



First alewife spotted on the Hutchinson River since the 19th century

The alewife was found at the foot of the Pelham Lake Dam, part of Willson Woods Park in Mount Vernon.

Alewife, also known as river herring, are a native species to New York's marine waters and tidal rivers. Similar to striped bass or salmon, alewife live mainly in the ocean and travel into freshwater rivers to spawn. Since the 1800s, industrial dams have obstructed alewife from reaching historic spawning grounds, impacting their ability to successfully reproduce and maintain healthy and sustainable populations.

A monitoring site located at Pelham Lake Dam is being studied to assess if a fishway would encourage migratory fish to swim further upstream. This spring, project

partners recorded the first known sighting of an alewife since dams were built along the river in the 19th century. A fishway installed at Pelham Lake Dam in Willson's Woods County Park would be the first in Westchester County within the Long Island Sound watershed.

Long Island Sound Study's fishway projects seek to remove dams or build fish ladders over or around barriers. These projects have helped to open up hundreds of river miles for migratory fish to swim from Long Island Sound into streams in Connecticut, Long Island, and the Bronx. This project is supported by funding from the Ocean and Great Lakes Environmental Protection Fund; read more in [Long Island Sound Study's Sound Spotlight](#).

Estuary programs in New York State, including the Long Island Sound Study and the Peconic Estuary Partnership, and the NYSDEC [Hudson River Fisheries Unit](#), are working with partners to prioritize and evaluate the removal or modification of impediments to fish passage. If a successful design at Pelham Lake Dam, which is in Willson's Woods Park, leads to a fish passage project, it will be the first in Westchester County in the Long Island Sound watershed. The program manager for NYSDEC is Vicky O'Neill, a NEIWPCC environmental analyst who is also the Long Island Sound Study Habitat Restoration and Stewardship coordinator in New York. ✧

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Happy 4th of July

US and Canada release 2019 State of Great Lakes report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) recently released the 2019 State of the Great Lakes (SOGI) report, which provides an overview of the status and trends of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

"The Great Lakes is home to one of the world's greatest bodies of fresh water and while progress on water quality is happening, there is still work to be done," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "This report shows that invasive species and excess nutrients continue to undermine ecosystem health. These status reports directly inform state and federal policies toward the Great Lakes."

The SOGI report is developed in accordance with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and

provides a summary of the health of the Great Lakes. The assessment is made based on indicators of ecosystem health, such as drinking water, fish consumption and beach closures. Over 180 government and non-government Great Lakes scientists and other experts worked to assemble available data and prepare the report.

Overall, Great Lakes water quality is assessed as "fair and unchanging." While progress to restore and protect the Great Lakes has occurred, including the reduction of toxic chemicals, challenges cited in the report include invasive species and excess nutrients that contribute to toxic and nuisance algae.

Since the last report in 2017, about \$900 million of GLRI funds

2019 State of Great Lakes

Continued on page 6

NY statewide muskie fishing season opened

May 30

June 20 is Season Opener in Great Lakes Waters

New York announced the statewide fishing season for muskie opened **May 30**, in most locations. The muskie season for New York's Lake Erie, Upper/Lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River opens on the third Saturday in June, **June 20** this year.

"Storied New York waters like Chautauqua Lake and the Upper Niagara and St. Lawrence rivers produce some of the nation's best muskie fishing opportunities," Commissioner Seggos said. "Muskie are apex predators that can grow to great sizes and the patient angler may be rewarded with a real trophy. We encourage New York anglers to get out on the water safely and responsibly practicing social distancing during the State's response to COVID-19."

Muskies are the largest freshwater sportfish in New York State, sometimes reaching weights of 50 pounds or more. New York's statewide minimum size limit for muskellunge is 40 inches and the minimum size limit in Great Lakes waters is 54 inches. Anglers are encouraged to review the [Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide](#) on DEC's website for more information.

Referred to in angling lore as "the fish of 10,000 casts," muskies put up quite a fight once hooked. Their huge size and unpredictable nature have always been challenging, but the potential to hook into one has proven irresistible to many an accomplished angler. Muskellunge management in New York entails habitat protection and enhancement, research and monitoring, stocking, and fishing regulations. At least 13 lakes and 19 rivers have muskellunge populations in New York State.

