



## DNR seeks public input on Lake Michigan management plan and future stocking efforts

The Michigan DNR will host three public meetings this month along the Lake Michigan coast – **November 28** in Manistique, **November 29** in Traverse City and **November 30** in Grand Haven – to hear from the public on two issues that will affect the lake: a draft management plan and future stocking activities.

### Draft Lake Michigan management plan

This draft plan sets long-term vision and goals for the Lake Michigan fishery. It also outlines the process for ensuring the public is involved and is aligned with shorter-term strategies and tactics. The draft plan was developed through engagement with focus groups, advisory committees and DNR staff. A copy of the draft plan is available for public feedback and can be found online at <https://mdnrlmfmp.wordpress.com/>.

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### Stocking options

The DNR, together with other state natural resource agencies and tribal fishery managers, is working to balance predators in Lake Michigan with available prey. Last year, Chinook salmon stocking in Michigan waters was reduced by 41% as part of that effort. Throughout 2017, stakeholders provided the DNR with considerable feedback to consider reducing other predators (rather than just Chinook salmon) to seek a predator and prey balance.

Future stocking options now are available here: [DNR's salmon website](#) for public feedback. These options propose reductions and movement of brown trout, movement of some coho salmon to southern Lake Michigan, and reductions in second-priority lake trout stocking sites in northern Lake Michigan. These options follow a new concept that emerged from focus group discussions while developing the

draft Lake Michigan management plan.

"Collecting public input is a critical part in effectively managing Michigan's world-class fisheries," said Jay Wesley, DNR Lake Michigan Basin coordinator. "The conversations we hope to have at this month's meetings will help us all re-think how we do some new things on Lake Michigan, yet still meet the needs of anglers and the resource." For more info: Jay Wesley, 269-685-6851, ext. 117, [wesleyj@michigan.gov](mailto:wesleyj@michigan.gov).

### Public meeting dates, locations

All meetings are from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

- Nov. 28 – Manistique, Comfort Inn Conference Room, 617 E. Lake Shore Drive
- Nov. 29 – Traverse City, Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road
- Nov. 30 – Grand Haven, Loutit District Library, 407 Columbus Ave. ✧

## \$150,000 improvements to Salmon River Fish Hatchery

New York DEC announced the completion of \$150,000 in improvements to the Salmon River Fish Hatchery in Altmar. The improvements represent the first phase of renovations planned for the hatchery in the coming year.

The improvements include new live fish displays, revitalized public areas, signage, and interpretive displays in the visitor center. In 2018, DEC will embark on an ambitious plan to renovate and modernize the 37-year-old hatchery. Each year, tens of thousands of people, anglers and non-anglers alike, visit DEC's flagship hatchery to learn about the

State's Great Lakes Fisheries resources and witness firsthand the fish culture work that supports these premier fisheries.

The Salmon River Fish Hatchery specializes in raising steelhead, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and brown trout. Originally constructed to revive and enhance the fishery of the Great Lakes, this facility produces more than 2 million fingerlings (young fish 3-5 inches long) and 1 million yearlings (fish one-year-old or over) for stockings in Lake Ontario.

### Improvements to Salmon River FH

*Continued on page 7*

## Sec. Zinke announces creation of Recreation Advisory Committee

**Goal of expanding access to and improving infrastructure on public lands and waterways**

On November 7, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the establishment of the "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee will advise the Secretary of the Interior on public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving infrastructure on public lands and waterways.

"The spirit of American innovation and ingenuity is what built our country, and the Interior Department wants that same spirit and energy to resonate within the realm of outdoor recreation on our public lands," said Secretary Zinke. "By forming this committee, I look forward to hearing from the best and the brightest in our private sector on how to improve the public experience on our federal lands and waters by expanding access for all Americans. We already have thousands of private partners who operate on federal lands. Whether it's the iconic Jammers in Glacier National Park, the historic El Tovar lodge at the Grand Canyon, or the kayaks that you can rent on the Potomac River, American workers are at the heart of helping American families experience our great outdoors."

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation generates \$887 billion in economic impact and supports 7.6 million jobs across the country. The creation of the Recreation Advisory Committee and May's appointment — combined with numerous other meetings, declarations and events — are important steps in harnessing the might of the outdoor recreation economy, and shows the Department's commitment to supporting its continued growth.

"We used to have a Bureau of Recreation — we're bringing recreation back," Secretary Zinke said. "So, I've hired a former Navy SEAL captain to evaluate our public

opportunities, so the American public can enjoy our lands."

The members of the Committee will be selected for their diverse backgrounds and their experiences with the recreational industry. Prospective members will have knowledge utilizing public-private partnerships, providing recreational visitor experiences, developing and deploying infrastructure improvements, or a thorough understanding of recreational equipment.

The duties of the Committee are strictly advisory and will consist of, but not be limited to, providing recommendations including:

Policies and programs that:

- Expand and improve visitor infrastructure developed through public-private partnerships;
- Implement sustainable operations embracing fair, efficient and convenient fee collection and strategic use of the collected fees;
- Improve interpretation using technology;
- Create better tools and/or opportunities for Americans to discover their lands and waters.

Submit comments and/or nominations by any of the following methods:

- Mail or hand-carry nominations to Teri Austin, Assoc. Dir. for Business Services, NPS, Office of Business Services, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 2717, Washington, DC 20240; or
- email nominations to: [teresa.austin@nps.gov](mailto:teresa.austin@nps.gov)

The Committee will meet approximately two times annually at such time as designated by the Designated Federal Officer. The Committee will terminate two years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Read the full Department of the Interior press release [here](#). ♦



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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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## Sea Grant releases comprehensive report on Asian Carp

The [Great Lakes Sea Grant Network](#) has released a comprehensive and coordinated outreach and education report on Asian carp in the region. The document includes information on carp life history, movement and behavior, monitoring, control, ecosystem impacts and gaps in knowledge that need to be addressed.

“These invasive fish have the potential to devastate the Great Lakes’ ecosystem,” said Tory Gabriel, [Ohio Sea Grant](#) fisheries educator and Extension program leader. “The report informs Great Lakes stakeholders about the danger posed by four species of Asian carps, and what is being done to keep these fish from invading the system.”

The report includes listings of already prepared education and outreach materials from the Mississippi and Great Lakes basins that managers and other groups can use to educate stakeholders on the invasive fish. A survey of state and federal agency experts summarizes current research on Asian carp, and identifies information still needed to most effectively control their spread. Additionally, a list of state speakers

allows local interest groups to reach out to experts near them to educate members directly.

“This comprehensive report gives us three pieces of valuable information, which support our fight against Asian carps as a threat to Great Lakes” said Debbie Lee, director of NOAA’s [Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory](#) in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and that agency’s lead member of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee. “It provides a clear picture of the overall potential impact of an Asian carp invasion of the lakes, it identifies specific gaps in our understanding of that impact, and lastly, it contains a large inventory of education materials that scientists and educators can use to communicate the Asian carp threat to the general public.”

The plan’s development was funded by the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#) (GLRI) through the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee. The final report can be downloaded at [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/p/eun00](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/p/eun00).

The fish known for jumping out of the water and possibly injuring

boaters is silver carp, which was brought to the United States for aquaculture as were bighead carp, grass carp and black carp. The species most commonly of concern in the Great Lakes are silver carp and bighead carp, which are moving up the Illinois River towards the Chicago Area Waterways System that connects the river with the Great Lakes.

