



Practice Ice Safety on all Waterbodies this Winter *Navigation Channels May Cause Unique, Changing Conditions*

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR urges the public to practice ice safety on all of Wisconsin’s waterbodies and remember that no ice is safe ice as they venture outdoors this winter.

Recent water rescues serve as chilly reminders that early-season ice on any Wisconsin waterbody is thin, weak and potentially life-threatening to anyone looking to get a jump on winter fun. None of the early-season breakthrough rescues were fatal incidents.

“Temperature swings, strong winds, currents, underground springs feeding lakes and rivers vary widely across Wisconsin,” said Major April Dombrowski, DNR Recreational Safety and Outdoor Skills Section Chief. “These factors are why no ice is

ever considered safe, especially not this early in the season.”

[Get Ice Status from Local Sources](#)

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions. If your plans include access to or use of an ice-covered waterbody, contact your local fishing clubs, bait shops or outfitters for ice conditions.

“These places routinely check ice conditions and can give you the best and most current conditions,” said Dombrowski. “If you can plan your outing without any travel over ice, do it. And if you are going to be on some ice, let someone know your plans and follow them.”

[Conditions Vary On Waterbodies](#)

A waterbody can have its own characteristics. Check if the lake has

inlets and outlets. Know whether its narrows are spring-fed or have currents like rivers, both of which can thin the ice. Some smaller lakes can have aerators that are run throughout the winter, either covering a large area towards the center of the lake or may have smaller aerators placed by private property landowners adjacent to their shore and piers.

It is equally as important to stay alert for pressure ridges or ice heaves. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and resulting open water. They are often created, move or grow with changes in temperatures and high winds. Pressure ridges and ice heaves can happen on Wisconsin’s largest lake, Lake Winnebago, a popular home to sturgeon spearkers, and the Bay of Green Bay.

Practice Ice Safety

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Oceana Canada releases sixth annual Fishery Audit 2022

The audit found that less than one-third of wild fish and invertebrate stocks can be considered healthy, and most critically depleted stocks lack government plans to rebuild them. The number of healthy fisheries has decreased since 2017, with no significant improvement to many of the indicators of good fisheries science, monitoring and management.

The federal government has made significant investments, developed new policies and most importantly changed the law to improve fisheries management. But these changes have not yet led to healthier fisheries. Given rising threats from overfishing, biodiversity loss and climate change, urgent action is required to see change where it counts, on the water. Oceana Canada is calling on Fisheries Minister

Murray to address the most critical gaps in Canada’s marine fisheries science, monitoring and management by prioritizing the following actions:

1. List all remaining critical and cautious fish stocks, including those currently classified as uncertain, under Canada’s amended Fisheries Act and make management decisions that are consistent with its rebuilding regulations.
2. Meaningfully engage with Indigenous communities and organizations to make decisions about wild fish that are informed by Indigenous Knowledge Systems, as well as the best available science.
3. Improve fisheries monitoring by counting everything caught in a fishery — including for recreational and bait purposes. ✧

Lake Trout Season for Lake Superior opened Dec. 1

Bayfield, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR reminds anglers that the [Lake Superior's lake trout season](#) opened December 1. The season runs until September 30, 2023 or until the harvest cap is met.

Anyone looking to harvest lake trout must purchase a Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp in addition to their fishing license. Both the stamp and fishing license can be purchased online through the [GoWild system](#) or at any [license location](#). All regulations apply.

Lake trout are managed in Lake Superior using a quota system with different allocations for different user groups. The Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior are divided into two management units. WI-1 encompasses all waters from Superior to Bark Point (known as the Western Arm), and WI-2 includes waters from Bark Point to the Michigan border (known as the Apostle Islands region).

Each of these management units has its own harvest quota based on their respective lake trout populations, and recreational harvest is monitored through sport fishing surveys. The Western Arm has a bag limit of three lake trout, and the Apostle Islands region has a bag limit of two lake trout. Both areas employ a 15-inch minimum size limit and only one fish over 25 inches. The Apostle Islands region experiences more fishing pressure and therefore has a trigger in place to close the season prior to September 30, 2023 if 75% of the 12,670 recreational lake trout quota has been reached.

This 2023 season will be the last season under the current lake trout quota for the Apostle Islands region. Using data from 2020-2022, a new quota for the 2024 season is currently being developed and will go through the rule making process next fall.

Recent [surveys of Lake Superior fisheries](#) can be found on the DNR's website. Learn more about [fishing for lake trout on Lake Superior](#). ✧

New Hudson River Fish Find

The Hudson River Fisheries Unit conducts annual monitoring for young-of-year striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) during its beach seine survey from July to November in Haverstraw Bay and Tappan Zee. Although striped bass are the target species, numerous estuarine fish and some invertebrates are also caught while beach seining and are identified, measured, and enumerated for the survey records.

On September 12, 2022 the Hudson River Fisheries Unit caught its first blackcheek tonguefish (*Symphurus plagiusa*) near Kingsland Point Park. Two previous records of the species exist from further south in the Hudson River watershed: one from 1991 in the Arthur Kill and the second from the East River in 2000. Since September, the Hudson River Fisheries Unit has caught four individuals with total lengths ranging from 38mm to 67mm at sites between River Mile 23 near the Dobbs Ferry train station up to River Mile 35 at Croton Point this year. Several tonguefish were also caught further south by other Hudson River educators: near Yonkers (River Mile 18) and Coney Island Creek near Brooklyn.

