



DEC announces successful fall egg take reports Successful collection of 16.8 million eggs ensure strong stocks for hatchery program

State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and partner agencies successfully collected 16.8 million eggs for all species and strains of fish, setting the stage for another successful year at the states fish hatcheries, the agency announced. Each year, DEC staff carefully collect eggs from wild and captive adult fish to begin the rearing cycle for various species at DEC fish hatcheries.

“New York’s fish hatchery system is a vital part of our effort to sustain our popular and economically important recreational fisheries, and foster restoration of rare native fish,” said Acting DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. “I am pleased that we’re off to a good start, and through Governor Cuomo’s NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, we are able to provide ample fish to meet future

stocking requirements. I encourage everyone to visit one of DEC’s hatcheries and learn about the world class efforts of our talented and dedicated fish hatchery staff.”

Chinook and coho salmon eggs are taken each year at the Salmon River Hatchery, a process that is viewed by thousands of visitors to the hatchery. Despite concerns over the warm, dry fall impacting productivity, 3.74 million Chinook and 2.39 million coho salmon eggs were collected from more than 2,000 adult salmon.

Lake trout eggs are obtained from two different sources: Cayuga Lake provides Finger Lakes strain lake trout, and Raquette Lake is the source of the Adirondack strain of lake trout currently used by DEC. The combined egg take from these waters

exceeded 500,000 eggs. Additional eggs from Cayuga Lake were used to make splake — a brook trout-lake trout hybrid utilized in some waters in northern New York. DEC also provided eggs to personnel from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Genoa (WI) National Fish Hatchery to assist with replenishment of broodstocks these partner agencies maintain as part of Great Lakes lake trout restoration efforts.

Landlocked Atlantic salmon egg collections are conducted at Adirondack Hatchery, utilizing fish from Little Clear Pond and captive broodstock maintained inside the hatchery. Approximately 1 million
Fall egg take reports

Continued on page 7

In this issue...

- Process changes for reporting sightings . 2
- Lake Superior stocking efforts..... 3
- Habitat improvement grants available..... 3
- Winter Lake Michigan access points 4
- Asian carp eggs remain in suspension.... 4
- Wisconsin 10-year panfish plan 4
- Atlantic sturgeon show encouraging 5
- Registration required for bass tournaments... 5
- Michigan parks’ free February events 6
- NY free fishing clinics..... 6
- Free boating safety course at DTW show 6
- Hunter and Boating Safety Ed Courses... 6
- PA adult trout stocking schedules 7
- DNR clerks collecting angler info 8
- Spring Youth Turkey Hunt..... 8
- DEC advises caution to Ice Anglers 8
- Hunters reminded to report harvest..... 8
- ILL scholarships available..... 8
- RTP application deadline March 1 8
- DEC awards nearly \$400,000 in grants... 9
- Minnehaha F&W Area to close 9
- Mercury emissions decline 30%..... 10
- Draft for Black River Wild Forest Unit.... 10
- Bass Pro Shops Spring Fishing Classic 11
- DNR to fly annual deer and elk surveys 11
- Women can learn outdoor skills 11
- Registration open for mentored hunts ... 11
- Wild hockey discounts with license 11
- IRAP Spring Turkey Hunting..... 11

USFWS donates fishing poles to help teach Detroit youth the joys of fishing

A donation from the USFWS of nearly 300 fishing poles will allow the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy and its partners to accommodate even more children during the popular Kids Fishing Fest, which is held each June along the Detroit River. The free youth fishing and conservation event was launched by the Conservancy, Rivertown Detroit Association, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2011.

This year’s event will be held Sunday, June 12, at Milliken State Park in downtown Detroit.

Kids Fishing Fest is designed to engage children ages 6 to 14 in the sport of fishing along the Detroit River and to educate them on the principles of water stewardship while creating lasting memories and strengthening ties to their families,

communities and the environment.

Last year, more than 400 children and their families were treated to a day of free fishing and family fun, including seminars, games, entertainment, arts and crafts, prizes and a raffle. Additionally, troopers from the Michigan State Police and officers from the Michigan DNR and Detroit Police Department were in attendance to interact with participants and to help children with fishing activities.

The fishing poles donation was made in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services’ new Urban Wildlife Refuge Program, which was created to ensure that a growing urban population across the country values natural resources and that a priority is placed on developing the next generation of conservationists in urban areas. ✧

Process changes for reporting sightings of Asian Carp, other non-native species

Boaters, swimmers or others who see lionfish, Asian carp, zebra mussels or any other invasive or non-native plant or animal species have two options to report sightings.

Sightings nationwide should now be [reported online](#) to the U.S. Geological Survey's [Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Program](#), called the NAS, or directly [to state government natural resource agencies](#).

The public has been able to report sightings to the USGS and state agencies for some time, but with the discontinuation of a federal reporting Aquatic Nuisance Species hotline late last year researchers are trying to get the word out on the updated reporting system and the continued importance of reporting sightings.

“Sixty-seven percent of the invasive species alerts in the past five years have been based on information reported by the public,” said Pam Fuller, a fish biologist with USGS and the leader of the NAS Program. “We rely on the public to gather much of our data on aquatic invasive species. We depend on them to be our ‘early detectors.’ When you combine the information we receive from reported sightings with information we pull from other sources, we’re able to provide a national picture of species distribution.”

For 19 years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the [Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force](#) operated a 24-hour phone hotline available to report sightings. In recent years, the line was seldom used, with sightings being more often than not reported via email, prompting the change in process. Scientists say reporting sightings is still very important, and very easy.

“New occurrences of non-native aquatic species are occurring more frequently than people think,” said Fuller. “In the past 12 months, we’ve seen 110 new occurrences. This includes both new, as well as species we’ve already seen that are just in new locations. Identifying where these species are can help us predict

which regions may be susceptible to invasion, and can help prioritize management needs.”

The nearly four-decade old NAS database monitors, analyzes, and records non-native aquatic animals, including mussels, snails, crayfish, and now, aquatic plants, to give a more comprehensive understanding of the occurrence of invasive species in the United States. The database is freely accessible to the public, allowing users to view current distributions, search for particular regions and species, and report sightings of non-native and invasive aquatic species. Information from the data is used to generate scientific reports, real-time online queries, spatial data sets, regional contact lists, fact sheets and occurrence alerts.

In 2004, an [alert function](#) was added to the system to send out alerts to users anytime a new species was introduced into an area. The system offers timely information to environmental managers to help them prioritize and initiate monitoring and management actions.

