



Comment period extended to Oct. 31 for Lake Michigan management plan

MADISON, Wis. – The long-term fisheries management plan for Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan waters is being updated and the Wisconsin DNR is extending the public comment period through the end of October to allow more stakeholders to provide feedback.

DNR fisheries biologists hosted four public meetings in early August in Peshtigo, Green Bay, Cleveland and Milwaukee.

“We received a lot of good feedback from the public that we will be able to use,” said Brad Eggold, Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor. “However, a number of folks in the charter fishing industry on the lake were unable to look over the plan and provide feedback this summer due to their heavy seasonal work schedule. We want to be sure that all those who want to provide feedback on this important 10-year plan have the opportunity to do so.”

The plan will guide Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan fisheries management for the next 10 years. “Over the last 10 years we have made good progress and accomplished much of what we set out to do in our previous plan.”

However, over the last decade Lake Michigan has undergone major ecological changes and is less productive due to the arrival and proliferation of the exotic quagga mussel. These small freshwater invertebrates remove large quantities of plankton as they filter the water, short circuiting the food chain and ultimately leaving less for prey fish to eat.

Beyond the difficulties caused by invasive species, a looming challenge involves the need to renovate the fish production system, including the Kettle Moraine State Fish Hatchery, which produces all the steelhead rainbow trout stocked in Lake Michigan.

“Given the challenges and opportunities before us, input from anglers and others is critical in developing a plan that keeps Lake Michigan healthy and reflects the interests of sport and commercial fishing interests,” Eggold said.

Many stakeholders attended the meetings to learn more and provide input on the plan. As reminder, attendees who spoke on the record will have their comments reflected in the final plan; others who attended and still wish to comment may do so by submitting feedback via email or mail. By extending the comment period from the end of August to October 31, DNR fisheries biologists aim to encourage comments from an even larger group. Comments can be sent by email to DNRLakeMichiganPlan@wisconsin.gov or by mail to: WDNR, Attn: David Boyarski, 110 S. Neenah Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

Comment period extended

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Michigan maps to help anglers

Are you looking for great places to go fishing? Or are you an avid angler who wants some inside information? Check out the various fishing-related maps the DNR makes available online to help you with your angling adventures!

Inland Lake Maps by County – There are more than 11,000 inland lakes in Michigan—and the DNR has maps for more than 2,700 of them! These maps can help with inland lake fishing efforts and highlight shore features, vegetation and other water body specifics. To access visit: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52261-67498--,00.html.

Inland Trout and Salmon Regulations Maps – These maps assist anglers in locating waters that

contain trout and salmon and the regulations that apply specifically to those waters. New maps just added this year include Designated Trout Streams Maps for the Upper and Lower peninsulas! To access visit: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52261-211883--,00.html.

Michigan Geographic Data Library – This website catalogs the available GIS (Geographic Information System) data the State of Michigan has available via the internet. Some areas of interest include Great Lakes shoreline, inland lake contours, and major watersheds. To access : <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/mgdl/>.

Michigan Maps

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IL DNR receives \$1.7 million grant to expand recreational access

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois DNR will provide additional hunting, fishing, boating and birding opportunities for youth and families thanks to a federal grant awarded to expand the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP).

The IDNR will receive a \$1.74 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program. The funds will allow the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to expand IRAP, a program that provides rental payments, habitat management plans and assistance on implementing restoration projects to landowners who agree to allow access for hunting, fishing, boat launching and other recreation.

"One of the priorities of our agency is to expand access for outdoor recreation, especially for young hunters and anglers," said IDNR Director Marc Miller. "With 95 percent of Illinois' land area in private ownership, finding a place to hunt, fish or enjoy nature has been a growing challenge."

During the IRAP program's first three years, 65 private landowners enrolled 13,000 acres in 29 counties. During this time, more than 300 young turkey hunters hunted on IRAP leased property, with more than half of these youngsters being first time turkey hunters. The majority of those young hunters did not have access to other hunting land. In addition, 75 habitat management plans have been or are in the process of being completed. Habitat management projects have been implemented on 3,100 acres of IRAP leased property.

"We are very excited about how these funds will help us add new hunting activities to the IRAP program," said IRAP Manager Tammy Miller. "We are constantly receiving requests to add additional hunting activities and now we can." The grant allows IRAP to be offered statewide. Previously, IRAP was

available in 68 counties in the Illinois and Kankakee watersheds.

The USDA made \$20 million available out of the \$40 million authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill for this round of applications. Selection was highly competitive, with 27 applications submitted requesting over \$60 million. Illinois was one of only 10 applicants to receive an award.

IDNR will begin enrolling landowners this fall. Youth and first-time hunters will be able to sign up for the expanded offerings in the summer of 2015. Like last year, youth turkey hunters will be able to sign up for spring turkey hunting this November.

For more info:
<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/irap/pages/default.aspx>. ✧

Comment period extended

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Details of the plan can be found by visiting DNR.wi.gov and searching for "[Lake Michigan plan](#)." Contacts: Brad Eggold, Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor, southern unit, Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov, 414-382-7921; David Boyarski, Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor, northern unit, David.Boyarski@wisconsin.gov, 920-746-2865; Jennifer Sereno, communications, 608-770-8084, Jennifer.Sereno@wisconsin.gov. ✧

Michigan Maps

Continued from page 1

Surface Water Information Management System (MiSWIMS) – This website is an interactive map-based system that allows users to view information about Michigan's surface water. Users are able to view and download data collected from surface water monitoring sites located throughout the state. To access visit: <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/miswims>

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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

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WI - Public interest in hook and line sturgeon season continues

Successful management practices, sturgeon rearing efforts pay dividends

MADISON – Wisconsin's efforts to re-establish the [lake sturgeon](#) in its natural range continue to advance, even as public interest grows in the majestic and valuable fish.

