



Lyme disease numbers 10 times higher than previously reported CDC says Protect Yourself and Your Pets

CHICAGO –The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on August 19, released an estimate of the number of people diagnosed with Lyme disease each year and their new estimate is 10 times higher than previously reported. Lyme disease strikes about 300,000 people each year, according to new information released by federal health officials.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the new estimates, which were also released Sunday night at the 2013 International Conference on Lyme Borreliosis and Other Tick-Borne Diseases in Boston. Usually, only 20,000 to 30,000 illnesses are reported each year, making it the most commonly-reported tick-borne illness in the country. For many years, CDC officials have known that many

doctors don't report every case and that the true count was probably much higher.

The new figure is the CDC's most comprehensive attempt at a better estimate. The number comes from a survey of seven national laboratories, a national patient survey and a review of insurance information.

"We know that routine surveillance only gives us part of the picture, and that the true number of illnesses is much greater," Dr. Paul Mead, chief of epidemiology and surveillance for CDC's Lyme disease program, said in a press release. "This new preliminary estimate confirms that Lyme disease is a tremendous public health problem in the United States, and clearly highlights the urgent need for prevention."

Lyme disease is an infectious disease caused by bacteria that is carried and transmitted by ticks.

According to the CDC, 96% of Lyme disease cases in the U.S. were reported from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

In Michigan, the first official reported human case of Lyme disease was in 1985. Cases have now been reported in both the upper and lower peninsula and in most of Michigan's 83 counties. It is anticipated that the number of cases reported will continue to increase.

Lyme disease can cause fatigue, fever, joint pain, kidney damage,
Lyme Disease

Continued on page 6

In this issue...

MI walleye study on bays de Noc.....	2
Firearms for self-defense crime deterrent 3	
Lake Mich anglers asked to aid research 4	
Summary of Asian carp projects	5
NY bans import of Asian carp	5
MN seeks comments on Duluth area	6
Wis Assembly approves crossbow bill.....	6
Sturgeon stocked in northern Michigan ...	6
New wonder drug kills for cancer.....	6
Mercury Marine breaks ground	7
Il BOW Woman's Workshop.....	7
MI-owned surplus land available.....	7
Tournament during Mich boat show	7
PA early migratory bird seasons set.....	7
PA hunters sue to remove Sunday ban... 7	
Eurasian ruffe eDNA sampling expanded	8
Progress toward rehab of lake trout	8
NY DEC wants input	9
Wis panfish survey results available	9
OH public invited to comment	10
CCRKBA: Chicago mayor the problem .	10
MN fishing/hunting licenses go mobile ..	10
Kasich signs Boater Freedom Act	10
Chasing sturgeon in Detroit River	10
FTTS new product awards	11
IL angler fails at world record attempt ...	11
E Mich water bodies stocked	11

USGS scientists need your eyes and ears

Experience an earthquake? See a landslide? Are your flowers blooming earlier? Tell us about it!

In an ever-changing environment, it would be ideal if the [U.S Geological Survey](#) had a presence in every corner of the nation. While we may not be able to cover every inch of the landscape, we can greatly enhance our scope with your help.

The USGS has a variety of citizen science efforts where you can report what's happening in your own backyard. We want to know if you felt an earthquake, saw a landslide, have a new building going up nearby, or have flowers blooming earlier than normal. If you live in Alaska, we want you to tell us if you experience a volcanic ash fall and even collect a sample.

And the information you provide

does not just sit on a shelf. Instead, it gets aggregated and disseminated through a variety of tools geared toward making this information easily accessible so it can be put to use. As an example, there are interactive online systems where people can report what it was like during an earthquake, and then see all the reports for that event mapped out for the affected area.

Through your contribution, not only will your observations build a much larger and more complete database, but you will also become a virtual member of the USGS scientific team!

USGS needs your eyes and ears

Continued on page 6

MI walleye study on bays de Noc Shines light on hatchery versus natural reproduction

The Michigan DNR announced the results of a long-term study to determine the contributions of hatchery-reared walleyes in the Upper Peninsula's bays de Noc and what those results mean for fisheries management activities.

The bays de Noc, consisting of Little Bay de Noc (LBDN) and Big Bay de Noc (BBDN), supported historically important walleye fisheries that declined in the 1960s. Since that time, walleyes have been rehabilitated through protective regulations, improved habitat, and stocking efforts. Although natural reproduction has been detected in LBDN since as early as 1988, stocking efforts have continued in these waters to help increase walleye numbers. In 2004 the DNR began a study to estimate the contribution by both hatchery-reared and naturally reproduced walleyes in the bays de Noc.



During the course of the study, oxytetracycline (OTC)-marked spring fingerling walleyes were stocked into the bays de Noc. The use of OTC creates a mark on the fish's bones for future identification of fish origin by Fisheries Division staff. Approximately 832,000 walleyes were stocked in LBDN during 2004, 2006 and 2008 and about 1,017,000 walleyes were stocked in BBDN in 2005 and 2009.

No walleyes were stocked in 2007 due to VHSv (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus) concerns. Juvenile walleyes were then collected during the fall and examined for the OTC mark which would indicate whether they came from hatchery ponds or natural reproduction.

Of the juvenile walleyes produced between 2004 and 2009, 76% in LBDN and 62% in BBDN were from natural reproduction.

"These results indicate that natural reproduction is the main driver of walleye stocks in the bays, but that hatchery fish are likely contributing too," said DNR fisheries research biologist Troy Zorn.

"The success of natural reproduction is highly variable from year to year, and the relatively long lifespan of walleyes (more than 20 years) gives them the capacity to spawn many times, hopefully producing several strong crops of offspring," he said. "Because natural reproduction is the main contributor to these populations and reproductive success varies considerably among years, we saw no significant difference between stocked and unstocked years in the catch rates of juvenile walleyes."

During the study, the strongest year class in LBDN occurred in 2007, when no walleyes were stocked due to VHSv. In BBDN, the stocked 2005 year class produced the highest assessment catches of juvenile walleyes. Preliminary evaluations show no relationship between walleye stocking and subsequent angler harvest in BBDN, but a positive (though weak) relationship in LBDN.