The St. Lawrence River, Upper Niagara River, and [Chautauqua Lake](#)

PFBC seeks public comment on New Plan for Trout Management, thru June 24

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is seeking public comment on a new Strategic Plan for Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania. This updated plan for 2020-2024 was developed based on input provided by a work group of partners including Commission staff, anglers affiliated with several sportsmen's organizations, and independent trout anglers.

The goal of this strategic plan is to ensure that adequate protection is afforded to Pennsylvania's wild trout resources, and that fisheries provided through the management of wild trout and stocking of adult and fingerling trout produce high quality angling opportunities in Pennsylvania. The plan is available [online](#) for public review and a 30-day public comment period will remain open from May 26 through **June 24, 2020**. Comments can be submitted through the [comment portal](#) on the PFBC website (www.fishandboat.com) or mailed to PFBC, Attention: David Nihart 595 East Rolling Ridge Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

The plan will be finalized during summer 2020 following consideration of public comments. ✧

are New York's most renowned muskie hotspots. Other quality muskie waters are [Waneta](#), [Greenwood](#), [Bear](#) and [Cassadaga](#) lakes, and the [Susquehanna](#), [Chenango](#) and Great Chazy rivers. For tips on how to catch muskies, read DEC's [Muskie 101](#) web page. Chautauqua Lake is the source for DEC's muskie stocking program. DEC's [Chautauqua Hatchery](#) will raise approximately 26,000 fall fingerlings from eggs collected earlier this spring, which will be stocked into 16 waters across New York. ✧



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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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State struggle: Budget shortfalls stall Asian carp plan, put cleanups at risk

With the federal government writing trillion-dollar checks to fight COVID-19, support collapsing businesses and feed cash into the economy via stimulus checks, Great Lakes legislators and advocacy groups are seizing on the opportunity to secure funding while the money still flows.

Recently the senate committee that oversees water infrastructure projects unanimously approved legislation authorizing \$18 billion for projects nationally. Authorization legislation gives the appropriation committees approval to fund the project, but that has to be negotiated. Included in that legislation was a provision that the federal share of the Army Corps of Engineers project to stop Asian carp be increased from 65 to 75% of the estimated \$831 million project, according to a [press release](#) from Michigan Senator Gary Peters.

But the action, if it ultimately gets through the legislative hurdles, comes too late to advance in 2020. The project at the [Brandon Road Lock and Dam](#) in the Chicago waterways system is thought to be a logical choke point to prevent the carp advance.

"They (Illinois) still claim they support the project," Smith told Great Lakes Now, "but they're still wrangling with the Army Corps over the design agreement." Illinois had proposed changes to the agreement that the Army Corps rejected, Smith said. "All this has caused too long a delay and as a result Illinois has missed the window this year for federal investment in the project," Smith said.

Illinois DNR spokesperson Rachel Torbert characterized the discussions between the agency and the Army Corps as "ongoing." "The state of Illinois continues to discuss with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers language in the Preconstruction, Engineering and Design Agreement as well as federal and non-federal funding," Torbert said.

The project can't proceed without a non-federal sponsor.

Reluctant governors

The plan to stop Asian carp at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam has been one of the region's highest priorities for years given the havoc the voracious feeder could wreak on the Great Lakes ecosystem, its \$7 billion fishing industry and tourism. But successive Illinois governors from both political parties have not supported the plan since its inception in 2014 out of fear that physical modifications to the infrastructure could disrupt the shipping industry. Instead, they've relied on commercial fishing to keep the carp at bay, an effective action in the short term but not seen as a long-term solution. In early 2019, Brandon Road advocates saw hope that the Illinois logjam would be broken when new governor J.B. Pritzker expressed qualified support for the plan. But as time passed Pritzker started to question its burgeoning cost, which increased from \$275 million to the current \$831 million.

Illinois has yet to sign on as the non-federal sponsor.