Blackcheek tonguefish belong to the family Cynoglossidae, the tonguefishes, a group of flatfishes with both eyes on the left side of the body. These bottom-dwelling fish inhabit marine and estuarine waters from the Gulf of Mexico to New York State and prefer soft bottom and reef habitats between 1-30 meters deep. The blackcheek tonguefish is relatively small, with a maximum length of 23 cm. The individuals captured this year have been preserved as part of the New York State Museum collection and will be used to expand our understanding of the species in the river. The Fisheries Unit will continue to record and share news about blackcheek tonguefish and other novel species in the river during future annual monitoring. ✧



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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

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2022 Oneida Lake Open Water Creel Survey Summary



Every five years researchers from Cornell University conduct full open water and ice fishing season creel surveys on [Oneida Lake](#) – the largest inland lake entirely within New York’s borders and one of the top fisheries in the state. From May-October angling boat counts and roving angler interviews were conducted to estimate total effort and catch for the 2022 open water season.

Angling effort totaled 220,000 boat-hours, which was slightly higher than the average observed since 2010 (204,000 boat-hours). Most (70%) angling trips included walleye as a target species and 16% included largemouth and/or smallmouth bass. Fewer than 12% of angling trips

targeted yellow perch until October when 70% of all trips included yellow perch as a target species.

Walleye:

This year the creel limit for walleye on Oneida Lake increased from 3 to 5 fish per day. Catch rates for anglers targeting walleye averaged 0.54 fish/angler-hour—well above rates observed from surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018. Estimates of walleye harvest are based on estimates of angler effort combined with estimates of angler harvest rates from all trips. The total walleye harvest was 107,000 – the highest observed since 2010 (harvest did not exceed 60,000 walleye during any year over that time span). These trends suggest that recent strong year classes have likely contributed to increased angling success. Ninety-three percent of all legal size walleye (≥ 15 inches) caught were harvested.

Black bass:

Catch rates for anglers targeting black bass averaged 0.62 bass/angler-hour, increasing from 0.70 to 0.92 from May through July and decreasing thereafter. Anglers reported 4 smallmouth bass

for every largemouth bass caught in 2022. Anglers targeting smallmouth bass averaged 0.52 fish/angler-hour which was higher than smallmouth catch rates in 2013 (0.37 smallmouth bass/angler-hour) but slightly lower than in 2018 (0.55 smallmouth bass/angler-hour). As with most modern day bass fisheries, less than 1% of all legal size black bass caught were kept.

Yellow perch:

Angler catch rates for Oneida Lake yellow perch are typically highest in the fall and 2022 was no exception. Catch rates for anglers targeting yellow perch averaged 0.68 fish/angler-hour for the first 3 months of the season, increased to around 1.00 fish/angler-hour in August and September, and increased further to 1.38 in October. Harvest rates mirrored catch rates as few yellow perch caught were released.

Complete results of both the open water and winter surveys will be available this spring in DEC’s Oneida Lake Annual Report. ✧

2022 Fall Egg Collection Summary

Fisheries staff were treated to *mostly* cooperative weather during the busy fall egg take season in the Adirondacks over the past month. Eggs were collected from lake trout, landlocked (Atlantic) salmon, three different strains of heritage brook trout, and round whitefish. We’re happy to report that all our egg quotas were met!

Summary

- **Lake Trout** (Adirondack strain)
10/14-10/17- 6 trap nets set on Raquette Lake, 94,000 eggs
- **Landlocked Salmon** (Sebago strain)
11/7-11/12- 7 trap nets set on Clear Pond, 819,590 eggs
- **Round Whitefish**
11/18-11/21- 1 trap net set on Lower Cascade Lake, 5,470 eggs

Highlight: Numerous whitefish in pre-spawn condition were returned to the water.

- **Brook Trout** (Little Tupper strain)
15,741 eggs
- **Brook Trout** (Windfall strain)
11/4-11/7- 14,585 eggs, 2 trap nets set
- **Brook Trout** (Horn Lake strain)
11/7-11/9- 2 trap nets set, 19,205 eggs

Once collected and fertilized, the eggs are distributed to various hatcheries where they’re hatched out and the fish are raised to approximately 3-7 inches

before being stocked out into selected waters. Trout and salmon are stocked to provide sportfishing opportunities for anglers and to restore heritage strain populations. Round whitefish are an endangered species in New York, so our egg collection efforts are to help restore their population. ✧



More than \$500,000 available for grants to support DEC dam repairs

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced \$564,925 in grant funding is now available to assist eligible dam owners with infrastructure repair costs. Funding is provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) High Hazard Potential Dam grant program. DEC is accepting applications for grants to assist with technical, planning, design, and other pre-construction activities associated with the rehabilitation of eligible dams classified as High Hazard dams.

"Ensuring dam safety is a top priority for DEC and we encourage eligible dam owners to take advantage of this important funding," said Commissioner Seggos. "The grants announced today will support pre-construction engineering and design activities as part of an overall program to help municipal and not-for-profit owners of High Hazard dams make necessary repairs and improve public safety."

New York State's High Hazard dam classification refers to the potential for damage upon a dam's failure, not its likelihood of failure. A High Hazard (or Class C) dam is classified where failure may result in widespread or serious damage to homes, main highways, industrial or commercial buildings, railroads, and/or important utilities, including water supply, sewage treatment, fuel, power, cable, or telephone infrastructure, or substantial environmental damage, such that the loss of human life or widespread substantial economic loss is likely. New York State has 425 dams classified as High Hazard.