The NAS program monitors nonindigenous species, also known as non-native species or species not historically found in an area, as well as invasive species. A non-native species is not necessarily invasive; however, once a population is able to sustain itself it is considered invasive.

The NAS program works with state and federal natural resource agencies to gather information on non-native and invasive aquatic species, and works with other partners to develop tools, including integrated reporting and filtered website views.

“There have been numerous instances when a species was reported to us and we notified the state biologists who went out to investigate,” said Fuller. “Sometimes the reports turn out to be new introductions, and sometimes they are misidentifications. But when in doubt — report it.” To report the sighting of an invasive species, visit: www.usgs.gov/stopans. ✧



• Established 1972 •

President

Daniel N. Thomas, *Illinois*

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Michael D. Sanger, *Wisconsin*

Treasurer

Thomas G. Couston, *Illinois*

DIRECTORS

Illinois – Robert Gaik

Indiana – Mike Schoonveld

Michigan – Tom Hamilton

Minnesota – Dave Koneczny

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

Joe Nutt, nuttcajbn@sbglobal.net

© Copyright 2015 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 glslfc@comcast.net.

Wisconsin DNR Lake Superior stocking efforts continue restoration, benefit anglers

Efforts to restore reproducing fish populations and create new opportunities for anglers continued in Lake Superior during 2015 as a total of more than 360,000 fish were stocked into Wisconsin waters.

The totals included 105,000 lake trout, 149,400 brown trout, 101,000 splake and 5,291 walleye, said Terry Margenau, DNR Lake Superior fisheries supervisor. The numbers reflect efforts to balance ratios of predator fish with the lake's forage base for a sustainable fishery.

Lake trout stocking occurs in the western portion of Lake Superior, between Superior and Port Wing, where lake trout restoration efforts have been ongoing. "Our assessments last year indicated two-thirds of the lake trout sampled were native, suggesting our restoration efforts are progressing," Margenau said.

No lake trout stocking is done in the Apostle Islands region because of good natural reproduction there.

"When good habitat exists, Mother Nature provides us with the best hatcheries possible at no cost," Margenau said.

Brown trout have become a larger component of the nearshore fishery for anglers both during open water and ice fishing. Brad Ray, DNR biologist, said the increase in brown trout has helped fill the void left by lower natural production of coho salmon in recent years.

"Since the stocking of Seeforellen strain browns began, the harvest has more than doubled, while the number of naturally reproducing fish harvested has remained consistent," Ray said. "The increase in harvest of brown trout is due to better survival of the Seeforellen strain and not due to stocking."

Seeforellen strain brown trout originate from Lake Michigan, where the eggs are collected in fall. Eyed eggs are transferred to Bayfield's Les Voigt Hatchery, where they are

incubated and reared to a size of 3", when they are transferred again to the Brule Rearing Station. Hatchery supervisor Darren Miller said stocking occurs the following May when fish are approximately 16 months of age and 5.5 inches.

Splake, a hybrid cross between a male brook trout and female lake trout, have provided a popular nearshore sport fish in Lake Superior. However, because of poor returns of stocked fish in recent years, stocking strategies changed in 2012. Splake are now stocked as yearlings and returns to the angler creel are up 35%.

Chequamegon Bay, between the cities of Ashland and Washburn, was also stocked with more than 5,000 large walleye in October.

"These fish averaged more than 8" long and have the potential to be legal size within the next one to two years," Margenau said. "Stocking larger fish also improves survival."

[Lake Superior fisheries mgmt.](#) ✧

\$100,000 in U.P. habitat improvement grants now available

The Michigan DNR has announced a March 1 deadline to apply for a total of \$100,000 in deer habitat improvement grant funding in the Upper Peninsula. The Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative is a competitive grant program designed to enhance deer habitat on non-state-managed lands in the U.P.

Now in its eighth year, the initiative is supported by the state's Deer Range Improvement Program deer hunting license revenue.

"Due to the success of this program, and interest in the 2016 grant cycle, the total amount of grant funding available has been increased by \$50,000 to the \$100,000 level," said Bill Scullon, Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative administrator. "Additionally, the maximum amount of individual grants has been raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000, with the minimum remaining grants at \$2,000 each."

Previous projects funded under the initiative include planting of red

oak conifers and wildlife orchards; rehabilitation of historic wildlife openings; native prairie restoration, disturbing the soil for conifer regeneration. Some past grant recipients have supported youth hunting opportunities.

"These are prime examples of how partner groups can work with the DNR to enhance deer habitat, in light of the recent difficult winters and their negative impacts on the deer herd," Scullon said.

In the U.P., the deer population is situated on about 30% of the region's landscape during the winter months. In the northern U.P., 69% of the deer population depends on 17% of the lands defined as deer wintering complexes. In the southern U.P., 31% of the deer use 13% of the landscape.

Roughly 80% of the deer wintering habitat in the U.P. is owned or managed by entities other than the DNR. Groups eligible for these grants include organizations with a formal mission to promote wildlife

conservation and/or hunting, such as sportsmen's clubs, conservation districts, land conservancies, industrial landowners with more than 10,000 acres, or private land affiliations where two or more unrelated persons jointly own 400 or more acres.

"There are three primary goals applicants should strive to meet," Scullon said. "The projects should produce deer habitat improvements, build long-term partnerships between the DNR and outside organizations and identify ways to showcase the benefits to the public."

Project applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 1, and successful applicants will be notified by Friday, March 18. The complete grant application package is available on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants. For more information or questions regarding eligibility, please contact Bill Scullon at 906-563-9247 or scullonh@michigan.gov. ✧

Winter Lake Michigan access points in Delta County

Michigan has announced alternate winter access points to Lake Michigan in Delta County.

The DNR boat launch sites at Kipling on Little Bay de Noc and at the mouth of the Ford River on Green Bay are open for ice fishing and vehicles may enter the area. However, vehicles are not allowed on the ramps.

“The Kipling boating access site has an alternate access point designated for winter Lake Michigan access,” said Jeff Kakuk, DNR parks and recreation unit supervisor at the Escanaba Field Office. “Ford River winter access is available on either side of the existing boat ramp.”

Winter vehicle traffic on a concrete launch ramp can cause damage by driving frost deep under the plank.

“When the frost melts in the spring, the combination of ice movement and frost can push, pull or heave the ramp plank,” Kakuk said. “This typically occurs below the water level. Closure of the ramps is intended to protect the plank from frost damage and maintain a quality access for the boating public.”

In July 2014, the ramp at the Kipling boating access site was replaced at a cost of \$37,200. The Ford River ramp was replaced in a \$24,000 project in 2006. The lake bottom around both launches was dredged. About \$1,500 in park funding was used to develop the ice fishing access at Kipling.

