



## Indiana to increase Lake Michigan stocking Other Lake Michigan States plan increases also

The Indiana DNR plans to increase stocking in Indiana’s Lake Michigan waters. The new, interim plan comes in response to a recent Lake Michigan Committee (LMC) recommendation to increase lakewide stocking levels.

“Lakewide data indicates the predator-prey balance in the lake has improved,” says Jeremy Price, DNR fisheries supervisor and LMC representative, “and the size of the salmon out there certainly supports it.” Beginning in 2020, Indiana’s stocking quota will increase by nearly 87,000 Chinook salmon equivalents. Chinook salmon equivalents are conversions fishery managers use to evaluate impacts of different salmonid species on prey fish populations.

Other member states of the Lake Michigan Committee have also been holding meetings asking for input on

the proposal to increase salmon stocking in the lake and by how much and in what ration. More info elsewhere in this newsletter.

The new quota adds back about half of the cuts made in 2017, when DNR managers reduced Chinook salmon and eliminated lake trout stockings from Indiana waters. DNR plans to increase Chinook stocking by 150,000 fish in 2020, a move made possible through the increase in stocking quota and additional reductions to stockings of steelhead and coho salmon.

Fall fingerling skamania steelhead will be discontinued on the Little Calumet River and substantial cuts to fall fingerling coho stockings will be replaced with fewer, but larger, spring coho yearlings. Similar changes on the St. Joe River enacted in 2015 have proven successful at

increasing salmon returns.

“The new plan gets us back to stocking Chinooks annually at all three of our ports,” says Ben Dickinson, DNR biologist. “When we cut Chinook stocking in 2017, we promised our anglers that we’d try our best to get back to three ports annually. We are pleased to deliver on that promise.” While some hatchery logistics still need to be resolved, the plan is mostly set for 2020. Price and Dickinson intend to take input from anglers on the plan through one or more public meetings this winter.

“We think most anglers will really like this strategy,” Price says, “but we want to give folks an opportunity to tell us what they think before making this the stocking plan for 2021 and beyond.” Learn about Lake Michigan fishing at [wildlife.IN.gov/3625.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/3625.htm). ✧

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## Illinois planned stocking increases for 2020

Beginning in 2020, Illinois’ stocking targets for Lake Michigan will increase by 30,000 Chinook salmon and 25,000 skamania. This increase is equal to half of the number of Chinook salmon equivalents that were reduced by Illinois in the previous lakewide stocking adjustment and it keeps us within the lakewide stocking increase recommended by the Lake Michigan Committee. We will stock the same numbers of fish through 2021 and then will reevaluate.

The overall 2020 stocking plan for Illinois waters includes: 180,000 Chinook; 300,000 coho; 120,000 lake trout; 75,000 skamania; 60,000 arlee strain rainbow trout; and 110,000 brown trout. All fish will be raised and stocked by our Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, except for lake trout that are produced and stocked by the USFWS.

Illinois DNR supports the LMC’s recommendation for a moderate stocking increase in 2020 because of positive signs in the fishery-independent and creel survey data reported around the lake for 2018 and the reports of large, healthy fish by anglers and charter captains this year. Furthermore, results from the 2018 Predator-Prey Ratio Analysis, an analysis that combines datasets from federal and state agencies around the lake, indicated that consideration of a stocking increase was warranted based on protocols in the LMC’s 2018 Salmonine Stocking Strategy. While predator-prey balance appears to have improved since the latest stocking reductions, we are not out of the woods with respect to declining prey fish abundance (alewife) necessitating a judicious approach to increases in stocking. ✧

## Wisconsin considers increasing fish stocking in Lake Michigan

Wisconsin anglers have requested that the Wisconsin DNR increase their current fish stocking efforts in Lake Michigan by over 40% across the next three years.

After the DNR presented 2020 proposed stocking options for Lake Michigan, anglers, charter captains and business owners voiced their concerns to the DNR at public meetings in Milwaukee and Green Bay earlier last month. Some of those business owners manage bait and tackle shops and they are claiming that the state isn't stocking enough salmon/trout into Lake Michigan.

Fishing in Wisconsin brings about \$2.3 billion into the state each year, but some say the fishing on Lake Michigan in recent years just isn't as good as in years past, and it's keeping people off the lake and out of their businesses. The DNR has cut the stocking of Lake Michigan by over 40% in the last 10 years.

The request made by those in attendance was for the DNR to increase their current stocking efforts substantially. Many voiced similar comments heard across the lake in Michigan that lots of bait fish were seen often on graphs near shore as well as in deeper waters.

DNR's 2018-2020 plan calls for stocking levels similar to 2017's and remains within the guidance recommended by the Lake Michigan Committee, which is composed of state and tribal agencies on Lake Michigan.

Chinook salmon stocking numbers remain consistent at about 810,000 fish total a year, recognizing the popularity of this fish and that angler catch rates are highest for Chinook. Eight Lake Michigan stocking sites will get more fish (1,800 to 4,200 fish per year) under a reallocation of 25,000 fish from Marinette and Strawberry Creek. Marinette will get 20,000 more brown trout per year, to offset the Chinook reallocation.

The annual lake-wide brown trout stocking target will increase

from 356,000 to 376,000 and coho salmon stocking will focus on larger yearlings versus smaller fingerlings for stocking. The number of yearling fish stocked is targeted to increase over previous years, with a target of 400,000 yearlings stocked annually. Wisconsin research indicates that coho stocked as yearlings are nearly twice as likely to be caught by anglers as coho stocked as fingerlings.

Steelhead stocking targets will increase from 300,000 to 350,000, and lake trout targets will continue to be evaluated, but will remain 300,000 per year for now. DNR partnered with Indiana to bring skamania steelhead to Wisconsin hatcheries, which were stocked into Lake Michigan in 2018, and the additional steelhead stocking is expected to occur under a new collaboration with the private aquaculture industry.