Illinois had debt and budget problems long before COVID-19 began and the pandemic will certainly add strain to the state's finances, making it more difficult for Illinois to take on the expense of fighting Asian carp. Because of the delay and its own budget issues, Michigan pulled back \$8 million it had set aside to help Illinois fund the design work.

In addition to the Asian carp funding, the senate committee proposed an increase in funding for Great Lakes restoration. The USEPA-managed restoration program has been stable at \$300 million since 2010 and survived two attempts by the Trump administration to eliminate funding for the program.

Congress overrode the proposed cuts, and the U.S. House recently increased restoration funding to \$320 million. The senate proposal would bump it to \$375 million. The final amount will be determined by a conference committee consisting of the two legislative bodies.

Great Lakes cleanups depending on federal funds

Most Great Lakes restoration projects, unlike the Brandon Road project, are 100% federally funded. But cleanup of the toxic legacy sites known as Areas of Concern are funded under the [Great Lakes Legacy Act](#), which requires a 35% cost share borne by the state or other entities in the state such as non-profits. Michigan has eleven [Areas of Concern](#) that still require work, including the Detroit and Rouge rivers.

For many years, Michigan has used funds from the Clean Michigan Initiative to meet the required non-federal match for toxic site cleanup, Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy spokesperson Hugh McDiarmid told Great Lakes Now. But COVID-19 is driving significant budget cuts, with Michigan facing a potential \$2.6 billion shortfall.

"The Clean Michigan Initiative funding is mostly gone and what little we have left is mostly committed to a few remaining projects, so irrespective of the recent budget shortfall, we are not well-positioned to provide additional match for these projects anyway," McDiarmid said.

McDiarmid said EGLE is working with non-profits and parties who may have been responsible for the initial pollution to provide the necessary matching funds. The Michigan DNR receives EPA restoration funding for invasive species control and habitat restoration, according to spokesperson Ed Golder, who said some of the projects require matching funds. "As we work through addressing the budget shortfalls, we will know more about the viability of those projects with matching dollars required," Golder said. Golder said the agency would look to federal agencies to develop funding solutions and for flexibility so work can continue.

All the projects and funding must still be approved by the full senate. ✧

New York Fishing Classes to resume in late June pending Covid restrictions

Region/Cty	Event	Location	Date/Rain Date	Time	Contact
6 Jefferson	Classes with Spider Rybaak	Wellesley Isl Ste Park (MAC Nature Center),	June 20	11:00 - 3:30 PM	Gaby Padewska, NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation 315-482-2479
4 Otsego	Father's Day Fishing Clinic	Neawha Park (Hodges Pond), Oneonta	June 21	11:00 - 3:00 PM	Patricia Leitenberger, Trout Unlimited 607-434-6029
6 Jefferson	Classes with Spider Rybaak	Wellesley Isl Ste Park (MAC Nature Center),	July 4	11:00 - 3:30 PM	Gaby Padewska, NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation 315-482-2479
6 Jefferson	Classes with Spider Rybaak	Wellesley Isl Ste Park (MAC Nature Center),	August 8	11:00 - 3:30 PM	Gaby Padewska, NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation 315-482-2479
7 Onondaga	Webster Pond Fishing Clinic	Webster Pond, Syracuse	August 8 (Rain Date August 15)	8:00 - 5:00 PM	Chad Norton, Anglers Association of Onondaga 315-727-2922
6 Jefferson	Classes with Spider Rybaak	Wellesley Island State Park (MAC Nature Center), Fineview	Sept 5	11:00 - 3:30 PM	Gaby Padewska, NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation 315-482-2479
6 Jefferson	Classes with Spider Rybaak	Wellesley Isl Ste Park (MAC Nature Center),	October 3,	11:00 - 3:30 PM	Gaby Padewska, NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation 315-482-2479

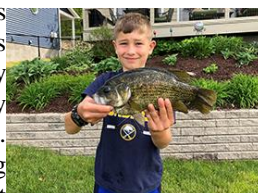
✧

2019-2020 IN annual licenses extended until end of June

All 2019-20 basic hunting, basic fishing, hunt/fish combo, youth licenses, and stamps set to expire March 31, 2020 are now valid until the end of June. After that, you will need a 2020-21 license and/or stamp to hunt, fish, or trap. Keep a printed or electronic copy with you while hunting or fishing. If you do not have a 2019-20 annual license or stamp, a 2020-21 annual license is required. One hundred percent of your purchase goes directly toward the conservation of Indiana's fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Purchase online at on.IN.gov/INhuntfish. ✧