The [sturgeon hook and line season](#) runs from September 6-30 and this year the state has issued more than 28,000 licenses to anglers who intend to take to lakes and rivers of the state in pursuit of the fish. Interest in hook and line sturgeon fishing has been strong in recent years as efforts by the DNR to rebuild sturgeon populations continue to gain traction.

"Sturgeon are an iconic fish, especially in Wisconsin, and we are seeing more citizen interest in general about the fish as well as in sturgeon sport fishing," said Ron Bruch, DNR fisheries director and a former Lake Winnebago sturgeon biologist. "Thanks to the successful restoration efforts underway in many Wisconsin waterways, sturgeon enthusiasts have more opportunities to see or recreate with this prehistoric fish than they've had in the last 100 years.

"While it may take 33-45 years for the fish we are rearing today to reach the 60" limit for legal harvest in the fall hook and line fisheries, anglers tell us they are enjoying the excitement of catching and releasing fish stocked from our hatcheries only a few years ago. At the same time, we're providing numerous opportunities for students and volunteers to participate and learn more about the sturgeon—part of our state's rich natural heritage."

The Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery serves other waters in the state and has been producing as many as 40,000 sturgeon each year since the second phase of its renovation was completed in 2010.

"Fish from the Wild Rose hatchery now support restoration efforts in the upper Menominee River, the Flambeau Flowage, several upper St. Croix tributaries and much of the Wisconsin River" said Steve Fajfer, Hatchery Supervisor. A complete list of inland waters with a

hook and line sturgeon season can be found in the 2014-2015 [Fishing Regulations](#).

Wisconsin stands near the center of the lake sturgeon's historic range, which extends west into the Dakotas, east through the Great Lakes region, south through Missouri and Tennessee and north through Ontario to Hudson Bay.

"Lake sturgeon are Wisconsin's largest and longest-lived fish, capable of reaching 250 pounds and living 150 years," said Ryan Koenigs, chair of DNR's sturgeon team and sturgeon biologist for the Winnebago system. "Through effective harvest management, stocking efforts and attention to habitat, we're seeing populations on the rebound. However, since the female sturgeon won't begin spawning until age 21-34, we'll be looking to document the ultimate success of our efforts, natural reproduction by stocked fish, 30 years from when stocking was initiated on a body of water."

In the meantime, people of all ages appear drawn to the sturgeon for a variety of reasons. Scott Stromberger, a fisheries team member at the C.D. Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility on the Kewaunee River, said the hatchery started a sturgeon "adoption" program two years ago that allows citizens to help stock and track the fish through passive integrated transponder or pit tags inserted shortly before young fish are released. In years to come, if the fish are captured or harvested, the tags will provide insight into their growth and movement.

"For \$5, people are able to adopt a sturgeon and send it down a fish slide into the river when they are ready to be released," Stromberger said, noting that funds raised through the sturgeon adoption program are dedicated to restoration efforts. "Historically, the Kewaunee River provided excellent habitat but through over-fishing, the population was reduced. In another three to four years, we expect to see some males

from some of our initial stocking efforts 10 years ago make their way back into the river from Lake Michigan where they have been maturing."

In addition to the stocking efforts and habitat improvements, DNR fisheries biologists credit the more restrictive length limit of 60 inches instituted in 2007 for aiding in the rebound of the sturgeon population. Prior to establishment of the 60 inch limit, the annual harvest exceeded 30% of the adult population on some waters—an unsustainable level. With the limit, less than 5% of the adult population is now being harvested each year, a level considered safe to maintain natural reproduction.

For the 2014 sturgeon hook and line season, the minimum length for harvest remains at 60 inches. However, downstream from the Hattie Street dam to Green Bay on the Menominee River the fishing is catch and release only. There is also a catch and release season on the St. Croix River between Wisconsin and Minnesota from October 1 to 15.

Anglers need to purchase a harvest tag if they intend to keep a sturgeon. The harvest tag is available throughout the season and costs \$20 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. Harvest tags can be purchased at DNR service centers and license sales locations or by calling 1-877-WI LICENSE (1-877-945-4236). Online purchases are available by visiting DNR.wi.gov and searching for "fishing licenses."

Anglers who harvest a legal-size fish must immediately attach the harvest tag to the fish and take it to a registration station by 6 p.m. the next day for registration. All anglers must have a Wisconsin general inland fishing license unless they are under 16 years old, or were born before January 1, 1927.

More information is available by searching the DNR website www.dnr.wi.gov for "[lake sturgeon](#)."

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MI conservation officers emphasize tree-stand safety

Hunting from a tree stand is a popular way for hunters to enjoy their season, but nearly every year a Michigan hunter is seriously injured or killed falling out of a tree stand.

Before a hunt, know your equipment:

- Read instructions and warnings before using a tree stand and harness.
- Check the stand, straps and chains before you go out for signs of wear and tear or missing parts.
- Practice at ground level with your tree stand and harness with a friend or family member.
- Learn how to properly use your harness. The DNR recommends a full-body harness.
- Waist belts or upper body-only harnesses can cause serious injuries or death in a fall.

When scouting for a tree:

- Choose a healthy, straight tree that is the right size to hold you.
- Check the tree beforehand for insect nests or animal dens.
- Avoid using climbing stands on smooth-barked trees, especially during icy or wet weather.
- Clear debris from the base of the tree to minimize injury from a fall and to ensure a sturdy base

During your hunt:

- Tell a reliable person where you are hunting and when you can be expected to return.
- Wear a full-body harness and make sure it is connected to the tree at all times. If using a ladder stand or climbing sticks, attach the harness before securing the platform to the tree or stepping onto it.

- Climb higher than your stand and always step down onto your platform.
- Wear boots with non-slip soles.
- Never carry equipment when climbing—use a haul line to raise and lower equipment, unloaded firearm or bow. Do not attach the line near the trigger or trigger guard.
- Have emergency equipment: a knife, cellphone, flashlight and/or whistle.