Wisconsin collected comments through September 30, and will finalize a decision, in collaboration with the Lake Michigan Committee in the next few weeks. ✧

## DEC Public Meetings on new approach to inland trout stream management

New York is developing a new plan for inland trout stream management based on updated scientific information and the desires expressed by trout anglers during 16 [public meetings held across the state in 2017](#). DEC folks want to meet with trout stream anglers to explain the proposed approach, answer questions, and solicit feedback. Ten public meetings around the state are scheduled between October 1 and November 12 to facilitate these discussions. The [schedule of dates and locations can be found online](#) on DEC's website. The presentation will be followed by a discussion period during which attendees can ask questions and provide informed comment. ✧



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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

### Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

### Editor

Jeanette Thomas

### Webmaster

Chad Lapa

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## Lake Erie Walleye and Yellow Perch Anglers have more great news

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Preliminary results from surveys in the western basin of Lake Erie indicate more great news for Ohio anglers, according to the Ohio DNR. For the second straight year, Ohio’s data points to an exceptional walleye hatch, the second-highest in the history of the survey, and the yellow perch hatch was also strong, well above its long-term average.

Each year in August, wildlife agencies from Ohio, Ontario, and Michigan sample the western basin of Lake Erie in search of young-of-the-year walleye and yellow perch. Biologists from the Division of Wildlife survey nearly 40 locations between Toledo and Huron. The data is compared with the results from previous years to gauge the success of

the walleye and yellow perch hatches.

The Division of Wildlife’s 2019 August walleye hatch index was 143. This is the second-highest value on record for Ohio’s waters of the western basin and far above the 20-year index average of 27. This year’s outstanding hatch combined with the excellent 2015 and 2018 year-classes will ensure an abundance of young walleye to complement the older and larger fish that make up the current Lake Erie walleye population.

The August survey found the 2019 yellow perch hatch index to be very good at 467. This is above Ohio’s western basin 20-year index average of 317 and is the fifth year in the past seven that falls above the average. This above-average yellow perch hatch will help bolster the

population following a strong 2018 hatch in the western basin. Additionally, catches of yearling yellow perch were nearly double the 20-year average and confirm the strength of last year’s class.

During the upcoming months, Ohio survey results will be combined with Ontario data to characterize the basin-wide catches of young-of-year walleye and yellow perch. This data allows biologists to calculate an initial projection of how many young fish will enter the fishable population two years later, which will be used in the process to determine jurisdictional quotas for the 2021 fishing season.

Central basin results for walleye and yellow perch will be available later in 2019. ✧

## DNR grants to help get children outside early and often

*Apply starting Oct. 23 for funding aimed to increase outdoor experience, education and stewardship*

Lifelong lessons and care for Minnesota’s tremendous outdoor heritage start with quality time outdoors. The DNR is offering a new grant program called “No Child Left Inside” to help more children cast a fishing line, study animal tracks, hike or bike, or simply learn more about nature.

“We’re excited to be putting some funding toward getting kids outdoors. The time is now,” said Jeff Ledermann, DNR’s education and skills team supervisor. “Minnesotans care deeply about the outdoors. Kids in past decades were outdoors early and often, but that’s not a given anymore so these grants are here to boost outdoor programs and initiatives all around the state.”

Public entities and nonprofit organizations serving youth under age 18 are eligible to apply for this first phase of the grant program, which features a simple application and a quick review. In the first phase, \$182,000 is available for programs all around Minnesota. The minimum

request is \$500 and the maximum is \$5,000. Future phases of the grant program will have larger grant awards with more extensive application and review processes.

Applications can be submitted starting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23, and awards will be made on a rolling basis. Matching dollars are encouraged but not required. The application period will close once all the money is awarded. The earliest date to start reimbursable project work is Sunday, Dec. 1, and the reimbursable grant project work must be completed by Monday, June 1, 2020.

“We’re urging folks to be creative in how they approach getting youth outdoors and if in doubt, please apply for these grants,” Ledermann said. “We’re anticipating a strong response from people who work with youth every day—we know they have great ideas.”

The 2019 Minnesota Legislature authorized the No Child Left Inside grant program. Funding can be used

for outdoor recreation equipment, transportation and related natural resource education expenses. Factors the DNR will consider in determining awards include whether the project:

- Contributes to a geographically balanced distribution of awards.
- Provides students with direct experiences and understanding of nature.
- Uses research-based, effective environmental, ecological, agricultural or other natural-resource-based educational curriculum.
- Maximizes the number of participants.
- Serves children with limited opportunities to outdoor activities.
- Uses public parks and other natural resource venues and personnel as resources.
- Commits matching funds or in-kind support.

For more information on the grant program and a link to the application, visit the DNR’s [recruit, retain and reactivate](#) page ✧



## IDNR Off-Highway Vehicle Project Grants

The Illinois DNR announced \$580,237 in grant funding that will allow for development and improvements for public access to off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation at four OHV parks in Illinois.

- Grant funds awarded to Little Egypt Off-Road Motorcycle Club, in Williamson County, in the amount of \$90,000 will be used for trail repair, maintenance, and development.
- Grant funds awarded to Rocky Glen OHV, in Winnebago County, in the amount of \$48,436 will be used for the purchase of a Kabota tractor, reverse tiller, soil pulverizer, water pump, and security cameras.
- Grant funds awarded to Atkinson Motorsports Park, in Henry County, in the amount of \$75,456 will be used for Bobcat repair, purchasing a tree grinder, purchasing a lawnmower, and chip and seal of an uphill road.
- Grant funds awarded to the Clark County Park District, in Clark County, in the amount of \$366,345 will be used for the complete rehabilitation of more than 15 miles of OHV trails and a new restroom at the trailhead.

The OHV grant program provides financial assistance to government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and other eligible groups or individuals (as noted in Section 3045.20 of the Illinois Administrative Code) to develop, operate, maintain, and acquire land for off-highway vehicle parks, trailside facilities and trails that are open and accessible to the public in Illinois, as well as maintenance and repair of the parks, trails and trailside facilities.

Grant funds come from two primary sources. All-terrain vehicles and off-highway motorcycles (purchased for uses other than agricultural) must apply for a \$30 certificate of title. Those funds are used for the OHV Grant Program. In addition, riders must purchase a public access sticker for machines operated on sites supported by OHV grant funds. These stickers range in

## Fishing regs lifted at PA's Sheppard-Myers Reservoir

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is alerting anglers that it has temporarily lifted all seasons, sizes and creel limits on Sheppard-Myers Reservoir located in York County. These regulations take effect immediately and will remain in place until further notice by the PFBC. A fishing license is still required.

