishing

The IGFA completed another stellar year of angling education events in National Park Service (NPS) locations across the country, thanks to the continued support from the National Park Foundation.

What began seven years ago as a joint effort on the *Junior Ranger: Let's Go Fishing!* activity book and the Junior Ranger Angler program has flourished into a comprehensive program with in-person Learn-to-Fish events for spin fishing, surf fishing, and now fly fishing and with digital training resources on the horizon. The IGFA goes beyond providing NPS sites with a Passports to Fishing kit; we train park staff and volunteers on responsible, ethical angling practices, and engage all Fish & Feathers interns in learning the sport of recreational fishing, the importance of conservation, and how to teach someone to fish to set them up for success during their internship at various park sites.

In 2025, the IGFA sent Passports to Fishing kits to 10 new sites, with more than 30 sites receiving a Passports to Fishing kit since the inception of our collaborative efforts. IGFA Education staff visited five sites to co-host an in-person event and do further training with park staff, interns, and volunteers. Here is a recap of each adventure

In May 2025, the IGFA set out for Rocky Mountain National Park again, this time in Estes Park, Colorado, U.S. There, we work with Environment for the Americas to train the Fish & Feathers interns on learning to spin fish and how to teach others to spin fish. IGFA Education Manager Nick DeGennaro taught 23 interns this year about the fundamentals of recreational fishing using spinning gear and walked them through presentations on how to fish different bodies of water and how to identify certain game fish they could find at their park sites. After this training workshop week, the interns are then dispersed to various parks nationwide where they conduct their own fishing and birding programs for members and visitors of those park sites. Covering a variety of fishing techniques and game fish species can prove difficult, as the United States has a plethora of waters and angling opportunities. However, the interns remain engaged and interested in learning all they can and continue to maintain communication with the IGFA throughout their 12-week summer internship.

This is our third year returning to Rocky Mountain National Park, and every year has been a treat. Even though snow decided to fall on us this year, canceling the public event we co-host with trained interns at the end of their week-long training workshop, we salvaged the day with offering more fishing and teaching opportunities at the YMCA of the Rockies allowing them to not only fish and get to know one another more, but also get to know the IGFA and how we can help them build their own angling education programs.

Glaine Cepeda, an intern who then ventured to American Memorial Park in the Northern Mariana Islands, describes his experience, "During the workshop, we were introduced to birding and fishing in a way I had never imagined. I didn't expect to enjoy it as much as I did, but something about learning how to identify birds, understanding their behaviors, and seeing them up close sparked a real interest in me. The same goes for fishing; we weren't just throwing lines into the water, we were learning about conservation, sustainability, and how to pass that knowledge on to others."

After Rocky Mountain, the IGFA Education team turned our attention to Washington, U.S., and Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area's annual Fish Fest on June 8, 2025. This was the largest attended event of 2025, with more than 150 people participating, and it had the most diverse landscapes we encountered thus far in just one National Park site to film a virtual field trip. Starting near the Grand Coulee Dam, we fished for smallmouth bass and were surrounded by large columns of historically cooled lava. We then ventured near Fort Spokane, targeting smallmouth bass and rainbow trout/steelhead in the Channeled Scabland with canyons and steep cliffs that were carved by ice-age floods. We ended the trip in Kettle Falls in the Okanogan Highlands, which is actually an extension of the Rocky Mountains, where we caught a juvenile Chinook salmon and reveled in the beauty of the landscape and the quiet of the evening.

The next adventure took IGFA's staff on quite the trek in the Midwest, covering two National Park sites at the end of June: the Missouri National Recreational River in Yankton, South Dakota, and the Niobrara National Scenic River in Johnstown, Nebraska. Both sites received training on the Passports to Fishing program and co-hosted an event with the IGFA. They each had a Fish & Feathers intern that we trained a month prior, so it was nice to see them again and to see them in action at their own respective park site, leading on what they were trained on earlier. With great fishing opportunities at each site, several first catches occurred, and each made for a nice community event. "I can't wait to tell my dad I caught a smallmouth. He's going to be so proud of me," said Trinity W., age 15 years, during the Missouri National Recreational River event.

It was also great to see IGFA's angling educators, Emily and Cristian, take the lead on training park staff at Niobrara. They have been on numerous trips with the IGFA, and have been trained

IGFA & NPS connect people to parks ***continued on pg 12***

IGFA & NPS connect people to parks ***continued from pg 11***

throughout, so they took the next step into a leadership role within the IGFA Education Department just as the Fish & Feathers interns took on their leadership role with fishing and birding programs at their respective park sites. Seeing this transition of the next generation of angling educators in action was priceless.

