



## First-ever Invasive Carp State Case: Illegal Sales in Madison

### Highly Destructive Bighead, Silver and Grass Carp



**MADISON, Wis.** – A wholesale fish dealer from Platteville is facing state charges for allegedly illegally selling Asian carp, Wisconsin's most prominent and highly destructive invasive species. The charges against the operator of Li Fish Farm, LLC, a Grant County-based fish company, is the first case involving illegal sales of Asian carp. A complaint from a

member of the public sparked an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

These types of Asian carp, bighead, silver and grass, are different from the carp commonly known as German carp, which have lived in Wisconsin since the mid-1850s. The fish farm operator is facing four criminal charges of Possess Illegal Fish and a fifth charge of Violate Vehicle ID Requirements when Transporting Fish. The case is pending in Dane County Circuit Court system. Additional pending citations for similar violations are expected from the DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement.

The Conservation Warden investigation focused primarily on activities during 2018 and 2019. However, the alleged illegal fish

activities were ongoing for several years before. "These types of carp are highly invasive species that out-compete Wisconsin native fish species and can destroy their habitats," said Lt. Robert Stroess, DNR warden administrator for Commercial Fishing, Wholesale Fish Dealing and Charter Fishing Enforcement. "The species is top on the Least Wanted Aquatic Invasive Species List from the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers."

Specifically, the list cites these threats for each type of carp:

- The **bighead carp** as a feeder of plankton, which is a primary food for many native fish including

### Invasive Carp State Case

*Continued on page 6*

### In this issue...

3 <sup>rd</sup> Lake Whitefish Virtual Meeting.....	2
The Fishing Line – Survey Reminder .....	2
Lake Erie Steelhead: Fall Forecast .....	2
Salmon River egg take.....	2
Fall tributary fishing in New York's .....	3
DNR on track to fill fish stocking quotas ..	3
Fish population levels near DNR goals ..	3
Whitefish & Cisco Sport Gill Netting Reg	4
2 <sup>nd</sup> DNR fish/hunt equipment auction .....	4
Low water levels in Salmon River .....	4
Lake Erie Lakers.....	4
IL 2020 Fall Trout Season opens .....	5
Wild about salmon .....	5
Protecting NY's native fish species .....	5
DEC encourages hunter safety .....	6
Wis Walleye Mgmt Plan Virtual Meeting.	6
Changes to online license portal login.....	6
Root River Report.....	7
Oct 1 Start of small game DEC hunting..	8
Veterans Day.....	9

## Congress sends another Conservation Bill to President Trump

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved the America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act, which establishes several new conservation programs and reauthorizes and increases many others. In response, NMMA applauded Congress for advancing the measure, calling the bill a significant boost to wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation efforts.

Specifically, the ACE Act authorizes more than \$1 billion for federal wildlife and habitat programs through 2025. Additionally, the bill reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Act, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails network and the

Chesapeake Bay Gateways Grants Assistance Program. The legislation also establishes a chronic wasting disease task force and authorizes Federal funding to combat invasive species. Finally, the bill works to increase partnerships between public agencies and outside groups to conserve local fish species.

The House vote comes two weeks after the Senate passed the measure by voice vote, sending the bill to President Trump's desk who is expected to sign the legislation. The ACE Act is the second major conservation package Congress passed this year. The Great American Outdoors Act — which permanently funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund and invests in recreational infrastructure — was signed into law in August. ✧

## Third Lake Whitefish Virtual Meeting **Oct 20**

The Wisconsin DNR will host a third virtual meeting to hear from anyone interested in Lake Michigan whitefish on October 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. Members of the public can access the meeting beginning at 5:45 p.m. via [Zoom](#) or by calling 312-626-6799 and using meeting ID: 967 7139 3836.

DNR fisheries managers will be developing new regulations for lake whitefish for the commercial industry and would like stakeholder participation from a wide variety of sources. This will be the third of several public meetings over the course of the next year to get feedback on the Lake Michigan whitefish. Some of the topics covered at this meeting include a discussion of whitefish quota distribution scenarios and options; report of the current bycatch assessment project; review of whitefish information gathered to date; and a discussion of future engagement timelines and opportunities.