The regulation removal is in anticipation of the Hanover Water Department's plan to drain the reservoir and upgrade the dam and spillway structures to meet dam safety standards. The reservoir serves as a public water supply source for the Borough of Hanover and offers angling opportunities for stocked trout and warmwater sportfish species.

"We have temporarily lifted the regulations to reduce the number of fish in the lake in advance of a complete drawdown of the lake scheduled for spring of 2020," said Kris Kuhn, Chief of the PFBC Division of Fisheries Management. "We encourage anglers to fish the water and make good use of as many fish as they can prior to the lake being drained."

The 47-acre reservoir currently holds populations of largemouth bass, yellow perch, white perch, sunfish (black crappie, bluegill and pumpkinseed) and stocked trout. Anglers should note that trout stocking for the 2020 through 2022 seasons within the reservoir will be suspended while repairs are underway. The PFBC will initiate restocking of the lake as soon as refilling conditions allow. The restocking plan will include a variety of fingerling sized warmwater fish species to rebuild the fishery, as well as adult stocked trout ✧

price from \$6.00 to \$26.00.

For info on how to apply for an OHV grant: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/AEG/Pages/OffHighwayVehicleProgram.aspx> ✧

## Illinois Fall Trout Season opens **Oct 19**

The 2019 Illinois Fall Trout Fishing Season opens **October 19** at 57 ponds, lakes, and streams. An early opportunity at select trout sites – the Fall Catch-and-Release Fishing Season – opened October 5 at specified locations. No trout may be kept during the catch and release fishing period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning October 19.

The IDNR has added one new site for Fall Trout Fishing in 2019 – Kaufman Lake in Champaign – maintaining the stocking of rainbow trout to 67,000 fish in the fall season. Rock Springs Pond in Decatur will be temporarily removed from stocking due to a maintenance project.

No trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites from October 1 until the fall trout season opens at 5:00 a.m. October 19.

All anglers must have a valid fishing license and an Inland Trout Stamp, unless they are under the age of 16, blind or disabled, or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces. The daily catch limit for each angler is five (5) trout.

Illinois fishing licenses and Inland Trout Stamps are available at DNR Direct license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. Check the IDNR website at: <http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/VendorListing.aspx>.

Fishing licenses and trout stamps also can be purchased by using a credit card through DNR Direct online via the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

**NOTE:** Not all fall trout sites open at 5:00 a.m. on opening day. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite trout fishing location prior to the season. For more information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. The 57 locations are listed here: [IDNR-FallTrout2019](#) ✧

## DNR captures and tags silver carp in St. Croix River

### Tagged fish will provide important research data

The Minnesota DNR has implanted a small tracking device in a silver carp captured on the St. Croix River. This is the first time the DNR has tagged a silver carp, an invasive species that competes with native species for food.

The tagged silver carp will provide the DNR with valuable data on the movement and habits of this invasive species in the river system. The capture and tagging of the carp was a direct result of the DNR's tracking of a previously tagged bighead carp.

The DNR and a contracted commercial fishing business were tracking and attempting to net the tagged bighead carp when they captured the silver carp 2 miles south of the I-94 bridge over the St. Croix River.

"We expect this tagged silver carp to provide useful information about the species' habits, as has been the case with the previously tagged bighead carp," said DNR invasive fish coordinator Nick Frohnauer. "Since carp tend to congregate, we're also hopeful that the tagged silver carp will lead us to any other individual invasive carp that may be in the area, just as the tagged bighead carp has." The tagged bighead carp has led to four invasive carp discoveries this year and two last year.

#### BACKGROUND

A few more invasive carp than usual have been captured in 2019, likely because persistent high water in southern Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois created prolonged "open river" conditions in which fish could move up the Mississippi River unimpeded by the river's locks and dams. Open river conditions can benefit native species like lake sturgeon and

paddlefish, which swim hundreds of miles in search of preferable habitat. Unfortunately, these conditions also allow other, non-native species to move upriver more easily.

Frohnauer noted that, while the DNR continues to be concerned about the potential impacts of invasive carp in Minnesota waters, individual adult fish captures do not indicate reproduction or an established population of invasive carp in the Mississippi River or elsewhere in the state. Individual invasive carp have been caught as far upstream as Mississippi River Pool 2 near the Twin Cities (bighead, grass, and silver), the King Power Plant on the St. Croix River by Oak Park Heights (bighead), and just downstream of Granite Falls in the Minnesota River (bighead).

Invasive carp have been progressing upstream since escaping into the Mississippi River from southern state fish farms in the 1970s. These large, filter feeding fish compete with native species and pose a threat to rivers and lakes.

The DNR Invasive Species Program has built partnerships with state and federal agencies, conservation groups, university researchers and commercial businesses to prevent the spread of invasive carp. The 2015 closure of the Mississippi River lock at Upper St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis was a major accomplishment resulting from these efforts.

Invasive carp captures must be reported to the DNR immediately. Call 651-587-2781 or [invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us). Take a photo and transport the carp to the nearest DNR fisheries office or make arrangements for it to be picked up by a DNR official. ✧

## Proposed MN-WI border waters fishing regs changes

For the first time in nearly 70 years, Minnesota and Wisconsin are proposing notable changes to border waters fishing regulations.

"The proposed regulations are intended to help sustain high quality fish populations and the great fishing opportunities these Mississippi River border waters offer," said Kevin Stauffer, the DNR area fisheries supervisor in Lake City.

The proposed rules, which are available on the [DNR's website](#), would lower possession limits, and change some length limits, for walleye and sauger, northern pike, channel catfish, shovelnose sturgeon, crappie, sunfish, yellow perch, and white and yellow bass in the Mississippi River, including Lake Pepin. Some examples include:

- Walleye and sauger limit to decrease from 6 to 4.
- Crappie, sunfish, and yellow perch limit to decrease from 25 to 15 each.
- White and yellow bass limit to decrease from 25 to 10.

The proposed changes are proactive measures that would help both states manage the effects that changing river conditions, invasive species, and angling effectiveness have on fish.