The OTC study is giving Fisheries Division managers valuable insight on the contribution of stocked fish to the walleye populations in each bay. "The information obtained from this study contributes to the walleye management plan for LBDN. We'll use this information to discuss future management strategies with the public, and ultimately to make informed stocking decisions for hatchery-reared walleyes in northern Lake Michigan," said Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit supervisor, Jessica Mistak.

www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52259_63282-282188--00.html. ✧



• Established 1972 •

President

Daniel N. Thomas, *Illinois*

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Michael D. Sanger, *Wisconsin*

Treasurer

Thomas G. Couston, *Illinois*

DIRECTORS

Illinois – Robert Gaik

Indiana – Mike Schoonveld

Michigan – Tom Hamilton

Minnesota – Dave Koneczny

New York – Thomas Marks

Ohio – Paul Pacholski

Ontario – Darryl Choronzey

Pennsylvania – Ed Kissell

Wisconsin – Robert Wincek

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

Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

Editor

Jeanette Thomas

Webmaster

Robert James, 630/530-7760

© Copyright 2011 by Great Lakes Basin Publications, the INLAND SEAS ANGLERS-GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT is the newsletter of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council, a federally recognized not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of GLSFC, its officers or staff. Reproduction of any material by paid-up members is encouraged, but appropriate credit must be given. Reproduction by others without written permission is prohibited.

Address Change:

Send six weeks in advance with old mailing label to GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT, P.O. Box 297, Elmhurst, IL 60126, (630) 941-1351

Use of firearms for self-defense is 'important crime deterrent' CDC says most incidents involving firearms do not result in fatality

CNSNews – “Self-defense can be an important crime deterrent,” says a new [report](#) by the Centers for Disease Control. The \$10 million study was commissioned by President Obama as one of 23 executive orders he signed.

“Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual defensive uses of guns (i.e., incidents in which a gun was ‘used’ by the crime victim in the sense of attacking or threatening an offender) have found consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies,” the CDC study, entitled “Priorities For Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence,” states.

The report, which notes that “violent crimes, including homicides specifically, have declined in the past five years,” also pointed out that “some firearm violence results in death, but most does not.” In fact, the CDC report said, most incidents involving the discharge of firearms do not result in a fatality.

“In 2010, incidents in the U.S. involving firearms injured or killed more than 105,000 Americans, of which there were twice as many nonfatal firearm-related injuries (73,505) than deaths.”

The White House unveiled a [plan](#) in January that included orders to the CDC to “conduct research on the causes and prevention of gun violence.” According to the White House report, “Research on gun violence is not advocacy; it is critical public health research that gives all Americans information they need.”

The Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council released the results of their research through the CDC last month. Researchers compiled data from previous studies in order to guide future research on gun violence, noting that “almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to

more than 3 million per year.”

“Most felons report obtaining the majority of their firearms from informal sources,” adds the report, while “stolen guns account for only a small percentage of guns used by convicted criminals.” Researchers also found that the majority of firearm deaths are from suicide, not homicide. “Between the years 2000 and 2010, firearm-related suicides significantly outnumbered homicides for all age groups. It annually accounted for 61% of the more than 335,600 people who died from firearm-related violence in the United States.”

African American males are most affected by firearm-related violence, with “32 per 100,000” deaths. Risk factors and predictors of violence include income inequality, “diminished economic opportunities . . . high levels of family disruption” and “low levels of community participation.”

The report expresses uncertainty about gun control measures, stating that “whether gun restrictions reduce firearm-related violence is an unresolved issue,” and that there is no evidence “that passage of right-to-carry laws decrease or increase violence crime.” It also stated that proposed “gun turn-in programs are ineffective.” Instead, researchers proposed gun safety technologies such as “external locking devices and biometric systems” to reduce firearm-related deaths.

“I thought it was very telling that this report focused so heavily on . . . futuristic technology that’s not been brought to the market in any kind of reliable form that consumers have any interest in,” John Frazer, director of research and information at the NRA, told CNSNews.com.

These “smart gun” technologies are “designed to prevent misuse, to prevent either accidents or crimes committed with stolen guns,” Frazer noted. “Obviously it wouldn’t have any effect on crimes committed with a gun purchased by the criminal. It obviously wouldn’t have any effect on suicides by people who bought the

guns themselves.” But, “it could have a huge burden on self-defense rights of law-abiding people if they’re forced to use an unproven technology.”

The CDC’s findings — that guns are an effective and often used crime deterrent and that most firearm incidents are not fatal — could affect the future of gun violence research. The report establishes guidelines meant only for future “taxpayer-funded research,” Frazer said. However, “the anti-gun researchers who want to study and promote gun control are perfectly free to get funded to do that by Mayor Bloomberg or by any number of other organizations.”

“It depends on who’s doing the research,” Frazer added. “I would be very concerned that a lot of the follow-up research that might come from this agenda would be more of what we’ve seen from the anti-gun public health establishment in the past.”

According to a National Academies [press release](#), organizations supporting the CDC study have close ties to Obama. When contacted by CNSNews, the Annie E. Casey Foundation issued a statement reaffirming its support for the study, which “is in keeping with our work to collaborate with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, policymakers and community leaders to make a positive impact on the lives of kids, families and communities.” Patrick Corvington, the foundation’s former senior associate, was nominated by Obama and [confirmed in 2010](#) as CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Other supporters include The California Endowment, which has been [promoting](#) Obamacare; The Joyce Foundation, on whose [Board of Directors](#) Obama served for eight years prior to his Senate run; and Kaiser Permanente, which [contributed](#) over half a million dollars to his presidential campaign. ✧

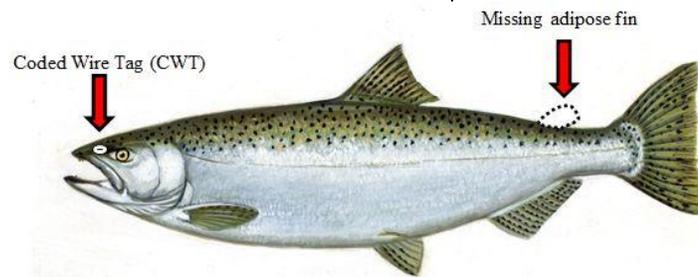
Lake Michigan anglers asked to aid Chinook and lake trout research

Anglers asked to save and donate heads of the Chinook and lake trout they harvest

MILWAUKEE – Anglers fishing Lake Michigan’s open waters and tributaries for Chinook and lake trout are being asked to donate the heads of the fish they harvest to aid research critical to keeping fishing strong.

