



Lake Michigan kings are back — but why?

After the gloom-and-doom of 2016, anglers are gearing up for a much better run of salmon in 2017. Recent trends in the fishery suggest that ups and downs may be the new norm if prey populations do not stabilize.

Spread the word! Lake Michigan kings are back — for now.

After a couple of disappointing years of fishing for Chinook salmon along the Michigan shoreline of Lake Michigan, anglers are once again excited about the late-summer bonanza these “king” salmon provide. While the final estimates of angler harvest and catch rates will not be available from [Michigan DNR](#) and other agencies until spring, the long lines of heavy coolers at fish cleaning stations and full boards of fish are a very good sign.

The size of fish is even more impressive. Ever since bacterial

kidney disease (BKD) ran through the Chinook salmon population in the late 1980s, king salmon over 30 pounds have been rare to nonexistent in most years. This year has already produced numerous 30 pounders and even one giant that tipped the scales at 41.48 pounds (see [details](#)).

Why the rebound?

While fisheries scientists do not have a definitive answer to this question, there are several factors at work. Many relate to the poor year-class of Chinook salmon in 2013. Many anglers will remember the public process that led up to the 46 percent reduction in Chinook salmon stocking for 2013. On top of this stocking cut, natural reproduction fell by an estimated 84 percent in 2013. All told, the number of Chinook salmon entering Lake Michigan dropped from 10.68 million in 2012 to 3.5 million in 2013.

This weak 2013 year-class was a big factor in the poor fishing experienced last year because Age 3

fish from the 2013 year-class were returning to spawn in 2016. The good news is that wild reproduction increased slightly in 2014 and the total number of Chinook salmon increased to 6.47 million (stocking remained steady from 2013 to 2014).

Chinook salmon from the 2014 year-class are now Age 3 and they seem to be providing very good fishing. Fisheries managers have been trying to balance the number of predators and available prey for decades, and judging by early reports it seems that the current balance is providing a nice mix of good catch rates and large, healthy salmon. However, this does not mean that the future of the Lake Michigan fishery is secure.

Ups and downs may be the new norm

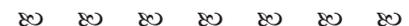
Growth of salmon has been bouncing up and down like a ping pong ball over the past decade.

Kings are back

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Meet our new webmaster!!

After a lengthy search we are pleased to introduce our new webmaster. Chad Lapa has volunteered to take on the duties and responsibilities of this important position for the GLSFC. Chad lives on Lake Ontario, hails from Rochester, NY, and brings a host of experience with him.

Chad’s professional background includes a Master’s degree from Rochester’s Institute of Technology (<http://it.rit.edu/>) with concentrations in web development and human-computer interaction (HCI) where he defended his thesis in Switzerland at the European Conference on Eye

Tracking. His business focuses on web development and marketing for the outdoor industry (specifically fishing).

The proprietor of BlueEye Design Co. www.BlueEyeDesign.net with an emphasis on fishing, Chad’s credits include Lake Ontario United www.lakeontariounited.com, Lake Erie United www.lakeerieunited.com, and Great Lakes Fisherman www.greatlakesfisherman.com.

Chad can be reached at 585-414-5321, Chad@BlueEyeDesign.net

Please welcome Chad to our team. ✧

GLMRIS - Brandon Road public meetings

In order to facilitate discussion of the recently-released Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study - Brandon Road Draft report, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has scheduled three public meetings with locations in Chicago; Muskegon, Michigan; and Joliet, Illinois. From the start of each meeting until the scheduled time for opening remarks, GLMRIS-BR Team Members will be available in person for open house format one-on-one discussions about the Study. Online participants should plan to join the conference call, webinar and Facebook Live events shortly before opening remarks.

Meeting Schedules

September 11, 1- 5 p.m. CDT, James R. Thompson Center, Assembly Hall Auditorium, 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago.

Chicago Meeting Agenda

1:00 PM Open House (in-person only, web broadcast begins at 2:40 CDT)
2:40 PM Opening Remarks
2:50 PM GLMRIS - Brandon Road Study Presentation
3:20 PM Oral Comment Period (limited to 3 minutes per person)
5:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

September 14, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. EDT, Muskegon Community College, Collegiate Hall, 221 S. Quarterline Rd., Muskegon, MI.

Muskegon Meeting Agenda

3:30 PM Open House (in-person only, web broadcast begins at 4:10 EDT)
4:10 PM Opening Remarks
4:20 PM GLMRIS - Brandon Road Study Presentation
4:50 PM Oral Comment Period (limited to 3 minutes per person)
6:30 PM Meeting Adjourned

September 18, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. CDT, Joliet Jr. College, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL

Joliet Meeting Agenda

3:30 PM Open House (in-person only, web broadcast begins at 4:10 CDT)
4:10 PM Opening Remarks

4:20 PM GLMRIS - Brandon Road Study Presentation
4:50 PM Oral Comment Period (limited to 3 minutes per person)
6:30 PM Meeting Adjourned

Public meetings will be broadcast on Facebook Live. To view the live feed of the meeting, visit the Rock Island District's Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/RockIslandDistrictUSACE>) at the time of the meeting.

When you visit the site you may be prompted to sign up or log in if you are not currently logged into Facebook. Having an account and logging in is not necessary to view the meeting. If you have an account, you can sign in to view the video. If you do not have an account, select "Not Now" to minimize the prompt. Scroll down the page to the first item listed under "Posts" to view the live video.

Access information is below.

Toll-Free: 888-431-3632, Access Code: 723853

Web Conference URL: <https://www.webmeeting.att.com>

The Corps will provide a presentation on the tentatively selected plan that includes structural and nonstructural measures and technologies for preventing upstream transfer of Asian carp, at Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Illinois Waterway.

An oral comment period will follow the presentation for anyone wishing to provide an oral comment. The Corps will also accept written comments during the meetings.

The comment period runs through **October 2**. Comments can be made anytime during this period by visiting the GLMRIS website at <http://glmr.is.anl.gov/brandon-rd/>.

Comments may also be mailed to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, ATTN: GLMRIS-Brandon Road Comments, 231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60604. Comments must be postmarked by October 2.



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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

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Lake Michigan Could Best Support Lake Trout and Steelhead

Invasive mussels and fewer nutrients from tributaries have altered the Lake Michigan ecosystem, making it more conducive to the stocking of lake trout and steelhead than Chinook salmon, according to a [recent USGS and Michigan State U. study](#).

Reduced stocking of Chinook salmon, however, would still support a substantial population of this highly desirable recreational salmon species, which is a large contributor to the Great Lakes multi-billion-dollar recreational fishery.

“Findings from our study can help managers determine the most viable ways to enhance valuable recreational fisheries in Lake Michigan, especially when the open waters of the lake are declining in productivity,” said Yu-Chun Kao, an MSU post-doctoral scientist and the lead author of the report.

Managers have reduced Lake Michigan stocking levels of Chinook salmon at least three times over the past decades in response to declining

prey fish and the natural reproduction of Chinook salmon. For the new study, scientists investigated the lake’s current and future abilities to support different fish stocking efforts. They found that recent decreases in critical lake nutrients, partly due to increases in invasive species such as [quagga mussels](#), reduce the number of Chinook salmon that the lake can support.

“Our model showed that stocking Chinook salmon can still help maintain their populations in Lake Michigan,” said Mark Rogers, a USGS Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Research Unit scientist and co-author on the study. “When stocking was completely eliminated in the model, the long-term number of salmon was predicted to decrease considerably. The key is to determine how much stocking is most effective. It’s a balancing act.”

The study also found that lake trout and steelhead may fare better because these two species can switch

from eating alewife, which are in decline, to bottom-dwelling round goby, another newly established invasive prey fish that feeds on quagga mussels.

The scientists modeled Lake Michigan’s food web dynamics under 288 scenarios that accounted for various levels of stocking and nutrients, as well as the effects of invasive mussels.

Lake Michigan’s open-water food web has changed significantly since the 1970s, becoming less productive as a result of decreased nutrients such as phosphorus, a process called oligotrophication. Because the Chinook salmon diet consists of over 90 percent alewife, the new study predicts a smaller Chinook salmon population if nutrients remain low and invasive mussels remain abundant.

For more information about USGS ecosystems research in the Great Lakes, visit the [USGS Great Lakes Science Center website](#). ✧

DNR joins in multiagency survey of St. Marys River fish community

The St. Marys River fish community is the subject of a collection effort and survey this month by the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The survey will assess the abundance and status of various fish populations.