Both of the ramp replacement projects were funded through the Michigan Waterways Fund, a restricted fund derived from boat registration fees and the Michigan marine fuel tax, which is used for the construction, operation and maintenance of recreational boating facilities.

DNR officials remind anglers that being on a frozen body of water is inherently dangerous. Check out a list of DNR winter [ice safety tips](#). See more information on DNR [boating access sites](#). ✧

Asian Carp Eggs remain in suspension at lower velocities than once thought

Lab experiments in flowing water using synthetic surrogate [Silver Carp](#) eggs demonstrate egg suspension at lower velocities than previously thought, according to a new USGS study. The drift of synthetic eggs at a range of flows was evaluated to provide insight into both suspension of water-hardened Silver Carp eggs and the potential interaction of eggs with the bottom of a river.

Since Asian carp eggs must stay suspended to survive to hatching, it is important to understand what flows cause them to settle to the bottom. These critical flow conditions help determine which rivers may be suitable for Asian carp reproduction.

Scientists with U. of Illinois and the USGS recently studied the suspension, transport and settling of Silver Carp eggs using synthetic surrogates at the [Ven Te Chow Hydrosystems Lab, U. of Illinois](#). The researchers found that 65% of the eggs were in suspension at mean velocities as low as 0.07 meters per second, considerably lower than previously thought (0.15 to 0.9 meters per second). If eggs are staying in suspension at these small velocities, then survival rates would be higher than previously expected in low flow systems. In addition, dimensionless ratios between turbulence and egg sinking rate were calculated for different flow conditions. These ratios can be used for first order assessment of egg suspension together with observed egg suspension mode from lab experiments. Results provide more information on egg suspension (i.e., 50% of eggs in suspension) than a mean velocity threshold.

Tatiana Garcia, USGS research hydrologist and lead author of the paper, performed experiments in moving water in a temperature-controlled re-circulatory flume with a sediment bed. Styrene beads were used as synthetic surrogate eggs to mimic the physical properties of water-hardened Silver Carp eggs. ✧

Wisconsin 10-year panfish plan Public comment sought

The Wisconsin DNR has recently developed a new 10-year panfish plan that will now be up for public comment in early February. [DRAFT panfish management plan \[PDF\]](#)

Comments on the DRAFT plan can be presented in writing (which will receive the same weight as comments presented at the public meetings). Send comments by March 18 to: [Max Wolter](#), 10220 State Highway 27 So., Hayward, WI 54843

Panfish are the target of more anglers in Wisconsin than any other group of fish. The 10-year plan focuses on habitat improvements, predator management and revised bag limits to boost panfish management. It also is designed to improve panfish opportunities for anglers including restoring size structure on lakes where smaller fish have become more prevalent in recent years, engaging anglers and supporting research on panfish. The draft plan was developed with extensive public input and is now up for a final round of feedback before being implemented.

There were three public meetings scheduled in early February: The first was Feb. 9 in Hayward, , the second is in Waukesha Feb. 10, 6-8 p.m., Waukesha Service Center, and in Waupaca Feb. 11, 5:30 - 8 p.m. at the Waupaca Library.

According to a DNR release, the draft plan was shaped after more than 3,500 surveys were filed, 30 public meetings were held and multiple questions on two different spring hearing questionnaires for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress were answered.

In 2015, the draft plan from An Adaptive Management Project for Panfish proposed three different regulations to be applied: A total of 25 panfish but no more than 10 of any one species (25/10); A total of 15 panfish but no more than 5 of any one species (15/5); A total of 25 panfish but no more than five of the sunfish (bluegill and pumpkinseed) may be over 7 inches (25/5 over 7 inches). ✧

DEC: Atlantic Sturgeon show encouraging signs for population recovery

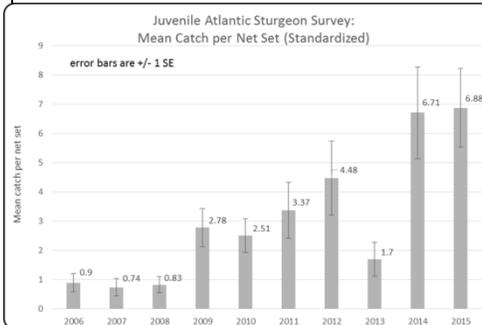
A joint Federal and State 2015 Juvenile Atlantic Sturgeon Survey shows the highest number of Atlantic sturgeon in the Hudson River in the 10-year history of the survey and the trend of the results show an increasing juvenile sturgeon abundance (see chart), New York DEC Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos announced.

“Juvenile Atlantic sturgeon are at the highest level recorded in the Hudson River in the last 10 years. These survey results are an encouraging sign for the recovery of Atlantic sturgeon,” Acting Commissioner Seggos said. “We are cautiously optimistic that, with our continued vigilance and efforts to protect this species, Atlantic sturgeon will have a secure future.”

Commercial fishing rates for Atlantic sturgeon exceeded the ability of the fish to replenish themselves in the late 1980s and early 1990s. New York led the way in conservation through implementation of a harvest moratorium for Atlantic sturgeon in 1996. In 1998, an amendment of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic sturgeon resulted in a coast wide moratorium on Atlantic sturgeon harvest for 40 years and aimed to protect two generations of females in each spawning stock.

The juvenile Atlantic sturgeon abundance survey began in 2006 as part of the DEC’s Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda. The survey was designed by DEC in collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and was implemented to track the response of Atlantic sturgeon to the closure of commercial sturgeon fisheries. Since sturgeon are a long-lived species, with Hudson River fish beginning to spawn at 10 to 20 years old and living as long as 60 years, signs of recovery were expected to be slow. This slow pace of recovery contributed to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listing Hudson River Atlantic sturgeon as

Endangered in 2012. Encouragingly, biologist are now seeing a steady increase in the number of Atlantic sturgeon in the Hudson River as the first protected fish are coming into their prime breeding years.



As identified in the NMFS Atlantic sturgeon status review, threats remain, including from accidental mortality when other fish are harvested along the Atlantic coast, habitat degradation, impingement and entrainment from water withdrawals, and mortality from vessel strikes. DEC continues to monitor these threats and evaluate and implement measures to prevent or mitigate their impact on Atlantic sturgeon.

In addition to breeding populations, DEC also maintains publicly available records of sturgeon deaths to monitor the status and assess threats to the population. In June 2012, in response to the Federal “endangered” listing of the species, DEC updated its website to direct all reports to a centralized location. Since improving data collection, reported sturgeon deaths began to rise.