State record rock bass

2020 is off to a great start as far as state fishing records go in New York. Less than a month after a new white bass record was established, a new rock bass record was reeled in by one lucky young angler. While fishing off the dock at



his family's cottage on Port Bay (Lake Ontario) on May 24th, Jason Leusch caught a 2 pound rock bass using a live shiner. It edged the previous state record caught from the Ramapo River in 1984 by just one ounce—enough to qualify as a new state record. Congratulations Jason!

Visit DEC's website for more

Calling Lake Ontario trout & salmon anglers

The NYSDE and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) requests anglers' help collecting heads from coho salmon and stomach samples from all species of salmon and trout caught from Lake Ontario in 2020. Freezers, sample bags, and data tags have been distributed at several locations where anglers can pick up supplies and drop off samples. To find out why and how you can help, visit DEC's webpages on [Coho Salmon Head Collection](#) and [Lake Ontario Fish Diet Study](#). ✧

information on [New York's Angler Achievement Awards Program](#). ✧

The association applauds the Senate for passage of the Great American Outdoors Act

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies is pleased to see passage of the *Great American Outdoors Act* ([S. 3422](#)) through the full Senate, with a majority vote of 73-25. This historic bipartisan conservation legislation would support State recreation and parks programs, facilitate public access to outdoor recreation on state and federal public lands, and help rebuild much needed federal infrastructure that supports hunting, fishing, boating, and other aspects of the outdoor recreation economy.

"The *Great American Outdoors Act* represents a great commitment to increasing conservation and public access to the outdoors," said Secretary Kelly Hepler of South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks and

President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. "Today, more than ever, our citizens need outdoor recreation opportunities that benefit their mental and physical health and well-being. The Association wishes to thank the Senate for working together to pass an important bipartisan piece of conservation legislation that will benefit our citizens and future generations of outdoor enthusiasts."

This legislation would allocate billions to support outdoor recreation. First, it will provide \$9.5 billion over the next five years to help the National Park Service and other federal land-management agencies address their maintenance backlogs. Second, it will provide full and permanent funding for the *Land and*

Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), widely considered the nation's single best funding tool for outdoor recreation, at \$900 million annually.

On June 4, a companion bill to the *Great American Outdoors Act* (H.R. 7092) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Joe Cunningham (D-SC) and approximately a dozen other cosponsors. Since introduction, H.R. 7092 has accumulated 64 bipartisan cosponsors. The Association looks forward to continuing to work with our conservation partners and members of the House of Representatives to expeditiously bring the *Great American Outdoors Act* to the House floor for immediate passage. ✧

DEC invites public comment on Draft Trout Stream Management Plan; comment before **June 25**

New York State DEC announced that DEC is seeking angler feedback on a proposed plan to manage trout in inland streams. The proposed changes are designed to safeguard wild trout and expand fishing opportunities. The deadline for the public to comment on the draft plan is **June 25, 2020**.

"New York is blessed with a wide array of trout stream resources and we take great pride in our comprehensive efforts to improve their management," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "This plan is the culmination of more than two years of DEC work and outreach and lays the groundwork for managing our trout streams in a responsible manner while also expanding angling opportunities to the greatest extent possible. I encourage trout stream anglers to read and share their feedback on the draft plan."

Significant aspects of the plan are the direct result of public meetings held with anglers in 2017, to identify desired outcomes for the State's

numerous and diverse trout streams. The plan covers a broad spectrum of management areas and angler interests associated with trout stream management in New York.