The Michigan DNR will participate as one of the partners. Other regional and federal partners will also participate.

“The purpose of the study is to gauge the health and status of the various fish populations in the river,” said David Fielder, one of the fisheries research biologists leading the DNR’s portion of the study. “Target species of importance to the researchers include walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, northern pike, lake sturgeon and cisco, along with any invasive species.”

The survey will tell managers if the resident fish populations are healthy or not and which way they are trending in abundance. Management

decisions such as stocking and harvest regulations are based on the findings of these surveys. This is the river’s ninth survey since 1975.

The survey uses variable mesh gillnets to collect fish specimens. Fish will be weighed and measured, and a bony structure like a dorsal spine will be collected for determining the age of individual fish. In all, there will be 44 locations netted to fully sample the river and represent the various fish populations. Any edible fish killed during the survey will be donated to food banks after being examined.

The St. Marys River is an international border water and spans many different jurisdictions, which historically made surveys like this difficult. Beginning in the late 1990s, however, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission created the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group to coordinate the joint work of all these partner agencies. Now these agencies all use the same methods and gears

and divide up the sampling locations and subsequent lab work, and jointly analyze the results. The survey is repeated about every five years.

Besides the fish community survey, the St. Marys River currently is the subject of a survey of angler fishing effort and catch also being coordinated by the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group and jointly conducted by the DNR and the OMNR. That “creel survey” information is paired with the fish community survey to give fisheries managers a full picture of the status of the fisheries. Anglers contacted by DNR and OMNR creel census clerks are encouraged to cooperate because their information is a critical piece of data for fisheries managers.

The netting survey will be completed within the month. Anglers and boaters may see buoys marking the nets and crews working. A report will be available after the study is completed. ✧

DNR launches 'Eyes in the Field' app for fish & wildlife reports

The DNR is inviting Michigan residents to contribute to conservation efforts by reporting their fish and wildlife observations with the new Eyes in the Field application. Available at michigan.gov/eyesinthefield, the application replaces 15 separate observation forms the DNR had been using to gather important information about fish and wildlife populations.

"Observation is a key part of managing Michigan's diverse natural resources, and we rely on the public as additional eyes in the field to help in our monitoring efforts," said Tom Weston, the DNR's chief technology officer. "This new application is a one-stop shop where citizen scientists can report what they observe while spending time outdoors."

Eyes in the Field includes forms for reporting observations of diseased wildlife, tagged fish, mammals such as cougars and feral swine, fish such as sturgeon, birds such as wild turkeys, and reptiles and amphibians such as eastern massasauga rattlesnakes. Additional observation forms will be added in the future.

The app is mobile-friendly, so it will work well on any device – smartphone, tablet or desktop computer – and is compliant with federal Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines.

To report their data, users select an observation location point on a map and submit other details, including habitat type and appearance of the animal, depending on the type of observation. Observers also can submit photos, videos and audio files through the application.

It's important to note that Eyes in the Field does not replace the DNR's Report All Poaching (RAP) hotline (800-292-7800). The RAP hotline – now accepting text messages, which may include photos, in addition to telephone calls – is a toll-free, 24-hour, seven-days-a-week number that enables the public to report violations of fish and game laws, as well as

Michigan Invasive Carp Challenge

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder announced that the Invasive Carp Challenge is now accepting proposals for innovative methods to prevent invasive (or Asian) carp from entering the Great Lakes.

"Invasive carp pose a serious and growing threat to the economy and ecology of our Great Lakes," Snyder said. "The Invasive Carp Challenge will tap into the creativity and expertise of the entrepreneurial community to find the best ways to protect Michigan's most prized natural resource."

On June 22, an eight-pound [silver carp was captured](#) beyond the electric barrier, just nine miles from Lake Michigan. Michigan continues to seek to work cooperatively with other states and Canadian provinces to keep silver and bighead carp – two species of invasive carp – from entering the Great Lakes.

The Invasive Carp Challenge is designed to tap into the creative minds of people around the world to join the government and research community in enhancing existing research and tools while developing new, innovative solutions. The challenge will accept solutions in any phase of development, from concept to design to field-tested models, specifically aimed at preventing invasive carp movement into the Great Lakes.

Proposals will be accepted online through [InnoCentive's Challenge Center](#) through **October 31, 2017**. One or more solutions will share up to \$700,000 in cash awards provided by the State of Michigan. Once registered, solvers can see a detailed description of the challenge, review existing deterrent technologies for invasive carp and submit their solutions.

www.michigan.gov/carpchallenge. ✧

other natural resource-related laws. The DNR also offers a [web-based RAP form](#), which is available via a link from Eyes in the Field. ✧

DNR tagging invasive carp for first time Legislature gave DNR authority to use new research tool

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has captured a bighead carp and, for the first time in the state, tagged it to learn more about invasive carp. After a period of acoustic telemetry tracking to learn more about its range and other behaviors, the tagged invasive carp will be removed from the water and euthanized. The data will increase the DNR's ability to capture invasive carp when they enter Minnesota waters.

Earlier this month, the DNR captured a 3 lb., 43" bighead carp in the St. Croix River, surgically implanted a thin, 4-inch long tracking tag and returned the fish to the river. Daily tracking by boat has shown the fish's precise range, feeding areas and other details about the types of conditions these species prefer.

The DNR won't know some things about this fish, such as whether it's an egg-bearing female, until after they recapture, euthanize and examine it.

Anyone who catches a bighead, grass or silver carp must report it to the DNR immediately. Call 651-587-2781 or email invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us. Take a photo and transport the carp to the nearest fisheries office or make arrangements for it to be picked up by a DNR official.

Invasive carp have been progressing upstream since the 1970s, when they escaped into the Mississippi River from southern fish farms, where they were used to control algae. These large fish compete with native species and pose a threat to rivers and lakes.

While no breeding populations have been detected in Minnesota waters, individual bighead and silver carp have been caught in the Mississippi, St. Croix and Minnesota rivers. More information about invasive carp is available at www.mndnr.gov/invasivecarp. ✧

Great Lakes Water Temperatures Much Colder; Better Bundle Up for a Frosty Winter

Falling right in line with what we saw from the [ocean's surface temperatures](#), the Great Lakes are also reportedly much cooler than normal at this time of year, and that indicates the possibility of a frosty cold winter.

As reported by [mlive](#), the average water temperatures are between 3 and 5 degrees cooler than this time last year. Right now, southern Lake Michigan has water temperatures between 70 degrees and 74 degrees, compared to previous data showing temps of 73 degrees to 77 degrees on August 21, 2016.

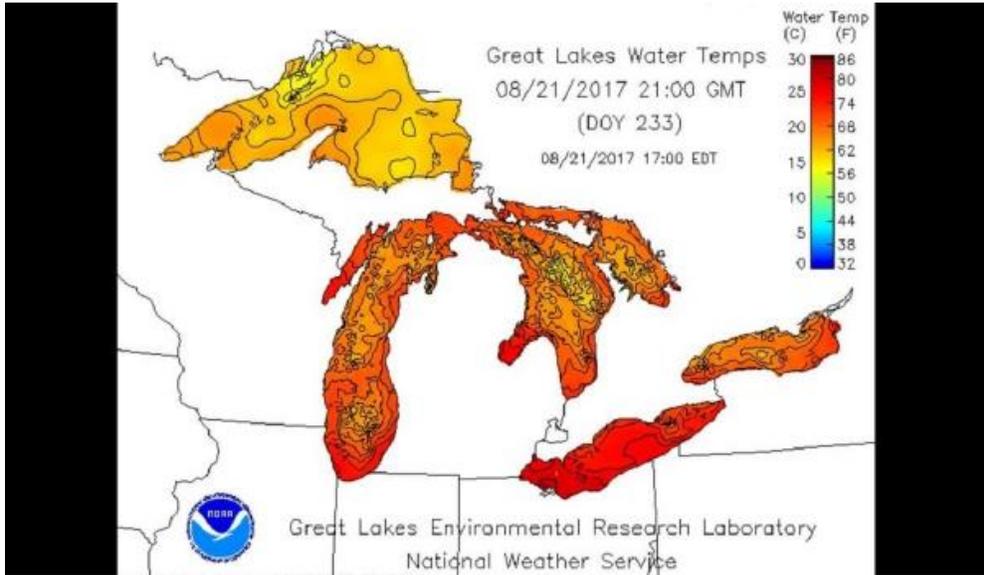
Does this mean you will freeze during hunting season?