The Wisconsin DNR has proposed identical changes. With the exception of minimum size limits for bass (14 inches) and walleye (15 inches) implemented in 1990, possession and size restrictions for gamefish on the Minnesota and Wisconsin border waters of the Mississippi River have been largely unchanged for the last seven decades. The current proposed changes to bag and size limits for most gamefish species were developed from biological data and input obtained from public meetings in 2018.

The Minnesota DNR is using an expedited rulemaking procedure to make these changes effective by March 2020—Wisconsin intends to make its corresponding rule changes at this same time. ✧

## New black carp ID video now available!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released the first black carp identification video that teaches viewers how to identify black carp using grass carp as a point of comparison.

The new educational video was created to support public reporting efforts of black carp. Commercial fishers, who encounter black carp as by-catch during normal fishing operations, have become a key source of critically important data to better understand black carp range expansion. In addition to the video, the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee created the Keep, Cool, Call handout which provides guidance on how to properly store Asian carp for formal identification and testing. Much of the information managers currently have about the location of black carp in the Mississippi River Basin came from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' black carp bounty program.

Like most species of carp, black carp are prolific eaters. What is unique about black carp is that their food of choice is mussels and snails. Many native mussel populations are already struggling to thrive due to issues like water pollution and warming water temperatures. Aquatic resource managers are therefore concerned about the additional stress-heavy predation by an invasive species like black carp may have on native mussel populations. Due to their feeding habits, black carp are not typically captured by recreational anglers, but the public is still encouraged to learn how to distinguish black carp from the more prevalent grass carp.

To access the video, go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=7&v=5XsXY\\_qYiyA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=5XsXY_qYiyA). ✧

## Indiana event

**Oct. 26** – [Learn to Fish for Trout, Evansville](#) ✧

## Fall, winter trout stocking underway

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Even though the summer season is over, some great fishing opportunities are beginning with the start of fall and winter trout stocking!

Beginning on **October 1** and continuing through mid-December, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) will stock more than 113,000 hatchery raised adult rainbow, brown and brook trout. These stockings will replenish some of the most popular fishing spots across the Commonwealth.

While Pennsylvania is fortunate to have some of the best wild trout fishing waters in the country, the addition of some beautiful hatchery-raised trout to select waterways delivers fresh fishing opportunities to every corner of the state through the end of the year.

In October alone, PFBC hatchery staff will supply more than 82,000 trout to portions of 91 waterways in 47 counties. A schedule of fall stocking dates and locations is available at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com) by hovering over "Fish" in the upper right tab, then selecting "[Stocking Schedules](#)." Visitors can search by individual county or view a comprehensive list by clicking the "Go - Fall Stockings Statewide" button in the middle of the page.

Throughout the months of November and December, an additional 31,000 trout will be supplied to 27 waterways in 21 counties, many of which will enhance the fisheries leading up to the ice fishing season. Those opportunities can also be searched by county by clicking the "Go – Winter Stockings Statewide" button.

Trout that are stocked during fall and winter can be fished for immediately. The daily creel limit is three trout of combined species with a minimum size of seven inches. 2019 fishing licenses and permits can be purchased online at [www.GoneFishingPA.com](http://www.GoneFishingPA.com) [Opens In A New Window](#) or by visiting more than 700 retail license issuing agents. ✧

## Feds offer \$170.6 million to support state parks and outdoor recreation

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt recently announced \$170,623,713 million in grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to all 50 States, five U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia for state-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects. LWCF funds are non-taxpayer dollars derived from Outer Continental Shelf lease revenues and are awarded through federal matching grants administered by the National Park Service.

"Using zero taxpayer dollars, LWCF invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help rehabilitate and improve infrastructure at state and local parks and other recreation areas," said Secretary Bernhardt. "Funds will also be used to maximize access by opening up landlocked public lands. A small investment in a little strip of land can open up thousands of acres to outdoor recreation enthusiasts."

The LWCF was established by Congress in 1964 to ensure public access to outdoor recreation resources for present and future generations.

Since the inception of the LWCF, more than \$4.4 billion has been made available to state and local governments to fund more than 43,000 projects throughout the nation.

Fiscal Year 2019 Regional Apportionments by State

State	Apportionment
Illinois	\$5,726,425
Indiana	\$3,346,039
Michigan	\$4,441,165
Minnesota	\$2,989,532
New York	\$7,941,700
Ohio	\$5,038,141
Pennsylvania	\$5,430,820
Wisconsin	\$3,073,041

✧



## Great Lakes freighters may have to treat ballast water

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – More than \$375 billion in cargo — iron ore, coal, cement, stone, grain and more — has flowed between Great Lakes ports and foreign nations since 1959. That is when Queen Elizabeth and U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower christened the St. Lawrence Seaway.

But that series of locks, dams and channels connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean also carved a pathway for foreign plants and animals to wreak billions of dollars in ecological damage to the lakes. At least 80 invasive species have arrived in the ballast water that transatlantic ships take in and discharge for balance.

The round goby, which came from the Black and Caspian seas in the 1990s, gobbles up food some native fish depend upon. So do European zebra and quagga mussels, which also damage docks and boats and clog pipes and machinery, costing the Great Lakes region an estimated \$500 million each year.

More than 20 years of federal and state efforts to regulate ballast water have slowed the introduction of new species to the Great Lakes. But those

regulations exempt “lakers” — hulking freighters traveling exclusively within the Great Lakes — and researchers say that helps invasive species spread.

“You would expect these ships to move invasive species, and that’s what our research shows,” said Allegra Cangelosi, a Great Lakes ballast water expert and senior researcher at Penn State University-Behrend.

Canadian regulators want the country’s 80 lakers to treat ballast water by 2024, and environmentalists are pushing for similar rules for the roughly 50 freighters that fly a U.S. flag. But Rayburn said the price tag for U.S. freighters would be higher. Canadians can buy cheaper ships built abroad. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to develop new standards by December 2020, and the Coast Guard plans to draft implementation rules two years after.

But industry groups argue researchers have not proved lakers move invasive species, and new regulations would cost hundreds of millions of dollars and grind business

to a halt. Lakers handle about half of the \$15 billion in cargo that moves around the Great Lakes each year. For now, no treatment system cost-effectively kills unwanted organisms in laker ballast water, but scientists are racing to find a solution — and test it — before regulators finalize the new rules.