Conservation officers responding to tree-stand falls see the same mistakes over and over. Nationally, 82% of hunters who fall from a tree stand are wearing a harness, but it's not connected. And 86% of tree-stand falls take place during the climb up or down. Harnesses and haul lines save lives. More info: www.tmastands.com.
✧

Lake Huron charter trips remain steady in 2013 As walleye catch rates soar

Michigan charter boat operators logged 1,536 trips on Lake Huron waters in 2013. Charter effort on Lake Huron has not increased much in recent years despite the fantastic walleye fishing and diverse salmon and trout catches.

The story of Lake Huron's "collapse" was widely reported in outdoor media, but now there is a new story that is getting national attention. [Lake Huron is back](#), but for some reason anglers have been slow to take advantage of the new opportunities offered. Charter fishing effort on Lake Huron dropped by 50% after the decline of alewife and Chinook salmon in the early 2000s, but despite improved fishing, anglers have yet to flock back to Lake Huron.

The Michigan DNR recently released [charter fishing catch and effort data](#) from Lake Huron waters during the 2013 season. In 2012, charter operators logged 1,594 trips, and this dropped slightly to 1,536 in 2013. The number of trips taken in 2013 was the second highest in the past five years but remained low relative to historic trip numbers of

2,200 to 3,200 per year.

What was most surprising about the 2013 season on Lake Huron was the continued improvement in the lake's booming walleye fishery. While Lake Erie is better known for offering up consistent walleye action, Lake Huron's charter fishing catch rates surpassed even Lake Erie in 2013. The average Lake Huron charter fishing party targeting walleye could expect to come home with nine walleye in the cooler in 2010 and release another three. Fishing has improved every year since, and in 2013, the average walleye trip produced 14 fish for the table and another 8 fish that were released. That is fantastic fishing by any standard!

While most of the walleye fishing is concentrated in Saginaw Bay, walleye are wanderers and can be found in good numbers at southern and northern Lake Huron ports as Saginaw Bay warms and walleye move into cooler waters. This means that salmon and trout anglers can pick up a bonus walleye from time to time.

The 2013 season also produced solid catch rates for salmon and trout,

with the average Lake Huron salmon and trout trip charter trip yielding four lake trout, two Chinook salmon, and one trout or salmon of another species. Lake Michigan catch rates fell in 2013, with the average salmon and trout trip yielding only slightly more fish than the average Lake Huron trip. The difference was mainly in the catch composition, with Lake Michigan anglers averaging three Chinook salmon, two lake trout, and two trout or salmon of another species per trip in 2013.

If charter customers start catching on to the quality fishing offered in Lake Huron, coastal communities could reap the benefits. Using an [economic calculator](#) developed by Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State U. in 2009, an estimate of charter fishing economic impacts in 2013 was produced. Over \$671,000 in personal income and 54,499 employment hours were generated by Michigan's charter fishing industry at Lake Huron ports in 2013; with a total economic output was \$1.82 million. ✧

U.P. salmon fishing workshop Sept. 26-27 for women

Offers opportunity to improve fly-fishing skills

The Michigan DNR will offer a salmon fishing workshop for women on September 26 and 27 in Mackinac County. Part of the DNR's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program, the workshop is for women that have previous fly-fishing experience and would like to expand on their abilities.

The workshop, starting at noon on Friday, September 26 and concluding at noon on Saturday, September 27, will be held at the [Carp River Campground](#), located about 15 miles north of St. Ignace, off I-75 and Mackinac Trail. It will be held rain or shine. The workshop will include fishing on the Carp River both days, with instruction on several topics, including equipment, knot refresher, casting skills, fly selection and fly fishing for salmon.

Participants are asked to bring their own fly-fishing equipment if they have it. A few rods will be available on-site. Previous experience with fly fishing is required for this program.

The cost for the workshop is \$90. Those who don't already have a fishing license will need to purchase one to attend; the cost is \$26 for an annual license or \$10 for a 24-hour license. Lodging and meals will not be provided, except for lunch on the first day. Participants may choose to camp on-site. Campsite fees are \$16, and reservations can be made by calling 877-444-6777 or visiting the [Carp River Campground page on Recreation.gov](#).

Participants must be 18 or older. Space is limited, and the deadline for registration is September 19. Class info and registration materials are available online at www.michigan.gov/bow, and the registration fee can be paid online at www.michigan.gov/estore. For more info: Sharon Pitz at 906-228-6561 or pitzs@michigan.gov. ✧

Mich passes Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act

On August 27th, the Michigan House voted to approve the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. The Act, which was brought to legislature by Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management, gives the state's Natural Resources Commission the ability to name game species, designates \$1 million in rapid response fund to prevent aquatic invasive species, and provides free hunting and fishing licenses for active-duty military members.

"MBHA is excited and proud of our legislators for passing this act into law," said Tim Dusterwinkle, president of the Michigan Bear Hunter Association. "Hunters and anglers in Michigan trust the DNR professional biologists to effectively manage our game species."

The **Michigan Natural Resource Commission Initiative** will not appear on the [November 4, 2014, ballot in Michigan as an indirect initiated state statute](#) because the [legislature](#) approved the initiative.

The Act was presented to the legislature after sportsmen's organizations, fed up with the barrage of anti-hunting ballot initiatives, collected nearly 300,000 signatures. Because it was submitted to the legislature by sportsmen and women, the measure does not require the approval of Governor Rick Snyder before becoming law.

"While Michigan will still face the two November 4th ballot referendums on wolves, this measure removes their sting as the state's Natural Resource Commission now has the authority to designate game species using sound science, not anti-hunting politics," said Evan Heusinkveld, USSA's vice president of government affairs. "Our system of wildlife management is designed to be free of politics and anti-hunting rhetoric. Passage of this bill clearly demonstrates that Michigan will no longer allow out-of-state, anti-hunting organizations to misuse the ballot box to further their agenda." ✧

Brook trout on two lakes to be boosted by lake reclamations

The Michigan DNR announced plans to conduct lake reclamations in October to restore the trout fisheries of Bullhead and Dillingham lakes in Luce County, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Bullhead Lake is a five acre lake stocked annually with brook trout since 1993. Its fishery provides diversity to anglers in this area.

