



MSU researcher leading Great Lakes lamprey eradication

Helping to prevent both the decline of native fish populations and negative impacts on the fishing industry

Sea lamprey devastated the Great Lakes fishery in the mid-20th century, contributing to the decline of native fish populations and hurting a multi-billion-dollar fishing industry.



Michigan State University researcher [Michael Wagner](#) and a team of scientists from the [Great Lakes Fisheries Commission](#) (GLFC) are looking at biological and behavioral research, and agricultural technology techniques to continue to control these invasive species. According to the GLFC, “when control is relaxed for

even a short time, sea lamprey bounce back and can inflict major harm. Elevated sea lamprey abundances take years to remedy and higher populations set back fishery and ecosystem recovery by decades.”



Wagner

“Our goal is to manipulate the (sea lamprey) movements in order to create circumstances that allow our

control program to become more targeted,” Wagner said. “We have a big initiative that was the brainchild of Andrew Muir, the science director for GLFC.

“The plan is to develop a selective fish passage device, which is essentially a biological filter that prevents sea lamprey from passing through while allowing other fish to do so, which has never been attempted before, let alone achieved.”

The project leaders hope to secure the connections of the rivers that flow into the Great Lakes, while also preventing the damage caused by the invasive sea lamprey. Sea lampreys spend a significant portion of their lives in tributaries as larvae, so sea lamprey control begins when biologists assess tributaries to determine which ones contain larval sea lampreys. The goal then is to eradicate those populations before they can reach the lakes.

Great Lakes lamprey eradication

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Conducting GLSFC business!

Oct 1984, getting ready to leave for a Council meeting hosted by the Niagara River Anglers. Marv Chait, Evanston Boat Ramp; Dan Thomas, Salmon Unlimited; Gene Schneider, Wis SU; Paul Jagielski, Wis SU; Bill Barton, Bob Schmidt, GLSFC Editor; and Marvin Schwartz, Evanston Boat Ramp - center.



DEC deploys vessel 'Big Time' to enhance Fire Island Artificial Reef

Builds on sustained artificial reef expansion

New York DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos announced the [deployment of the vessel "Big Time" on the Fire Island Reef](#) as part of the State's ongoing efforts to expand New York's network of artificial reefs. This sustained effort is developing a stronger, more diverse marine ecosystem and providing shelter for fish and other marine life off New York's shores. Now part of the Fire Island Reef, the 55-foot steel "Big Time" augments local marine habitat and provides a new, big time spot for anglers and divers to visit, increasing tourism off the coast of Long Island.

To date, New York's Artificial Reef Program has deployed a total of 4,700 tons of jetty stone, 1,810 cubic yards of Tappan Zee Bridge materials, three New York Canal Corporation steel barges, Erie Canal lift bridges and miter gates and pontoons, NYS DOT steel bridge girders, trusses and pipe, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers research vessel "M/V Hudson" on Fire Island Reef. All materials were deployed under the guidance of the DEC Reef Program to ensure they are safely cleaned of contaminants prior to joining the reef.

In November 2020, the Artificial Reef Program deployed 16 75-ft. steel rail cars donated by Wells Fargo on Fire Island Reef; 59 additional rail cars were deployed on five other reef sites.

"Big Time" vessel added to Fire Island Artificial Reef

Now part of the Fire Island reef, the vessel "Big Time" is a 55-foot steel luxury *Feadshipcruiser Showboat* built in 1956. DEC manages the State's 12 artificial reefs, which include two reefs in Long Island Sound, two in the Great South Bay, and nine in the Atlantic Ocean. Since the inaugural deployment in 2018, the Reef Initiative has successfully placed reef materials on all but one of these reefs.

The benefits of constructing New York's artificial reefs include improving existing habitats to increase local marine biodiversity, stimulating

more productive and diverse aquatic ecosystems, and promoting environmental sustainability. Concrete and steel surplus bridge materials have proven to be both stable and durable reef-building material while providing shelter and forage opportunities for finfish and crustaceans that inhabit these underwater structures.

DEC's Artificial Reef Program is popular with local fishermen and divers and helps to support the local Long Island economy. Additional patch reef creation through material deployments will increase the use and enjoyment of these valuable New York State resources. Anglers and divers who access the artificial reefs support local businesses through the purchase of fuel, bait and tackle, marine equipment, and by using for hire party/charter and dive vessels. New York's marine resources are critical to the state's economy, supporting nearly 350,000 jobs and generating billions of dollars through tourism, fishing, and other industries. More than 500,000 anglers in the region will reap the benefits of this new initiative, supporting the region's growing marine economy which accounts for approximately 9.7 percent of Long Island's total GDP.

Anglers in New York State marine waters are required to enroll in the New York Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. The Registry provides important information for setting quotas, size and bag limits, and fishing seasons each year. [More information on the Registry](#) can be found on the DEC website or by contacting DEC's Marine Fishing Access Unit at (631) 444-0438. Reef construction is part of the NY is Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, an effort to improve recreational activities for in-state and out-of-state sportsmen and to boost tourism opportunities throughout the state. For more information about DEC's [Artificial Reef Program](#) visit DEC's website. ✧



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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.

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Contributions to Ohio's Tax Checkoff Program support natural resources

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohioans contributed more than \$750,000 in 2021 to the conservation of state nature preserves and endangered wildlife through the annual income tax checkoff program, according to the Ohio DNR. The donations collected go directly to programs that protect Ohio's wildlife and natural areas.

"We would not be able to achieve our conservation goals without the support we get from the people of Ohio," said ODNR Director Mary Mertz. "These tax donations help us to restore and protect endangered wildlife and preserve the natural habitats they call home."

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves oversees Ohio's 139 state nature preserves. The 2021 tax checkoff program provided more than \$400,000, donated by more than 24,000 Ohioans, to help fund facility improvements, invasive species management, land purchases, education opportunities, and scientific research. A portion of the funds will be used to purchase a tract of land along [Little Beaver Creek](#) that will protect an

additional half-mile of habitat along one of Ohio's most scenic rivers. The monies will also be used to purchase additional lands at [Eagle Creek](#), [Goll Woods](#), and [Whipple](#) state nature preserves; and to make various trail improvements including ADA accessible trails.

Natural areas and preserves are open year-round and available to all Ohioans. Donations to the state nature preserves help protect Ohio's prairies, old-growth forests, wetlands, and rare geologic formations, and provide critical habitat for endangered species. Hiking, birding, and wildlife photography are but a few of the activities that are enjoyed at Ohio's nature preserves.

The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to manage, protect, and restore wildlife populations for the benefit of all Ohioans. More than \$372,000 from nearly 25,000 donations were made to the Wildlife Diversity Fund to help support critical management activities in Ohio. Just a few of the projects these funds support

include monitoring [sandhill cranes](#), [trumpeter swans](#), and [dragonflies and damselflies](#); restoring native [hellbenders](#) and [barn owls](#); creating [monarch butterfly](#) habitat and other conservation efforts benefiting pollinators; and wildlife education efforts through the production and distribution of field guides and posters.

The Division of Wildlife cares about all wildlife and maintaining stable, healthy wildlife populations. Donations through the tax checkoff program connect wildlife enthusiasts to restoring and protecting endangered and threatened wildlife.