Ballast water legislation signed by President Donald Trump in December was a compromise between environmentalists and the shipping industry. It preserved the EPA’s Clean Water Act Authority to set ballast water standards, but it also made it difficult for states to set their own, stricter rules.

Coast Guard spokesman Richard Everett said whether the new EPA standards would apply to lakers is still to be decided. The law includes \$50 million for invasive species prevention efforts. Said Penn State’s Cangelosi: “I feel for the lakers because they are not bringing these things in (from overseas). A lot of the things that we worry about come in with the salties, and then the lakers are caught holding the bag — moving it all around the lake.” ✧

## Fall driving can get risky when deer get frisky

### *Autumn ushers in peak season for deer vs. vehicle crashes*

With the onset of autumn the Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois DNR are reminding motorists to be vigilant during deer mating season as the animals become more active, especially in the early morning and evening hours.

As the risk of deer-vehicle crashes peak during fall, drivers can help ensure they reach their destinations safely by remembering a few important tips. Most importantly, don’t veer for deer. While your first instinct when facing a deer in the headlights may be to swerve, doing so could cause you to lose control of the vehicle and increase the severity of a crash.

Motorists are urged to consider the following safe driving tips during

deer mating season:

- Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention to deer crossing signs.
- Scan the sides of the road for eye shine – the reflection of headlights in the eyes.
- Slow down if you see deer. They travel in groups, so more are likely nearby.
- Prepare for the unexpected. Deer can stop in the middle of the road or double back.
- If a collision is inevitable, try to glance the vehicle off the deer and avoid swerving into the opposite lanes of traffic.

More than 40% of crashes involving deer in Illinois occurred in October, November and December, with November being the highest-risk

month. Rural environments were the site of nearly 90% of all crashes involving deer, with more than 70% occurring at twilight or nighttime.

The top Illinois county for crashes involving deer in 2018 was: Cook - 476

If you hit a deer, pull off to the shoulder and turn on the hazard lights. Call 911 to report the accident so law enforcement can assist. Do not get out of the vehicle to check on an injured deer or pull it from the road. For more information on how to claim a deer that was involved in a crash, visit <http://bit.ly/DeerClaim>. To report possession of a deer killed in a deer-vehicle crash, fill out the form at <http://bit.ly/DeerPossession>. ✧

## Michigan discusses decision to increase Chinook salmon stocking

Michigan DNR states we got to this point because of a Lake Michigan Committee decision in 2016 to reduce Chinook salmon stocking due to low fish weight and low alewife numbers. Anglers disagreed with the LMC's approach to just reduce Chinook salmon, so the LMC adopted a 900,000 Chinook equivalents lake-wide reduction. Each state could decide what species mix to reduce. Michigan originally went from 559,000 to 300,000 Chinook, and then spent another two years adjusting Chinook salmon back up to 504,000 through reductions in brown trout, coho salmon and lake trout. Over 2.1 million fish were reduced by all four states as part of this reduction. Lake-wide Chinook salmon stocking was only reduced by 245,703.

Why the increase now? The predator prey ratio through 2018 showed three years in a row of ratios below 0.05, which is the goal and safe place to be. Also, fish weights the last two years have been amazing. Captain Chuck's in Ludington has weighed over 100 kings greater than 30 pounds.

Because of this, the Lake Michigan Committee agreed to a modest increase to 450,000. There was still concern that the alewife population rebound had just started, so they did not want to put too much pressure on it. They also recognized angler feedback suggesting that there was tons of bait and big fish out there. Remember that this is the first decision to raise stocking in Lake Michigan since 1999. It took 20 years to get the alewife to rebound.

The Citizen's Advisors were asked in June about their recommendation (status quo, 450,000 increase or 900,000 increase). The advisor's majority vote was for a 450,000 increase with some advocating for status quo and some for 900,000 or more increase.

The Lake Michigan Basin Team, which is made up of biologist and technicians from the Field, Research and Hatcheries, unanimously agreed to status quo. The alewife density and age structure was still rebounding and needed more time to recover. The fear

was not to crash the fishery and that has been their goal since the team formed. There is also extreme variability in weight with some of our lowest salmon weights just four years ago. Natural reproduction seems to be rebounding too, which will add mouths and variability to the system.

How many for each state (approximately)? Michigan = 150,000, Wisconsin = 175,000, Illinois = 40,000, and Indiana = 85,000.

Wisconsin would add an additional 106,250 Chinook equivalents. The total lake-wide Chinook salmon stocking plan for 2020 will be about 2,095,556. This will be higher than what the lake has seen since 2013. The 2013 to 2016 average stocking number was 1,785,009.

Here is the proposal to increase the 150,000 Chinook salmon at Michigan ports. This proposal follows the zonal management concept adopted by the advisors as well as the pulse stocking concept.

### Where should Michigan increase stocking?

Site	Previous Stocking Level	Approved Odd Years Starting 2019	Approved Even Years Starting 2020	Proposed Odd	Proposed Even
Escanaba	12,000	0	0	0	0
Manistique	34,000	0	69,000	0	140,000
Medusa	72,000	72,000	0	92,000	0
Boardman	60,000	0	62,306	0	71,306
Manistee River	22,000	0	0	0	0
Little Manistee River	150,000	228,000	208,000	228,000	218,000
Big Sable River	38,000	0	0	0	0
Muskegon River	18,000	25,000	0	75,000	0
Grand Haven	59,000	89,306	0	129,306	0
Holland	15,000	0	35,000	0	50,000
Black River	15,000	0	55,000	0	75,000
Saugatuck	16,000	0	75,000	0	100,000
St. Joseph	48,000	90,000	0	130,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>559,000</b>	<b>504,306</b>	<b>504,306</b>	<b>654,306</b>	<b>654,306</b>

Ever since the decision to reduce Chinook and other species in 2016, there has been a lack of trust and disconnect between what anglers see and what agency assessment data is detecting. This has caused a lot of confusion regarding how agencies collect the data and how it is used.

Agencies use three sources to determine what the bait abundance estimate is or was in the lake: bottom trawl, acoustics with mid-water trawl, and prey consumption.



