



Turning in tagged fish could be rewarding

Next time you catch a trout or salmon, remember to check for a clip on the adipose fin—that small, fleshy fin behind the dorsal fin. It could be worth \$100.

Through mass marking assistance by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes states, including Michigan, mark popular game fish like steelhead, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, brown trout and lake trout.

Most trout and salmon with an adipose fin clip also have a coded-wire tag in their snout. The tag is small, like the tip of a lead pencil, so it must be removed by lab technicians. Anyone catching and wanting to keep an adipose fin clipped fish should turn the head into a **local drop-off station** in Michigan.

Randy Claramunt, Lake Huron Basin coordinator with the Michigan

Department of Natural Resources, said the DNR relies on the help of anglers to supplement the marked and tagged fish program.

"We have creel clerks at some ports, but there are several areas that we don't have staff, including on river systems with unique fisheries, such as Atlantic salmon or steelhead," he said. "To get enough tag returns to learn about these species, we need the help of our anglers to voluntarily turn in heads."

The Great Lakes Salmon Initiative recognized the need for community science and teamed up with Captain Chuck's II in Ludington, Moonshine Lures, Jay's Sporting Goods, Blood Run Tackle and Collins Design and Build to sponsor 33 rewards worth \$100 each. Fish with tags submitted before November 1, 2021, will be eligible for the rewards, which will be selected randomly from all entries received by that date.

Additional details about the reward program:

- Each head with a tag that is turned in equals one drawing entry.
- Tagged fish must be submitted by November 1, 2021.

Eligible tagged fish include steelhead, brown trout and Chinook or Atlantic salmon.

- Your contact information (name, address, phone number) and catch data (date, location, body of water) must be included with each head.
- The drawing will occur around February 2022.
- The head must be left at a Michigan drop-off location.

According to Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin coordinator, fish tag returns help biologists understand survival, age and movements of important sport fish.

"We are particularly interested in confirming the wild contribution of Chinook salmon to the fishery, movement and wild contribution of steelhead in lakes and rivers, and survival and movement of Atlantic salmon," Wesley said. "This reward program will help incentivize anglers to become community scientists and help us collect valuable data."

For more information on [how to recognize a tagged fish and how to fill out the proper information](#), visit Michigan.gov/TaggedFish. ✧

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Ron Anton (left), conservationist from Racine, WI, was vice-chairman and very active in the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Circa 1990 – President, Salmon Unlimited Wisconsin



Fish habitat improved with dam removal project on Dowagiac River in Berrien County

In the southwest corner of Michigan, the Dowagiac River, one of the largest cold-water streams in the region, flows into the mighty St. Joseph River, near the City of Niles.

Annual stocking by the Michigan DNR there supports a popular brown trout fishery.



In addition, the construction of fish ladders at the Berrien Springs and Buchanan dams on the St. Joseph River have allowed steelhead (rainbow trout that spend part of their lives in the Great Lakes), Chinook salmon and coho salmon to move into the lower Dowagiac since the early 1990s.

The impassable Pucker Street Dam has confined these migratory fish species to the lower 3 miles of the Dowagiac—until now. Fish are about to have a lot more territory to explore thanks to an ongoing project to remove the dam in Berrien County.

Site preparation and powerhouse removal at the Pucker Street Dam started in fall 2019. The removal of the actual dam structure began in spring 2020. When the removal is completed this summer, steelhead and salmon will have access to an additional 159 miles in the Dowagiac River and its tributary streams.

In addition, fragmented populations of native fish species occurring upstream and downstream of the dam, such as

Catch fish of a lifetime during Northern Zone Musky Season May 29-Dec.31

BARRON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR announced that the 2021 northern zone musky season, which kicked off May 29, 2021 will run through December 31. Anglers can catch musky on open waters within the northern muskellunge management zone. All regulations and license requirements apply.

"Warmer weather has opened the door to more fishing opportunities in the northern muskellunge zone," said Justine Hasz, DNR Bureau of Fisheries Management Director. "Muskellunge give patient anglers a chance to catch the fish of a lifetime. Good luck on the water and stay safe."

Proclaimed the official state fish in 1955, the muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*) is one of Wisconsin's most unique trophies. More musky world records have been landed in Wisconsin than anywhere else. The current state and world record is a tremendous 69-pound, 11-ounce musky taken from the Chippewa Flowage.

Anglers should consult the [2021-2022 Hook and Line Fishing Regulations](#) for daily bag and size limits. Fishing licenses can be purchased online through the [GoWild](#) system or from a [license vendor](#). More information on licenses can be found on the DNR's [fishing license webpage](#).