Major elements of the draft plan include:

1. Drawing a clear line between wild fish and stocked trout management;
2. Placing greater emphasis on habitat improvement;
3. Making management simpler and more understandable;
4. Eliminating unnecessary regulations;
5. Providing year-round fishing opportunities through the creation of a statewide catch-and-release season;
6. Extending the duration of stocking on select stream reaches;
7. Increasing the size of stocked fish;
8. Ensuring that each stocking contains some fish that are 12 inches or larger;
9. Improving the vigor of hatchery brown trout for increased survival;

10. Developing an interactive map for information on stream reach management and fishing access locations; and

11. Expanding outreach on the significance of wild trout populations and the water they inhabit.

DEC encourages the public to comment on the [Draft Trout Stream Management Plan](#), which is available at DEC's website. Public comments will be accepted through June 25, 2020. Following a review of public comments received and further evaluation this summer, DEC will finalize the plan and begin implementation. ✧



Spring stocking provides boost to Wisconsin fisheries

The Wisconsin DNR continues to boost natural fish populations through stocking to provide anglers with high quality and diverse fishing opportunities.

“From large lakes and rivers to small streams and ponds, Wisconsin has some of the most diverse fishing opportunities in the country,” said Justine Hasz, DNR Bureau of Fisheries Management Director. “We are committed to maintaining and sustaining these resources for the use and enjoyment of all anglers and are happy to announce the spring fish stocking numbers.”

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the DNR made a variety of short-term management decisions earlier this spring to protect the health and safety of the public and DNR staff. As such, stocking operations have been altered to comply with public health guidelines.

Additional decisions that were necessary to protect the public, DNR staff, and fishery resources include the temporary suspension of the following operations:

- Stocking partnerships and collaborations (such as net pens in Lake Michigan)
- Offshore stocking of brown trout in Green Bay
- Offshore stocking conducted on Lake Superior
- Stocking of urban and small ponds

“We realize some of these decisions impact our partners and result in temporary changes to the way we manage our public trust resources,” said Hasz. “However, we believe these decisions are necessary to protect our most important resource which is our staff and the public we serve.”

These suspensions have not impacted Lake Michigan and Lake Superior stocking numbers. Currently, no fish surveys or creel surveys are being conducted. The department recognizes the importance of urban and small pond

fishing opportunities. Anglers who normally utilize these resources should contact their [local fisheries biologist](#) for alternate fishing locations this year. Normal stocking partnerships and collaborations, fisheries surveys and creel surveys will resume once the public health emergency has subsided.

Wisconsin waters continue to offer some of the most diverse and high-quality fishing experiences in the country. Anglers are encouraged to enjoy these fisheries resources responsibly and adhere to the most recent [public health and safety guidelines](#) and [fishing regulations](#). Complete [Fish Stocking Summaries](#) are available on the [DNR fisheries webpage](#).

The Bureau of Fisheries Management has safely and efficiently stocked:

Fish Stocked As Of May 29, 2020

	CHINOOK SALMON	COHO SALMON	BROOK TROUT	BROWN TROUT	LAKE TROUT	RAINBOW TROUT	SPLAKE	STEELHEAD
EST. 2020 STOCKING TOTAL	1,204,142	500,000	189,659	731,046	502,138	336,848	72,761	460,000
NUMBER STOCKED IN LAKE MICHIGAN	1,204,142 fingerlings	407,082 yearlings	-	353,217 yearlings	350,000 yearlings	103,582 yearlings	-	365,742 yearlings
NUMBER STOCKED IN LAKE SUPERIOR	-	-	-	181,231 yearlings	90,782 yearlings	-	72,761 yearlings	-
NUMBER STOCKED IN INLAND WATERS	-	-	115,964 yearlings 23,695 fingerlings	99,815 yearlings	61,356 yearlings	194,783 yearlings 38,483 fingerlings	-	-
TOTAL NUMBER STOCKED TO DATE	1,204,142	407,082	139,659	634,263	502,138	336,848	72,761	365,742

* RED TEXT INDICATES FISH STOCKED BY THE US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Remaining Fish To Stock In 2020

	CHINOOK SALMON	COHO SALMON	BROOK TROUT	BROWN TROUT	LAKE TROUT	RAINBOW TROUT	SPLAKE	STEELHEAD
REMAINING TO STOCK IN LAKE MICHIGAN	-	92,918 fingerlings	50,000 fingerlings	96,783 fingerlings	-	-	-	94,258 fingerlings
TOTAL REMAINING TO STOCK IN 2020	-	92,918	50,000	96,783	-	-	-	94,258