The bottom trawl has been done since 1973 making it the longest data set that we use in Lake Michigan. It is done during the day at pre-established transects with about 69 total trawls for the lake. It fishes on the bottom and has been good for alewife, smelt, bloater, and more recently goby.

	Bottom trawl survey	Acoustic/mid-water trawl
Years	1973-2019 (no 1998)	1992-1996, 2001-2019
Time of day	Day	Night
# trawls	~69	~30
Water column sampled	Bottom ~1.4 m (4.6 ft)	From 1 m (3.3 ft) off bottom to ~2 m (6.6 ft) below the vessel
Bathymetry sampled	9-110 m (29.5 – 360.9 ft)	6-240 m (19.7 – 787.4 ft)
Common species	Alewife, Bloater, Rainbow Smelt	
Unique species	Round gobies and sculpins	Cisco, emerald shiner

The acoustic survey is done at 30 random transects throughout the lake. It is done at night and is ground truthed with a mid-water trawl. Both the Michigan DNR and USGS conduct acoustic surveys using the same equipment and methods. The acoustics mostly match what anglers are seeing. The survey has picked up a steady increase in age 1 and older alewife since a low in 2015. However, the 2017- and 2018-year classes of alewife have been weak.

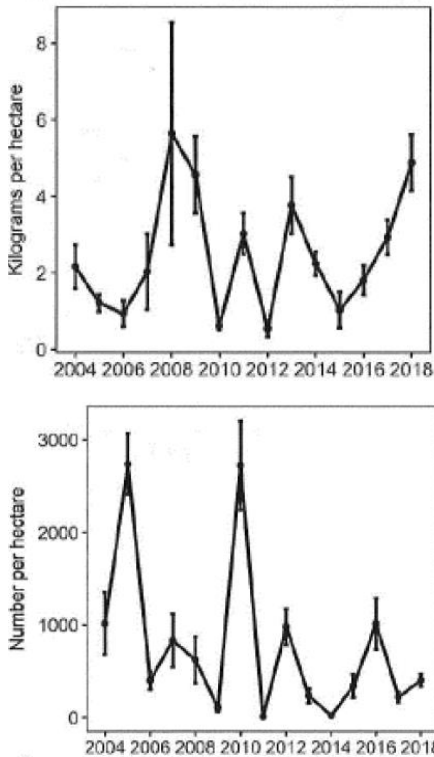
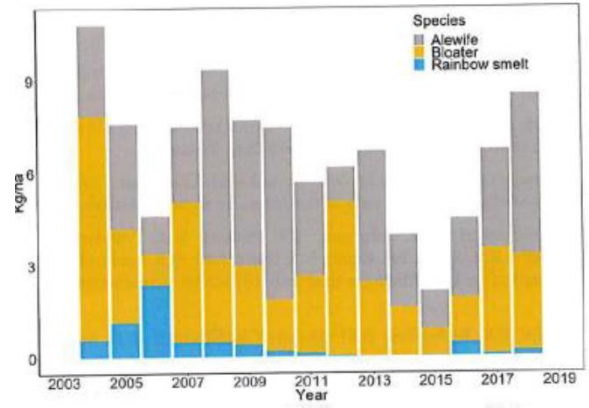


Fig 3-Biomass density of age-1 or older alewife (top panel) and numeric density of age-0 alewife (bottom panel) observed during the Lake Michigan acoustic survey during 2004-2018.

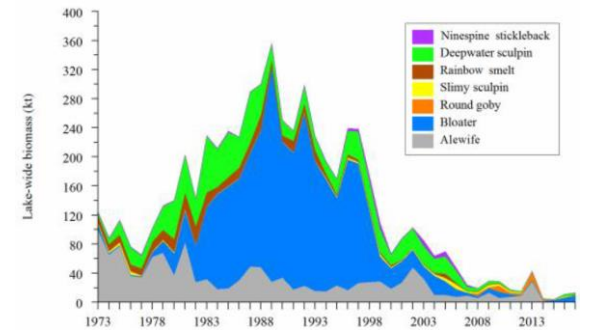
The bottom trawl data is what most anglers and news outlets tend to concentrate on. It shows the most dramatic changes in the total bait biomass with alewife being at record lows in recent years. The bottom trawl graph is one of the main reasons that there is such a disconnect and trust factor with anglers. How can there be record low alewife, but we can see tons on our graphs. One issue is that the water is clearer now than what it was in the 1990s and 2000s. Perhaps fish can see the net now. Another hypothesis is that a new boat came on line for USGS in 2015, so there could be some sort of vibration or sound deterrence happening that has not been figured out.

Prey consumption is also looked at. Not only do we have an estimate in the later summer of what is being detected by the trawl and acoustics, there is also prey consumption. For each species of fish and particularly Chinook salmon, there had to be a certain amount of alewife for each age class to reach a certain weight. There had to be so much alewife in the lake to support that consumption. ✧

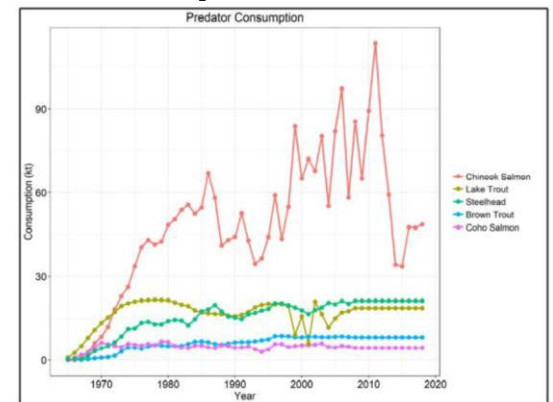
Bottom trawl data



Lakewide biomass (kt)



Predator Consumption



## ILL sites open for 2019 youth waterfowl hunting seasons

A number of Illinois state parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas and recreation areas will be open to youth waterfowl hunting during the 2019 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Seasons. Federal sites that fall under the IDNR waterfowl administrative rule that will be open for the youth hunts also are listed below.

At most sites, regulations that apply during the regular waterfowl hunting season apply during the Youth Hunt (hunters should check for site-specific regulations, including changes in legal shooting hours).