[Learn more about trophy muskellunge waters and the elusive fish by visiting the DNR's musky webpage.](#) ✧

smallmouth bass and suckers, will be reconnected. The dam removal also will restore approximately 1.2 miles of high slope stream habitat in the former reservoir, exposing more gravel bottom for fish spawning and invertebrate (i.e., fish food) production. ✧



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Position Statement

Representing a major interest in the aquatic resources of the Great Lakes states and the province of Ontario, the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council is a confederation of organizations and individuals with a concern for the present and future of sport fishing, our natural resources and the ecosystem in which we live. We encourage the wise use of our resources and a search for the truth about the issues confronting us.

Inland Seas Angler

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Minocqua Chain Walleye Catch and Release Virtual Public Hearing

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) held a virtual public hearing to discuss extending the catch and release walleye regulations on the Minocqua Chain of Lakes in Oneida County on May 24.

Although stocking efforts and years of no harvest have allowed the walleye population to increase, natural reproduction has not shown necessary improvements. Recent population surveys have shown a low abundance of male walleye in two of the lakes. The low abundance of male walleye in hatcheries, and subsequently in certain lakes stocked by these hatcheries, is currently being assessed by the DNR and other experts in this field to determine the cause and address this issue.

The proposed rule will extend the current catch and release regulations through the 2024-2025 fishing season in the hopes of further rehabilitating the walleye fishery. The current regulations have been in place since 2015 as a part of a ten-year rehabilitation plan.

“Additional years of catch and release walleye fishing on the Minocqua Chain will help maintain walleye abundance at levels that may support natural reproduction,” said Zach Woiak, DNR Fisheries Biologist for Oneida County.

A partnership of stakeholders has met over the past several years to evaluate the status of the walleye population and make recommendations for bringing it to sustainable levels. The partnership includes the DNR, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Walleyes for

Tomorrow, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, Mid Lake Protection and Management District, Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Association, Inc., and Tomahawk Lake Association. This stakeholder group has also worked with the public to support the catch and release season for walleye and create conditions suitable for natural reproduction across the lakes.

The Lac du Flambeau Band will also continue their walleye harvest prohibition on the Minocqua Chain until 2025 to help achieve this goal.

If approved, the proposed rule will implement a slot regulation in May 2025: 18-inch minimum length for walleye, but fish from 22 to 28 inches may not be kept, and a daily bag limit of one fish. ✧

Wisconsin NRB Virtual Meeting

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board met virtually for the May board meeting to consider several proposed rules, hearings, management and master plans, land items and donations. The Board also received an information update on Chronic Wasting Disease.

Although the public was not allowed to attend the meeting in person due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was aired on the [DNR's YouTube channel](#).

The Board considered:

- Department recommendations for Board Order AM-20-18, proposed rules affecting chapters NR 400, 419, 421, 422, 423, 425, 439, and 484, related to implementing reasonably available control technology (RACT) to limit volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from miscellaneous metal and plastic parts coatings and miscellaneous industrial adhesives

- 2021-2031 Elk Management Plan, rule and 2021 season quotas
- Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order FH-29-20(E) and Board Order FH-30-20 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice for FH-30-20 and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 20 related to lake trout season and harvest in Lake Michigan
- Statement of Scope for Board Order FH-16-20 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapters NR 25 related to reorganizing commercial fishing and wholesale fish dealer regulations

- Request that the Board authorize a preliminary public hearing and comment period for the Statement of Scope for Board Order DG-25-20, for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 140 related to setting numerical standards to minimize the concentration of polluting substances in groundwater
- Sturgeon Management Plan
- Blue Mound State Park Master Plan

In addition to being encouraged to watch upcoming meetings, there are opportunities for the public to testify and to submit written comment about issues that come before the NRB. [More information regarding public participation at Board meetings is available here.](#) ✧

Minnesota DNR launches My Minnesota Outdoor Adventure

Campaign highlights diversity in angling, hunting, and outdoor recreation

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with Share the Mic Minnesota, is kicking off a unique social media campaign to encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion on Minnesota's public lands and waters.

#MyMNOOutdoorAdventure launched May 15, in conjunction with the Governor's Fishing Opener. Minnesotans of diverse backgrounds will be encouraged to share their stories and pictures about fishing, hunting, camping, and other outdoor activities by uploading them to the [DNR's website](#). The DNR will then feature these stories, and accompanying photos, on its Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter channels and also on its website.

"Diversity, equity, and inclusion are priorities for the DNR. Amplifying diverse perspectives is an important part of our efforts," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "These shared stories will increase the visibility of diverse voices and experiences in the outdoors."

