



DEC 'State of Lake Ontario Fisheries' virtual meeting and video series

Dec 2

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently released a new series of recorded presentations on DEC's website that focus on Lake Ontario fisheries science and management initiatives. DEC will hold a virtual public meeting on **December 2**, at 6 p.m., to provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions about the recorded presentations.

The [recorded presentations are available on the DEC website](#) and provide updated information about:

- Predator prey balance
 - Spring prey fish survey results and lake wide alewife assessment
 - Chinook salmon growth indicators

- 2021 Creel survey results
 - Lake Ontario fishing boat survey
 - Lake Ontario tributary creel survey
- Fisheries management
 - Lake Ontario salmon and trout stocking strategy
 - Atlantic salmon fisheries management plan
 - Future approach to predator prey management in Lake Ontario

DEC encourages Lake Ontario anglers and those interested in the fishery to view these pre-recorded presentations to learn about the research and monitoring that informs the management of New York's most highly used fishing water. Following

the presentations, anglers will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage DEC fisheries managers and biologists from DEC and the U.S. Geological Survey in a more detailed dialogue about information presented.

This virtual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m., and can be accessed online by using the meeting link or by calling the number and code provided below. Biologists will not be presenting information at the virtual meeting, so participants are advised to view the presentations prior to the meeting.

[Attend the virtual meeting via WebEx](#) (leaves DEC's website).

State of Lake Ontario

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Mille Lacs, Upper Red lakes winter season walleye regulations

Ice anglers on Mille Lacs and Upper Red lakes can harvest walleye on both lakes this winter season.

A four-walleye bag limit, with only one walleye longer than 17 inches allowed, went into effect on Upper Red Lake on Monday, Nov. 1.

Effective Wednesday, Dec. 1, through Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, winter anglers on Mille Lacs may keep one walleye between 21-23 inches or one fish longer than 28 inches.

The new regulation on Upper Red increases the possession limit from the three-fish limit that was in place during the 2020-2021 winter season and 2021 open water season, when mature walleye were lower in abundance. Results of this fall's walleye population assessment showed a wide range of sizes with an abundance of mature spawning walleye, which allowed the more

generous bag limit while also creating conditions that are favorable for the survival of upcoming walleye year classes.

This is the sixth consecutive year of winter walleye harvest on Mille Lacs, where winter regulations are set after completion of the annual fall netting assessment. Results from 2021 showed that the walleye population has declined from recent years but remains above population lows seen from 2012 to 2016.

Mille Lacs Lake winter regulations also reduce the possession limit for cisco (tullibee) from 10 to five and forbid the harvest of burbot (eelpout).

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's website offers regulation information on both lakes - Upper Red Lake (link is external) and [Mille Lacs Lake](#). ✧

Wear it! Mandatory Life Jacket Requirement begins

HARRISBURG, Pa. – With vibrant, changing foliage as a colorful backdrop to any adventure during the fall season, the lure of a relaxing paddle along a scenic river, stream, or lake is hard to resist. To ensure boaters return home safely, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) reminds boaters to always wear a life jacket.

Beginning on November 1 and lasting through April 30, boaters are *required* to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or on any kayak, canoe, or paddleboard. The [requirement](#) applies to all Pennsylvania waters.

"The interest in boating, especially paddling, in Pennsylvania, has continued to increase over the past several seasons, and people will stay busy on the water well into the fall months," said Ryan Walt, PFBC Boating and Watercraft Safety Manager. "Boaters should be aware that water temperatures begin to drop rapidly at this time of year, and even on sunny days when air temperatures are comfortable and warm, the water can be cold enough to put boaters at risk for sudden cold-water immersion. A life jacket can keep your head above water until help arrives."

Sudden cold-water immersion, or cold-water shock, occurs when a person is unexpectedly plunged into cold water below 70°F resulting in an involuntary gasp where water is often inhaled. This uncontrollable reaction causes panic, hyperventilation, inhalation of water, and inhibits the ability of a person to swim.

According to Pennsylvania boating accident reports, nearly 80% of all boating fatalities occurred because boaters were not wearing life jackets. Prior to this life jacket wear requirement being enacted in 2012, a disproportionate number of deaths happened between November and April. Since then, the Commission has seen a significant drop in the percentage of boating incidents that result in fatalities during the cold

weather months.