Since its inception more than 35 years ago, the tax checkoff program has received widespread public support. Millions of dollars have been donated to natural land conservation and wildlife management. The program provides a convenient and efficient way for all Ohioans to contribute to conservation work in Ohio. For more information on the tax checkoff program and to find other ways to contribute to conservation efforts, visit [ohiodnr.gov](#). ✧

The Illinois River no longer on the state's "Do Not Eat" fish advisory list

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced an updated consumption advisory for sport fish caught in Illinois waters, including Lake Michigan. These changes are the result of continued sampling by the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program (FCMP).

Fish consumption advisories are based primarily on protecting sensitive populations, including women of childbearing age, pregnant women, fetuses, nursing mothers, and children younger than 15 years of age.

While there is no known immediate health hazard from eating contaminated fish from any Illinois water body, there are concerns about the effects of long-term, low-level exposure to chlordane, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and methylmercury in fish.

This year, IDPH is issuing a less restrictive advisory for 13 water bodies and has removed four water bodies from the advisory list altogether.

For the first time since the 1970s, there is no longer a "Do Not Eat" advisory for fish in the Illinois River due to declining PCB concentrations. However, the continued prevalence of methylmercury is responsible for new or more restrictive advisories in Illinois waters.

In addition to this year's updates, a statewide methylmercury advisory remains in place for all Illinois waters that have not been sampled by the FCMP.

The statewide methylmercury advisory cautions sensitive populations to eat no more than one meal per week of predatory fish, which pose a greater risk because they feed

on other fish and accumulate higher amounts of methylmercury. Predatory fish include all species of black bass and gar, as well as striped bass, white bass, hybrid striped bass, walleye, sauger, saugeye, flathead catfish, muskellunge, and northern pike.

The Illinois FCMP is a joint effort of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and IDPH.

The fish are collected by IDNR and tested by IEPA. IDPH issues an annual fish consumption advisory based on IEPA test results. Fish advisories can be found on the IDPH website where you can view an [interactive fish advisory map](#) to learn which Illinois waters have a [special mercury advisory](#) or a [PCB or chlordane advisory](#), and find additional resources. ✧

DEC proposes daily limit increase for Walleye on Oneida Lake

New population estimates reveal need to increase the possession limit from 3 to 5 fish per day

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently released proposed regulations to increase the daily possession limit of walleye in Oneida Lake from three fish per day to the statewide daily possession limit of five fish per day.

"The walleye population in Oneida Lake is at a record high and we no longer need to maintain a reduced daily limit," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "This proposal encourages the increased harvest necessary to help sustain this outstanding fishery for years to come."

Scientists have been assessing the Oneida Lake adult walleye population annually since the mid-1950s. The population fluctuated in abundance from more than one million fish in the 1980s, to fewer than 300,000 fish in the late 1990s. In 2000, DEC reduced the daily possession limit for this popular sport fish from five to three per day to increase abundance. By 2019, the adult walleye population rebounded to an estimated one million fish, and in 2020, increased even further to a record estimate of 1.2 million fish.

While this is good news for the current fishery, the burgeoning walleye population could potentially create negative impacts on the forage base in the lake, particularly on yellow perch. The proposed moderate increase in walleye harvest is necessary for the health of both the walleye and yellow perch fisheries. A recent survey indicates most anglers support the increase and more information on the [angler opinion survey \(PDF\)](#) can be found on DEC's website.

The [regulatory proposal](#) is available on the DEC website for review and public comment through October 17, 2021, and should be submitted via e-mail to

Proposed regulation change for Oneida Lake walleye



DEC has proposed regulations to increase the daily possession limit of walleye in [Oneida Lake](#) from 3 fish/day, to the statewide daily possession limit of 5 fish/day.

This proposal stems from annual monitoring efforts that have shown a steadily increasing population. In 2020, an estimated 1,200,000 walleye were present in the lake. Although the numbers have rebounded tremendously since the 1990s, there is concern that too many walleye in the lake has the potential to impact the forage base - most particularly, yellow perch.

The proposed moderate increase in walleye harvest is warranted not only for the health of both the walleye and yellow perch fisheries but also desired by a majority of anglers based on a recent survey ([Angler Opinion Survey on the Oneida Lake Walleye Daily Limit](#)). (Note: This file may load slowly. Thank you for being patient.)

The regulatory proposal is available on the [DEC website](#) for review and public comment. Comments on the proposal 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 "Oneida Lake Walleye Regulations." Comments will be accepted through October 17, 2021 ✧

regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov with subject line "Oneida Lake Walleye Regulations" or via mail to the Inland Fisheries Section, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233. ✧

Lake Erie - July 2021 Open Lake Angler Survey Update



Total angler effort in July 2021 on [Lake Erie](#) was down by about 20,000 angler hours compared to last July and was well below the 20-year average. Ninety-three percent of July anglers focused on walleye or smallmouth bass.

Walleye

Daytime walleye angling effort in July (54,300 angler hours) was slightly below the 20-year average of 59,500 angler hours. Half (52%) of the walleye angling effort in July was based out of Buffalo. Anglers targeting walleye harvested 2.8 walleye per boat trip on average with a catch rate of 0.31 fish per angler hour, which is the 6th highest in the last 20 years for the month of July. About 3.4% of daytime walleye anglers achieved a 6 fish limit this July with an average length of 20.6 inches.

Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass fishing effort in July (7,200 angler hours) was slightly higher than the past two years and was about half of the 20-year average (14,500 angler hours). The bulk of the smallmouth angler effort (75%) was based out of Buffalo. The July bass fishing quality was slightly above average in 2021 for the New York waters of Lake Erie, with anglers targeting bass catching an average of 7 bass per boat trip with a catch rate of 0.68 fish per angler hour (July average = 0.63 fish per hour).

Yellow Perch

Yellow perch fishing effort was very low in July 2021, with only 4 perch angler interviews for the entire month. ✧

DNR continues webinars on hunting and fishing skills

Anyone interested in hunting, fishing and the outdoors can learn about activities like how to hunt pheasants, catch bass in the fall or get ready for deer seasons by joining webinars hosted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

“We’ll continue to reach people interested in developing their outdoor skills with a new lineup of webinars this fall,” said Benji Kohn, DNR volunteer mentor program coordinator. “With hunting seasons and fall fishing around the corner, we’re anticipating strong interest from people who want some tips about trying new outdoor activities.”

The DNR started the Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series in March to share how-to knowledge relevant to Minnesota outdoor seasons and activities. Most of the webinars center on hunting or fishing skills, and some have covered other outdoor activities like kayaking or foraging.

The webinars are at noon on Wednesdays and last less than an hour.

The webinars are free, but participants are required to pre-register. Fall session topics are as follows and registration pages for the webinars are available on the [DNR website](#).

- Sept. 15 – Transporting firearm or archery equipment for hunting, whether across town or around the world
- Sept. 22 – Waterfowl hunting basics, including tips and resources on how to get started
- Sept. 29 – Fall bass fishing tips, tackle and techniques
- Oct. 6 – Bird hunting with a pointing dog, and the training required for both the owner and dog to become a team in the field
- Oct. 13 – Pheasant hunting strategies, techniques and how to get started chasing longtails
- Oct. 20 – Bats of Minnesota and why many consider them a great backyard visitor
- Oct. 27 – The latest on chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Minnesota and what hunters need to know about this disease and what the DNR is doing to manage it
- Nov. 3 – Preparing for the firearms deer season, including last-minute tips, reminders, strategies to be successful this season
- Nov. 10 – Muzzleloader hunting tips and techniques
- Nov. 17 – Creating habitat in your woods to attract more wildlife
- Nov. 24 – Nature Rx, ahead of Free Park Friday at all 75 Minnesota state parks, about the health benefits of getting outdoors in parks, forests and other natural settings ✧

Hook and line lake sturgeon season opened Sept. 4

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR announced that the inland hook and line season for lake sturgeon opened September 4 – September 30 on [certain waters](#).