Increasing the visibility of diverse people in the outdoors is important, because people of color have deep personal connections to the outdoors that should be acknowledged and shared, said Jasmine Brett Stringer, founder of Share the Mic Minnesota.

"We know that representation is important and impactful because it affects how people of color view themselves and how others view

them," Stringer said. "Positive representation of minority groups helps diminish prejudices and biases and it plants seeds of what's possible to people of color. Minnesota's outdoor recreational spaces make Minnesota more livable for all people. The #MyMNOOutdoorAdventure campaign will do that, by highlighting diverse voices and connecting people with Minnesota's beautiful outdoors."

Minnesotans of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to participate in the #MyMNOOutdoorAdventure campaign.

To upload an outdoor story and a photo, go to the [DNR website](#) and follow the instructions on the page. ✧

MDHHS recommends avoiding foam on lakes and rivers

As the summer months approach, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is issuing its annual recommendation that Michiganders should avoid contact with foam they may see on Michigan waterbodies such as lakes, rivers and streams.

The foam may have unknown chemicals or bacteria in it, so it is recommended to avoid contact. Foam can form on any waterbody, but foam on some waterbodies may have high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-containing foam tends to be bright white in color, is often lightweight and may pile up like shaving cream on shorelines or blow onto beaches.

Naturally occurring foam without PFAS tends to pile up in bays, eddies

or at river barriers such as dams. Naturally occurring foam is typically off-white and/or brown in color and often has an earthy or fishy scent.

If contact with foam is made, care should be taken to rinse or wash it off as soon as possible, particularly if PFAS contamination is suspected in the waterbody. The longer that foam remains on the skin, the greater the chance of accidentally swallowing the foam or the foam residue left behind.

More information on PFAS-containing foam can be found under the "PFAS Foam" section at [Michigan.gov/PFASResponse](https://www.michigan.gov/PFASResponse). If you have questions about exposures to PFAS and/or foam, call the MDHHS Environmental Health hotline at 800-648-6942. ✧

Remember Sam Romano?



Capt. Sam Romano, was a pioneer on the Chicago Lakefront fishing scene and one of its leading activists. He berthed his 33-ft Samarie III in Burnham Harbor. He was the first president of the Chicago Sportfishing Association.

Circa 1991

Need Fishing Bait?



MN Governor Jesse Ventura hosting the 2002 MN Governors fishing Opener in International Falls.

Find some right in your backyard! Worms and night crawlers are great for catching fish, especially bluegills, pumpkinseed and other panfish.

Where Can I Find Them?

Worms like moist soil. Check under rocks, logs and in shaded areas, or grab a shovel and dig some up. Got a compost pile? Check there. Worms are great for decomposing organic material.

Another fun and exciting way to find worms is to search for and catch them at night with flashlights. Worms

and larger night crawlers will come out of the soil after dark, especially after a warm rain. Walk slowly and scan the lawn for them. Once you spot one with your light, be ready to act. Worms will retreat quickly down the holes they came from if it senses the light for too long. It takes practice to catch them this way, but it can be a lot of fun trying to find those big ones!

Once you've found them, place the worms in a storage container with some soil. Make sure to poke air holes in the lid of the container.

How Do I Use Worms As Bait?

Try putting a worm under a bobber the next time you go fishing. Attach them to the hook, making sure to leave enough of the worm dangling off the hook for fish to bite onto.

Worms tend to go bad quickly in warm weather. Keep them chilled in a cooler with an ice pack while fishing.

I Caught A Fish! What Should I Do With The Worms Now?

Save worms for your next fishing trip. They can be stored in the fridge for up to two weeks. Place the worms in a container with a few holes poked in the

lid. If you don't want to save them, throw them in the trash. Worms are an invasive species and **should never** be dumped into the water, grass or woods. Properly dispose of them in the garbage. ✧



A 27 lb king caught 1972 in Muskegon lake (MI) inlet

Sea Lamprey Treatment to start on Seneca Lake Tribs Treatments to Enhance Lake Trout and Salmon Population, Size

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that beginning in June, DEC will treat portions of Seneca Lake to eliminate sea lamprey, a parasitic fish that preys and feeds on other fish species. Seneca Lake tributaries in Chemung, Schuyler, and Yates counties were treated in early June.

The treatment will help prevent sea lampreys from invading New York waters and protect the fish they target, including lake trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, and landlocked salmon. Eliminating this parasite will help ensure healthier fish species in Seneca

Lake and its tributaries and continue to provide anglers with good fishing.