Local governmental entities and municipalities, including but not limited to counties, cities, towns, and villages, and not-for-profit corporations with dam projects in New York State, are eligible to apply. Projects must be in a county with an approved hazard mitigation plan. Projects and applicants are also

required to meet additional eligibility criteria as described in the Request for Applications (RFA). A total of \$564,925 in grants is available, with awards up to \$100,000 per project.

The deadline for applications is February 10, 2023. RFAs are available online through the New York State Grants Gateway. The [Grants Gateway](#) (leaves DEC website) is a web-based grant management system that streamlines the way grants are administered by the State of New York. All grant applicants, including government agencies and not-for-profit corporations, must be registered in the Grants Gateway to be eligible to apply for any state grant opportunity. Not-for-profit applicants are required to "prequalify" in the Grants Gateway system. For more information about Grants Gateway, please visit the [Grants Management website](#) (leaves DEC website) or contact the Grants Gateway Team at: grantsgateway@its.ny.gov. ✧

Commission welcomes long-awaited Canadian Commissioner Appointments *Appoints Hecky and Provost to the Commission's Canadian Section, filling two vacancies*

ANN ARBOR, MI – The Government of Canada has appointed Dr. Robert Hecky of Kitchener, Ontario, and Mr. Earl Provost of Toronto, Ontario, to serve as members of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, a bi-national, convention-based organization created to protect the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery. As Commissioners, Dr. Hecky and Mr. Provost will work with their American and Canadian counterparts to set the Commission's agenda, decide on priorities, to craft and approve budgets, and take other measures necessary to safeguard the fishery, perpetuate freshwater scientific research, and to help ensure productive cross-border relationships.

"Commissioners are members of a select group of dedicated individuals in the basin," said Robert Lambe, the Commission's Executive Secretary. "Service on this essential and dynamic, binational Commission

requires the ability to translate science to decision-making, and an unwavering commitment to genuine partnerships with leaders, lawmakers, and officials representing a wide community of Great Lakes stakeholders."

Commissioner Hecky was first appointed as a commissioner in July 2004. Though his appointment expired in 2020, Dr. Hecky continued to provide valuable advice to the Commission. Dr. Hecky is also the McKnight Endowed Presidential Professor in Lake Ecology at the University of Minnesota's Large Lakes Observatory. His research interests address impacts of exotic species on near-shore processes and on food-web structuring and productivity, and he has had graduate students working on lakes Erie, Ontario, Huron, and Superior as well as on the African Great Lakes. Dr. Hecky is also a

fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and serves as the lead editor for the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.

Commissioner Provost has been an active leader in Canadian politics for decades. In 2019, he was appointed as the Ontario Agent-General in Chicago by the Premier of Ontario. In this role, Mr. Provost represents the Province of Ontario's political and economic interests in the Great Lakes basin and the Midwest United States. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Provost held several roles including, Senior Policy Advisor, intergovernmental affairs in the Office of the Premier of Ontario, Executive Director of the Ontario Liberal Party, Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Toronto, and a senior organizer and advisor during the leadership campaign and government of Canada's 21st Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin. ✧

Registration open for several winter Becoming an Outdoors-Woman outings in the U.P.

The Michigan DNR announced registration is open for the annual February Becoming an Outdoors-Woman winter weekend event, as well as several smaller “Beyond BOW” activities. The winter weekend, set for February 24-26, 2023, is for women 18 and older who are seeking an opportunity to improve their outdoor skills in a relaxed, noncompetitive atmosphere.

The BOW program is sponsored by the DNR and offers instruction in up to two dozen different types of indoor and outdoor activities, including cross-country skiing, archery, winter camping and shelter building, ice fishing, fly tying, winter biking, wilderness first aid, wood burning, snowshoeing along with several new features, such as wild game preserving and canning.

Instructors provide basic and advanced teaching that is tailored to each participant's individual ability. The program also includes special evening programs during the weekend.

BOW participants stay and take their classes at the Bay Cliff Health Camp, a universally accessible facility overlooking Lake Superior, which is situated about 30 miles north of Marquette near Big Bay.

Participants will be housed in a dorm-style facility with amenities, including a sauna and hiking trails with access to northern hardwood forests and Lake Superior.

The \$275 registration fee includes all food and lodging, as well as most equipment and supplies, except as noted in the registration materials. Scholarships are also available on a limited basis.

In addition to the winter weekend event, three Beyond BOW outings are scheduled for early in 2023, as well as a film event at the Peter White Library in Marquette. These include:

- **Do-it-yourself backcountry meals, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Marquette MI, 49855.** There's nothing wrong with classic backcountry freeze-dried meals

but have you ever considered making your own meals from items at the grocery store? In this class you can expect to enjoy at least six homemade backcountry meals using a variety of ingredients (a few freeze-dried, too). Expect this to be a hands-on class and to go home with recipes to use in the future.

- **Evening snowshoe hike, Thursday, Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m. EST.**

Have you always wanted to go snowshoeing in the evening? Well, here's your chance! Participants will meet at a trailhead about five miles outside of Marquette (must have a Recreation Passport or Michigan Day Pass to park). We will snowshoe two-three miles before returning to our vehicles.

- **Evening snowshoe hike, Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 5:45 p.m. EST.** An additional evening snowshoe hike will be offered at this date and time.

- **BOW and the Fresh Coast Film Festival, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 6 p.m. at the Peter White Public Library in Marquette.** We'll be showing a variety of films celebrating women in the outdoors. These are all films from prior years of Marquette's annual Fresh Coast Film Festival. We will have popcorn available. Bring your own (non-alcoholic) beverage. **Registration is not required for this event.** However, capacity at the venue is 125, doors open at 5:30 p.m. EST.