Dillingham Lake is a 16-acre lake stocked with brook trout since 1950. This lake has yielded many quality brook trout over the years and has become a very popular destination for anglers seeking larger fish.

Both lakes currently have undesirable stunted yellow perch populations, which are detrimental because they out-compete brook trout for the same forage resources. Unless these perch are removed, future brook trout management in these lakes will not be successful. Netting is not a viable option because this process would only remove a sub-portion of the population.

To conduct the lake reclamations, field crews will apply rotenone that will reduce all fish populations in these lakes so brook trout restocking efforts next spring will be successful. Rotenone is a natural substance which is not harmful to birds or mammals at the concentrations used for treatments, and because the compound breaks down fairly quickly, it does not accumulate in the soil, water or plants.

When DNR Fisheries Division presented these proposed treatments at public meetings this past spring, no opposition was voiced by those who attended. ✧

PA students back to school; Schools back on target

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is looking to kick off the 2014-15 school year in a big way. The National Archery in the Schools Program is entering its 13th year in 2014. And, once again, schools have the opportunity to join the program at a fraction of the actual cost. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is offering \$1,500 equipment grants to help schools get the program up and running, and also will train staff and parents who want to become instructors.

Schools looking to bring new programming to students might want to give archery a try, said Todd Holmes, NASP coordinator for Pennsylvania. It's fun, safe and exciting, and enables students to build new friendships, he said. "The NASP program gives students an opportunity to explore the sport of archery, all while in a school setting," Holmes said. "It brings something new to traditional physical-education classes and, as the students find out, anyone of any ability can become a successful archer."

Pennsylvania now has more than 170 schools and more than 45,000 students participating in the NASP program. Nationally, more than 12 million student archers from more than 12,000 schools have participated in classroom archery instruction through NASP, with more than 30,000 trained instructors guiding them.

For more info: contact Holmes at 717-787-4250, X 3330, or toholmes@pa.gov. ✧

MN fall grouse season opens Sept. 13

Picture yourself walking on a trail through stands of young aspen trees with blazing yellow leaves overhead. The fall air is crisp. Shotgun in hand, you're enjoying a hike while hunting grouse—Minnesota's most popular game bird. [Full Story](#) ✧

PA paddlers need to get launch permits

Paddlers planning kayaking and canoeing trips are reminded that a launch permit or boat registration is required to use access areas owned by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and at state park and state forest access areas operated by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

"The popularity of unpowered boats, including canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards, is growing in the Commonwealth and nationwide," said Corey Britcher, Director of the PFBC Bureau of Law Enforcement.

Users can also choose to register their unpowered boat for \$18. Boat registrations are issued for 2-year periods and expire on March of the second year. PFBC launch permits and boat registrations are also valid in state parks and state forests. Users can also purchase a DCNR launch or mooring permit, which is valid at PFBC properties. Visit the [DCNR website](#) for more information. Paddlers using PFBC access areas without valid launch permits or boat registrations are subject to a \$75 fine.

Launch permits are available online through the PFBC's Outdoor [Shop](#), at PFBC region offices, authorized issuing agents and many state park offices. More information is available by calling the PFBC's toll-free registration hot-line 866-BOATREG (866-262-8734) or by visiting the PFBC [website](#). ✧

Steelheaders donations to GLSFC

Occasionally the GLSFC receives donations to fund its operating expenses, in addition to the dues received annually from its members. The Detroit Area Steelheaders, has traditionally, supplemented its annual dues with a sizable donation. This year was no exception and the Council wishes to publicly acknowledge their generous donation again. Our thanks to the folks in the Detroit Area Steelheaders for their generosity again this year. ✧

Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience VI, Sept. 20-21

The sixth annual Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience, free to all participants, returns to Indianapolis' Fort Harrison State Park, Sept. 20-21.

As in previous years, there will be activities for almost everyone, from archery and target shooting to mountain biking, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and much more, all free. You can also bring your own food, although food will be available for purchase at reasonable prices.

The Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience, which runs 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day that weekend, is presented by the DNR and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation. The goal is to introduce people to outdoor activities they may have never tried.

Online advance registration at hoosieroutdoorexperience.IN.gov is requested to assist the presenters and activity providers with staffing and planning. ✧

NY 2013-14 Freshwater Fishing Regs good thru March 31, 2015

The current New York (2013-14) freshwater fishing regulations will extend through March, 2015. New freshwater fishing regs will take effect April 1, 2015 and a new regulations guide will be available at that time.

Anglers should continue to refer to the 2013-14 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide for the fishing regulations in effect through March 31, 2015. The Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide is available from all license issuing agents, DEC regional offices and on-line at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html. The current regulations are also available on the new free New York Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife mobile app. The proposed new regulations will be available for public review and comment in mid-September at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html. ✧

Wisconsin's First Crossbow Season Opens Sept. 13

MADISON – With fall right around the corner, September 13 marked the opening of the 2014 archery and crossbow deer hunting seasons. These seasons will run concurrently statewide, from September 13 to January 4, 2015.

"For those of us who love to bow hunt, it's an exciting time of the year and anticipation runs high," said Bob Nack, big game section chief for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The new crossbow season, open to all hunters with an appropriate license, will create a new hunting opportunity for many hunters throughout Wisconsin.

Hunters interested in using both a conventional bow and crossbow may do so by paying full price for one of the licenses and purchasing a \$3 upgrade for the second license. Archery and crossbow deer hunters will again be allowed to hunt during the regular nine-day gun deer hunt in November, and will have the opportunity to fill a gun deer license tag using crossbow or archery equipment. Hunters will see a mix of deer numbers across the state, depending on which zones they hunt. Those in the new Farmland Deer Management Zones should expect to see comparatively more deer than those hunting in the Forest Zones, where deer numbers are down.