Individuals who plan to fish, boat or hunt from a boat this fall or winter should follow these [Cold Water Survival Safety Tips](#):

- Always wear a life jacket, even when not required. Many life jackets offer insulation from cold air while boating in addition to insulation from cold water if a person falls overboard. Read approval labels to be sure the life jacket is appropriate for your boating activity.
- Never boat alone.
- Leave a float plan with family or friends so that someone knows where you are departing from and when you intend to arrive back ashore.
- Become familiar with the waters you plan to boat in advance of your trip.
- Bring a fully charged cell phone with you in case of emergency and store in a waterproof bag or container.
- Wear clothing that continues to insulate when wet, such as fleece, polypropylene, or other synthetics.
- If you are about to fall into cold water, cover your mouth and nose with your hands to reduce the likelihood of inhaling water.
- If possible, stay with the boat. Get back into or climb on top of the boat.
- While in cold water, do not remove your clothing.
- If you cannot get out of the water, and you are wearing a lifejacket, get into the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP). In this position, individuals bring their knees to their chest and hug them with their arms.
- Once out of the water, remove wet clothes and warm up as soon as possible.
- Seek medical attention when necessary. Err on the side of caution. Some effects of exposure to cold temperatures can be delayed.

To learn more, visit the [Water Safety](#) and [Wear It Pennsylvania](#) pages on the PFBC website. The *Wear It Pennsylvania* campaign and logo are a partnership between the PFBC and the National Safe Boating Council. ✧



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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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DNR/Multiple agencies continue Invasive Carp removal efforts in Mississippi River



The Wis DNR will continue working with neighboring state and federal agencies to reduce the number of invasive carp in the Mississippi River. / Photo Credit: MN DNR

LA CROSSE, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with neighboring state and federal agencies will take further action to reduce the number of invasive carp in the Mississippi River.

Additional actions include increasing commercial netting operations, tracking tagged carp and ongoing use of the innovative Modified Unified Method (MUM), a tactic that involves driving fish towards a series of smaller and smaller areas until they are netted out of the water.

Continued efforts follow a successful second invasive carp removal effort on October 25-29 in Pool 8 of the Mississippi River near La Crosse in which the DNR, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wild Rivers Conservancy and National Park Service sampled more than 100.00 pounds of fish.

Although seven silver carp were observed jumping out of the sampling area, no invasive carp were captured during the October removal using MUM. Thirty-four silver carp were captured during the first MUM operation in the same locations in April.

“This is potentially very good news about the current status of invasive carp in Pool 8,” said Jordan Weeks, DNR Mississippi River Fisheries Biologist. “Invasive carp captures decreased sharply. We’re hopeful this indicates a decrease in the actual invasive carp population.”

In addition, the October invasive carp removal produced hundreds of native fish in each of five locations

along the river. These captures included a healthy number and diversity of native fish, including numerous paddlefish and sturgeon.

While native fish tend to hide and avoid being driven into the nets used during the MUM tactic, some do end up being netted. A subset of those fish are measured and weighed, then released back into the river. Any invasive carp are removed and further analyzed. Invasive carp compete with native species for food and habitat, so a healthy and diverse fishery is a positive sign.

Invasive carp captures must be reported to the DNR immediately. If you believe you have captured an invasive carp, please put it on ice and send a picture of the carp to Jordan Weeks, DNR Mississippi River Fisheries Biologist, at Jordan.Weeks@wisconsin.gov or 608-386-0970.

Learn more about how you can do your part to help prevent the spread of [invasive aquatic species](#).

More information about [invasive carp](#) is available on the [DNR's invasive carp webpage](#). ✧

Root River Report-Spawning facilities update

The Wisconsin DNR has completed fall spawning operations at the Root River Steelhead Facility in Racine County and has closed for the season. November 15, 2021 was the 11th and final processing day at the Root River Steelhead Facility. The water temperature in the facility was 39° Fahrenheit. Flows on the river remained low. The facility is closed for the season and will resume operations in spring 2022 during the steelhead migration.