The primary concern over Asian carp in the Great Lakes is their impact on an already stressed food web. Silver bighead carp compete with small forage fish and young sport fish for food and could negatively impact the lakes’ fishing industry. Grass carp eat the vegetation that provides prime wetland habitat and black carp feed on mollusks like native mussels, many of which are endangered. At the same time, Asian carp have few natural predators because they quickly outgrow native predator species, often within just a year. In parts of the Illinois River, silver carp and bighead carp make up more than 90% of the fish biomass, essentially outcompeting all native species for food and habitat. ✧

## U. of Illinois serving Asian carp in dining halls

The University dining hall staff is working to promote sustainability by collaborating with the Sustainable Student Farm and fishing companies around the Champaign-Urbana area.

Dawn Aubrey, director of University Housing for Dining Services, said she views sustainability as having three aspects: people, planet and profit. However, according to Aubrey, profit should be viewed as financial sustainability. “We could come up with something that’s absolutely stupendous, but if it’s something that’s financially burdensome, we haven’t helped you.”

Aubrey said that about two years ago, the University started serving Asian carp to help the ecosystem. The Asian carp is an invasive species that reproduce fairly quickly and do not

have any predators, so if they exist in an ecosystem, they will take over quickly.

Allen Hall showcased the Asian carp to promote sustainability in the dining halls, specifically in fishing. “It’s about eating them to a point where we can reduce the size of the population,” Aubrey said.

“(In) over half the United States you have this fish picking up a lot of the food chain,” said fisherman Clint Harvey. Harvey said Asian carp are not only invasive, but dangerous, too. “They jump out of the water. So these fish that can get up to 15 pounds can jump into boats unexpectedly.”

To Aubrey, being sustainable means to not have a negative impact on the environment. The dining halls practice sustainability in many other

ways as well. Nine years ago, University Dining helped bring about the Sustainable Student Farm. Her team likes the food served in the dining halls to be grown and produced locally, aided by the student farm. The pizza sauce served at the dining hall is produced on campus.

Another way the dining halls practice sustainability is through recycling and repurposing. “We’re the only department on campus that recycles glass,” she said. “We actually have encouraged other departments to bring us their glass. We’re happy to recycle it.”

Coffee grounds are also recycled, and the dining halls are always looking for ways to repurpose, Aubrey said. ✧

## DEC Summer Camp registrations open **January 24, 2018**

Registration for New York State DEC agency 2018 Summer Camps program will open January 24, 2018, at 10:00 AM. Applications should be submitted through the online registration program available through a link from the [Summer Camps](#) website. Parents and guardians are encouraged to register early since some of the weeks fill up quickly.

Now in its 71st year, the Summer Camps program offers week-long adventures in conservation education for children ages 11-17. DEC operates four residential camps for children: Camp Colby in Saranac Lake (Franklin County); Camp DeBruce in Livingston Manor (Sullivan County); Camp Rushford in Caneadea (Allegany County), and Pack Forest in Warrensburg (Warren County).

New this year, camps Colby and DeBruce will offer two weeks of programming for children aged 14-17 as "returnee weeks" and offer programming for ages 11-13 the rest of the summer. Camp Pack Forest will continue to host children aged 14-17 for six weeks and ages 11-13 for two weeks. Camp Rushford will continue to offer two weeks of programming for children aged 14-17 and five weeks of programming for ages 11-13. The complete schedule of camp weeks and ages is available on the Summer Camps website.

Campers will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of outdoor adventures and are encouraged to try new things. Activities may include fishing, bird watching, fly-tying, archery, canoeing, hiking, camping, orienteering, and hunter safety education. One hunter education program for gun, bow, or trapping is offered at each camp each week. Class size is limited for hunter education programs and campers must sign up for it during registration and complete the homework in advance.

Along with adventure experiences, DEC campers engage in fun, hands-on activities, and outdoor

exploration focused on field, forest, stream, and pond ecological principles. Campers might collect insects in a field, use nets in a stream, investigate soil composition, measure tree sizes, or practice taking field notes, and writing in journals. Trips to nearby state lands might include kettle bogs, state parks, fish hatcheries, or nature museums.

Also new this year, Camp Pack Forest will offer "Outdoor Adventure Week 2.0" during Week 5 (July 22-27). DEC encourages teens ages 14 to 17 who love being outdoors to sign up for this redesign of the Outdoor Adventure Week that will help deepen their enjoyment and widen their horizons while exploring environmental careers at Camp Pack Forest. During this week, campers will develop hands-on outdoor skills that go above and beyond the traditional camp week. Alongside canoeing, fishing, and games campers will engage in forestry, citizen science, conservation science, and more. Guest DEC, higher education, and natural resource professionals will provide opportunities to consider career paths.

All four camps will operate for seven one-week sessions (Sunday to Friday) beginning June 24, 2018; Pack Forest operates for eight weeks. Drop-off time is 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, and the closing ceremony and pick-up time is Friday at 4:30 p.m. One week of camp remains \$350 per child for the 2018 year, and includes meals, trips, and a camp T-shirt.

In addition to inviting parents to register their children to participate in the DEC environmental education Summer Camps program, sporting clubs, civic groups, and environmental organizations are encouraged to sponsor one or more children for a week at camp. Groups that deposit funds to sponsor six (6) paid campers in one transaction will receive a scholarship to send a seventh child to camp for free. The seventh camper will use a sponsorship code generated by the Albany Camps administrative. Information about

becoming a [sponsor and managing sponsor accounts](#) is available on DEC's website.

For more info: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov), call 518-402-8014, or write to DEC Camps, 3rd Floor, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-5256. ✧



## DNR snowshoe-building workshop, Tahquamenon Falls State Park **Dec. 16**

The Michigan DNR will offer a snowshoe-building workshop at [Tahquamenon Falls State Park](#) **December 16**, 9:30 - 5 pm. This all-day workshop, for ages 16 and older, will take participants through the process of weaving their own traditional wood-framed snowshoes. Cost is \$180, includes one pair of wood frames, tubular nylon lacing, boot bindings and personalized instruction.

Participants can choose from three styles of snowshoe: Bearpaw, Ojibwa and Alaskan (examples of these styles are available at [www.snowshoe.com](http://www.snowshoe.com)).

The class will meet at the Upper Falls Tahquamenon Brewery and Restaurant, located inside the park at 24109 Falls Rd in Newberry.

[Sign up on the Michigan e-store](#) by **November 27**. Cancellations must be made by December 2 to ensure a full refund. Participation is limited to 12. For more information, and to select a snowshoe style and size, contact Theresa Neal: 906-492-3415, [nealt1@michigan.gov](mailto:nealt1@michigan.gov).

A [Recreation Passport](#) is required for entry into Tahquamenon Falls State Park and can be purchased at the park entrance.

For more info: [michigan.gov/outdoorskills](http://michigan.gov/outdoorskills). ✧



## Join a new Great Lakes collaborative to help stop invasive crayfish

Much needed attention has been directed at some particularly problematic aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes, such as Asian carps and zebra and quagga mussels. But others invaders, like crayfish, can also take their toll on the lakes.

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) is creating a new collaborative that will bring together a variety of experts and stakeholders to address the threat of invasive crayfish. The project is in its beginning stages and membership is open.



Rusty crayfish, native to the Ohio River basin, are already in all Great Lakes states. These invaders can dramatically alter food webs in aquatic environments, first reducing populations of slow moving invertebrates, like snails, and then, when that food source is gone, turning to plants. The crayfish's consumption of aquatic vegetation can lead to a total loss of rooted plants in the water, which, in turn, can contribute to changes in fish populations.

Other non-native crayfish species also pose a threat to the region, including the red swamp crayfish—listed as one of the 100 worst invasive species in the world—the Australian red claw, and another Australian species, yabby crayfish, which have the ominous scientific name of *Cherax destructor*.

“Techniques for managing invasive crayfish are largely lacking. Because of this, current efforts to prevent their introduction and spread are mostly aimed at anglers and pet owners—encouraging them to refrain from releasing crayfish into new bodies of water,” said Pat Charlebois, IISG aquatic invasive outreach coordinator.