To harvest a sturgeon, anglers must have a valid fishing license and purchase either an inland or boundary water sturgeon harvest tag. Licenses and tags can be purchased through [Go Wild](#), the DNR’s online license portal, or at one of our licensed sales locations. [All licenses and regulations apply](#).

If an angler catches a lake sturgeon that they wish to harvest, they must immediately validate their tag. Any harvested sturgeon must be registered at a [designated registration station](#) no later than 6 p.m. the day after they caught the fish.

Anglers around the state should look for tags near the dorsal fin on lake sturgeon. If a tag is located, anglers should submit the date of catch, location and tag number, color and material composition (i.e. metal or plastic) [to the DNR](#). This tag information will be used to help monitor the movement and growth of lake sturgeon, aiding in future species management.

When fishing on Yellow Lake in Burnett County, anglers should be on the lookout for yellow dangler tags, with a five-digit number on the dorsal fin of lake sturgeon. Often covered in algae, anglers will need to scratch off the algae in order to see the tag number. Please leave the tag on the fish and report the tag number to Craig Roberts at 715-416-0351 or craig.roberts@wisconsin.gov.

Based on surveys conducted this year, fisheries biologists are predicting a strong overall hook and line lake sturgeon season. While anglers fishing the Menominee River are likely to encounter a limited number of 60-inch lake sturgeon, they should enjoy good catch-and-release action. On other inland waters, anglers should expect to encounter larger fish in 2021 and years to come.

The DNR encourages anglers to continue to practice responsible catch and release when releasing any fish they do not wish to keep. Advice on responsible catch and release can be found on the DNR’s [responsible release page](#).

PLEASE NOTE: There has been a change to the list of lower Wisconsin River registration stations. McFarlane’s True Value in Sauk City is no longer registering sturgeon. Instead, Wilderness Fish and Game will be registering fish: **Wilderness Fish and Game**, 532 Water St. Sauk City, WI 53583, (608) 643-5229, Mon-Fri 8am-8pm; Sat 8am-5pm; Sun 9am-5pm; Wildernessfishgame.com ✧

Sunfish central to proposed special fishing regulations

Second and final year of Quality Sunfish Initiative is the focus of proposed regulation changes

Anglers can weigh in on proposed special fishing regulations that, if adopted, would become effective next year. Most of the changes proposed by the Minnesota DNR are aimed at protecting and improving sunfish sizes by lowering daily limits on 52 lakes.

“The majority of the proposed regulations make up the second and final year of the DNR’s Quality Sunfish Initiative, which is intended to address concerns by some anglers that the size of sunfish is either declining or in danger of declining,” said Jon Hansen, fisheries program consultant for the DNR. “We’re proposing daily limit reductions and invite people to share their input via an online survey or by attending an in-person meeting.”

The proposed lower daily limits on 52 lakes would go into effect in March 2022. Under the proposal, sunfish daily bag limits would be reduced from the statewide limit of 20 sunfish to five sunfish on some lakes and 10 sunfish on others. Some lakes also have similar proposals for lower crappie daily bag limits.

Consistent with state law, the DNR also will host in-person open houses in each county where the proposed changes would apply and one in the Twin Cities metro area to cover all proposals. For those who want to attend an in-person meeting, information can be found on the [DNR website](#) or by calling an [area fisheries office](#). The meetings will take place on dates between September 21 and October 20. The metro area open house will be from noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 5, at the DNR’s Central Office at 500 Lafayette Road in St. Paul. Please check the [webpage](#) for any changes based on the evolving COVID-19 response.

Notification of the proposed changes to special fishing regulations have been posted at the accesses to each lake included in the proposal.

In addition to the 50 lakes where the DNR is proposing new special sunfish and crappie regulations, the DNR also is proposing minor changes to 63 lakes that already have special reduced possession limits.

Minnesota fishing regulations use sunfish as the generic name for bluegill, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, orange-spotted sunfish, longear, warmouth and their hybrids.

Other proposed regulation changes

The DNR also is proposing changes to existing regulations on two lakes. A set of special regulations for crappie, sunfish, walleye and yellow perch on Crawford Lake in Wright County have been in place since 1998. The goals associated with the fish populations have not been achieved and Sauk Rapids Area Fisheries staff are asking for feedback on a proposal to simplify the regulations.

Similarly, East Metro Area Fisheries staff are proposing to let an experimental regulation for walleye on Clear Lake in Anoka County expire after a 10-year trial failed to show positive results.

For more detailed information or to submit input, contact the [area fisheries office](#), attend the [in-person public meeting](#), or complete the [online survey](#). ✧

Quanicassee River boating access to close Sept. 7-Nov. 1 for repairs, enhancements



Starting September 7, boaters who regularly use the Quanicassee River Boating Access Site to reach Lake Huron will need to seek other access points. The site, located in Wisner Township, Tuscola County, will undergo repairs to the fishing platform, retaining wall, sidewalks and parking lot.

Specifically, the Michigan

Department of Natural Resources said site improvements include the addition of a concrete sidewalk cap to help improve drainage and address Americans with Disabilities Act standards; replacement of retaining wall sections; and parking lot repairs, including cracked sealing, pavement conditioning and painting.

The Quanicassee River site was last updated more than 20 years ago. The project will take roughly eight weeks and the site is slated to reopen November 1.

The following sites also provide access to Lake Huron:

- Saginaw River Mouth Boating Access Site, located off Shady Shore Road in Bay City.
- Lindy’s Marina, 9051 Bay City Forestville Road in Fair Grove.

- Finn Road Park, 2300 N. Finn Road in Essexville.

This \$245,000 project is funded through the Michigan State Waterways Fund, a restricted fund derived from boat registration fees, state gasoline tax and the Michigan marine fuel tax for the construction, operation and maintenance of recreational boating facilities, harbors and inland waterways.

For the latest information on this project, updated closure dates and other DNR recreation closures, visit [Michigan.gov/DNRClosures](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRClosures).

For more info, contact Rich Fenner, Bay City State Park manager, at 989-684-3020 or FennerR@Michigan.gov. Info on additional boating resources is available at [Michigan.gov/Boating](https://www.michigan.gov/Boating). ✧

Zebra mussel found in Rainy Lake

The Minnesota DDNR has confirmed zebra mussel larvae in Rainy Lake, near International Falls in St. Louis County. Rainy Lake straddles the Minnesota and Canada border. Around one-third of Rainy Lake is located within Voyageurs National Park. The zebra mussel larvae were found in waters outside the park boundary.

Four of five DNR water samples taken in July of 2021 contained zebra mussel larvae, suggesting a reproducing zebra mussel population in Rainy Lake. These samples followed up on a July 2020 report of a single adult zebra mussel.

At that time, the DNR did not find zebra mussels in Rainy Lake and none of the microscopic zebra mussel larvae were found in water samples.

The DNR has been in contact with the Canadian government, the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa about this zebra mussel confirmation. The NPS collects water samples from Rainy Lake and connected lakes as part of a cooperative long-term monitoring program.