Updates are posted at 4 p.m. every Tuesday or Wednesday from September through December, and from March through May.

Totals as of Nov 15, 2021

Total Captured	Rainbow Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Brown Trout
Passed Upstream	55	2,174	2,340	12
Spawmed at Facility	15	1,634	2,263	12
Egg Take			325,000	

[Sign up to get the latest fishing information on Lake Michigan.](#)

✧

DEC proposals to improve New York State's Sunfish and Crappie Fishing Regs

Proposals include statewide regs and experimental regs to improve opportunities for larger sunfish

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos recently announced a proposal to improve sunfish and crappie fishing in New York. The proposal includes changes to the daily catch limit of sunfish and crappie and special regulations on select waters across the state as part of an experimental program to create fishing opportunities for larger sunfish.

"To ensure quality sunfish and crappie fishing, DEC is proposing regulatory changes to benefit anglers in search of a good catch while continuing the restoration of the state's natural resources," Commissioner Seggos said. "New York is home to a wide variety of fishing opportunities and our goal is to increase these opportunities for anglers while bolstering local economies."

The proposed statewide regulations are modest adjustments that reflect DEC and anglers' recognition that more conservative harvest regulations are needed to ensure conservation safeguards for these resources. The use of social media to quickly draw attention to high-quality fishing opportunities and the widespread use of electronic fish finders and other devices to improve fishing efficiency have amplified concerns about overharvesting. These proposals were included in the Draft Sunfish and Crappie Management Plan DEC released for public comment earlier this year. The decision to advance these proposals was based on the largely positive feedback DEC received on the plan. Visit the [Sunfish and Crappie Management webpage](#) for the assessment of public comments on the draft plan, the Big Panfish Initiative Study Plan, and the rationale for the statewide regulatory proposals.

The proposed sunfish regulations are part of a five-year experimental

program intended to take advantage of the ecological capacity of 11 select lakes. Using minimum length restrictions and reduced daily limits, fishery managers can better develop populations with a greater proportion of older, larger fish. The experiment is proposed to run from 2022–2025. A decision on whether to continue this management strategy will depend on an evaluation of the results and feedback from the angling public.

The proposals include:

- Reducing the sunfish statewide daily harvest limit from 50 to 25;
- Increasing the crappie statewide minimum size limit from nine to 10 inches; and
- Implementing an eight-inch minimum size limit and a daily harvest limit of 15 for sunfish in the following waters chosen for their potential to grow larger sunfish: Blydenburgh Lake (Suffolk County, DEC Region 1); Lake Welch (Rockland County, Region 3); Canadarago and Goodyear lakes (Otsego County, Region 4); Saratoga Lake (Saratoga County, Region 5); Sixtown Pond and Red Lake (Jefferson County, Region 6); Cazenovia Lake (Madison County, Region 7); Otisco Lake (Onondaga County, Region 7); Honeoye Lake (Ontario County, Region 8); and Silver Lake (Wyoming County, Region 9).

The regulatory [proposals are available on DEC's website](#) for review and public comment. Comments on the proposals should be submitted via e-mail

to regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov or via mail to the Inland Fisheries Section, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753, with the subject line "Sunfish and Crappie Regulations." Comments will be accepted through **December 25, 2021**. ✧

DNR stocks over 80,000 coho salmon in northwest Indiana tributaries

80,896 coho salmon were recently stocked in northern Indiana's Lake Michigan tributaries. Bodine State Fish Hatchery released 29,457 coho salmon fingerlings measuring approximately 7.2 inches into Trail Creek.

An additional 51,439 coho salmon fingerlings measuring approximately 6.6 inches were released into the East Branch of the Little Calumet River by Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery. Coho salmon stocked this fall will stay in the streams until next spring, when they will migrate to Lake Michigan. They will spend one to two years there feeding and maturing until they return to the streams where they were stocked for spawning.

Anglers should take care when fishing these areas. These fingerlings are currently under the legal size limit and are sensitive to being caught. If you are catching undersize coho, consider moving to a different area of the stream or try switching your method of fishing. These new fish are crucial to the continued existence of the northwest Indiana trout and salmon fishery. For more information about Bodine State Fish Hatchery, visit wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/bodine-state-fish-hatchery.

