



## Lake Michigan stocking cut controversy update

Many anglers, charter captains, and community leaders along the shores of Lake Michigan are wondering how a reduction in Chinook salmon stocking might affect fishing and tourism. Some question the need for a stocking reduction, some believe that stocking of lake trout should also be reduced, and many are reporting that this year's fishing has been a big improvement over 2015.

In June, according to Michigan Sea Grant, fisheries agencies issued a [proposal](#) to reduce Chinook salmon stocking in Lake Michigan by 62%. That proposal was recently revised to include a 50% reduction in Chinook salmon stocking and additional measures to decrease lake trout stocking by about 21% and increase lake trout harvest.

Before forming an opinion on the new proposal it is worth considering

the latest science on the state of the Lake Michigan fishery.

### Most Chinook salmon caught in Lake Michigan are wild

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's [Great Lakes Mass Marking Program](#), wild-spawned Chinook salmon made up 71% of the Chinook catch for Michigan anglers in 2014-2015. In Wisconsin waters, wild Chinooks made up 53% of the catch.

### Even ports that are not near spawning rivers rely mostly on wild fish

Grand Haven is a good example of a southern Michigan port that does not support natural reproduction. Volunteers with the Salmon Ambassadors program found that 74% of Chinook salmon caught in the Grand Haven area in 2015 were wild. More than 90% of the stocked fish caught in Grand Haven were stocked elsewhere.

### Alewife are at a historic low

The USGS Great Lakes Science Center's bottom trawl survey found that yearling and older alewife biomass density dropped to 0.14 kg/ha in 2015, the lowest since monitoring began in 1973. This does not mean that alewife completely disappeared from the lake, but it does mean that less food is available for predators in open water. Also, Age 8 alewife were once common, but no alewife over Age 6 were found in 2015 surveys.

### Last year the fishery appeared to be on the brink of disaster

The Predator-Prey Ratio for Chinook salmon and alewife was 0.108 in 2015. This means less than ten pounds of prey per pound of predator in Lake Michigan, which is similar to Lake Huron before the collapse.

### **Stocking cut controversy**

*Continued on page 9*

### ***In this issue...***

DEC seeks input on Lk Ontario fisheries.....	2
Widespread plastic pollution .....	3
No Asian carp in Michigan's waters .....	3
DNR closes Mille Lacs walleye season....	4
PA "Fall into Fishing" Boat Pkg Giveaway	4
Caution urged near dead/dying ash trees	4
MN seeks comments on special regs.....	5
DEC seeks changes to fishing regs .....	5
Dangerous Bycatch from Bygone Days....	6
46 <sup>th</sup> annual Saginaw Bay fish survey.....	6
Mich smallmouth bass state record.....	7
Public forum about Asian Carps.....	7
Lake Huron larval coregonid densities ....	7
Free tours at Michigan weirs .....	7
IL State Parks Guide.....	7
IL Fall Trout Season opens Oct 15.....	8
FWS Chief will head Zoo Association.....	8
Surplus salmon again available .....	8
Ohio adds to Shawnee State Forest .....	8
ICF 2017 Calendar .....	8
Indiana bird seasons.....	9
Sea lamprey trapping improved with .....	10
Sturgeon hook and line season.....	10
Forest planning open house Sept 29 ....	11
MN pheasant index up 29%.....	11
Mepps Squirrel Tail Recycling Program	11
Wingshooting Clinics .....	11

### **Nov 9 Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop**

Calling all anglers, charter captains and lake enthusiasts! Purdue and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant are promoting a fisheries workshop November 9<sup>th</sup>. Learn about research on salmon and yellow perch fisheries, Lake Michigan food web changes, and creel survey catch rates in southern Lake Michigan! The workshop is free and registration is not required.

**Location: Hammond Marina's Clipper Room, 701 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, IN; Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 - 8:30 PM in CST.** For more information contact: Mitch Zischke at [mzischke@purdue.edu](mailto:mzischke@purdue.edu). More information on the agenda will be forthcoming over the next month. ✧

### **Right to Hunt and Fish Amendment heading to November ballot in Indiana**

Language for the NRA-backed Right to Hunt and Fish state constitutional amendment was approved by Indiana Governor Mike Pence and will appear on the November ballot as Question 1.

If passed by the voters, the measure will amend the Indiana Constitution to establish an individual right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife in the Hoosier State and ensure that wildlife and conservation management decisions will continue to be based on sound science, not the misguided agendas of anti-hunting and anti-fishing extremists. ✧

## DEC seeks input on Lake Ontario Fisheries

September Meetings to Discuss Salmon, Trout and Alewife Management  
Comments can be submitted at [fwfishlo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwfishlo@dec.ny.gov) through Oct 14, 2016



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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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The public will have the opportunity to learn about the status of Lake Ontario fisheries and provide input on future trout and salmon management at public meetings in Oswego, Niagara, and Monroe counties this September, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced.

“Lake Ontario and its tributaries provide world-class angling opportunities,” Commissioner Seggos said. “Under Governor Cuomo’s NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, salmon and trout fishing in Lake Ontario have never been better. New York is committed to ensuring the ecological, recreational and economic benefits of Lake Ontario’s sport fisheries are sustained for generations to come.”

Recent studies have shown that Chinook salmon raised by sportsmen in “net pens” for three weeks prior to stocking survive twice as well as those stocked by traditional, direct stocking methods. In addition, approximately half of the Chinook salmon in Lake Ontario are naturally reproduced, “wild” fish. In addition, New York and the Province of Ontario stock a combined 2.36 million Chinook salmon each year.

Improved survival of pen-reared fish and the contribution of wild fish resulted in an additional six million Chinook salmon per year over the yearly average. While the high numbers of Chinook salmon have produced record-breaking angling, the population is increasing demand on Chinook salmon’s primary prey, the alewife.

While the impact of relatively poor alewife survival in two successive winters was not apparent in 2016, DEC experts are concerned with its impact on the size of the adult alewife population in 2017 and

beyond, as well as the adult alewife population’s ability to sustain the large numbers of trout and salmon in the lake.

Alewife, which have limited tolerance to cold temperatures, are not native to the Great Lakes. The extremely cold winters of 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 resulted in poor survival of alewife produced in those years.

The meeting dates and locations:

**Monday, September 19:** 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, Niagara County. The meeting is co-hosted by Niagara County Cooperative Extension and the Niagara County Sportfishery Development Board.

**Tuesday, September 20:** 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the Sandy Creek High School auditorium, 124 Salisbury Street, Oswego County. The meeting is co-hosted by the Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Association.

**Tuesday, September 27:** 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the Town of Greece Town Hall, 1 Vince Tofany Blvd., Monroe County. The meeting is co-hosted by the Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board.

Staff from DEC will present information, and the audience will have ample time to ask questions and provide input on potential management actions. Background information for these meetings can be found at: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7969.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7969.html).

**Those who cannot attend a meeting can provide comments at [fwfishlo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwfishlo@dec.ny.gov) through October 14, 2016.** For further information contact Steven LaPan, New York Great Lakes Fisheries Section Head at Cape Vincent Fisheries Research Station, (315) 654-2147.

## Widespread Plastic pollution found in Great Lakes Tributaries

Tiny pieces of harmful plastic, called microplastics, are prevalent in many rivers that flow into the Great Lakes, according to a [study published Sept 16](#) in the journal Environmental Science & Technology. Results are also illustrated on a new [USGS microplastics website](#).