While the call-in number will allow attendees to listen to the discussion, to better understand the information and see the presentation, the DNR recommends the public attend using a computer via the [Zoom](#) link. Information, meeting notes and presentations from previous meetings on [Lake Michigan Whitefish Management](#) can be found on the DNR's [fisheries webpage](#). ✧

## The Fishing Line - Angler Survey Reminder

Anglers are reminded that **Friday, October 23** is the deadline to participate in the [yellow perch angler survey](#) for inland waters. Taking this brief survey will help DEC make informed management decisions for this important sportfish.

Thank you! ✧

## Lake Erie Steelhead: Fall Fishing Forecast

New York's Lake Erie tributaries boast some of the [highest angler catch rates for steelhead](#) (rainbow trout) in the entire country, and the arrival of fall's colors signals the beginning of the steelhead season. [Favorite fishing destinations](#) such as Cattaraugus, Eighteen Mile, and Chautauqua creeks typically begin to cool down by late September, and frequent rain events help attract the first big runs of the fall fishing season. However, 2020 has not been a typical year by any means, including the weather.

Drought conditions in western New York have persisted into October, and this may bring a slow start to the tributary steelhead season. In years like these, expect water conditions to improve once the leaves begin to fall off the trees – usually by late October – and expect fall steelhead runs to extend into December and possibly even to the holidays. Anglers looking for current water conditions can look online at the [USGS water gauges](#) for all the major Lake Erie tributaries, or visit the DEC [Lake Erie Fishing Hotline](#) for weekly updates on the steelhead fishery. Tight lines! ✧

## Salmon River egg take

DEC is closely monitoring the fall salmon run and flow conditions on the [Salmon River](#) to ensure adequate numbers of fish reach the hatchery for the annual fall egg take. With good numbers of fish that have already reached the hatchery, ample time for more to make their way up the river and rain in the forecast, DEC remains confident that the run will be strong enough to support their egg take needs. This time of year the river normally runs at 335 cubic feet per second (cfs) and is currently running at 185 cfs. Should the low water flows come into play as the egg take draws closer, DEC is poised with alternate options to ensure the continued success of the Pacific salmon program. ✧



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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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## Fall tributary fishing in New York's Great Lakes

Great Lakes tributary fishing can be outstanding in September and October. In Lake Ontario tributaries, Chinook salmon begin showing up in early to mid-September, with coho salmon, brown trout, and steelhead moving in behind them. Popular fishing locations for Chinook salmon



on Lake Ontario tributaries include the [Salmon River](#), Eighteen Mile Creek (Niagara County), Oak Orchard Creek, and [Oswego River](#), but fishing pressure at these locations can be high. Steelhead are the main game in Lake Erie tributaries, offering some of the best [steelhead fishing](#) in the world. Popular tributaries include Cattaraugus Creek, Chautauqua Creek, and Eighteen Mile Creek (Erie County). DEC encourages anglers looking to avoid heavily fished areas to experience New York's other exceptional Great Lakes tributary angling opportunities. These waters are often less crowded and offer anglers the chance to play a bigger fish in a smaller river. More information, including the I FISH NY Great Lakes Fishing Brochure, is available at [DEC's website](#).

Great Lakes tributary anglers should be mindful in taking precautions to stop the spread of

COVID-19 while enjoying the outstanding salmon and trout fishing on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario tributaries. DEC is placing signage at popular locations reminding anglers to be SMART when fishing this year:

- Socially distance at least six feet apart;
- Mask – Wear one when you cannot maintain social distancing, especially in parking lots and along footpaths;
- Avoid sharing gear when possible;
- Respect your fellow anglers and the resource by providing space and practicing ethical angling; and
- Take out what you bring in or place trash in receptacles.

For more information about how to [PLAY SMART \\* PLAY SAFE \\* PLAY LOCAL](#), visit DEC's website. ✧

## DNR on track to fill Great Lakes fish stocking quotas

**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to help boost fish populations through stocking and is fulfilling all remaining [2020 stocking quotas](#) for Lake Michigan.