Typically, immature sea lamprey live in streams for three to four years before they become parasitic and enter lakes to prey on other fish. As part of DEC's Sea Lamprey Control Program, fisheries employees apply a lampricide called TFM (3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophenol) to streams continuously for approximately 12 hours, killing the young sea lamprey in their larval form. TFM is a pesticide that has been used in Seneca Lake tributaries for decades, and while lethal to sea lampreys, it is harmless to other fish and has no significant impact to the environment.

In addition, the stream treatments pose no significant hazard to human health. Out of an abundance of caution, the New York State Department of Health advises against stream water consumption, fishing, swimming, livestock watering, or irrigation during the treatment period.

DEC will post signage advising of the treatment along the treated streams.

Treatments are weather dependent. Lampricide applications were in Catharine Creek in Chemung and Schuyler counties, and for the Keuka Outlet in Yates County. ✧

Watch For and Report Giant Hogweed This Summer



Giant hogweed plants are now blooming across many parts of the state, making it a prime time to spot this harmful invasive. Giant hogweed is a large, flowering plant from Eurasia with sap that can cause painful burns and scarring.

Adult giant hogweed plants tend to be 7-14 feet tall with umbrella-shaped clusters of white flowers up to 2.5 feet wide. The stem is green with purple splotches and coarse white hairs, and leaves are large (up to 5 feet across), incised, and deeply lobed. [You can find more identification tips, including a table of lookalikes, on our website.](#)

If you think you have found giant hogweed, do not touch it. From a safe distance, take photos of the plant's stem, leaves, flower, seeds, and the whole plant. Then report your sighting to DEC by emailing photos and location information to ghogweed@dec.ny.gov or calling (845) 256-3111. DEC staff will help you confirm if it is giant hogweed. They will work with landowners of confirmed sites to provide information about the plant and details on how to control it if the landowner is interested.

DEC recently hosted a Facebook Live about giant hogweed identification, look-alikes, and how to report findings. You can [view the recording on our Facebook page.](#) ✧

Fishing Femmes

Oswego Marina, Oswego, NY

Enjoy a 6-hour guided fishing trip for King Salmon, Coho Salmon, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and/or Steelhead with Captain Dave Wilson aboard his 28' Baha Cruiser. All fishing equipment is provided. No fishing experience necessary. The boat has an enclosed bathroom with plumbing! Open to women age 18 or over.

Sept 13, 2021 at 5:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.

Sept 17, 2021 at 5:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.

Bring:

- Your valid NYS fishing license
- Camera
- Warm clothing
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Hat, raincoat and rain pants
- Soft-soled shoes
- Food, snacks and drinks
- Cooler to take your catch home
- Motion sickness medication (if needed)

Fish cleaning is available for a fee at the dock. Lodging is available nearby.

Cost: \$600 (for 6-hour trip)

Groups of four are encouraged.

Your trip will be private and not shared with other customers, in order to comply with COVID-19 safety concerns. If you would like to book a trip with fewer than four women, the price remains at \$600 for the private charter.

Pre-registration is required.

[Email Captain Dave Wilson](#) or call 315-481-5716 to book your charter.

Cancellation:

Weather cancellations are at the Captain's discretion, and money will either be refunded, or the charter will be rescheduled. ✧

DEC opens two new Wildlife Management Areas in Western NY

DEC recently acquired more than 1,200 acres in two western New York counties that led to the creation of the new Genesee River and Poverty Hill Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). The parcels in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties will preserve natural habitat essential for wildlife and provide new wildlife-related public recreation opportunities such as fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing.

[Genesee River WMA](#) is located on the west bank of the Genesee River and west of River Road in the Town of Willing in Allegany County. The WMA consists of 310 acres of mature forest, ridges, brushland, wetlands, and open fields.

[Poverty Hill WMA](#) is located on the north side of Cattaraugus County Route 13, on Poverty Hill Road, and south of Hinman Hollow Road in the Towns of Ellicottville and Mansfield in Cattaraugus County. The broad, 950-acre landscape contains mature forest, wetlands, brushlands, and open fields. ✧



Caught off Waukegan Harbor, IL, 1973

Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit - June 2021 Open Lake Angler Survey Update

Angler effort in June 2021 was down substantially (64,000 angler hours) from June 2020. Ninety percent of the angler effort targeted either smallmouth bass or walleye.

Walleye: Daytime walleye fishing effort in June (37,800 angler hours) was less than half of last year's walleye effort (86,000 angler hours) and was below the 20-year average of 46,400 angler hours. Most (59 percent) of the walleye fishing effort in June occurred out of either Barcelona or Buffalo. Anglers targeting walleye harvested 1.75 walleye per boat trip on average with a catch rate of 0.21 fish

per hour, which is about average for June. About 1.5 percent of daytime walleye anglers achieved a six fish limit this June with an average size of 20 inches.