Class information, registration materials and scholarship applications, are available online to print at [Michigan.gov/BOW](https://michigan.gov/BOW). Payment and registration materials should be sent to the address on the registration paperwork in Newberry.

For more information on the winter BOW program, contact BOW coordinator Michelle Zellar at 517-582-3854, or by e-mail at DNRBOW@michigan.gov.

Keep up with the latest on BOW sign-up for email notifications at [Michigan.gov/BOW](https://michigan.gov/BOW). ✧

No invasive carp EDNA detected in follow-up sampling in Presque Isle Bay

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Pennsylvania announced that none of the water samples collected in Presque Isle Bay, Erie County, during October 2022 by the USFWS contained environmental DNA (eDNA) of Silver Carp or Bighead Carp. The tests were conducted at the request of the PFBC after the USFWS reported in July that silver carp eDNA had been detected in a single water sample collected in the bay this past spring. The USFWS recommended waiting to conduct follow-up testing until fall 2022, when more favorable environmental conditions were present for eDNA sampling. Upon learning of the positive detection in July, the PFBC took immediate precautionary measures by conducting targeted boat electrofishing sampling near the detection location. No silver carp were collected or observed.

The detection of eDNA is simply that — it indicates that DNA from the target organism is present in the sampling area, which doesn't necessarily mean the organism itself is there. eDNA testing cannot distinguish DNA associated with a live fish from other DNA sources, such as bird feces, water transported in a recreational boat live well that had been in carp infested waters, or from melted ice used to store silver carp at fish markets that flowed into storm sewers.

However, repeated detections of eDNA over time increase concerns that the genetic material may have come from fish living in the area where the sample was collected, which is why regular eDNA sampling is recommended. The USFWS samples Presque Isle Bay annually in the spring and is planning to complete surveys again in May 2023. The public can report sightings of aquatic invasive species to the PFBC using an online form: <https://pfbpa.gov/forms/reportAIS.htm> ✧

Two years of watching walleye

Indiana is in its second year of advanced walleye fingerling production. The fingerlings are raised at Cikana State Fish Hatchery (SFH) until they reach 1.5-2.0" in length. Then they are transferred to Fawn River SFH where the goal is to raise 30,000 each year, ranging in length from 6-8". This year Fawn River SFH exceeded expectations and produced 42,104 walleye. Eighty percent of the fish measured 4 to 6", while 17% exceeded 6". Once the walleye were ready for release, hatchery staff stocked them in a total of 16 different bodies of water across northern Indiana. In the SFH, the walleye are able to mature without the threat of predation, which gives them time to outgrow predators. The walleye stockings increase their population as well as their survival rate. Their presence helps their ecosystem thrive. ✧

Indiana man pleads guilty to illegally importing live catfish into Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – An Indiana man has pleaded guilty to importing more than 2,600 pounds of live channel catfish into Illinois without a permit from the Illinois DNR.

Importing fish or other animals without permission poses a risk to the state's native wildlife populations. Michael Sullivan of Griffith, Indiana, entered a negotiated guilty plea in October to one count of importing live fish without a permit. The case was filed in Will County, Illinois, following an investigation by the Illinois Conservation Police Invasive Species Unit. The Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Will County state's attorney prosecuted the case.

Investigators determined Sullivan imported the fish into a Plainfield lake during three separate occasions in 2021. The fish were purchased in Mississippi and Alabama. ✧

Managing migratory fish in the Hudson River estuary

Estuaries are among the most productive of ecosystems, and the Hudson River estuary is no exception. The Hudson's signature migratory and resident species—[Atlantic sturgeon](#), [river herring](#), [striped bass](#), [blue crab](#), and shortnose sturgeon—depend on rare and important tidal habitat for spawning, feeding, and wintering. The [Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2021-2025](#) establishes specific measures to conserve, protect, and restore these signature species and their valuable habitat.

DEC's [Hudson and Delaware Marine Fisheries](#) staff have been managing the migratory and resident fishes of the estuary since the 1980s through many long-term monitoring surveys. Long-term data are valuable for documenting population trends over time, as they can reveal patterns in abundance not evident from single-survey events or short-term studies. Migratory species are managed in collaboration with other coastal states through the [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission](#) (ASMFC). The status of each major species has been very dynamic, influenced by local and coastal conditions. ✧

DEC completes Little Sandy Creek Bridge

New York announced the completion of the Little Sandy Creek Bridge, a 110-foot structure that extends over Little Sandy Creek in the [Winona State Forest](#). The newly constructed bridge, located in Boylston, Oswego County, is part of the new one-mile Little Sandy Creek Trail, completed this fall in partnership with the [Winona Forest Recreation Association \(WFRA\)](#). The new Little Sandy Creek Trail connects the existing Winona Way trail to the Bargo Road trail. The network continues on to the newly added Stinson Creek Trail, leading to the Raspberry Trail. The new trail segments were constructed by DEC Operations staff and volunteers from WFRA. ✧

Do breaching sturgeon indicate population abundance?

Atlantic sturgeon historic populations have declined by 99% due to the combined effects of overharvest, habitat loss, and human interactions. Recovery efforts have been on-going for over two decades; however, logistical, endangered status and fiscal constraints make it difficult to estimate population size and evaluate the efficacy of conservation. What can breaching sturgeon tell us about population recovery?