“Funding for research on invasive crayfish management is also limited, so we hope to identify priority invasive crayfish research needs,” she added. U.S. EPA has funded IISG through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to establish the new collaborative for the Great Lakes region.

The Invasive Crayfish Collaborative (ICC) will bring together experts and other stakeholders from government agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, and private businesses

as well as landowners to combine resources and expertise to address priority invasive crayfish research and outreach needs.

“We know that preventing the arrival of new invasive species, and controlling the spread and impacts of those already here, requires everything from basic research to policy and outreach,” said Reuben Keller of the Institute of Environmental Sustainability at Loyola University Chicago, who is funded through this project to identify species of concern for the Great Lakes. “This collaborative will bring together experts and stakeholders so that the risk of invasive crayfish in the Great Lakes can be better understood and managed, and we encourage all stakeholders to get involved.”

The work of the collaborative will include prioritizing research and outreach needs, identifying crayfish of particular concern, developing a framework for evaluating management techniques, and creating communication tools for ICC members, including a website.

If you are interested in becoming an ICC member, contact Lisa Kim at [lhkim1@illinois.edu](mailto:lhkim1@illinois.edu). For more information, contact Pat Charlebois at [charlebo@illinois.edu](mailto:charlebo@illinois.edu) ♦

## Public meetings set for Northern Lake Michigan master plan

STURGEON BAY, Wis. – The public will have an opportunity at two upcoming open houses to learn more about the department's regional master planning process for properties located in the [Northern Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape](#). The region includes properties in four counties — Door, Oconto, Marinette and Shawano.

A master plan, guided by Chapter NR 44, Wisconsin Administrative Code, establishes the level and type of resource management and public use permitted on department-managed properties. Under the regional planning process, department staff will develop a plan for all properties

located within a defined region. The regions are based on 16 previously defined [ecological landscapes in Wisconsin](#).

People can learn more about the Northern Lake Michigan Coastal regional master planning process by searching the DNR website, [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) for keywords “[master planning](#)” and select “[Northern Lake Michigan Coastal Region](#).” Two public meetings will be held in November for the public to learn more about the planning process.

Both meetings run from 5 to 7 p.m. and will be held:

• **Tuesday, Nov. 14, Sturgeon Bay:** Stone Harbor Resort and Conference

Center, 107 North First Ave.

• **Wednesday, Nov 15, Crivitz:** Community Center, 901 Henriette Ave.

" In addition to the meetings, people may submit comments to the DNR by mail or email or through a questionnaire that will be available November 14 to fill out online through the [Northern Lake Michigan Coastal region planning](#) page of the DNR website.

The comment period for the first phase of planning is open through **November 28, 2017**. For more info, contact Ann Freiwald: 608-266-2130, [ann.freiwald@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ann.freiwald@wisconsin.gov). ♦

## Nearly half-century-old fish caught and released in fish surveys on Lake Superior

BAYFIELD, Wis. — State fish biologists conducting spawning surveys on Lake Superior hauled in a lake trout earlier this month that hatched when Richard Nixon was president.

The fish was originally caught and released during Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' spawning assessments for lake trout in 1981. It was caught and released again November 2 in the same fish refuge, the Gull Island Shoal of Lake Superior.

"We often think of a fish's life span being relatively short, maybe 10 years," says Terry Margenau, DNR fisheries supervisor. "But lake trout are slow growing and have a longevity that will rival that of the ancient sturgeon." This fish is a prime example of that longevity and the important role fish refuges play in sustaining populations of these native fish."

No fishing of any type is allowed in two fish refuges in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior. The Gull Island Refuge was established in 1976 and the Devils Island Refuge in 1981.

"Creating these protected areas was the primary driver of the recovery of lake trout following their depletion from sea lamprey invasion and overharvest", says Brad Ray, senior fisheries biologist for DNR in Bayfield.

To help assess the condition of lake trout on Lake Superior, DNR has been conducting spawning lake trout assessments since 1951. Part of the assessment includes tagging the fish caught and releasing them so biologists can monitor their growth and movement in future years. The fish caught November 2 had first been tagged in 1981 when it was 27.3 inches during a DNR spawning assessment on Gull Island Shoal of Lake Superior. The same fish was handled again in 2017 during the same spawning assessment and measured 35.5 inches, Ray says.

"This lake trout grew about 8 inches over 36 years or less than a quarter inch per year," he says. "So very slow growing. Its age is also interesting.

"Considering this fish was likely 10-12 years old when it was tagged in

1981, this fall it would have been at least 46 years old." Doing the math, the lake trout hatched from an egg in the early 1970s, when Richard Nixon was president, the Vietnam War was ongoing, and John Lennon wrote his hit song "Imagine."

The same fish would be caught by DNR seven more times during surveys, Ray says. In all of those instances, the fish was captured in the Gull Island Refuge.

"The spawning site fidelity of this fish, and many others we have sampled, emphasizes the importance of the refuges and the protection it affords the spawning stock of lake trout," he says.

Anglers fishing Lake Superior will want to keep an eye out for the next geriatric fish, a survivor and a foundation for the fishery. All lake trout DNR fish crews handle receive a numbered colored tag. Anglers who catch a tagged lake trout and intend to release the fish should just write down the tag number and contact the Bayfield DNR office to get the capture history. ✧

## DNR to host employment seminar for veterans

The Minnesota DNR is hosting a veteran employment seminar January 3 in St. Paul. Many veterans want to work in a natural resources environment, and many military skills translate into DNR positions.

"If you've served in the military, you probably have a lot of experience in many of our professional areas," said Don Matthys, DNR management resources regional supervisor and U.S. Army retired.

At the seminar veterans will have the opportunity to talk to DNR staff who work in the areas of logistics, fisheries and wildlife, informational technology, GIS and mapping, forestry, operations, communications, safety, real estate forestry, enforcement, human resources, engineering and landscape

architecture and more. It's a chance to find out from those who work it every day what the different job responsibilities include, education requirements, and how military work experience translates.

Human resources staff will provide information on how to apply for DNR jobs, set up job searches, and receive job posting notifications.

Veterans will also be on hand to answer questions about how to successfully juggle military-civilian commitments. Information on DNR veteran support resources will also be available.

"I can't imagine a more military friendly employer," said John Peterson, DNR emergency planner and currently serving with the 2-135th Infantry MN National Guard. "The

DNR has always been incredibly supportive of my service in the National Guard."

This event is free and will be at the DNR Headquarters, 500 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55101. Space is limited so registration is required. Register for a time slot between 9:30 - 12:30 p.m. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/dnrvets2018>.

Veterans will receive a welcome packet with additional information when registration is confirmed.

The DNR is a Yellow Ribbon Company — a veteran friendly employer. ✧

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*Don't wait for your ship to come in. Row out to meet it.*

## Root River Steelhead Report

The following information is the latest fishing information for the Root River in Racine. In addition, you can check out the [Lake Michigan Outdoor Report](#) for the latest fishing information on Lake Michigan and Green Bay. The facility is now closed.

For more info: [Lake Michigan Root River Report](#) ✧

As of November 2

	Rainbow Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Brown Trout
Total Captured	9	2,762	2,523	15
Passed Upstream	9	1,542	2,277	13
Taken to Hatchery				
Spawmed at Facility			416	
Egg Take			871,500	

## General permit available for stream habitat projects

MADISON – Beneficial stream habitat projects will be easier to undertake in Wisconsin under a new general permit the state Department of Natural Resources has issued aimed at streamlining stream habitat projects. Before the creation of this general permit, many beneficial stream habitat projects were authorized under individual permits, which added time and expense to the permitting process.