Smallmouth Bass: Smallmouth bass fishing effort in June has declined on Lake Erie each of the last three years, with June 2021 having the lowest smallmouth angler effort in the last 20 years (6,000 angler hours). The majority of the smallmouth angler effort (81 percent) focused inside and outside of Dunkirk and Buffalo Harbors, however both of these harbors were several thousand hours

below their 20 year averages. June bass fishing quality was slightly below average in 2021, with anglers targeting bass catching an average of 12 bass per boat trip with a catch rate of 0.98 fish per hour (June average = 1.06 fish per hour). This catch rate is still very high when compared with other popular smallmouth lakes.

Yellow Perch: Yellow perch fishing effort was very low in June 2021, with only 10 perch angler interviews for the entire month.

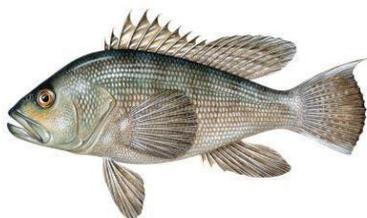
[Lake Erie Fisheries Research and Management](#) ✧

New York State appeal for commercial black sea bass allocation

"DEC continues to fight for the rights of New York's commercial black sea bass fishing industry and for an equitable share of the Atlantic coast's black sea bass harvest. DEC won an appeal to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission regarding a February 2021 Black Sea Bass Management Board decision that made changes to the state commercial allocations. In the appeal, DEC successfully argued that the changes were not fair to New York and did not reflect the abundant black sea bass fishery in New York State's waters of Long Island Sound. The earlier decision by the Black Sea Bass Management Board would have resulted in unfair impacts to the State's commercial fishing industry and limited its ability to utilize an abundant inshore resource. DEC looks forward to working with the Black Sea Bass Management Board later this year to finalize new allocations and will continue to advocate for the just treatment of New York's fishing industry while ensuring our fishery resources are protected."

Commercial Black Sea Bass Allocations

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries



Commission (ASMFC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) jointly coordinate the management of interstate black sea bass resources amongst Atlantic Coast states. State commercial allocations were established in 2003 based on landings data from 1980-2001. Today the fishery has changed drastically, increasing in abundance in the northern part of its range and expanding into new areas where they were previously rare. Since 2010, black sea bass have become abundant in Long Island Sound and a significant proportion of these changes were attributed to climate change by several different scientific investigations.

The Black Sea Bass Management Board reviewed and revised commercial state allocations for black sea bass to address the climate-driven population changes. The Board

acknowledged the significant change in the Long Island Sound and the challenges it created for fisheries there and voted to give the State of Connecticut an additional 2 percent to its commercial allocation. New York requested identical consideration due to the shared nature of Long Island Sound and similar fishery management difficulties and was denied. New York State successfully appealed this decision on May 6, 2021 during ASMFC's Spring Meeting Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board. Revised allocations will be reviewed during ASMFC's Summer Meeting in August 2021. For more details on the appeal, visit [DEC's website](#).

New York State Black Sea Bass Fishery

New York's [Black Sea Bass Quota Distribution Plan](#) is established annually with review and input provided from the State's commercial fishing industry and approved by the Marine Resources Advisory Council. Visit [DEC's website](#) for details on the distribution plan and a summary of state landings. ✧

Invasive fish caught in the Hudson River

DEC captured four round gobies at two locations in the Hudson River 12 and 25 miles downstream of the Troy dam during route fish sampling on



on July 13 and 14 marking the first documented occurrence of this invasive fish in the Hudson River.

The [round goby](#) is native to the Black and Caspian seas and was likely introduced by ballast water to the Great Lakes in the 1990s. It has the potential to cause ecological and recreational impacts. These fish are voracious feeders and compete with native species for food and spawning habitat. They also can be a nuisance to anglers. ✧

Wow!



Alex Catalano, Eagle Scout from Villa Park VFW Post 2801's Boy Scout Troop 242, a INHS large river ecologist, seen here holding a 85lb Bighead Carp collected on June 15th 2021 by IDNR contracted commercial anglers from the upper Illinois River. INHS and IDNR have partnered to help remove and monitor big headed carp, which include Bighead and Silver Carp in the upper river. ✧

Tiger musky transition in DEC's fish hatcheries

New this year, Oneida Fish Hatchery is experimentally raising tiger muskellunge.