Microplastics fall off decomposing bottles and bags, wear off of synthetic clothing and are manufactured into some toothpastes and lotions. Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey and State University of New York at Fredonia studied 107 water samples collected from 29 Great Lakes tributaries in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and New York, and found microplastics in all samples. Together, these 29 tributaries account for approximately 22% of the total river water that flows into the Great Lakes.

“These microplastics, which are harmful to animal and possibly human health, will continue to accumulate in the Great Lakes well into the future,” said Austin Baldwin, a USGS scientist and the lead author of the report. “Our findings can help water managers better understand the types and sources of microplastics in rivers, and which rivers are the most polluted with microplastics.”

Baldwin noted that the study underestimates the actual microplastic concentrations in the rivers because the scientists sampled large microplastics greater than 0.33 millimeters (mm). The majority of microplastics are smaller than 0.1 mm.

Key findings from the study include:

- The highest concentration of microplastics was detected in the Huron River at Ann Arbor, MI, at 32 particles per cubic meter, or  $p/m^3$ ;
- High levels of microplastics were also detected in the Buffalo River at Buffalo, NY ( $31 p/m^3$ ), the Ashtabula River near Ashtabula, Ohio ( $23 p/m^3$ ), and the Clinton River near Mt. Clemens, Michigan ( $21 p/m^3$ );
- The median concentration of microplastics in all samples was  $1.9 p/m^3$ ;
- Urban watersheds had the highest concentrations of microplastics; and
- Microplastics were also present in streams in forested and agricultural areas.

The scientists found various forms of microplastics in the river samples: fibers, fragments, films, foams, and pellets or beads. Plastic fibers, which come from items such as synthetic clothes, diapers and cigarette butts, were the most common type detected, at 71 percent of the total particles. The least common form found in the river water was microbeads, which are the only form [banned by the United States Congress](#). This ban has not yet taken effect.

“We were surprised by the small number of plastic beads and high number of fibers found in the samples,” Baldwin said. “These unexpected findings demonstrate how studies like ours are critical to better understanding the many forms and fates of microplastics in the environment.”

Ingested microplastics can cause digestive and reproductive problems, as well as death, in fish, birds and other animals. Unhealthy additives in the plastic, including flame retardants and antimicrobials, have been associated with cancer and [endocrine disruption](#) in humans. Also, pollutants such as pesticides, trace metals and even pathogens can accumulate at high concentrations on microplastic particles.

Scientists have found microplastics nearly everywhere. Aside from rivers, microplastics are also common in lakes and oceans, in freshwater and marine fish, oysters and mussels, and in sediment. They are deposited onto land and water surfaces from the atmosphere. ✧

## No Asian carp detected in Michigan's waters of the Great Lakes

The Michigan DNR recently announced that so far in 2016, no bighead and silver carp eDNA has been found in Michigan waters.

The eDNA surveillance program—a collaborative effort between the Great Lakes states and USFWS—samples high priority locations for the presence of bighead and silver carp genetic material.

This year, more than 2,445 samples will be collected, bringing the total from the last three years to approximately 7,200 water samples collected and analyzed. The majority of samples are taken from Lake Michigan tributaries such as the St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Grand and Muskegon rivers.

Of the 2016 samples collected and analyzed, The DNR is still waiting for results from the third and final round of sampling in the St. Joseph, Grand, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Macatawa, Galien and Black rivers. The final results are expected soon, but all other samples analyzed have come back negative.

During the course of these sampling efforts, a single eDNA sample tested positive for silver carp genetic material in the Kalamazoo River in 2014. Based on further testing and work on the river, it was unlikely that the single detection out of 1,850 samples in 2014 was associated with a live fish.

“A more likely explanation for that positive sample was a contamination source, such as visiting boaters or anglers from an area where silver carp is already established,” said Nick Popoff, manager of the DNR’s Aquatic Species and Regulatory Affairs.

Results from eDNA testing: <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/eDNA.html>.

*At this time, neither bighead nor silver carp have been introduced to or detected in the Great Lakes.* ✧

## DNR closes Mille Lacs walleye season

*Harvest exceeds quota by more than 16,000 pounds*

After eight Chippewa bands expressed strong concerns, the Minnesota DNR closed the Mille Lacs Lake catch-and-release walleye season September 6.

High catch rates on Mille Lacs during July and August led to higher-than-expected hooking mortality rates—an estimate of the number of fish that die after being caught and returned to the water. The state's current estimated walleye harvest is 45,276 lbs., exceeding the original state quota by 16,676 lbs.

The state decided earlier last month to keep walleye fishing open out of concern for the impact of an early closure on the area economy. The catch-and-release-only regulations on Mille Lacs are successfully conserving the lake's future spawning walleye.

Given the strong concerns of band leaders, the state closed the lake's walleye season after the Labor Day holiday weekend. Fishing for other species remains open. The closure will remain in effect through **November 30**.

The 2016 allocation established by the bands and the DNR in January was 40,000 lbs. – 28,600 for state-licensed anglers and 11,400 for tribal fishing. Eight Chippewa bands hold treaty fishing rights to Mille Lacs Lake.

In addition to its reputation for world-class walleye fishing, Mille Lacs has also become a premier location for northern pike, muskie and small mouth bass fishing, and in September will host the Bassmaster Elite Series angler of the year championship.

As in past years, the DNR will conduct fall walleye assessments to determine the health of the walleye population. Data from those surveys will help determine future seasons.

[www.mndnr.gov/millelacslake](http://www.mndnr.gov/millelacslake).

DNR regs: [www.mndnr.gov/fishmn](http://www.mndnr.gov/fishmn).

✧

## PA "Fall into Fishing" Boat Pkg Giveaway

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has partnered with Bass Pro Shops in Harrisburg to sponsor a unique fishing boat package giveaway during the fall months when many anglers are getting ready for the superb fishing that is about to occur in many Commonwealth waterways.

The grand prize in this unique giveaway is a Tracker Boats Pro 160, Boat/Motor/Trailer package, with a 20 hp. Mercury outboard.

"Bass Pro Shops is donating the prize and expects to make one angler very happy," said Steve Kralik, PFBC Director of Outreach, and Marketing. "We have a great partnership with Bass Pro and we thank them for donating the prize."

Justin Brisson, General Manager at Bass Pro Shops in Harrisburg, added that "we are incredibly excited and honored to partner with the Fish and Boat Commission in this amazing giveaway. We all have a great affinity for the outdoors and it is our duty to share this with as many folks as possible, and this great prize will do just that for one lucky winner."

"We hope the winner will be able to enjoy the beautiful waterways and incredible fishery the state has to offer for many years to come, thanks in large part to the great folks at the PFBC and their work to help protect our natural resources," he added.

The public can enter this giveaway by visiting [www.GoneFishingPA.com](http://www.GoneFishingPA.com) through **November 28**, or by entering in person at the PFBC booth/table at Penn State home football games this year. PFBC staff will be set up in Penn State Football's Fan Festival outside Beaver Stadium in University Park during all seven home football games this fall. PFBC staff plan to be at each game at least four hours in advance of the game's kickoff. The winner will be notified after December 12. ✧

## Caution urged near dead, dying ash trees

As fall color moves across the state, more hikers and hunters will be spending time in Ohio's forests. The DNR reminds all outdoor enthusiasts to be cautious of dead or dying ash trees that may now be present in Ohio's forests and landscapes.