Not exactly.

See, when the Great Lakes water temperatures are warmer, they actually serve a much bigger role than just a dreamy destination spot for your summer vacations. The warm lake water actually warms

cold air masses blowing south from Canada, so you can imagine what will happen when there isn't any warm air to meet the frigid air blowing in from the North.

It's not a guarantee that winter temperatures will plummet well below negative this season, but it sounds like Michiganders won't get any benefit from lake effect this season.



Trout stream management in New York

Inland trout streams are an important component of New York State's diverse fishery resource. An abundance of trout fishing opportunity is available to New York anglers. To get a rough idea of the extent of the resource, consider that trout have been documented in over 3,000 New York streams and over 80% of these streams supported wild trout. In 2016, hatchery-reared trout were stocked in 444 streams to enhance trout fishing opportunity. Additionally, New York anglers rank inland trout streams second only to warmwater lakes among their preferred water bodies for recreational fishing ([2007 New York Statewide Angler Survey](#)).

Streams with the ecological characteristics necessary to support brown trout, rainbow trout and native brook trout are not uniformly distributed across the state and the productive capacity of these streams varies widely. Trout stream management means maintaining and,

where possible, increasing the value of this resource to the recreational users and to the general public [Engstrom-Heg 1979\(PDF, 3.3 MB\)](#). A wide variety of tools is available to fisheries managers to achieve this goal; notably fishing regulations, access and information, habitat protection and improvement, and stocking hatchery-reared trout. As a public agency founded on scientific principles, NYSDEC places great importance on measuring the outcome of management strategies against well-defined objectives.

Trout Stream Management Meeting Schedule

September 13
6:30-9:00 PM
4H Training Center
556 Middleline Rd.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

September 19
6:30-9:00 PM

Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources
SUNY Cobleskill
Cobleskill, NY 12043

September 26
6:30-9:00 PM
Town of Plattsburgh Office
151 Banker Rd.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

October 3
6:30-9:00 PM
Reinstein Woods Nature Center
93 Honorine Drive
Depew, NY 14043

October 5
6:30-9:00 PM
NYSDEC Region 9 Sub-office
182 East Union St
Allegheny, NY 14706

November 15
6:30-9:00 PM
NYSDEC Region 2 Office
47-40 21st St
Long Island City, NY 11101 ✧

Illinois to receive more than \$1.6 million for Conservation Projects

U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced more than \$1.6 million to Illinois state wildlife agencies through the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program. The funds, provided by the USFWS, give support for a diverse array of species and habitats across the country.

“The Trump Administration is working hard with states and local communities to find solutions that are driven at the local level, rather than in Washington, D.C. As a hunter, I know the work of state wildlife agencies is absolutely critical to wildlife conservation in the U.S.,” said Bernhardt. “We’re thrilled to be able to collaborate with them, their local communities, and other partners to ensure important fish, wildlife, habitat and cultural needs are met. Tribal and state wildlife grants are foundational to protecting our nation’s wildlife legacy, including game and non-game species.”

The \$1,640,930, which is part of \$48 million being distributed nationwide, will support imperiled species and habitats listed in approved state wildlife action plans. All 50 state and U.S. territorial wildlife agencies have these plans, which protect species in greatest conservation need. Projects funded through SWG involve research, monitoring, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management and other activities.

SWG funds are administered by the Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program and are allocated to states and territories according to a congressionally mandated formula based on population and geographic area. Grant funds must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring identified within state wildlife action plans. The funds may also be used to update, revise or modify a state’s plan. Click [here](#) for the complete list of 2017 SWG apportionments. Learn more about SWG program accomplishments [here](#). ✧

Great Outdoors Jamboree Sept. 10 at Lake Hudson Recreation Area

Anyone looking for a fun, free way to enjoy the outdoors is invited to the fifth annual Great Outdoors Jamboree **Sunday, Sept. 10**, at Lake Hudson Recreation Area in Lenawee County, MI. From 10 - 4 p.m., visitors can learn about Michigan outdoor recreation opportunities and participate in a variety of activities that are fun for both new and returning Jamboree attendees. All ages are welcome.

This event offers a chance to spend a day outdoors learning all the skills necessary to hunt, fish or enjoy just about any outdoor recreation pursuit. More than 40 exhibitors will be on hand to display, discuss and give hands-on instruction on archery, target shooting, bass fishing, campsite exploration, boating and many more nature-based activities. Highlights include the live birds of prey program presented by Michigan Avian Experience, and Smokey Bear will be there for a great family photo opportunity.

Opportunities also will be available to learn about habitat and environmental projects and take part in a live chukar hunt. Pre-registration is required for the chukar hunt. Contact Julie Griswold at 734-320-9243 (after 4 p.m.) or dixievrivervoods@gmail.com to register.

A vendor will be on-site with food for sale, or visitors can bring a picnic lunch to enjoy by the lake. Visitors are encouraged to bring water bottles and backpacks or tote bags for all the exhibitor giveaways and to dress for the weather as the event will be held rain or shine.

For more info: www.michiganpheasantsforever.org/events/719-2017-jambo.

There is no charge to participate in the event, but a [Recreation Passport](#) is required for vehicle entry. Passports can be purchased at the park entrance, or visitors can check out a free [Michigan Activity Pass](#) from their local library. ✧

DEC hunting and trapping education courses gearing up

New York State new hunters and trappers planning to go afield this season must first complete a mandatory hunter, bowhunter, or trapper education course before obtaining the appropriate sporting license or hunting privilege.

With state licenses now on sale, first-time hunters and trappers are encouraged to sign up for courses as they fill quickly.

DEC’s online registration system makes it easy to view a list of all available courses with the student’s proximity to course locations. Students can register from any device—smartphone, tablet or computer—24 hours a day, seven days a week. Courses are added continuously throughout the year, so those interested should regularly check the on-line system to find a local course. To locate a nearby [hunter or trapper education course](#), visit DEC’s website or contact a local DEC office for assistance.

All courses require students to review course materials and complete a homework sheet prior to attending the classroom and field session. The homework portion of the course provides an introduction to the subject and enhances the students’ understanding of the course material. Proof of the completed homework is required to attend the course. Students should register for the course well in advance of the course date in order to allow time to complete the homework requirement, which takes approximately three hours. All courses will require successful completion of an in-person field day to earn certification for the course.

Access to the [homework materials and online homework](#) options can be found on DEC’s website or follow the guidelines listed in the various course announcements when you register for a particular course. Course manuals and homework sheets are available from DEC wildlife offices and sportsman education instructors. ✧

Autopsy complete of silver carp captured 9 miles from Lake Michigan Asian carp found near Lake Michigan got past barriers

An autopsy of the silver carp found in June, 9 miles from Lake Michigan in the Little Calumet River of the Chicago Area Waterway System, finds that the fish originated in the Illinois/Middle Mississippi watershed. Analysis shows the 4-year-old male spent a quarter of its life in the Des Plaines River watershed before being caught and removed from the Little Calumet River above the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' electric dispersal barriers. Though it is not known how the fish was able to arrive above the barrier defense system, analysis shows that the fish spent no more than a few weeks to a few months in the stretch of river where it was found. The autopsy and analysis of the silver carp was completed by Southern Illinois U, USFWS and the USGS.

"While we were disappointed to find an Asian carp close to Lake Michigan, we are pleased we had a

successful plan in place that found and removed it so quickly," said Kevin Irons, Illinois DNR Aquatic Nuisance Species program manager. "We will continue to work with our partners to ensure we have the resources we need to maintain the effectiveness of our monitoring plan."

The live capture of the silver carp on June 22, 2017 in the Little Calumet River just below the T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam triggered two additional weeks of intense sampling in the area, as outlined in the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee's Contingency Response Plan. The multi-agency response included electrofishing and contract netting across more than 13 miles of the Calumet River, Little Calumet River and Calumet Harbor. More than 20,000 fish were captured, but no additional bighead or silver carps were caught or seen.

"Our work with federal,

provincial and state partners to prevent the establishment of Asian carp in the Great Lakes continues to be coordinated and proactive," said Charlie Wooley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Deputy Regional Director. "After more than eight years working in the Illinois Waterway, we're not backing down. We are going to continue to hold the line against these aquatic invaders."