“With the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, more tagged fish are being stocked now than ever before,” says Cheryl Masterson, a Department of Natural Resources fisheries technician. “The tag in the fish’s snout has a number that tells us when and where the fish was stocked. To learn as much as we can about the behavior of the fish in the lake, we would like to collect heads from tagged sport-caught fish.”

Only those harvested fish missing the small back top fin, known as the adipose fin, are being sought, because the missing fin is a sign that the fish likely received a tag in its snout. For several years now, federal and state natural resource agencies have been marking hatchery-raised Chinook and trout by safely implanting a tiny steel tag etched with a number relating to where and when the fish was hatched and stocked. Now that the fish are growing large enough to be kept by anglers, researchers are collecting Chinook salmon and trout heads to look for the steel tags.



Chinook salmon with Coded Wire Tag (CWT) and missing adipose fin.

Nick Legler, DNR fisheries biologist in Sturgeon Bay, said the information associated with the number on the tag in the fish can help answer how many fish are in Lake Michigan, how many are wild instead of raised in a hatchery, and where they are caught in relation to where

they were stocked. Data also will be used to measure fish growth and age at capture and to evaluate hatchery and stocking practices.

Preliminary findings from the fish that anglers provided last year suggest that during the summer months, salmon roam all over the lake, which at 22,300 square miles is the second largest of the Great Lakes and is the largest lake within U.S. borders. Fifty-nine percent of the hundreds of wire tags recovered from Chinook caught by anglers over the summer in Wisconsin’s open waters of Lake Michigan in summer 2012 had been stocked by Michigan, Illinois or Indiana, preliminary results show.

In contrast, initial results from fish heads recovered during the fall spawning runs at DNR egg collection facilities suggest that the fish tend to return home to the water where they were first stocked to complete their spawning run.

This year, DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been collecting fish heads and biographical data from anglers during the summer fishery and will continue to collect more data into the fall, Legler says.

DNR has partnered with local businesses in most major ports along

the lakeshore where anglers can drop off fish heads, Masterson says. Each business has been given a supply of forms for anglers to fill out and bags

to use for freezing the head. Anglers should include the following information with each head: date of capture and capture location, along with the fish species, length, weight, and gender, she said.

- Algoma - Algoma True Value, 410 2nd St., 920-487-3374

- Green Bay - DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave., (Hours - Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.) 920-662-5100
- Kenosha - Gander Mountain, 6802 118th Ave., 262-857-3757
- Kewaunee - Accurate Marine and Storage, 203 Dodge St., 920-388-2326
- Marinette - A&K Feed, Seed, & Bait, 1616 Shore Dr., 715-732-6100
- Milwaukee area - R&R Sports – Fishin’ Hole, 3115 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, 414-481-6888
- Milwaukee - DNR, UW-Milwaukee, 600 E. Greenfield Ave., (Hours vary - call ahead), 414-382-7929
- Peshtigo - Peshtigo Shell Gas Station, 815 French St., 715-582-3681
- Peshtigo - Department of Natural Resources, 101 N. Ogden Rd., (Hours - Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.), 715-582-5000
- Port Washington - The Bait Box, 215 E. Washington St., 262-284-9355
- Racine area - Turk’s Bait, 2950 93rd St., Sturtevant, 262-886-3061
- Racine area - DNR, 9531 Rayne Road, Suite 4, Sturtevant, (Hours - Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.), 262-884-2300
- Sheboygan - The Wharf, 733 Riverfront Dr., 920-458-4406
- Sheboygan area - DNR, 1155 Pilgrim Road, Plymouth, (Hours - Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.), 920-892-8756
- Sturgeon Bay - Howie’s Tackle, 1309 Green Bay Road, 920-746-9916
- Sturgeon Bay - DNR, 110 S. Neenah Ave., (Hours - Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.), 920-746-2860
- Two Rivers - Seagull Sports Marina, 1400 Lake St., 920-794-7533 ✧

Recent summary of Asian carp project activities

Monitoring continues in the CAWS (Chicago Area Waterway System) and upper Illinois Waterway upstream and downstream of the Dispersal



Barrier. NO BIGHEAD OR SILVER CARP were reported captured or observed upstream of the Barrier, nor were any found in new locations downstream of the Barrier.

A total of 22 common carp were captured and removed from between the barriers. All fish (but one injured in netting) were floy tagged and released downstream of Romeo Road bridge, below the electric barrier

array. Additional by-catch during these efforts included one oriental weatherfish, two bluegill, and two green sunfish.

The recommendation from the action agencies is that after these efforts, we believe there is a low risk of Asian carp within the barrier that these efforts represent a successful clearing. Although a few fish targets remained, the overwhelming evidence from the collections and remote sensing evidence suggest these to be common carp. These results are further supported by the established monitoring results from Lockport and Brandon Rd. Pools of the Illinois Waterway since 2010 that also suggest the Asian carp abundances in this area to be low or non-existent.

Recently completed intense surveillance of Lake Calumet summary totals showed no bighead carp or silver carp were observed or captured during this Planned Intensive Surveillance. The event was a planned intensive surveillance activity as outlined by the Monitoring Response Plan for Asian Carp in the Upper Illinois River and Chicago Area Waterway System.

To date, intensive sampling



during response actions triggered by detection of Asian carp eDNA has resulted in no Asian carp being observed or captured. At present, the detection of eDNA evidence cannot discern the source of the eDNA or the characteristics of the fish, verify whether live Asian carp are present, the number of Asian carp in an area, or whether a viable population of Asian carp exists. As further calibration of the eDNA method is completed the MRWG (Monitoring and Response Work Group), has suspended the use of eDNA as a trigger for responses, instead using this information to establish planned intensive surveillance at key locations where Asian carp eDNA has been found to accumulate. ✧

NY bans import of Asian carp Will protect NY and Great Lakes

New York has made changes pertaining to the regulations governing bighead carp, and they are now in effect. The amended regulations ban the importation, possession and sale of live bighead carp in all of New York State.

Bighead carp are a serious threat to the state's aquatic communities and much effort is being expended by federal and Great Lakes state agencies to prevent these fish from gaining access to the Great Lakes basin.

