



Gobies compete with each other when crowded, sparing native fishes

It seems counter-intuitive, but Wisconsin Sea Grant researchers have found that an invasive fish, the round goby, may have greater impacts on native fish populations when there are fewer of them. The reason? The round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*) is so pugnacious and aggressive toward its own kind that when numbers are high, they compete among themselves to a greater extent than against native fishes.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Jake Vander Zanden and former Ph.D. student Matthew Kornis) and their team published their findings last year in the journal *Oecologia*. They stocked 18 enclosures in Little Suamico River, a tributary of Lake Michigan in northeastern Wisconsin, with gobies and three species of native fishes (creek chubs, white suckers and Johnny darters).

The enclosures contained the same amounts and types of natural food. The only difference was the number of gobies: from “no goby” to “low goby” (2.7 fish per square meter) to “high goby” (10.7 fish per square meter). The fish lived in enclosures made from PVC pipe and plastic mesh for 52 days and were weighed at the beginning and end of the experiment.

The lowest growth rates in the native fishes were in the low-goby enclosures, with Johnny darters and white suckers faring worst. Native fish growth in the high-goby enclosures was no different than in the enclosures without gobies.

“Gobies are super-territorial and they beat up on other gobies in these experimental settings,” explained Vander Zanden. “We believe that because they’re spending their time competing with other gobies, their

impact on other species is reduced at high densities.”

Vander Zanden and his team were surprised by this result “because there’s an implicit assumption that presence corresponds with impacts, and that if you increase an invasive’s abundance, its impact would increase.” Kornis explained “Although this type of finding isn’t entirely new, it has not been shown for an invasive species before in terms of its effect on native species.” He said that in addition to competing for food, gobies, which can spawn up to six times per season, are also intense rivals for mates.

Although the finding is specific to round gobies, Vander Zanden said it addresses broader issues in invasion science. “Don’t always assume that just because something is more

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Industry groups urge input against ethanol increase

Boating and fishing industry groups are encouraging stakeholders to weigh in on the EPA’s most recent proposal to increase ethanol levels in the fuel supply. The [Recreational Fishing Alliance](#) and the [National Marine Manufacturers Association](#) are asking members and other affected parties to oppose the measures set forth by the EPA during the comment period, which ends July 27.

The agency [proposed increasing the amount of ethanol](#) in the overall fuel supply in May, although it lowered the amounts required by the Clean Air Act, angering both critics and supporters of ethanol. The Department of Agriculture said it would inject \$100 million in funding to put more ethanol at gas pumps. The Renewable Fuel Standard has the

amount of ethanol flatly increasing, despite a large, unanticipated drop in fuel demand, and critics say this will push blends to E15 and higher.

The [EPA proposed](#) the total amount of renewable fuel blending would be 15.93 billion gallons in 2014, 16.3 billion gallons in 2015 and 17.4 billion gallons in 2016 — more than 4 billion gallons a year lower than the amount Congress called for in the 2007 legislation. The statutory requirement for 2016 is 22.25 billion gallons.

In November 2013 the EPA first proposed to scale back the 2014 mandate to blend corn ethanol and more advanced biofuels into gasoline. However, the EPA subsequently withdrew that 2014 proposal after

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Great Lakes Fish Finder app

The Great Lakes Fish Finder app is an interactive field guide. Look up and identify fishes, submit sightings, and join a community of enthusiasts to help you classify your finds. The app is available as a free download in the Apple and Google Play stores.

The app includes the Great Lakes Guide to Fishes, which was created by experts from Shedd Aquarium. The guide is intended to help people identify fishes from the Great Lakes, focusing on species that people are most likely to come across, as well as a sample of fish diversity. Two hundred species of fishes call the Great Lakes home. Some are so common that just about everyone has heard of them. Some are so rare that only a handful of biologists have seen them in the wild. And some are popular to catch and eat, supporting a multibillion-dollar industry. ✧

The app is intended to help:

Identify - Snap a picture with the app and submit it for help from citizen scientists and experts to determine which species you've found.

Keep track - Log the fish you've found to keep a record of all of the amazing species you've seen!

Share them with the iNaturalist community online - The Great Lakes Fish Finder App connects with the iNaturalist online community of users that includes scientists and experts, citizen scientists, Great Lakes enthusiasts, teachers and many park employees. Shedd experts actively curate taxa, help with species identification and review guide data.

Make a difference - The Great Lakes Fish Finder is an initiative of Shedd Aquarium's Daniel P. Haerther Center for Conservation and Research. Data submitted by citizen scientists around the region help inform scientific studies and may help identify and combat the spread of invasive species that threaten our lakes! The open-access database format will allow scientists to use this data to assess trends in fish populations, critically important due to environmental threats to the Great Lakes ✧

Online tool makes it easier for anglers to plan perfect trip

Many anglers are constantly looking for tools and resources that equip them with better knowledge when planning a fishing trip. Now trout anglers don't have to go further than the DNR's website to find such a tool!

Michigan's Trout Trails was launched online this summer in an effort to connect anglers with lesser known trout waters. Michigan is nationally known as a trout fishing destination with nearly 20,000 cold, quality streams and hundreds of lakes. This new tool highlights several of these waters—specifically those located in the western U.P., north central Lower Peninsula, and southwestern Lower Peninsula.

Trout Trails will be rolled out in several phases, with the first featuring 129 locations that include detailed descriptions and photos for each site and information for area lodging, restaurants, and guide services. Additional info includes trout species available, fishing regs, presence of stocked or naturally reproducing fish, driving directions (with a link to Google maps), and note-worthy information (such as presence of fast water, canoe/kayak/tube accessibility, best times to fish, and much more).

The goal of this site is to help anglers find new places to go and plan the best fishing trip possible. Each location has been verified by fisheries biologists to ensure the information is accurate and up-to-date.

