



DNR collecting walleye eggs on Muskegon River this spring



Muskegon River anglers should be on the lookout for Michigan DNR personnel collecting walleye eggs below Croton Dam this spring.

Walleye will be collected with electrofishing boats starting as early as the week of March 20 and concluding by April 14. The date these

collections begin will depend on water temperatures, the presence of ripe fish and other factors. It is anticipated most work will be completed from the last week of March through the first week of April. Five days of electrofishing are planned, with four of those being egg-take days.

"This adult population consists of mostly stocked fish," said Ed Pearce, DNR fisheries technician supervisor who coordinates the egg take. "The Muskegon River has the largest run of walleye in the Lake Michigan watershed south of Green Bay."

Electrofishing usually begins at Croton Dam each day at about 8:30 a.m. and proceeds

downstream to the Pine Street access site. If more eggs are needed, additional collections may occur downstream to the Thornapple Street access site.

Anglers who wish to avoid the walleye collection activities should fish downstream of the Pine Street access site. The DNR asks everyone to use caution when fishing near the electrofishing boats, and those wading will be asked to exit the water when a boat approaches and during electrofishing work.

The DNR also asks the public to not gather at egg collection to allow DNR staff to maintain effective social distancing and to safely and efficiently collect eggs. The DNR appreciates **Collecting walleye eggs on Muskegon River** *Continued on page 5*

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2022 Fisheries Workshops

Spring fishery workshops offer current research and information related to the status of the Great Lakes fishery. Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State U, in partnership with the Michigan DNR, USGS Great Lakes Science Center, USFWS, and local fishery organizations annually offer evening regional workshops to provide valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals, and interested community members.

Workshops include information and status updates on topics such as fish populations and angler catch data, forage or prey fish surveys, offshore fisheries and open water fisheries, as well as updates on fisheries management activities, citizen science opportunities for anglers, and a variety of other topics of interest based on specific regions.

Virtual Workshops

- LAKE SUPERIOR **March 22,** 2022, 6-8 pm, [Registration](#)
- LAKE ST. CLAIR & LAKE ERIE **March 29,** 2022, 6-8 pm, [Registration](#)
- LAKE HURON: SAGINAW BAY **April 12,** 2022, 6-8 pm [Registration](#)
- LAKE HURON: LES CHENEAUX & ST. MARYS RIVER **April 19,** 2022, 6-8 pm [Registration](#)
- LAKE MICHIGAN **April 21,** 2022, 7-9 pm, [Registration](#)
- LAKE HURON: OFFSHORE **April 28,** 2022, 6-8 pm, [Registration](#)

REGISTRATION INFO: 2022
bit.ly/misgfish ✦

DEC and State Parks to sponsor Spring Family Fishing Festival at Belmont Lake **April 2**

Trout Stocking Events planned throughout Long Island in March and April



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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) will hold the annual Spring Family Fishing Festival on Saturday, **April 2**, at Belmont Lake State Park. Additional sponsors for the fishing festival include the Natural Heritage Trust, The Fisherman Magazine, New York Life, Seaford Knights of Columbus Fishing Club, Art Flick Chapter Trout Unlimited, and radio stations 106.1 WBLI and 102.3 WBAB.

Children's activities include the "Spring Fling" casting contest, as well as hands-on educational displays by DEC's Education Unit. Children participating in the casting contest will have a chance to win prizes supplied by DEC's I FISH NY Program. This event will be held rain or shine.

The Spring Fishing Festival is designated as a Free Fishing Event, so the freshwater fishing license requirement for anglers ages 16 and older is suspended for this event only. After 4 p.m., anglers will need a valid State freshwater fishing license to legally fish. All fishing regulations will continue to apply.

A vehicle use fee of \$8 will be in effect. Parking is free for Empire Pass holders. The [2022 Empire Pass can be purchased](#) (leaves DEC's website) for \$80 at State Park offices or online.