Previously, New York prohibited the possession and sale of fish species that DEC had determined to be a present danger to indigenous fish populations, including snakehead fish and three species of Asian carp (including bighead carp). However,

until now, the prohibitions included an exception that allowed bighead carp to be sold, possessed, transported, imported and exported in the five boroughs of the City of New York (Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island).

As a result of federal action, all interstate transportation of live bighead carp was banned, so the exceptions in DEC's regulations that provided for limited sale of bighead carp for human consumption, required repeal. The amended regulations eliminate any possible confusion regarding the legal status of this species in New York, and will bolster efforts to prevent the spread of bighead carp into the Great Lakes states. ✧

Illinois lawmakers override vote

Conceal carry law enacted

Illinois lawmakers voted to override Gov. Pat Quinn's veto" of concealed carry legislation, complying with a federal appeals court mandate resulting from a successful civil rights lawsuit against the state's prohibition on bearing arms for personal protection.

The Illinois House voted 77-31 to reject Gov. Quinn's veto, and the Senate followed suit by voting 41-17.

The Moore case was brought by SAF "to force the State of Illinois to do the right thing" regarding the right to bear arms. www.saf.org ✧

MN seeks comments on Duluth area plans

Citizens interested in learning about or commenting on Minnesota DNR strategies for managing Duluth area lakes have until September 6 to ask questions or submit comments.

In the Duluth area, plans for the following lakes and fish species will be reviewed:

- Fish Lake reservoir: walleye, black crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch.
- Park: walleye, largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, northern pike, yellow perch.
- Schultz: largemouth bass, bluegill, northern pike, yellow perch.
- Little Stone (Stump): largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, northern pike.

Interested parties can review current plans for lakes and streams in the area as well as recent fish population assessment information at the DNR Duluth fisheries office, 5351 N. Shore Dr. Individuals also may call 218-525-0853 to request a copy of a plan or submit comments on a plan. ✧

Wisconsin Assembly approves crossbow bill

The Senate Natural Resources Committee is scheduled to consider a bill that would expand crossbow use by Wisconsin deer hunters. In a 95-0 vote on June 6, the Wisconsin Assembly unanimously approved AB 194, a measure that would permit the use of crossbows in the state's regular archery deer season, an expansion seen by supporters as one that would increase hunter participation and preserve Wisconsin's rich hunting heritage. The crossbow hunting season would run concurrent to the traditional bow season that runs from mid-September until the end of November or beginning of December, depending on the year. A rift in the hunting community pits traditional bow-and-arrow hunters against those who use a crossbow. ✧

Sturgeon stocked in northern Michigan

The Michigan DNR recently stocked 18,500 young sturgeon from a streamside sturgeon-rearing facility in several inland lakes in northern Michigan. Each spring, DNR members collect and fertilize eggs and molt from sturgeon returning to the Black River and rear the young at the facility for four months before releasing them as fingerlings in select waters. Black, Burt and Mullett lakes in Cheboygan County are priority locations for those fingerlings.

Selected locations were: Sturgeon River (a Burt Lake tributary), Pigeon River (a Mullett Lake tributary), Maple River (a Burt Lake tributary) and Otsego Lake. The DNR also transferred 3,750 of the young sturgeon to another fish production facility near Pellston, which is owned and operated by the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians. Fish will be reared there and stocked later this fall. For more info: www.michigan.gov/sturgeon. ✧

USGS needs your eyes and ears

Continued from page 1

► [Did You Feel It?](#) (DYFI) is an online system developed for the public to provide accounts of earthquakes they experience. To document your seismic encounter, visit the [DYFI? home page](#) and [fill out a brief questionnaire](#).

► [Did You See It?](#) (DYSI) Is a program allows respondents to report detailed accounts of observed landslides, including photographs. To make your contribution, visit the [DYSI? webpage](#) and click on the [Report a Landslide](#) tab.

► Volunteers are collecting observations of various seasonal changes—referred to as [phenology](#)—to help scientists better understand subjects including climate change, invasive species, agricultural production, impacts of frosts and freezes, and the timing of pests and diseases. In a few simple steps, you can [become a citizen scientist](#) and join this expedition to examine nature's calendar. ✧

New wonder drug kills all kinds of cancer

Stanford researchers are on track to start testing a new cancer fighting drug. Thousands are lining up to be the first to try the new drug. The progress on the new drug comes just months after the groundbreaking [study](#) done, "by Dr Irv Weissman, who developed an antibody that breaks down a cancer's defense mechanisms in the body."

The protein, called CD47, tells the body not to eat the [cancer](#) cells, but the new antibody developed by Weissman will block the CD47 and frees up immune cells called "macrophages" which will then destroy the cancer cells.

The new drug points the "miraculous macrophages" in the direction of the cancer cells so cancer fighting "killer T cells" can do their work. "It was completely unexpected that CD8+ T cells would be mobilized when macrophages engulfed the cancer cells in the presence of CD47-blocking antibodies," said MD/PhD student Diane [Tseng](#), the lead author of the study.

While the new drug has yet to reach the test phase on humans, which will happen in 2014, there is hope the new treatment will help the immune system wage a two prong attack against cancer, with macrophages and T cells.

To read the review: <http://med.stanford.edu/ism/2013/may/cd47.html>. ✧

Lyme Disease

Continued from page 1

lethargy, loss of appetite, neurologic disorders and trouble walking. Lyme disease is treatable, but as with most problems, the sooner it is caught, the better. If left untreated, it is potentially fatal.

While the CDC's newest numbers estimate the number of Americans diagnosed with Lyme disease each year is approximately 300,000 people, veterinarians want to remind people that their pets are also susceptible to Lyme disease. ✧

Mercury Marine breaks ground on Wisconsin expansion

Mercury Marine recently held groundbreaking ceremonies for two expansion projects at the engine builder's facility in Fond du Lac, Wis., that will provide increased capacity and capabilities. The \$20 million in expansion projects will add about 38,000 sq. ft. to Mercury's 1.5 million sq. ft. of manufacturing space.

Mercury will create more and larger products with the addition of a new engineering segment, including larger testing facilities. Work at both sites is scheduled to be completed by December. New equipment will be installed by the end of the year, and additional equipment is planned for installation in 2014 and 2015 that will maximize the newly constructed building space, adding more jobs.