The information on Michigan's Trout Trails is presented in a map format that makes it easy to glean all the necessary information from each destination point. The site is mobile-friendly and accessible via any type of device. Additionally, information for each of the 129 sites is available in a printable format.

Each year we're looking to add additional sites to eventually provide statewide trout trails. We hope it will entice anglers to explore new fishing locations, opportunities and adventures they haven't had before. To access: michigan.gov/trouttrails. ✧



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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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NY Saltwater Fishing Map available online

A detailed online map of public saltwater fishing sites in New York City is now available. Provided through Google Earth, the map compliments existing freshwater fishing information available on DEC's website. The map provides information on a fishing site's location, the available amenities and mass transit information. Each site description includes links to basic angling and outdoor recreation information in New York State. All fishing maps are available on DEC's website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/42978.html>.

"The new map will be a valuable tool for anglers looking for shoreline access opportunities in the marine district of New York State," said Commissioner Martens. "Eventually the map will be expanded beyond New York City to the entire marine district."

All saltwater anglers 16 years of age or older are required to join the free Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. To learn more about New York's fishing regulations and information on how to join the registry, visit DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html>.

The saltwater fishing map is also available on the official New York Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife free mobile application (App). For more information on the App, including the YouTube video link on how to use the advanced GPS mapping and friend finder options, visit DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html>.

The 2015-16 Enacted Budget included an additional \$8 million for state land access projects and an additional \$4 million for the state's hatcheries in NY Works funding. The Budget also creates a new capital account which along with federal Pittman-Robertson funds will be used to manage, protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat, and to improve and develop public access for fish and wildlife-related recreation. ✧

Michigan - Becoming an Outdoors Woman Backpacking Workshop Aug. 7-9

The Michigan Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) Program is offering a Beyond BOW Backpacking workshop in Ontonagon County. Scheduled for the weekend of August 7-9, the program is for women who have previous backpacking experience and would like to expand their abilities.

The workshop starts at 1 p.m. Friday, August 7, with a gear check and trip orientation at [Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park](#) in Silver City, Michigan. From there, participants will drive to the trailhead and head out, hiking approximately 3.5 miles with full backpacks to backcountry rustic cabins. Participants are asked to bring their own camping gear. See registration materials for more detail. All participants must have previous backpacking and hiking experience.

"This workshop will hopefully expand on skills you may have been taught at previous BOW workshops including backcountry cooking, map and compass, wilderness first aid, and hiking," Pitz said. "The backpacking trip will include both days at Mirror Lake with optional day hiking trips and fishing available."

Additional details to consider:

- Cabins offer a remote setting with no electricity or running water.
- Participants will stay in two-bed and eight-bed cabins.
- To fish, participants need to purchase a fishing license ahead of the workshop. The cost is \$26 for an annual license or \$10 for a 24-hour license.
- Participants must be 18 or older.
- Enrollment is limited to 10; the registration deadline is July 29.
- This is a rain-or-shine event. The cost for this event is \$150 and includes two nights lodging.

Class information and registration materials are available online at the DNR website at:

Lake Michigan Islands Management Plan now available for review

The Michigan DNR invites those interested in the management of the Lake Michigan islands to review, ask questions and provide input on the [draft Northern Lake Michigan Islands Management Plan](#).

This plan addresses state-managed land administered by the DNR on Beaver, Garden, High, Hog, North Fox, South Fox and Whiskey islands. In May and November 2014, the DNR hosted public meetings to gather input from island residents, partners, tribal governments, local governments and conservation organizations. Information from these meetings then was used to draft the plan.

It's been a great process of pulling together many different interests on the use of the state-managed land on Lake Michigan islands," said DNR field operations manager Keith Kintigh. "We've used the information gathered to draft a management plan, and it's now ready to be reviewed."

Those who would like to comment on the draft plan are asked to email kintighk@michigan.gov before August 31 or attend an open house Monday, July 20, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Beaver Island Community School, 37895 King's Highway on Beaver Island.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr. ✧

www.michigan.gov/bow. The registration fee can be paid online at www.michigan.gov/estore. A fishing license can be purchased online at: www.mdnr-eligence.com.

For more information, contact Sharon Pitz at 906-228-6561 or email pitzs@michigan.gov. ✧

Asian Carp Committee releases 2015 Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework

The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee on June 30 announced the release of the 2015 Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework. The Framework outlines the steps federal, state, and provincial partners will take in the fight against Asian carp.

The ACRC's 2015 Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework outlines new risks to the Great Lakes from black carp and grass carp. It also highlights nearly \$60 million in projects, \$16 million of which will be funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, to safeguard the Great Lakes from invasive Asian carp. Since the group's inception in 2009, more than \$318 million has been spent in research, control and monitoring efforts.

"We're moving the fight against Asian carp from our back yard down the alley," said Cameron Davis, co-chair of the ACRC and Senior Advisor to the Administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "To protect the lakes, this Framework shores up our defenses near the Great Lakes and focuses our efforts further downstream toward the Mississippi River."

"The Framework underscores that by working together we can and will move the needle on Asian control and management," said USFWS Midwest Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley. "At the request of our state partners we will continue to provide our technical assistance in Great Lakes monitoring efforts."

Key initiatives in the 2015 Framework include advancing a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study on new controls at Brandon Road Lock and Dam, refining detection and control technologies, and continuing efforts to suppress fish populations through netting. A full list of 2015 action items, project descriptions and intended outcomes is provided in Appendix 2 of the Framework.

"Operating the electric barrier system, undertaking Asian carp

monitoring and beginning the Brandon Road phase of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study are key components in the Corps' efforts to keep Asian carp from establishing in the Great Lakes. The Army Corps of Engineers will be working diligently with our partners in the ACRC to move these projects forward in the coming year," said Col. Christopher Drew, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District.

"U.S. Geological Survey scientists are in the lab and field testing and refining Asian carp control tools and technologies developed over the last few years," said Leon Carl, USGS Midwest Regional Director. "We are committed to providing these resources to our partners to inform Asian carp management decisions."