Moving forward, the Illinois DNR with the support of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee will continue with intensive monitoring of the Chicago Area Waterway System.

More information on the captured silver carp and autopsy results: [Southern Illinois University Summary of Data Obtained from the Silver Carp \(83 KB PDF\)](#) [Update on Silver Carp Captured June 22, 2017 in the Chicago Area Waterway \(190 KB PDF\)](#) ✦

Non-native species slowly spreading throughout Canada's Ontario province

Step aside zebra mussels and phragmites, another foreign invader is lurking beneath the surface of Southwestern Ontario's lakes and streams—a little umbrella-shaped creature that's making people who see it do a double take.

They're freshwater jellyfish, a non-native species that's been spotted in Port Dover, Welland, Fort Erie and in lakes and streams across central Ontario. The small and slimy translucent animals are a rare sight, but clearly they're here to stay.

"There's no known way to remove freshwater jellyfish from a lake ecosystem once it is there," said Jeff Brinsmead, senior invasive species biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The ministry believes the jellyfish, whose proper name is *Craspedacusta sowerbii*, were stowaways on aquatic plants imported to Europe in the 1800s before they hitched a ride to Philadelphia in boat ballast water. Brinsmead said the jellyfish likely

arrived in Ontario on a contaminated ship or plant. The invasive invertebrates, native to the Yangtze River in China, were first discovered in Georgian Bay in the 1950s and inland at Lake Muskoka in 2002.

"In both cases they were probably there for some time before they were reported," Brinsmead said. Though Muskoka is a hot spot for the 2.5-centimetre creatures, the ministry said freshwater jellyfish appear to have entered lakes Erie and St. Clair, they're just not spotted often.

Darien Donnelly and Jeremy Stevenson didn't know what to make of the translucent blob floating in the water near their fishing dock by Port Dover's lift bridge July 8. They thought it was a piece of garbage, until it moved.

The freshwater jellyfish are another unwelcome addition to a long list of invasive species in the Great Lakes region. Conservationists have been fending off zebra mussels in the Great Lakes since 1988—tiny

pests scientists say arrived on boats from European ports.

In Illinois, environmental agencies are desperately trying to prevent Asian carp from entering the lakes. The invasive fish were brought to North America in the 1960s and '70s to control algae at fish farms, but floods helped them escape into the wild.

But unlike carp or clams, the freshwater jellyfish are unlikely to pose a threat to the ecosystem—or to humans—ministry officials said.

The jellyfish are eaten by native species such as turtles and crayfish and aren't known to sting people. Even so, the ministry is tracking the tiny pests and is urging the public to report sightings through its website or invasive species hotline. "If possible, reporters should try to take a digital picture to assist in verifying the identity of the species they are reporting," Brinsmead said.

A map of freshwater jellyfish encounters in Ontario can be found at www.eddmaps.org. ✦

Illinois fighting Asian carp plan

Though some details are in flux, the fight pits Gov. Rauner against the state's powerful green lobby, including the Environmental Law & Policy Center, National Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club.

Those environmental groups are lined up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which last week released a much-anticipated report concluding that the best option available is a \$275 million plan to install a combination of electronic and sound barriers by the Brandon Road lock and dam on the Illinois River, near Joliet and about 47 miles upstream from Lake Michigan.

The Asian carp have no natural predators in the Great Lakes and will disrupt the \$62 billion economy based on fishing, boating and recreational activities," said ELPC's Howard Learner. "We cannot let the Trump administration's war on the Great Lakes involve insufficient actions to prevent Asian carp from threatening our fresh water system."

On the other side is the Rauner administration, which is opposing the plan as too expensive—the state says it would have to provide \$95 million of the construction cost, and provide about \$8 million a year for maintenance—and too disruptive of the state's lucrative barge industry.

Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti did not offer a substitute, a particular point of contention. But Rauner officials suggested the corps itself is not big on its own plan and only wants to pacify critics in the Michigan congressional delegation.

Sanguinetti said, "This new approach is neither cost effective nor environmentally sound. Today's report recommends the construction of a \$275.4 million project, of which Illinois taxpayers would be on the hook for over \$95 million in construction cost and another \$8 million in annual operation and maintenance costs. This project will hurt our economy and the commercial navigation industry that moves over \$28 billion of commodities annually

Latest plan to handle Asian Carp relies on loud noises and electric fences

The Army Corps of Engineers has released its latest plan to keep Asian carp from threatening the \$7 billion fishing ecosystem in Lake Michigan. It involves loud noises and electric fences. The Corps released the plan to stop the invasive fish from reaching the Great Lakes last week. Engineers want to pinpoint one dam near Joliet they think will be the most effective location to put new electric barriers and a system of underwater speakers that blare intermittent sounds.

The project won't be cheap. It is estimated the cost is more than \$275 million to set up and millions more every year to operate and maintain. ACOE spokesman Allen Marshall says they're a long way from getting started though. "This is just the proposal," Marshall said. "We're a ways from having the authorized project and the funding to do the project." Marshall says that they've learned that the sound won't repel the voraciously hungry fish if it's always on.

"If it's consistent and always on, the fish get used to it, and then it's no longer a deterrent," he said. Once the carp have begun populating the Great Lakes, little can be done about getting rid of them. The invasive fish doesn't kill other species of similarly sized fish. They starve them out. "They come into an ecosystem and push out other fisheries because they eat so much," Marshall said.

Members of the public can provide feedback on the proposal [here](#).

Even with the project, the report says it may not be feasible to keep the carp out of the Great Lakes. ✧

through the Chicago Area Waterway System and along the Illinois River. Furthermore, this project at Brandon Road will separate the Des Plaines River and Illinois River ecosystems, disrupting native fish migration patterns." ✧

New non-native zooplankton

USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office has confirmed the presence of a new non-native species in the western basin of Lake Erie. The tiny organism is a invertebrate rotifer, a type of zooplankton. This finding is the result of a cooperative agreement between EPA and Cornell researchers as part of EPA's long-term biology monitoring program in the open waters of the Great Lakes. Researchers detected the species, *Brachionus leydigii*, in samples collected in spring 2016. Only one specimen (a female) was found.

According to the USFWS's rapid risk screening process, the ecosystem risk from *Brachionus leydigii* is uncertain due to lack of documented introductions of this species. The climate-matching analysis results indicate a high climate match, as the Great Lakes climate is very similar to the climate in native ranges of *B. leydigii*.

B. leydigii is able to tolerate a wide range of temperature and salinity conditions, appearing in both marine and freshwater environments. The natural distribution of *B. leydigii* is not well known. It has been most often reported in parts of the eastern hemisphere, including Europe, Asia and Australia. The species can handle cold temperatures and overwinter (diapause in sediments).

There is little or no evidence to support *B. leydigii* having the potential for significant environmental or socio-economic impacts if introduced to the Great Lakes. There is also little to no evidence to support that *B. leydigii* has the potential for significant beneficial effects if introduced to the Great Lakes. In a study of transoceanic ships entering the Great Lakes in 2001 through 2002, before the current standards on flushing ballast water went into effect, this species was found hatched from diapausing eggs in residual ballast sediment in four of the 35 ships surveyed. The species' detection in Lake Erie was not part of that study. ✧

DEC Lake Ontario Fisheries Meetings

Current stocking levels will be maintained in 2018

The New York State DEC announced that the public will have the opportunity to learn and ask questions about the upcoming 2018 Lake Ontario salmon and trout stocking. Public meetings to gather input for will be held in Oswego, Niagara, and Monroe counties in September.

“Lake Ontario and its tributaries provide world-class salmon and trout angling opportunities,” Commissioner Basil Seggos said. “Salmon and trout fishing in Lake Ontario continue to be outstanding and DEC remains committed to ensuring that the ecological, recreational and economic benefits of Lake Ontario’s sport fisheries are sustained through management practices based on cutting-edge science.”

Survey results in 2016 revealed poor survival of alewife produced in 2013 and 2014, which will result in negative impacts on the adult population of this important prey species in future years. To protect the valuable fishery, the DEC and the

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNR) adjusted stocking levels for Chinook salmon and lake trout down 20 percent in 2017 to reduce predator demand on adult alewife.