So far the tank of 5,000 tiger muskies is doing great, thanks in part to a handful of "tiger trees" designed and installed by DEC Hatchery staff. The "tiger trees" provide structure for the fish to congregate under, which makes them feel safe and reduces stress. Since they're already congregated under the feeder, an added benefit could be more efficient feeding.

Based on the positive response to the tiger trees, hatchery staff plan to evaluate the impacts of these structures on tiger muskellunge condition and growth in the future.

Should the experimental program prove successful, the tiger muskellunge program will shift completely from the South Otselic Fish Hatchery to Oneida Fish Hatchery next year so that South Otselic can take a more active role in trout production. ✧

BIG news for New York's lake sturgeon

[A new milestone](#) has been reached in the continuing recovery of lake sturgeon. A nearly 70 pound, mature female with eggs was captured from the Genesee River by scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) this past May. This is the first evidence of spawning in the Genesee River in over 50 years. DEC began stocking the river in 2003, and our partners at USGS have been tracking their survival and maturation ever since. Successful spawning in the Genesee will support the overall population of lake sturgeon in Western Lake Ontario.

To learn more about New York's lake sturgeon recovery efforts visit [DEC's website](#). ✧

How to find fishing information

Find answers to fishing questions at the DNR fishing webpage, a mobile-friendly destination for information about fishing. From there you can use LakeFinder, which provides maps and detailed information on lakes throughout the state, and the new StreamFinder tool that provides a description, species list, regulations and access information for trout streams throughout Minnesota. The DNR fishing page also includes the Minnesota fishing regulations.

More details: [DNR fishing page](#)

✧

New to fishing? DNR has helpful info online to learn how

Anyone interested in learning how to fish can find helpful how-to guides on the DNR's learn to fish pages. Find out how and where to fish, learn about fishing equipment, read about ways to catch different kinds of fish, and get acquainted with fishing ethics and stewardship. More details: [DNR learn to fish page](#). ✧

Catching the Run - Suffolk County

ECOs Simmons and Della Rocco worked a late shift on April 24 in hopes of protecting the striped bass migrating through Long Island waters. What started as a slow night picked up quickly when rumors spread among anglers that there were fish to be caught on the North Shore near Stony Brook. Using night vision, ECO Simmons lasered in on a group of anglers. After a while, the group started pulling striped bass up on the beach. In a matter of minutes, two anglers had caught and kept five undersized striped bass. ECO Simmons and Della Rocco confronted them, found the fish, and issued four tickets for possession of undersized striped bass over the possession limit. ✧

DEC Fish Hatcheries (partially) Reopened

State fish hatchery grounds have reopened, however the buildings remain closed to visitors. The Salmon River Fish Hatchery is closed to visitors due to construction.

DEC Announces Lake Sturgeon Found Spawning in Genesee River, First in More Than 50 Years

Return of Spawning Lake Sturgeon Signifies Improvements to Ecosystem and Supports New York's Fisheries Restoration and Management Goals

New York State DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos announced a milestone in the restoration of the Genesee River following the collection of a spawning female lake sturgeon in the lower Genesee for the first time in more than 50 years. On May 25, 2021, Dr. Dawn Dittman and the field crew from the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Tunison Laboratory of Aquatic Science netted the 61-inch, nearly 70-pound female lake sturgeon. DEC began stocking lake sturgeon into the Lower Genesee River in 2003, as part of the State's efforts to support the species' recovery.

"Working with our partners, DEC's investments and efforts to stock and clean up the Genesee watershed have paid off for lake sturgeon in the Genesee River," said Seggos. "This sturgeon thrived in the Genesee as a stocked juvenile and has finally reached maturity to hopefully produce another generation. We appreciate the work of all our federal partners, Monroe County, Seneca Park Zoo, New York Sea Grant, and others improving the Genesee River ecosystem and increasing public awareness of the river's restoration."

The discovery of the spawning lake sturgeon in lower section of the Genesee River is significant as the area is part of the Rochester Embayment Area of Concern (AOC). The AOC designation was given to 43 areas around the Great Lakes Basin under the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, signifying the chemical, physical, or biological components of the area's ecosystem

were degraded as a result of local human activities.

DEC works closely with regulatory partners at the USGS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as Monroe County Department of Health, to improve water quality and restore habitat in the Rochester Embayment AOC. The return of spawning lake sturgeon provides further evidence that restoration efforts are leading to tangible improvements to the ecosystem and support fisheries restoration and management goals. In addition, the Seneca Park Zoo and New York Sea Grant help educate the public about lake sturgeon and the Genesee River.