During 2022, in collaboration with academics, federal scientists and a local Yacht Club, we embarked on a novel project to monitor adult spawning Atlantic sturgeon for breaching in the Hudson River. There has been an increase in the number of reports of breaching sturgeon near the spawning area. Could the number of breaching adults serve as an index of abundance? We are using a remote camera to film Atlantic sturgeon breaching at a known spawning site in the Hudson River, NY. We will correlate the number of breaching sturgeon to a suite of environmental variables and estimates of local spawner abundance. Results will be used to determine if breaching behavior occurs more often during certain times of day or tides. The data will also provide outreach material to help minimize human-sturgeon interactions. ✧

SAVE THE DATE: Great Lakes Day 2023 / Great Lakes Commission

Save the date for Great Lakes Day, including the annual Great Lakes Day Congressional Breakfast Reception, to be hosted by the Great Lakes Commission and Northeast-Midwest Institute on March 9, 2023. The Breakfast Reception includes dialogue on Great Lakes priorities by regional leaders and members of Congress who play a critical role in shaping Great Lakes policies. ✧

Chesapeake Bay Watershed to Benefit from \$33.8 Million in Conservation Grants

Grants from NFWF provide equitable investments in clean water, sustainable agriculture, and storm water infrastructure

Annapolis, MD, Dec. 02 – The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced \$33.8 million in grant awards to support the restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. NFWF and EPA representatives joined local leaders and community members at Truxtun Park in Annapolis, MD to announce the awards. The 104 grants will leverage more than \$30 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$64 million.

The grants were awarded through the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant Program (INSR) and the Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Programs, core grant programs of the federal-state [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) partnership that are administered under NFWF's [Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund](#) (CBSF). CBSF is a partnership between NFWF and EPA to provide grant funding, technical assistance, and networking and information sharing in support of local, on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts to restore the bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

The awards include \$15 million provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds, which is a first set of awards from the infrastructure funding, with more to be announced soon. Additional federal agency funding for CBSF is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Private funding is provided by Altria Group, Zoetis, and AstraZeneca, with additional funding this year from the Bezos Earth Fund.

"This funding not only helps kick start critical water quality programs within

the Chesapeake Bay watershed, it represents an investment in public health and the communities who call the Bay home," said Janet McCabe, EPA's Deputy Administrator. "Our partnerships and collaborative approaches bring farmers, homeowners, communities, businesses and local leaders together as a team, working in partnership to reduce pollution, improve water quality, and revitalize their communities."

The 104 grants announced December 2 will support innovative and community-led approaches to reduce pollution to local rivers and streams, restore habitats, and improve rural and urban communities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These projects will further emphasize partnerships and collaborative approaches as central to effective local and regional ecosystem restoration efforts and engagement of local communities in the planning, design, and implementation of restoration and conservation efforts. The funds will help partners engage community-based organizations, farmers and agricultural producers, homeowners, churches, businesses, and municipalities to improve the quality of life in their communities, local water quality and, ultimately, the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The awards also include projects that support communities seeking to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the planning, design, and implementation of ecosystem restoration efforts across the Chesapeake Bay watershed that align with NFWF's and EPA conservation goals.

"The grants represent the single largest annual investment in on-the-ground restoration projects in the more than 20-year history of NFWF's

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," said Jeff Trandahl, executive director and CEO of NFWF. "These grants demonstrate the power of and the conservation impact of supporting local communities in implementing conservation projects that support broader restoration goals for the Chesapeake Bay while at the same time addressing critical local priorities for environmental improvements."

Examples of this year's grant recipients include:

- **Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley (\$1,000,000)** will accelerate the installation and maintenance of riparian and upland best management practices to improve water quality in Shenandoah Valley of Virginia through the renewed efforts of Smith Creek Watershed Partnership.
- **City of Annapolis (\$500,000)** will install a living shoreline to improve water quality, habitat, and resilience in Hawkins Cove and improve public access for the surrounding community, engage 300 community members in project planning, design, and implementation.
- **City of Corning (\$75,000)** will complete a stormwater and green infrastructure plan for Denison Park, the most visited and largest park in City of Corning, New York, located adjacent to the Chemung River.
- **Delaware Wild Lands (\$178,000)** will restore coastal plain upland forest and native meadow habitat in the Great Cypress Swamp in Sussex County, Delaware's largest freshwater wetland and contiguous block of forestland.
- **Watershed Alliance of York (\$1,000,000)** will bring together private and public partners to **Chesapeake Bay Watershed**

Continued on page 8

DNR invites public comment on Whitewater WMA master plan update

Dec 15, Jan 4, Jan 5

The Minnesota DNR invites people interested in the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area to share their thoughts on a draft update of the WMA's master plan, which will guide management of the popular hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching destination in southeastern Minnesota. "Public input is important as we update this plan," said Jaime Edwards, Whitewater WMA supervisor. "The last update to the plan was in 1977, and we want this update to reflect current public values and attitudes about how the land should be managed into the future."

The following events have been scheduled:

- Whitewater WMA staff will present an overview of the plan and answer questions during a webinar from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, **Dec. 15**. Registration is not required. A link to join the webinar is available on the [Whitewater WMA page of the DNR website](#).
- Whitewater WMA staff will explain the plan and its purpose, answer questions and collect input during an in-person open house from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, **Jan. 4, 2023** in the main auditorium at the Whitewater State Park office, 19041 Highway 74 near Altura. Registration is not required.
- Whitewater WMA staff will explain the plan and its purpose, answer questions and collect input during a webinar from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, **Jan. 5, 2023**. Registration is not required. A link to join the webinar is available on the [Whitewater WMA page of the DNR website](#).