In 2013, more than 266,000 licensed archery hunters harvested almost 88,000 deer, compared to 263,000 archery hunters and 94,000 deer harvested in 2012. During any open gun deer seasons, archery and crossbow hunters are required to follow the same blaze orange clothing regulations as gun hunters. All deer hunters are reminded to be especially careful when climbing into and out of deer stands—state recreational safety specialists say statistics show this is when most injuries occur.

For more info: www.dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "deer." ✧

BOW backpacking workshop Nov. 7-9

The Michigan DNR will offer a backpacking workshop for women November 7-9. Part of the DNR's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program, the workshop is designed for women who have previous backpacking experience or training and would like to expand on their skills and abilities.

The workshop will start at 2 p.m., Nov. 7, with a gear check/trip orientation at [Van Riper State Park](#) in Champion. Participants will then drive to the trailhead at nearby [Craig Lake State Park](#) and hit the trail.

The workshop will be held rain, shine or snow. The cost is \$150, which includes lodging and all meals except lunches. Participants will stay in a 14-bed cabin. www.mdnr-licence.com/.

Participants must be 18 or older. Enrollment is limited to 14, and the deadline for registration is Friday, October 17. Class information and registration materials are available online at www.michigan.gov/bow.

For more info: Sharon Pitz 906-228-6561 or pitzs@michigan.gov. ✧

WDNR's e-registration pilot program

What this means for you!

Registering your deer just got even easier with e-registration. Wisconsin's e-registration pilot program is kicking off in 2014, and some randomly selected hunters will have the opportunity to test the electronic registration program. In 2015, e-registration will be made available to all hunters. Those selected for this season's pilot program joined DNR experts on Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 12 p.m. for an online chat. **If you have not been selected for this season's pilot program, please continue to register your deer as you have in the past.**

To learn more about e-registration, visit dnr.wi.gov, search keyword "[deer](#)" and click the link for the [rule changes FAQ document](#). ✧

PA public hearing Sept 17 on proposed striped bass changes

Anglers who fish for striped bass in the Delaware River are encouraged to attend a meeting on September 17 in Bristol, Bucks County, to provide comments on a draft amendment to the interstate fishery management plan for Atlantic striped bass.

"Numerous anglers have expressed concerns with declining catch rates of striped bass," said Leroy Young, PFBC Director of the Bureau of Fisheries. "It is likely that any ASMFC action on the Striped Bass Addendum will have impacts on Pennsylvania's regulations for striped bass in the Delaware River and estuary, as well as the ocean and back-bay fisheries in New Jersey and Delaware.

Meeting info: Sept. 17, 2014, 6 p.m., Silver Lake Nature Center, www.silverlakenaturecenter.org, 1306 Bath Rd, Bristol, PA

Public comment will be accepted until 5 p.m. (EST) on September 30, 2014, and should be forwarded to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at mwaine@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Addendum IV). ✧

MN DNR land sale slated for October 9

The Minnesota DNR will offer land for sale at an auction in Virginia, October 9. The DNR plans to offer 30 parcels, all located in N.E. Minnesota. The parcels range in acreage from .50 acres to 102 acres and offer various opportunities for hunting, recreation and cabin and residential development along prime lakeshore in northern Minnesota. The auction will be held in conjunction with St. Louis County's tax forfeited land sale. Parcels will be offered at oral auction at 11 a.m. (10 a.m. registration) at Miners' Memorial Building, 821 S. 9th Ave., Virginia. For more info click: [online](#). ✧

DNR monitors grass carp on Lake Erie

The Michigan DNR and several state, provincial and federal natural resources agencies conducted an extensive field exercise in western Lake Erie September 9-11 to test response capabilities for invasive bighead and silver carp.

This field exercise allowed participating agencies to test methods that might be employed in responding to an inter-jurisdictional aquatic invasive species issue. This response exercise also will increase participating agencies' knowledge of grass carp in western Lake Erie. There are no known populations of bighead or silver carp in Lake Erie. Grass carp have been reported occasionally since 1984, but a more concerted effort to understand frequency of occurrence, reproductive status and origin was initiated by agencies in western Lake Erie in 2010. Michigan and Ohio commercial fishers have been important partners in this effort.

The goal is to collect information that may be used in the future to effectively plan response efforts. ✧

Mich Harbors Guide

This publication is designed to offer information, location and amenities of Michigan's many harbors. It provides an aerial photograph and short description of each harbor to offer you a view of what to expect while traveling on Michigan's waters. It is designed to be printed and stored in a 3-ring binder. The entire guide is available below as a full resolution PDF and a reduced resolution PDF with a smaller file size for slower internet connections.

This guide is not intended for navigational use. Refer to your lake charts as a guide for navigational information. Select harbors can be reserved through the central reservation system. Reservations may be made for all dates up to six months in advance of arrival. Download Guide: [Michigan Harbors Guide](#) For reservations: 800-44-PARKS or www.midnrreservations.com. ✧

Upgrades for NY's Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch

To support improved access to Upper Saranac Lake, \$475,000 in upgrades will be made to the Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch. The upgrades, funded by NY Works, will be completed prior to the 2015 Memorial Day Weekend.

The boat launch, located at the intersection of County 46 and Back Bay Road, is one of two public boat launches that provide access to Upper Saranac Lake. The planned improvements include:

- Adding a new 2 lane boat ramp
- Adding new floating docks
- Paving the ramp entrance and parking area
- Upgrading bathroom facility
- Adding a boat rinse station to flush out bilges, live wells and areas containing water

The renovated boat launch will be open prior to Memorial Day 2015. ✧

DEC early bear hunting seasons opens Sept 6

New York early bear hunting seasons opened on September 6, in portions of New York's southern zone and September 13, in the northern zone. The new early firearms bear season runs from September 6-21 in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 3A, 3C, 3H, 3J, 3K, 3M, 3P, 3R, 4P, and 4R. The early bowhunting season for bears will then open in all of the Southern Zone on October 1, followed by the regular firearms season beginning November 15.