"Standing dead ash trees create a safety hazard for hunters and hikers, as brittle limbs and trees trunks are easily broken or blown over," said Robert Boyles, Ohio's state forester. "This is a simple reminder for outdoorsmen and women to be alert to their surroundings as they enjoy Ohio's forests and woodlands."

The emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis*), a wood-boring beetle native to Asia, was discovered in the Detroit area in 2002, likely accidentally introduced in solid wood packing material, and was then discovered in northwest Ohio in 2003. Emerald ash borer (EAB) larvae feed beneath the bark of ash trees, preventing the ability of a tree to move water and nutrients. Once an ash tree becomes infested, it usually dies in less than five years.

EAB is present throughout Ohio, most of the eastern United States and southeastern Canada, and it has killed hundreds of millions of native ash trees in North America.

The ODNR Division of Forestry offers the following advice:

- People should identify dead and dying ash trees around their homes and in their community that have the potential to harm people or property.

- Contact a certified arborist at [treesaregood.org](http://treesaregood.org) to identify ways to manage the risk associated with dead and dying ash trees in the yard.

- EAB eggs, larvae and adults, as well as other plant pests and diseases, can be moved on or in firewood, so minimize the movement of firewood. "Burn it where you buy it," and be aware of all county quarantines on firewood or any plant material. For more info: [agri.ohio.gov/plant](http://agri.ohio.gov/plant) or 614-728-6400. ✧

## MN seeks comments on special fishing regs

Comments can also be submitted at [al.stevens@state.mn.us](mailto:al.stevens@state.mn.us) thru Oct 10

Anglers and others can give their opinions about fishing regulations that are in place or are newly proposed on 14 lakes and three rivers.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has scheduled eight public meetings across the state in coming weeks to review regulations, and the DNR also is accepting written and verbal public comments on the regulations before and 10 days after each meeting.

Highlights of topics being covered include Lake Vermilion walleye regulations, and a proposal to offer new fall catch-and-release trout fishing opportunities on three waters in southeastern Minnesota.

“We want there to be more places with quality fishing in this state, and just as importantly, we want these opportunities to remain available long into the future,” said Al Stevens, DNR fisheries regulation consultant. “For more than 30 years, we’ve managed fish populations in many places using regulations that apply to specific waters, called special or experimental regulations.”

Special or experimental regulations limit the length or number of fish anglers can keep, and are found in their own section of the 2016 Minnesota Fishing Regulations handbook (pages 29 to 4). Find the regulations book [online](#).

While the DNR regularly reviews both special and experimental regulations, experimental regulations are in effect for a specific period of time, usually 10 to 15 years. Before experimental regulations end, fisheries managers evaluate them and gather input from public meetings to help determine whether they should be extended, modified or dropped.

### Meeting details

- **Cass County:** Discussion of proposal for new bag limits for sunfish and black crappie on Little Webb and Moccasin lakes, and for sunfish on Lake Thirteen, **6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, Woodrow**

### Township Hall, 1133 County Road 11 NW, Hackensack.

- **Itasca County:** Review of existing northern pike regulations on Bowstring, Sand, Little Sand, Portage, Birds Eye, Round and Alice lakes and connected waters, **7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, Sand Lake Community Center, County Road 4 near Squaw Lake.**

- **Stearns County:** Review of existing sunfish regulations for Pleasant Lake, **7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, Rockville City Hall, 229 E. Broadway St., Rockville;** and review of existing sunfish regulation for Carnelian Lake, **7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, Kimball City Hall, 1 Main St. N., Kimball.**

- **St. Louis County:** Review of existing walleye regulation on Lake Vermilion, **7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, Tower Civic Center, 402 Pine St., Tower.**

- **Wright County:** Review of existing northern pike and black crappie regulation on Sugar Lake, **7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, Corinna Township Hall, 9801 Ireland Ave. NW, Annandale.**

Call or write to local fisheries offices to comment about regulations proposals. Telephone numbers of local fisheries offices can be found online at [www.mndnr.gov/areas/fisheries](http://www.mndnr.gov/areas/fisheries), or on page 88 of the fishing regulations handbook. The offices will accept written or verbal comments up to 10 days following a local meeting.

Anyone who cannot attend a local meeting can attend an open house about the regulation proposals that will be from **8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the DNR headquarters in St. Paul, 500 Lafayette Road.** No formal presentations will be made at the open house. **Also, staff will be available to take comments on any proposal by Monday, Oct. 10. Send to: [al.stevens@state.mn.us](mailto:al.stevens@state.mn.us) or by calling 651-259-5239.** ✧

## DEC seeks changes to fishing regs

Comments through Oct 7

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is accepting comments on proposed changes to freshwater fishing regulations **through October 7, 2016.** Commissioner Basil Seggos announced.

DEC modifies freshwater sportfishing regulations approximately every two years as part of DEC’s commitment to enhance fishing opportunities and protect the State’s freshwater resources.

“New York provides some of the best fishing in the nation, and the continuous assessment and modification of sportfishing regulations ensure that this will remain the case for generations to come,” said Commissioner Seggos. “I encourage anglers to review what is being proposed and provide input during the public comment period.” DEC assessed the status of existing freshwater sportfish populations and the desires of anglers in developing these proposed regulation. Many of the proposed changes are the result of an effort to consolidate regulations and eliminate special regulations that are no longer warranted or have become outdated. The new freshwater sportfishing regulations are scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2017. Once enacted, the new regulations will be included in the 2017-18 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide.

The proposed regulations were first provided for informal public review on the DEC website in February 2016. The early feedback helped DEC determine which regulation changes to advance or eliminate. Comments on the proposed regulations should be sent by email to [regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov](mailto:regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov) or mailed to Gregory Kozlowski, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Fisheries, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753.

Full text of the proposed regs is available on DEC’s website at [www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/proprogs/ulations.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/proprogs/ulations.html). ✧

## Dangerous Bycatch from Bygone Days

### Discarded Munitions Remain a Present-Day Hazard!

This safety alert addresses the extreme hazards that exist today caused by discarded munitions that were dumped at sea long ago. They remain a significant risk to commercial fishermen, those operating dredges, and others who trawl and work the ocean floor. In a recent event, a deckhand on a clamming vessel was severely burned when a canister was dredged up and brought onboard along with rocks, clams, and debris. The canister likely contained mustard gas or some other type of blistering agent.



#### *Munitions found on sea floor*

Mustard gas is a chemical weapon developed during World War I. Millions of pounds of this product and many other chemical weapons, bombs, torpedoes, artillery shells, and munitions were routinely disposed of at sea in U.S. coastal waters. Many of these munitions dump areas are well charted with warnings posted on navigation charts. Nevertheless, there are numerous other areas where such munitions may be found that are unmarked.

There is also evidence to suggest that munitions were frequently "short dumped," meaning dumped outside of the designated areas by contractors hired to take them to the intended locations.



#### *Approximate 12 lb. Mustard Gas Shell*

The Coast Guard previously issued a safety

alert ([06-10, June 2010 link](#)) on this same topic and continues to **strongly recommend**:

- ▶ Persons involved in commercial fishing industries review their navigational charts to ensure that the areas in which they are trawling are not near labeled "Explosives Dumping Areas." Such areas must be given wide berth and fishermen should recognize that bottom surfaces change and objects can move from original disposal areas;
  - ▶ Review the [Maritime Industry 3R Explosive Safety Guide](#); follow and understand its recommendations; and
  - ▶ Report any discovery immediately to the **National Response Center** at **1-800-424-8802** for proper response. (Alternatively, the USCG may be notified via channel 16.)
- ◇

## DNR begins 46th annual Saginaw Bay fish community survey

This September, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is conducting its 46th annual survey of the Saginaw Bay fish community. The survey includes both trawling and gillnetting and will examine the abundance and health of fish populations in the bay.