The festival highlights DEC's spring trout stocking program in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Prior to the festival, DEC will stock Belmont Lake with nearly 1,000 brown and brook trout. Additional brook and rainbow trout will be stocked by State Parks. DEC will also stock Upper Twin Pond in Wantagh, Oyster Bay Mill Pond, and Massapequa Creek and Reservoir, along with 14 other Long Island lakes with trout before April 1, providing excellent prospects for spring fishing. In total, DEC's spring stocking program, conducted by regional freshwater fisheries staff, staff from DEC's Catskill Fish Hatchery, and volunteers, will place 20,000 brown trout and rainbow trout in ponds and streams in Nassau and Suffolk counties. A [complete list of DEC fish stocking](#) can be found on DEC's website.

Anglers are reminded that trout fishing season on Long Island is year-round for most lakes and streams. There is a daily limit of three fish per person. Spring trout stocking begins in mid-March and will be completed by early May. For more information, call I FISH NY at (631) 444-0283 or Belmont Lake State Park at (631) 667-5055, or visit [DEC's Learn to Fish webpage](#). For information about freshwater [fishing on Long Island](#) or the spring trout stocking program in Nassau and Suffolk counties, call the DEC Bureau of Fisheries at (631) 444-0280, or [e-mail the regional fisheries office](#). ✧



DNR seeking public comment on draft Wisconsin Walleye Management Plan

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR is seeking public comment now through [May 31, 2022](#), on the state's draft Walleye Management Plan.

The Walleye Management Plan guides all walleye management activities in Wisconsin. One of the most popular sportfish in the state and an important species for the Ojibwe spring tribal harvest, the draft plan outlines present-day goals and management strategies for walleye in Wisconsin.

In 2020, the DNR began updating the plan in partnership with the Tribes of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Conversation Congress and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). When final, the plan aims to address current management challenges and capitalize on new opportunities. The Walleye Management Plan was last updated in 1998.

Each year, the DNR stocks hundreds of thousands of walleye fingerlings into lakes across the state, surveys walleye populations and walleye anglers, and works on habitat projects to benefit walleye. Those activities are guided by Wisconsin's Walleye Management Plan. The public is encouraged to review the draft Wisconsin Walleye Management Plan and submit comments online through May 31, 2022. [To learn more, visit the DNR's Wisconsin Walleye Management Plan webpage.](#) ✧

A dash of humor ☺

- ❖ Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the Ark ... professionals built the Titanic.
- ❖ And for those of us who are too old to care what others think: When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading!

Henny Youngman

Fishing opportunities

Trout fishing opportunities are available at Cold Creek in Erie County. Cold Creek is one of Ohio's most productive and unique fishing streams, and a half-mile section of the creek located at Castalia State Fish Hatchery is open to lottery winners on select dates from May 24 to November 26, 2022. Anglers can find additional information on the [Fishing Lotteries and Events](#) page at [wildohio.gov](#). One season is available for adult anglers and another for youth anglers. Youth applicants are required to be between 4 and 15 years old. Approximately 96 adult and 86 youth permits are available. Individuals selected to participate can bring two adults and three youths under the age of 16 (no more than six people total). All anglers aged 16 and older are required to possess a valid Ohio fishing license. ✧

We need your input on Indiana's fisheries management

Want to give feedback and help improve Indiana's fisheries? We would like to hear about your 2021-2022 fishing experiences via a new electronic angler survey. Anglers with a current email address within DNR's electronic license system will receive an email containing a personalized link to the survey the week of [April 11](#).

The survey is your chance to provide input on Indiana's fisheries management statewide and around where you live and fish. Survey responses will help DNR gather information about Indiana anglers and their opinions on fisheries management. This information will provide valuable feedback in developing programs to better serve you.

Make sure to [add or update your email address](#) to receive a link to the survey. The survey link you receive is a unique link that cannot be used for multiple surveys. DNR asks that you do not share this link with others, as it allows only one survey completion. If you do not receive an email with your

Great Lakes Photo/Writing Contest submission deadline April 1, 2022

Each year, the DNR holds a photo contest and writing project dedicated to showcasing Wisconsin's Great Waters. Each year's winners are compiled into a calendar featuring a unique collection of photos and creative writings. The calendars highlight the beauty of Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and the Mississippi River and their importance as part of our state's natural resources.

The deadline for submissions for the 2023 calendar is April 1, 2022.

An individual may submit up to three photo entries for each category.