Alewife survey results from 2017 confirmed the ongoing impacts of poor alewife production in 2013 and 2014 on the overall population, but also revealed record numbers of young alewife produced in 2016. The record numbers of alewife produced in 2016 is promising, but additional strong alewife reproduction and survival is needed in upcoming years to rebuild the adult population. In an ongoing effort to effectively manage Lake Ontario fisheries for long-term benefits, DEC and OMNR will maintain the 2017 stocking targets in 2018. The combined 2018 salmon and trout stocking total will exceed 4.6 million fish, and managers are optimistic that good fishing will continue.

During these public meetings, staff from DEC will present

information and the public will have the opportunity to ask questions. For background info: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111196.html.

Members of the public that cannot attend a meeting can provide comments via email to: fwfishlo@dec.ny.gov. For further information, please contact Steve LaPan, NY Great Lakes Fisheries Section Head, at the Cape Vincent Research Station, (315) 654-2147.

The meeting dates and locations are:

Monday, September 11: 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Donald Schleiter Lodge and Pavillion, 199 E. Manitou Rd, Braddock Bay Park, Rochester, Monroe County.

Tuesday, September 12: 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Pulaski High School auditorium, 4624 Salina Street, Pulaski, Oswego County.

Wednesday, September 13: 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Cornell Cooperative Extension Bldg, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, Niagara County.

Lake sturgeon hook and line season open

MADISON – Anglers interested in pursuing a big, hard-fighting fish will want to try their hand at fishing for lake sturgeon—armed with a stout rod and heavy line.

The hook and line season for lake sturgeon runs September 2-30 on several major river stretches for a fish that can grow to more than six feet long and exceed 150 pounds. The world record taken by hook and line was a 170-pound, 10-ounce lake sturgeon pulled from Yellow Lake in Burnett County in 1979.

Wisconsin offers a hook-and-line season on several major inland waters, including sections of the Chippewa, Wisconsin, Flambeau, Jump and Yellow rivers.

Harvest tag requirements and other hook and line season regulations

All anglers fishing for lake sturgeon must have a valid Wisconsin hook

and line fishing license. Anglers need to purchase a harvest tag if they intend to keep a sturgeon. The harvest tag is available throughout the season and costs \$20 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. Anglers who harvest a legal-size fish must immediately attach the harvest tag to the fish and take it to a registration station by 6 p.m. the next day for registration.

Find a list of harvest waters, harvest registration stations and instructions for properly tagging a harvested fish on the [Lake Sturgeon Hook and Line Season](#) page of the DNR website.

Tips for fishing for lake sturgeon using a rod and reel, including safe release

- Use a good sturdy rod and reel and heavy tackle including high pound test line.

- Use a large gob of night crawlers as bait. Cut bait can be effective as well.

- Present the bait along the bottom in either deep holes or areas with swift current, making sure to use an adequate amount of weight to hold the bait in place.

- Try fishing in the tailraces below dams, as fish are drawn to current.

- Use special care after landing the fish if you plan to release it. Take any photos or measurements quickly and release it quickly to reduce stress on the fish. If it is a large fish, consider leaving it in the water when taking your photos. Do not tether or tie the sturgeon by the tail to weigh it or lift it by the head as this can damage the fish. If a smaller sturgeon is caught, simply hold the fish under the belly when handling. ✧

Public invited to comment on special fishing regs

Anglers can give their opinions about fishing regulations that are in place or are newly proposed on 32 lakes, the Minnesota DNR said.

The DNR has scheduled 11 meetings statewide 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 include proposals for new walleye regulations on Wabedo and Little Boy lakes in Cass County, relaxing northern pike regulations on three lakes in the Little Falls area, and a proposal to modify or drop special regulations on eight trout lakes in Cook County.

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.

Meeting details

- **Aitkin County:** Review special regs on northern pike on Long and Sissabagahmah lakes, 4:30-7 p.m., **Oct. 6**, Aitkin Area Fisheries office, 1200 Minnesota Ave. South, Aitkin.
- **Beltrami County (Bemidji area fisheries):** Review special bass regulations on Balm, Big Bass, Deer and South Twin lakes, 6:30 p.m. **Sept. 21**, Northern Township Hall, 445 Town Hall Road NW, Bemidji.
- **Cass County (Walker area fisheries):** Review special bass regulations on Portage Lake, and discuss a proposal for new walleye regulations on Little Boy and Wabedo lakes, 6-8 p.m., **Sept. 27**, Woodrow Township Hall, 1133 Cty. Rd. 11 NW, Hackensack.
- **Clearwater and Hubbard counties (Bemidji area fisheries):** Review sunfish, black crappie and bass regulations on Itasca, Ozawindib and Mary lakes; two concurrent meetings, one meeting 6:30 p.m. **Sept. 19**, in Itasca State Park Visitor Center, Park Rapids; the other 6:30 p.m. **Sept. 19** in Douglas Lodge in Itasca State Park; address for both meetings is 36750 Main Park Drive.

- **Cook County (Grand Marais area fisheries):** Review trout management and special regulations on Kraut, North Shady, Peanut, Squash, Thompson, Thrush, Tomato and Turnip lakes; and review smallmouth bass regulations on Flour, Hungry Jack and Two Island lakes, 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Sept. 30**, Cook County Community Center, 317 W. Fifth St., Grand Marais.
- **Crow Wing County (Brainerd area fisheries):** Review the closed-to-fishing regulation on Moody Lake, 3-6 p.m., **Sept. 21**, upper conference room, DNR Brainerd Area Office, 1601 Minnesota Drive, Brainerd.
- **Itasca County (Grand Rapids area fisheries):** Review northern pike regulations on Sand, Little Sand, Portage and Birds Eye lakes and connected waters, 7-9 p.m. **Sept. 28**, Sand Lake Community Center, 53020 N. Center Road, Spring Lake.
- **Morrison and Todd counties (Little Falls area fisheries):** Review existing northern pike regulations on Big Swan, Cedar (Upsula) and Bass (Trophy) lakes, 6-8 p.m., **Sept. 11**, Burtrum City Hall, Burtrum.
- **St. Louis County (International Falls area fisheries):** Review of the existing bass and northern pike regulations on Pelican Lake, 7-9 p.m., **Oct. 17**, the American Legion, Orr.

Contact fisheries offices to comment about proposals. For phone numbers: mndnr.gov/areas/fisheries, or on page 94 of the 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 from 8-4:30 p.m. **Sept. 27**, at the DNR headquarters in St. Paul, 500 Lafayette Road.

Additionally, staff will be available to take comments on any proposal through **Oct. 9**. Comment by email to al.stevens@state.mn.us or by calling him at 651-259-5239. ✧

Kings are back

Continued from page 1

The growth rate of fish is a good indicator of their overall well-being and ability to find enough food, so this means that conditions are changing a lot from year to year.

Managers look at the weight of mature Age 3 female Chinook salmon returning to weirs and harbors as a standardized measure of salmon growth. In 2015, the average weight of an Age 3 female was 13.1 pounds. This increased to 19.0 pounds in 2016. That is a huge difference!

Such radical and rapid shifts in growth rate indicate instability in the ecosystem. In other words, food availability is changing a lot from one year to the next. Some of this is related to changes in the number of predators (especially the big fluctuations in wild Chinook salmon production), but fluctuations in the availability of alewife (the salmon's food source) are a bigger problem.

In short, small alewife are relatively abundant in some years and provide a lot of food for salmon. In other years, alewife do not produce as many young and salmon have trouble finding food. A big problem in recent years is that alewife do not often survive to spawn several times. Instead, nearly all alewife are eaten before they reach Age 5.

Not coincidentally, the last really good alewife year class we had was in 2012. The alewife from that 2012 year-class are now Age 5. If some of them are able to avoid all of the hungry mouths out in the big lake until next year then we may finally have some Age 6 alewife in Lake Michigan once again.

This would be a good sign for overall stability of predator-prey balance, but it is by no means guaranteed. Prior to 2000, alewife of Age 6, 7, and 8 were fairly common and in some years Age 9 alewife were also found. We are still a long way from that level of stability in older alewife. Judging by recent history, the boom times will not last long. Get out there and enjoy it while it lasts, and remember the good times next time we have a tough season. ✧

Becoming an Outdoors Woman

A few spots are still available for the Illinois "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" (BOW) workshop at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center/Giant City, IL State Park on **September 16-18**. The workshop fee is \$230, which includes meals, lodging, class instruction, use of class equipment/supplies, transportation during the workshop, and lots of fun. Participants must be 18 years or older. Log onto the DNR website for more info and registration: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/BOW/Pages/default.aspx>. ✧

Deer hunting, outdoor skills classes available for women

Women who want to learn outdoor skills with other women still have time to sign up for two upcoming events in Minnesota. One event is a three-day workshop with a variety of outdoor skills topics. In the other, women can learn how to hunt deer with firearms.