The projects consist of a 20,000-sq. ft. addition to its Plant 15 to house machining equipment and 18,000 sq. ft. in Plant 17 casting facility to house high-pressure die-cast machines.

About 90% of the work is being performed by companies in the Fond du Lac area or elsewhere in Wis.

Mercury employs about 2,900 people in Fond du Lac, up from 1,600 in 2009. ✧

IL BOW Woman's Workshop Sept 27-29

The IDNR invites women to register for the upcoming 'Becoming an Outdoors Woman' workshop, September 27-29 at Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton. BOW workshops are designed to provide introductory instruction in 25 outdoor related activities. Classes are conducted in a casual and non-competitive atmosphere by experienced instructors. The cost is \$165 per person, which includes the workshop, meals, lodging and transportation during the event.

Registration is limited, so sign up today. For registration materials: www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgmt/Bow. ✧

MI-owned surplus land available at auction

The Michigan DNR is offering over 20 parcels of state land in nine counties for sale by sealed-bid at www.michigan.gov/landforsale. The auction will run through September 4, 2013. Properties in Arenac, Alpena, Gladwin, Lake, Montmorency, Muskegon, Otsego, Presque Isle and Saginaw Counties are available.

Properties range from less than an acre to 40 acres. Some are wooded tracts, others are in close proximity to lakes, ponds and recreational trails. Sealed bids must be postmarked by midnight September 4, and will be opened September 25.

Details about each property — including the minimum bid amount, photos, map, property descriptions, and conditions of sale — are available at www.michigan.gov/landforsale clicking on "DNR Land Auction." Instructions to submit a bid can be found on the printable bid form. Other unsold land from previous auctions remains available for purchase at the listed price. View these properties by clicking "Surplus Land to BUY NOW!" (see the General Public tab).

Printed property information and bid forms may be requested from the DNR Real Estate Services Section, 517-373-1250. Contact: Patricia Harlow, 517-241-2742 or Ed Golder, 517-335-3014 ✧

Tournament to be held during Mich boat show

The Michigan Boating Industries Assn. is partnering with Angler's Dream, a professional fishing tournament series that is hosting its Tournament of Champions during the MBIA fall boat show Sept. 19-22 at Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township. Prizes for the winning haul will range up to \$10,000, and the weigh-in will be televised.

Festival hours are: Sept. 19-20, noon to 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 21, 11 to 7:30 p.m.; and Sept. 22, 11 to 6 p.m. Further information, discount tickets: www.BoatingandOutdoorFest.com.

✧

PA early migratory bird seasons set

Pennsylvania's early migratory bird seasons will increase the number of birds hunters can keep. The early seasons for mourning doves, Canada geese, woodcock and other migratory bird species are similar to last year.

The biggest difference is possession limits. A change in federal regs has allowed Pennsylvania to increase possession limits for most migratory game birds to three times the daily bag limit. Those changes are taking place across the board in the early seasons. The calendar has had an influence on some opening days.

Dove hunters can take to the field Sept. 2 in the first segment of a triple-split season. The first segment ends Sept. 28 and hunting hours are noon to sunset. Other dove-hunting segments run Oct. 26 - Nov. 30 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, with hunting hours a half hour before sunrise to sunset.

The statewide season for Canada geese will be Sept. 2-25. The Sept. season retains a daily bag limit of eight Canada geese, but the possession limit has climbed to 24.

There are special regulations — including smaller bag limits and possession limits — in a couple of areas of the state.

For more info: [Early migratory bird seasons set](#). ✧

PA hunters sue to remove Sunday ban

Hunters United for Sunday Hunting (HUSH) has filed suit in federal court against the Pennsylvania Game Commission to remove that state's Sunday hunting ban on the grounds that the ban violates constitutional rights. In the suit filed in U.S. Middle District Court, the Lancaster County-based sportsmen's group contends that the ban, which dates back to colonial days, violates federal and state protections of the right to bear arms and freedom of religion. HUSH is seeking an order permanently barring the state from enforcing the Sunday hunting prohibition. ✧

Eurasian ruffe eDNA sampling expanded in NE Michigan

During spring 2013, staff from The Nature Conservancy, Central Michigan U and the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Service Office collected and filtered water samples from a number of northern Michigan locations in eastern Lake Superior, the upper St. Marys River and northwestern Lake Huron. The samples will be processed in an effort to detect the presence of Eurasian ruffe genetic material in the form of environmental DNA (eDNA). This effort expanded ruffe eDNA sampling that was originally conducted during the fall of 2012 on northwestern Lake Huron.

Ruffe are an invasive fish species that was first captured in the Great Lakes from western Lake Superior in the mid-1980s and have since spread across the southern shore of Lake Superior to Tahquamenon Bay, and into areas of Lakes Huron and Michigan. Ruffe are thought to compete with native species for habitat and food resources. They were first captured in northeastern Michigan at the Thunder Bay River in

Alpena during 1995. Traditional sampling captured ruffe until 2003, however, ruffe have been absent from the catch in recent years. Ruffe were also reported from other tributaries to northern Lake Huron in 2008 (Trout River, Rogers City) and 2011-2012 (Cheboygan River). The status of these sightings is unknown. Subsequent sampling in these areas has not captured ruffe.

In 2006 ruffe were found at the eastern edge of Lake Superior at the mouth of the Tahquamenon River, near the origin of the St. Marys River – the connecting pathway between Lake Superior and northern Lake Huron. Should ruffe enter the St. Marys River, they could pose a new risk of invasion into Lake Huron. Sampling in the St. Marys has not captured ruffe. The presence or absence of eDNA is another tool that can potentially be used to help determine the status of ruffe.

The goal of sampling on Lake Superior from the upper St. Marys River to the Tahquamenon River was to use eDNA to detect whether ruffe

have expanded their range from the Tahquamenon area into the St. Marys River. Ruffe are in the Tahquamenon River and Bay, however, have not been detected in the St. Marys River with traditional gear. The goal of sampling on northern Lake Huron was to use eDNA to detect whether ruffe continue to persist in areas where they have been reported but not captured with traditional gear.