1. **People Enjoying Our Great Waters (Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and Mississippi River)** – We are looking for images of all the ways people interact with our waters: fishing, boating, playing on the beach, etc.
2. **Natural Features** – Submit photos showing the awesome beauty of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River waters and shorelines in all seasons. Sunrises, sunsets, vistas, storms, waves, flowing waters and ice formations are examples in this category.
3. **Wildlife** – We are looking for images of the many species of wildlife that rely on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River: fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, insects, etc.
4. **Historical and Cultural Features** – Submit photos of lighthouses, harbor towns, river towns, shipping, festivals, etc.

[Learn more and submit your favorite Great Waters photos and writings today.](#) ✧

licensed angler survey by [April 15](#), email AnglerSurvey@dnr.IN.gov to receive your unique survey link. ✧

New York announces new leadership appointments

New York State DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos recently announced three key leadership appointments to DEC's Executive and Regional teams.

"As DEC ramps up efforts to advance Governor Kathy Hochul's nation-leading environmental agenda and clean energy revolution, elevating Erica Ringewald and Cathy Haas to key leadership positions, and adding Leo Rosales to our team, bolsters our capacity and our commitment," Commissioner Seggos said. "New York is at a critical moment in the fight to combat climate change, and I look forward to working with DEC's incredible team of experts to meet the moment and recharge our efforts to protect our natural resources and communities."

Erica Ringewald has been named Chief of Staff. She joined DEC in 2016 as Director of Media Relations before becoming Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs in 2018. As Deputy Commissioner, Ringewald has managed DEC's external communications and outreach. Prior to

joining DEC, Ringewald helped manage media relations at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, worked as an independent consultant to not-for-profit organizations and foundations, and served as Communications Director for Environmental Advocates of New York. In her six years at DEC, Ringewald helped transform DEC's Press Office into one of the strongest communications operations in the state. Ringewald earned an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Colorado State University and holds a B.A. in English Literature from Indiana University.

Leo Rosales has been named Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs. Most recently in his role as Vice Chancellor of Communications at the State University of New York (SUNY), Rosales led all aspects of the University's day-to-day communication operations and provided guidance to SUNY's 64 campuses. His other work for New York State included serving as the Deputy Director of Communications

in the Office of the Governor, where he managed daily announcements and advised key leadership at several agencies on issues ranging from energy and the environment to labor and higher education, and at the Department of Labor. Rosales has also served in various communication advisory roles with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in their Chicago and New York regional offices, and with members of the New York State Legislature. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from the State University of New York at Albany.

In addition, **Cathy Haas** has been officially named Regional Director in DEC's Region 1, which covers Nassau and Suffolk counties. Haas has served in DEC's Region 1 office for nearly three decades and started her career in the Division of Spills Management before serving nearly 25 years with the Division of Water. Most recently, Haas served as the Regional Engineer for Water, Remediation and Mined Land. ✧

Wisconsin Sturgeon Season Update

The last day's harvest on Lake Winnebago was similar to day 15 as 83 fish (11 juvenile females, 38 adult females, 34 males) were harvested.

In total, 1,518 fish were harvested on the Winnebago System, consisting of 203 juvenile females, 627 adult females, and 688 males. Of the 1,518 fish harvested, the Lake Winnebago harvest consisted of 1,169 fish (158 juvenile females, 539 adult females, and 472 males), while the Upriver Lakes harvest was 349 (45 juvenile females, 88 adult females, and 216 males).

After the full 16-day season, the Lake Winnebago and Winnebago System-wide caps remained far from being reached. This year's Lake Winnebago harvest was lower than the 2021 season but still ranks relatively high among recent years (second-highest harvest since 2015).

The 10.7-foot average water clarity contributed to the season's success. The season averages for water clarity from 2015 to 2022 ranged from 6 to 9 feet resulting in drastically lower harvests. Although water clarity was not great this season and harvest caps were not met on Lake Winnebago, the Lake Winnebago success rate was close to average at 9.5%.

The Upriver Lakes season saw a high success rate, and the adult female harvest cap triggered on day three, resulting in a four-day season. The four-day season was the shortest Upriver Lakes season since the 2018 harvest. Despite the season's length, this was the second most fish harvested on the Upriver Lakes since the lottery system was implemented in 2007.

