



## Fishery Commission Lauds Oval Office Commitment to Asian Carp Prevention

*Trump-Whitmer-Hall Meeting Yields Renewed Optimism That Prevention Project Will Proceed*

**ANN ARBOR, MI**—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission today lauded Wednesday’s Oval Office discussion among President Donald Trump, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and Michigan House Speaker Matt Hall about the need to prevent the migration of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. The Commission has been part of a determined, bi-partisan effort to keep these harmful, invasive species out of the Great Lakes, and Wednesday’s conversation gives renewed hope that key projects, like the one underway at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, will be completed as planned.

“Asian carps would devastate the Great Lakes fishery if they were allowed to enter the system,” said Commission Chairman Ethan Baker, who is also the Mayor of Troy, Michigan. “We must do everything we can to keep them out. The multi-billion-dollar fishery is at stake.”

“Asian carp” collectively refers to three species of fish—bighead, silver, and black carp—that are native to Asia and that escaped accidentally into public waterways in the southern United States decades ago; they have been making their way towards the

Great Lakes ever since, with a manmade canal system near the Chicago area being the riskiest pathway. The carps were originally raised for food and as a natural way to keep bodies of water free of algae and other aquatic vegetation. An electrical barrier exists near Romeoville, Illinois to impede the movement, and a major project, the retrofitting of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, is designed to be an innovative, impenetrable layer of defense.

**GLFC Lauds Oval Office Commitment** *cont’d on page 9*

### Sea lamprey control program receives OK to rehire federal workers

The Great Lakes’ sea lamprey control program has the OK to rehire three dozen federal employees it needs to combat the eel-like, invasive fish species. That’s after staffing cuts and hiring freezes from the Trump administration last month [threatened the work](#), which the Great Lakes Fishery Commission said would have led to more than \$200 million in lost fishing potential.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is a Canadian-American commission which coordinates lamprey control across the Great Lakes region. Each year, the commission contracts workers with the USFWS to set traps and apply lampricide in rivers, stopping lamprey before they enter the Great Lakes. But the Trump administration’s firing of probationary workers and freeze on season hiring jeopardized the program’s operation, which typically runs from April to October.

Greg McClinchey, director of policy and legislative affairs for the

GLFC, says the organization now has permission to hire back all those workers: 12 probationary and 25 seasonal. “It’s good news. There is positive momentum,” McClinchey said. “We’re five or six weeks behind schedule, but everybody’s working hard to see if we can’t get things as much back on track as is possible.”

Despite the OK, McClinchey said it’s still unclear how many workers will actually choose to return. Some may have already taken other jobs and training new workers takes time, setting things back even more.

It’s not yet clear what impact those hurdles could have on lamprey numbers. “We’re still in the process of assessing what, if any, impact [there] will be. Even if they all came back, 100%, the impact will be a delay in the start,” he said. “The hope is still that we will commence as early as possible. The plan is to model the program as closely as we can after what we have done traditionally.” ✦

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## Sturgeon Spawning Season is almost here

It's almost time!

Lake sturgeon from the Winnebago System are getting ready to make their spawning run up the Wolf River to the Shawano Dam. Some sturgeon have also been seen staging on the Peshtigo River, waiting for the right conditions to spawn.



Lake sturgeon usually spawn when water temperatures reach about 53 degrees Fahrenheit. However, when water levels are low (like this year), they might not start spawning until water temperatures are closer to 60 degrees. The current water temperatures in the system are hovering around 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Once the lake sturgeon begin making their spawning run up the Wolf River, there are several locations where they can be seen up close, including:

- [Wolf River Sturgeon Trail](#) (near New London)
- Hwy 156 (near the Navarino State Wildlife Area)
- [Bamboo Bend at Shiocton](#)
- [Shawano Dam in Shawano](#)

If you do head out during the spawn, don't forget to grab a pair of polarized sunglasses. These will help reduce the glare from the water and allow you to get a better look at the lake sturgeon. Can't make it out to see them in person? Check out these underwater camera feeds from [Bamboo Bend in Shiocton](#) and [the Shawano Dam](#).

In a few weeks, you may also see lake sturgeon spawning on the [lower Fox River in De Pere](#), *cont'd col. 2*

## Wildlife, fisheries on the agenda for DNR's April meetings

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

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

- [Michigan State Waterways Commission](#) – April 29, 9 a.m. (Contact: Michelle Wieber, 517-285-0747).
- [Upper Au Sable River Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee](#) – April 22, 9:30 am (Contact: Matt Klungle, 989-889-4832).
- [Upper Peninsula Habitat Workgroup](#) – April 29, 10 a.m. (Contact: Stacy Welling Haughey, 906-226-1331). ✧

## Are boat buyers aging across the U.S.?

Boaters in the U.S. are getting old — a recent study indicates median age is now over 60 years old. There are more boaters who are 70 than there are boaters who are 40. ✧

*cont'd from col. 1*

[the lower Peshtigo River in Peshtigo](#) and the Chippewa River. Daily spawning updates will also be posted to the [DNR's Lake Sturgeon Spawning webpage](#) throughout the spawning season. ✧



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### Position Statement

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

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## Adult trout stocked in Clinton and Huron rivers, Spring Mill Pond

Approximately 4,250 adult trout were stocked recently by the Michigan DNR in the Huron River (Proud Lake Recreation Area, Oakland County) and Spring Mill Pond (Island Lake Recreation Area, Livingston County) in southeast Michigan. These fish are retired broodstock from Michigan's state fish hatcheries.