Hunting & Trapping regulation guides are available at license issuing outlets, and online: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html. For more info: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7857.html. Additionally, DEC's booklet *Hunting the Black Bear in New York* (www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/bhunting10.PDF), includes tips on bear hunting and proper care of harvested bears. ✧

The Pike River Revival is coming Sept 20

Mark your calendar for September 20th starting at 8:00 am, "Pets Park, Ct A, Parking Lot, Shelter #6".

The goal for the Pike River Revival is to bring awareness of the Pike River to the community. The Pike River is an essential part of our ecosystem. Brown trout, steelhead, and Chinook salmon try to spawn in this river every year. Unfortunately this is very difficult, if not impossible because this river has been clogged with debris for years. This debris prevents the natural flow of the river and as a result the natural migration of the fish.

If you would like to learn more about this annual event organized by the Kenosha Sportfishing & Conservation Association go to <http://www.kenoshasportfishing.com/> and click on the Pike River Revival tab in the main menu.

If you would like to support this clean-up effort but are unable to attend, we accept donations to help offset the cost of this activity. For those individuals who would like to attend, there are a variety ways to help, from picking up trash along the river bank in the park to getting in your waders and pulling debris directly out of the river. Contact Jim Zondlak so that he can plan and coordinate accordingly. Jim can be reached via email at prez@kenoshasportfishing.com, 262-620-1234. Let us know how many volunteers you have and how you would like to participate in the clean-up. ✧

IL Youth Deer Permits

Resident and non-resident Illinois Youth Firearm Deer permits are now available over-the-counter from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. The Youth Deer Hunt is Columbus Day weekend, October 11 through October 13. <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/waterfowl/Pages/OnlinePermitApplication.aspx> ✧

IL Police cite businesses that violate invasive species laws Fines total nearly \$30,000 for violations of permit requirements

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Three out-of-state businesses have been prosecuted for violating Illinois laws governing the importation of fish species that can become invasive, or can potentially spread Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). Investigations by the Illinois Conservation Police have resulted in fines of nearly \$30,000 with the potential for additional fines as the remaining case is adjudicated.

Realistic Bait, LLC / Owner Phillip Taylor, Lowell, Indiana

Realistic Bait, LLC unlawfully imported minnows and grass carp into Illinois without required permits. Realistic Bait, LLC also did not possess a non-resident aquatic life dealer's license, VHS import permit, or restricted species permit. Investigation revealed the company was delivering baitfish to seven different businesses in Will and Grundy counties. Fines totaled \$4,000.

Sweetwater Springs Fish Farm / Owner Mark Eikenberry, Peru, Ind.
In 2012 Sweetwater Springs Fish Farm and owner, Mark Eikenberry, were supplying grass carp, bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, striped bass, bighead carp, tilapia, eels, and turtles to Chicago markets. Eikenberry did not have a VHS or Restricted Species permit. Fines totaled \$25,000.

Farm Cat, Inc. / Owner Thad Finley, Lonoke, Arkansas

In February of 2014, Farm Cat, Inc. had delivered live channel catfish to a Chicago fish market without a VHS import permit and non-resident aquatic life dealer's license. Charges against Farm Cat, Inc. and owner, Thad Finley, are currently pending. ✧

HunterEdCourse.com offers new option for MI online hunter education

A third official Michigan online hunter education course is now available at www.hunteredcourse.com/state/michigan.

A Michigan-based company, Hunter Ed Course offers its online hunter education course for \$17.99. The course features lessons on safe, legal and responsible hunting practices and uses narration, closed captioning, interactive exercises and photos that replicate what a hunter will see in the field.

As with all of Michigan's online hunter safety course options, after taking the online course, students are required to attend the field/skills day portion of a traditional class and take the student examination in order to receive their hunter safety certificates.

"We're pleased to partner with Hunter Ed Course to offer Michigan residents another option for their hunter education classwork," said DNR hunter education program supervisor Sgt. Tom Wanless. "We encourage students considering an online course to get their field day scheduled soon so that they'll be ready to head out into the field in the fall."

Students will need to pre-register for the field/skills day before taking the online course. Upon passing the online course, they will be eligible to complete the field day with an instructor and take the written exam. Students can search for a class in their area and find more information about Michigan's hunter education program www.michigan.gov/huntereducation.

Michigan hunter education is required for all hunters born after January 1, 1960. A hunter safety certificate is required to purchase a Michigan hunting license. ✧

Wis Hunting and Trapping Forecast available

With a number of 2014 fall hunting and trapping seasons just around the corner, the Wisconsin DNR will once again offer a [Fall Hunting and Trapping Forecast](#). The fall forecast provides a great deal of information and helpful tips for all types of hunting and trapping. To view this year's hunting and trapping forecast, visit www.dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "forecast."

Highlights for the 2014 fall season include the [FFLIGHT Program](#) and [new early teal season](#). Customers may reach customer service at 1-888-WDNR INFO (1-888-936-7463) or by e-mail at csw@wisconsin.gov. ✧

Waterfowl dates approved by Ohio

Ohio's waterfowl hunting zones were simplified for waterfowl hunters after the 2014-2015 season dates and bag limits were approved on August 20. Opening day for duck and goose hunting is Saturday, October 18, in the Lake Erie Marsh Zone and Saturday, October 25, in the North and South zones. See the [2014-2015 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons](#) for more waterfowl hunting information, including zone maps. ✧

IL Archery Deer and Fall Turkey Permits

Resident combination archery deer permits, resident antlerless-only archery deer permits, and resident archery fall turkey hunting permits are available over-the-counter from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. The remaining non-resident 2014 Illinois combination archery deer permits, as well as non-resident antlerless-only archery deer permits and non-resident archery fall turkey permits are now available over-the-counter. Find a vendor near you at: <http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/VendorListing.aspx>. ✧

Big Green Lake proposed for landlocked Atlantic salmon stocking

GREEN LAKE, Wis. – A freshwater salmon sought by some anglers for its fight and "catchability" is being considered for possible introduction into Wisconsin waters through an effort involving Green Lake area stakeholders and the Wisconsin DNR.