The draft master plan update is available for review on the [DNR website](#). Comments on the master plan update can be made through Monday, **Jan. 9** by:

- Completing the online form on the [Engage with DNR website](#). A link to the draft plan and form is available on the [Whitewater WMA](#) page of the DNR website.
- Giving comments at the Jan. 4 open house or Jan. 5 webinar.
- Sending comments via email to whitewater.wildlife@state.mn.us (link sends email).
- Sending written comments via postal mail to: Whitewater WMA Master Plan, Fish and Wildlife Division, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155.
- Delivering written comments in person to the Whitewater WMA office near Altura. ✧

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Continued from page 7

accelerate implementation, maintenance, and financial incentives of tree planting efforts in York County, Pa.

- **West Virginia National Guard, Inc. (\$499,000)** will improve transport of poultry litter from West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed to enhance abandoned mine reclamation efforts across the state, supporting mine reclamation efforts on 180 acres for the Patriot Apple Project benefitting ex-coal miners and veterans in the region.

A complete list of the 2022 Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grants recipients is available [here](#). A complete list of the 2022 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed grants recipients is available [here](#). See a list of quotes from elected officials about the grant announcement [here](#).

Since 2006, the INSR Program has provided more than \$123 million to 219 projects that have reduced 22 million pounds of nitrogen, 4 million pounds of phosphorus, and 480,000 tons of sediment across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The SWG Program has provided more than \$109 million to 496 projects that have permanently protected 169,000 acres

under conservation easement, restored more than 1,550 miles of riparian habitat and 14,000 acres of wetlands, and engage more than 125,000 watershed residents in volunteer conservation and restoration efforts.

For more information about the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund or to download the 2022 Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction and Small Watershed Grants Slates, visit www.nfwf.org/chesapeake.

About the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate, foundation and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion. Learn more at www.nfwf.org.

About the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grants

Every year, EPA awards more than \$4 billion in funding for grants and other assistance agreements. From small non-profit organizations to large state governments, EPA works to help many visionary organizations achieve their environmental goals. With countless success stories over the years, EPA grants remain a chief tool to protect human health and the environment.

About the Chesapeake Bay Program

The Chesapeake Bay Program is a regional partnership consisting of federal, state and local governments, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. Primarily funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Chesapeake Bay Program has set the guidance and policy for restoring the Chesapeake Bay since 1983. Learn more at www.chesapeakebay.net. Contact: Rob Blumenthal, 202-857-0166, rob.blumenthal@nfwf.org ✧

Become an Angler Education Instructor!

Pass on your love of fishing by becoming an Angler Education Instructor, certified through the Wisconsin DNR. Fishing club members, youth leaders, classroom teachers, community center staff and civic leaders are encouraged to attend as a team or form a team at the workshop. This training will certify you as an Angler Education Instructor or Fishing Coach and provide you with tips and materials to lead fishing programs. We'll even do some practice teaching. Successful program models include kids' clinics, community and family fishing outings, after-school fishing clubs, summer enrichment classes, camps, scouts merit badge clinics, meet-ups for your adults and adult education.

Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023, 6–9 p.m., A light dinner will be served starting at 5:45 p.m.

Greenfield Park Pavilion, 2028 S. 124 St, West Allis, WI 53227

This workshop is free. Your registration confirms your attendance. If you must cancel, please contact us immediately. **Registration Deadline:** Thursday, Jan. 19, 2022

The registration process consists of: [Angler Education Instructor Workshop Registration Form](#), [Participant Agreement and Photo Release Form](#), and [Mentor Background Check](#). We look forward to hearing from you, Theresa Stabo, Angler Outreach Program Specialist, theresa.stabo@wisconsin.gov, 608-577-6332, or Cal Sinclair, Program Assistant, calvin.sinclair@wisconsin.gov, 608-419-2078 ✧

Practice Ice Safety

Continued from page 1

[Winds, Navigation Channel Are Recipe for Flowing Icebergs on Bay Of Green Bay](#)

Anyone using the Bay of Green Bay for any reason this winter should be especially cautious.

The Bay of Green Bay is about 120 miles long and 10 to 20 miles wide. According to DNR Marine

Warden Team Supervisor Lt. Ryan Propson, navigation channels serving as ship highways cause the huge water body to only completely freeze over occasionally. Users must pay extra attention to changing weather conditions, including high winds, and be knowledgeable of the maintenance of the navigation channel to avoid becoming stranded on free-floating icebergs.

During any time of the winter, but especially when the shipping channel is being maintained, any high wind can create waves under the ice. The force of the waves causes the cracks to form, leading to large sections of ice breaking off and floating away. Similar situations can occur due to cracking with large or sudden temperature changes.

[Ice Safety Basics](#)

Here are a few basic ice safety tips to remember:

- Carry a cell phone, and let people know where you are going and when you'll return home.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or a float coat, to help you stay afloat and to help maintain body heat.
- Wear ice creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas.
- Carry a few spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.
- If you fall in, remain as calm as possible. While attempting to get out of the water, call for help. Anyone who attempts to rescue you should use a rope or something similar to avoid falling through themselves.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas or at night.

Have a plan in place noting where you will be and when you plan to return. Along with leaving a written note of your plans, keeping a charged cell phone is also recommended.