DEC considers the current level of sturgeon mortality a serious matter, and continues to evaluate options to better determine the cause of mortality and options for prevention. However, the increase in reported sturgeon mortality reported to the DEC is likely related to the increase in outreach and centralization of sturgeon mortality reporting and the increased abundance of Atlantic sturgeon in the Estuary, rather than a specific source or project. In addition there is no evidence that the construction of the replacement for the Tappan Zee Bridge is the cause of the increased number of reported

sturgeon mortality, as the wide geographic spread of the reported mortalities (129 miles in 2015; 56 miles in 2014) suggests that the cause of the mortalities is not occurring at a discrete site. DEC continues to participate in the development of the ASMFC stock assessment for the Atlantic sturgeon, scheduled for completion in 2017. This assessment will summarize the current coast wide status of the species and identify opportunities to continue making progress toward the recovery of the species.

Photos of fish collected under NMFS permit #16436-01, visit DEC’s website at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7025.html. ✧

Registration required of bass tournaments

The Michigan DNR reminds those planning or organizing a bass fishing tournament in 2016 that all tournaments must be registered with the DNR.

In October 2015 the DNR’s Natural Resources Commission issued [Fisheries Order 215.15A](#) requiring all bass fishing tournaments held in 2016 and thereafter to be registered online using the department’s Michigan Fishing Tournament Information System. This requirement is for bass tournaments only and those that occur at both DNR and non-DNR-owned boat launches.

In addition to registration, the Michigan Fishing Tournament Information System also offers a public search component to identify when and where tournaments are occurring throughout Michigan.

To register, tournament directors must go to the DNR’s Michigan Fishing Tournament Information System, which can be found online at mcgi.state.mi.us/fishingtournaments or Michigan.gov/fishing. Instructions on how to access the system, add tournaments and report tournament catch data also are available online. ✧

Michigan parks' free February events

Many state parks and recreation areas offer free February events. www.michigan.gov/gogetoutdoors, call the park, or 989-313-0000 or 989-686-2790.

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 12-14

Gun Lake Winterfest at [Yankee Springs Recreation Area](#) (Barry County): An igloo village competition, a snowball-throwing competition, live performances by a cappella choirs, fashion show, performances for the finalist of the Gun Lake Idol contest and the ever-popular Polar Bear Dip. There will also be activities for kids of all ages, including face painting, etc. Park #: 269-795-9081.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Lighthouse Snowshoe Hike at [Leelanau State Park](#) (Leelanau County): Guided snowshoe hike and fascinating stories about the park and the Grand Traverse Lighthouse followed by a guided tour of the lighthouse (\$4 for non-members) and refreshments. Snowshoes are not provided. Park #: 231-386-5422.

Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 13-14

Winter Free Fishing Weekend: All Michigan residents and visitors can fish without a license. Many state parks and recreation areas will host special events as well. Visit michigan.gov/freefishing.

Saturday, Feb. 20

Lantern-lit Cross-Country Skiing at [Cheboygan State Park](#): Cross-country skiing at 5:30 p.m. End the evening with a welcoming campfire with hot chocolate at 14 Foot Shoals Cabin. Bring your own equipment. 231-627-2811.

Saturday, Feb. 20

Winterfest at [Rifle River Recreation Area](#): Hayrides, sledding, cross-country skiing, ice fishing and snowshoeing. In addition, participants can enjoy cook-your-own hot dogs, coffee and hot chocolate. Bring their own equipment. Park #: 989-473-2258. ✧

NY free fishing clinics

Anglers are encouraged to safely enjoy ice fishing on New York waters as ice conditions improve. A series of free ice fishing clinics are scheduled across New York State.

In addition to these free fishing clinics, New York has designated February 13-14, 2016 as the state's first free fishing weekend where the requirements for a fishing license has been suspended.

Free fishing clinics scheduled in New York State include:

Otsego Lake – Otsego County – February 17

Ice fishing clinic, 9 - 4 p.m. at Glimmerglass State Park in the town of Springfield, Otsego County.

DEC will supply most of the bait and tackle, but experienced anglers are encouraged to bring their own fishing gear.

The event will be moved to the public boat launch at Canadarago Lake just south of Richfield Springs on NYS Route 28 if there is not sufficient ice on Otsego Lake.

Casterline Pond – Cortland County – February 18

Ice fishing clinic, 9:30 - 12:30 p.m. at the Casterline Pond fishing access parking area on Route 11, just north of Homer in Cortland County. DEC will supply bait, tackle and the drilling of holes.

Carter's Pond – Washington County – March 5

Ice fishing clinic, 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. at the Carter's Pond Wildlife Mgmt. Area parking lot on SR 49 in Greenwich, Washington County. www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24402.html.

DEC will provide spikes, tackle, jigging rods and instruction to all participants. Supplies are limited, so people are encouraged to bring their own equipment if they have it. Bait will be provided.

Some events may be postponed depending on ice conditions. Call the regional DEC office to confirm events are still planned from this list: www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html. ✧

Free boating safety course offered at the Detroit Boat Show

The Detroit Boat Show is partnering with the Michigan DNR and the Oakland County Marine Division to offer a free boating safety class at Cobo Center during the Detroit Boat Show, sponsored by Yamaha. Those who finish the class will get one free ticket to the show, compliments of Yamaha. Boaters young and old are invited to learn the rules of the water and other helpful safety tips for boating during a free six-hour seminar held Saturday, February 20.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. followed by the course from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Space is limited so [pre-registration](http://www.detroitboatshow.net) is recommended at www.detroitboatshow.net. Walk-ins will be accepted if space allows.

The 58th annual Detroit Boat Show is February 13-21 at Cobo Center in Detroit. Admission to the boat show is \$12 for adults; children 12 and under are free with an adult, and seniors 65 and older receive free admission on Monday. Discount tickets, other special admission days and hotels provided by newly renovated Courtyard Detroit Downtown are available at Detroitboatshow.net. **The Detroit Boat Show is sponsored by Great Lakes Scuttlebutt, Official Magazine of the Detroit Boat Show and the Courtyard Detroit Downtown, Official Hotel of the Detroit Boat Show.** For more info: Detroitboatshow.net, or call 800-932-2628. ✧

Hunter and Boating Safety Education Courses

Register now for Hunter Safety Education and Boating Safety Education courses from the IDNR. Spring classes are being scheduled. Check the IDNR website for class dates and locations. The website link for all IDNR Safety Education course: www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety. ✧

PA adult trout stocking schedules

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) announced the 2016 adult trout stocking schedules are now available online at fishandboat.com and on the PFBC's "FishBoatPA" mobile app.