"Over the last year and a half, DNR staff have worked closely with stakeholders and partners to develop the 2020-2022 Lake Michigan stocking plan to enhance fisheries management in Lake Michigan," said Todd Kalish, DNR fisheries deputy bureau director. "The plan includes initiatives to enhance partnerships with stakeholders, develop a new brook trout stocking initiative, conduct additional surveys and enhance our collective marketing and outreach strategies."

Coho salmon, brook and brown trout and steelhead will be stocked in later weeks, successfully filling all Great Lakes stocking quotas.

The DNR is also on track to collect eggs this fall to continue to meet stocking goals for Lake

Michigan and Lake Superior 2020-2022 stocking quotas, which includes the annual stocking of approximately:

### LAKE MICHIGAN

- 50,000 brook trout
- 450,000 brown trout
- 2 million Chinook salmon
- 500,000 coho salmon
- 460,000 steelhead

### LAKE SUPERIOR

- 175,000 brown trout
- 80,000 lake trout
- 60,000 splake

Earlier this spring, the DNR made a variety of short-term management decisions to protect the health and safety of the public and DNR staff. This included altering certain initiatives in the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior stocking plans such as temporarily discontinuing net pens, DNR/angler ride-along projects and conducting fewer surveys.

Despite these temporary alterations, fisheries staff were able to successfully meet the 2020 stocking

goals and continue enhancing our partnerships with stakeholders to maintain the high-quality Great Lakes fisheries.

"Our vision for Lake Michigan and Lake Superior is to enhance world-class fishing opportunities through these stocking efforts," Kalish said. "We will continue to work closely with stakeholders and partners to improve stocking success and boost the sustainability of these fisheries."

Complete [fish stocking summaries](#) and information on fishing [Lake Michigan](#) and [Lake Superior](#) can be found on the [DNR fisheries webpage](#). ✧

## Fish population levels in Lake Michigan near DNR goals

The Department of Natural Resources said it is on track to meet its quota for stocking fish in Lake Michigan for 2020. ✧



## MN Whitefish and Cisco Sport Gill Netting Regulations

Whitefish and Cisco Sport Gill Netting Regulations (Whitefish netting license required)

- Whitefish and Cisco (also known as Tullibee) netting is open to Minnesota residents only.
- Participants must be in possession of a valid Minnesota angling license and the \$10 netting license.
- Only one gill net, not exceeding 100 feet in length and 3 feet in width may be used by a netter at any given time.
- One end of net must have a pole, stake, or buoy projecting at least two feet above the water or ice surface.
- Nets must have an identification tag attached near the first float of the end projecting from the water/ice.
- Identification tags must be at least 2½ inches by 5/8 inch permanently bearing net owner's name and address.
- Nets may not be set or lifted between sunset and sunrise.
- All gill nets must be tended at least every 24 hours and can only be set and lifted by the licensee.
- Nets may not be set in any water deeper than six feet and cannot be set within 50 feet of another net.
- Minimum gill net mesh size varies among lakes – be sure to check the attached schedules.
- A person may not have angling equipment in possession while netting.
- Rough fish, as defined by Minnesota Statute 97A.015, Subd. 43, caught in the net may be retained.
- All other non-target fish taken while netting must be returned to the water immediately.
- Nets used in waters infested by spiny water fleas and/or zebra mussels may not be used in any other waters.
- Nets used in waters designated infested by other species (not spiny water fleas and/or zebra mussels) must be dried for a minimum of 10 days or frozen for 2 days before using in a different water body.
- Nets should be transported in a sealed container.
- Whitefish and cisco taken by sport gill netting may not be bought, sold, or used as bait.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> DNR confiscated hunting, fishing equipment auction **Oct. 24**

### *The auction will be held online*

This fall's second and final Minnesota DNR public auction of confiscated fishing, hunting and trapping equipment will be held **October 24**. The auction, which will be held online at [www.hillerauction.com](http://www.hillerauction.com), includes 252 firearms and 39 bows that were confiscated following serious game and fish violations. [A list](#) of the equipment included in the auction is available.