A total of 88 fish on the Winnebago System weighed in over 100 pounds making up 5.7% of the

total harvest. This year, the percentage of fish over 100 pounds is the largest since 2018 (6.6%) and aligns more closely with percentages of the early 2010s when many of the record-breaking fish were harvested.

The busiest registration station was Calumet Harbor, with 20 fish coming in. Stockbridge Harbor led all registration stations this year, registering 348 fish, followed by Calumet Harbor with 230 fish and Grundman Lane with 221. [View the full details in today's harvest report here.](#)

Justin Lammers speared the largest fish, a 112.6 pounds, 76.9 inches, F1 female registered at the Blackwolf registration station. Congratulations to all of the successful spearers that harvested a lake sturgeon this year! We are already full of anticipation for the opening day of 2023! ✧

2022 Michigan fishing license season and new regulations

As spring draws closer, Michigan anglers are encouraged to purchase a 2022 fishing license which went on sale Tuesday, March 1. The new license season begins April 1, and the 2022 fishing licenses are valid through March 31, 2023. Licenses can be purchased at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRLicenses). By purchasing a fishing license online, anglers will have the opportunity to sign up for auto-renewal through the DNR eLicense system.

Anglers also are encouraged to review the upcoming regulations changes adopted by the Michigan Natural Resource Commission that will go into effect April 1, unless noted otherwise.

Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River – walleye size limit

The Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River walleye minimum size limit has been increased from 13 inches to 15 inches, which is the same as the statewide regulation. The change will result in uniform walleye regulations throughout the connected waters of the St. Clair-Detroit River system, which includes Lake Erie, the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River.



Lake Superior – round whitefish daily possession limit

The round whitefish (also known as Menominee) limit has been increased to allow anglers to keep 10 additional fish in Lake Superior as part of the daily possession limit.

Lake Michigan and Lake Huron – underwater spearfishing regulations

Underwater spearfishing opportunities for walleye, northern pike and lake trout have been added for Lake Michigan (waters south of the southernmost pier at Grand Haven) and Lake Huron (waters south of the southernmost pier of the Thunder Bay River, extending south to the mouth of the St. Clair River [Fort Gratiot Light]). This opportunity requires a new underwater spearfishing license along with monthly effort and harvest reporting requirements. The underwater spearfishing license is complimentary, unless a DNR Sportcard is needed, and will be available only online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRLicenses).

Torch River and Rapid River – special hook fishing regulations

Special hook regulations have been put into effect on the Torch River from the Crystal Beach Road Bridge downstream to Lake Skegemog including the Rapid River up to Aarwood Road Bridge from May 1 to July 1, where it is unlawful to use fishing gear other than a single-pointed hook measuring one-half inch or less from point to shank. This regulation replaces the fishing closure on these waters and allows anglers to fish while maintaining the desired protection to the resource.

Inland waters – rainbow trout (steelhead) possession

A new daily possession limit of one rainbow trout (steelhead) has been put into effect on some Type 3 and Type 4 streams and will be effective from March 15 to May 15, inclusive. This regulation went into effect March 15, 2022.

All regulation changes will be acknowledged in the 2022 fishing

guide, which became available March 1 at [Michigan.gov/DNRDigests](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRDigests). Anglers are encouraged to periodically review the digital version of the fishing guide for any regulation updates throughout the 2022 fishing season.

The DNR manages Michigan's fisheries resources for current and future generations by making scientific, research-based decisions and regulatory recommendations. Regulations are one tool the DNR uses to implement management strategies to protect, conserve and improve Michigan's fisheries. Learn more at [Michigan.gov/Fishing](https://www.michigan.gov/Fishing). ✧



Collecting walleye eggs on Muskegon River

Continued from page 1

your cooperation during this critical egg-take operation.

The DNR plans to collect approximately 24 million walleye eggs from the Muskegon River this year, which will result in fry (fish that have just hatched) for transfer to rearing ponds and direct fry plants throughout the Lower Peninsula. Walleye fry transferred to ponds will be raised to fingerling size (approximately 1.5 to 2.5 inches) and stocked in late spring or early summer in lakes and rivers throughout the Lower Peninsula. Lake Michigan and many inland lake walleye populations in the Lower Peninsula depend on the fingerlings produced from Muskegon River eggs.