For more information about Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery, visit wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/mixsawbah-state-fish-hatchery. ✧



New sonic tagging study on Winnebago walleyes

The Wisconsin DNR Oshkosh fisheries staff have started a new sonic tagging study on the movement of walleye on the Winnebago System to evaluate adult walleye movement and habitat use on the system, including spring spawning runs on the upper Fox and Wolf Rivers.

The study will include tagging adult walleye with sonic tags (photo at left) during electrofishing surveys throughout the system, including Lake Winnebago and the upper Fox River. The sonic tags will be surgically implanted in the abdomen.

In addition to sonic tagging of walleye, the network of acoustic receivers placed along riverbanks and crossing areas throughout the Winnebago System was expanded on the upper Fox River upstream to Portage to better understand spawning marsh and fishway use. As part of the

study, 20 releasable acoustic receivers will also be placed in deep water areas on Lake Winnebago.

DNR staff recently tagged 74 fish during fall electrofishing surveys on Lake Winnebago in several areas including Black Wolf (24), Grundman County Boat Landing (19), Asylum Bay (14), Paynes Point (13), Pipe (3) and Fond du Lac (1).



Any sonic tagged fish that swim within a quarter mile of the receivers will be logged with the date and time at that location. Receiver data will be downloaded annually to help gather movement information.

All sonic tagged fish are also equipped with an orange loop tag (see walleye photo above) that reads, "RESEARCH REWARD," and are worth \$100 to anglers that report them (the reward expires December 31, 2025). Receiving found tags from harvested fish is crucial as they can be reused for future studies.

To report tags and receive the reward, anglers must send a confirmation picture and catch information to DNRWINNEBAGOSYSTEMTAGRETURNS@wisconsin.gov or by calling 920-303-5429. ✧

Smallmouth bass in Door County waters test positive for largemouth bass virus

The Wisconsin DNR confirms largemouth bass virus in smallmouth bass taken from the bay of Green Bay near Door County.

In September 2021, 14 diseased smallmouth bass were collected from the waters surrounding Door County and examined by DNR fisheries staff. Collected fish had skin wounds that appeared red, ulcerated, and varied in size and location. These skin lesions often had a cream-colored layer of dead tissue in the center of the wound. Since 2008, smallmouth bass displaying similar skin lesions have been sampled during several outbreaks in Lake Michigan and Green Bay waters. While test results from fish sampled during those episodes had been inconclusive, the virus was detected in all 14 of the diseased fish sampled this year.

Largemouth bass virus has been found throughout the Eastern United

States and previously identified in Wisconsin's Mississippi River Basin. The virus can cause weakness, abnormal swimming, swim bladder over-inflation, reddening and death in largemouth bass populations.

While it is suspected that largemouth bass virus is involved in the development of the skin lesions on the 14 smallmouth bass, little is definitively known about its ability to cause disease or death in the species. DNR staff will continue to monitor smallmouth bass populations and collect additional samples to confirm largemouth bass virus in future outbreaks.

To avoid spreading largemouth bass virus and other harmful pathogens, anglers should follow the DNR's [aquatic invasive species](#) guidance and actively practice the following:

- [Drain all water from boats, motors and all equipment.](#)
- Do not move live fish away from a waterbody.
- Handle bass as quickly and gently as possible if you intend to release them.
- Target smallmouth bass during cooler weather to reduce the stress on fish.
- Refrain from hauling fish in live wells unless fish are to be harvested.
- Report smallmouth bass with skin lesions and dead or dying fish to local biologists or fish health staff.

While largemouth bass virus is not known to infect humans, the DNR urges anglers harvesting any fish to thoroughly cook their catch, never consume dead or dying fish and follow the [Center for Disease Control's food safety guidelines](#) ✧

DEC's new Division of Marine Resources Headquarters is open

On Thursday, October 7, [Governor Kathy Hochul announced the opening of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's new Marine Resources headquarters](#) located in the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Nissequogue River State Park, Kings Park, in Suffolk County, New York.



The new building, which features a range of sustainable green features, serves as a central hub for DEC's Division of Marine Resources and its essential work to manage and conserve New York's marine fisheries, shellfish, and other marine life habitats.