The general permit authorizes numerous activities, including placement of fish habitat structures, placement of wildlife habitat structures, and dredging or adding material to a previously channelized streams. The general permit also authorizes constructing a ford crossing and disturbing wetlands, as long as these activities are associated with fish or wildlife habitat projects.

The general permit is available for stream habitat projects designed by staff from DNR, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Land Conservation Department or other county agencies. The regional DNR fisheries biologist must approve the projects.

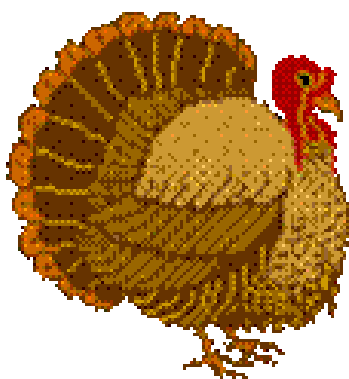
The general permit is available by searching the DNR website, [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), for [water permits](#) and then clicking on the drop-down for "Waterway and wetland."

The general permit was issued on November 6, 2017, and will be valid until November 6, 2022. At that time, the DNR will solicit public input on the permit before renewing, modifying or revoking the permit. ✧

## Fish Free *almost* anywhere in Wis, Jan 20-21

Fish *almost* anywhere in Wisconsin without a license or trout stamp on Free Fishing Weekend. Most state waters are included, **except for spring trout ponds**. (Review the trout regulations; wherever you see a season date listed for a specific body of water, you'd be fine, although some waters may be catch and release only.) All other inland waters and Wisconsin's side of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River are open for you to test your skills and try your luck. All usual [regulations](#) and [seasonal restrictions](#) are in force. Please exercise caution before heading out on the ice.

Need fishing gear? No problem. We have fishing poles that you can borrow at many state parks and DNR offices. Contact a [Tackle Loaner site](#) at one of several state parks and DNR regional offices to borrow one. Call the DNR staffer or partner listed for each site to find out what specific equipment is available and to arrange to pick it up. Dept. of Tourism events: [The Great Outdoors - Fishing](#) ✧



## Improvements to Salmon River FH

*Continued from page 1*

Plans for further improvements include:

- A comprehensive engineering study to maximize energy efficiency and reduce water use and enhance fish production;
- Infrastructure upgrades including new windows and doors, a new heating system, backup power, cellular phone service, and a new fish ladder; and
- A reimagining of all interpretive and visitor areas for a seamless and enhanced visitor experience.

For more information concerning the Salmon River Hatchery: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/21663.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/21663.html). ✧

## Expanded hours make DNR info a phone call away: 888-MINNDNR

Have a question for the DNR in the evening or on Saturday? The DNR has permanently extended its phone hours so the nearly half-million firearms deer hunters in Minnesota and others can call the Information Center until 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 - 1 p.m. on Saturday. The DNR began a pilot project last fall to compare the popularity of its previous business hours (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday) with the new extended hours. The results are in, and the longer hours are a hit with customers. From November 2016 through October 28, the Information Center received more than 1,200 calls during the extended hours. This is an increase of more than 16% from calls received during the same period in previous years. ✧

## Apply now to serve on trout advisory committee

MADISON – Anglers and other people interested in Wisconsin's trout resources are invited to apply to serve on an advisory team that will help the Department of Natural Resources start developing a plan to guide trout management over the next decade.

The plan would address trout habitat, stocking, and other management issues in Wisconsin. The advisory team would meet on three Saturdays in winter 2018 and would help the DNR brainstorm issues, set broad goals and define needs, says Joanna Griffin, DNR's trout coordinator.

"We're looking for people who are not members of organizations like the Conservation Congress and Trout Unlimited that will already have representatives on the advisory team," Griffin says. "People do not need to be trout anglers, but have an interest in the future of Wisconsin's trout resources."

People who are interested in serving on the advisory team can fill out an online form through November 30. Four people will be selected by

DNR's trout team to serve on the advisory team as at-large members, one from each of four regions. Search the DNR website [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), for "[trout management](#)" to apply.

The four at-large members will serve alongside anglers, landowners, tourism officials, Conservation Congress members and tribal representatives selected by DNR biologists to represent diverse interests in Wisconsin's trout resources, Griffin says. "We're already going to have a diverse group represented on our stakeholder advisory team, but adding at-large members is another way we're trying to be proactive and capture all interests out there."

In recent years, DNR has been creating or updating management plans for different fish species and major waters. Management plans have recently been created for panfish and bass and for the Lake Michigan fishery, Griffin says.

"Wisconsin's trout resources are important recreational, environmental

and economic assets," Griffin says. "We need a plan to help us sustainably manage them so future generations can enjoy them and the benefits they bring."

Wisconsin has more than 13,000 miles of trout streams, including more than 5,300 miles, or 40 percent, that are Class 1 streams with naturally self-sustaining populations of wild trout. Another 46 percent, or 6,120 miles, are Class 2 trout streams that have some natural reproduction but require stocking to maintain a desirable sport fishery.

A 2017 study by a UW-La Crosse economics professor [PDF] (exit DNR) shows the impact trout resources can have on local communities. The study estimates that trout fishing and trout restoration work generates a \$1.6 billion annual impact in the nationally-renowned Driftless Area, which encompasses 24,000 square miles in southwest and western Wisconsin along with portions in Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. ✧

## Great Lakes Invasive Carp Challenge nets more than 350 entries

### First-round awards to be announced in February

LANSING, Mich. – The State of Michigan recently announced that the Great Lakes Invasive Carp Challenge, which sought innovative solutions to stop the movement of invasive carp, received 353 entries from 27 countries. The challenge, hosted by global crowd-sourcing company InnoCentive, netted new ideas and raised the global profile of this important issue.

Solutions will be reviewed by a panel of expert judges, with up to eight solutions selected for awards of \$25,000. Stage 1 awardees will be announced in February 2018.

For final awards, a select number of Stage 1 awardees will be invited to present their ideas before a live audience of judges, industry experts, nonprofit organizations and venture capital representatives for additional cash awards totaling up to \$500,000.

This live event is planned to take place in late March 2018 in Detroit and will provide an in-person platform for ideas to be pitched to judges for final awards. All awardees will have an opportunity to make connections with audience members as well, including university researchers, entrepreneurs and venture capital firms, in hopes of furthering their ideas.

Gov. Snyder announced the Great Lakes Invasive Carp Challenge during his State of the State address in January 2017. The State of Michigan pledged \$1 million to seek innovative methods to prevent the movement of invasive carp species into Lake Michigan from the Illinois River through the Chicago Area Waterway System.

Invasive carp pose a significant threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem, the \$7 billion fishery, and other

economic interests dependent on the Great Lakes and its tributaries.

In June 2017, a 28-inch-long silver carp was caught approximately 9 miles from Lake Michigan, beyond the electric barrier system meant to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes. An autopsy and analysis by Southern Illinois University indicated the fish spent from a few weeks to a few months in the section of river where it was caught. There was no indication of how the fish ended up beyond the electric barriers.

This discovery of a second invasive carp found beyond the barrier – a bighead carp was captured in 2010 – underscores the need for action and innovation to prevent these fish from doing potentially irreparable ecological and economic damage to Michigan's signature and defining natural resource. ✧



## IL State Parks guide

The 2017-18 *Illinois State Parks* guide is available in print and online. The booklet is a useful guide for planning a day in a state park, a weekend at a state park lodge or campground, a hike or ride on a state trail, or hunting and fishing trips to a state fish and wildlife area. [www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Documents/ILPARKS2017.pdf](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Documents/ILPARKS2017.pdf). Order a copy: <https://dnr.illinois.gov/teachkids/order.asp>. ✧

## Michigan Bear Forum Dec. 16, to discuss management, regs & harvest information

A group of individuals representing various sportsmen's clubs, the U.S. Forest Service, the agricultural community and nonaffiliated bait and hound hunters throughout the state will meet Saturday, Dec. 16, to discuss the future of bear management in Michigan.