2019 State of Great Lakes

Continued from page 1

have been used to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Actions over the last year include the release of the Great Lakes Action Plan 3 and the establishment of the first ever Trash Free Waters grants program for the Great Lakes. Last month, the EPA announced over \$9 million for projects to reduce excess nutrients in the Great Lakes, \$6.4 million to enhance Great Lakes fisheries and an additional \$20 million for work to address persistent challenges in the Great Lakes. [Highlights Report PDF](#)

For more information about state of the Great Lakes reporting and to access the State of the Great Lakes 2019 Report, go to:

www.binalational.net

www.epa.gov/greatlakes

Canada.ca/great-lakes-protection ✧

JUNE 27-28 is Free Fishing Weekend in New York

New York announced a Free Fishing Weekend for **June 27-28**. The event is the second of six Free Fishing Days offered in New York State every year.

Free fishing days provide the perfect opportunity for all New Yorkers—from Brooklyn to Buffalo and from Montauk to Mt. Marcy—to try fishing for the first time and encourage those who have fished before to dust off their fishing rods and get outside.”

DEC encourages all anglers, new and experienced, to recreate locally and seek out fishing opportunities close to home. DEC’s [Places to Fish](#) webpages are a reliable source for those ready to plan their next fishing trip. For beginning anglers interested in getting started, the [I FISH NY Beginners' Guide to Freshwater Fishing](#) provides information on everything from rigging up a fishing rod, to identifying your catch, and understanding fishing regulations.

Additional Free Fishing Days in 2020/2021 include: National Hunting and Fishing Day (**Sept. 26**); Veterans Day (**Nov. 11**); and President’s Day Weekend (**Feb. 13-14**). During these designated free

fishing days, New York residents and non-residents are permitted to fish for free without a fishing license. Free fishing day participants are reminded that although the requirement for a fishing license is waived during free fishing days, all other [fishing regulations](#) remain in effect.

New York State is encouraging people to engage in responsible recreation during the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis. DEC recommendations incorporate guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New York State Department of Health for reducing the spread of infectious diseases and encourage New Yorkers to recreate locally, practice physical distancing, show respect, and use common sense to protect themselves and others. Use the [DEC info Locator](#) to find a DEC-managed resource near you and visit the [State Parks website](#) for information about parks and park closures. For more [information about engaging in responsible recreation this summer](#), visit DEC’s website.

DEC reminds anglers [to maintain safe social distancing while fishing \(PDF\)](#) this year to help stop

the spread of COVID-19. Guidelines to protect yourself and others include:

- **Fish local:** Stay close to home. Keep your fishing trip short. Avoid high-traffic destinations.
- **Be safe:** Avoid crowds and groups. Keep a distance of six feet or more from others. When fishing from a boat, make sure it’s large enough so persons on board are at least six feet from one another.
- **Stay home:** If you’re not feeling well, stay home. Anyone 70 and older or with a compromised immune system should postpone their trip.
- **Be adaptive:** Move quickly through parking lots and paths. If crowded, choose a different fishing location, or time to visit.

Anglers fishing from boats should be able to maintain at least six feet of distance between one another. For more information on boating guidelines and safety, go to [State Parks website](#) and [DEC’s website](#). ✧

NY Black bass fishing season opened June 20



Not only does June 20th mark the first day of summer, but it’s also the traditional season opener for black bass (largemouth bass and smallmouth bass) in New York. They’re considered the state’s #1 sportfish for good reason - they’re a lot of fun to catch and they’re found throughout the state.

The statewide black bass season runs from the 3rd Saturday in June through November 30, followed by a catch-and-release season that begins on December 1 and continues until the start of the regular season. During the traditional harvest season, anglers can possess up to

five bass as long as they are 12 inches or longer. Some waters have special fishing regulations, so be sure to check the current [fishing regulations](#) before heading out to fish.