Dr. Dittman has worked with DEC to collect scientific data on lake sturgeon since the creation of the stocking program 30 years ago. DEC stocks juvenile lake sturgeon into the Genesee River as part of a statewide recovery effort for the species, currently listed as 'Threatened' in New York. Part of the recovery criteria for the species is to increase the number of spawning populations across its range in New York.

Dr. Dawn Dittman, Research Ecologist, USGS Great Lakes Science Center, said, "I am thrilled to report this milestone in the long-term restoration of Lake Sturgeon to the Genesee River. "The finding validates scientists' expectation that the first spawning would occur when stocked female sturgeons reached 17 or 18 years old."

Jeff Wyatt, DVM, MPH, Seneca Park Zoo Environmental Advocate, said, "The Seneca Park Zoo is proud to be the temporary home to juvenile lake sturgeon each year to share these amazing fish with the public. We are also glad to see our work on the Rochester Embayment Area of Concern coming to such tangible fruition with the return of spawning lake sturgeon."

Michael Goehle, Project Leader for Lower Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office, U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, said, "The Genesee River restoration program contributes to the overall restoration of Lake Sturgeon in Lake Ontario and its major tributaries, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proud to support this effort with our partners and across several of our offices and programs. Our Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office assists with migration and population assessments, our New York Field Office assists with propagation efforts and area of concern support, and our Genoa National Fish Hatchery assists with lake sturgeon propagation. Much of this work has been ongoing for more than 20 years."

Across New York, lake sturgeon numbers are on the rise and DEC asks the angling public to continue to support their recovery by releasing accidentally hooked sturgeon immediately. The heat and stress of spawning make lake sturgeon more vulnerable to incidental mortality from angling at this time of year. DEC depends on anglers to support sturgeon by removing the hook in accidental catches while the fish is still in the water and move to a different location or use a different angling technique once the sturgeon is hooked. For more information about the lake sturgeon recovery program in New York State, visit [Lake Sturgeon Recovery Plan - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#).

To support stewardship of lake sturgeon, New York Sea Grant has published a Lake Sturgeon Intermediate Curriculum for sixth- to eighth-grade students as part of a suite of lake sturgeon-related resources for school and public use to encourage conservation of one of the largest and longest-living native fish species, and a threatened species, in the Great Lakes. See [NY Sea Grant's website](#) (leaves DEC website) for details.

For more [information on the Rochester Embayment Area of Concern and restoration activities](#), visit DEC's website. ✧

Cormorants: Culprits of contamination

Little Galloo Island, N.Y., is site of toxicology study

BY DAN THOMAS, GLSFC PRESIDENT

Extracted from Great Lakes Basin Report, December 1999 edition

Note: At the time these photos were taken, it was widely thought by federal and state biologists that these birds only nested and laid eggs in trees. In fact, two federal agents from Fish and Wildlife Service were insistent that these birds did not nest or lay eggs on the ground. They changed their minds only after they were shown categorical evidence proving otherwise. Editor



Last month, we had a late-breaking story about a study conducted by Chopra-Lee, Inc., a prominent and well-respected Buffalo, N.Y., research firm. It dealt with the contamination by burgeoning flocks of double-crested cormorants and the bio-accumulation that is mainly due to the birds' exclusive diet of fish, and the related effects to the soil, the surrounding waters of the islands they inhabit as well as groundwater and private residential wells.

The double-crested cormorant was first reported in the Lake of the Woods area of Ontario as early as the late 28th Century. Nesting sites were recorded in Lake Superior in the 1920s. Breeding was confirmed on Lakes Erie and Ontario in the late 1930s. By the late 1940s and early 1950s, cormorant nesting pairs were abundant in the eastern Lake Ontario region. In 1974, 22 pairs of cormorants were reported on Little Galloo Island.

From 1973 to 1991, cormorant numbers increased more than 300-fold in certain areas of the Great Lakes.

This dramatic increase in populations was probably augmented by a rise in the numbers of smaller fish, such as rainbow smelt and alewife along with increases in the stocking of game fish such as salmonids and bass by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. In 1996, 8,410 cormorant pairs were reported on Little Galloo Island.

Recent DEC studies concluded that double-crested cormorants eat significant numbers of smallmouth bass, greatly reducing the overall population. Current estimates of

smallmouth bass consumption by cormorants exceed the number taken by anglers from 10 to 20 fold. The expanding populations have also displaced the black-crowned night heron from Little Galloo Island and destroyed woody vegetation on the island favored by other colonial species.

Recently, Chopra-Lee was retained by a homeowners group in the Henderson Bay area to see if the double-crested cormorant population explosion in the last few decades poses a health threat to residents.