"This group represents our Michigan Bear Forum," said Michigan DNR wildlife specialist Kevin Swanson. The Forum will meet 10 - 4 p.m. at the Little Bear East Arena, located at 275 Marquette St. in St. Ignace. DNR staff will be available to answer questions. ✧

## Ludington Fishery Workshop, January 13

9:00 - 3:00 p.m., West Shore Community College, Administration and Conference Bldg., 3000 North Stiles Road, Scottville, MI 49454.

The Lake Michigan fishery has been changing dramatically in recent years. The annual Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop features presentations by scientists and managers who work to understand how ecosystem changes affect salmon and trout.

Agenda details have not been finalized, and registration is not yet open. ✧

## ODNR offers additional discounts for veterans in November

COLUMBUS, OH – Beginning November 10, the Ohio DNR is offering U.S. military veterans and active service members a 30 percent discount on lodge, cabin and campsite stays at Ohio State Parks from **November 10-30** of this year. This discount is subject to availability and applies to new reservations only. Veterans and active service members should use "2017VETERAN" in the promotion code box when making their reservation. For more info: [parks.ohiodnr.gov/discounts](http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/discounts) ✧

## "It is the Soldier"

*It is the soldier, not the reporter  
Who has given us freedom of the press.  
It is the soldier, not the poet  
Who has given us freedom of speech.*

*It is the soldier, not the campus organizer  
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.  
It is the soldier, not the lawyer  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.*

*It is the soldier  
Who salutes the flag,  
Who serves under the flag,  
Whose coffin is draped in the flag,  
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.*

- Charles M. Province



*Thanksgiving gives Americans an opportunity to express gratitude to God for family, country and freedom, including the brave men and women who currently or formerly served in the U.S. military.*

## USDOI & USDA sign MOU with Fishing and Boating Industry

MOU focuses on Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation Activities to increase overall participation

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ([USFWS](#)), Bureau of Land Management ([BLM](#)), and the U.S. Forest Service ([USFS](#)) late last month announced a new memorandum of understanding with the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies ([AFWA](#)), the American Sportfishing Association ([ASA](#)), the National Marine Manufacturers Association ([NMMA](#)) and the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation ([RBFF](#)). The unprecedented MOU, signed just after U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke declared October will officially be recognized as [National Hunting and Fishing Month](#), was created to develop and expand cooperation among the participating parties for planning and implementing mutually-beneficial projects and activities to promote recreational fishing and boating conducted on public lands and waterways.

"Anglers and recreational boaters help bolster many local economies in the pursuit of these American pastimes," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "We want to make sure to encourage more people to cast out their lines and get their boats out on the water. Partnerships like this are vital as we work to

increase access to public lands and waters and pass on these traditions to future generations."

"Recreational fishing and boating are fundamental aspects of America's outdoor recreation and conservation heritage, and are great ways for people to connect with family and friends," said Greg Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "We look forward to working with all of our partners to continue to increase the number of anglers as well as opportunities for the public to get out and enjoy America's healthy aquatic resources. As a lifelong angler, I understand the importance of building strong partner relationships to further the opportunities for fishing by all."

The objective of the MOU is to promote angler recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) activities with the goal of increasing the current [47 million recreational fishing participants in the U.S. ages 6+](#) to 60 million at the end of 60 months, or by 2021. Dubbed '[60 in 60](#)' by RBFF, the initiative was launched in April 2016.

Some efforts that may take place because of the MOU include increased volunteerism on public lands, improved quality of aquatic

and riparian resources, improved recreational fishing experiences, and increased educational programs for recreational fishing and fisheries.

The MOU will further advance what was a strong first year for '60 in 60' in which fishing participation among Americans age 6+ increased by 1.5 million according to the [2017 Special Report on Fishing](#), along with increases in key growth segments for the industry including youth and Hispanics. The recently-released USFWS [2016 National Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#) national survey also revealed an increase in fishing participation – up 8.2% over the last five years among Americans ages 16+. In addition, the survey revealed fishing participation is up nearly 20% over the last 10 years and reached its highest mark since 1991.

In a new [Recreational Boating Participation Study](#) from NMMA, Discover Boating, and RBFF, 142 million Americans went boating in 2016. Of the 142 million individuals, 17 million were first-time participants, and half these first-time participants were children under the age of 18. Fishing remains the number one activity done from a boat. The detailed MOU can be [viewed online](#) ✧

## Economic Impacts of Hunting and Fishing - Time to Plan

Just a reminder, the 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Report will be released by early 2018. This survey is conducted roughly every five years for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (since 1955). The report consists of a wide range of hunting, fishing and watchable wildlife recreation participation, expenditures and demographic information. Currently a preliminary version of this report is available here ([https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/nationalsurvey/nat\\_survey2016.pdf](https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/nationalsurvey/nat_survey2016.pdf)).

For several years, Southwick Associates has been using the information gathered through this national survey effort to produce state-level economic impact figures. Economic impact modeling techniques are utilized to reveal a variety of insights, including the job creation, tax revenues, retail sales and other economic benefits that result from fishing, hunting or other wildlife recreation activities within each state. ✧

## Upper Red Lake winter walleye regulations

Anglers fishing Upper Red Lake in northwestern Minnesota this winter will be able to keep four walleye of which only one may be longer than 17 inches. This same regulation has been in effect since the walleye fishing opener in May, but this will be the first winter season with the combination of a four fish bag limit and one over 17 inches allowed. More information on Red Lake fishing regulations are available at [mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing](http://mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing). ✧

## 2017 September Asian Carp Summary

Below is the 2017 September Asian Carp monthly summary from the crew working the Chicago Waterway System (CAWS). The goal of the summary is to provide up-to-date information on the monitoring and research projects outlined in the 2017 MRP and additional relevant Asian carp developments.

**Bottom Line:** Monitoring occurred in the CAWS and upper Illinois Waterway upstream and downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier in September. **NO LIVE BIGHEAD CARP OR SILVER CARP were found in any new locations immediately upstream or downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier. Fixed, Random and Targeted Site Sampling Downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier**

### Fixed, Random and Targeted Site Sampling Downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier Electrofishing:

- Crews from USACE and USFWS completed 47 electrofishing runs at fixed and random sites (11.75 hours total) in the Lockport, Brandon Road, Dresden Island and Marseilles Pools in September.
- Crews collected 4,911 fish of 57 species and 1 hybrid group.
- Fourteen Silver Carp (all adults) were collected in the Marseilles Pool.
- No Bighead Carp or Silver Carp were reported captured or observed in the Lockport, Brandon Road or Dresden Island Pools.

### Hoop and Mini Fyke Netting:

- Crews from IDNR set and pulled 16 hoop nets and 16 mini fykes from fixed sites in Lockport, Brandon Road, Dresden Island and Marseilles Pools in September.
- Crews collected 52 fish of 8 species during hoop net sampling and 1,710 fish of 26 species during mini fyke sampling.
- No Bighead Carp or Silver Carp were reported captured or observed with either gear in any of the pools.