"The timing of late summer or early fall allows us to assess how much reproduction or recruitment has taken place for the year as well as the overall abundance of older age groups," said Dave Fielder, DNR fisheries research biologist. "The use of the same methods each year allows us to detect real population changes in each species."

The survey annually produces data necessary to determine the effects of fisheries management actions and invasive species on bay fish populations. While the DNR does other work in Saginaw Bay—such as

walleye tagging projects, creel surveys and habitat work—this fish community study is the DNR's primary look at the bay's fish populations.

This year's study will be of particular interest as it's the first look at the walleye and yellow perch populations since regulation changes were implemented last October. Those changes increased the daily possession limit of walleye from 5 to 8, lowered the minimum length limit from 15 inches to 13 inches, and also lowered the daily possession limit of yellow perch from 50 fish to 25 fish. The changes were intended to allow more complete use of the recovered walleye population and promote improved yellow perch survival to adults. The results of the survey will help determine if additional regulation changes are in order.

Long-term surveys such as this

are critical to understanding fish communities and how they are changing. It takes about two to three weeks and two research vessels (the [R/V Tanner](#) out of Alpena and the [R/V Channel Cat](#) out of Harrison Township) to complete the survey.

"It will be four to five months before we have the full results of this survey since there is a lot of follow-up lab work to do, such as aging the sampled fish," Fielder said. "The data we collect will be analyzed and shared with our fisheries managers and stakeholders prior to the 2017 fishing season so that any necessary adjustments to existing regulations can be implemented."

For more information about this particular survey, please contact Dave Fielder at 989-356-3232, extension 2572 or Mike Thomas at 586-465-4771, extension 23. ◇

## Michigan smallmouth bass state record

Michigan's existing state record for smallmouth bass was broken by Robert Bruce Kraemer of Treasure Island, Florida.

A longtime angler with a cottage in Indian River, Cheboygan County, Kraemer said he's been fishing Michigan waters since 1965, but this is his first state-record catch. Using night crawlers for bait, Kraemer landed a 9.98-pound, 23.10-inch smallmouth bass while out on the Indian River.

The record was verified by Tim Cwalinski, a Michigan DNR biologist in Gaylord.

The previous state record for smallmouth bass was set in October 2015 when Greg Gasciel of Rhodes, Michigan, landed a 9.33-pound, 24.50-inch fish from Hubbard Lake in Alcona County. Prior to Gasciel's catch, the smallmouth bass state record had stood since 1906. That fish was a 9.25-pound, 27.25-inch fish from Long Lake in Cheboygan Cty.

"In just the last four years, anglers have caught a total of 16 state-record fish, a remarkable number of big fish in a relatively short time," said Jim Dexter, chief of the DNR Fisheries Division. "This is just more evidence that Michigan is home to a healthy, robust fishery—a resource and sporting opportunity that draws people from all over."

Michigan fishing state records are recognized by weight only. To qualify for a state record, fish must exceed the current listed state-record weight and identification must be verified by a DNR fisheries biologist. More info: [michigan.gov/fishing](http://michigan.gov/fishing). ✧

## Public forum about Asian Carps

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is presenting a [public forum about Asian carps](#) on **October 3** in Toronto, Ont. Senior officials, managers, and biologists from Canada and the U.S. will be on hand to provide information, answer questions, and take comments. ✧

## Lake Huron larval coregonid densities down in 2016

The Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) completed its larval tows for coregonines in Lake Huron in what seems to be a weak year class. The spring larval distribution of coregonines has been down compared to the last two years of sampling. Larval sampling will aid in identifying current distribution for pre and post re-introduction efforts in Lake Huron. Furthermore, this survey will be used to examine year class strength based on climate changes from year-to-year in Thunder Bay and Saginaw Bay.

Larval tows in Saginaw Bay have not captured larval cisco; however lake whitefish have been captured. This is important to know because lake whitefish and cisco at the larval stage compete for similar food resources. This can help managers recognize early life stage impediments to a successful cisco rehabilitation program. Larval densities of lake whitefish in Saginaw Bay appear to be lower in 2016 than 2015.

Densities of coregonines in the tows from 2016 were also much lower than 2015. There is a lot of interest in the beach seine survey that will begin after the larval survey to see if similar patterns are observed in beach seine densities. This work will support efforts by Lake Huron management agencies to evaluate cisco reintroduction strategies. ✧

## Bobcat Permits

Hunters and trappers may apply for an Illinois Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit online at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) **through September 30**. Five hundred permits will be allocated during a lottery and mailed to successful applicants. Any leftover permits will be sold online on a first-come, first-served basis. For more info: [www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/furbearer/Pages/BobcatHuntingTrapping.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/furbearer/Pages/BobcatHuntingTrapping.aspx). ✧

## Free tours at Michigan weirs during fall egg-take efforts

The Michigan DNR will offer free tours to the public and school groups this fall at the Boardman River Weir in downtown Traverse City, the Little Manistee River Weir in Manistee County and the Platte River Weir in Benzie County. Tours are available now through the end of October.

Weirs are dam-like structures that block upstream fish passage.

Students and visitors will learn all about salmon, how weirs and fish ladders work, invasive species, state fish hatcheries, and the DNR's annual egg-collection efforts and their impact on Michigan's fisheries. The programs tie in components of history, ecology, biology and stewardship.

- Tours at the Boardman River Weir run through mid-October.
- Platte River Weir tours will run during the egg-take season, slated for October 19-20 and 26-27.
- Tours will be offered at the Little Manistee River Weir October 4-6. To check the status of activity, call 231-775-9727, ext. 6072. The egg-take efforts will be affected by the readiness of the fish.

To schedule a tour, visit [michigan.gov/huntfishcenter](http://michigan.gov/huntfishcenter) and click on any of three locations under the School Group Programs section. ✧

## IL State Parks Guide

Plan your fall travels with a copy of the 2016-17 *Illinois State Parks* guide. The booklet, in print and online, is a useful guide to an eventful day in a state park picnic area, a weekend at a state park lodge or campground, a hike in a state forest, a ride on a state trail, or hunting and fishing trips to a state fish and wildlife area. The guide is posted on the IDNR website at this link: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/publications/documents/00000715.pdf>. Copies can be ordered through the IDNR online publications page: <https://dnr.state.il.us/teachkids/orderype.asp>. ✧

## Illinois Fall Trout Season Opens Oct 15

### *Catch-and-Release Fly Fishing-Only Season Opens October 1*

The 2016 Illinois Fall Trout Fishing Season will open Oct. 15 at 53 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state. Two weeks prior to the fall trout opener, the Fall Catch-and-Release Fly Fishing-only Season will open at nine sites on Oct. 1. Fly fishing anglers can use fly fishing gear to catch and release trout beginning October 1 at those nine sites. No trout may be kept during the fly fishing-only period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular fall trout season beginning Oct. 15.