Check out [the DNR's Ice Safety webpage](#) for more information on staying safe on the ice, including tips for creating ice claws and what to do if you fall through ice. ✧

Boating Immersion Stories

Help fellow Canadian boaters by sharing your boating experiences! The Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) is looking for boaters who are interested in participating in a study regarding the importance of lifejacket wear in the event of falling overboard and accidental immersion. Sharing is learning and by creating a community of interest we can help fellow boaters across Canada learn through others' stories to further our efforts in making our waterways safer and more enjoyable! Share your story with us over Zoom, record it on your phone and send to us (audio or video) or write us an e-mail with your experience!

For further info on how to share, set up a Zoom session or e-mail your stories please contact/send to Mary: mary@playsafeproductions.com. ✧



Late Season Deer Hunting Opportunities in Wisconsin

While the main gun deer season is over, there is still time to fill the freezer. Avid hunters can enjoy [additional hunting opportunities into the start of the new year](#):

- **Dec. 24 - Jan. 1, 2023:** Nine-day antlerless-only holiday hunt in select Farmland Zone counties
- **Now to Jan. 8, 2023:** Remaining archery and crossbow seasons
- **Jan. 9-31, 2023:** Extended archery and crossbow seasons in select Farmland Zone counties

Hunters should check their licenses and tags to ensure they know the number of harvests still available to them and which zone, county and land type they can be used on. For many counties, bonus antlerless harvest authorizations are [available for purchase](#). More info is available on the [DNR website](#). ✧

DEC announces Lows Lower Dam rehabilitation in Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County

Public access road to remain closed as critical repairs are made to Lows Lower Dam

New York announced the gate on the access road leading to the Bog River Dam, also known as Lows Lower Dam, will be closed starting December 6, to allow for construction to maintain the dam. The road will remain closed through the 2023 field season.

The project is necessary to bring the dam into compliance with New York State dam safety regulations. Construction activities will affect recreational users of the Horseshoe Lake, Hitchins Pond, and Lows Lake areas, including the cartop boat launch and parking area at the Lower Dam. The river access and parking area at Lows Lower Dam, located near the end of State Highway 421, will be closed beginning December 6, and the road will remain closed for the duration of the construction project. Construction activities may take place seven days per week and are expected to last at least through the 2023 field season.

The public is encouraged to seek alternative paddling destinations during the construction project. Alternative destinations for

wilderness paddling and camping include Round Lake, Little Tupper Lake, Lake Lila, the St. Regis Canoe Area, and the Essex Chain of Lakes. There are additional destinations throughout the Adirondacks for paddling associated with day use and non-wilderness camping. DEC's [paddling](#) and [places to go](#) webpages feature information for those seeking alternative destinations.

Opportunities for recreational users accessing Hitchens Pond and/or Lows Lake during the construction period are limited, but include:

- The Horseshoe Lake Outlet is located off the Otter Brook Road, approximately 0.4-miles past the Lower Dam Road. This channel is very narrow, flows through dense alders, and contains many beaver dams. This route is not recommended during low water conditions. Two campsites, located at Horseshoe Lake will be temporarily closed to allow users of this route a place to park. There is no roadside parking available near the launch site along the Otter Brook Road. The Horseshoe

Lake Outlet enters the Bog River between the Lows Lower Dam launch site and Hitchens Pond.

- The Upper Dam Road is located on the left through a closed gate, off the Otter Brook Road, approximately 0.9-miles past the Remsen-Lake Placid Railroad crossing by Horseshoe Lake. Boats can be carried for about 2.5-miles on the relatively flat road to reach Lows Upper Dam. There is room for about 10 vehicles to park at nearby campsites or by the gate near the Otter Brook Road. Otherwise users can park at Horseshoe Lake. Access to the gate must not be blocked.

- Other portages provide access to Lows Lake, but are challenging—the 3.5-mile Oswegatchie River Canoe Carry, from the Oswegatchie River above High Falls, and the 4.4-mile Cranberry Lake Grass Pond Trail, from Chair Rock Flow in Cranberry Lake. These routes are very difficult and not recommended except for highly experienced wilderness paddlers with a lengthy time commitment. ✧

Governments subsidizing the destruction of nature even as they promise to protect it

Amid a biodiversity crisis, 196 countries recently spent a week meeting in Montreal to hash out a new agreement to save nature.

Locals near Blind Bay, a small bay on the St. Lawrence River, have been concerned about a plan that would see U.S. Customs and Border Protection build a new, 48,000 SF station on the very site the locals say is a critical, rare spawning ground for muskies, keeping the ecosystem intact. The Thousand Islands Land Trust was so worried, it actually bought the land to prevent the build.

✧



DNR secures \$5 million grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Michigan is one of six applicants to get maximum funding; the grant will support critical conservation and connectivity work on rivers and streams in 14 counties

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation recently announced the recipients of the inaugural America the Beautiful Challenge, a \$1 billion grant program launched in May to fund diverse, landscape-level conservation projects. Michigan has been awarded \$5 million, to be administered by the state's Department of Natural Resources.

"Michigan's natural resources are some of the best in the nation, and we will work with anyone to preserve them for future generations," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "These federal grants for our inland waterways will help us protect several at-risk species, reduce risks to public safety and improve climate resiliency. Let's keep working together to ensure that all our waters, from the Great Lakes that define us to our thousands of inland waterways, are safe for decades to come."

Michigan's award will fund removal of 27 stream barriers to restore the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms. Additionally, this work will benefit several at-risk species, such as the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, pickerel frog, and freshwater mussel species including the fluted shell and elktoe.