Hunters age 17 or younger may hunt ducks, geese, coots and mergansers as long as they are accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. The accompanying adult cannot hunt these species.

Youths must have a Hunting License, Youth Hunting License, or Apprentice Hunting License. The youth hunter or his or her accompanying adult must have a valid FOID card. The supervising adult does not need to have a hunting license if they are not hunting other species. Youths 15 or younger are not required to have state or federal duck stamps, however youth hunters age 16 and older must have federal duck stamps even if they are using an Illinois Youth License. Hunters are not required to have an Illinois duck stamp unless they are age 18 or older. Although Illinois Youth Hunting Licenses are available for hunters up to age 18, federal waterfowl hunting regulations do not allow hunters over age 17 to participate in youth hunts.

All waterfowl hunters, including those participating in the Youth Hunt, are required to register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP).

[IDNR Announces State and Federal Sites to be Open for 2019 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Seasons](#)

For hunter fact sheets online go to: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/FactSheets/Pages/default.aspx>. ✧

## DEC wants input to develop striped bass fishing regulations, thru **Oct 28** *Input received through new DEC survey will help gauge anglers' preferred options*

New York DEC announced a new tool to help encourage stakeholders to provide input on several options for the 2020 striped bass fishing season. DEC launched a new online survey to gain public opinion on options developed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to address striped bass overfishing.

[DEC's Striped Bass Fishing Survey](#) allows anglers to select the preferred ASMFC striped bass management options (below) and provide suggestions for developing commercial and recreational regulations for the 2020 fishing season. The survey is accessible through **October 28, 2019**. A paper survey is available by request to [FW.Marine@dec.ny.gov](mailto:FW.Marine@dec.ny.gov) or by calling (631) 444-0450.

ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board released [Draft Addendum VI \(PDF\)](#) to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Striped Bass that addresses the finding that the striped bass resource is overfished and experiencing overfishing. ASMFC has drafted different options to reduce striped bass harvest. A summary of ASMFC draft options for New York State are:

### Option 1: Status Quo

- Current regulations in the Marine and Coastal District (south of the George Washington Bridge) are a 1 fish bag limit; a 28" total length minimum size limit; and an open season from April 15 through December 15.

- In the Hudson River region (north of the George Washington Bridge) current regulations are a 1 fish bag limit; a size limit of either an 18"-28" total length slot, or greater than 40" total length; and an open season from April 1 through November 30.

**Note:** Status quo will not help to address the recent decline in the striped bass resource.

**Option 2:** Equal Percent Reduction to both Recreational and Commercial Sector

- Both the commercial and recreational sectors would take an 18 percent reduction from 2017 levels.
- Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.

**Option 3:** Commercial Sector Takes a Smaller Percent Reduction than Recreational

- The current fishery is predominantly recreational with the sector accounting for 90% of total harvest by weight since 2004.
- The commercial sector would take a 1.8% reduction in quota and the recreational sector would take a 20% reduction from 2017 levels.

### • Circle Hook Provision

In addition to reducing the harvest levels of striped bass, ASMFC may also consider implementing regulations that encourage or mandate anglers to use circle hooks when targeting striped bass with bait.

### Conservation Equivalency

Conservation equivalency allows states flexibility to develop alternative regulations that address specific state or regional differences while still achieving the goals and objectives of the FMP (18% reduction from 2017 total removals). Under Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass FMP, a state may submit a proposal for a change to its regulatory program for any mandatory compliance measure. All conservation equivalency proposals are subject to Striped Bass Technical Committee review and Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approval. ✧

## DNR seeking applications to serve on Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is seeking applications from Minnesota residents interested in serving on the statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

The committee was established in January 2013 to help guide the DNR's AIS prevention and management activities. Members provide advice and diverse perspectives to the DNR Invasive Species Program. Responsibilities include reviewing reports, preparing comments and participating in eight meetings a year in a central Minnesota location.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. **Monday, Nov. 11**. Aquatic invasive species are one of the state's most pressing natural resource issues. Preventing the spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, invasive carp, starry stonewort and other invasive plants and animals is of

critical environmental, recreational and economic importance.

The DNR seeks to continue building strong relationships with partners involved in AIS prevention, and the advisory committee is important in this effort. The insights and perspectives of individuals, citizen organizations and local governments have been very helpful in guiding the DNR's AIS activities.

The DNR AIS Advisory Committee comprises 15 members appointed by the commissioner for terms of up to four years. Questions in the brief application reflect the DNR's desire to have a diverse and well-rounded advisory committee. Members have a range of personal and professional experience with AIS issues, including prevention, decontamination, public awareness and control activities.

Similarly, the DNR seeks representation from different parts of

the state, as well as a diversity of ages, genders, ethnicities, abilities, orientations, recreational interests and education. The committee also reflects the range of private, nonprofit and public sector organizations that are actively engaged in AIS issues.

Appointees may request mileage reimbursement, but they are not paid or eligible for per diem. They must abide by requirements pertaining to potential conflicts of interest. Advisory committee work can be a significant time commitment. Applicants should be prepared to make a four-year commitment.

### HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be accepted [online](#). Advisory committee data are classified as private under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.601, subd.3, except for what is specifically listed in statute as public. For more information, contact Heidi Wolf, 651-259-5152, [heidi.wolf@state.mn.us](mailto:heidi.wolf@state.mn.us). ✧

## Stay safe when the water temperature drops

As the leaves fall and the air temperature drops, memories of years past serve as a constant reminder that winter may be only a day away. It's a time when hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans—many of them anglers and hunters—will spend the next month or two out in the elements, chasing fish, scanning the sky for ducks, or waiting for the deer that will fill their freezers with venison.

For anyone whose fall plans include time on the water, the Minnesota DNR offers this reminder: Your safety is your responsibility.

This time of the year can be especially dangerous for anyone who recreates on the water because falls into cold lakes, ponds or rivers incapacitate even strong swimmers. And while some people like the solitude that comes with being on the water in the fall, it's a double-edged sword because cries for help may go unheard or rescues may take longer

than they would have during the warm-weather months.

While more boating-related accidents occur during the busy summer months, a higher percentage of them are fatal during the cold-water season and survival rates drop drastically. "Few things are as heartbreaking as telling someone their loved one isn't coming home, especially when the reality is so many incidents could be avoided by taking a few simple safety precautions," said Jon Paurus, DNR Enforcement education program coordinator.