Anglers can easily search the trout stocking schedules for locations and dates of interest. To view the list, go to fishandboat.com, click on the link for [Trout Stocking Schedules](#), select a county and enter start and end dates from the calendars at the top of the page. Then press "Go."

For anglers with smartphones, an even easier way to view the schedules is through the FishBoatPA app, which is available for free from the Apple App and Google Play stores.

Included in this year's stocking lists are the Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters, a new program where one water in each of the eight commissioner districts will be stocked with large 14"-20" trout. Select [here](#) for more information about this exciting new program.

The 2016 season will open March 26 for the Mentored Youth Trout Day program in 18 southeastern counties, including: Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill and York.

"This year we are refining the program again based on participant feedback and will allow only kids to keep trout," said PFBC Executive Director John Arway. "This is a very popular program designed to encourage adults to take kids fishing, to show them that fishing is fun, and to promote active, outdoor recreation. Adult mentors are encouraged to fish with the children and provide encouragement and tips, but we're asking them to return their catch to the water."

A majority of the trout waters will be stocked in advance of the mentored youth days. But some of the waters may not be stocked in time due to weather, water conditions and

scheduling logistics. Also, special regulation areas, like Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only or Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only, are not included in the mentored youth program.

The following weekend – April 2 – kicks off the Regional Opening Day of Trout Season in the same 18 southeastern counties.

A second Mentored Youth Day will be held on April 9, the Saturday before the April 16 regular opening day of trout season.

To participate, adult anglers (16 years or older) must have a valid fishing license and trout/salmon permit and be accompanied by a youth. Youth anglers must obtain a free PFBC permit, or a voluntary youth fishing license (only \$2.70 including all fees). Both are available at www.GoneFishingPA.com or at any of the more than 900 licensing agents across the state.

For every voluntary youth license sold, the PFBC will receive \$5 in federal revenue from the USFWS's Sport Fish Restoration Act program. All revenues earned from a voluntary youth fishing license will be dedicated to youth fishing programs.

The PFBC annually stocks approximately 3.2 million adult trout in more than 700 streams and 120 lakes open to public angling. These figures include approximately 2 million rainbow trout; 642,000 brown trout; and 522,000 brook trout. As with past practice, the average size of the trout produced for stocking is 11 inches in length.

In addition to these fish, the PFBC plans to stock about 8,500 trophy golden rainbow trout that weigh an average of 1.5 lbs. and measure at least 14" long. Also, PFBC cooperative nurseries run by sportsmen's clubs add another 1 million trout to waters close to them. Changes for the 2016 season include new waters, waters restored to the stocking program, and the removal of waters from the stocking program. ✧

Fall egg take reports

Continued from page 1

eggs were obtained to meet DEC program needs, and additional eggs were provided to the U.S. Geological Survey's Tunison Laboratory hatchery and to the Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery in Vermont.

Brown, brook, and rainbow trout eggs are taken each year at DEC's Catskill and Randolph hatcheries, and with 5,993,000 brown trout eggs, 1,110,000 brook trout eggs, and 1,558,000 rainbow trout eggs collected this fall. Additional brook and brown trout eggs taken at the Rome Lab, home of the disease resistant Rome Lab strains of these species, are retained to meet future DEC hatchery broodstock needs.

Eggs were collected from round whitefish, an endangered species in New York, in Lower Cascade Lake in late November and Little Green Pond in December. Lower Cascade Lake is an historically important broodstock water for round whitefish. Recently, fish have been stocked into Little Green Pond, near Adirondack Hatchery to supplement the eggs taken from Lower Cascade Lake fish. Although round whitefish spawn late in the season, generally around the time ice forms, due to mild weather experienced to date, the 2015 egg take was "ice free." Nearly 175,000 eggs were obtained, and rearing will occur at Oneida Hatchery and Adirondack Hatchery as part of the ongoing effort to restore this rare, native species throughout its historic New York range.

After the eggs are taken they are incubated until hatching at DEC's state hatcheries. After hatching, they are fed and cared for by DEC hatchery staff until they reach target stocking sizes. Fish from New York hatcheries are stocked in lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers throughout the state, supporting the state's \$1 billion recreational sport fishery.

DEC operates 12 fish hatcheries and raises and stocks more than 15 species of fish into New York waters. www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7742.html for more information on DEC's fish hatcheries. ✧

DNR clerks collecting angler info this winter

As the winter fishing season gets under way, the Michigan DNR reminds anglers that fisheries staff again will be interviewing them about their fishing trips. The DNR appreciates anglers' cooperation in obtaining these critical data for fisheries management.

DNR creel clerks will, through brief interviews, ask anglers how long they fished, what species they targeted, what they caught and where they live. In a few instances, they will ask to measure or weigh fish and take scale samples to gather key biological information on anglers' catches.

These efforts are part of the DNR's Statewide Angler Survey Program, a long-term monitoring program designed to track recreational fisheries across Michigan waters of the Great Lakes and selected inland waters.

This winter, creel clerks will interview anglers fishing Saginaw Bay, the Les Cheneaux Islands, Munising, Au Train, Marquette, Keweenaw Bay, Lake Gogebic and Little Bay de Noc. Starting April 1 and continuing into the fall, creel clerks will talk with anglers at a number of Great Lakes boating access sites, fishing piers and shorelines across the entire coastline to obtain estimates on the spring, summer and fall fisheries. To see [past creel results](#), visit michigan.gov/fishing, click on Fishing in Michigan in the left toolbar. ✧

Spring Youth Turkey Hunt

Spring Youth Turkey Special Hunt Area permit applications will be accepted online through Monday, February 15. Spring Youth Turkey Season County Permits will be available over-the-counter from IDNR license/permit vendors beginning March 1. For information on spring turkey hunting, check the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/turkey. ✧

DEC advises caution to Ice Anglers

Due to the late start of winter and the recent warm weather and rain, the New York DEC is advising anglers and others who may want to be on the ice of water bodies to be cautious.

Ice began forming late this year and is not as thick as it typically would be in early February. Large water bodies remain completely open or only have ice in shallow bays, even in the Adirondacks and the surrounding North Country. Recent warm temperatures and rain have further deteriorated ice conditions. Thin ice has melted completely in many places leaving open water around shorelines, in areas of flowing water and other locations where ice was present a week ago. Open water around inlets and near boathouses and docks has expanded.