**NOTE:** Not all fall trout sites open at 5 a.m. on opening day. Check the location prior to the season. For more information about all site regulations, contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. For the 53 locations that will be open for Fall Trout Fishing: [IDNR Illinois Fall Trout Season](#). ✧

## FWS Chief will head Zoo Association

Silver Spring, MD – The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Board of Directors announced the selection of current USFWS Director Daniel M. Ashe as the next President and Chief Executive Officer of its 233-member organization. In January, Ashe will succeed Jim Maddy, who retired from AZA earlier this year.

Ashe was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 16th U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director on June 30, 2011, and has successfully lead the agency and its thousands of employees during a period of great challenges.

Ashe will continue to fulfill his commitment to serve through the end of the current administration. In the interim, he is recused from participating personally and substantially in any particular matter that would have a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of AZA. ✧

## Surplus salmon again available to public

The public is invited again this year to purchase surplus salmon that has been harvested at Michigan DNR weirs.

Seasonal salmon runs include large numbers of fish returning to their native streams to spawn and die. The DNR maintains multiple sites (weirs) where fisheries biologists and technicians collect eggs and milt (sperm) from Chinook and coho salmon for use in state fish hatcheries. Once egg-take needs are met, fish in prime physical condition are made available to the public by American-Canadian Fisheries (ACF), a private vendor that assists the DNR with the salmon harvest.

ACF pays the DNR a flat per-pound rate for the salmon and eggs collected. They then make suitable-quality fish available wholesale to distributors who market the fish. All of this year's distributors are located in the northern Lower Peninsula.

Here is the list of Michigan retailers selling salmon harvested at DNR weirs:

- Andy's Tackle Box  
14573 Coates Highway  
Brethren, MI 49619  
231-477-5737
- AuSable River Store  
680 W. River Road  
Oscoda, MI 48750  
989-739-5332
- Hank and Sons  
16441 Coates Highway  
Brethren, MI 49609  
231-477-5450
- Lixie's Fish Market  
2699 Lixie Beach  
East Tawas, MI 48060  
989-362-5791
- R & J Resort  
3070 Keith Road  
Brethren, MI 49619  
231-477-5549
- Wellman's Bait & Tackle  
410 S. State St. #309  
Oscoda, MI 48750  
989-739-2869

✧

## Ohio adds 929 acres to Shawnee State Forest

A Forest Legacy project in southern Ohio recently resulted in an addition of 929 acres of highly strategic forest land, an area known as the "Little Smokies of Ohio," to Shawnee State Forest.

The 63,747-acre Shawnee State Forest includes Ohio's only state-designated wilderness area and surrounds the 1,168-acre Shawnee State Park. Together, they are the largest contiguous protected forest in Ohio. The project complements partner efforts such as The Nature Conservancy's plan to connect their nearby 17,123-acre Edge of Appalachia Preserve to Shawnee State Forest through the Sunshine Corridor.

This acquisition is also important for recreation and tourism, as it protects the routes of popular hiking trails (including the North Country National Scenic Trail, American Discovery Trail and the Buckeye Trail) and scenic drives (like the Scenic Scioto Heritage State Byway and Shawnee State Forest's Driving Tour Loop). The project supports the Ohio Forest Legacy Program's core goal of protecting working forests in the most productive counties for timber statewide. ✧

## ICF 2017 Calendar

The Illinois Conservation Foundation's annual Outdoors in Illinois 2017 wall calendar is available for order right now. Proceeds from the sale of the beautiful 2017 calendar support a variety of youth education programs at the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center, and the traveling Torstenson Education Station. The 9x12 calendar contains stunning photography of Illinois, and it can be purchased for \$15 through the ICF website at [www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org) or by phone at 217-785-2003. ✧

## Indiana bird seasons

The hunting season dates for waterfowl and other migratory birds in Indiana have been finalized. The daily bag limit for ducks in all zones is six, including no more than four mallards (of which no more than two can be hens), three scaup, three wood ducks, two pintails, two redheads, two canvasbacks, one black duck and one mottled duck. The daily bag limit for coots is 15. The daily bag limit for mergansers, separate from ducks, is five, of which no more than two can be hooded mergansers. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

The season dates for youth waterfowl season are:

- North Zone: October 15-16.
- Central Zone: October 22-23.
- South Zone: October 22-23.

To view all season dates: [migratory bird and waterfowl dates](#). ✧

## Stocking cut controversy

*Continued from page 1*

Ecosystems cannot support such a predator-prey imbalance for very long. Although the situation may have improved this year judging by angler reports, the Predator-Prey Ratio is based on a variety of data sources that take time to collect and analyze. The ratio for 2016 probably will not be available until March of 2017.

### Chinook salmon eat more prey fish than lake trout

According to [Michigan DNR](#) consumption estimates, lake trout consumption of prey fish rose from 14.9 kilotons (kt) in 2011 to 23.1 kt in 2015. However, Chinook salmon consumption is still higher than lake trout (33.1 kt). Anglers and biologists realize that lake trout are increasingly important in terms of their impact on prey fish, but Chinooks are still “kings” when it comes to bait consumption.

### Lake trout do not eat more alewife than Chinook salmon

Chinook diet is around 95 % alewife while lake trout diet is typically 60% alewife or less, so in 2015 Chinook salmon consumed over 30 kt of alewife in Lake Michigan while lake trout consumed less than 14 kt of alewife.

### Lake trout are not entirely dependent on alewife

According to a recent USFWS stable isotope study, lake trout rely more heavily on offshore bottom-dwelling prey than Chinooks do. Sculpin and goby are examples of bottom-dwelling fish have been doing better than alewife since the invasion of quagga mussels and related food web changes.

### Lake trout are not managed by the federal government

A federal agency (USFWS) does rear lake trout in federal hatcheries, but does not ultimately make decisions regarding the total number of lake trout stocked in Lake Michigan. State and tribal agencies on the Lake Michigan Committee (under the auspices of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission) arrive at consensus on stocking decisions.

The [2000 Consent Decree](#) does influence stocking, harvest, and management of a variety of fish species in [1836 Treaty waters](#). The USFWS is a party to the 2000 Consent Decree along with five tribes and the state of Michigan, and the USFWS is also a member of the Technical Fisheries Committee. The role of USFWS is to provide technical assistance. Management decisions are made by state and tribal governments.

Stocking in public waters of Michigan must ultimately be approved and permitted by Michigan Department of Natural Resources. However, lake trout stocking in northern Lake Michigan portions of the 1836 Treaty waters is required by the 2000 Consent Decree to reflect an “expanded commitment to lake trout rehabilitation” and avoid lowering the established lake trout harvest limit.

### Lake trout stocking was already being reduced as of 2015

In 2015, the Lake Michigan Committee approved a lake trout stocking reduction of 550,000 fall fingerlings (220,000 yearling equivalents). This reduction is being implemented in fall of 2016 independent of any Chinook salmon cut or additional measures related to lake trout.

### The role of science

No matter which side of the argument you are on, it is important to support your position with the best available information. All of the statements above are based on the best available scientific information—but scientists will be the first to point out that “best available” does not mean perfect. Science is always improving, and scientists are always looking for better ways to make sense of patterns in the natural world.

Understanding the best available science is only the first step toward good decision-making, but it is an important one. Science does not dictate or result in a specific decision, but it can inform us of the risk associated with different options. In this case, we face a greater risk of alewife and salmon collapse over the long term if we do not reduce stocking. In the short term, severe stocking cuts could have a noticeable effect on catches in some areas of the lake. Good science will help us assess the relative risks, but ultimately we must decide which risks are acceptable and which are not.