- The Huron River, downstream of the Proud Lake Dam, was stocked with approximately 1,950 brown trout and 1,350 rainbow trout, all ranging in size from 13 inches to 19 inches.
- Spring Mill Pond was stocked with approximately 450 brown trout and 500 rainbow trout, also ranging from 13 inches to 19 inches.



Special regulations apply for anglers interested in targeting these trout:

- The Huron River at Proud Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing October 1-March 31. April 1-25, anglers are limited to flies only, catch-and-release fishing, with the exception that children under 12 may keep one trout between 8" and 12".
- Spring Mill Pond at Island Lake Recreation Area is closed to fishing March 15-31. Anglers are limited to artificial lures only, catch-and-release fishing April 1-25.
- On both bodies of water, beginning April 26, all baits are allowed, and anglers may keep up to five trout over 8 inches, but only three over 15 inches.

The Clinton River was also stocked with 1,150 adult brown trout ranging from 13 inches to 18 inches. These fish stocked at Riverside Park in Auburn Hills will provide additional angling opportunities beyond the yearling fish that are stocked annually. The Clinton River is open to trout fishing all year, and anglers can keep up to five trout over 8 inches, but only three over 15 inches.

The [2025 Michigan Fishing Regulations](#) are available online, along with other helpful resources including fishing location maps, fish ID information, the weekly fishing report and more. Visit [Michigan.gov/Fishing](http://Michigan.gov/Fishing) to learn more.

To find out if fish were added to any of your other favorite fishing spots, visit the DNR's fish stocking database at [michigandnr.com/fishstock/](http://michigandnr.com/fishstock/).

### PFAS awareness

While these fish are stocked upstream of the advisory area, the Huron River is under a ["Do Not Eat" fish consumption advisory](#) from Wixom Road south to Lake Erie due to elevated PFAS levels in fish. The main source of contamination in Norton Creek has been addressed, but the perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances advisory is still in place until further testing.

The stocked trout do not reside in the Huron River for long periods of time. Touching the fish or water is not considered a health concern. For further information go to [Michigan.gov/PFASResponse](http://Michigan.gov/PFASResponse) and search for Huron River.

Spring Mill Pond is not connected to the Huron River and not affected by the consumption advisory. ✧

## DNR set to kick off annual walleye egg collection on Muskegon River

NEWAYGO COUNTY, MI – The DNR is about to begin the walleye egg collection on the Muskegon River in Newaygo County. The collection happens around late March and early April every year. The Muskegon River has the largest run of walleye from Lake Michigan to south of Green Bay. The DNR collects nearly 26 million eggs from the walleye that run on the Muskegon.

The DNR begins this process in late March and early April, but the exact start date depends on the conditions of the water and fish. "It's photoperiod as to when these fish run. It's flow. It's water temperature. When walleye make their run up the rivers, the spawning process doesn't last very long once the males and females are together in the river system," said Scott Heintzelman, Central Lake Michigan Unit Manager.

Officers will collect the fish through a process called electrofishing, which immobilizes the fish long enough for the DNR to collect the eggs. This does not harm the fish. "We want to just stun them enough to where we can collect them, bring them back to the boat launch. They look at the rightness of the males and the females and put those in fish collection baskets right at the site," said Heintzelman. Once the nearly 26 million eggs are collected, they are sent to different hatcheries around the state. Including the Platte River State Fish Hatchery.

"We're kind of limited on our space for walleye eggs, and the right number for us is right around 4 million eggs received, and for us that should produce about 2 million walleye fry for subsequent use for fisheries

management here in the state," said Paul Stowe, Fish Culture Manager Platte River Hatchery.

The officers here place the eggs in specialized jars, where they pay close attention to the eggs and monitor their progress. "These jars have water basically that goes down in a tube into the middle of the bottom of the jar. It upwells through the eggs so that constantly supplying fresh water and oxygen while removing waste metabolites and carbon dioxide and everything else. And those eggs are in those jars for about two weeks, and then they start to hatch a little bit over two weeks," said Stowe. The fish are then sent to various small ponds and lakes to gather nutrients like plankton until they are stockable in rivers and lakes. ✧

## Inland sport fishing guide license required for guided fishing on inland Michigan

With nearly 11,000 inland lakes and 76,000 miles of rivers and streams, Michigan has a wealth of inland fishing opportunities, and inland fishing guides help anglers enjoy those abundant resources. The Michigan DNR reminds anglers and guides that since March 1, 2024, inland fishing guides operating in the state are required to have an inland sport fishing guide license to take clients on guided trips on inland lakes, rivers or streams.