While recent NPS samples did not show veligers, the larger monitoring effort will be important to understanding how extensively zebra mussels may be spread here. ✧

DEC and FWS to collect Atlantic salmon on Lake Champlain tributaries

The New York State DEC announced a joint project with the USFWS to collect adult Atlantic salmon from major New York tributaries of Lake Champlain this fall. This work supports the State's ongoing research and management of the fishery.

DEC and the USFWS will use various techniques to capture returning adult Atlantic salmon from the Saranac, Bouquet, and Ausable rivers through November. Fish captured as part of this effort will be examined and released back to the river where they were captured. Researchers will collect data on at least 80 fish per river to aid in assessing current stocking methods and the success of various genetic strains DEC and USFWS are assessing for improved survival.

Collection efforts will have minimal effect on recreational fishing but anglers should be aware of these efforts and avoid nets marked with orange buoys. Fishing tackle can get caught in the nets and impact the ability of this equipment to effectively capture fish, biasing the results of the study. For [more information about Atlantic salmon](#), go to DEC's website. ✧

DEC proposes daily limit increase for walleye on Oneida Lake

[DEC recently released proposed regulations](#) to increase the daily possession limit of walleye in Oneida Lake from three fish to the statewide daily possession limit of five fish/day.

Scientists have been assessing the Oneida Lake adult walleye population annually since the mid-1950s. The population fluctuated in abundance from more than one million fish in the 1980s, to fewer than 300,000 fish in the late 1990s. In 2000, DEC reduced the daily possession limit for this popular sport fish from five to three per day to increase abundance. By 2019, the adult walleye population rebounded to an estimated one million fish, and in 2020, increased even further to a record estimate of 1.2 million fish.

While this is good news for the current fishery, the burgeoning walleye population could potentially create negative impacts on the forage base in the lake, particularly on yellow perch. The proposed moderate increase in walleye harvest is necessary for the health of both the walleye and yellow perch fisheries.

The regulatory proposal is available on DEC's website for review and public comment through **October 17, 2021**, and should be submitted via e-mail to regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov with subject line "Oneida Lake Walleye Regulations" or via mail to the Inland Fisheries Section, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753. ✧

Bailey's Harbor Brown Trout Derby, May 2000



Get your copy of Outdoor Indiana

The new Outdoor Indiana features a cover article on ducks as well as a feature on Hoosier home design legend Avriel Shull and a photo essay on the state's historic neon signs. [Read excerpts](#) and [subscribe today](#). ✧

DNR postpones full reopening of some facilities until October

Michigan DNR customer service centers and certain field offices will remain on a three-days-per-week open to the public schedule – Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays – until at least October 4.

The three-day schedule for these facilities has been in place since July 20. The offices had been set to reopen to the public five days a week after Labor Day, prior to new coronavirus advisories and recommendations. The affected customer service centers include Baraga, Bay City, Cadillac, Detroit, Escanaba, Gaylord, Lansing, Marquette, Newberry, Plainwell, Sault Ste. Marie and Traverse City.

These DNR offices sell hunting and fishing licenses and fuelwood permits and answer questions about hunting and fishing regulations, trails and many other outdoor recreation topics. Residents and visitors frequently stop at these locations while traveling throughout Michigan.

Fuelwood cutting permits, provided at DNR customer service centers, are free and downloadable for this season.

[Find the location nearest you on this map of DNR customer service centers.](#) Field offices with the same public availability include Crystal Falls, Naubinway and Norway.

Additional open dates, information

- Headquarters buildings at [Michigan state parks](#) and recreation areas and state-managed harbors are open.
- [Michigan History Center museums and historic sites](#) vary by location. The Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee is open Wednesday-Sunday (9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), while the flagship Michigan History Museum in Lansing is open for weekend hours (Fridays/Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.) and, starting September 7, by appointment for groups Monday through Thursday. The [Mann House](#) and [Tawas Point Lighthouse](#) are closed for the 2021 season.

- [The Archives of Michigan](#) is open by appointment Monday-Friday (1 to 5 p.m.) and Saturdays (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Staff continues to also provide reference services by phone and email.
- The State of Michigan has adopted a mask mandate for the Michigan Library and Historical Center building, which is home to the Michigan History Museum and the Archives of Michigan. All visitors must wear a mask when in these spaces.
- On [Belle Isle](#) in Detroit, the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory is now open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. The Belle Isle Aquarium (operated by the Belle Isle Conservancy) is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. The casino and Flynn Pavilion are open for rentals. Contact the Belle Isle administration office at [313-821-9844](tel:313-821-9844).
- All [DNR shooting ranges](#) are open. Check each range's webpage for dates and hours of operation.
- The [Outdoor Adventure Center](#) in Detroit is closed through Thursday, Sept. 30 for annual maintenance, upgrades and repair. It will reopen Friday, Oct. 1.
- [Check status for DNR fish hatcheries and weirs](#)

State parks and campgrounds, state game and wildlife areas, state forests and many other places are open, as they have been throughout the entire COVID-19 pandemic. [Follow the DNR's COVID-19 information page for updates on all facility closures and reopening dates.](#)

There is no longer a statewide requirement to wear a face mask in most settings; however, local health departments, establishments, sports organizers, and school districts may have additional rules that must be followed. ✧

New fishing access site in Broome County, Angler opportunities on Nanticoke Creek



[A new fishing access site on Nanticoke Creek in Broome County is now open.](#)

The fishing access site is located off New York State Route 26 at the end of Shadowbrook Drive, south of the village of Maine.

DEC Region 7 Operations staff in Kirkwood, with assistance from DEC Fisheries and Real Property staff, recently completed construction supported by \$12,400 from the State's Environmental Protection Fund. The site can accommodate up to four vehicles, and via a short footpath, the parking area provides access to a recently acquired 0.3-mile public fishing rights easement that adjoins the site. Nanticoke Creek now boasts 1.3 miles of public fishing rights.

DEC stocks Nanticoke Creek annually with 2,900 brown trout. The creek begins near Nanticoke Lake and meanders for approximately 22 miles to its confluence with the Susquehanna River. For more information on fishing Nanticoke Creek, go to DEC's website. For more information about other fishing opportunities in Central New York, go to DEC's website.

The opening of this new access site supports the State's Adventure NY Initiative to connect people to nature and provide increased access to the outdoors so that New Yorkers of all ages and abilities can experience a wide range of hands-on recreational activities. Additionally, improved fishing access to Nanticoke Creek is part of NY Open for Fishing and Hunting, an effort to improve recreational activities and boost tourism opportunities throughout the State. ✧

Hunting for trout – Assessing remote UP trout lakes using hunting technology

The Michigan DNR manages many inland lakes in the Upper Peninsula for brook, brown and rainbow trout. These trout lakes—less than 100 acres each—are often considered small compared with other inland lakes.

Depending on the lake, various regulations are in effect for anglers hoping to catch trout. In some of these lakes, anglers are restricted to the use of only artificial lures or all tackle is permitted, except minnows. On other lakes, all tackle is allowed.

Again, depending on the lake—designated by letters A through D in the [Michigan Fishing Guide](#)—there are minimum size limits for trout, ranging between 8 and 15 inches. There are also seasonal restrictions on some lakes, while others are open year-round.



These regulation variations provide anglers with diverse fishing opportunities.