The three-day workshop is **September 29-October 1** at Deep Portage Learning Center in central Minnesota, and includes classes on shooting, archery, bow hunting and more. The workshop is designed for women ages 18 and up but girls ages 14 to 17 are welcome to attend with parents or guardians.

The deer hunting program includes educational sessions that lead up to a one-on-one mentored hunt during the weekend of October 14 at Itasca State Park. The session dates are **Saturdays Sept. 9, Sept. 23 and Oct. 7**, with a weekend hunt Oct. 13-14. Women will need access to a legal firearm in good working condition, a deer license and must possess firearm safety certification prior to the mentored hunt. Both offerings are through the DNR's [Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program](#). For more information [email Linda Bylander](#) or call her at 218-203-4347. ✧

"Fish of the Year" and Record Fish forms now accepted online

Anglers reeling in a large fish can now submit their Fish of The Year and Record Fish entries to the IN DNR online. A new online form allows anglers to fill out data quickly and email a photo and other documentation at wildlife.IN.gov/9453.htm. It allows anglers to enter right from the field from any internet connected device. Indiana tracks big fish two ways. The State Record Fish program documents the largest fish by species ever caught in Indiana. The Fish of the Year program documents the largest fish by species caught in a given year. Size for State Record fish are determined by weight and length, whereas Fish of the Year entries are judged only by length. For more info: wildlife.IN.gov/3577.htm. A form is still provided in the Fish Rules Guide. ✧

Feds ease border crossings at Minn's Northwest Angle

The Feds are rolling out a pilot program to make border crossing easier to the northernmost point of the lower 48 states, Minn.'s NW Angle. Reaching the far northern tip of Minnesota by land requires a trip through Canada, with a stop at an unstaffed U.S. Customs station that's little more than a phone booth. But anytime anglers and other vacationers set foot back in Canada, perhaps for a shore lunch on a Canadian island or to ice fish, they're required to check in with U.S. Customs again. That often means a round trip of up to 16 miles, sometimes over rough water or treacherous ice, even in the dark.

The new system, which got a soft launch at some NW Angle resorts, is designed to simplify formalities at other remote points on the border, too. Now visitors can simply use tablet computers loaded with a special app at participating resorts to answer a few questions and check in with a Customs agent via videoconference. ✧

Comments sought on DNR analysis of fish passage at dams

The Wisconsin DNR is asking the public to comment on its Strategic Analysis of Fish Passage at Dams.

While unimpeded fish movement in rivers was recognized as important well over 150 years ago, technology to pass fish around or through dams has been slow, with much trial-and-error. The topic of fish passage at dams involves many DNR programs and is increasingly complex.

This strategic analysis is an informational document for the public, the DNR and natural resource policy makers to better understand the topic and to aid in the crafting of future fish passage initiatives. It summarizes our best current information on fish passage, the known and possible environmental impacts, applicable regulations and potential policy approaches.

The strategic analysis and links to more information about fish passage at dams can be found by searching the website, dnr.wi.gov, for key words "[fish passage](#)."

Comments on this Strategic Analysis may be submitted through **October 16**, 2017, by email to DNRFISHPASSAGE@wisconsin.gov, or sent via US Mail to Jim Doperalski Jr., environmental analysis and review specialist, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313

NY Free Fishing Days Announced

Anglers can look forward to four new annual [Free Fishing Days](#) in New York State. The new dates are:

September 23, 2017 - National Hunting and Fishing Day

November 11, 2017 - Veterans Day

February 17-18, 2018 - weekend preceding Presidents Day

June 23-24, 2018 - last full weekend in June

The requirement for a fishing license is waived on these days, so it's the perfect time to introduce someone to the sport or invite friends or family from out of state. See [press release](#) for additional information. ✧

East Tawas Harbor adds 54 new slips

The Michigan DNR has added 54 new transient slips at the East Tawas State Harbor. This is the first phase of a complete harbor reconstruction. Enhancements include a greater variety of slip sizes, features that are compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, and improvements to the pump-out system. In addition, due to the new pier's proximity to shore, connection to the downtown area — which is popular with boaters — has been improved.

New electric pedestals are equipped with sensors that can detect stray electrical current leakage in the water from vessels, to help prevent electric shock drowning (ESD), which is the result of someone coming into contact with electrical currents in the water. If a boat is leaking current, the system is designed to trip the breaker, ultimately stopping the leak into the surrounding water. Boaters are encouraged to have their electrical systems routinely inspected and evaluated by an electrician familiar with boating electrical systems to avoid any potential issues. ✧

Second State Record Fish for 2017

The New York DEC announced Jason Bair of Macedon, County, reeled in a state record-breaking freshwater drum from Oneida Lake, Oneida County. Caught on June 16, and weighing in at 36 pounds, the new record drum surpassed the previous state record set in 2016 by more than 6 pounds.

Bair submitted details of his winning catch as part of DEC's Angler Achievement Awards Program, which tracks state record fish. Three categories make up the program: Catch & Release, Annual Award, and State Record.

For more information about the Angler Achievement Awards Program, including a downloadable application form: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/103327.htm). ✧

Applications open for \$8.6 million in Legacy grants

Groups that want to restore, protect or enhance public land can apply for Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grants that help pay for work on Minnesota prairies, forests, wetlands or other habitat for fish and wildlife. Nonprofits and government entities can submit applications for traditional and metro grant cycles until 4 p.m. **Tuesday, Sept. 12**, on the Minnesota DNR website at mndnr.gov/cpl.

Projects must be on public land or land permanently protected by conservation easements. Applicants may request up to \$400,000 with a total project cost not exceeding \$575,000. Projects also must have a 10 percent match from a source outside a state agency.

In its first eight years of funding, over \$44 million has been granted through the CPL program for habitat projects throughout Minnesota. Funding comes from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, which was created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008.

Three types of CPL grants

For fiscal year 2018, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recommended allocating \$4.5 million for the traditional grant cycle, \$2.6 million for the metro grant cycle (for projects located in the seven-county metro area or within the city limits of Duluth, St. Cloud and Rochester) and \$1.5 million for the Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP) grant cycle. The ECP cycle is open continuously through May 11, 2018, or until funds run out, with the first funding round due September 25.

More information about the three grant types can be found at mndnr.gov/cpl. Potential applicants are encouraged to review the request for proposal and the "how to apply" tab on the website, which guides users through the application process.

Questions? Jessica Lee, CPL grant program coordinator: jessica.lee@state.mn.us or 651-259-5233. ✧

Fishing Participation Up 1.5 million

RBFF and the Outdoor Foundation's just released 2017 Special Report on fishing follows up the good news shared through the [USFWS and the Outdoor Foundation](#) with even more positive figures and trends. Most significantly, the report shows fishing participation has increased by 1.5 million over the previous year. Additionally, several exciting trends and participation increases among key segments are highlighted in the report.

Fishing is still the number two adult outdoor activity, but it's gaining ground on jogging. 2.5 million participants tried fishing for the very first time. New participants accounted for 5.3% of the total participant base and tended to be young and female. 3.8 million Hispanics participated in fishing (an 11% increase). Hispanic anglers go on 6 more outings per year than their general market peers. Youth participation increased 3% to 11 million total participants

Americans took 855 billion total fishing trips, equating to 18.8 trips per participant. "These findings energize us and provide some validation for the work we are doing on a daily basis," said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. "Our efforts to recruit new audiences and bring families to the water are certainly paying off. 60 in 60 is off to a great start, and effective R3 (recruitment, retention and reactivation) programs will only grow the participant base and secure funding for conservation programs for years to come."

The Special Report on Fishing is the product of a partnership between RBFF and the Outdoor Foundation and looks into participation trends, barriers to entry, motivating factors and preferences of key groups of anglers.

Read the full report: [RBFF Resource Center](#). ✧

Coast Guard Safety alert

Know your high seas communications equipment and how to use them

You just might save your own life when in trouble offshore!