Concurrent to the 2015 Framework, the ACRC is releasing the annual Monitoring and Response Plan for Asian carp in the Upper Illinois River and Chicago Area Waterway System. Actions for the 2015 field season are similar to prior years. The focus continues to be on monitoring and removal of bighead and silver carp downstream of the Electric Barrier System in the Chicago Area Waterway System and the upper Illinois Waterway, as well as ongoing evaluations of the effectiveness of barriers and gears used to keep Asian carp from establishing in the CAWS and Lake Michigan. Additionally, agency crews will conduct heightened evaluations surrounding Brandon Road Lock and Dam as a potential future control point, consistent with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study findings. Summary of 2014 findings are posted alongside the 2015 Monitoring and Response Plan.

For more information on the ACRC and to read the 2015 Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework or

2015 Monitoring and Response Plan, please visit: www.asiancarp.us. ✧

Mich confirms state's first case of chronic wasting disease in white-tailed deer

The Michigan DNR has confirmed that a free-ranging deer in Meridian Township (Ingham County) has tested positive for chronic wasting disease, a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. This is the first time the disease has been found in Michigan's free-ranging deer population. In 2008 a white-tailed deer from a privately owned cervid (POC) facility in Kent County tested positive for CWD.

The animal was observed last month wandering around a Meridian Township residence and showing signs of illness. The homeowner contacted the Meridian Township Police Department, who then sent an officer to euthanize the animal. The deer was collected by a DNR wildlife biologist and delivered for initial testing to the DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health in Lansing, Michigan. After initial tests were positive, samples were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, for final confirmation. The Michigan DNR received that positive confirmation last week.

The DNR asks help from the public and hunters in reporting deer that are unusually thin and/or exhibiting unusual behavior (for example, acting tame around humans and allowing someone to approach).

To report a suspicious-looking deer, call the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030 or fill out and submit the [online observation report](#) found on the DNR website. ✧

DEC Campground Features added to NY's Free Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App

Just in time for the summer season, new and enhanced features, including information on Adirondack and Catskill campgrounds, are now available on the official New York Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife free mobile application (App), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens announced. All DEC campgrounds are now included on the free App, complete with full information on locations, amenities, activities and GPS directions.

DEC campgrounds in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves offer unmatched opportunities to enjoy nature with attractions ranging from swimming, paddling, bicycling, fishing, hiking and boating to wildlife exploration and much more. The App is designed to provide everything a visitor would need to become familiar with a property, including contact information, directions, amenities, maps and events. Information is updated regularly in partnership with DEC.

Users can search by location and desired activity to find locations near them to go fishing, hunting, basic hiking information for campground trails and now camping. Users can locate New York's fishing, hunting and wilderness sites and gain immediate access to on-the-spot species profiles, rules and regulations, and important permits and licensing details. Advanced GPS technology enhances any trek through the woods which allows the user to record trails and use waypoints and photo waypoints to mark traps and keep track of wildlife sightings.

For more information on the NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App, including the YouTube video link on how to use the advanced GPS mapping and friend finder options, visit DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html>. ✧

Creel clerks collect data to aid in fisheries management

Michigan DNR managers depend on data when deciding where to stock fish and when setting fishing regulations. Over the years, they've found that one of the best sources of fisheries data is the anglers themselves. Since 1985, the DNR has conducted a regular creel census at many of the state's most popular fishing locations, finding out what anglers are doing.

Michigan has about 35 fisheries assistants ("creel clerks") working around the state at Great Lakes ports and on inland lakes and streams. They regularly conduct surveys at some waters and intermittently at others; some are year-round, others are in the rotation only during the open-water season. Clerks interview anglers about their trips and ask about tackle and techniques. They also ask resource-related questions at some places that are determined by local biologists, like, 'Do you like the stocking program? or Is there a good mix of species?'

Besides recording catch data, clerks also weigh and measure fish and take samples — spines from walleyes, spines or scales from perch, scales from salmon, and jaws from lake trout — from amenable anglers.

On vast bodies of water — Saginaw Bay or Lake Erie, for instance — the DNR uses aerial surveys to determine how many anglers are out on the water. That's happening this year as part of an international creel survey on the Detroit River, developed in conjunction with OMNR and USGS, which is funding aerial counts.

They're looking for information about everything; writing down as much information on freshwater drum and white bass as they are walleye.

Clerks say there are other benefits to the job. They get to see what lures are working, what colors; and a lot of information about what's going on. Learn about Michigan's [creel survey work](#) on the DNR website www.michigan.gov/fishing. ✧

Bluegill can be managed more effectively with bag limits

Many inland fisheries historically have allowed unlimited harvest of panfish, or have extremely liberal bag limits. The management model is that fishing mortality is usually low and high harvests benefit angling by improving growth and preventing stunting. However, a new study by **Andrew Rypel of the Wisconsin DNR**, shows this may not be a universal truth and that bag limits can be used to improve fishing quality.

Rypel evaluated a series of lakes with control (25-fish bag limit) and experimental treatments that reduced the bag limit to 10 fish. Total length increased by about 20 mm in treatment lakes, although the effect varied with depth; lower water clarity conferred a greater increase, presumably because lakes with lower water clarity were more productive and **Bluegills** also grew faster. The effects were also striking in that the experiment ran for three years, and Wisconsin bluegills routinely achieved age-10. Thus, the regulation covered only 20-30% of the lifespan of individuals in the population.

Rypel noted that, although effects were positive, benefits via size structure change might take several years to accrue because of the regulation-lifespan difference. And although few creel data were available to examine angling impacts, experimental lakes developed local reputations for quality Bluegill fishing.