The bidding catalog for the auction will be available by 5 p.m. on October 19, and bidding will begin October 20. The catalog includes a written description and photo(s) of each item. Onsite inspection is available Friday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hiller Auction Service in Zimmerman. The auction will begin closing at 11 a.m. on October 24, with a staggered ending; one item ending per minute. Bidding will extend on that item if there is a bid in the final 5 minutes and extend as many times as needed until there are no bids for 5 minutes. Extended bidding does not affect the ending times of other items.

Winning bidders will be sent an invoice after the completion of the auction. Items will need to be picked up at Hiller Auction Service, 10785 261<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Zimmerman, MN. Shipping is not available.

**Please note:** Bidders who purchase a firearm will be required to pass a Federal Firearms background check in person when paying for and picking up the firearm(s) at the auction location. All equipment will be sold as-is, including all defects or faults, known or unknown. Once they've been purchased, items cannot be returned. For more information, see [DNR Enforcement's auction page](#) ✧

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- Within the Leech Lake Reservation, the possession limits are 25 whitefish and 50 cisco.
- Net placement should not inhibit use of the lake by other boaters. ✧

## Low water levels in Salmon River

This summer, below-average precipitation has resulted in low and declining water levels in the Salmon River Reservoir. The Executive Committee of the Salmon River Flow Management Team, comprised of natural resource agencies and Brookfield Renewable hydroelectric facility that regulates reservoir water levels, canceled scheduled whitewater releases over the Labor Day weekend and delayed the annual September 1 increase in baseflow. These actions will conserve reservoir water to maintain suitable flows throughout the salmon spawning run.

To increase the probability that sufficient numbers of salmon reach the hatchery to sustain the salmon stocking program, DEC did not open the Lower Fly Fishing Section (from County Route 52 Bridge in Altmar upstream 0.25 mile to the marked boundary at Beaverdam Brook) to fishing on September 15. This section will remain closed until DEC collects sufficient numbers of salmon eggs at the hatchery. ✧

## Lake Erie Lakers

Every August, DEC's [Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit](#) sets gill nets to assess the coldwater fish community. The most common of these species is the lake trout, a predator once native to Lake Erie whose populations are now maintained through annual stocking. Prior to stocking, all lake trout receive a coded wire tag implanted into their snout, which can later be recovered by DEC staff to determine the year, strain, and location the fish was stocked. Although lake trout stocking in Lake Erie began in the late 1960s, it wasn't until the mid-1980s that populations of stocked adult lake trout (age 5 and older) were found thanks to sea lamprey control. Today, catching an adult lake trout over 30 inches and 15 pounds is not uncommon. In fact, the current [state record](#) lake trout (41 lbs., 8 oz.) was caught from Lake Erie in 2003! ✧

## Illinois 2020 Fall Trout Season opens **Oct 17**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The 2020 Illinois Fall Trout Fishing Season opens Saturday, Oct. 17 at more than 50 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state.

An early opportunity at select trout sites — the Fall Catch-and-Release Fishing Season — opened October 3 at select 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 17**.

The Illinois catchable trout program is funded by those who use the program through the sale of Inland Trout Stamps and the Illinois Fish Management Fund.

No trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites from October 1 until the fall trout season opens October 17. Anyone attempting to take (harvest) trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

All anglers — including those who intend to release fish caught before October 17 — 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: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx>.

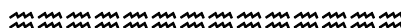
Fishing licenses and trout stamps also can be purchased by using a credit card through DNR Direct online via the IDNR website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr>.

Not all of the fall trout sites listed 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.

## Wild about salmon



Every fall Pacific (coho and Chinook) salmon migrate up the [Salmon River](#) to make the trip back to the hatchery where their life began, but not all these fish are hatchery fish. There's actually a large amount of natural reproduction of Chinook salmon that takes place in the river. Wild Chinook, many of which are produced in the Salmon River, are an important component of the Lake Ontario fishery, contributing up to 70 percent of the Chinooks produced in a given year. Wild Chinook tend to spawn in the river, and most of the Chinook returning to the hatchery are of hatchery origin. The main stem of the Salmon River gets a bit warm in the summer for young salmon but Chinook hatch in May and are gone to Lake Ontario by the end of June. Successful reproduction of coho salmon (and steelhead) is largely limited to the cooler tributaries (Trout and Orwell Brooks) due to their longer river residence and requirement of year-round juvenile habitat. ✧