The size of the walleye spawning run in the Muskegon River is about 40,000 to 50,000 fish each year. DNR crews will strip milt (sperm) and eggs from approximately 350 adult fish, which will be returned to the river – except for 60, which will be sent to Michigan State University for fish health testing.

Learn more about [how the DNR manages Michigan's fisheries](https://www.michigan.gov/DNR) at [Michigan.gov/Fishing](https://www.michigan.gov/Fishing). ✧

DEC announces adoption of new freshwater fishing regulations Streamlined rule changes to take effect **April 1**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced the adoption of new freshwater fishing regulations that will take effect on April 1, 2022. Following a public comment period on the draft proposals earlier this year, the new regulations reflect the input received and the support of the angling community in DEC's efforts to make fishing New York's waters less complicated and easier to understand.

"The new regulations adopted coupled with the reformatted Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide reflect DEC's sustained commitment to ensuring the enjoyment of both novice and expert anglers in New York State by making fishing easy and accessible," Commissioner Seggos said. "Amendments to freshwater fishing regulations provide greater consistency and significantly reduce special regulations while still maintaining protective measures to sustain the health of the State's fisheries."

DEC is implementing changes to reduce the number of special regulations while still providing the protections necessary to ensure sustainable fisheries, including changing some statewide regulations for certain species and eliminating special regulations that are no longer necessary. Some of the new statewide regulations were already broadly applied via special regulations. Some special regulations are still necessary, particularly for waters that require unique management strategies to achieve desired fisheries outcomes, but DEC has significantly reduced the number of special regulations. Additional changes include opening the season for all sportfish on a hard date and allowing ice fishing in waters inhabited by trout in most of the state.

DEC also adopted more conservative harvest regulations for sunfish to protect populations from overharvest and increased the minimum size limit for crappie to 10

inches to improve the stability and size structure of populations. DEC also placed experimental regulations on 11 waters to determine if larger sunfish can be produced under a 15-fish-per-day harvest limit and an eight-inch minimum size limit.

Notable Regulation Changes

A complete compilation of changes and an assessment of public comment is [available on the DEC website](#).

Major regulation changes include:

- New statewide regulation for rainbow, brown trout, and splake in lakes and ponds. The season will now be open year-round, with a five-fish daily limit, any size, with a "no more than two longer than 12 inches" harvest rule;
- Statewide Atlantic salmon regulations will now allow for a year-round open season;
- Ice fishing is permitted on all waters in New York unless specifically prohibited with the exception of Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties where previous rules remain;
- New specific dates replaced floating dates for statewide season openers to include:
 - **May 1** – Walleye, Northern Pike, Pickerel and Tiger Muskellunge;
 - **June 1** – Muskellunge. Note that in 2022, DEC will allow for the fishing of muskellunge beginning the last Saturday in May to accommodate previously planned fishing trips; and
 - **June 15** – Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass.
- A five-fish daily walleye limit in Oneida Lake;
- A new regulation to limit the growth of the walleye population in Skaneateles Lake. No daily possession limit; 12-inch minimum size limit, open year-round;

- The statewide sunfish daily harvest limit has been reduced from 50 to 25 fish; and
- The statewide minimum size limit for crappie has been increased from nine inches to 10 inches.

New 2022 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide

In 2021, DEC removed advertisements and articles from the annual fishing regulations guide to make it easier to use. This approach and larger print size continues this year, along with more improvements to facilitate finding regulations. Measuring 5½ x 8½ inches, the new guide allows anglers to keep a copy in their glovebox or tackle box.