### Commercial Netting:

- Contracted commercial fishers along with assisting IDNR biologists set 9.9 miles of gill net at fixed and targeted sites in the Lockport, Brandon Road and Dresden Island Pools (including Rock Run Rookery) in September.
- Crews collected 567 fish of 12 species.
- Seven Bighead Carp and 7 Silver Carp were collected in Rock Run Rookery.
- One Bighead Carp and 2 Silver Carp were collected in the Dresden Island Pool, downstream of I-55.
- **No Bighead Carp or Silver Carp were captured or observed in the Lockport or Brandon Road Pools.**

### Sampling results by pool below the electric dispersal barrier through September 2017, along with same time period in 2015 and 2016 for comparison:

- No Bighead Carp or Silver Carp were captured or observed in the Lockport or Brandon Road Pools. Sampling results by pool below the electric dispersal barrier through September 2017, along with same time period in 2015 and 2016 for comparison:

Lockport			
	2015	2016	2017
Yards of Net Fished	68,750	75,600	65,400
Miles of Net Fished	39.1	43.0	37.2
Hoop Net Nights	51.2	45.7	39.4
Mini Fyke Net Nights	24.9	22.3	21.0
Electrofishing Runs	96	91	104
Electrofishing Time (hrs)	24.0	22.8	26.0
Total Asian Carp (AC)	0	0	0
Tons of AC Harvested	0	0	0

Brandon Rd			
	2015	2016	2017
Yards of Net Fished	71,100	72,125	75,600
Miles of Net Fished	40.4	41.0	43.0
Hoop Net Nights	51.0	46.0	42.6
Mini Fyke Net Nights	25.0	22.5	22.6
Electrofishing Runs	80	91	107
Electrofishing Time (hrs)	20.0	22.8	26.8
Total Asian Carp (AC)	0	0	0
Tons of AC Harvested	0	0	0

Dresden Island			
	2015	2016	2017
Yards of Net Fished	82,950	66,900	79,100
Miles of Net Fished	47.1	38.0	44.9
Hoop Net Nights	103.0	46.3	335.3
Mini Fyke Net Nights	27.1	24.2	26.9
Electrofishing Runs	120	184	166
Electrofishing Time (hrs)	30.0	46.0	41.5
Asian Carp (AC) upstream I-55	26	13	27
AC downstream I-55	147	270	509
Total AC	173	283	536
Tons of AC Harvested	1.3	1.9	5.4

Rock Run Rookery			
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Yards of Net Fished</b>	30,450	39,075	30,000
<b>Miles of Net Fished</b>	17.3	22.2	17.0
<b>Bighead Carp</b>	173	131	163
<b>Silver Carp</b>	36	34	33
<b>Total Asian Carp (AC)</b>	209	165	196
<b>Tons of AC Harvested</b>	3.4	2.6	3.2

### Seasonal Intensive Monitoring

Seasonal Intensive Monitoring (SIM) took place above the electric dispersal barrier the weeks of September 18<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>. Electrofishing and commercial netting occurred in the North Shore Channel, North and South Branches of the Chicago River, Chicago River, CSSC, Cal-Sag Channel, Little Calumet River, Calumet River and Lake Calumet.

### Barrier Defense Asian Carp Removal Project

Barrier Defense specifically takes place in the Marseilles and Starved Rock Pools. Below is a summary of all IDNR Barrier Defense activities through September 2017, which includes the Unified Fishing Method in HMS W Pit, along with same time period in 2015 and 2016 for comparison:

	2015	2016	2017
<b>Number of Days Fished</b>	44	70	58
<b>Number of Net Crew Days</b>	204	352	312
<b>Yards of Net Fished</b>	255,470	392,295	322,610
<b>Miles of Nets Fished</b>	145.2	222.9	183.3
<b>Number of Pound Net nights</b>	24	67	74
<b>Number of Hoop Net nights</b>	163.8	768.7	871.8
<b>Number of Bighead Carp</b>	7,124	7,113	2,373
<b>Number of Silver Carp</b>	79,339	94,135	98,929
<b>Number of Grass Carp</b>	565	490	675
<b>Number of Asian Carp (AC)</b>	87,028	101,738	101,977
<b>AC/1000 yds of gill net</b>	318.8	244.6	273.4
<b>Tons of Bighead and Silver Carp Harvested</b>	301.7	362.4	351.9

Marseilles			
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Yards of Net Fished</b>	153,390	286,675	203,510
<b>Miles of Nets Fished</b>	87.2	162.9	115.6
<b>Pound Net nights</b>	24	67	74
<b>Hoop Net nights</b>	75.6	128.9	87.4
<b>Mini Fyke Net Nights</b>	27.0	21.8	25.3
<b>Electrofishing Runs</b>	120	120	109
<b>Electrofishing Time (hrs)</b>	30.0	30.0	27.3
<b>Bighead Carp</b>	4,738	5,285	1,289
<b>Silver Carp</b>	42,538	45,996	33,033
<b>Grass Carp</b>	78	86	59
<b>Total Asian Carp</b>	47,354	51,367	34,381
<b>Tons of Bighead and Silver Carp Harvested</b>	183.2	222.7	149.3

Starved Rock			
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Yards of Net Fished</b>	102,080	105,620	119,100
<b>Miles of Nets Fished</b>	58.0	60.0	67.7
<b>Hoop Net nights</b>	141.2	683.1	823.2
<b>Bighead Carp</b>	2,475	1,847	1,092
<b>Silver Carp</b>	37,091	49,037	66,339
<b>Grass Carp</b>	499	435	634
<b>Total Asian Carp</b>	40,065	51,319	68,065
<b>Tons of Bighead and Silver Carp Harvested</b>	120.2	143.4	204.6

### Electrofishing:

- Crews from IDNR, USACE and USFWS completed 206 electrofishing runs at fixed and random sites (51.5 hours total).
- Crews collected 13,908 fish of 45 species.

### Commercial Netting:

- Contracted commercial fishers along with assisting IDNR biologists set 50.2 miles of gill net (481 sets) at fixed and random sites.
- Crews collected 917 fish of 13 species and 1 hybrid group.
- A total of 14,825 fish representing 48 species and 1 hybrid group were collected in all gear types combined during the two-week SIM event.
- Gizzard Shad was the most abundant species collected comprising 55% of the total catch, followed by Common Carp (15%), Largemouth Bass (6%) and Bluegill (4%).



- **No Bighead Carp or Silver Carp were captured or observed during the September SIM event.**

#### Understanding Surrogate Fish Movement with Barriers

Results for September 2017

##### Fish Tagged:

Dresden Island Pool/Rock Run Rookery

- Common Carp – 3
- Bigmouth Buffalo – 2
- Smallmouth Buffalo – 21

Total – 26 fish tagged

##### Recaptures:

Dresden Island Pool/Rock Run Rookery

- Smallmouth Buffalo – 17
- **One fish tagged in the Marseilles Pool in June 2016 was recaptured in the Dresden Island Pool in September 2017**
- **No other recaptured fish demonstrated movement between pools.**

#### Barrier Maintenance & Fish Suppression

USACE continued operation of the Electric Dispersal Barriers throughout September with minimal loss of power to the water at one or more barriers. During this time, there was one event which lead to a minor loss of power to water at Barrier IIB as power was transferred between utility and generator. The process of switching resulted in 2 minor power outages (<30 sec each) at the Barrier IIB arrays on 19 September 2017. Barrier IIA's high field array remained operational during the switches. There was one loss of utility power to the electrical grid for Barrier IIA and the Demo barriers on 22 September 2017. The generators for each barrier activated immediately and carried power until the utility power was restored. This transfer of power between utility and generators resulted in 2 minor power outages in the water (<30 sec each). Barrier IIB was active during these minor outages.

Barrier IIA was re-energized on 7 September following the quarterly maintenance activity at the end of August and beginning of September. The Barrier IIA narrow array was re-energized at 2000 V and the wide array was re-energized at 800 V following maintenance. The wide and narrow array ran continuously throughout the remainder of the month without incident.