Take the following precautions:

- ▶ The use of motor vehicles on ice is discouraged until the ice thickens;
- ▶ Use caution when moving from ice to shore and from shore to ice;
- ▶ Check ice thickness near shore before going further out on the ice;
- ▶ Avoid areas around inlets, outlets, boathouses, docks, any open water;
- ▶ Be prepared to self-rescue—carry spikes, flotation devices and a throw line; and
- ▶ Wear traction devices on your feet as there is no snow on the ice surface. ✧

Hunters reminded to report harvest

Illinois hunters who received a Free Upland Hunting Permit are reminded to report their harvest by February 15. Even if they did not hunt at the site, hunters must report in to remain eligible for the next year's drawing. For all of IDNR-managed state sites that utilize the Windshield Card system, the reporting deadline is February 15. For more information: <https://dnr.state.il.us/windshieldcard/index.asp>. ✧

ILL scholarships available

The Friends of Volo Bog is offering an Entering College scholarship and a Continuing College scholarship for \$1,000 each to outstanding students interested in pursuing an environmental career. To be eligible for the Entering College scholarship, the Illinois applicant must reside in Lake, McHenry, Kane, Cook, DuPage, Kendall, or Will County, attend a high school in one of these counties, have a minimum B average for the first three years, and plan to attend an accredited college or university. The applicant should be planning to enter a career directly related to preserving the natural environment. To be eligible for the Continuing College scholarship, the applicant must be currently enrolled in an accredited college or university pursuing a degree directly related to preserving the natural environment, have a permanent residence in Lake, McHenry, Kane, Cook, DuPage, Kendall, or Will County, have graduated from a high school from one of these counties with a minimum B average, and currently hold a minimum B average in their college studies. Applications are due by March 31 for the school year starting in fall. Applications are available at www.friendsofvolobog.org. ✧

RTP application deadline March 1

IDNR is accepting applications for the Federal Recreational Trails (RTP) grant program, with an application deadline of 5 p.m. on March 1, 2016. While grant awards cannot be made at this time, applications submitted will be reviewed and prepared for the awarding of RTP grants when a state budget is approved. The Illinois RTP grant manual has been revised and updated, and applicants should pay particular attention to changes in land acquisition procedures and processes to avoid ineligibility of proposed projects. For more info, check dnr.state.il.us/ocd/newrtp2.htm. ✧

DEC awards nearly \$400,000 in Hudson River estuary grants Grants will increase coastal resiliency and improve aquatic habitat

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) late last month awarded four grants totaling \$395,273 for projects in the Hudson River Estuary to reduce flooding, create improved shorelines, upgrade water quality and restore aquatic habitat in tributaries, Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos said.

This funding enables local partners to join with the state in advancing projects that improve the Hudson River, sustain economically important fisheries, and connect New Yorkers to this incredible resource.

The grants support Governor Cuomo's \$17 billion strategy to reimagine New York for the new reality of extreme weather by transforming the State's infrastructure and shoreline protection systems to better protect New Yorkers. They are also part of the Sustainable Shorelines Project, which provides science-based information to planners and local governments on the best management options to employ that protect coastal property while providing habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife that live along the shores of the Hudson River Estuary.

The grants are provided through the NYS Natural Resource Damages Fund (NRD), the USFWS's State Wildlife Grant Program, and the Environmental Protection Fund, and will be administered by DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program.

Grants have been awarded to the following communities and organizations:

Village of New Paltz: Replacement of Culvert System, \$246,365

This project will improve intermittent stream flow and movement of fish and wildlife by replacing a deteriorated culvert system with adequately-sized drainage structures at a road and rail trail crossing adjacent to the Wallkill River. The new system also will improve the flow of floodwater, and maintain habitat connections for eel and other Species of Greatest Conservation

Need (SGCN) such as wood turtle.

Dutchess County Soil and Water: Shapp Pond Dam Removal, \$96,408

Dutchess County Soil and Water will remove the twelve-foot Shapp Pond Dam on the East Branch Wappinger Creek, which will result in greater connectivity throughout the creek by removing a large impediment to fish passage, and will enable eels to migrate farther upstream.

BlueShore Engineering, LLC, \$40,000

BlueShore will design a Sustainable Shorelines Demonstration Project for the Nutten Hook shoreline site on the western end of Ferry Rd. in Stuyvesant (Columbia County).

The purpose of the grant is to design improvements to the riverbank to enhance habitat for aquatic species, reduce erosion, and increase the property's resiliency to sea-level rise, storm surges and wave action resulting from coastal storms. The Nutten Hook site is part of Stockport Flats, which is the northernmost site of DEC's Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, and will provide an example of how other communities and property owners along the shoreline can work with nature to restore habitat and protect coastal defenses along the shoreline.

Funding for the design work is provided through the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) and is administered under DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program.

"NEIWPCC is pleased to be able to support Hudson River Estuary communities that take steps to prepare for sea-level rise by improving shorelines while sustaining a healthy ecosystem," said Ron Poltak, NEIWPCC Executive Director.

City of Troy: Tide Gate Removal, \$12,500

The City of Troy will disassemble and remove a tide gate located on the Wynants Kill in close proximity to the Hudson River. The gate's removal

will improve upstream access on this tributary for herring and American eel, and will also help reduce flooding problems.

DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program, a project of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, helps people enjoy, protect, and revitalize the Hudson River Estuary. Now in its 13th year, the Estuary Grants Program implements priorities outlined in the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda to achieve six key benefits: clean water; resilient communities; a vital estuarine ecosystem; conservation of fish, wildlife, and habitats; preservation of the river's natural scenery; and enhanced opportunities for education, river access, recreation, and inspiration.

For more information on the Hudson River Estuary and funding opportunities through the Hudson River Estuary Program, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5091.html> on DEC's website. ✧

Minnehaha Fish & Wildlife Area to close

Indiana's Minnehaha Fish & Wildlife Area's 30-year run as a DNR-managed property is over. The landowner has chosen to terminate the lease. It has been a great partnership for sportsmen over the years. Minnehaha, located in Sullivan County, will officially close on April 1.

Despite the closure of Minnehaha, the DNR offers several other [options](#) in the area for outdoor enthusiasts — Fairbanks Landing FWA (Sullivan County), Goose Pond and Hillenbrand FWAs (Greene County), and Chinook and Wabashiki FWAs (Vigo County). Also nearby are Greene-Sullivan State Forest, Shakamak State Park, and Redbird State Recreation Area. Combined, they offer roughly 36,600 acres of places for a range of outdoor activities. ✧

Manmade mercury emissions decline 30% from 1990-2010

Between 1990 and 2010, global mercury emissions from manmade sources declined 30%, according to a new analysis by Harvard U., the USGS, the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, and the U. of Alberta. They challenge long-standing assumptions about emission trends.