But the most insightful part of the study was the suggestion that managers need to carefully plan for success in situations where regulation changes may require years to achieve success. Rypel's thoughtful analysis of this problem discusses a broad range of long-term considerations that apply to managers considering any type of long-term management strategy. ✧

Hunting Access Program offers incentives for landowners

Landowners looking to make the most of their land can support local hunting traditions and economy, improve their land, and get paid to do it through the DNR's Hunting Access Program. The DNR encourages landowners to consider enrolling their lands in the program, which provides private-land hunting opportunities in southern Michigan and the eastern Upper Peninsula. Landowners with at least 40 acres are eligible to enroll.

Michigan's Hunting Access Program (HAP) was created in 1977 to increase public hunting opportunities in southern Michigan, where 97% of the land base is privately owned. Landowners enrolled in the program receive an annual payment, up to \$25 an acre, for allowing hunters to access their lands. HAP, one of the oldest dedicated private-lands public-access programs in the nation, provides access to quality hunting lands close to urban properties.

Using funds from the new hunting license package and a new

USDA grant, the DNR – in collaboration with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and local conservation districts – plans to continue expanding the program over the next three years.

According to DNR wildlife biologist Mike Parker, "Providing access to hunting lands that are close to home is critical for supporting Michigan's strong hunting heritage. Our commitment to providing access has more than tripled the number of farms enrolled in HAP the past three years. We now have over 140 farms and nearly 16,000 acres available for public hunting.

Landowners have the ability to choose which types of hunting are allowed on their lands. Hunting options include:

- All hunting
- Youth & apprentice hunting only
- Small game hunting only
- Deer hunting only
- Sharptail grouse hunting only

Landowners may choose more than one option, such as deer and turkey hunting only. In order to manage the number of hunters using HAP lands at any one time, hunters are required to register to hunt each time they visit the property. The landowner can select either a mandatory registration at their home or a hunter self-registration box, which the DNR will provide and install. The maximum number of hunters allowed on the property is determined by the total acreage, as well as the habitat type. Leases are for a two-year period, with annual payments made each spring.

To ensure landowner and hunter satisfaction, HAP offers landowner liability protection. Public Act 451 of 1994 addresses the concerns some landowners have over sharing access to their land. In addition, HAP lands are patrolled by conservation officers, with an increased focus on patrolling during the busy fall hunting season.

www.michigan.gov/hap ✧

HSUS petition fails to fracture alliances

On June 30, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rejected a petition by the Humane Society of the United States concerning the listing of gray wolves under the Endangered Species Act. The petition requested that the status of gray wolves across the contiguous United States be changed from "endangered" to "threatened," excepting Mexican wolves in the Southwest, which would remain as endangered status. HSUS couched this request under the guise of attempting to appear moderate and in search of compromise. Neither is true and the Sportsmen's Alliance applauds USFWS for seeing it as an unwarranted smokescreen.

"This petition was nothing less than the radical HSUS trying to push its agenda on yet another wildlife management issue that they are in no way qualified to deal with," said Nick Pinizzotto, Sportsmen's Alliance president and CEO. "There is no

room for misguided emotion when it comes to managing wildlife, and USFWS clearly agrees."

By proposing to list wolves as threatened, HSUS hoped to split the powerful alliance of sportsmen, agriculture and wildlife professionals. Under a "threatened" listing, more leeway exists to manage wolves preying on livestock. However, this "compromise" is not based on facts or science, and would, as a practical matter, would prevent proper wolf management that includes hunting.

With wolf populations rapidly expanding, and no other scientific reason to keep gray wolves listed under the protections of the Endangered Species Act, USFWS correctly rejected the petition.

Not only has USFWS rejected the petition, in their evaluation of the evidence, they found that hunting is not a threat to wolves because state management plans put limits on

hunting if population levels drop—just as with every other species of wildlife throughout the nation that enjoys scientific management.

In February, the Sportsmen's Alliance and our partners appealed a [misguided and shortsighted federal ruling](#) made on December 20 that put wolves back under federal protection.

"The court's decision to reinstate federal protections until wolves recover across the entire country is not only misguided, it ignores years of policy to the contrary," said Pinizzotto. "It's clear to everyone involved that wolves have not only recovered, but are growing. But the real story here is that HSUS and their allies can't stand the thought of a wolf hunting season. Instead, they are bound and determined to waste hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars in legal costs to prevent proper management of wolves." ✧

Bring only approved firewood onto state lands

The Minnesota DNR wants to remind visitors that only approved firewood is allowed on lands administered by the DNR, such as state parks, state forests and wildlife management areas. Firewood restrictions are needed to help prevent the introduction or spread of damaging forest pests, including emerald ash borer, gypsy moth and oak wilt.

Firewood that can be used on state administered lands must be offered for sale by the DNR at that location or:

1. Be acquired from a DNR-approved firewood vendor who sells firewood harvested within 50 miles from where it will be burned, or from a DNR-approved firewood vendor. A vendor ticket, bundle label or sales receipt must accompany the firewood.
2. Be kiln-dried, clean (unpainted and unstained) dimensional lumber that is free of any metal or foreign substance. Pallet boards are not considered approved firewood.

There is one exception: Those camping on state forest land outside of a designated campground may gather dead wood on the ground for campfire use on site.

The DNR encourages visitors to burn all firewood purchased from a park before leaving or to return unopened bundles for a refund. If visitors are not able to burn all firewood purchased outside the park, they should leave any leftover firewood with the camp host or at the campsite for use by the next camper. It's important that visitors not take firewood home because it could move forest pests to a new location.

The DNR also recommends that people avoid transporting wood from their home area to their lake cabin or other recreation sites around the state. The best firewood is local or MDA or USDA-APHIS certified firewood. For more information, including a list of approved firewood vendors, visit www.mndnr.gov/firewood/index.html ✧

Illinois DNR deer permit regulations changes

Unfilled youth permits can be used during first regular firearm season

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Participants in Illinois' Youth Firearm Deer Season in October will be able to use unfilled permits from the youth season during the first weekend of the regular Firearm Deer Season in November.