[Michigan Sea Grant](#) helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan’s coastal Great Lakes resources through education, research and outreach. A collaborative effort of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University and its [MSU Extension](#), Michigan Sea Grant is part of the [NOAA-National Sea Grant](#) network of 33 university-based programs.

For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464). ✧

## Sea Lamprey trapping improved significantly with electricity

Ann Arbor, MI – A recent study funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has concluded sea lamprey trapping can be improved significantly when electricity is used. The study, led by scientists from the USGS, USFWS, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, demonstrated a 75% sea lamprey capture rate when electricity was used to “guide” lampreys to traps, compared to an average rate of 50% without electricity. Sea lamprey trapping is an integral component of the successful sea lamprey control program, and this study suggests the control technique, with relatively simple changes, can be enhanced significantly. Sea lamprey control is essential to the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission delivers an integrated sea lamprey control program that combines lampricides and barriers. The control program is remarkably successful: sea lamprey populations in most areas of the Great Lakes have been reduced by 90% of their historical highs, which saves an estimated 100 million pounds of Great Lakes fish per year.

The experimental system developed by the research team involved a portable trap paired with a low-voltage, pulsed direct current generated by vertically-oriented electrodes in the water column. The electrodes created an electrical fish barrier across the stream channel that was run at an angle to guide migrating fish into a trap at the far end. The research team deployed the system in 2014 and 2015, during the time when adult sea lampreys are moving upstream to spawn.

“While many techniques exist to guide fish, most are ineffective, costly, or difficult to modify after construction,” said Dr. Nicholas Johnson, project lead at the USGS Hammond Bay Biological Station. “Our research shows that an electrical system can function as a non-physical means to guide fishes. The system we

tested did not alter stream flow. It was low cost, portable, and easy to install. It could be seasonally deployed and operated in remote sites. The system was also resilient to several flooding events over the course of the study.”

During the first year of the project, the electrical guidance system was only activated every other night (sea lamprey are nocturnal species). The next year, the system was deployed in a different stream and electricity was run every night. Using the electrical guidance system, the research team captured 60% of sea lampreys in the stream the first year and 75% of in the second year.

Non-target species were also assessed as part of this study to determine if the electrical guidance system caused any adverse effects. Effects on species other than sea lamprey were minimal. The electric field was maintained at a voltage gradient less than the threshold expected to cause injury to other species and was deactivated during the day. Researchers determined the majority of non-target species were able to move through the electrode array during the day. Non-target species that were guided into the trap were removed and passed upstream of the system whenever possible.

“Perhaps one of the most noteworthy points about this research is that its application is not limited to sea lamprey or the Great Lakes,” added Johnson. “The research team is excited about the potential applications of this work. This technology could not only be used to substantially advance integrated control of sea lampreys, but could also be employed to guide valued fishes around barriers that fragment their habitat. The portability, ease of installation, and low cost also make the system an attractive option as a rapid response tool for emerging invasions or restoration needs across the globe.”

For more info: <http://www.nature.com/articles/srep28430>. ✧

## Sturgeon hook and line season underway

MADISON – Wisconsin's [sturgeon hook and line season](#) runs until September 30 and has generated strong angler interest in recent years. In 2015, the Wisconsin DNR issued some 29,694 tags to anglers who intend to take to lakes and rivers of the state in pursuit of lake sturgeon, up from about 28,000 in 2014.

The general hook and line season covers waters including parts of the Chippewa River; Flambeau River; Butternut Lake (Price County); Jump River; Yellow, Little Yellow and the Danbury Flowage chain (Burnett County); Menominee River (Marinette County); St. Croix River and portions of the Wisconsin River. The minimum length limit for lake sturgeon harvest is 60 inches.



*This 83.2" lake sturgeon was handled and safely released during recent survey work on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage.*

New catch and release opportunities for this year include:

- Mississippi River: upstream of the Red Wing Dam until March 1, 2017 and downstream of the Red Wing Dam until April 14, 2017.
- St. Croix River from Prescott to Gordon Flowage: until March 1, 2017.
- St. Louis and Nemadji rivers: until April 14, 2017.
- St. Croix River (Wisconsin/Minnesota boundary water): from October 1 to 15.

A complete list of inland waters with a hook and line sturgeon season can be found in the [2016-2017 Fishing Regulations](#).

More info: search [dnr.wi.gov](#) for "lake sturgeon" or visit [Sturgeon Inland Fishery](#). ✧

## Forest planning open house set for Sept. 29 in Crystal Falls

If you live adjacent to, have a cottage or camp near, or simply like to spend time on the state-managed forest land in Dickinson and Iron counties, here's an opportunity to look over and comment on proposed 2018 forest plans for these areas.

### September open house

The Michigan DNR will host an open house **Sept. 29**, from 3-7 p.m. (CDT) at the DNR Crystal Falls Field Office, 1420 US-2 West, Crystal Falls.

For more efficient oversight, the DNR divides each forest management unit into smaller units or "compartments." This year, compartments under review are in Sagola, Felch, West Branch, Breen, Norway and Brieting townships (Dickinson County); and Crystal Falls, Mastadon and Mansfield townships (Iron County).

[Maps and information](#) regarding proposed management activities (treatments) can be found at [www.michigan.gov/forestry](http://www.michigan.gov/forestry).

Compartment Review Packets for the 2018 year of entry can be found by selecting the "Find a Forest" button and clicking the "Crystal Falls" button on the map. This information also will be at the open house. ✧

## MN pheasant index up 29% from last year

Another mild winter, good nesting season conditions and a slight increase in grassland habitat in the pheasant range all combined to increase Minnesota's roadside pheasant index by 29% vs. last year.

Minnesota's 2016 pheasant season begins Oct. 15 and ends Jan. 1.

All regions had increases in the pheasant index compared to last year except the southeast region which declined 31%. The highest pheasant counts were in the southwest, east-central and south central regions, where observers reported 53 to 96 birds per 100 miles driven. Additional details are available at [www.mndnr.gov/hunting/pheasant](http://www.mndnr.gov/hunting/pheasant). ✧

## Mepps Squirrel Tail Recycling Program

Antigo, WI - Mepps continues to ask hunters to save their squirrel tails. The tails are used for their hand-tied, dressed hooks of their world-famous, fish-catching lures. They've been recycling squirrel tails for over half a century.



"Squirrels are good eating and we can reuse their tails for making the world's #1 lure," explains Mepps® Communications Director, Josh Schwartz. "Consider harvesting squirrels for the 2016 hunting season." Mepps buys fox, black, grey and red squirrel tails and will pay up to 26 cents each for tails, depending on quality and quantity. Plus, the cash value is doubled if the tails are traded for Mepps lures.

Schwartz reminds everyone, "We do not advocate harvesting of squirrels solely for their tails." For details on the Squirrel Tail Program, either visit [www.mepps.com/squirrels](http://www.mepps.com/squirrels) or call 800-713-3474.

**For more info:** Josh Schwartz, 715.623.7556, [jschwartz@mepps.com](mailto:jschwartz@mepps.com), <http://www.mepps.com/>. ✧

## Wingshooting Clinics

Illinois hunters and novice shooters can get expert instruction at IDNR Wingshooting Clinics at IDNR sites, cooperating gun clubs, and hunting preserves. Most clinics are conducted on weekends. Wingshooting Clinics for youth (age 10-15) and women provide instruction on safely firing a shotgun at a moving target with reasonable reliability. Hunter wingshooting clinics are hands-on, and include extensive live fire at a variety of clay target presentations on sporting clays courses specifically designed for teaching typical hunting situations. For the clinic schedule: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/programs/wingshooting/WingshootingDates.htm>. ✧

## MI Hunting Calendar

[View calendar](#) of all hunting-related events taking place throughout the year

See [page 6, Michigan Digest](#).