Our last adventure for 2025 was a new one for the IGFA. Until now, we have focused on spin fishing as that is more feasible for beginners to learn and for park staff and volunteers to help educate about. However, one park site, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, on Lake Superior in Munising, Michigan, U.S., reached out to the IGFA to see if we could co-host a Learn-to-Fly Fish event. Coincidentally, the IGFA was working on a Passports to Fly Fishing program, a spin-off of the Passports to Fishing that focuses on spin fishing. For those of us who know fly fishing, it can prove difficult to learn at times and to teach it to others, especially with as big a group as we had at Pictured Rocks.

In total, 55 kids showed up to learn how to fly fish, and nearly 80 people overall, with 60% of participants admitting that they had never fly fished before! With this being the first time hosting a Learn-to-Fly Fish event with the Passports to Fly Fishing prototype, it was challenging at first, but with the station-style teaching, the event flowed very well and received positive feedback from participants. From a post-event survey, results showed a 138% growth in fly fishing knowledge, with 100% of participants expressing that they are likely or very likely to go fly fishing after the event. It was a great start, and the IGFA learned a lot to continue working on the Passports to Fly Fishing program to launch and distribute kits in the following year to help others learn the sport.

Our work with the National Park Service continues to be one of our favorites, and we cannot thank the National Park Foundation enough for their continued support. This project has helped us grow as anglers, as educators, and as professionals in angling education and training resources. It has taken us to some of the most pristine habitats in the country, filled with game fish we revere, reminding us why we venture out there in the first place and why we work with others to teach them the sport, and why we should conserve game fish and their habitats by recreating responsibly. Our work is far from over, though. We are already working on 2026 adventures with new digital resources to further expand our reach and train others in how to host angling education events and how to venture out themselves as safe, responsible, and ethical anglers. Connecting people to the outdoors through recreational fishing is what we love to do. More is on the horizon, so stay tuned! ✧

Water Safety - How to Escape Dangerous Currents

Of the five Great Lakes, Lake Michigan has the highest number of drownings and rescues each year. From 2002 to 2020, Lake Michigan had 125 deaths and 360 rescues. In 2022, Lake Michigan was responsible for about 45% of Great Lakes drownings, with 38 deaths compared to 4 in Lake Superior, 10 in Lake Huron, 15 in Lake Erie, and 17 in Lake Ontario. Lake Michigan has also had more than 250 recorded cases of swimmers caught in rip currents since 2002, which is double the combined total of the other four Great Lakes. Knowing how to stay safe in the water is critical.

This video describes several types of currents so you can avoid them, as well as how to survive them should you get swept away. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixiDEcjdbcs

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article

DNR stocks 640,000 fish in fall. Where they ended up in 2025

This past fall, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources stocked more than 600,000 fish across Michigan while wrapping up 2025 operations that put more than 19 million fingerlings in state waters.

Peters' bipartisan bill to bolster Great Lakes fishery becomes law

Bipartisan legislation introduced by U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Jon Husted to enhance Great Lakes fishery research and management efforts has been signed into law. The act reauthorizes funding for the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center for another five years.

Gordie Howe Bridge to give Michigan a walkable, bikeable link to Canada

Detroit's Gordie Howe International Bridge is set to change the way people cross the Detroit River. For the first time in decades, residents will be able to walk or bike, in addition to driving, into Canada.

Invasive sea lamprey declining as control efforts in the Great Lakes resume
The number of invasive sea lamprey in the Great Lakes has gone down after regular control and treatment efforts resumed. Lamprey surveys show their numbers have returned to pre-pandemic levels

Retired Michigan nuclear plant's reopening delayed to 2026
Officials are pushing back the anticipated restart date to early 2026 for Palisades Nuclear Generating Station, which is located on the Lake Michigan shore in Van Buren County, Michigan

With chinook weights declining, is a stocking cut in the future?
Data from Lake Michigan sport anglers and fisheries biologists showed a decline in Chinook weights in 2025, raising concerns that stocking might have to be reduced in coming years.

Great Lakes microplastics: How they get there, how they spread, and why the picture remains murky
Scientists agree on the source of Great Lakes microplastics pollution: people. What remains far less clear is how microplastics move through the system, where they collect, and why some waters appear far more contaminated than others

Coast Guard begins winter ice-breaking operations on the Great Lakes
The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern Great Lakes began ice-breaking operations in the Great Lakes for the winter shipping season. Currently, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Spar* will manage the ice-breaking needs of Western Lake

Early-season ice starting to appear on Lake Erie
Some ice has started to form along Lake Erie's western edge, though federal scientists say these patches represent only the earliest stages of freeze-up, not the onset of lake wide ice.

Endangered spectaclecase mussels reintroduced into the Chippewa River
To combat the population loss of spectaclecase mussels, which are native to parts of the Great Lakes basin and some of its tributaries, researchers with both the Minnesota and the Wisconsin DNRs released over 177 mussels into the Chippewa

The invasive sea lamprey is poised for comeback in the Great Lakes
The future of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's successful sea lamprey control program is unknown amidst funding cuts and signs of the invasive creatures developing pesticide resistance

End