The three-day Youth Firearm Deer Season, conducted during the Columbus Day holiday weekend on October 10-12 this fall, is open to youth hunters who have not reached their 16th birthday prior to the hunt. Youth who purchase the \$10.50 permit for the youth season and are unsuccessful in taking a deer during the youth hunt will be able to hunt with that permit during the first segment of the regular Firearm Deer Season, which this fall is November 20-22. The youth permit plan is part of amended Illinois deer hunting regulations being proposed by the IDNR for implementation this fall.

The IDNR is also proposing elimination of the non-resident single antlerless-only over-the-counter archery deer permit. IDNR will submit an amended regulation to limit the sale of those permits only to hunters who have already obtained a non-resident combination (either-sex and antlerless) archery deer permit, beginning in 2016. Non-resident single antlerless-only archery permits will be unavailable this fall, although an antlerless-only permit will still be available as part of the combination archery permit.

IDNR is also considering amending regulations to have a bag limit for archery deer hunters. A recent online survey regarding an archery deer bag limit showed broad support among those participating in the survey. More detailed questions on the bag limit idea will be included in the statewide IDNR Deer Hunter Harvest Survey in early 2016.

Review proposed regulations at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/adrules/Pages/Proposed.aspx>. ✧

\$450,000 to improve public safety and upgrade DEC Trails

Projects to enhance public safety and provide additional access to the popular Kaaterskill Falls area of the Catskill Forest Preserve in Greene County are underway. Because of safety risks associated with the construction, public access to the falls area will be restricted through the 2015 summer hiking season.

Access to the falls will only be allowed from the Kaaterskill Falls trailhead located on NY Route 23A. DEC will prohibit public access past the wooden fences at the base of the falls. The Laurel House Road parking area near the top of the falls will be closed and visitors will not have access to Kaaterskill Falls from the parking area for the remainder of the hiking season.

DEC contractors will construct a new trail from the end of the marked Kaaterskill Falls trail at the base of the falls to the Escarpment trail at the top. This 0.2-mile trail will include construction of a new 260-foot stone staircase, with 200 stone steps.

In addition, a 300-foot spur trail will lead from the staircase to a point above the middle pool of the falls. At the end of this trail, DEC contractors will install another shorter set of stone stairs to provide access to the middle pool area. The staircase will be designed to blend in with the natural stone of the area at a location that will limit its visibility from below. DEC will also build a fully accessible trail leading to a viewing area and overlook platform at the top of the falls.

The new trails and stone staircase will accommodate the public's desire for access to a better view of Kaaterskill Falls and the middle pool area, while also protecting public safety. In recent years, DEC has taken additional steps to prevent people from continuing past the end of the marked Kaaterskill Falls trail, including signs warning of potential risks, but some people ignored the warnings and put themselves in danger by continuing past the fence. ✧

Steelhead at Michigan's Tippy Dam

Many anglers while away their days dreaming about catching steelhead—but they're often limited to key parts of the year associated with their spawning runs. But there is a spot, along the Manistee River in Manistee County, which can offer anglers an unfathomable number of opportunities to target this trout—Tippy Dam.

For at least the last 20 years the DNR has annually been stocking around 34,000 Skamania-strain steelhead and 50,000 Little Manistee-strain steelhead at Tippy Dam. These stocked fish—in addition to the natural reproduction occurring there—have produced a consistently busy fishery anglers clamor for. ✧

According to Mark Tonello, the DNR fisheries biologist who manages the Manistee River watershed, the steelhead arrive at Tippy Dam in waves year-round, much to the delight of anglers.

"The typical spring run fish will linger into early June, and then the summer run begins," he explained. "Those summer run fish will be around in October and November and then you'll also start to see the fall run fish—and they stay all winter long!"

The key to taking advantage of this unique fishery is understanding conditions that drive the fish to Tippy Dam and the techniques to try when targeting them. Luckily Tonello is an expert and shared countless insights!

"You've got to target the steelhead when they're fresh—meaning within the first few

days they've come out of Lake Michigan and they show up at the dam. That's when they're willing to bite."

Tonello explained the steelhead are tied to Lake Michigan conditions and experienced anglers will know to watch the lake for a rollover to occur. This usually happens in July and August as the beaches warm up and a hard east or northeast wind blows in and pushes the warm water out and cold water takes its place on the beach and goes into the harbor. That, and/or rain, will cause the steelhead to run.

Anglers that can be present for the steelhead's first few days on site will want to head out early in the morning—around the first hour after daybreak—as cooler water temperatures will encourage more bites. On days that are overcast and cooler you can also see their activity pick up.

"If Tippy Dam gets water temperatures up into the 70s steelhead fishing will be difficult," cautions Tonello. "At that point they're just trying to survive and it can be very tough to get them to bite." As far as where to fish specifically at Tippy Dam, Tonello advocates for the little coffer dam right below the main dam, approximately 200 yards below.

"That coffer is a neat spot to fish because it's almost like a little lake," Tonello said. "Those fish tend to run up and jump the coffer dam and they'll end up right below the turbines." Tonello also suggests targeting the deeper runs and holes in

the next mile or so downstream from the dam. There are a number of ways to fish for Tippy Dam steelhead, including with lures (wobbling plugs like hot 'n tots and fin/fins), spinners and spoons, fly fishing, or bait (wax worms, night crawlers or spawn bags).

As the seasons change and summer turns into fall, Tonello explains there will be lots of fishing pressure at the dam as folks target salmon. To their pleasant surprise they'll often catch steelhead during those trips—and they might even land a brown trout.

"We stock 60,000 brown trout at Tippy Dam every year," said Tonello. "A lot of people come thinking they want to catch steelhead, but they know the fall back fish is definitely brown trout."

At one time the Manistee River below Tippy Dam was the most heavily fished river in the state as creel census data from 1999 to 2004 showed on average 550,000 angler hours there each year. Who can blame them for stopping by? On top of steelhead and brown trout populations anglers can also try their hand at catching walleye, smallmouth bass and northern pike. With all these opportunities and more available throughout Manistee County, a future trip just might be worth it!