- **Bear:** See [page 11; Michigan Digest](#)
- **Cottontail Rabbit and Snowshoe Hare:** Sept. 15 - Mar. 31
- **Crow:** Aug. 1 - Sept. 30 and Feb. 1 - Mar. 31
- **Deer:** Early Antlerless Firearm: Sept. 17-18, 2016  
Independence Hunt: Oct. 13-16, 2016 Hunters w/Disabilities Hunt Archery: Oct. 1 - Nov. 14  
Regular Firearm: Nov. 15-30  
Late Antlerless Firearm: Dec. 19, 2016 - Jan. 1, 2017
- **Elk:** See [page 11; Michigan Digest](#)
- **Pheasant** (male only):  
[Zone 1](#) (partial): Oct. 10-31  
[Zone 2 3:](#) Oct. 20 - Nov. 14  
[Zone 3](#) (partial): Dec. 1 - Jan. 1
- **Quail:** Oct. 20 - Nov. 14
- **Ruffed Grouse:** Sept. 15 - Nov. 14 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1
- **Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Oct. 10-31
- **Squirrel:** Sept. 15 - Mar. 1
- **Waterfowl:** See dates; [Waterfowl Digest](#)
- **Wild Turkey:** Sept. 15 - Nov. 14 (see [Fall Digest](#) for applicable units)
- **Woodcock:** Sept. 24 - Nov. 7, 2016 ✧

## Minnesota Hunting dates

- Sat, Oct. 1:** Fall turkey season opens
- Sat, Oct. 15:** Pheasant season opens; hunting and trapping in north zone opens for raccoon, red fox, gray fox, badger and opossum
- Thurs, Oct. 20-Fri, Oct. 21:** First Camp Ripley archery deer hunt
- Sat, Oct. 22:** Hunting and trapping in south zone opens for raccoon, red fox, gray fox, badger and opossum
- Thurs, Oct. 20-Sun, Oct. 23:** Youth deer season
- Sat, Oct. 29-Sun, Oct. 30:** Second Camp Ripley archery hunt
- Sat, Oct. 29:** Trapping seasons open for beaver, otter, mink and muskrat
- Sat, Nov. 5:** Firearms deer opener ✧

## Sept. 17 Wis opening of archery and crossbow deer hunting seasons

MADISON – Increased deer observations following another mild winter has hunters and state wildlife officials alike excited for fall hunting seasons—the 2016 archery and crossbow deer seasons run concurrently statewide from September 17 to January 8, 2017.

Deer hunters in 10 predominantly forested counties will see buck-only hunting again this year as part of continued efforts to rebuild the deer herd in these areas. Throughout the remainder of the state, antlerless hunting opportunities are available through the use of Farmland Zone and bonus antlerless deer tags.

Archery and crossbow deer hunters have a continuous season framework that includes hunting during all gun deer seasons in November and December, plus the option to fill a gun deer tag using crossbow or archery equipment during open firearm seasons.

In its first two years, hunting with a crossbow has provided an additional opportunity for many

hunters throughout Wisconsin, and accounts for the highest rate of participation by women than any other deer hunting method. Those interested in using both a conventional bow and crossbow may do so by paying full price for one of the licenses and purchasing a \$3 upgrade for the second license. Hunters will use the same buck tag and antlerless tags issued with their first license of choice.

Bonus antlerless tags remain available in many deer management units. Bonus tags may be filled with any weapon type during the appropriate season, but must be filled in the zone, county and land type designated on each tag. Bonus tags are available on a first-come, first-served basis at a cost of \$12 each for residents, \$20 each for non-residents, and \$5 for youth hunters age 10-11.

In 2016, up to three Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags are included with each deer hunting license, depending on the Deer Management Unit of choice. Hunters who have not

yet purchased a license for hunting deer will be prompted to select the unit and land-type for the Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tags at the point of sale. Licenses may be purchased through [GoWild.WI.Gov](http://GoWild.WI.Gov) or at any of the more than 1,000 Go Wild [license sales locations](#).

Hunters who purchased their deer hunting licenses earlier in the year, or who have yet to determine hunting location, may defer the Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless tag selection. When ready, hunters may:

- make a tag selection online from their Go Wild account and print themselves;
- request desired tag(s) at a local DNR Service Center; or
- visit a license agent (this will require a \$2 processing fee).

### 2016 Wisconsin Fall Hunting and Trapping Forecast now available

Many fall hunting and trapping seasons in Wisconsin are just around the corner, and the [2016 Fall Hunting and Trapping Forecast](#) is now available. ✧

## Prussian carp poised to invade U.S. waters

The invasive Prussian carp has quietly spread through waters of Alberta, Canada, and now threatens to spread into the northern United States.

In the Great Lakes region, conservationists and anglers have been keeping close tabs on the Chicago Area Waterway System for two decades. Two species of Asian carp—silver carp and bighead carp—have made their way north up the Illinois River and could potentially invade the Great Lakes by swimming through a series of locks and electrical barriers.

Asian carp have been in North America since the 1970s, and the first step to preventing the spread of invaders is to stop them from arriving here in the first place. Improved [regulation](#) of live animal imports may help, but in the meantime new invaders continue to arrive.

The Prussian carp was first discovered in a small lake in Alberta

in 2006. Since then it has [spread](#) to nearly two dozen southern Alberta waterways and firmly established breeding populations. A recent [study](#) reported that the USFWS considers northern states bordering Alberta to be at high risk of invasion. Other northern states and southern provinces are a good match for the climate preferred by Prussian carp. The Great Lakes region would likely support breeding populations if Prussian carp were introduced.

Although not closely related to high-profile Asian carp species, the Prussian carp also eats zooplankton. Prussian carp have invaded many water bodies in Europe and the Middle East, and they have caused damage to other plankton-eating fish populations in some waters.

In appearance, the Prussian carp is very similar to a wild goldfish. In fact, it can be hard to tell them apart. Although they are classified as

different species, Prussian carp and goldfish are in the same genus and they can cross breed. Prussian carp are smaller than Asian carp, with a maximum weight of about 11 pounds. The strange thing about Alberta's carp invasion is that no one knows quite how it started. The fish must have been imported into Canada at some point, perhaps along with a shipment of goldfish. The original fish may have been destined for pet shops or breeding in aquaculture facilities that raise goldfish and koi.

[Michigan Sea Grant](#) helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research and outreach. A collaborative effort of the U. of Michigan and Michigan State U., Michigan Sea Grant is part of the [NOAA-National Sea Grant](#) network of 33 university-based programs. ✧

## Starry stonewort confirmations may provide new clues

Starry stonewort, an invasive species of macro algae, has been confirmed in Lake Winnibigoshish in Itasca and Cass counties, Moose Lake in Beltrami County and Rice Lake in Stearns County, all in Minnesota.

According to the DNR a resort owner on Moose Lake said he noticed a dense growth in the same area of the lake for several years. DNR invasive species specialists said the extent of the spread and depth of starry stonewort in Lake Winnibigoshish indicate it has also been there for several years. Rice Lake is connected to Lake Koronis and Mud Lake, where starry stonewort was first confirmed in Minnesota in August 2015.