For an effective and easy-to-rig set up, check out the [Wacky Rig article](#) on DEC’s website. ✧

“Food” for thought:

Each one hopes that if he feeds the crocodile enough it will eat him last.
Winston Churchill

DNR changes to reservation window

The Minnesota DNR is shortening its window for making reservations for camping and lodging to 120 days, or four months. Previously, customers could reserve campsites, cabins, yurts, tipis, and lodging facilities up to one year in advance. The change will take effect on **July 1, 2020**.

The policy change is based on customer survey results, data analysis, and a desire to improve fairness and equity in the reservation process.

"State Parks and Recreation Areas belong to all Minnesotans, so everyone should have equitable access to facilities and campgrounds," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "As our lives have become busier, it's more difficult for people to plan vacations a whole year in advance. Shortening the reservation window will better accommodate visitors' busy schedules and allow more people to enjoy the most desirable campsites and lodging."

DNR surveys indicated that most visitors plan their overnight visits to parks and recreation areas a few months before they go and that many could not plan an entire year in advance.

Reservations made before July 1, 2020 will be honored, even if they are for a date beyond the new 120-day reservation window. However, if a customer needs to change a reservation, a rebooking will only be possible within the new 120-day window.

For more info: 888-646-6367 or info.dnr@state.mn.us. ✧

Living with wildlife: Canada Geese

Have you noticed geese and their young walking across the road during the summer? That's because adult Canada geese molt every summer. While new flight feathers grow in, Canada geese are essentially grounded for a month. New goslings also grow their first set of flight feathers during this time. In Indiana, peak molting for Canada geese are the last two weeks of June through the first two weeks of July.

While gently harassing geese where they may be causing conflict is encouraged, harassing them during their molt is not effective or ethical because the geese have limited physical mobility. Instead, install fencing or a vegetation barrier that is at least 30 inches tall prior to goose nesting. Fencing can be made from a wide range of materials, but any gaps should be no wider than 3 inches. Although fencing does not prevent flying geese, adult geese know goslings need to be able to walk to food and water. Vegetation barriers can be created from native plants, including grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs. These barriers should be 20-30 feet wide around the edge of water sources. The vegetation creates a living barrier while providing habitat for many other species of wildlife.

For more information about living with Canada geese, visit wildlife.IN.gov/2996.htm or contact your [district wildlife biologist](#). ✧

☞ ☞

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

Thomas Jefferson

Lake Superior Management Virtual Meeting **June 23**

ASHLAND, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR will hold a virtual public meeting later this month to discuss the management of Lake Superior's unique resources. The virtual meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 23. Members of the public can access the meeting via [Skype](#) or by calling 1-866-715-6499 and entering the passcode: 8395854504#.

The virtual meeting will include:

- Creel survey results
- Bycatch monitoring during commercial fishing

"Creel surveys and commercial bycatch results were topics that were routinely asked about during the development of the Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan, and we felt that this was a good time to talk about the results of our recent surveys," said Brad Ray, DNR Lake Superior Fisheries Supervisor. "This meeting will also allow us to update the public on the surveys we use to monitor trout and salmon populations."

Participants will also have the opportunity to give input on any fisheries management topic they are interested in.

Due to the significant, community-wide impacts of the Lake Superior fishery, the DNR actively engages with diverse stakeholders to develop, implement, and evaluate management goals and activities as outlined in the [Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan](#). This plan was approved by the Natural Resources Board on May 27, 2020.

Additional meeting information can be found on the DNR's [public meetings calendar](#) and information on [Lake Superior fisheries management](#) is available on the DNR's [fisheries website](#). ✧

End

Other Breaking News Items: (Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Lower lake temperatures and higher walleye population lead to minnow shortage](#)

The cool spring weather has slowed down the reproduction cycle of bait fish in Lake Erie, causing a shortage of minnows.

[Study: 35 years of investing in Great Lakes restoration is paying off](#)

The United States and Canada have invested over \$22.8 billion over the last 35 years to restore Areas of Concern throughout the Great Lakes, according to a study published in the Journal of Great Lakes Research. The study found that the money has been well-spent with investments in cleanups helping revitalize communities with over a 3 to 1 return on investment

Celebrate the 4th of July!

Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.



Preamble to the United States Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.