A total of 314 2-liter water samples were collected including 101 samples from the upper St. Marys River, 73 samples from eastern Lake Superior, and 140 samples from northwestern Lake Huron. Sampling was conducted in areas described as favorable habitat for ruffe – slow flowing river and side channels, river mouths, and back water areas. Both surface and bottom water samples were collected. The water samples were filtered in Alpena FWCO's eDNA processing trailer. The filtered samples will be analyzed by Central Michigan University to determine the presence or absence of ruffe eDNA. Results should be available soon. ✧

Progress toward the rehab of lake trout in northern Lake Huron

During May and June, staff from the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (Alpena FWCO) conducted a juvenile lake trout survey in 1836 treaty waters of northern Lake Huron (Alpena north to Hammond Bay). This study was designed to index juvenile lake trout abundance and collect biological data on juvenile lake trout for population models developed for lake trout stocks in northern Lake Huron. Alpena FWS staff conducted 20 graded-mesh (2.0-3.5") gill net lifts at randomly selected locations in two Lake Huron lake trout management units: MH-1 (Rogers City north) and MH-2 (Rogers City south to Black River). Biological data were collected



from all lake trout encountered, including length, weight, sex and maturity, diet, visceral fat index, and lamprey wounding. Similar biological data were collected from non-target species. Tissue samples were taken from unclipped (presumably wild) lake trout for future DNA analysis.

Fifty-four lake trout less than 500 mm (a commonly accepted size cutoff for juveniles) were captured during 2013. Thirty-six of the 54 juveniles were of wild origin, based on the absence of fin clips. Lake trout between 350 and 450 mm in length dominated the catch in 2013, providing continued evidence for the strong year classes that dominated the 2012 survey. All lake trout less than 350 mm in length

were of wild origin. Juveniles were evenly dispersed among the depth strata sampled (100-150' and >150') and were captured at all of the ports surveyed, though catch rates for wild juveniles were highest near Rogers City, where 58% of the wild juveniles were captured. Total catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) of juvenile lake trout (wild plus hatchery) was 1.7 fish per 1000 ft. of net in 2013. CPUE of wild juveniles increased two-fold from 2012 to 2013 (0.56 to 1.13). Hatchery juvenile CPUE increased from 0.12 in 2012 to 0.56 in 2013.

Multiple cohorts of wild juvenile lake trout continue to be observed in the population, suggesting that mechanisms favoring natural reproduction remain in place. These results demonstrate continued progress toward the rehabilitation of lake trout in northern Lake Huron. ✧

NY DEC wants input on NY Great Lakes Restoration, Conservation & Development

New York State has released a draft of *New York's Great Lakes Basin: Action Agenda 2013*, a five-year action plan to guide restoration, conservation, and sustainable development activities in New York's Great Lakes region. Stakeholder input on the draft agenda will be accepted until September 1.

"The Great Lakes Action Agenda is New York State's only fully-integrated strategic plan for its portion of the Great Lakes basin," said DEC Commissioner Joe Martens. "The plan is uniquely integrated with bi-national, federal, and state priorities to ensure that New York's Great Lakes stakeholders are regionally competitive for federal funding and other opportunities to advance sustainable development and environmental restoration in our Great Lakes region."

The Agenda will serve as a 'one-stop shop' planning resource for stakeholder organizations working to

improve the state's Great Lakes region. When finalized, the Great Lakes Action Agenda will enhance New York's strategic approach to effectively address the highest priority actions, assist stakeholders in leveraging financial resources and human capital, and create opportunities for basinwide communication, coordination, and partnership.

The Great Lakes Action Agenda is strategically aligned with the federal "Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan," which has brought more than \$50 million to New York's Great Lakes region since 2010. Recommendations set forth by New York's Oceans and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation initiative, Regional Economic Development Councils, and the NYS 2100 Commission Report are also integrated into the agenda. It is a five-year plan and will be updated on a regular basis to ensure that the state's

evolving priorities are included.

The Action Agenda uses an ecosystem-based management approach to address environmental challenges in a holistic way that considers how people depend on and are integral parts of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The Great Lakes Action Agenda features innovative solutions to the most critical challenges facing New York's Great Lakes region, including contamination cleanup, water quality and conservation, restoration of fish and wildlife, waterfront revitalization and smart growth, climate change adaptation and resilience, and recreation and tourism development.

The Action Agenda is available on DEC's website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html>. Public comments on the draft Great Lakes Action Agenda will be accepted until September 1, and may be submitted to glakes@gw.dec.state.ny.us. ✧

WI panfish survey results available online

Will help inform future statewide panfish management plan

Anglers are evenly split on whether to keep the current statewide bag limit of 25 panfish per day and differ significantly on whether they prefer catching fewer but bigger panfish or more but smaller fish, according to recent results from online and in-person surveys.

- 38 percent of the nearly 3,500 respondents said they were satisfied with the number of panfish they caught on a typical fishing trip and 40 percent said it was adequate.
- An equal proportion of anglers (about 47 percent) said the statewide limit of panfish should be kept at 25 per day as said the daily bag limit should "probably" or "definitely" be decreased.
- 61 percent said they would "definitely" or "probably" prefer to catch and keep fewer but larger

panfish while one-third wanted to keep their catch and harvest as it is.

- 36 percent of respondents were satisfied with the size of the favorite panfish species, compared to one-third who indicated they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and 31 percent who said they were dissatisfied.

To view the survey results, go to DNR's website, dnr.wi.gov, and search, "[panfish plan](#)."

DNR's panfish survey ran from mid-February 2013 to the end of April 2013 as part of an initial effort to get information and opinions from anglers to help develop a statewide plan to manage panfish. Respondents were able to take the survey online, fill it out at [one of dozens of meetings](#) around the state in February and March 2013, or at fishing expos, sport shows and the Conservation Congress

meetings, says Joanna Griffin, the fisheries biologist coordinating the effort.

DNR has had management plans in place for many years for game fish species such as walleye, bass, musky and northern pike. Biologists and some anglers believe such attention is necessary for panfish. There have been proposals from the Conservation Congress in recent years and again in 2013 to reduce the daily 25 fish limit on panfish on select lakes.

As a category, panfish are by far the most common fish caught by anglers in Wisconsin although anglers report walleye as their favorite target. Wisconsin anglers reported catching 88 million fish in the 2006-7 license year, of which 57.7 million were panfish, according to a statewide mail survey done that year. About 25.7 million of those panfish were kept ✧

Ohio public invited to comment on hunting, fishing and trapping changes

Meet Sept 19 & input accepted online www.wildohio.com

The Ohio DNR is seeking public comments regarding fishing, hunting and trapping rule changes.