“Many of these small inland lakes are also remote and provide an exceptional wilderness experience,” said Darren Kramer, a DNR fisheries biologist in Escanaba. “For example, a series of remote wilderness lakes located in Alger County have been managed for brook trout since the 1950s.”

For evaluating trout-stocking measures on these remote wilderness lakes, DNR fisheries personnel use several methods.

Determining biological criteria requires gathering information on trout

abundance, growth, survival and water temperature and is typically accomplished using netting surveys.

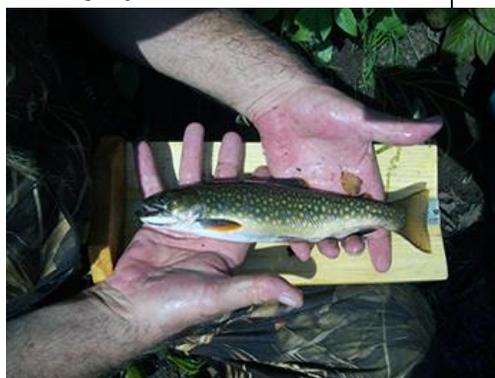
Social criteria are assessed by talking with anglers about the quality of their catch, accessibility of fishing sites and whether they are generally satisfied with the fishery provided. Web-based surveys have also been helpful in gathering reliable information about anglers’ overall satisfaction with lakes the DNR has stocked with trout.

Economic criteria include comparing the amount of angler use of the remote lakes, or number of angler trips, to the general cost of stocking trout in these locations.

“Remote wilderness lakes stocked with trout are typically difficult to access, and funding resources are not available to monitor all of these lakes using creel clerks,” said DNR fisheries biologist Cory Kovacs in Newberry.

Creel clerks are staffers who talk with anglers, collecting valuable information that helps the DNR make decisions about managing Michigan’s fisheries, at less remote fishing locations around the state.

“Therefore, DNR Fisheries Division staffers are routinely deploying ‘trail cameras’ to monitor these waterbodies to ensure resources are being utilized and a continuation in stocking is justified,” Kovacs said.



Trail cameras, also known as game cameras, are remote motion-activated cameras often used by hunters to scout game. These cameras

are providing valuable information about the number of trips anglers are



taking to these remote lakes, in addition to the time spent on each lake.

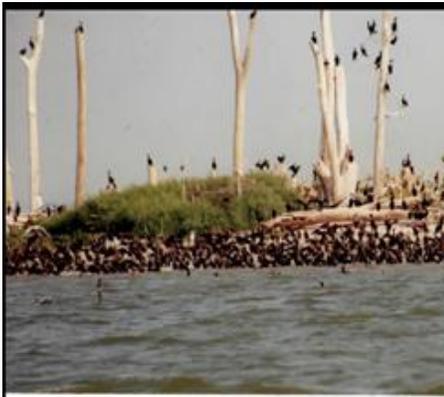
The use of trail cameras has also provided useful information for fisheries biologists by documenting the presence and abundance of predatory bird species, like great blue herons, osprey and bald eagles. This helps ensure numbers of trout stocked sufficiently counter the amount of fish preyed on by these birds.

In some cases, anglers themselves may also use hunting tools to aid them in fishing these remote locations. Specifically, the DNR’s [Mi-HUNT](#) application depicts Michigan’s landscape in detailed, layered geographic information systems maps and satellite photographs. These maps and photographs can show the presence of trails, campgrounds and parking areas that can help anglers find and access these remote lakes.

In addition, the DNR’s website provides a wealth of information on fishing, including a [database showing fish stocking](#) locations, dates, types of fish and number and size of fish stocked. The website also provides a collection of 2,700 [DNR maps of Michigan lakes](#) that show water depths, shorelines and some additional features, like roads or access points.

There is also a good deal more information on Michigan fish species, tactics and more at Michigan.gov/Fishing. ✧

Cat Island, Green Bay, Wis., May, 2000, Bird Colonies



Great Lakes lamprey eradication

Continued from page 1

“There's a great deal of interest—ecologically, economically and culturally—in reconnecting the rivers of the Great Lakes to the lakes by allowing the organisms to move from river to lake, and back, while still blocking invasive species. And our goal is to find a way, through manipulation of sea lamprey predator/prey dynamics and other behavioral characteristics, to create a fish-pass device that will enable the fishes that we want to pass into the river and block or capture the ones we don't, such as lamprey.”

Wagner's research focuses on the behavioral ecology of fishes and addresses migration strategies, search behavior, habitat selection and anti-predator behavior.

“We have to begin to view these fish as decision makers that will react to specific circumstances, and we must try to create circumstances they've evolved to recognize,” he said. “Once we get a grasp on the cognitive framework of the animal, we can combine machines that recognize what type of fish is trying to get through with this understanding of what types of conditions would equate to ‘yes, come this way’ or ‘no, don't go that way.’”

Wagner serves on the science advisory board for the project, which is commissioned through the Environmental Protection Agency and is funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Construction of a novel passage device is underway and Wagner expects its completion by early 2022.

“After that we will be embarking on intensive research to try to get to the point where we can achieve this selected passage and shift this program into an operational facility instead of an experimental one,” he said.

While the work is aimed at resolving an immediate issue for the Great Lakes, the process the team uses lays the groundwork for the future.

“This project is an amazing crucible to figure out how to solve really difficult

problems. It's multi-jurisdictional; there are two nations, multiple states and provinces at play in here that require discovery of new ways for governments to work together. It is a rich tapestry of different cultures, the value of the rivers and the lakes in different ways that have to be negotiated,” he said.

Wagner generally focuses on the development of practical, scientifically sound and innovative management tools to control invasive species and to help manage fish populations.

“I decided early on I wanted my work to have a meaningful impact on people's lives, and in a way in which those people have the opportunity to help define what that impact should be, which is fancy way of saying that I want to work on things that are important to science, as well as important in nature,” he said.

“In the case of the sea lamprey work, I would like to find a way for these groups to control the organism in a way that is least harmful to the ecosystem and best supports what the culture wants from the ecosystem. As a representative of Michigan State University, I want to honor the state's investment by helping us solve problems in the ways that our stakeholders feel they should be solved.” ✧

New Fishing Access Site in southern tier - Naticoke Creek

The Region 7 DEC Operations crew in Kirkwood, with assistance from Fisheries and Real Property staff, recently completed a new Fishing Access Site on [Naticoke Creek](#) south of the Village of Maine just off NYS Route 26 in Broome County. The new parking area can accommodate four cars and facilitates easy access to the adjoining 0.3 mile Public Fishing Rights Easement that was purchased at the same time as the lot. [Naticoke Creek](#) gets stocked annually with 2,900 brown trout and has 1.3 miles of Public Fishing Rights easements. ✧

Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings

The Michigan DNR is committed to providing Michigan residents the opportunity to share input and ideas on policy decisions, programs and other aspects of natural resource management and outdoor recreation opportunities. One important avenue for this input is at meetings of the public bodies that advise the DNR and, in some cases, also set policies for natural resource management. Frequently check the [DNR boards, commissions, committees and councils webpage](#) for updates.

The links below will take you to the webpage for each group, where you will find meeting details such as location and agenda (when finalized). Please check these pages frequently, as meeting details may change and sometimes meetings are canceled.