The narrow, wide and narrow arrays of Barrier IIA, wide and narrow arrays of Barrier IIB and the demonstration barrier are currently operational. Current operating parameters for all barriers are provided below:

Barrier IIA wide:	800 V (.75 V/in); 34 Hz, 2.3 ms
Barrier IIA narrow:	2000 V (2 V/in); 34 Hz, 2.3 ms
Barrier IIB wide:	800 V (.75 V/in); 34 Hz, 2.3 ms
Barrier IIB narrow:	2200 V (2.3 V/in); 34 Hz, 2.3 ms
Demo Barrier:	400 V (.5 V/in); 5 Hz; 4 ms

#### Distribution and monitoring of juvenile Asian carp

Field crews sampled Starved Rock pool extensively for juvenile Asian carp (TL <160mm) during September 2017. Electrofishing was used from 9/5 to 9/7 and from 9/18 to 9/20 at a total of 31 sites (7.75 hrs fishing time) and resulted in a total of 1891 fish

captured. A sum of 339 adult Silver Carp and 2 adult Grass Carp were caught with electrofishing. Mini fyke nets were deployed at 4 locations for one net night on 9/20 and resulted in a catch of 45 fish, mostly young of year Gizzard Shad. An electrified dozer trawl was used from 9/5 to 9/7 for 10 minute runs at 16 locations (3.2 hrs fishing time) and resulted in a sum of 1229 fish caught. A sum of 221 adult Silver Carp was captured using this gear. No juvenile Silver or Bighead Carp were captured during September.

#### Habitat usage and movement of juvenile Asian carp (telemetry)

Telemetry of juvenile Asian carp to study habitat usage and movement continued in the Peoria reach continued through September 2017. A total of 57 juvenile Asian carp have been implanted with transmitters and 26 hydrophones are deployed for monitoring. As of the second data download, all 57 individuals have been detected, however 21 of the tagged fish appear to have exited the study area downstream. Six of the hydrophones were relocated to the lower end of the Peoria reach in an effort to detect these fish again. Tagging of fish will continue into October as well as the deployment of radio monitoring gear.

#### Monitoring Fish Abundance, Behavior, Identification, and Fish-Barge Interactions within the Illinois Waterway

Barge entrainment trials occurred the week of September 11 and 18 within the La Grange and Alton pools. Data collections included observations of the behavior of wild fish and small Asian carp during normal barge movement in an area with known high densities of Asian carp to look at potential entrainment of Asian carp and other wild fish. Data collected is being analyzed and results are forth coming.

#### Evaluation of Gear Efficiency

INHS sampled for juvenile Asian carp using several gear types (mini-fyke nets, beach seines, pulsed-DC electrofishing, dozer trawl, hydroacoustic surveys) at four sites in the LaGrange Pool during the week of September 25. A total of 6,430 fish were captured during these efforts. Only 3 age-0 Silver Carp (21-44 mm TL) were captured (2 at Matanzas Lake, 1 at Lily Lake). Mini-fyke nets produced the highest numbers of fish (n = 4,036) and were the only gear to capture juvenile Silver Carp. Beach seines (n = 1,390), pulsed-DC electrofishing (n = 544), and dozer trawls (n = 460) captured fewer numbers of fish and did not detect any juvenile Asian carp. The number of age-0 Silver Carp captured during this week of sampling is substantially lower than was produced by identical efforts during July. Additionally, the small sizes of Silver Carp captured in September suggest these individuals are the product of a different cohort than those captured in July. This sampling was conducted concurrently with USFWS trawls in the LaGrange Pool. USFWS trawling data will be compared to INHS juvenile gears and results of these comparisons will be reported at a later date.

#### Larval Fish Monitoring

INHS conducted ichthyoplankton sampling at 12 main channel and backwater sites located in the Brandon Road, Dresden Island, Marseilles, Starved Rock, Peoria, and LaGrange Pools during the weeks of September 4 and September 18. Four larval fish samples were collected at each site, and zooplankton and

water chemistry samples were also collected. Additional samples were collected in Illinois River tributaries to evaluate the potential for Asian carp spawning in these rivers. Processing of samples and identification of larval fish and eggs is ongoing. Ichthyoplankton sampling will continue on a biweekly basis through October. Results, particularly regarding occurrences of Asian carp eggs or larvae, will be reported once available.

#### Strategy for eDNA Sampling in the CAWS and Refining eDNA Interpretation Below the Electric Dispersal Barrier

The CAWS, including variations of the four traditional sites (Chicago River, North Shore Channel, Little Calumet River, and Lake Calumet) were sampled for bighead and silver carp eDNA the week of September 11th. In total, 280 samples were collected including blanks. When available, the results for this event will be shared with the state of Illinois and posted publicly sometime later in the fall.

Dresden Island Pool was sampled for bighead and silver carp eDNA the week of September 25th. A total of 276 samples were collected, including blanks. Samples are waiting to be processed at the Whitney Genetics Lab. Results for this event will not be posted on publicly, but will be reported to the MRWG in the annual report.

#### Alternate Pathway Surveillance in Illinois – Law Enforcement

The Invasive Species Unit (ISU) attended the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Law Enforcement committee meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and received training on invasive species enforcement to include aquatic invasive species identification and reporting.

The ISU provided support and security for the Aquatic Pet Surrender event held at the Waukegan Harbor where residents were encouraged to bring any unwanted aquatic pets and turn them in instead of releasing them into the wild.

ISU received a complaint of a New York company illegally importing injurious plants into Illinois by advertising the products online and shipping them through the mail. The investigation is ongoing.

ISU is investigating a complaint involving 26 sturgeon and 1 paddle fish carcass that were dumped into the Des Plaines River. The origin of the fish is unknown at this time, but they have been sent to McClelland laboratories for testing.

ISU provided information and regulatory requirements to a pond owner who wanted to stock his pond with crayfish.

ISU investigated a complaint of a company advertising and selling grass carp in Illinois.

#### Assessing Spatiotemporal Changes in Asian Carp Abundance and Density to Target Management Actions and Control Strategies

Observed Asian carp (Silver Carp and Bighead Carp combined) densities in Dresden Island Pool decreased slightly from June to

July and was due to a decrease in observed Silver Carp density and a marginal decrease in observed Bighead Carp density (Figure 1). Within Dresden Island Pool, Asian carp densities were highest in the Treats Island side-channel and Mobil Bay backwater, although Treats Island was highly variable (Figures 2 and 3). At other locations in Dresden Island Pool, densities were high in the main channel adjacent to the Rock Run Rookery backwater, near the mouth of the Kankakee River, and within the power plant effluents near the Kankakee River and just upstream from Rock Run Rookery (Figure 3). These locations were similar to high-density sites observed in early June sampling (Figure 3).

Observed Asian carp densities in late July within the Marseilles Pool were higher in July than June (Figure 1) but were comparable to densities observed in March. This was due to an increase in observed Silver Carp density from June levels. Asian carp densities remained similar to the previous survey in the HMS East Pit backwater lake and the main channel but increased at the Sugar Island side-channel and HMS West Pit backwater lake (Figure 2). Within the main channel, locations with high densities were mostly downstream, towards the Marseilles Lock & Dam (Figure 4). Densities in the East Pit were highest in the northeast cove, along the eastern shoreline, and in the north-central bay (Figure 5). Asian carp densities in the West Pit were moderate along most of the shoreline but were elevated in the west end of the lake, along the north-central shoreline, and in the northeastern cove (Figure 5).

Fall hydroacoustics surveys of the Illinois River from Dresden Island to Alton pools are currently being completed. This includes a survey of Dresden Island Pool which is currently being analyzed and provided to MRWG members to help inform the Dresden Island Pool unified fishing event that will occur in mid October.