Among proposed changes are decreasing statewide yellow perch limit to 30, adding or removing boat engine limits on several lakes and clarifying hunting and trapping laws.

All comments are welcome. People who are not able to attend can provide input online.

The statewide hearing will be held Sept. 19, at 9 a.m. at the ODNR District One office. Comments on the proposed rules will be accepted.

After considering public input, the Ohio Wildlife Council will vote on the proposed rules its meeting Oct. 16. Council meetings are open to the public. Individuals who want to provide comments to the council must preregister at least two days prior to the meeting by calling 614-265-6304. All comments are required to be three minutes or less. Emailed or written comments will not be presented at this meeting. ✧

CCRKBA: Chicago mayor the problem not guns

Chicago's "weak link" in public safety is not gun control but Mayor Rahm Emanuel's adherence to the stale and ineffective strategies of the gun prohibition lobby, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said. Emanuel told reporters his answer to the city's current bloodbath is to ban so-called "assault weapons," which do not appear to be involved in many, if any of the recent shootings and homicides. He also asserts that "comprehensive background checks" would prevent violence, a notion so demonstrably untrue that CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb called it a "perpetuation of an urban myth." ✧

Minn fishing & hunting licenses go mobile

Connect to the Minnesota DNR mobile licensing page to purchase select fishing and hunting licenses via your smartphone.

Customers who purchase off the mobile site won't receive a paper license, but they'll receive a text message or email that serves as proof to state conservation officers.

Still not in full service, there are site features and products in the works. Licenses available include short-term angling, resident combo angling, resident individual sports, resident combination sports, small game and state stamp validations. Any license that requires a site tag such as deer or turkey is not available for mobile purchase.

Customers must be able to provide the email or text info to a DNR officer upon request as proof of a valid license. Mobile device users will automatically be identified when visiting the DNR website www.mndnr.gov/buyalicense and selecting the "Purchase" button at the bottom of the page.

Minnesota residents 21 and older who never have purchased a hunting or fishing license can't purchase a license electronically. They should initially purchase from a license agent or call 888-646-6367 and provide their driver's license number so electronic purchasing can be enabled.

The mobile site is for purchasing only. All info such as seasons, dates, eligibility, etc. should be reviewed before a mobile purchase is done. A 3% convenience fee will be added. ✧

Kasich signs Boater Freedom Act

Governor John Kasich signed House Bill 29, known as the Boater Freedom Act, sponsored by Rep. Rex Damschroder (Fremont), which establishes conditions for watercraft safety inspections. This new law will minimize the opportunity for multiple stops by state and local entities and allow Ohioans and visitors to enjoy their time on the water. ✧

Chasing lake sturgeon in the Detroit River

There are 26 different sturgeon species worldwide. We are fortunate enough to have one of these species call the Great Lakes home. The distribution of lake sturgeon extends throughout the Great Lakes, into the Mississippi River basin, along with Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence Seaway. Lake sturgeon are the largest fish species within the Great Lakes, growing up to 7' in length and living to over 100 years of age.

The history of the Great Lakes is riddled with stories of lake sturgeon. Once, so abundant, lake sturgeon were considered to be a nuisance fish species damaging commercial fishing gear due to their large size. Fisherman began to harvest them for their meat and eggs, which are used for caviar. Overfishing, along with pollution and habitat loss have all contributed to the decline of the population which is estimated to be at less than 1% of their original numbers.

FWS biologists are in the process of obtaining data to better estimate the population of lake sturgeon in the Detroit River. This year almost 40 sturgeon were caught in the Detroit River. In 2008, the FWS constructed a reef within the Detroit River near Fighting Island to increase habitat for native species, such as lake sturgeon, to spawn. Many of the sturgeon were captured near this reef. The largest sturgeon caught this year was 5' 9" weighing in at just over 100 lbs.

FWS has been monitoring sturgeon in the River since 2003. With the information collected this year and previous years, it is estimated 5,000 individual sturgeon utilize the Detroit River during the spawning season. While being an important historical figure in the Great Lakes' past, sturgeon are also considered an indicator species. To survive sturgeon need clean water, an abundant food source, a rocky bottom and fast flowing water. The FWS is currently creating more sturgeon spawning habitat in the St. Clair-Detroit River System in an effort to increase the size of this population ✧

Fishing Tackle Trade Show new product awards

Las Vegas – This year, the New Product Showcase, the tradeshow's flagship event held during ICAST, was as competitive as ever. Sponsored by [Fishing Tackle Retailer](#), nearly 200 companies entered more than 700 tackle products, accessories and apparel into the New Product Showcase.

ICAST 2013 Overall Best of Show –
JL Marine Systems, Inc.
Product – Power-Pole Micro Anchor

Best of Show – Apparel – Shimano
American Corporation
Product – Dryfender Insulated
Raingear

Best of Show – Boating Accessory –
JL Marine Systems, Inc.
Product – Power-Pole Mirco Anchor

Best of Show – Boats – Johnson
Outdoors Watercraft, Inc.
Product – Predator 13

Best of Show – Combo – 13 Fishing
Product – White Out

Best of Show – Electronics – Johnson
Outdoors
Product – Humminbird Bow Mount
360 Imaging

Best of Show – Eyewear – Costa
Product – Tuna Alley

Best of Show – Fishing Accessory –
American Tackle Company
Product – Tidal Wave-Micro Wave
System

Best of Show – Fishsmart Tackle –
Foreverlast, Inc.
Product – G2 Floating Wading Net

Best of Show – Fly Fishing
Accessory – Columbia Sportswear
Product – Henry's Fork V Vest

Best of Show – Fly Fishing Reel –
Beam Outdoors
Product – Elite 21 Reel

Best of Show – Fly Fishing Rod – G.
Loomis, Inc.
Product – PRO4x

Best of Show – Freshwater Reel –
Shimano American Corporation
Product – CHRONARCH C14+

Best of Show – Freshwater Rod – G.
Loomis, Inc.
Product – NRX Umbrella Rig

Best of Show – Giftware – Rapala
Product – Original Floating Bottle
Opener

Best of Show – Kids' Tackle – Pure
Fishing, Inc.
Product – Shakespeare Ugly Stik
GX2 Youth Combo

Best of Show – Line – PowerPro
Product – PowerPro Zero-Impact

Best of Show – Hard Lure – Koppers
Fishing & Tackle Corporation
Product – LIVETARGET Baitball

Best of Show – Soft Lure –
Lunkerhunt
Product – Lunker Frog

Best of Show – Saltwater Reel –
Shimano American Corporation
Product – Stella SW 30000

Best of Show – Saltwater Rod – St.
Croix Rods
Product – Legend Xtreme Inshore

Best of Show – Tackle Management –
Plano Molding Company
Product – 3700 Guide Series Tackle
Bag

Best of Show – Terminal Tackle –
Mustad
Product – Grip-Pin Swim

✧

IL angler fails at world record attempt

Hooks 2,011 fish in 24 hours

On July 5th, Chicago angler Johnny Wilkins, 46, took up his cane pole and a massive cooler filled with bait and headed out to try to break the world record for most fish caught in a 24-hour period.