Want even more in-depth information on [Tippy Dam Pond](#) and [below Tippy Dam](#)? Check out their Status of the Fishery Resource Reports (linked above). ✧

Public meeting July 22 to discuss Lake Gogebic walleye regulations

The Michigan DNR will host a public meeting Wednesday, July 22, to review the minimum size limit for possessing walleye on Lake Gogebic in Michigan's UP. The meeting will run 7 - 9 p.m. (EST) at the Marenisco Township Hall, 314 Hall St. ✧

IL Conservation World

Attend the 2015 Illinois State Fair in Springfield and visit Conservation World on the fairgrounds, Aug. 14-23. Conservation World features 30 acres of family activities including fishing, archery, and family entertainment, plus expert info on habitat enhancement, state parks, wildlife, fish, and forestry. Conservation World is open every day 10-7 PM. www.illinois.gov/statefair. ✧

IL Hunter Safety Courses

Begin planning for the upcoming 2015-16 hunting seasons in Illinois by checking the schedule of IDNR Hunter Safety Education courses. Classes fill up quickly, so check the IDNR website for scheduled classes, more of which are added each week. The web link is www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety. ✧

Power of Prediction: Avian fatalities at wind facilities

The U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has released a study that will enable ecologists, managers, policy makers, and industry to predict the bird fatalities at a wind facility prior to it being constructed.

The study examined golden eagles as a case study because they are susceptible to collisions with wind turbines in part because of their soaring and hunting behavior.

Bird fatalities due to collisions with rotating turbine blades are a leading concern for wildlife and wind facility managers. This new model builds upon previous approaches by directly acknowledging uncertainty inherent in predicting these fatalities. Furthermore, the computer code provided makes it possible for other researchers and managers to readily apply the model to their own data.

The model looks at only three parameters: hazardous footprint, bird exposure to turbines and collision probability. "This simplicity is part of what makes the model accessible to

others," said Leslie New, assistant professor of statistics at Washington State University, who led the research project as a USGS postdoctoral fellow. "It also allows wind facility developers to consider ways to reduce bird fatalities without having to collect a complicated set of data."

High rates of bird fatalities do not occur at every wind facility. The geographic location, local topographic features, the bird species and its life history, as well as other factors all play a role in the number of fatalities. Taking advantage of publically available information, research scientists incorporated a wealth of biological knowledge into their model to improve fatality predictions.

"Uncertainty in this model can be reduced once data on the actual number of fatalities are available at an operational wind facility," said New. To establish the utility of their approach, the scientists applied their model to golden eagles at a Wyoming wind facility. Their long-life span

combined with delayed reproduction and small brood size means that there are potential population-level effects of this additional source of mortality.

Golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The combination of law, conservation concerns, and renewable-energy development led the USFWS to develop a permitting process for wind facilities. The USFWS permitting process requires that fatality predictions be made in advance of a wind facility's construction. This allows the facility's impact to be assessed and any mitigation measures related to turbine placement on the landscape to be taken. The new model was developed specifically for the purpose of assessing take as part of the preconstruction permitting process.

The study supports a conservative approach and the researchers' model is used to inform this permitting process and balance management of eagle fatalities. ✧

DNR to host meetings in July regarding changes to fishing regulations

The Michigan DNR has announced a schedule of public meetings in July to discuss several fishing regulation changes proposed for 2016.

The major issues to be discussed are in relation to a proposed list of catch-and-delayed-release lakes for bass-fishing tournaments, chumming regulations, and a steelhead bag limit reduction for four rivers.

Sixteen water bodies are being proposed for catch-and-delayed-release bass tournaments. Catch-and-delayed-release means temporarily holding bass in a live-well for tournament weigh-in purposes. The change to chumming regulations refers to allowing no more than 1 quart of chum in an angler's possession. The proposal to reduce the steelhead bag limit pertains to the Muskegon, Pere Marquette, Little Manistee and Big Manistee rivers.

Meeting dates, times and locations:

Southern Lake Michigan

- Wednesday, July 29, 7 - 8 p.m. (EST) at D&R Sports Center, 8178 W. Main St. in Kalamazoo.

Central Lake Michigan

- Monday, July 27, 6 - 7:30 p.m. (EST) at John Graves Lodge, 4684 Evergreen Drive (M-37) in Newaygo.
- Tuesday, July 28, 6 - 7:30 p.m. (EST) at Onekama Consolidated Schools' media center, 5016 Main St. in Onekama.

Northern Lake Michigan/Eastern & Western Lake Superior

- Thursday, July 30, 6:30 - 8 p.m. (EST) at the DNR Pocket Park in the U.P. State Fairgrounds, 2401 12th Ave. North in Escanaba.
- Please note, two additional proposed regulation changes will be discussed at this particular

meeting (covering three management units). These include proposals to 1) modify the one-over-23" walleye slot limit boundary line for Little Bay de Noc, and 2) change the fishing regulations for lake sturgeon on the Menominee River between the Park Mill dam and the Grand Rapids dam.

Lake Erie

- Tuesday, July 21, 7 - 8:30 p.m. (EST) at the Waterford Fisheries Office, 7806 Gale Road in Waterford.

Northern Lake Huron

- Wednesday, July 29, 6:30 - 8 p.m. (EST) at the Tuscarora Township Hall, 3546 S. Straits Highway in Indian River.

Meeting details also available on michigan.gov/fishing. ✧

USFWS helps state partners take a stand against Asian carp

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Region is pleased to announce \$800,000 in funding to assist state partners in the Upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins in their Asian carp prevention and control efforts. The funding comes from a \$2.3 million increase in the Service's 2015 base budget to support integrated Asian carp management efforts outside of the Great Lakes basin.