The DNR will partner with local organizations and federally recognized tribes to reconnect nearly 200 upstream miles of rivers and streams, working toward improved climate resiliency and river connectivity and easier passage of aquatic organisms between and within waterways. Such restoration projects also help eliminate risks to public safety, especially for those sites that have road traffic

moving over the waterways. Partners include the Conservation Resource Alliance, Huron Pines, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Michigan Trout Unlimited, the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, the Superior Watershed



Partnership and Land Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service.

The streams that will benefit from the America the Beautiful Challenge grant are located in 14 counties across Michigan:

- Twin Lakes Creek (Cheboygan County)
- Au Sable River (Crawford County)
- Carr Creek (Delta County)
- Dana Lake (Delta County)
- Little Bay de Noc (Delta County)
- Wycamp Creek (Emmet County)
- Two Mile Creek (Gogebic County)
- Boardman/Ottaway rivers (Grand Traverse County)
- North Branch Cole Creek (Lake County)
- Spring Creek (Luce County)
- McAlpine Creek (Mackinac County)
- Silver Lead Creek (Marquette County)
- Little Muskegon River (Mecosta County)
- Buckhorn Creek (Mecosta County)
- Stony Creek (Oceana County)
- East Branch Big Creek (Oscoda County)
- Au Sable River (Oscoda County)
- Hayden Creek (Van Buren County)

DNR Director Dan Eichinger said the America the Beautiful Challenge support will go a long way toward improving water and fish flow, critical to healthy rivers and streams.

"Put simply, fish and other organisms in the water need to move," Eichinger said. "Throughout their many life stages, whether they're seeking food, reproducing, hiding from predators or seeking shelter from extreme conditions, fish have to be able to easily move within their waters, as well as between bodies of water. Removing barriers to such movement means we can better protect fish populations."

Earlier this year, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation established the America the Beautiful Challenge with a vision to streamline and centralize a nationwide grant-funding opportunity that would leverage federal conservation and restoration investments with private and philanthropic contributions to accelerate land, water and wildlife conservation efforts across the country.

Michigan was one of six applicants awarded the maximum grant amount of \$5 million. ✧



As we reflect on 2022, our soldiers on active duty around the world, our country and its leaders; our own safety, health, family and all we have to be grateful for...our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and blessed and wonderful New Year in 2023.

"...behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour..." Luke 2:10-11

Merry Christmas

and

*best wishes for a safe, healthy and
Happy New Year*

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Ohio will contribute \$25 million toward Gorge Dam removal

Governor DeWine and the Ohio EPA announced the state will contribute \$25 million towards the Cuyahoga River Gorge Dam Removal Project. The project will remove the last remaining dam on the lower Cuyahoga,

Jellyfish in Michigan? It's true, but no need to worry

According to the Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System, freshwater jellyfish were first found in Michigan in 1933 in the Huron River near Ann Arbor. Since then, they have been found in

"Access for All" aims to make Apostle Islands National Lakeshore a place everyone can enjoy

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has made significant changes to improve accessibility to the shoreline in recent years. Through its "Access for All" campaign, volunteers want to continue these efforts

Eel Protection Study at Iroquois Water Control Dam

In Lisbon, New York, the Eel Protection Study, a five-month study that investigates the use of light to guide adult American eel through hydroelectric power stations, aims to guide, collect, and transport the eel during its migration from Lake Ontario to the

Groups petition Great Lakes governors to address Ontario's alleged breach of binational water agreement with Bill 23

A group of four organizations representing Georgian Bay and the Great Lakes basin have written the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence governors and premiers to advise that the Ontario government is currently in breach of the 2005 Great Lakes St. Lawrence River

More Chinook salmon to be stocked in Lake Michigan

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources announced Wednesday it will increase the number of Chinook salmon stocked in Lake Michigan. The change will increase the annual production target for Chinook from 225,000 to 275,000 starting in the spring

Coast Guards in Canada and U.S. working together to protect Great Lakes

Shared waters from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, Beaufort Sea, through to the Great Lakes will be protected from threats of pollution under the renewed the Canada-United States Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between the Canadian and U.S.

Care needed as Lake Erie beaches boost Ohio economy

An Ohio Sea Grant environmental and resource economics professor presented results from a study quantifying the impact of harmful algal blooms and E. coli bacterial outbreaks on Lake Erie eco-tourism. The results indicated that noxious algal blooms

Lake Superior gains astounding 6 trillion gallons in same time Lakes Michigan, Huron lose 7 trillion

Lake Superior's water level has moved dramatically in the opposite direction from the other four Great Lakes as it has above average precipitation in November raising its year-average precipitation to a normal range while the other Great Lakes are

Erie Canal draining lures anglers

The Erie Canal is currently being drained for its yearly winter maintenance. Each year, the canal is drained through culverts into the tributaries flowing north to Lake Ontario. For the local angler the higher water in areas can mean more fish.

Kewaunee CAFO manure spreading case to be heard by Door County judge

Three men in Wisconsin's Kewaunee County are facing state charges for underreporting the amount of manure they spread on a dairy farm and sending pollutants into tributaries that lead to Lake Michigan.

Michigan senators support federal water infrastructure bill, Soo Locks funding

U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters secured major water infrastructure investments for Michigan in the final bipartisan Water Resources Development Act. This bill authorizes projects through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to modernize the Soo

Study: Alaska sea temperatures hold key to Great Lakes winter ice cover

The Alaskan weather more than 2700 miles from Michigan plays a bigger role than before in winter ice cover on the Great Lakes, new research finds.

Bill would create Great Lakes Authority to promote regional growth

A bipartisan bill introduced in the U.S. Senate would establish a new regional authority to promote economic growth in Great Lakes states

End