DEC's Division of Marine Resources is responsible for the conservation and management of New York's marine fisheries and shellfish, as well as preserving and restoring critical marine habitats and protecting endangered marine life found along New York's coastal shores. The new facility houses the state's only U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-certified shellfish microbiology laboratory to ensure over one million acres of shellfish growing areas in New York's marine waters meet stringent federal requirements. ✧

BOW in the SNOW 2022

Winter is coming!

Where: Camp Allegany, Allegany State Park (NY)

When: February 4-6, 2022

Registration will open in early December

Courses will include: Nordic Ski, Fat Tire Bike, Winter Camping, Snowshoeing, Food Preservation, Ice Fishing, K-9 First Aid, and much more ✧

The Fishing Line – Attention Crappie & Sunfish Anglers

If you've had a plate-sized bluegill at the end of your line, you know how incredibly fun it is to reel one in. DEC is proposing new regulations that intend to provide even more quality fishing opportunities for sunfish and crappie throughout the state.

The proposals include:

- Reducing the sunfish statewide daily harvest limit from 50 to 25.
- Increasing the crappie statewide minimum size limit from nine to 10 inches.
- Implementing an 8-inch minimum size limit and a daily harvest limit of 15 for sunfish in the following waters: Blydenburgh Lake (DEC Region 1), Lake Welch (Region 3), Canadarago Lake and Goodyear Lake (Region 4), Saratoga Lake (Region 5), Sixtown Pond and Red Lake (Region 6), Cazenovia Lake and Otisco Lake (Region 7), Honeoye Lake (Region 8), and Silver Lake (Region 9).

Visit DEC's website for more information on the direction the Bureau of Fisheries would like to take with [sunfish and crappie management](#) in New York State.

These proposals are available for review and comment ([sunfish and crappie regulation proposals](#)). Comments on the proposals should be submitted via e-mail to regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov or via mail to the Inland Fisheries Section, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753; subject line "Sunfish and Crappie Regulations." Comments will be accepted through **December 26, 2021**. ✧



New Catch & Release Season for DEC inland trout streams

When one door closes, another one opens...or in this case, when one fishing season closes, another one opens.

In years past, October 15th meant the end of trout season here in New York. However, thanks to DEC's recently implemented [Trout Stream Management Plan](#), a new catch and release trout stream season (on inland streams) will begin on **October 16 and extend through March 31**. Now hardy anglers can enjoy trout fishing year-round! During the catch and release trout season, only artificial lures may be used and trout must be immediately released. Anglers are reminded to avoid disturbing spawning trout and gravel beds where trout eggs may be incubating. ✧

State of Lake Ontario

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Individuals without computer access may join the meeting by phone using the below phone number and meeting access code: Phone # 518-549-0500, Access code: 648 787 439

DEC is providing these recorded presentations, followed by the opportunity for the public to ask questions, in place of annual "State of the Lake" in-person public meetings, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Those who cannot attend the virtual question and answer meeting can send questions to fwfishlo@dec.ny.gov. For more info: Chris Legard, DEC Lake Ontario Unit Leader at the Cape Vincent Fisheries Station, at (315) 654-2147. ✧

Salmon and trout egg-take efforts recently finished or just beginning at DNR facilities

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has been working hard this fall to gather the eggs necessary for the



continued production of hatchery fish that support Michigan's world-class fisheries, and that effort will continue this winter. Fall egg-takes have been completed for wild Chinook and coho salmon, but are ongoing for captive broodstocks—the mature fish used for

breeding—of brown, rainbow, brook and lake trout.

Chinook salmon eggs were collected September 30 through October 7 at the Little Manistee River Weir, and coho salmon eggs were collected October 17 through November 2 at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery Weir.

“We had a decent run of wild Chinook salmon this year,” said Aaron Switzer, manager of the state fish hatcheries located in the Lower Peninsula. “The run at the Little Manistee was healthy enough to provide all of Michigan's egg needs. We were also able to provide eggs to Indiana and Illinois. Once hatched, reared and stocked, all of these Chinook salmon will contribute to the Lake Michigan salmon fishery.”