Wearing a life jacket (foam is better than inflatable during the cold-water season) is the one action most likely to help people survive a fall into cold water. People can reduce the likelihood of a fall overboard by distributing weight evenly in the boat and abiding by the manufacturer's weight limits. Having a means of communication is important, too, as is

making sure other people are aware where you're going and when you plan to return.

Changes in weather that result in shifting winds and storms can also lead to a treacherous situation, so it's vital for anglers and hunters to keep an eye to the sky. And whether they're on water or land, hunters should always follow the four rules of firearms safety: Treat each firearm as if it is loaded; always control the muzzle of your firearm; be sure of your target and what is beyond; and keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.

"Minnesota is a wonderful place to live and recreate, but our opportunity for getting out on the water to fish and hunt is relatively compressed," Paurus said. "It's understandable people don't want to let cold water or cold weather get in their way of enjoying the outdoors, but be safe and smart about it." ✧



## Whitefish sport netting to open on northern lakes

Recreational netting for whitefish and cisco, also referred to as tullibee, is open this fall on designated lakes. Whitefish and cisco sport netting is open to Minnesota residents only. About 700 Minnesotans participate each year. Whitefish netting schedules are based on expected water temperatures. As the water temperature cools, game fish head to deeper water while tullibee come to shallow water for fall spawning. The Minnesota DNR allows netting when there is little chance that game fish populations would be negatively impacted by recreational netting in shallow water. Game fish incidentally taken in nets must be returned to the water immediately.

Regulations, including designated lakes, netting schedules and requirements are available on the [DNR website](#). ✧

## Archery Deer Permits

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

**Non-Resident:** Illinois Non-Resident Archery Deer combination permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. The Illinois Archery Deer Season is open through January 19, 2020 (except closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting). ✧

## Fishing and Night Hikes at Pere Marquette

Bring the family to Pere Marquette State Park Saturday, Nov. 2 for the park's free Fishing and Night Hike programs. Families can meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Pere Marquette Visitor Center for a brief program on fish; then children can fish the pond adjacent to the Visitor Center. Beginning at 7:30 p.m., families can enjoy a program on owls and other creatures of the night, then take a night hike to listen for owls, followed by a hot dog and marshmallow roast around a campfire. ✧

## Firearm Deer Permits

Over-the-counter sales of remaining 2019 Illinois Firearm Deer Permits will begin on **October 15**. Permits will be sold until quotas are exhausted or until the close of the season, whichever occurs first. Individual hunters can purchase one or more permits beginning October 15, subject to availability. For a list of the number of permits available following the final lottery drawing, check the IDNR website: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deer/Pages/DeerSeasonsDeadlinesAvailablePermits.aspx>. ✧

## Learn to Hunt

The Illinois Hunter Recruitment Program provides free education and training workshops to teach adult participants how to hunt deer, turkey, squirrels, pheasants, ducks, geese and other game. For more information: <https://publish.illinois.edu/hunttrapillinois/>. ✧

## Lake Carlos State Park to offer snowshoe-lacing workshop **Nov. 23-24**

**Registration deadline is Nov 2**

The Minnesota DNR is offering a two-day snowshoe-lacing workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on November 23- 24 at the Lake Carlos State Park Visitor Center in Douglas County. During the workshop, an instructor will demonstrate how laces are strung on pre-built Ojibwe-style wood snowshoe frames, followed by a lesson on how to use the finished product.

"For a few hours of your time, you can make and take home your very own pair of traditional Ojibwe-style snowshoes," said Ryan Sansness, assistant park manager at Lake Carlos State Park. "The snowshoes will not only give you the ability to explore Minnesota's winter wilderness, but will give you the added satisfaction of knowing you made them yourself."

The \$75 registration fee includes the snowshoe kit, materials and instruction, along with coffee, tea, water and snacks. Rubber bindings are available to purchase at the park for \$5. The class size is limited to 22 people, with a minimum of eight. Lunch will not be provided either day, so bring a sack lunch.

The registration deadline is 4 p.m. on **November 2**. To register, or for more information, call the park office at 320-852-7200. A vehicle permit is required to enter the park and is available at the park office for \$7/day or \$35/annual. ✧



**Other Breaking News Items:****(Click on title or URL to read full article)**[Commercial perch fishing on Great Lakes restricted under state House proposals](#)

Three bills being considered by the Michigan Legislature would protect recreational fishing for walleye, lake trout, and perch in Michigan but further restrict commercial fishing for the species

[Nearly 4M Chinook salmon eggs to be harvested to restock Great Lakes fisheries](#)

Chinook salmon shouldn't be in short supply in the Great Lakes thanks to the Little Manistee River Weir in Manistee, Michigan. The annual Chinook salmon egg-take began yesterday. They were the first of 3.85 million eggs to be collected this fall

[Ontario to restrict transportation of baitfish from one region of Ontario to another](#)

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is moving to restrict the transportation of baitfish from one region of Ontario to another.

[Commercial fishing flap a reminder Lake Erie's bounty belongs to all](#)

The potential for inspection of Ontario-based commercial fishing operations in Lake Erie to shift from the government to private enterprise has anglers concerned on both sides of the border.

[Nets set out in Lake Nipissing for data collection](#)

The Ontario government, in partnership with Nipissing First Nation, is helping protect fish populations in Lake Nipissing by collecting data and conducting research this fall.

[Senator pushes for moratorium on Great Lakes wind turbines](#)

New York State Sen. Chris Jacobs recently announced that he has introduced legislation that would establish an indefinite moratorium on the construction or placement of wind turbines on any freshwater body located within the boundaries of New York State

[Applications now open for advisory council to proposed Lake Ontario marine sanctuary](#)

The feds are seeking applications from those interested in serving on a council that would advise NOAA as it considers creating a 1,700-square-mile national marine sanctuary in the southeastern portion of the lake to preserve the shipwrecks below its waters

[High Lake Michigan water levels projected to continue into fall](#)

The Army Corps Detroit District's six-month forecast shows that as Lake Michigan-Huron water levels begin to drop off for the season, they are projected to remain well above-average

End