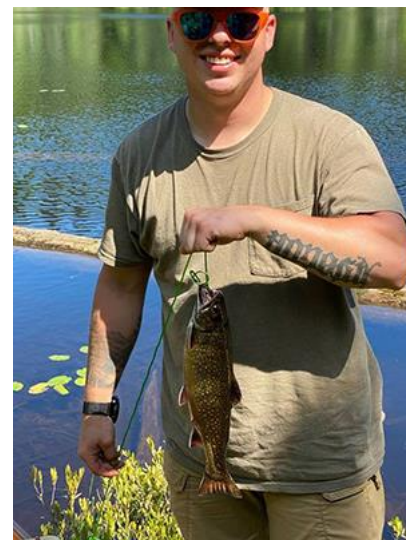


Participants in Fall Trout Fishing Season are reminded to follow current public health directives, including maintaining social distancing guidelines, bringing with them masks in case social distancing cannot be maintained and hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County has not made a final decision on opening for trout season, due to conditions related to COVID-19. Please check the FPCC website at [fpdcc.com](http://fpdcc.com) for updates closer to October 17, 2020. ✧

## Protecting New York's native fish species

Reclamation is an invaluable tool for the restoration and protection of New York's native fish species. When non-native fish species like golden shiners and yellow perch are introduced to a water, they can devastate or eliminate native fish populations like brook trout. So, the only way to permanently eliminate non-native species from an entire water body is to apply organic piscicide rotenone, i.e. a reclamation.



### The Bad News

Only a very small percentage of waters can be reclaimed because:

- Non-natives could re-enter the water unless an upstream barrier is present.
- Untreatable wetlands could be present.
- Reclamation is a difficult and laborious process.

### The Good News

After a reclamation is completed, native species are stocked, restoring native fish populations and pond communities, making for some great angling as well—just look at the happy angler (on the right) with a brook trout caught from a recently reclaimed pond.

The movement of fish by humans can have serious consequences and is a primary reason why the use of bait fish is not permitted in brook trout waters. Be sure to check [fishing regulations](#) for the water body you plan on fishing before heading out. ✧

## DEC encourages hunter safety

While [statistics show](#) hunting in New York is safer than ever, mistakes are made every year. DEC believes every hunting-related shooting incident is preventable, and Commissioner Seggos is encouraging hunters to use common sense this season and to remember what they were taught in their DEC Hunters Education Course.

Firearms Safety:

1. Point your gun in a safe direction.
2. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
3. Be sure of your target and beyond.
4. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

DEC also encourages hunters to wear blaze orange or blaze pink. Wearing orange or pink prevents other hunters from mistaking a person for an animal or shooting in a hunter's direction. Hunters who wear blaze orange are seven times less likely to be shot.

For more [information and other important safety tips](#), please visit DEC's website and watch videos about [hunter safety](#). ✧

## Wisconsin Walleye Management Plan Virtual Meeting **Oct 20**

The Wisconsin DNR will begin updating [Wisconsin's Walleye Management Plan](#) through regional public meetings and surveys. The updating process will include a review of the existing plan, an analysis of available data and trends and significant public input on angling and management preferences. Individuals from Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Polk, Barron and Rusk counties who would like to participate in this virtual public meeting should contact Max Wolter at [Max.Wolter@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Max.Wolter@wisconsin.gov) or 715-634-7429. Pre-registration is required. ✧

## Reminder: Changes to online license portal login

Signing in to buy hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses will look different the next time you do so because of a new state online portal called Access Indiana. The new portal is a safe, secure and easy to use way for citizens to interact with all facets of state government through a single login instead of many. Presently, there are 18 services that users can enter from Access Indiana—a full list is available at <https://www.in.gov/access/available-services.html>.

Individuals who already have an Indiana DNR account to purchase licenses should watch for an email from the DNR that will provide helpful login information. New DNR customers will be directed to create an Access Indiana account first, before supplying additional DNR-specific account information.