Asian carp species, including bighead, silver, black and grass, are unwelcome invaders to the Midwest's waterways. As directed by Congress in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (2014), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is helping to coordinate response actions in the Upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins to protect local economies that depend on outdoor recreation tied to healthy lakes, rivers and streams. Funding was distributed evenly between the two basins, with priority projects focused on understanding the distribution and movement of Asian carp, the impact of the invasive fish on native fish, and removal of Asian carp from the water. Following is a breakdown of funding in each basin by state:

Ohio River Basin:

Kentucky	Total: \$240,149
West Virginia	Total: \$95,000
Indiana	Total: \$62,351
Pennsylvania	Total: \$2,500

Upper Mississippi River Basin:

Minnesota	Total: \$140,000
Illinois	Total: \$175,000
Missouri	Total: \$85,000

✧

Apply by Aug. 14 for MN youth deer hunts

Minnesota youth have until Friday, August 14, to apply for one of 18 special deer hunts in October and November. Youth can hunt in select state parks and other refuge areas with a parent, guardian or mentor during these annual opportunities. Of the 18 special hunts, 16 are firearms hunts for youth 12-15, and two are archery hunts for youth 12-17.

Participating in a youth deer hunt does not prevent the youth from participating in the regular firearms deer season, but any deer harvested do count against the youth's season bag limit. An adult parent, guardian or mentor must accompany the youth at all times while hunting, but only the youth may hunt. Both youth and mentor must attend a mandatory pre-hunt orientation clinic.

Youth must apply for their hunt of choice, which can be done at any DNR license agent, the DNR License Center at 500 Lafayette Road in St. Paul, or online at www.mndnr.gov/buvalicense. For archery hunts, apply with code 630; for firearms hunts, apply with code 631.

For more info visit www.mndnr.gov/discover and click on youth deer hunts. ✧

Apply by Aug 10 for MN mentored youth waterfowl hunts

Youth ages 12 to 15 can apply for the chance to hunt waterfowl under the guidance of experienced mentors on Minnesota Youth Waterfowl Day, Saturday, September 12.

Application forms must be received at the DNR central office by Monday, August 10. Applicants will be drawn in a lottery, with preference given to novice hunters. Applicants will be notified within two weeks of the hunt, and those chosen must attend an orientation on Friday, September 11.

Info and an application can be found at www.mndnr.gov/discover by clicking on "Mentored Youth Waterfowl Hunt." ✧

Freshwater Net Aquaculture in the Great Lakes: a Dialog, Aug 24, St Ignace, MI

On August 24 there will be a full day meeting to exchange dialogue over open water fish production in the Great Lakes. All stakeholder groups from the state of Michigan are encouraged to participate. If you are interested in knowing how freshwater net-pen aquaculture is utilized in Canada, or wish to share your concerns, this is an ideal opportunity.

The stated goal is to Educate & Inform – Initiate a public dialog as we explore how our water resources can best be deployed for society's benefit and delivering fresh, healthy, and affordable seafood. All interested stakeholders are invited. Moderated panels, including both US and Canadian stakeholders, will address specific topics/issues — including nutrients, fish health, genetics, ecosystem stewardship, and best practices — followed by Q&A and group discussion

Location is the Kewadin Casino Conference Center, St. Ignace, MI, August 24, 9 – 5 pm. RSVP to joe.colyn@originz.com ✧

DNR hearing on rule related to commercial harvest of chubs

The Wisconsin DNR will hold a public hearing on permanent rule FH-10-12 to revise ch. NR 25 related to commercial harvest of chubs from Lake Michigan, July 29, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Download and read the [Rule Order](#)) at Lakeshore Technical College, Wells Fargo Room, 1290 North Ave, Cleveland, WI 53015. **Written comments** may also be submitted at the public hearings, by regular mail, fax or email to David Boyarski, DNR, 110 S. Neenah Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 or David.Bovanski@wisconsin.gov no later than July 31, 2015.

Hearing Info: (Download and read the public [Notice of Hearing](#)) ✧

Gobies compete when crowded*Continued from page 1*

abundant that it's going to have more impact. Understanding how species have different impacts on different ecosystems is helpful in determining where to put our increasingly limited resources so we get the most bang for the buck," Vander Zanden said.

This experiment was part of a project that looked at the presence and impacts of round gobies in Great Lakes streams. Several years ago, the students found gobies in streams that drain into Lake Michigan. "We were just shocked that this species that lives in huge lakes was moving into these tiny little streams because they're such a different habitat," Vander Zanden said. "Even in their native range in the Black and Caspian seas in Europe, they only live in large rivers and lakes."

He set Kornis on the case, who confirmed that the gobies were living and expanding their range upstream every year by a third to a half of a mile. "For a fish that normally has a small home range—like the size of a person's living room—this is a very rapid range expansion," Kornis said. He suspects the pressure of living in the higher stream temperatures and finding food, which is relatively less abundant in streams, may be the causes of their spread. "Unlike many native species, round gobies are built to feed on zebra mussels and quagga mussels, which are plentiful in the Great Lakes but usually absent in streams. Gobies in streams must compete with every other fish for the same food. He used this information to develop a simulation model that predicts the gobies' range expansion in streams. ✧

Ethanol increase*Continued from page 1*

being met with opposition by the biofuels industry.