The [new guide will be posted to the DEC website](#) to download or print at home later this month. Hard copies of the guide are currently being produced and guides are anticipated to be available at License Issuing Agents by the second week of April. Hard copies can also be requested by emailing FWFish@dec.ny.gov. ✧

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman, **April 29-May 1**

The annual Indiana Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop is April 29 to May 1 at Ross Camp in West Lafayette. The workshop is open to women age 18 and older and is limited to 100 participants. Registration begins March 1 at www.IndianaBOW.com. The cost for the workshop is \$250 and includes equipment, meals and lodging. The program is designed for women to learn outdoor skills in a relaxed, low-pressure environment. Participants will choose four activities from more than two dozen offerings, including fishing, archery, wild edibles, wildlife tracking, shooting muzzleloader guns, outdoor cooking, and more. ✧

WCC Virtual Spring Hearing begins April 11 at 7 P.M.

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) announced the Spring Hearing will once again be held online.

The public will have the opportunity to provide input on proposed natural resources rule changes from the DNR and advisory questions from the Natural Resources Board (NRB) and WCC through the online input opportunity.

The [2022 Spring Hearing](#) online input webpage will go live at **7 p.m. on April 11** and will remain open for three days (72 hours). Results will be posted as soon as they are available.

This year there are 16 advisory questions from the DNR related to Fisheries and Wildlife Management. There are also two advisory questions from the NRB and 45 advisory questions from the WCC. All

questions are available to [preview here](#).

Wisconsinites can also recommend changes to natural resource issues by submitting citizen resolutions online. Review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#), click the submit a resolution button, and follow the directions to enter your resolution. Citizens must submit resolutions by midnight on March 11. Those who complete the online input form (April 11-14) will see the resolutions submitted by individuals indicating they reside in that county.

"With the pandemic, this has been a challenging couple years for everyone around the state and the country, and we've witnessed just how important it is for everyone to have access to our natural resources," said Tony Blattler, chair of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. "We are

excited to provide an opportunity for citizens to weigh in on these different management issues. I hope that everyone who has an interest in the issues being discussed will utilize the online option to provide their input." "

Information about the Spring Hearing questions is available on the [DNR webpage here](#). The link will go live at **7 p.m. on April 11**.

The [Wisconsin Conservation Congress](#) is the only statutory body in the state where the public elects delegates to advise the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources on responsibly managing Wisconsin's natural resources for present and future generations. The Congress accomplishes this through open, impartial, broad-ranged actions. ✧

A once in a lifetime opportunity to improve Michigan fisheries Governor's Proposed DNR Budget Highlights

Jim Dexter, MDNR Fisheries Chief, stressed that the Governor's proposed budget is an extraordinarily good budget proposal which will allow most of Fisheries Division's aging infrastructure to finally be upgraded.

Fishery survey equipment and related items:

Since much of the survey and monitoring equipment in Fisheries Division is old and worn out, efforts will be made to upgrade or replace boats, motors, trailers, electronics, shop tools, monitoring equipment, nets, and other items needed for field and lab work. Normally, each year Fisheries Division only is provided about \$100,000 annually for such infrastructure upgrades but the proposal is designating \$1.5 million for these upgrades.

Replacement of the Lake Michigan Research Vessel, the Steelhead:

The proposal would allocate \$4 million from the general fund with no matching funds required for the replacement of the DNR Lake Michigan Research Vessel. The aging R/V Steelhead needs much work and

because of its age, replacement parts are very difficult to obtain. This will be the last major upgrade to the DNR's Great Lakes research vessel fleet which will be completely modernized with a lifespan of over 50 years.

Hatchery infrastructure upgrades

The proposal designates \$30 million for infrastructure upgrades of the six DNR fish hatcheries. This would modernize the aging systems resulting in more reliable fish production at less energy costs. Some of the items that will be improved include:

- The cold-water facilities at the Wolf State Fish Hatchery will be separated from the cool-water operations. Each section will have separate water supplies that will reduce the chances of disease transmission between the two sections. The ponds will be upgraded and there will be more room to raise minnows to feed fall fingerling walleyes. These upgrades will enhance walleye and muskellunge rearing production.
- Well upgrades and maintenance
- New electrical systems
- Resurfacing the concrete

raceways with epoxy to seal them to prevent growth of disease organisms

- Upgrade heaters and heating systems. This is in addition to a separate ongoing \$3 million project to install solar panels at several hatcheries to save energy costs that can be substantial at the hatcheries.
- Replace the old pumps with new pumps that can be throttled to deal with changing demands.
- Effluent system upgrades
- Pond maintenance and sediment removal
- Roof upgrades
- Parking lot improvements
- Other needed work.