September meetings

- [Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee](#) – Wed, **Sept. 29**, 6:30 p.m. (Contact: Patrick Hanchin, 231-330-5290).
- [Michigan Natural Resources Commission](#) – Thursday, **Sept. 16**, 9 a.m. (Contact: Victoria Lischalk, 517-599-1067).
- [Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup](#) – Thursday, **Sept. 30**, 10 a.m. (Contact: Annalisa Centofanti, 517-331-6219).
- [Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council](#) – **Sept. 22**, 6 p.m. EDT (Contact: Stacy W. Haughty, 906-226-1331). ✧

Salmon River Hatchery improvements

The [Salmon River Hatchery's](#) new fish ladder is almost ready. Construction crews have worked tirelessly since last summer to modify the main hatchery drainage plumbing and remove the old fish ladder that was in need of replacement. The new ladder is now in place and expected to be fully operational in time for the upcoming fall salmon spawning runs. ✧

2022 maintenance on Upper Saranac River locks and campsite closures in 2022 Saranac Lake Islands campground sites 63-87 to close

The New York DEC announced it will temporarily close the upper locks on the Saranac River in late spring of 2022 to complete necessary maintenance. From May 20 through June 30, 2022, campsites 63 through 87 at the Saranac Lake Islands Campground will be temporarily closed, and reservations will not be available. Campsites on Lower Saranac Lake will be available for reservation beginning August 20, 2021. For [additional information or to find an alternate site to recreate](#), visit DEC's website. ✧

Second state record fish in NY

It's "o-fish-al!" New York has its second state record fish caught in 2021. On August 21st after catching several large crappie from Sleepy Hollow Lake in Greene County, Roy Isaac's persistence paid off when he hooked into a 19" 4 lb. 7 oz. white crappie using a live minnow. The new record breaks the previous state record tie by 10 oz. Congratulations Roy!



Roy entered his state record entry as part of [New York's Angler Achievement Awards Program](#), which recognizes anglers that catch sizable sport fish in three categories – Catch & Release, Annual Award (kept fish), and [State Record](#). For more information on this fun program visit [DEC's website](#) ✧

Major milestone for Lake Erie lake trout



For the first time in over 60 years, natural lake trout reproduction has been documented in Lake Erie. The recent discovery is the result of an acoustic telemetry study conducted by DEC staff and partners which identified potential lake trout spawning areas in eastern Lake Erie. On May 14, 2021, DEC's Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit staff collected multiple, recently hatched fry in fry traps on a rock reef about five miles west of Barcelona Harbor in Chautauqua County. In July, Dr. Chris Wilson at Trent University positively identified the fry as lake trout through genetic bar-coding.

Overfishing, habitat degradation, and sea lamprey predation were the key contributors to the population collapse of lake trout in Lake Erie by 1965, and rehabilitation efforts to restore the species began in the early 1980s. While this finding is just the first step, it validates that these fish are capable of successfully reproducing and surviving to hatch and that restoring a wild lake trout population in Lake Erie is attainable.

Lake Erie contains some of the largest lake trout available to anglers in New York. New York State's state record lake trout (41 pounds, 8 ounces) was caught in Lake Erie in 2003. Fish exceeding 10 pounds are common and lunkers over 20 pounds are caught every year. DEC will continue to work to evaluate spawning habitats to identify the potential for habitat restoration. ✧

Bear canisters required

NYSDEC requires the use of bear-resistant canisters by overnight users in the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness between April 1 and November 30. NYSDEC encourages campers to use bear-resistant canisters throughout the Adirondack backcountry. Bear canisters should be used to store all food, food garbage, toiletries, and other items with a scent. Canisters should be stored a minimum 100 ft. from tents, lean-tos, and cooking sites and kept closed whenever they are not being accessed. Learn more about [bear canisters](#) and [avoiding human-bear conflicts](#). ✧

Hunting licenses and deer management permits on sale now

Hunting licenses for the 2021-2022 season [went on sale](#) last month. You can purchase licenses and permits [online](#), at any one of DEC's [license-issuing agents](#), or by telephone at **866-933-2257**. Deer management permits (DMPs) are also available at all license-issuing outlets, by phone, or online through October 1. Did you know there is **no need to rush** to apply for a DMP? The **chances** of obtaining a DMP **remain the same throughout the application period**; DMPs are issued through an instant random selection process at the point of sale. The [2021 chances of selection for a DMP](#) in each Wildlife Management Unit are available online, through license-issuing agents, or by calling the DMP. ✧

Region-wide waterfowl hunting seasons opened Sept. 1

Check your state's Natural Resources web site for further information on Bird, Deer and other small game hunting seasons and regulations ✧

Lake Ontario Boat Survey - mid-season report

The DEC Lake Ontario Fishing Boat Survey tracks angler effort and catch rates from April-September each year since 1985. The survey was not conducted in 2020 due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns; however, it is underway again in 2021. The mid-season report of the survey has recently been posted and can be viewed on [DEC's website](#). ✧

Alaska fisherman sentenced to federal prison, fined \$1 million for falsifying fishing records

On August 5, 2021, James Aaron Stevens of Kodiak, Alaska, was sentenced to 6 months in federal prison and a \$1 million fine. He must also make a public service announcement acknowledging his crime and complete 80 hours of community service. Stevens, a commercial fisherman and the owner and operator of the *Southern Seas* and *Alaskan Star*, pled guilty in November 2020 to falsely labeling fish. ✧

Women on the Wing pheasant hunt, Sept. 11 in Alpena County

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, [Rapid Wings Pheasant Farm, 12591 Hawkins Road, Hubbard Lake](#)

Learn to pheasant hunt and become more confident in your shooting skills with this Women on the Wing event. Cost is \$75, which includes a morning of clay shooting, lunch, a guided pheasant hunt and a Pheasants Forever membership. Limited to 12 hunters.

Questions? Contact [Bill Fischer](#) at 989-395-5945 or [Lee Kubbe](#) at 989-727-8880 [Register for hunt](#) ▶ ✧

Indiana Hunting seasons are starting – stay in the know

Hunters are taking to the fields and forests as several hunting seasons open in September. Squirrel hunting season is already underway. Several game bird seasons, including dove, snipe, and sora are open. September 11 marks the start of waterfowl season for early teal and geese. Deer reduction zone season starts September 15 – you can find the designated locations for this season on [our website](#). Check with [DNR property offices](#) before visiting if they plan to go off the trails. Certain areas may be closed for reserved hunts or designated seasons. Individuals should wear hunter orange as an additional precaution when entering areas where hunters may be present.

Stay informed on upcoming [hunting and trapping seasons](#). ✧

Hunters asked not to shoot marked research bears

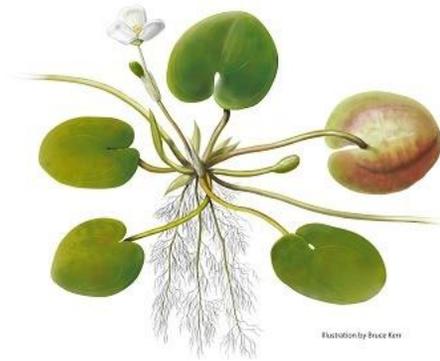
The Minnesota bear hunting season is open and the DNR is asking hunters to avoid shooting



marked research bears. These bears are marked with distinctively large, colorful ear tags and have radio collars. Researchers with the DNR are monitoring about 20 radio collared black bears across the state, especially in bear hunting zones 25, 27, 45 and 451, and in parts of the no-quota zone. The bears are in or near the Chippewa National Forest between Grand Rapids and Bigfork or near Camp Ripley. For details: [DNR news release](#) ✧

As invasive European frog-bit spreads, boaters reminded to 'Clean, Drain and Dry'

European frog-bit, an invasive aquatic plant, has been found in the lower Lincoln River in Mason County. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy also has confirmed the presence of [European frog-bit](#) in several other locations across the state.