The landlocked Atlantic salmon has previously been introduced to inland lakes in Maine and Michigan and a four-year initiative to stock the fish in Big [Green Lake](#) is being proposed by the Green Lake Coldwater Fish Advisory Committee. The proposal has been reviewed by DNR's Fish Management Board and was opened for public comment with an information meeting and hearing on September 9 in Green Lake.

David Bartz, the local DNR fisheries biologist assisting with the evaluation efforts, said the Green Lake group's proposal to stock the fish holds strong appeal for some anglers, but the initiative requires careful consideration to ensure no harm would come to the area's already healthy fishery, including the lake's native cisco population. To that end, DNR has prepared a draft environmental impact statement and is inviting public comment on the proposed introduction.

Under the proposed stocking project, juvenile landlocked Atlantic salmon would be scatter planted in several locations on Big Green Lake. The stocked fish, which would be certified as disease-free under DNR and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection rules, would not be expected to reproduce at sustainable levels although some natural reproduction has been seen in Michigan.

Unlike coho and Chinook salmon that die after spawning, the landlocked Atlantic salmon survive, with some living up to 14 years. The fish readily eat mayfly nymphs, small bluegills, perch and minnows as well as cisco. Depending on the availability of forage, they typically reach 17 to 18 inches and weigh 2 to

4 pounds within two to three years. The current world record fish, a 26-pound, 12-ounce female, was caught and released about three years ago in Torch Lake near Traverse City, Mich.

Bartz said the salmon could compete with brown trout, so current brown trout stocking efforts would be suspended during the four year trial. Under current fishing regulations, the landlocked Atlantic salmon would be treated as "other trout," with a 14 inch minimum size and a daily bag limit of three.

If the project goes forward, adjustments in size, bag limits and other regulations could be recommended in the future based on stocking and monitoring results. The proposed introduction would not affect fishing regs for existing fish.

Following completion of the environmental impact statement review, the Green Lake committee would apply for a stocking permit and any other necessary approvals. All permits and approvals would be obtained prior to stocking.

A copy of DNR's [draft environmental impact statement for introduction of the landlocked Atlantic salmon \[PDF\]](#) can be found on the DNR website dnr.wi.gov by searching for "[Current environmental impact analysis documents](#)." Copies also may be obtained from DNR's Wautoma office by calling 920-787-4686.

Public comments on the draft environmental impact statement may be submitted to David Bartz by mail or e-mail no later than 4:30 p.m. on September 22, 2014. Send email to David.Bartz@wisconsin.gov or mail to 427 E. Tower Drive, Suite 100, Wautoma, WI, 54982-6927.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: David Bartz, fisheries biologist, 920-787-3016, david.bartz@Wisconsin.gov; Kendall Kamke, (920) 424-7880, kendall.kamke@wisconsin.gov; Jennifer Sereno, communications, 608-770-8084, Jennifer.Sereno@wisconsin.gov. ✧

WI - Fall turkey, grouse and woodcock seasons open

MADISON – Prospects are good for both the fall wild turkey and ruffed grouse hunting seasons, both of which opened September 13.

In 2014, Wisconsin has seen continued strong interest in the fall turkey hunt. More than 80,000 hunters applied for a fall permit in each of the past two years, compared to just under 60,000 applications in 2012. The DNR is anticipating good numbers for this fall's hunt.

The fall turkey season runs through November 20 statewide, while an extended fall season in Turkey Management zones 1-5 runs December 1-31. ✧

IL Wingshooting Clinics

The IDNR and participating partners sponsor wingshooting clinics to help improve the shooting skills of participants. Youth/Women's clinics are designed to teach participants basic firearm safety and the fundamentals of wingshooting. Hunter clinics are designed to enhance the wingshooting skills of hunters and provide sound wingshooting practice techniques. Clinics will be conducted through late October. For a complete schedule: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/programs/wingshooting/WingshootingDates.htm>. ✧

Hunting and Trapping Digest 2014-15

The Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2014-2015 edition is now available at many IDNR license and permit vendor locations and state sites. The digest is also posted online in PDF format through the IDNR website at this link: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/HuntingTrappingDigests.aspx>. ✧

Michigan state parks celebrate fall with harvest festivals

As temperatures cool down and summer camping transitions into fall camping, more than 30 Michigan state parks and recreation areas are preparing their fall harvest festivals. These events feature fall-themed, family-oriented activities such as pumpkin carving, costume contests, trick-or-treating and much more. Each park puts its own personal spin on the celebrations, so no two events are exactly the same.