The coho egg take got underway at the Upper Platte River weir October 14. The coho run has been very strong this fall, with just over 17,500 adults already passed above the Lower Platte River weir.

“We're planning to collect about 5.5 million coho salmon eggs at the Platte River weir by the time the egg-

take is wrapped up. This includes approximately 2.5 million eggs for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. All four states work together cooperatively each year to ensure Lake Michigan continues to receive Pacific salmon to supplement the fishery,” said Switzer.

At Oden State Fish Hatchery, egg-takes for brown trout occurred in late October. Captive broodstock egg-takes for brook and lake trout are in progress until mid-November at the Marquette State Fish Hatchery. Rainbow trout egg-takes at Oden State Fish Hatchery will start in December and continue until mid-January.

Captive broodstocks will provide 220,000 brook trout eggs, 410,000 lake trout eggs, 2.3 million brown trout eggs and 1 million rainbow trout eggs. An additional 640,000 splake eggs (brook trout and lake trout hybrid) also will be collected to support Michigan's fisheries management objectives.

To learn more about efforts through Michigan's state fish hatcheries or to plan a trip, visit Michigan.gov/Hatcheries. ✧

Squirrel tails can help add fishing lures to your tackle box

Squirrels are a plentiful natural resource. Plus, squirrel is some of the best wild meat and their skins are used for caps, coats, glove linings and many other items, but the tail is usually thrown away. Mepps® continues to ask hunters to save their squirrel tails,



AND, they're offering to reward you for your efforts!

Mepps buys fox, black, grey and red squirrel tails and will pay up to 26 cents each for tails, depending on quality and quantity. Plus, the cash value is doubled if the tails are traded for Mepps lures. All Mepps asks for is the squirrel tail with the bone left in. The rest of the squirrel is for hunters to keep and harvest.

Mepps® needs squirrel tails to create hand-tied, dressed hooks for their world-famous, fish-catching lures. They've been recycling squirrel tails for over half-a-century. In fact, they have recycled nearly 8 million tails since the mid-1960s, more of them than anyone else in the world.

We've tested many different natural and synthetic materials for our

dressed hooks, but nothing can compare to the action of a squirrel tail underwater. The fact is squirrel tails are all hair—no fur. Practically all other animals have fur tails with just a few guard hairs. Fur doesn't have the same rippling, pulsating movement of squirrel hair in the water.

Mepps Communications Director, Nik Kolbeck, wants to remind everyone, “We are focused on sustainability, we do not advocate the hunting of squirrels solely for the purpose of sending in squirrel tails.”

For all details on the Squirrel Tail Program, visit their web site: www.mepps.com/squirrel-tail or call 800-637-7700. Mepps, 626 Center St., Antigo, WI 54409-2496. ✧

Know Your Target: Don't accidentally shoot elk & moose this hunting season

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds hunters to know their target before they shoot and understand the difference between elk and white-tailed deer this season.



Archery and crossbow deer seasons are currently underway. Antlerless elk are most commonly confused for being large does, in addition to young bull elk which can look similar to large bucks. Any elk taken without a tag may result in a fine and a revocation of your hunting license.

How to Identify an Elk:

- **Adult elk are larger than adult deer.** An adult elk stands about 1-2 feet taller than an adult deer at the shoulders. An elk calf will be about the same size as an adult white-tailed doe but will display similar coloration to adult elk.

- **Spot the difference in the antlers.** White-tailed antlers curve forward, whereas elk antlers are larger and sweep back from their heads.

- **Look for color markings.** Elk have a tan rump patch, black legs and a dark brown mane. Deer have legs the same color as their bodies, a white throat patch and a fluffy white tail.

- **Additional markers.** Elk moving throughout the state may have noticeable markers including numeric ear tags or tracking collars. These collars are fixed around the neck and typically orange in color, sometimes with a visible printed number. Learn about the differences between elk and white-tailed deer below using the DNR's comparison guide.

Although Wisconsin has not reintroduced moose, there are several verified moose sightings across northern Wisconsin each year. A few hunters may even be lucky enough to see one this fall.

Find your adventure during the upcoming nine-day gun deer season November 20-28, 2021. Use the DNR's free [Hunt Wild Wisconsin mobile app](#) for everything needed in the field from property boundaries to chronic wasting disease (CWD) sampling and deer carcass disposal locations and electronic regulations, including shooting hours.