Mercury is a metallic element that poses environmental health risks to both wildlife and humans when converted to methylmercury in ecosystems. It can be converted into gaseous emissions during various industrial activities, as well as natural processes like volcanic eruptions.

“For years, mercury researchers have been unable to explain the conundrum between declining air concentrations and rising emission estimates,” said lead author Yanxu Zhang from Harvard University. “Our work is the first detailed, mechanistic

analysis to explain the declining atmospheric mercury trend.”

The reduction in atmospheric mercury was most pronounced over North America and Europe, where several factors have contributed to the observed declines in atmospheric mercury concentrations:

1. Mercury has been phased out of many commercial products.
2. Controls were put in place on coal-fired power plants that removed naturally occurring mercury.
3. Many power plants have switched to natural gas and stopped burning coal entirely.

Finally, at the same time, efforts to combat acid rain resulted in controls being put in place on power plants to reduce nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions. This also reduced mercury emissions.

The study is entitled “Observed

decrease in atmospheric mercury explained by global decline in anthropogenic emissions.” Read [more information about the study](#).

The [USGS Toxic Substances Hydrology Program](#) provides objective scientific information on environmental contamination to improve characterization and management of contaminated sites, to protect human and environmental health, and to reduce potential future contamination problems. As part of that research, USGS provides [information on mercury sources](#); mercury cycling in the atmosphere, land surface, lakes, streams and oceans; and bioaccumulation and toxicity of mercury. This information helps land and resource managers understand and reduce mercury hazards to people and wildlife. ✧

Draft for the Black River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

Would improve motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities

Public Comment Period Ends February 29, 2016

A draft amendment to the Black River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP) to improve recreational opportunities while protecting the natural environment is available for public review and comment, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos announced.

“The draft amendment proposes actions that will improve recreational opportunities for both snowmobilers and hikers, and enhance protection of the natural resources of the Black River Wild Forest,” said DEC Acting Commissioner Seggos. “The proposed amendment also designates the first trails in the Adirondacks as part of the North Country National Scenic Trail, further enhancing economic opportunities to promote this unique area.”

Major highlights of this UMP amendment include:

- ▶ enhancing the overall snowmobile trail system to improve connections to

the unit and between local communities;

- ▶ reclassifying four existing interior snowmobile trails to non-motorized recreational trails;
- ▶ constructing four new snowmobile trail segments to support connections between communities;
- ▶ constructing three new segments of foot trail to be included in the recently-designated North Country National Scenic Trail;
- ▶ constructing a new five car parking lot adjacent to North Lake; and
- ▶ designating a cross-country ski loop trail, with accompanying five-car parking lot, off the Otter Lake Outlet Trail near Otter Lake.

The Black River Wild Forest is comprised of more than 121,000 acres of Forest Preserve lands located primarily within towns of Ohio, Webb and Russia in Herkimer County, and the towns of Forestport and Remsen in Oneida County.

Smaller portions of this unit are located within the town of Lyonsdale in Lewis County and the town of Morehouse in Hamilton County.

A UMP was approved for the Black River Wild Forest in 1996. Since the implementation of this plan, recreational demands on the unit have increased. In response to these changes, the UMP would be amended to provide additional recreational opportunities.

The Draft Amendment is available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/49959.html>. Copies of the Draft Amendment are also available on CD and can be requested by e-mail at r6.ump@dec.ny.gov or from the DEC Region 6 offices in Watertown (315-785-2263) and Herkimer (315-866-6330).

Public comments will be accepted until February 29, 2016. Mailed to Michael Marsh, Senior Forester, NYSDEC, 225 North Main Street, Herkimer, NY 13357 or sent by e-mail to: r6.ump@dec.ny.gov. ✧

Bass Pro Shops Spring Fishing Classic

Bass Pro Shops' Spring Fishing Classic offers sportsmen and women, kids, and families interested in fishing the opportunity to enjoy 10 days filled with the latest fishing gear, tips, outdoor celebrities, giveaways, and more. The Spring Fishing Classic provides opportunities for novice and experienced anglers to learn from the pros while kids can attend a fishing workshop, participate in the casting challenge, win prizes, and more during the Next Generation weekend.

Pros, events, seminars and times vary per store location and are subject to change. To see pros, seminars, topics, and times at local stores visit www.basspro.com/classic. **WHEN:** February 12 – 21 (March 4 –13 in Toronto, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Moncton/Dieppe, New Brunswick, and Rocky View, Calgary locations) ✧

DNR to fly annual deer and elk surveys

Low-flying helicopters will be used for annual white-tailed deer surveys by the Minnesota DNR through March in central, west-central and southeastern Minnesota. When suitable snow conditions develop, deer will be counted from helicopters during daylight hours at an altitude of about 200 feet.

The aerial surveys are used to monitor deer populations in Minnesota. Data from these flights help improve knowledge of deer numbers and how deer populations respond to management, and help the DNR make decisions about future deer season regulations. Aerial elk surveys are also planned for the Kittson County and Grygla elk ranges in northwestern Minnesota.

Questions about survey flights should be directed to the DNR's farmland wildlife research office in Madelia at 507-642-8478, the central regional wildlife office in St. Paul at 651-259-5756 or the northwest regional wildlife office in Bemidji at 218-308-2651. ✧

Women can learn outdoor skills at workshop

Women can discover the enjoyment of snowshoeing, cross country skiing, birding, wild ricing, dark-house fishing and hiking at a New York winter workshop offered by the Becoming an Outdoors Woman program. The focus is providing opportunities to try winter activities in a fun and supportive atmosphere, and prior experience isn't required. The workshop is Friday, February 19, through Sunday, February 21, at the Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center near Hackensack for ages 14 and older. A winter workshop [schedule and registration form](#) is available from the DNR. ✧

Registration open for mentored turkey hunts

On a spring morning, a novice turkey hunter uses a turkey call to make a clucking sound that imitates a turkey hen. Somewhere nearby, a turkey gobbles in reply. The hunter stays still to avoid being seen—recalling advice from a mentor—while excitedly watching the dark shape of the gobbler emerge into view. Turkey hunting scenes like this play out each spring during mentored turkey hunts that give hunters 12 and older, adults and families opportunities to learn under the guidance of National Wild Turkey Federation volunteers. This year the hunts take place April 16-17. Want to learn more? Get the [details and an application](#). The deadline to apply is Monday, February 15. ✧

Coho in Crystal Lake? You heard that right!