“Because aquatic invasive plants like European frog-bit are difficult and costly to control, we are reminding boaters, waterfowl hunters and anglers to remove plants and debris from boats, trailers and gear after each use to prevent the spread of this and other invasive species,” said Joanne Foreman, invasive species communications coordinator with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

European frog-bit was first detected in southeast Michigan in 1996 and has since spread along the coastal areas of lakes Erie and Huron up to the eastern Upper Peninsula.

A 016, the plant, which resembles a miniature water lily with leaves about the size of a quarter, was discovered in Reeds and Fisk lakes in East Grand Rapids. More recently, it was discovered in the Lower Grand River (Ottawa County) and Pentwater Lake (Oceana County) in 2019 and Dansville State Game Area (Ingham County), Waterloo Recreation Area (Jackson and Washtenaw counties) and the Les Cheneaux Islands (Mackinac County) in 2020.

The problem

European frog-bit can form dense mats on the surface of slow-moving waters like bayous, backwaters and wetlands. These mats can impede boat traffic and movement of large fish and diving ducks.

Because European frog-bit is free-floating, it can easily spread or be transported to new locations. European frog-bit also produces seed-like structures called turions that may remain dormant for multiple seasons. Activities like boating, waterfowl hunting and fishing can unintentionally help spread the invasive plant because plant parts and turions can attach to boats, trailers and gear.

Many of the bodies of water where European frog-bit is being found are popular destinations for fishing, hunting and water recreation, which means there is a high potential to spread European frog-bit from these locations to other areas of the state.

If you think you have seen European frog-bit outside of these known locations, please email EGLE-WRD-AIP@Michigan.gov and provide the location and a photograph.

Additionally, boaters, anglers, and waterfowl hunters are being asked to [Clean, Drain and Dry](#) any boats, trailers and other gear prior to use in another body of water to help prevent the spread of European frog-bit and other aquatic invasive species.



Waterfowl season changes provide new hunting opportunities

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR announced there are significant changes from previous years that Wisconsin waterfowl hunters can expect ahead of the 2021 season opener.

The 2021 season will include a new duck zone structure. The former Mississippi River Zone has merged into the Southern Zone, and a new Open Water Zone has been created in the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

The 2021 migratory game bird season started September 1 with openers for early goose, mourning dove and early teal. Regular waterfowl hunting will run for a 60-day season, with open and close dates set by the harvest zone. The Northern Zone opens September 25, the Southern Zone opens October 2 and the new Open Water Zone on Lake Michigan opens October 16. Based on the USFWS’s season framework, there will be a scaup bag limit of one scaup for 15 days and two scaups for 45 days.

Goose hunters will have a 92-day regular goose season, which includes two splits to allow hunting during the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. The South Canada Goose Zone has a daily bag limit of three Canada geese during the first portion of the season and five Canada geese during the Holiday Hunt (Dec. 20-Jan. 4).

In addition to zone and date changes, hunters will see a state waterfowl stamp fee increase from \$7 to \$12 to adjust for inflation since the last increase 24 years ago. Numerous conservation groups, including Ducks Unlimited and the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, advocated for the fee increase. Stamp fees fund crucial waterfowl habitat restoration work across the state to improve breeding, bird health and hunter opportunity. ✧

Lake Huron Red Tails – Recovering Michigan's history of the Tuskegee airmen

The first African American pilots trained by the United States Army Air Corps earned their wings at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama during World War II. Beginning in the spring of 1943, fighter pilots from Tuskegee received advanced training in Michigan.

The relative safety of Midwestern America, along with weather and geographical conditions that approximated what aviators could expect to encounter in Europe, encouraged the military to use airfields at Selfridge northeast of Detroit, and at Oscoda on the shores of Lake Huron.

Upon completion of training in Michigan, many Tuskegee airmen were immediately deployed to combat and bomber escort missions in Italy, North Africa and the Mediterranean.

Unfortunately, as with many similar training programs during World War II, dozens of accidents occurred in Michigan, resulting in the loss of both aircraft and crewmen. Fifteen Tuskegee airmen were killed while training in the state; five pilots were lost in Lake Huron, one in the St. Clair River, and nine as a result of land crashes or mid-air collisions.

Frank H. Moody was born in Oklahoma and grew up in Los Angeles. He earned his wings at Tuskegee in February 1944 and became part of an elite group of pilots belonging to the 332nd Fighter Group that would come to be known as “Red Tails.”

After being commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army, Moody was transferred to Selfridge Field for advanced training in the P-39 Airacobra.



Oklahoma and grew up in Los Angeles. He earned his wings at Tuskegee in February 1944 and became part of an elite group of pilots belonging to the 332nd Fighter Group that would come to be known as “Red Tails.”

Manufactured by Bell Aircraft Corporation, the Airacobra was 30 feet, 2 inches in length and had a wingspan of 34 feet. The single-seat airplane had a range of 650 miles, could reach speeds of 385 mph, and was armed with a 37-millimeter cannon, and four .50-caliber machine guns.

On April 11, 1944, Lt. Moody and three other pilots were conducting live-fire gunnery exercises over Lake Huron when his Airacobra gave off a trail of black smoke. Moody raised the nose of the aircraft slightly, then cartwheeled into the lake. He was killed instantly. His body was later found in the St. Clair River and was returned to Los Angeles for burial.

On April 11, 2014, exactly 70 years to the day after the crash, David Losinski and his son Drew discovered a wrecked airplane while diving in Lake Huron. They located the forward instrument panel that contained the airplane’s radio call sign, which positively identified the wreck as the Airacobra flown by Moody.

Losinski invited Michigan Department of Natural Resources state maritime archaeologist Wayne Lusardi to participate in



reconnaissance dives of the site. Lusardi then led several expeditions to the wreck site to document the aircraft and its associated artifacts.

In 2015, Lusardi and volunteer divers from the National Association of Black Scuba Divers surveyed the aircraft wreckage. The following summer, the wreckage was inspected using a remotely operated vehicle, and Lusardi began the investigation of a second Tuskegee Airacobra that

crashed in the St. Clair River with the loss of Flight Officer Nathaniel Porter Rayburg.

In 2018, the State of Michigan issued an archaeological recovery permit for Moody’s aircraft to the National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen in Detroit.

A select group of artifacts was recovered from the site, including the 2-inch-thick bulletproof windshield, the starboard side door manufactured by Hudson Motor Company, the forward instrument panel containing 16 gauges, a wooden radio mast and two sections of steel drive shaft that connected the engine – that was placed behind the pilot – to the gear box and propeller in the forward fuselage.

The state renewed the archaeological recovery permit in 2021, and Lusardi, together with Dr.



Brian Smith of the Tuskegee Airmen’s Museum, continued documentation of the wreckage and removal of artifacts from Lake Huron.

A crew of volunteer divers and archaeologists from across the country participated in the project. Dozens of



artifacts were measured, photographed and precisely mapped on the lake floor, and many were retrieved and transported to Detroit for conservation. All materials need to go through a lengthy process to preserve

the integrity of the artifacts and allow them to be dried out and exhibited.