Discover new public lands to explore, brush up on the regulations or listen to podcasts within the Hunt Wild Wisconsin app. With mobile mapping, up-to-the-minute shooting hours, and much more, all the tools are available so hunters can focus on enjoying their time outdoors.

Once widespread across North America, elk were eliminated from Wisconsin in the 1880s. Thanks to the support of many partners and the backing of Wisconsinites, [elk were reintroduced within the state in 1995](#). Through DNR efforts to reestablish the species, the elk herd continues to expand making it essential for hunters to know their target to protect this growing population.

Currently, there are two herds containing a total of more than 400 elk in [Wisconsin reintroduction areas](#): one in the north including Ashland, Bayfield, Price, Rusk and Sawyer counties, and one in the area surrounding Jackson County. Occasionally, elk can roam beyond these areas so it is important for deer hunters statewide to be sure of their target.

Observations of elk outside of the management zones, or moose can be reported to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources through the [Large Mammal Observation Form](#).

Hunters should follow all firearm safety rules and be sure of their target and what is beyond it. Positively identifying the target ensures the

New fishing access site – Oquaga Creek

DEC Region 7 Operations recently completed the acquisition and development of a parcel of land along Oquaga Creek on State Route 41 in the Town of Sanford, Broome County. DEC purchased the entire 1.7 acre parcel which includes 900 ft. of stream frontage. A six car parking area was constructed to facilitate angler access to the creek and is the third of four planned parking areas on Oquaga Creek. This property is at the north end of an existing stretch of Public Fishing Rights easement, extending the 4.2 miles of permanent public access on the creek. Oquaga Creek is stocked annually with 2,650 brown trout. ✧

Chicago Pier Pass Program

There are 31 different piers to choose from in the Chicago Harbor system. The only harbor that may not be ready to go on schedule is Burnham as it is the late leaver harbor for boaters. Printed Covid guidelines on the passes as well as Westrec has hand sanitizer stations at each accessible gate that we will try to keep filled. Pier pass program runs from November 15th through March 31st, from 6 AM to 11 PM 7 days per week. Passes will be available at Henry's Bait & Sports, Park Bait Shop and at Northerly Island Visitors Center. There should be metal signage on all eligible pier gates with info and contact number. ✧



safety of other people and avoids the accidental shooting of non-target animals ✧

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

[Walleye Windfall: Lake Erie's booming walleye population keeps Ohio's economy going](#)

In the U.S., recreational anglers have been mining Lake Erie for "yellow gold" walleye for decades, and the current trend of skyrocketing fish populations has only helped to firm up the economic benefits that support thousands of households around the lake

[Over 4,000 sturgeon stocked in Saginaw Bay watershed rivers thanks to restoration efforts](#)

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network announced that a total of 4,055 sturgeon, including an additional 728 this fall, have been released into the Cass, Tittabawassee, Flint, and Shiawassee rivers since 2017

[DNR asks anglers to turn in adipose fin clipped fish](#)

Several Great Lakes states mark popular gamefish with an adipose fin clip. If anglers catch an adipose fin clipped fish, they should turn in the head at a local drop-off station. Fish tag returns help biologists understand survival, age and movements of important sport fish

[Thousands of hatchery fish lost after watermain break in Kincardine](#)

An incident in which an unmapped watermain was struck during construction work, resulting in the death of thousands of brown trout at a hatchery in Kincardine, Ontario, is being seen as a hiccup in what has been an otherwise successful stocking program.

[Chicago water advocate appointed as Great Lakes regional EPA administrator](#)

President Joe Biden has chosen a new administrator to oversee Region 5 of the Environmental Protection Agency, covering Indiana and other Great Lakes states. Read the full story by WBAA-West Lafayette, IN.