Are you looking for a big waterbody in northern Michigan that produces unique and exciting fishing opportunities? Look no further than Crystal Lake in Benzie County; Michigan's ninth largest inland lake (at 9,854 acres) and home to a whole host of popular species. [Read the whole Crystal Lake story online!](#) ✧

Wild hockey discounts with hunting, fishing license

Minnesota hunting or fishing license holders can [order discounted tickets](#) to Minnesota Wild hockey games. Upcoming games included in the promotion are Sunday, February 28, against the Florida Panthers; and Sunday, March 6, against the St. Louis Blues. Ticket costs vary based on game and seating options. A limited number of tickets are available for each game and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. The offer is available online only and is available to hunting or fishing license holders for 2015 or 2016. The discount is not available at the Xcel Energy Center box office. Fishing and hunting licenses can be [purchased online](#). ✧

IRAP Spring Turkey Hunting

The Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) has added first-time adult turkey hunting to its growing list of public access activities. It includes anyone who hasn't hunted turkey in the past five years. In addition, the IDNR has changed the age restrictions for youth turkey hunting to 17 years and younger. This will allow IRAP to permit additional young turkey hunters on their youth turkey hunting sites. IRAP is a public access program that leases property from private landowners throughout Illinois and makes it available to registered IRAP participants for specific activities. To apply for an IRAP spring turkey hunting site, hunters must download an application and liability waiver, complete and sign them, and mail them to IDNR. Deadlines for applications are February 26 for youth turkey season and March 10 for turkey seasons 3 & 4. In order to apply for seasons 3 and 4, applicants must first apply for a turkey permit through IDNR lottery system. Links are available on the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IRAP/. ✧

Fishing boasts universal appeal, attracts participants from all walks of life

While the image of the modern American angler is often portrayed in advertising as a strong looking, middle-aged white male, new research by Southwick Associates conducted for the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) reveals a much broader-and more accurately detailed-view of today's "typical" angler. Rural workers, soccer moms, retired professors, young auto mechanics, busy young parents and wealthy empty-nesters who own multiple homes are all part of today's angling community. The Southwick report "Lifestyles of Today's Angler: Tapestry™ Segmentation of Licensed Anglers" provides drilled down information on the lifestyle types most likely to engage in fishing; information that is critical to organizations and companies looking to connect with this vast, economically and politically powerful audience.

"When neighborhood types are aligned with fishing license data, we get much more specific information about current anglers' lifestyles and can identify the potential market for luring more into the angling fold," says Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates.

The study focused on an analysis of fishing license sales data from 12 states overlaid with Address Coder™ and Tapestry™ lifestyle segmentation software (both designed by geographic information system [GIS] software developer Esri) to determine the types of neighborhoods, and thus lifestyles, common to anglers of all skill levels and types of

fishing. By understanding the types of people who enjoy recreational fishing, it's possible to determine where additional clusters of existing and potential anglers live in order to better focus marketing and promotional efforts. It can even be used to determine what types of gear and brands of equipment certain anglers will be more apt to purchase.

This information is particularly important as conservation groups and state agencies seek to recruit, retain and reactivate (known as the R3 initiative) those people apt to participate in angling as well as those who have fished before, enjoy fishing, but for various reasons do not do it regularly. Through lifestyle segmentation, R3 efforts can improve success rates by targeting those people most likely to respond to promotional activities and angling opportunities.

Examples of the types of information revealed in the study include:

- Residents of Cozy Country Living, Rustic Outposts, GenXurban and Family Landscapes (lifestyle, also referred to as LifeMode, types identified in Tapestry™) account for 62 percent of all licensed anglers.
- Cozy Country Living is the identified lifestyle with the highest rate of fishing participation—its residents are more than two times as likely to fish as the rest of the U.S. population.
- Soccer Moms and Up and Coming Families, both within the Top 10 Tapestry™ segments, include busy young professionals with families who value their time together. The

latter group is one of the fastest growing markets in the country. This group is younger than the stereotypical angler and has smaller children and is more ethnically diverse.

- The Ethnic Enclaves and Next Wave LifeModes (suburban and urban communities with ethnically diverse populations, particularly Hispanics) currently have low rates of fishing participation but are predicted to experience the largest population growth in the future, making them better targets for angler recruitment efforts.

- The Green Acres segment is the most common one across all participation categories (retained, recruited and reactivated anglers), accounting for roughly 7 percent of the overall angler population. These people tend to be avid do-it-yourselfers, with all the necessary tools and equipment for home improvement and care of their land. They enjoy a range of outdoor activities. They also tend to be older married couples, many with no children, who live in rural enclaves within more metropolitan areas.

For copies of the executive summary or the full report, visit <http://asafishing.org/facts-figures/angler-participation/u.s.-angler-population-their-lifestyles-and-license-buying-habits>.

For more information on Esri's neighborhood/LifeMode classification system, visit <http://doc.arcgis.com/en/esri-demographics/data/tapestry-segmentation.htm>. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Congress approves new heavy Great Lakes icebreaker](#)

Congress has approved construction of another heavy Great Lakes icebreaker in a semi-annual bill that authorizes U.S. Coast Guard funding for the next two years.

[Great Lakes fish farming debate picks up speed in Michigan legislature](#)

The debate over Great Lakes fish farming is picking up speed in Lansing, where two hearings are scheduled this week on competing Republican bills that would either expand or outright ban commercial net-pen aquaculture in Michigan waters.

[Jackson County Elk herd reduced to 17](#)

The introduction of Wisconsin's second elk herd continues to be saddled by mortality issues, highlighted by the loss of three animals to wolf predation in January. The Jackson County elk herd was reduced to 17 animals including seven bulls, seven cows and three

[Public access to Mississippi River Derailed](#)

As a recreational and ecological resource, the upper Mississippi River is world-class, but the change backed by railroads make most track crossings illegal

[Great Lakes governors weigh WI city's request for Lake Michigan water](#)

Governors of the eight Great Lakes States will soon have to decide whether or not to allow the city of Waukesha, Wis., to start drawing its water from Lake Michigan

[Assembly approves lifting nuclear moratorium](#)

Legislators in Wisconsin moved closer toward lifting a ban on new nuclear power plants, with the Assembly passing a bill that would do away with the moratorium, despite warnings about dangerous meltdowns and radioactive waste

[Lake-Michigan records huge perch spawn](#)

While Lake Michigan biologists sort data to determine the precarious condition of trout and salmon, the perch fishery is providing much better news. One look around the Michigan City harbor this winter revealed jillions of tiny perch that were hatched this year.

End