"As the blend wall creeps up, we're concerned about the continued availability of E10, which we are required to use, and E0," which has seen increasing use in the marine industry, NMMA legal and regulatory affairs director Nicole Vasilaros said after the initial announcement. ✧

Flathead catfish

Illinois anglers are reminded of new regulations regarding flathead catfish on the Fox River, and on the Wabash River and Ohio River. New regulations on the Fox River from the Wisconsin border, through the Chain O'Lakes, to the mouth at the Illinois River, including tributaries, allow anglers to harvest one flathead catfish per day 28" or larger and two flathead catfish between 13" and less than 28". On the Wabash and Ohio rivers, in cooperation with Indiana and Kentucky, the new flathead catfish regulation is one fish per day 35" or larger and unlimited harvest between 13" and less than 35". On the Fox, Wabash and Ohio, no flathead catfish may be harvested less than 13" in length. The regulations are intended to prevent overharvest of flathead catfish. For more info: www.dnr.illinois.gov or www.ifishillinois.org. ✧

IL boat registration

The IDNR reminds boat owners in Illinois to check their three-year boat registration/decal and renew their registration if it expired on June 30, 2015. Renewing watercraft registration can be done online. Just click to the Boating Registration page on the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov/boating or call 1-866-867-3542. To renew registration, have available the watercraft's Illinois registration number, the first six characters of the watercraft's hull ID number, the first three letters of the registered owner's last name, and a credit card. ✧

Famous last words

"The opinion which gives to the judges the right to decide what laws are constitutional and what not, not only for themselves, in their own sphere of action, but for the Legislature and Executive also in their spheres, would make the Judiciary a despotic branch. ... The Constitution...is a mere thing of wax in the hands of the judiciary which they may twist and shape into any form they please." —Thomas Jefferson

IL BOW workshop

The IDNR invites women to register now for the next 'Becoming an Outdoors Woman' workshop, September 25-27 at Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton. This workshop is designed to provide introductory instruction in outdoor-related activities. The \$175 BOW fee includes meals, housing, giveaways, use of class supplies, and transportation during the workshop. Registration is limited. Workshop and registration materials can be found at: www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/BO, [Registration Form](#), [Scholarship Application](#). Mitch Ingold, BOW Coordinator, 217-782-7026, mitch.ingold@illinois.gov. ✧

Ammo background checks suspended in New York

They were billed as a centerpiece of NY Governor Cuomo's 2013 SAFE Act, but in a default victory for New York gun owners, the National Shooting Sports Foundation reports that background checks for New York ammunition purchases have been scrapped. An agreement between Republican Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan and Director of Operations Jim Lamatras suspends this section of the SAFE Act. The agreement goes on to stipulate that no state money will be used to implement the database, meaning the ban on internet sales of ammunition is also discontinued. The State Police also acknowledged there is a "lack of technology" for supporting the database. ✧

MI fall turkey hunting applications available

The Michigan DNR reminds hunters fall turkey hunting applications now are available through Aug. 1. The application fee is \$5. Applications and licenses may be purchased at any authorized license agent or online at www.mdnr-elicense.com. The 2015 season runs Sept. 15 to Nov. 14. Info: www.michigan.gov/turkey. ✧

Share ideas on state forest planning

The Michigan DNR will host an open house July 23, 3-6 PM in Vanderbilt to talk about proposed timber sales and other forest management activities for 2017 in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. At over 105,000 acres, the PRC is the largest contiguous block of public land in the Lower Peninsula and home to Michigan's only wild elk herd. It is located in southeastern Cheboygan County and northeastern Otsego County. The open house is set for Pigeon River Country headquarters, 9966 Twin Lakes Road, Vanderbilt. www.michigan.gov/forestplan ✧

MI DNR offers August bear hunting clinics

The Michigan DNR will offer bear hunting clinics in Cadillac and Escanaba August 1, and at the Johnson Hunt and Fish Center in Cadillac August 8, 9 and 15. The class will run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The fee is \$25, which includes door prizes, a DNR bear patch and lunch. Registration is required. For more info and to register, please visit www.michigan.gov/huntfishcenter or contact Edward Shaw at 231-779-1321 or shawe@michigan.gov. ✧

June's job gains are good, but the devil's in the details

The U.S. economy is like a car that won't shift from second gear into third: It's moving forward and that's great, but we're not on the road that brings 3% GDP growth. The Bureau of Labor Statistics released its [June jobs report](#) and the economy added 233,000 jobs and the unemployment rate declined to 5.3%. The U-6 measure of labor underutilization dropped to 10.5%. But here comes the frustrating part. The percentage of Americans who are working declined by 0.3% to 62.6%, the lowest since 1977. In fact, 432,000 Americans left the workforce — about twice the number that joined last month. Additionally, wages didn't rise from last month's \$24.95 average hourly wage. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Climate change threatens Lake Erie's yellow perch](#)

Research has suggested yellow perch grow more rapidly during the short winters resulting from climate change, but a new study shows warmer water temperatures can lead to the production of less hardy eggs and larvae that have trouble surviving these early stages of life in Lake Erie.

[New bridge to be built over St. Marys River](#)

Another bridge will soon span part of the St. Marys River and it's going to be good for the environment and local fishing, say U.S. officials.

[Early surveys reveal good numbers of newly-hatched Lake Erie walleye](#)

Ohio fisheries experts used trawl nets throughout June to keep an eye on the spring spawning success of Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch. The real indicator will be the August samplings, but the early results should make anglers very happy

[Alewife decline threatens Lake Michigan's salmon fishery](#)

Squeezed between invasive quagga and zebra mussels competing for food at the bottom of the food web and ravenous salmon at the top, alewives are quickly disappearing from Lake Michigan.

[Great Lakes water levels at highest point in years](#)

Water levels in Lake Michigan are almost a foot higher than they were last year and are still rising. The Great Lakes hit record lows just a few years ago, creating wide beaches and shallow marinas

[EDITORIAL: As the Asian carp swim closer, Obama fails to act](#)

The bighead and silver carp keep swimming. And President Barack Obama keeps treading water. Luckily, Congress and the Great Lake states recognize the danger if predatory Asian carp get into the Great Lakes system and disrupt its multimillion-dollar sport-fishing and tourism industry.

[Fly fishing clinics to be held on Lake Erie](#)

Anglers interested in learning the art of fly fishing and practicing their skills on a half-mile section of Cold Creek at the Castalia State Fish Hatchery in Erie County are encouraged to enter a lottery for beginning fly fishing clinics

End