Tribal Coordination Unit:

Since the Tribal management activities are in the interest of all, efforts have been made to obtain general fund money. The work has been increasing and two years ago \$150,000 of general funding was obtained to help support hiring Steve Lenart, fishery biologist. The current \$650,000 request is for up to 4 staff including, 2 biologists and 2 technicians. ✧

DEC announces Naples Creek rainbow trout sampling **March 24**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Regional Director Timothy Walsh announced that annual sampling of the rainbow trout run is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, at 9 a.m., at one of the Finger Lakes' most important tributaries-Naples Creek. The public is encouraged to attend.

DEC conducts sampling to aid in its ongoing assessment of Finger Lakes fisheries management practices and to provide up-to-date information for the opening day fishing forecast. During sampling, length, weight, sex, and spawning condition data will be collected for each fish captured. A scale is used to determine age and growth rate. Sampling results will be available at the DEC Region 8 fisheries office prior to the April 1 opening of the Finger Lakes tributary season.

Anglers who want to fish for trout before April 1 are reminded that although catch and release trout fishing is open for inland streams, Finger Lakes tributaries remain closed to fishing until April 1. The main bodies of the Finger Lakes are open to fishing year-round.

DEC also typically conducts sampling at Cold Brook in Pleasant Valley. However, current stream conditions are not expected to be optimal for sampling. ✧

Fishing skills webinars coming up



Want to keep learning new outdoor skills? We've got a new lineup of webinars this spring.

Get to the bottom of how to fish for rough fish at noon Wednesday, March 30. Ever wondered about all those fish that have been called "rough fish" and what is their story? Join the founder of roughfish.com, Corey Geving, to learn about rough fish, why to fish for them and how to catch them.

Other webinar fishing topics later this spring will delve into fishing lures, walleye fishing and youth fishing leagues. The webinars are free, but participants must pre-register. Can't make it? We post recordings of the webinars on the DNR website.

More details: [Register for upcoming webinars](#) and [watch recordings of past webinars](#) ✧

Steelhead fishing tips and tricks from the pros with Outdoor Skills Academy classes

Learn various strategies and techniques for chasing Michigan's "chrome torpedoes" from the DNR Outdoor Skills Academy's pro-staff with upcoming steelhead fishing clinic **April 2-3** at Mitchell State Park in Cadillac. This two-day clinic will run 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday. The classroom portion will be at the park's Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center; then Sunday morning the class will hit the water for instructors to show students how to fish and what to look for on the beautiful Manistee River.

Bring your own gear, if possible, or if you're new to steelheading, some equipment is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Tuesday prior to the class, we will have a Zoom meeting to go over gear and how to rig. Cost for the class is \$30, which includes lunch on Saturday. A [Recreation Passport](#) is required for entry into Mitchell State Park.

To register, go to [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) and click on the "Purchase a license" button. Sign in (using either a username and password or your ID and birthdate), and find the class under the Outdoor Skills Academy tab.

For more information, contact: Edward Shaw at 231-779-1321 or ShawE@Michigan.gov. ✧

Illinois spring trout fishing season opens **April 2**

SPRINGFIELD – The 2022 Illinois spring trout fishing season will open April 2 at 57 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state.

An early opportunity at select trout sites – the spring catch-and-release fishing season – will open March 19. No trout may be kept during the catch-and-release fishing period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning April 2.

For the 2022 spring trout season,

no trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites from March 14 until the season opens at 5 a.m. April 2. Anyone attempting to harvest trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

All anglers, including those who intend to release fish caught before April 2, must have a fishing license and an inland trout stamp unless they are younger than 16, blind or disabled, or an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces. The

daily catch limit for each angler is five trout. For more information about trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities, visit <https://www.ifishillinois.org>. ✧



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DNR hunting, fishing skills webinars continue this spring

Anyone interested in fishing, hunting, habitat, and the outdoors can learn about activities like sturgeon and steelhead fishing, native plants and pollinators, creating sharp-tailed grouse habitat, wild rice management, and more during webinars hosted by the Minnesota DNR this spring.