At 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 28, a memorial was dedicated at International Flag Plaza in Port Huron to honor the 15 Tuskegee airmen killed in training accidents in Michigan. The [Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Dedication Ceremony](#) was part of a series of events to honor the fliers.

The Tuskegee airmen's impact on northeast Michigan, their contribution to the war effort and their ultimate sacrifice will long be remembered here and across the nation. The documentation of Moody's aircraft was much more than an archaeological investigation of a wrecked aircraft. It was a dive into history—and into a man's life.

Only 22 years old when he was tragically killed in 1944, Moody was preparing to fight for his country. His death was not in vain. The Tuskegee airmen overcame unimaginable obstacles. They learned to fly. They became officers and leaders of men. They soared! ✧

Learn to Wing Shoot class, Sept. 16 in Saginaw County

6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, [Frankenmuth Conservation Club](#), 8415 E. Curtis Road, Frankenmuth

If you've ever wanted to learn to wing shoot, this class is for you. You will learn the basic skills of holding and shooting a gun at a moving target. No shotgun experience is necessary. A shotgun and ammo will be provided, or you can bring your own. Registration is \$25, limited to 10 students. You must be 18 or older to attend.

Questions? Call [Bill Fischer](#) at 989-395-5945. [Register for class](#) ▶ ✧

Excitement grows as Ohio's fall hunting seasons approach

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio's familiar habitat mosaic of farm fields, woodlots, and wetlands provides optimum opportunities to hunt mourning doves, squirrels, and waterfowl, as hunting seasons begin during the first week of September, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife.

Hunting is a favorite and cherished activity for thousands of Ohioans. As in years past, the hunting seasons that opened on September 1 included squirrel (fox, gray, and red), mourning dove, rail, snipe, and gallinule. Canada geese and teal (blue-winged, green-winged, and cinnamon) may be hunted during the early waterfowl season, which began September 4.

"Ohio's hunting license sales increased 5% in 2020 from the previous season," said Division of Wildlife Chief Kendra Wecker. "We know that many Ohioans are eagerly anticipating the start of fall hunting. You'll find abundant populations of mourning doves, squirrels, and geese when you return to the woods and fields. As always, thank you for supporting conservation in Ohio."

Mourning doves are fast fliers and a popular game bird pursued by wing shooters. A field seat, dark clothing, and a box of shotgun shells provide all the equipment necessary to hunt doves while they skirt farm fields and other open areas.

Many Ohioans learned to hunt by pursuing squirrels through Ohio's forests and woodlots. Squirrels are found in the treetops during the early hunting season, feeding amongst beech, oak, and hickory trees. A small-bore rifle or lightweight shotgun are common hunting implements for squirrels.

Canada geese require a larger gauge shotgun to hit flying birds from a longer distance. Be sure to review [waterfowl identification](#) before an early season hunt; in particular, wood

ducks are not yet in season but are sometimes misidentified as teal.

Hunters are reminded to check the current regulations for changes to season dates and daily limits as the 2021 fall seasons begin. A summary of the [2021-22 hunting and trapping regulations](#) is available where licenses are sold, on the HuntFish OH app, and at [wildohio.gov](#).

Additional hunting seasons begin soon. That includes Ohio's white-tailed deer archery hunting season, opening September 25. Additional details and requirements for deer hunting, including on public land, can be found in the [2021-22 hunting and trapping regulations](#).

The free HuntFish OH app can be downloaded to conveniently purchase fishing and hunting licenses, check game, view wildlife area maps, and much more. The HuntFish OH mobile app is available for Android and iOS users and can be found in the app store. Users can access the Division of Wildlife's online system to check harvested white-tailed deer and wild turkey while out in the field, even without a Wi-Fi connection.

Landowners can now receive an incentive to allow hunters access during specific hunting seasons through the [Ohio Landowner and Hunter Access Partnership Program](#). Visit the [Ohio Landowner and Hunter Access Partnership Program](#) page at [wildohio.gov](#) to sign up as a landowner or hunter.

The Division of Wildlife wants to help new and experienced hunters make the most of their outdoor adventures. Visit the [Wild Ohio Harvest Community](#) page at [wildohio.gov](#) for information on getting started, hunting opportunities, and delicious wild game recipes.

The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Visit [wildohio.gov](#) to find out more.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at [ohiodnr.gov](#). ✧

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

Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting

Please plan to join us this fall for the 2021 Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting, currently scheduled to be held online on October 12-14. Our meetings offer an opportunity for Great Lakes stakeholders to convene with colleagues and share perspectives on important Great Lakes issues.

Chicago River has become invasive species super highway

Standing on the banks of the Chicago River, you realize that maybe the best thing about this filthy waterway is that it was reversed over a century ago so it flows away from Lake Michigan instead of into it. Water isn't even the first thing you notice where the river merges with a notoriously fouled little tributary, dubbed Bubbly Creek for the gases still belching from untold tons of cow carcasses dumped into it by the city's old stockyards

Invasive aquatic plant is spreading in Michigan lakes and rivers

Michigan state conservation officials say boaters, anglers, and hunters are spreading an invasive aquatic plant. The European frog-bit has been messing up Lake Erie and Michigan coastal areas and inland lakes in the central Lower Peninsula for almost 30 years,

Court finds Szuch Fishery not guilty in 2020 case

An Ohio judge found a prominent Lake Erie commercial fishing operation not guilty of a list of more than 20 wildlife violations in a case that had been brought by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources early in 2020

Strange things out there': Inside Lake Ontario's 'Bermuda Triangle'

Dubbed the Marysburgh Vortex, or alternatively "The Graveyard of Lake Ontario," a small stretch of water off the shores of Ontario's Prince Edward County has for centuries played host to shipwrecks, airplane mishaps, strange sightings and mysterious disappearances.

Question of Diversion: Great Lakes governors group silent on future water threats

New commentary from Idaho brings back the ongoing question of water diversion from the Great Lakes to drought-stricken western states

FishPass stays off November ballot, will be decided in appeals court

The fate of Traverse City, Michigan's FishPass project will be decided in court. That's after city commissioners decided not to put the question before voters in November

Lake Ontario water management plan review won't end until 2024

The review of the International Joint Commission's controversial Lake Ontario water level management plan is targeted for completion in the fall of 2024, IJC officials say

'Forever chemicals' found in groundwater near military bases

High levels of toxic, widely used "forever chemicals" contaminate groundwater around at least six military sites in the Great Lakes region, according to U.S. Department of Defense records that an environmental group released Tuesday

Alarming muskie decline in St. Lawrence River: Invasive fish species, virus could be contributing

The St. Lawrence River's muskellunge fisheries has been declining for more than a decade. A recent die off of adult fish due to viral hemorrhagic septicemia and few juveniles being found in spawning grounds have managers concerned over future population trends.

Sensors provide a real-time glimpse at Chicago River quality

A Chicago nonprofit, Current, installed three sensors in the Chicago River's three main branches in 2019 to continuously estimate the amount of bacteria from human and other warm-blooded animals' waste and provide recreational users of the river with real-time reports of this water quality measure

Record levels of harmful particles found in Great Lakes Fish

A record-setting fish was pulled from Hamilton Harbor at the western tip of Lake Ontario in 2015 and the world is learning about it just now. The fish, a brown bullhead, contained 915 particles—a mix of microplastics, synthetic materials containing flame retardants or plasticizers, dyed cellulose fibers, and more—in its body. It was the most particles ever recorded in a fish.

End