To prepare for the transition, customers can create an Access Indiana account today at <https://access.IN.gov>. For help getting started with Access Indiana, go to: <https://www.in.gov/access/getting-started.html>. If a user needs additional assistance with his username or password, call 800-457-8283, for Access Indiana customer support. The DNR is unable to assist with usernames and passwords.

More information about the Access Indiana portal, answers to FAQs and other helpful information is at <https://www.in.gov/access/faqs-help.html>.

You don't need to log in to an account to check game, apply for a reserved hunt, or get your HIP registration number for this fall—you only need your date of birth and Customer ID number. You can find the appropriate links [here](#). ✧

## Invasive Carp State Case

*Continued from page 1*

walleye, yellow perch, lake whitefish and all juvenile fish. This specific carp is known as a major threat to the Great Lakes \$7 billion fishing industry.

- The **silver carp** as another feeder on fish habitats attacked by the bighead. This species also is known to leap out of the water, which is a threat to boaters and the region's \$16 billion boating industry.
- The **grass carp** eats aquatic habitats and is known to help cause algae blooms and damage to wetlands and waterfowl habitats.

In Wisconsin, the invasive carp species must be either eviscerated (*gutted*) or have the entire gill covering severed. This requirement exists because these carp species have been known to survive out of water for up to a day or longer. Gutting them or severing the gill plate ensures the fish cannot be revived or survive if released into waters.

The investigation found nearly all the carp sold or transported by the wholesale fish dealer on the Wisconsin side of the state line had been completely intact and therefore illegal in Wisconsin. Although the carp were not in water tanks when illegally transported into Wisconsin, the species retains the ability to be revived once returned to water.

"This illustrates why the law requiring this carp species be eviscerated or have their gill covering severed is an important protection of our native Wisconsin fish," Stroess said.

Other violations include operating a wholesale fish dealer vehicle without having it marked in any way to indicate it contained fish and failing to create or maintain required records. Records are essential for being able to trace fish back to the commercial fisher who caught the fish or to the business who sold the fish, especially for species that are highly regulated. ✧



## Root River Report

The following information is the latest fishing information for the Root River in Racine. We will post new information to this site every **TUESDAY or WEDNESDAY** at 4:00 pm from September through December and from March through May. We will also update the number of fish processed at the [Root River Steelhead Facility](#) to give you the exact number of fish passed upstream. Depending on water conditions and the number of fish in the weir, fish are usually processed on Mondays and Thursdays.

### Root River Steelhead Facility

Lake Michigan trout and salmon don't successfully reproduce in Wisconsin streams, so DNR gives Mother Nature a hand.



Watch fisheries crews collect eggs and milt from spawning fish to create the next generation of steelhead to challenge anglers.

### [Steelhead Spawning at Root River Steelhead Facility](#)

#### Root River Fishing Report for October 12, 2020

The Root River saw another increase in angling activity this past week. The majority of the activity occurred just above or below the steelhead facility in Lincoln Park. Most of the anglers were targeting salmon with a few also looking for brown trout or steelhead. The increase in salmon numbers in the river and lower water levels led to more fishing success. A sizeable amount of Chinook salmon were caught using flies or spawn. Most anglers were using fly fishing tackle. Bluegills and largemouth bass were also being caught at the Horlick Dam. Water levels and water flow on the river both remain extremely low. Some parts of the river are very difficult for salmon to cross due to the low water levels. The water temperature closer to the mouth was 60 degrees.

#### Root River Steelhead Facility Report

Our sixth processing day for the Fall 2020 season at the Root River weir was October 15. Despite the river level remaining very low, we had a lot of Chinooks in the facility, with more seen in the river below the ladder. The water temperature in the weir was 56 degrees. Our next processing day is scheduled for Thursday, October 15.

### TOTALS as of October 15, 2020

|                     | Rainbow Trout | Chinook Salmon       | Coho Salmon | Brown Trout |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Captured      | 4             | 2,859                | 374         |             |
| Passed Upstream     | 1             | 2,166                | 369         |             |
| Taken to Hatchery   |               |                      |             |             |
| Spawned at Facility |               | 601                  |             |             |
| Egg Take            |               | Approx. 2.25 million |             |             |



### Start of small game DEC hunting

*Continued from page 8*

state, including on many [public lands](#). Squirrel seasons started September 1 in Upstate New York and will begin November 1 on Long Island. Rabbit hunting began October 1 in Upstate New York and will start on November 1 on Long Island. With ample opportunities and mild weather, squirrel and rabbit hunting are great ways to introduce novices to hunting.