Below are just a few upcoming harvest festivals that may still have camping availability. Events marked with an asterisk (*) are for registered campers only:

Sept. 20

- [Fort Wilkins Historic State Park](#) - campsite decorating, trick-or-treating, geocaching and food

Sept. 26-27

- [Proud Lake Recreation Area*](#) - hay rides, games, campsite decorating, trick-or-treating and more
- [Wells State Park*](#) - a variety of Halloween-themed activities, including pumpkin painting, horse-drawn carriage rides

Sept. 26-28

- [Seven Lakes State Park*](#) - trick-or-treating, games, campsite decorating and prizes

Sept. 27

- [Bay City State Recreation Area*](#) - campsite decorating, games and fun
- [Bay City State Recreation Area](#) - trick-or-treating at the day-use area
- [Leelanau State Park](#) - a farmers market, pancake breakfast, lunch, fresh apple cider, interactive demonstrations and games
- [North Higgins Lake State Park](#) - fall festival activities

will begin at 8 a.m. and continue throughout the day

- [Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park](#) - pumpkin-lit trail open to the public for self-guided hikes

Sept. 27-28

- [Brimley State Park*](#) - a haunted house and many more seasonal activities (only the haunted house is open to non-campers)

Oct. 3-4

- [Proud Lake Recreation Area*](#) - hay rides, games, campsite decorating, trick-or-treating and more seasonal fun
- [South Higgins Lake State Park](#) - hay ride, haunted forest, costume ball, campsite decorating

Oct. 3-5

- [Holland State Park*](#) - campsite decorating, pumpkin decorating, trick-or-treating, games and crafts (limited camping availability)
- [Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park](#) - live music, costume contest, trick-or-treating and haunted headquarters
- [Lakeport State Park*](#) - campsite decorating contest, costume contest, trick-or-treating
- [Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area*](#) - pumpkin decorating, arts and crafts, costume parade, trick-or-treating
- [Otsego Lake State Park*](#) - campsite decorating contest, pumpkin painting, face and fingernail painting, T-shirt craft
- [Seven Lakes State Park*](#) - trick-or-treating, games, campsite decorating

- [Sleeper State Park*](#) - arts and crafts, costume parade, pumpkin chucking, trick-or-treating, campsite decoration contest

Oct. 4

- [Bay City State Recreation Area*](#) - campsite decorating, games
- [Bay City State Recreation Area](#) - trick-or-treating at the day-use area
- [Fayette Historic State Park](#) - hay rides, Halloween-style fun, campsite decorating and kids' activities that adults will enjoy too
- [Hartwick Pines State Park*](#) - campsite decorating, trick-or-treating for the kids, hay rides
- [Wilson State Park*](#) - pumpkin carving, hay rides, and trick-or-treating

Oct. 4-5

- [Aloha State Park](#) - kids' activities, trick-or-treating, chili cook-off and site decorating, sponsored by Fernelius Auto Group
- [Brimley State Park*](#) - a haunted house and many more seasonal activities (only the haunted house is open to non-campers)

For information about a specific event, please visit the online [Calendar of Events](#) or contact the park directly. To see a full list of fall harvest festivals, visit www.michigan.gov/gogetoutdoors, and select "Harvests and Haunts."

Most harvest festival activities are free for registered campers, and some are open to the public, but a Recreation Passport is required, and camping fees apply. To check camping availability and make a reservation, visit www.midnrreservations.com or 800-447-2757. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Minnesota lake first in nation to use new product to kill zebra mussels](#)

A small Minnesota lake is on the forefront of the national effort to kill off the zebra mussels that threaten lakes and rivers around the country

[More federal funding on the way to combat algae in lake](#)

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) announced \$12 million in new federal funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) last week to combat algal blooms and improve water quality. The funds will help expand monitoring and forecasting of Lake Erie, while increasing incentives for farmers in the watershed to implement conservation practices that reduce runoff.

[Lake Huron surpasses 95-year average](#)

Water levels on Lakes Huron and Michigan have surpassed the 95-year average for September with no signs of slowing down just yet.

[Lake Erie's algal blooms intensively studied on the water, and from space](#)

Ohio Sea Grant research coordinator Dr. Justin Chaffin is in the middle of the maelstrom of harmful algal blooms, or HABs, erupting around Lake Erie. Intensively sampling the big lake waters from the Bass Islands to Avon Lake this week, Chaffin said it's too early to

[US approves expansion of Great Lakes sanctuary](#)

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in northern Michigan has received federal approval to expand its size nearly tenfold and boost the preservation of scores of sunken vessels in an area of Lake Huron once known as "Shipwreck Alley."

[Ohio plans to stop Asian carp from reaching Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair](#)

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources recently published The Asian Carp Tactical Plan, 2014-2020, which details the strategies adopted by the state to prevent Asian carp from reaching Lake Erie and the rest of the Great Lakes.

[Ashtabula River recovery opens door for steelhead trout](#)

It has taken decades and almost \$100 million, but the Ashtabula River cleanup has been completed. Now it's time to convert the former industrial waterway into a great destination for steelhead trout fishing.

[New state law to create fine for not cleaning boats](#)

Boaters who don't wash their boats before entering New York waterways will soon face fines under a bill signed Tuesday by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The regulation is meant to combat invasive species that can cause harm to waterways are often transported between waterways by boats.

[Labor Day signals end of summer, arrival of Lake Erie yellow perch season; here's where to catch them](#)

When Labor Day rolls around, a Lake Erie fisherman's fancy often turns to schools of chunky yellow perch moving in along the shoreline. The perch are most plentiful in spring and fall, and a favorite for generations of area anglers.

[Invasive spiny waterflea confirmed in Lake Champlain](#)

The arrival of the invasive spiny water flea into Lake Champlain, which invaded the Great Lakes in the 1980s, has been officially confirmed by regional scientists.

[Bait dumping offers invaders path to Great lakes](#)

Inadequate regulation of the bait fish trade and carelessness on the part of anglers may be allowing invasive species — including widely feared Asian carp — to reach the Great Lakes and inland waterways, according to a scientific paper released Thursday.

[Debate ongoing over fish farming in the Great Lakes](#)

One draft paper suggests a billion dollar industry is possible in Michigan. That would mean large fish pens out on the open waters of the Great Lakes.

[Stabenow announces funds to protect Great Lakes](#)

Senator Debbie Stabenow has announced that the USDA is offering up two-million dollars to preserve water quality in the Great Lakes.

[Why one Illinois company got in on the carp-rendering business](#)

Purging the nation's waterways of Asian carp isn't about balancing nature. It's about making money. A company called American Heartland Fish Products is the latest to venture into the small but growing business of carp-rendering, and their experiment offers another

End