The DNR started the Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series in March 2021 to share how-to knowledge relevant to outdoor seasons and activities. Webinars are at noon on Wednesdays, last less than an hour, and are recorded and made [available online](#).

The webinars are free, but participants must pre-register. More information, including spring session topics and how to register, is available on the outdoor skills and stewardship page of the [DNR website](#). ✧

Michigan launches new DNR website

The site looks different, with different colors and page formats as part of the State of Michigan's plan for a unified brand. If you want to get an idea of what it looks like, visit the current SOM main page at www.michigan.gov.

But some things will stay the same:

- Customers will be put first. The navigation hasn't changed with the new site. People should be able to find things the way they did before.
- People can still search for events, but the options are now more robust. People will be able to search by type of event, events near their current location and by date range.
- Marketing URLs will still work and should go to their correct page on the new site; however, some bookmarks and links will break. Over time work will be done to fix these broken links.

This announcement is to make you aware of these upcoming changes and thank you for your support and patience as we work through edits and improvements over the coming months. ✧

DNR stocks coho salmon in northwest Indiana tributaries

Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery stocked 22,429 coho salmon averaging 8.02 inches into Trail Creek on Feb. 16.

Coho salmon stocked this month will stay in the streams until this coming spring, when they will migrate to Lake Michigan. They will spend one to two years there feeding and maturing until they return to the streams where they were stocked for spawning.

This stocking is in addition to the 54,139 coho that were stocked this past October into the Little Calumet River and the 29,457 coho that were stocked into Trail Creek.

Anglers should take care when fishing these areas. These fish are currently under the legal-size limit and are sensitive to being caught. If you are catching undersize coho, consider moving to a different area of the stream or try switching your method of fishing. These new fish are crucial to the continued existence of the northwest Indiana trout and salmon fishery. ✧

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

[With new invasive carp money, the Great Lakes learns from past invasions](#)

The U.S. Army Corps announced \$226 million to complete design on the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, an \$858 million effort to keep carp out of the Great Lakes. But Great Lakes advocates say more work is needed to close off other pathways for potential

[Ohio Lake Erie Commission talks outlook of new programs at quarterly meeting](#)

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission, which serves to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources and protect the lake's ecosystems, held its quarterly meeting Wednesday to discuss future plans for Lake Erie

[ODNR to begin releasing rainbow trout in Ohio public lakes and ponds](#)

The Ohio DNR announced it will begin releasing rainbow trout in public lakes and ponds throughout the state, including in Northeast Ohio, on March 15 *****

[New Ontario watercraft regulations fight invasive species](#)

All boaters in Ontario are now required by law to clean their boats before they take them out on the water.

[DNR announces fishing regulations for Michigan's 2022 season](#)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources this week announced new fishing regulations which will begin to go into effect April

[Round goby threatens Champlain bass, salmon fisheries](#)

Conservation groups and local governments are asking that a lock on the Champlain Canal be closed, to keep out a small non-native species, round goby, that has made its way from the Great Lakes into the Hudson River, putting it

[OPINION: Stop the carp invasion into the Great Lakes](#)

Congress needs to heed the call of the Great Lakes governors and change the cost-share of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project to make the carp prevention 100 percent federal, as opposed to the traditional cost-sharing arrangement

On first mission to Great Lakes, NOAA ship will sonar map Lake Erie

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is sending one of its four deep-water hydrographic survey ships into the Great Lakes for several months this year to sonar-map the lakebed under heavily trafficked areas

\$1 billion in Great Lakes funding will help Milwaukee Estuary

\$1 billion worth of aid is coming to regions of the Great Lakes affected by chronic water contamination. That includes the Milwaukee Estuary, which has been designated as an Area of Concern (AOC) since 1987

Great Lakes ice coverage increases nearly 5X in less than a month

According to the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, total ice coverage on the Great Lakes is at 49.9% and is up significantly from the 11.4% recorded in January

Groups mobilize to ward off round goby fish invasion

The invasive round goby fish that has wreaked havoc in the Great Lakes and spread across New York in the state canal system is heading toward Lake Champlain. Conservationists hope that keeping a lock closed on the Champlain Canal