Snowshoe hare (or varying hare) season started October 1 in the Northern Zone. Hare hunters in the Southern Zone, where the season starts in late fall/early winter, are

[encouraged to report their observations to DEC](#) through the DEC website.

#### Wild Turkey Hunting

Wild turkeys enjoyed better reproductive success this summer compared to last year. As a result, turkey hunters can expect to see more birds while afield this fall. Wild turkeys are less vulnerable to harvest in areas with abundant food (e.g., hard and soft mast), because they don't have to roam far and wide foraging, so scouting before the season is important.

Season dates for fall 2020:

- Northern Zone – **Completed**

- Oct. 17 – Oct. 30 in the Southern Zone; and
- Nov. 21 – Dec. 4 in Suffolk County, Long Island.

The statewide season bag limit is one bird of either sex. Hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.

#### Citizen Science

Citizen science efforts such as the Grouse and Woodcock Hunting Log, Ruffed Grouse Parts Collection, and the Bowhunter Sighting Log provide hunters the opportunity to partner with DEC to monitor game species. To [learn more about how to participate in these efforts](#), visit the DEC website. ✧

# Oct. 1 Start of small game DEC hunting seasons

*New opportunities designated for active-duty military and veterans to go waterfowl hunting this fall*

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced that several small game hunting seasons opened October 1 across New York State, including special youth hunts and new hunting opportunities for active-duty military members and veterans.

"Public and private lands across the state present a diverse array of small game hunting opportunities," Commissioner Seggos said. "Pursuing small game is a great way to introduce someone to hunting and in addition to our youth hunting seasons, DEC is offering waterfowl hunts this year specifically for active military and veterans. I encourage experienced hunters across the state to take advantage of these opportunities, bring a new hunter afield, and follow hunter safety requirements to have a rewarding experience this fall."

Several special youth-only hunting seasons for pheasants and waterfowl occur prior to the start of the regular season. Season dates, bag limits, and other hunting regulations for New York's small game species are available in the [Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide](#), which can be obtained from a license-issuing agent or on DEC's website.

## Special Waterfowl Hunting Opportunities for Youth and Active-Duty Military

Hunting seasons for waterfowl (ducks, geese, and brant) begin in early October in many parts of the state. However, there were opportunities for youth hunters to get a jump start. Only two of the fall's youth waterfowl days remain:

- Nov. 7-8 in the Long Island Zone.

Junior hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter, and both must be registered with the [Harvest Information Program](#) (HIP). Adult hunters must also have a federal migratory bird stamp and the adult hunter supervising a youth may not possess a firearm, bow, or crossbow afield.

In addition to youth dates, DEC is providing special hunting opportunities for active-duty military personnel and veterans. Participating hunters [must carry identification that verifies their active duty or veteran status](#). The remaining active-duty military and veteran days are:

- Nov. 11 (Veterans Day) and Nov. 14 in the Western Zone; and
- Nov. 14 and 15 in the Long Island Zone.

There are no special active-duty and veteran military days in the Lake Champlain Zone.

## Ruffed Grouse Hunting

Ruffed grouse hunting season runs from October 1 through the last day of February in most areas of the state. In Northern New York, the season opens on September 20, and runs through the last day of February. In New York City and Long Island, the season is closed.

Ruffed grouse hunters in the Northern Zone are reminded to positively identify quarry before shooting. The Northern Zone, specifically Wildlife Management Units 5C, 5F, 6F, and 6J, is also home to the [spruce grouse](#), a State-endangered species that is not legal to hunt. Loss of a single spruce grouse, particularly a female spruce grouse, could be a significant setback for a small local population.

Spruce grouse exist in lowland conifer forests in the Adirondacks. Although ruffed grouse occur in upland hardwoods statewide, during the fall and winter, ruffed grouse may be found in spruce grouse habitat. Small game hunters in the Adirondack region must be able to distinguish between these species so that spruce grouse are not shot by mistake. For tips on how to discern the two species, view the [Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide](#) or the [Ruffed Grouse Hunting Information](#) page on DEC's website.