“Since it was first confirmed in Minnesota, people are becoming more aware of how to identify starry stonewort and are bringing it to our attention,” said Heidi Wolf, DNR invasive species unit supervisor. “It is important for people to contact the DNR if they suspect they’ve found starry stonewort or any other aquatic invasive species.”

Lake Winnibigoshish is a popular 88-square-mile lake that is fed by and also flows into the Mississippi River. The DNR is investigating whether starry stonewort has spread into the river and other downstream lakes.

DNR invasive species specialists have confirmed starry stonewort extensively along the western and northwestern shores of Lake Winnibigoshish, including a public access. Because the infestation is

widespread, current treatment options are limited, with efforts focusing on preventing spread within the lake and to other lakes.

Moose Lake is the fourth Beltrami County lake in which starry stonewort has been confirmed. Dense mats of starry stonewort are present across a wide range of the lake. Infestation is extensive, limiting current treatment options and putting the focus on preventing spread within the lake and to other lakes.

DNR invasive species specialists confirmed starry stonewort around the southwest public access of Rice Lake. A more extensive search is being conducted to determine the extent of the infestation and potential for treatment.

The new findings and details are consistent with some of the challenges in identifying starry stonewort. The DNR has recently investigated reports of starry stonewort that have turned out to be false.

“The telltale star-shaped bulbils for which it is named typically don’t appear until late in the season,” said DNR invasive species specialist Tim Plude. “If people see it in June or July, they’ll see what looks like heavy weed growth, and the bulbils aren’t easily visible until later in the year. They typically emerge in August and into the fall, which is why these new cases are being found now and why it’s a good time for everyone to look for it.”

DNR staff are collaborating with

partners on an extensive, coordinated expansion of the search for starry stonewort. Meanwhile, aggressive treatment of isolated infestations on Turtle Lake and Upper Red Lake began last week, and treatment options are being discussed for Cass Lake, also in Beltrami County.

Starry stonewort is grass-like macro algae that may produce dense mats, which could interfere with use of the lake. The invasive algae also may choke out native plants. It is typically spread by lake users who transport fragments of the plant from an infested body of water. ✧

### Starry stonewort verified in Sturgeon Bay Channel in Door County First confirmed discovery in Lake Michigan

Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) has been verified in the Sturgeon Bay Channel in Door County. It is the first confirmed discovery of the invasive macroalgae in Lake Michigan and the first occurrence in the state outside of six southeastern Wisconsin lakes.

The population was discovered during a routine aquatic plant monitoring survey by a lake management contractor for the City of Sturgeon Bay. The contractor provided photos and live specimens to WDNR aquatic invasive species staff who confirmed the finding. ✧

## Clean Drain Dry mobile app for the outdoors

For years, static signs posted at entry points and boat ramps have educated people on laws, rules and regulations. Rightfully so, to protect natural resources, but a new mobile app developed by Wildlife Forever and the Clean Drain Dry Initiative works to change that using Augmented Reality (AR) technology to educate, inform and inspire conservation stewardship.

The Clean Drain Dry app uses unique campaign marketing materials and graphics to transport users to a video experience that informs and empowers positive actions to prevent invasive species. A pilot project, based in Minnesota with funding provided from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and administered by the Initiative Foundation, has created unique signage, empowered with AR that when scanned with the FREE

app, takes the user through a brief survey and ultimately an educational video that reminds people to Clean Drain Dry to prevent invasive species.

New signs will be posted at public boat ramps and entry points throughout northern Minnesota. Four styles will target different user groups all reiterating the common theme and campaign focus of the Clean Drain Dry Initiative. ✧

## Resident Archery Deer Permits

Resident combination and antlerless-only archery deer permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. Find a vendor link here: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx>. ✧

## Non-Resident Archery Deer Permits

Illinois Non-Resident Archery Deer combination permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. The Illinois Archery Deer Season is October 1, 2016 through January 15, 2017. ✧

## Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

### [Making the riverfront a place for people](#)

The downtown Chicago Riverwalk often seems so effortlessly successful that it's easy to forget that people actually labored to design it, including Chicago architect Carol Barney and Boston-area landscape architect Gina Ford. They were among the guiding hands for the latest

### [New detection method could halt Great Lakes killer](#)

Investigators are using modern forensic science to hunt down a Great Lakes cold-blooded killer: the sea lamprey. They're advancing the use of the DNA that an organism sheds into its environment – called environmental DNA or eDNA for short.

### [Anglers frustrated over Lake Michigan salmon stock plan](#)

Anglers had a lot of questions for Michigan DNR representatives about the reasoning behind proposed cuts of Chinook salmon stock in Lake Michigan in 2017. The DNR is proposing cutting 50% of Chinook salmon stock lakewide. The agency says the cuts are a result of

### [Lake Ontario Chinook salmon, lake trout stocking could be reduced by 20 percent](#)

NYSDEC and Canadian fishery officials are strongly considering reducing the numbers of Chinook salmon and lake trout stocked in Lake Ontario by 20% in response to declining numbers of alewife. The proposal would prevent a drop in the Chinook population, they

### [Smith: Stocking talk is contentious](#)

The public gathered Monday at Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, Wis., for a contentious meeting on Lake Michigan trout and salmon stocking

### [EDITORIAL: Stocking of trout, salmon a concern](#)

A healthy Lake Michigan salmon and trout fishery is the goal, but the path to achieve it is receiving serious debate.

### [Manistee River fish kill part of ongoing sea lamprey battle](#)

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service began treating the Big Manistee River in Michigan with lampricide to help control sea lamprey.

### [Access to two Lake Michigan piers will soon close](#)

Two Lake Michigan piers in Michigan will close soon after Labor Day, after structural concerns were raised during recent Army Corps of Engineers inspections

### [Asian Carp found in Lake Erie was fertile: MNRF](#)

Asian Carp found last week in Lake Erie has been found to be fertile, prompting increased surveillance.

### [Asian carp caught near Point Pelee, ministry of natural resources says](#)

A commercial fisherman netted a grass carp in Lake Erie just off Point Pelee, Ont., the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources confirms.

### [\\$12M fish hatchery upgrade to boost steelhead, walleye stocking](#)

The Thompson State Fish Hatchery near Manistique, Mich., is poised for a multi-million dollar upgrade that would boost output of steelhead, walleye and muskellunge.

## Controlled Pheasant Permits

Hunters can apply online now for 2016-17 Illinois controlled pheasant hunting opportunities available at 18 IDNR sites. Fourteen of the sites are operated by the IDNR, while four other sites are managed by concessionaire T. Miller, Inc. For application information, check the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) or [www.tmillercinc.com](http://www.tmillercinc.com). ✧

## Hunting & Trapping Digest

The *Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2016-2017* edition is available in PDF format at: [www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/HuntingTrappingDigests.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/HuntingTrappingDigests.aspx). ✧

## Youth Deer Permits

Resident and non-resident Illinois Youth Firearm Deer permits are available over-the-counter from DNR license and permit vendors. The Hunt is Columbus Day weekend, October 8-10, 2016. [www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deer/Pages/YouthFirearmDeerHunting.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deer/Pages/YouthFirearmDeerHunting.aspx). ✧

## Firearm Deer Permits

Illinois Firearm Deer permits and Muzzleloader-only Deer permits remaining after this year's lottery drawings will be available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors beginning October 18. ✧