Sitting at the edge of Lake View Center's large pond, he brought up bass, carp, and his target fish, bluegill, by the thousands. The current record is held by extreme angler Jeff Kolodzinski, at a mind-boggling 2,649 caught in a single day. Wilkins failed to match that number, but still clocked in with 2,011 fish.

In order to beat the previous record, Wilkins would have had to

catch 1.8 fish per minute. Astounding as it may sound, the Chicago resident had exceeded that ratio before. In fact, Wilkins, the founder of the Chicago Fishing School and a world championship angler, had a personal best of catching 203 fish over a period of 30 minutes. That amounts to more than six fish per minute. It was not surprising then that Wilkins approached the challenge with optimism.

Unfortunately, the conditions at the pond were less than ideal. The first thing Wilkins noticed was that carp were keeping the smaller bluegills away. Wilkins had planned

to hook as many bluegills as possible. The physical toll of the attempt also began to wear on him. By early morning on July 6, Wilkins was exhausted. ✧

E. Mich water bodies stocked with 1.7 million walleye

The Michigan DNR Southern Lake Huron Management Unit stocked nearly 1.7 million walleye fingerlings in 30 inland lakes located in 20 counties. [See a complete summary of this walleye stocking](#), including specific counties and lakes. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Masses of plastic particles found in Great Lakes

Already ravaged by toxic algae, invasive mussels and industrial pollution, North America's Great Lakes now confront another potential threat that few had even imagined until recently: untold millions of plastic litter bits, some visible only through a microscope.

Harmful algal blooms a worry for Lake Erie

A blue-green slick of a harmful, toxic algal bloom depletes oxygen in Lake Erie and poses a threat to humans, pets and wildlife. While the harmful blooms are common in the lake's western basin, the potential exists for winds and currents to sweep them eastward toward the Erie

U. of Cal. Professor Pegs National Debt At Nearly \$90 Trillion Dollars

The U.S. government's books are in the red by more than \$86.8trillion, according to an influential U of California economist. That's a number more than five times as large as the figure acknowledged by the U.S. Treasury and used by government agencies to justify their budgets and

Lake Ontario will rise higher and fall lower under joint U.S.-Canada plan

After a 2008 plan was resoundingly rejected by stakeholders, a new plan is poised — barring some tweaking — to be recommended for federal approval by both the U.S. and Canada by early next year.

Does Lake Michigan's record low mark beginning of new era for Great Lakes?

Paul Roebber, a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee meteorologist, said it is reasonable to expect that in coming decades the highs and lows will soar and plunge four feet or more from their average — meaning water levels could swing by 8 to even 10 feet over several years.

Survey nets lots of walleyes along Lake Superior's south shore

A DNR crew doing its assessment of Lake Superior's fish populations found mostly walleyes. Gill nets brought up mostly walleyes; small ones; middle-size ones; big ones. They just kept coming, sometimes so many and so fast that boat captain Ross Lind had to stop retrieving the net to give the

Man sues IGFA over \$1M prize

Rodney Ply, 41, of Diamond City, Ark., who entered the "Hook-a-Million" contest and caught a record 68 lb. striped bass, sued the International Game Fish Association for denying him a \$1 million prize in their contest. The IGFA had offered a \$1 million prize for any angler

Keeping Asian carp out of Great Lakes will require more than new plan offers

Though it is being rolled out as "an unprecedented and comprehensive set of actions" to keep the Great Lakes from being colonized by Asian carp, the updated national strategy is more a continuation of measures that could be described fairly as partial, stopgap and long overdue.

\$51.2 million federal plan offered to protect Great Lakes from Asian Carp

Obama's administration unveiled the federal government's latest efforts to protect the Great Lakes from the Asian carp, including an upgrade of an electronic barrier in Illinois and an Indiana project that would serve as a buffer between the Mississippi River basin and the lakes.

Great Lakes bill introduced

U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter and a bipartisan group of lawmakers have introduced a bill to clean up the Great Lakes, addressing invasive species problems, coordinating protection and restoration efforts and gathering groups with an interest in the Great Lakes

How to launch a boat: Many don't follow the etiquette rules, and it's causing 'ramp rage'

"Ramp rage" is sweeping the shoreline of Lake Erie and many of the popular Northeast Ohio reservoirs, a state of frustration brought on by unnecessarily long waits at local launch ramps.

Gov. Quinn signs bill cracking down on drunken boating

The bill ensures anyone operating a motorboat involved in an accident involving serious injury or death must consent to the chemical testing of their blood, breath or urine to determine blood-alcohol or drug content. Those who refuse testing, test positive for drugs or exceed the legal

IJC Chair: U.S. and Canadian governments have final say on water plan for Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River

Regardless of what water flow regulation strategy the International Joint Commission puts forward for the U.S. and Canadian governments' approval this fall, if either of the two governments rejects the commission's proposal, that decision is final.

July perch closure on Illinois waters of Lake Michigan rankles fishermen

Perch fishermen aren't stupid. Politically active or aware? Not really. But not stupid. They know when they are shut out of the process.

Potential state record whitefish caught in Lake Michigan off Sheboygan

An out-of-state angler on a Lake Michigan charter caught a 12 lb., 4 oz. lake whitefish. If approved by the DNR, Roy Stromsness of Sioux Falls, S.D. will have his name in the Wisconsin record books. The standing whitefish record is an 11 lb., 11 oz. fish caught in 1977 in Lake

-End-