DEC encourages ruffed grouse hunters to take part in the grouse hunting log program and submit feathers from harvested birds in order

to assess recruitment for different parts of the state. [Interested hunters should visit the DEC website.](#)

## Pheasant Hunting

Approximately 30,000 adult pheasants will be released on lands open to public hunting for the upcoming fall pheasant hunting season. The pheasant hunting season begins:

- Oct. 1 in northern and eastern portions of New York;
- Oct. 17 in central and western portions of the state; and
- Nov. 1 on Long Island.

Since 2007, DEC has offered a special youth-only season to provide junior hunters the opportunity to hunt pheasants during the weekend prior to the regular pheasant hunting season. In Western New York, the youth pheasant hunt weekend was October 10 and 11. In northern and eastern New York, the youth pheasant hunt weekend was September 26 and 27, and on Long Island, it is October 24 and 25. Both the junior hunter and their adult mentor must have a hunting license. Only the junior hunter is allowed to carry a firearm and harvest birds on these dates.

All release sites for pheasants provided by State-funded programs are open to public hunting. Pheasants will be released on State-owned lands prior to and during the fall hunting season and at several sites on New York City Watershed lands thanks to a partnership with New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection. Pheasant hunting opportunities have also been augmented by private landowners who have opened their land to public hunting. DEC is grateful for their help in providing high quality hunting experiences for New York's hunters. A [list of statewide pheasant release sites and sites receiving birds for the youth-only pheasant hunt weekends](#) can be found on DEC's website.

**Squirrel, Rabbit, and Hare Hunting**  
Opportunities to pursue squirrels and rabbits can be found throughout the

*Continued on page 7 bottom*





## Veterans Day November 11

It coincides with other holidays including [Armistice Day](#) and [Remembrance Day](#) which are celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of [World War I](#). Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the [Armistice with Germany](#) went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

On June 1, 1954 Congress changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day. Armistice Day was created to honor veterans of the first World War. Veterans Day honors all military personnel that served the United States of America in all wars.

*To our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future, God bless you and thank you.*

*For the veteran, thank you for bravely doing what you're called to do so we can safely do what we're free to do*



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

### **Great Lakes ports experiencing pandemic-caused dip**

According to the Chamber of Marine Commerce, from April through the end of August, cargo volumes in the St. Lawrence Seaway, was down 8% compared to 2019's figures. [Read the full story by NPR.](#)

### **Dams across the Great Lakes: End of the line for aging infrastructure?**

More than 91,000 dams impede the passage of rivers all around the United States. Most dams have a lifespan of about 50 years, and many that exist in the United States were built long before the 1970s—including the Edenville Dam in Michigan, which failed earlier

### **Duluth cancels plans for Lakewalk extension**

The Duluth City Council approved a resolution that will halt any further work to advance the path and redirect \$915,000 in federal disaster aid that had been earmarked to repair a crushed stone shoreline path, to be used to help fund repairs of other storm-damaged

### **Corps of Engineers completes Fort Sheridan restoration project**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, has completed construction for the final phase of the Fort Sheridan Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration project at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve in unincorporated Lake County, including 60 acres of

### **DNR to update Wisconsin Walleye Management Plan**

To continue managing walleye populations across the state, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will begin updating Wisconsin's Walleye Management Plan through regional public meetings and surveys

### **Ontario's cormorant hunt evokes praise, concern locally**

Ontario's fall hunt for the cormorant has pitted outdoors' and sportsmen's groups against naturalist and birding organizations. Following public consultation, the province approved a shorter cormorant hunting season from September 15 to December 31, and reduced the

### **DNR: Platteville fish dealer charged for invasive carp sales**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced that a wholesale fish dealer in Platteville, WI is facing state charges for illegally selling species of highly invasive, destructive Asian carp

### **Money to keep invasive Asian carp out of the Great Lakes**

This month, the U.S. Senate approved funding to appropriate \$8 million to the Department of Natural Resources for Michigan's contribution to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to rebuild the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois.

End