Recent inquiries by Coast Guard Inspectors indicate that a large number of vessel operators and ship masters continue to rely on outdated communications frequencies when communicating with the States Coast Guard. This Safety Alert reminds all mariners of the appropriate use of Single Side Band High Frequency radios when attempting to contact the Coast Guard outside the normal range of VHF-FM marine radios. It is important to note the Coast Guard discontinued monitoring the SSB-HF frequency of 2182 kHz over four years ago; but many mariners continue to attempt to contact the

Coast Guard using this frequency. Also, many mariners attempt to contact the Coast Guard using EPIRBs, cell phones, and even NOAA weather electronics. These devices have their own limitations and specific capabilities.

SSB-HF communications offer a greater transmission range when other options are not available. SSB-HF radios equipped with digital selective calling (DSC) are capable of triggering an alert at Coast Guard Communications Command and are an especially reliable means for initiating communications with the Coast Guard during distress

situations.

The Coast Guard keeps watch on the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) SSB-HF frequencies 4125, 6215, 8291 and 12,290 kHz in place of the old international radio-telephone distress frequency 2182 kHz. More detailed information on the SSB-HF and HF DSC frequencies on which the Coast Guard keeps watch for distress and safety purposes are listed here: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=cgcommsCall>. Questions or comments: COM-DG-M-CWOWatchstanders@uscg.mil. ✧

BOW outings set for backpacking and steelhead fishing Oct 27-29

The Michigan DNR Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) Program is offering separate Beyond BOW backpacking and steelhead fishing workshops for women.

Both workshop events are scheduled for **October 27-29**. The backpacking outing will be at Craig Lake State Park in Baraga County and the steelhead clinic will be held at the famed Two-Hearted River in northern Luce County.

Registration deadline is **Oct. 1**. Information and registration materials are available online at www.michigan.gov/bow. Both workshops are rain or shine events.

Backpacking

The backpacking trip is open to 12 participants. Craig Lake State Park is the most remote of Michigan's state parks and accessing it can be an adventure. The park contains six lakes and a variety of wildlife, such as white-tailed deer, black bear, beaver, common loons and moose.

Participants will hike about two miles, with full backpacks, to a wonderful 14-bed rustic cabin. The cabin is heated with a stone fireplace, and also has a woodstove with a cook

top. This is a base-camping trip, which means participants will backpack to the rustic cabin, staying in the same location both nights.

This is will be a beginner workshop, no experience necessary.

The trip will start with a gear check/trip orientation at Van Riper State Park in Champion at 2 p.m. Oct. 27. From there, participants will drive to the trailhead and head out backpacking. The road to the trailhead can be pretty rough.

"We hope to be in camp with plenty of time for dinner and an evening of relaxation," said Sharon Pitz, DNR BOW coordinator. "Saturday will provide a variety of options such as a day hike, of up to 8 miles, fishing and more relaxation." Cost for this event is \$135.

Steelhead fishing

The Two Hearted River steelhead fishing workshop includes overnight accommodations at the Tahquamenon Falls State Park lodge. This event is open to eight participants.

"This Beyond BOW fishing event is designed to introduce or further enhance your steelhead fishing skills in a wild, remote river setting,"

said Michelle Zellar, assistant BOW program coordinator. "Beginners are welcome, but some sort of prior basic fishing experience is preferred. There are new skills to be learned, great fun to be had, all amongst the beautiful outdoors of Michigan's U.P." Class will start promptly at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27 in the Tahquamenon Falls State Park conference room located directly across M-123 from the lodge.

"We will cover history, identification, equipment set-up, regulations, casting practice and first-hand experience fishing for steelhead on the Two Hearted River with our passionate and experienced instructors," Zellar said. Saturday will be spent fishing along the river with lunch cooked over an open fire at the Two Hearted State Forest Campground. S'mores included.

Participants must be 18 or older; and responsible for a Recreation Passport, and fishing license. Cost for this workshop is \$110.

For more info; Michelle Zellar: 906-293-5131 ext. 4004, zellarm@michigan.gov or Sharon Pitz: 906-228-6561, pitzs@michigan.gov. ✧

DEC confirms first infestation of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

A minor infestation of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) was confirmed on Forest Preserve lands in the town of Lake George on July 18. This is the first known infestation of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) in the Adirondacks.

A small cluster of early stage HWA was detected on one branch of an old-growth Eastern hemlock tree on Prospect Mountain during a field trip by a Senior Ecologist from the Harvard Research Forest.

DEC immediately dispatched a HWA survey crew to the site and was joined by staff from Cornell U.'s New York State Hemlock Initiative. HWA was located and confirmed on a number of branches on the tree by a Cornell scientist and later by DEC's DEC Diagnostic Lab. The mature tree had no visible sign of crown thinning. The crews spent 72 man hours surveying 250 acres of forest and found only one other tree, a small Eastern hemlock near the original infested tree, that contained one branch with early stage HWA.

This is the first recorded infestation of this invasive, exotic pest in the Adirondacks. Previously, it has been detected in 29 other counties in New York, primarily in the lower Hudson Valley and, more recently, in the Finger Lakes region. Seventeen other states along the Appalachian Mountain range from Maine to Georgia also have HWA infestations. HWA is a listed prohibited species under DEC's invasive species regulations.

The most effective treatment method is the use of insecticides. The insecticide is applied to the bark near the base of the tree and is absorbed through the tissue of the tree. When HWA attaches itself to tree to feed, it receives a dose of the pesticide and is killed.

In the past three years DEC has treated infested hemlock trees with insecticides at a few select locations where the control is likely to slow the spread of HWA, or where the hemlocks provide a significant public value. New York State Office

of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation has treated many hemlocks trees at a number of State Parks. Both chemical and biological control options are important in the long-term fight against HWA.

Dispersal and movement of HWA occur primarily during the first life stage ("crawler") as a result of wind and animals that come in contact with the sticky egg sacks and crawlers. Isolated infestations and long-distance movement of HWA, often occur as the result of people transporting infested nursery stock.

HWA, a tiny insect from East Asia first discovered in New York in 1985, attacks forest and ornamental hemlock trees. It feeds on young twigs, causing needles to dry out and drop prematurely and causing branch dieback. Hemlock decline and mortality typically occur within four to 10 years of infestation.

Damage from the insect has led to widespread hemlock mortality throughout the Appalachian Mountains and the southern Catskills with considerable ecological damage, as well as economic and aesthetic losses. HWA infestations can be most noticeably detected by the small, white, woolly masses produced by the insects that are attached to the underside of the twig, near the base of the needles.

Survey efforts will continue to determine if other infestations are present in the surrounding area. As the closest known infestation of HWA is 40 miles away in Schenectady County, DEC is asking hikers, campers, boaters, and sportsmen, recreating on or along forestlands in northern Schenectady, Saratoga, and southern Warren counties to check Hemlock trees and report any HWA infestations.

New York is particularly vulnerable to invasive species due to its rich biodiversity and role as a center for international trade and travel. Rapid response and control is a critical line of defense in minimalizing the establishment, and ultimately permanently removing, an

invasive population. To support this effort, under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the FY 2017 Budget included an additional \$5.5 million in the Environmental Protection Fund targeted specifically for invasive species control.

More information on [HWA](#), and reporting possible infestations, can be found at [Cornell's New York State Hemlock Initiative](#) or DEC's website. Also call DEC's toll-free Forest Pest Information Line at 1-866-640-0652 to ask questions and report possible infestations. ✧

Military moves from Full Metal Jacket to Hollowpoint Rounds

The announcement for the shift was made at the U.S. Army's Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, where military lawyers said the United States never signed the Hague Convention more than a century ago, and therefore are not technically prohibited from using hollowpoint ammo. The major push for switching ammo came out of growing concern for innocent bystanders. In the urban combat today's troops increasingly find themselves in, over-penetration is not an option.

FMJ's, which largely maintain their shape at the point of impact and excel at energy transfer, can potentially pass through their intended target and strike another, unintended target. JHP's, on the other hand, quickly expand at the point of impact, causing a more significant wound channel while decreasing the chance of over-penetration.