[Thanks to our unusually warm October, western Lake Erie's algae is still going strong](#)

An unusually warm October has prolonged algal blooms in western Lake Erie, including one that arrived this summer that continues to fan out about 100 square miles along the Ohio shoreline

[As lake trout reappear, a renewed bipartisan focus on the health of the Great Lakes also emerges](#)

A baby lake trout discovered in Lake Erie waters near the Pennsylvania-New York border confirmed that the species, thought to be extinct for 60 years, is now reproducing on its own. While this is positive sign for fisheries management and water quality of the lake, there is still a need for strong focus on the health of the Great Lakes for the future

[Biden appoints Debra Shore to lead EPA Midwestern office](#)

President Joe Biden on Tuesday appointed Debra Shore, a wastewater treatment official in Chicago, to direct the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Midwestern office.

[Chemical sex attraction may curb invasive sea lamprey, new study says](#)

Behavior-altering chemicals produced by sea lamprey may decrease the invaders' populations in the Great Lakes.

[Lake Erie offshore windmill pilot project in jeopardy amid scandal fallout](#)

Despite approval from a multitude of oversight agencies, a pilot offshore windmill project on Lake Erie is facing some strong headwinds the next few months amid the fallout of Ohio's ongoing energy scandal.

[20-year-old 'oops' leads to invasive carp pulled from Chicago lagoon, how many more are out there?](#)

When a 72-pound bighead carp was pulled from Humboldt Park Lagoon in Chicago earlier this month, many questioned how it got there. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources thinks the carp may have been stocked in Humboldt Park Lagoon 20-plus years ago

[Canadian Coast Guard buys light icebreaker for Great Lakes; vessel currently in Turkmenistan](#)

A new light icebreaker will ply the waters of the Great Lakes once it is inspected and design work to prepare its conversion is carried out, says the Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard.

[Sea lamprey control in the Great Lakes could be better if Canada pays up](#)

The sea lamprey, an incredibly destructive invasive species, is now largely under control thanks to an international treaty, a specialized pesticide and millions of dollars from the U.S. and Canada. But Canada hasn't been paying its full share for over a decade

◇

Quality of Life?

1. The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54
2. The inventor of gymnastics died at the age of 57
3. The world bodybuilding champion died at the age of 41
4. The best footballer in the world Maradona, died at the age of 60.
5. James Fuller Fixx credited with helping start America's fitness revolution by popularizing the sport of running died of a heart attack while jogging at 52 years of age.

BUT

5. The KFC inventor died at 94.
6. Inventor of Nutella brand died at the age of 88
7. Imagine, cigarette maker Winston died at the age of 102
8. The inventor of opium died at the age of 116 in an earthquake
9. And the Hennessy Liquor inventor died at 98.

How did today's doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?

The rabbit is always jumping up and down but it lives for only 2 years and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives 200+ years.

So, take some rest, chill, stay cool, eat, drink and enjoy your life. ✧



Thanksgiving History & Traditions

What was the original purpose of Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving Day, annual national holiday in the United States and Canada **celebrates the harvest and other blessings** of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present.

Why is the turkey a symbol of Thanksgiving?

Since Gov. William Bradford wrote of how the colonists had hunted wild turkeys during the autumn of 1621 and since turkey is a uniquely American (and scrumptious) bird, it gained traction as **the Thanksgiving meal of choice for Americans after Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.**

Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were likely served, alongside pumpkins and cranberries (but not pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce!).

The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.

Why is Thanksgiving always on a Thursday?

Since George Washington's time, Thursday has been the day, and this was solidified by Abraham Lincoln's proclamation in 1863 designating the national day of Thanksgiving to be the last Thursday of November. ... Later that was amended to the fourth Thursday in November.

Football and Thanksgiving

The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton. The first NFL games were played on Thanksgiving in 1920. ✧

Choose Liberty



"The problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money."

Margaret Thatcher

"The very atmosphere of firearms everywhere restrains evil interference — they deserve a place of honor with all that is good"

George Washington

Without guns in this country, all other amendments become null and void, simply because "We the People" will lose our power of enforcement.

Anonymous

"Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the government take care of him — better take a closer look at the American Indian."

Henry Ford

"Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."

Winston Churchill

The secret of happiness is freedom, and the secret of freedom, courage. — *Thucydides*

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. -*John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

Home of the free because of the brave. Freedom is never free. ✧



Happy Thanksgiving!



thanksgiving
gather
thankful family
blessed grateful
together blessings
november