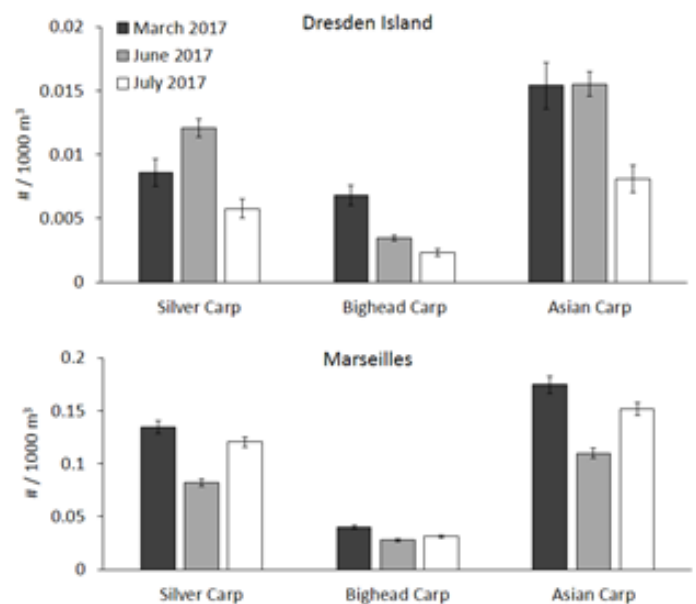


Figure 1. Mean (SE) pool-wide Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, and Asian carp (Bighead and Silver Carp combined) densities observed from mobile hydroacoustic surveys in the Dresden Island and Marseilles Pools in 2017.



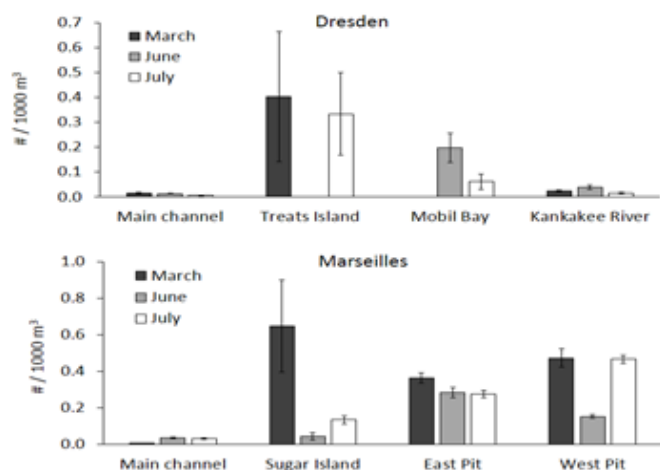


Figure 2. Mean (SE) site-specific Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, and Asian carp (Bighead and Silver Carp combined) densities observed from mobile hydroacoustic surveys in the Dresden Island and Marseilles pools in 2017.

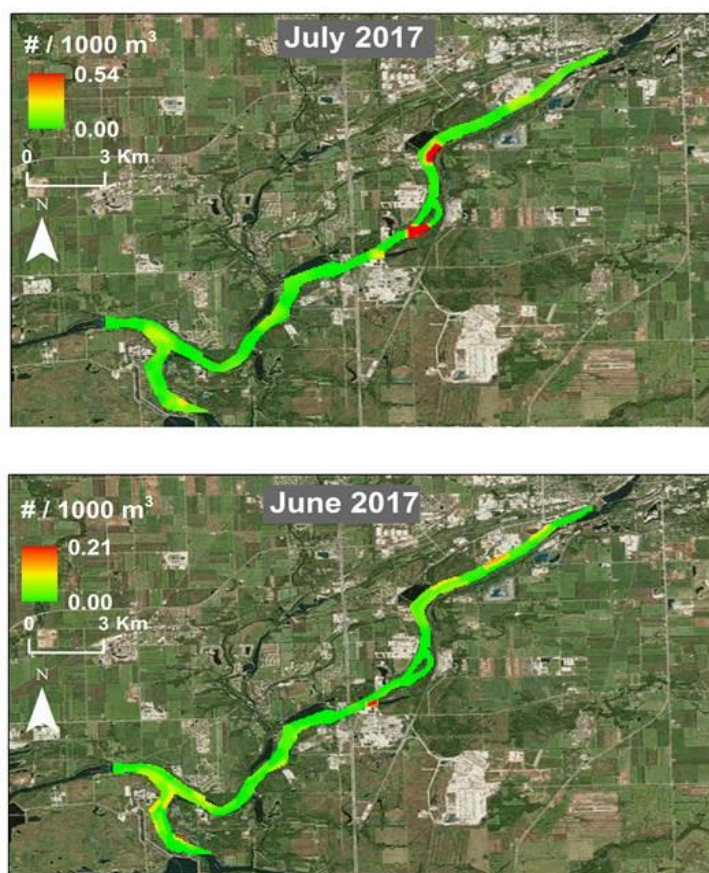


Figure 3. Mean Asian carp (Silver and Bighead Carp combined) densities in the Dresden Island Pool observed using mobile hydroacoustic sampling in early June and late July, 2017.

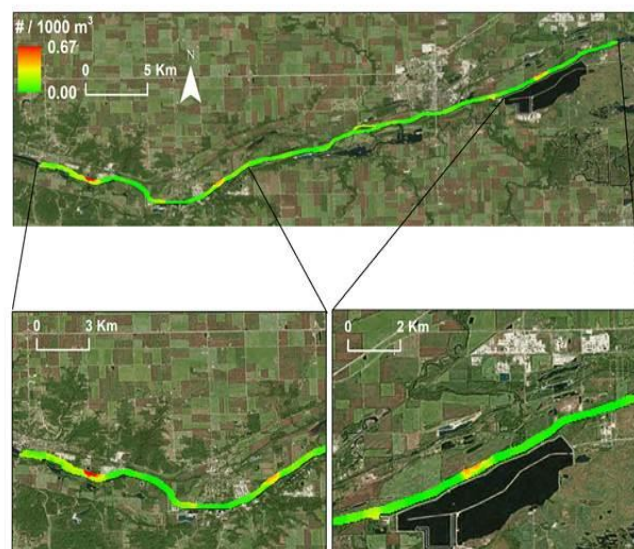


Figure 4. Mean Asian carp (Silver and Bighead Carp combined) densities in the Marseilles Pool main channel observed using mobile hydroacoustic sampling in late July, 2017.



Figure 5. Mean Asian carp (Silver and Bighead Carp combined) densities in the HMS East Pit (top) and West Pit (bottom) backwater lakes in the Marseilles Pool. Densities were observed from mobile hydroacoustic sampling in late July, 2017.

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**Other Breaking News Items:**

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[Durbin blames Chicago's gun violence on Indiana's gun laws](#)

"We're next to Indiana and if you go to a gun show in Indiana, you can purchase a gun without a background check. And so that's what's happening," Durbin, a Democrat, said on MSNBC. "The drug gangs and these thugs are filling up the trunks of their car and

[Muskie mysteries: Lake St. Clair anglers aid international study on muskie movement, survival](#)

To help solve the mystery of the muskellunge — an elusive fish that can reach more than 65 pounds — researchers are now listening for 18 Lake St. Clair muskies with surgically implanted transmitters.

[Coho salmon spawning in Kewaunee](#)

Inside the Wisconsin DNR's Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility in Kewaunee, Wisconsin, mid-October is one of the busiest times of the year, with coho salmon spawning season underway and some one million eggs collected from fish coming into the Kewaunee River from Lake

# *Happy Thanksgiving*

**General George Washington understood the importance of giving thanks. During the darkest hours of the Revolutionary War, he fell to his knees in prayer in the snow of Valley Forge. When France subsequently provided assistance, General Washington called for a day of thanksgiving among his troops.**

**Eleven years later, Congress accepted Washington's request to declare November 26, 1789 as Thanksgiving Day for the people to acknowledge, "the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."**



End