Analytical Findings

By far, the most interesting and alarming discoveries of this investigation involve the soil and soil/guano samples that were obtained from Little Galloo and Galloo islands. Samples from Little Galloo show elevated levels of PCBs, mercury and the pesticide DDE. All three were found in all four soil/guano samples taken on Little Galloo Island. Soil samples from neighboring Galloo Island, used as a background-testing area, had no traces of either PCBs or DDE. Some mercury was found in the samples from Galloo Island.



The PCB level of 4.78 parts per million for a guano/soil sample (S-2 Top) from beneath a dead tree trunk on Little Galloo Island, exceeded the recommended cleanup level for

surface PCBs. Elevated levels of PCBs and DDE were found in all the remaining soil/guano sampled from Little Galloo, but were within recommended cleanup levels. Mercury readings from sample locations (S-2 Top and S-2 Bottom) exceeded the DEC-recommended cleanup objective level.



Surface water samples from the Little Galloo and Galloo island areas (W-1 and W-2) showed a pattern of contamination differing in the upwind and downwind locations.

The total bacteria samples from the two nearshore and two offshore sampling sites of Little Galloo Island showed some expected results. One location (W-4) about 500 yards from the southwest shore (upwind) of Little Galloo Island, had a total bacteria count of less than 33. The other three sites from the Little Galloo Island area showed high total bacteria counts from both the nearshore (14,600 and 10,133) and the downwind offshore (1,367) sampling sites.

The pool of standing water on the northwestern side of Little Galloo (W-3) showed an extremely high total bacteria count of 43,700 CFU (colony forming units).

The two residential groundwater wells sampled showed some interesting and contrasting analytical results. No pesticides or PCBs were found in the groundwater from either location. The total bacterial count of the groundwater at the residential house on Henderson Bay (W-10) had an elevated level of 12,767 CFU compared to the Jenkins residential house (W-9) where only 1,000 CFU units were found. The 12,767 units are similar in number to the quantities found near Little Galloo Island. Additionally, elevated levels of nitrates, aluminum, calcium, iron, potassium and zinc were found in the groundwater sample from W-10 as compared to sample site W-9. Some of the results were more than 10 times higher in comparison.

Conclusions

The investigation has shown that the birds that roost on Little Galloo Island, especially the double-crested cormorant, have deposited toxic compounds, which have bio-accumulated exponentially as compared to other area islands because of the overpopulation of cormorants.

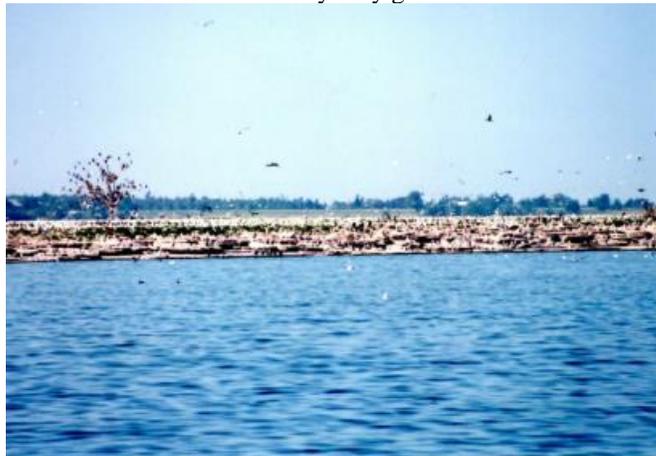
According to Chopra-Lee, the surface water sampling showed that there is a potential correlation between Little



Galloo Island and the downwind surface water quality. Total bacteria units downwind of the island were higher than the upwind sampling location. Although no PCBs, DDE or excessive levels of heavy metals were found downwind, the PCB and DDE levels found are a potential leaching source of surface water contamination during heavy rain or spring snowmelt periods. An immediate area of concern involves the neighboring Galloo and Stony islands where the potable drinking water source of the islands is the water from Lake Ontario. There is a potential for the potable water sources of the neighboring islands to be adversely affected by surface runoff from Little Galloo Island. The surface waters of the Henderson Bay and other mainland areas are potentially vulnerable to runoff from Little Galloo.

It is evident, the firm said, that the cormorant has had an adverse effect on the area's ecosystem. All efforts should be made to control the population and keep it away from other uninhabited islands, especially other islands or mainland areas.

The release and accumulation of bird excrement and dead carcasses appear to be a direct threat to human health and the surrounding environment. If the population of cormorants on Little Galloo Island are not reduced or kept in check, the contamination will most likely only get worse over time. ✧



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