The military still plans to use FMJ's for training purposes, but when it comes to combat, all troops will soon be equipped with JHP's. That being said, the caliber of choice has yet to be determined, though many experts believe that based on FBI data, the 9MM is a solid contender. ✧

DNR stocks lake sturgeon in Tittabawassee River for first time

The Michigan DNR announced that 193 lake sturgeon were stocked in the Tittabawassee River (Midland County) August 21, at the Gordonville Road launch ramp southeast of Midland.

The DNR's [Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Strategy](#) identified the Saginaw River watershed, including the Tittabawassee River, as a system whose lake sturgeon population is in dire need of improvement. This stocking event was the first reintroduction of this species in the Saginaw River watershed and is the culmination of much work aimed to rehabilitate this iconic species in waters where they once flourished.

The Tittabawassee River stands to be a beneficiary of the efforts to rehabilitate another lake sturgeon population, that of Black Lake in Cheboygan County. To support the

Black Lake population, the DNR, Michigan State University, the Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon For Tomorrow and Tower Kleber Limited Partnership have committed to many years of research, habitat restoration, protection of spawning adults and construction and operation of a sturgeon hatchery on the banks of the Black River.

“Through the research efforts in Black Lake, the Black River and in the hatchery itself, we’ve learned that our stocked fish are surviving at a greater rate than we anticipated,” said Randy Claramunt, the DNR’s Lake Huron Basin coordinator. “Their survival rate was so high we decided we actually needed to reduce stocking rates for Black, Burt and Mullett lakes. With those reductions we could shift rearing space for fish that could end up in

other parts of Michigan.”

The Saginaw River system was chosen for those fish in part because the genetics of the Black Lake sturgeon are similar to those seen in sturgeon in much of Lake Huron.

“It is exciting to see the sturgeon restoration effort spread to other waters,” said Brenda Archambo, president of the Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon For Tomorrow. “It has long been our goal to bring this wonderful fish back to all the waters they once inhabited.”

Lake sturgeon are a slow growing, late maturing fish that can live more than 100 years. The fish stocked in the Tittabawassee River likely will not return to spawn until 2040 at the earliest.

For more information on lake sturgeon: michigan.gov/sturgeon. ✧

Other News of interest:

Illinois

[IDNR Announces 2017-18 Waterfowl Hunting Season Dates](#)

Indiana

[Bowhunters asked to help count wildlife](#)

[2017 migratory bird and waterfowl seasons approved](#)

Michigan

[DNR wants to hear your ideas on state forest planning for Dickinson and Iron counties](#)

[DNR seeks public input on Holly State Recreation Area's general management plan](#)

[DNR expands customer service at Escanaba office in Delta County](#)

[DNR wants to hear your ideas on state forest planning for Chippewa and Mackinac counties](#)

[DNR wants to hear your ideas on state forest planning for Roscommon and Ogemaw counties](#)

Minnesota

[Caribou Falls State Wayside on North Shore to be temporarily closed for improvements](#)

[Public Input sought on proposed late season deer hunt and regulations](#)

[DNR closes access to Minnesota River in Jordan citing safety concerns](#)

New York

[DEC completion of \\$150,000 in Improvements at North/South Lake Campground in Greene County](#)

[DEC announces Partnership to Create Beaver Lake Fish Passage](#)

Ohio

[Rule Changes Proposed to Ohio Wildlife Council](#)

Ontario

[Ontario Continuing Fight Against Invasive Species](#)

Pennsylvania

[Special Fishing Opportunities Offered On Labor Day](#)
[Four New Commissioners to Join Fish and Boat Board](#)
[2017-18 Seasons & Bag Limits](#)
[2017-18 Hunting & Trapping Digest](#)
[Antlerless Deer Licenses & Applications](#)

Wisconsin

[Sept. 1 marks opener for dove, early teal and early goose hunting seasons](#)
[Lake Trout season closure in Apostle Islands region](#)
[Deer hunters with disabilities encouraged to sign up for a sponsored hunt before Sept. 1 deadline](#)
[Bonus antlerless deer tags available for purchase](#)
[Sept. 16 marks opening of archery and crossbow deer hunting seasons](#)
[Online tools show hunters where baiting and feeding is banned](#)

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[*Ecosystem is dealing with the record-high St. Lawrence River flows*](#)

Months of rain have had undeniable impact on water levels of the St. Lawrence River this year, but scientists and regulators say fish populations have not been affected, and the water levels will eventually moderate to allow sport fishermen back onto the river

[*Algal blooms have cost Ohioans \\$152 million in property value, say researchers*](#)

Ohio State University researchers estimate algal blooms on two Ohio inland lakes cost Ohio homeowners \$152 million in lost property value over six years. Researchers also provided more evidence of how algae is driving anglers away from Lake Erie and Ohio's \$1.7

[*Keeping carp out of the Great Lakes: Who pays?*](#)

The preferred option of the Corps of Engineers' report to stop Asian carp in Illinois needs \$179 million from the treasury, and federal law requires a non-federal source for the remaining \$96 million. That remaining balance is likely the responsibility of Illinois or all of

[*Manitowoc Republicans to discuss proposed Lake Michigan marine sanctuary*](#)

In Wisconsin, Manitowoc County will host a public forum on a proposed Lake Michigan marine sanctuary that would cover between 1,075 and 1,260 square miles off the east-central Wisconsin shoreline and is aimed at protecting underwater resources and nearly 40

[*EDITORIAL: Corps' report a good starting point for Great Lakes*](#)

The Army Corps of Engineers' recommendation for keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes is not as aggressive as many had hoped. But it is a much-needed start to the discussion on protecting the lakes' valuable fisheries.

[*IJC blasted for reducing Lake Ontario outflow*](#)

State and local leaders are again blasting the groups charged with regulating Lake Ontario's water levels. The International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board reduced outflows Tuesday morning with the intent to produce better boating conditions along the St.

[*Anglers want more done to stop Asian carp*](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has estimated even with the barriers at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, Asian carp would have a 10 percent to 17 percent probability of reaching the Great Lakes, and some anglers say that's not good enough

[*U.S. EPA praises Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, 3 months after trying to eliminate program*](#)

The USEPA is lauding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, saying it protects public health in the region "more than any other coordinated interagency effort in U.S. history," less than three months after its budget tried to zero out the \$300 million annual

[*Lake Ontario is 12 inches lower since late May, record water releases continue*](#)

The International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board will maintain outflows to the St. Lawrence River at record levels in continuing efforts to relieve Lake Ontario shoreline interests

[*Water jets, 'complex noise' could deter Asian carp, says Army Corps*](#)

Asian carp could be deterred from advancing upstream by a mixture of noise, water jets and another electric barrier, according to a draft plan to stop the invasive fish from reaching the Great Lakes by strengthening a choke point in the Chicago waterway system.

[*Out-musseling the mussels: Researcher hopeful of new tactic against invasive species*](#)

Genetic engineering may eventually be used to combat invasive zebra mussels, according to a University of Minnesota researcher

[*U.S. Coast Guard: Boaters beware of submerged objects on Lake Ontario*](#)

The U.S. Coast Guard is reminding you about boating safety especially with the water levels on Lake Ontario still being very high

[Gov. Kasich signs bill to protect Lake Erie](#)

On Tuesday, Ohio Governor John Kasich will sign a bill to protect the health of Lake Erie by encouraging better use of dredged materials and ensuring proper disposal of construction debris

[How much would Hurricane Harvey rain raise the Great Lakes?](#)

Hurricane Harvey has produced historic rainfall amounts in southeast Texas. If we took all that rain and dumped it in the Great Lakes, it would raise the world's largest freshwater source significantly.

[Harmful algal blooms continue to plague Lake Erie, threaten drinking water, fish, pets](#)

Three years after Toledo lost their water supply, scientists are taking action to stay a step ahead of the harmful blooms, monitoring the algae and bacteria from outer space, from land, and in the water, with a new arsenal of high-tech tools and research projects.

[Should a portion of Lake Michigan become a federal sanctuary? Depends who you ask](#)

In Manitowoc, Wis, lakeshore residents discussed the potential of creating a 1,000 square-mile sanctuary in Lake Michigan at a meeting. The meeting attracted both those who support and oppose the proposal, as well as residents who came to hear both sides and

[Thousands of carp culled; battle continues in Ottawa to keep Asian carp out of Great Lakes](#)

To reduce invasive carp populations in the Illinois and Fox Rivers, a team from the USFWS spent several days last week in Ottawa, Illinois, scooping up thousands of carp as part of an effort to keep them from reaching Lake Michigan

End