Great Lakes connecting waters refer to specific bodies of water in Michigan that connect the Great Lakes to each other: the St. Mary's River, the St. Clair River (beginning at the Fort Gratiot Light), Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River (beginning at the imaginary line extending due south of the Windmill Point Light, Wayne County, and ending at the imaginary east/west line drawn through the most southerly point of Celeron Island).

Those interested should complete the following steps to apply for an inland sport fishing guide license:

- [Review the requirements and complete the questionnaire](#). The DNR will review responses to verify license requirements are met. Applicants will be notified via email within five business days with further instructions.
- Upon receiving notification of DNR approval, [buy the license online](#) or on the Michigan DNR [Hunt Fish mobile app](#).

The resident license fee is \$150, and the nonresident license fee is \$300. The inland sport fishing guide license is valid for **three years** after the date it is issued. Captains who possess a valid U.S. Coast Guard-issued captain's license will receive a license fee waiver.

\*Please note that obtaining a license is a two-step process: DNR authorization and license purchase. You must complete the process after you receive approval by purchasing your license on the DNR e-license site or in the

Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. This is an electronic license only; you will not receive a physical license or stickers. All licensed inland fishing guides will be listed on the [inland sport fishing guide webpage](#). This list is updated monthly.

### License requirements:

To be eligible for an inland sport fishing guide license, an applicant must:

- Possess a valid certification in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation issued by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association and be able to provide a copy of the certification to the DNR upon request.
- Possess a valid, lawfully obtained Michigan driver's license issued under the Michigan vehicle code, an official state personal identification card or a DNR-issued Sportcard.
- Have not been convicted of a felony or other violation listed within [MCL 324.48714a\(2\)\(c\)](#) in the last three years.
- Be eligible to purchase a license for the fish species targeted while acting as a sport fishing guide.
- Possess a valid state inland pilot's license issued by the DNR or a valid captain's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard, if intending to operate a watercraft while acting as a sport fishing guide. Navigability of waters will determine which license needed.
- Possess, while acting as a sport fishing guide, a basic first aid kit that includes, but is not limited to, all the following: tourniquet, chest seals, compression gauze, CPR mask, trauma shears, sterile eyewash, mylar emergency blanket, bandages, moleskin and tweezers.

### Mandatory reporting

All licensed inland sport fishing guides must file an electronic report of their monthly catch activity for all trips that occurred on all waters, except those included in previously required reporting (Great Lakes, Great Lakes connecting waters) and lakes or ponds with a surface area of less than 5 acres.

Details about the reporting requirements are available on the [inland sport fishing guide webpage](#). If you have questions regarding submitting monthly catch activity reports or how to obtain a guide license, contact Kendra Kozlauskos at 231-330-2845 or [DNR-Fish-Charter@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-Fish-Charter@Michigan.gov).

The reporting requirements for inland sport fishing guides are in addition to the existing requirements for the Great Lakes charter boat program. Great Lakes and Great Lakes connecting waters reporting is also required. Reporting of Great Lakes/connecting waters is limited to boat trips. See the [charter boat operator webpage](#) for more information. ✧

## Stream trout fishing opened April 12

Minnesota's popular stream trout season opened **April 12**, with quality fishing opportunities in every region of the state. Brook trout and splake fishing also opened **April 12** on Lake Superior and its tributary streams. Trout anglers can find information on Minnesota's trout streams on the [Minnesota DNR's website](#) ([mndnr.gov/fishing/trout](http://mndnr.gov/fishing/trout)). Anglers will find helpful learning guides and fishing tips tailored to each of Minnesota's six trout fishing regions. Anglers can also access [StreamFinder](#) ([mndnr.gov/fishing/trout/map.html](http://mndnr.gov/fishing/trout/map.html)), which provides anglers with a description, species list, regulations and access information for trout streams throughout Minnesota.

Minnesota has roughly 3,800 miles of designated trout streams. Anglers 18-64 years old fishing on designated trout waters must have a trout stamp validation in addition to an angling license, and a trout stamp validation is required for anglers 18-64 years old to possess trout or salmon they catch on any Minnesota water. Complete trout season details are available at the Minnesota DNR's [fishing page](#) ([mndnr.gov/fishing](http://mndnr.gov/fishing)). ✧

## Volunteers needed to protect spawning sturgeon along Black River

Sturgeon For Tomorrow is seeking volunteers in Cheboygan County mid-April through early June to stand guard as mature lake sturgeon head upstream to their spawning sites along the Black River. The Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon For Tomorrow is working in partnership with the Michigan DNR and various tribes to protect the fish from illegal harvest during the six-week spawning season.

Sgt. Mike Mshar, who leads DNR Law Enforcement Division's efforts on the river, said, "This program, which protects this iconic species when they are most vulnerable, is a model of how agencies and the public can cooperate to get needed work accomplished."

Volunteers are assigned shifts along the river to stand watch and report suspicious activity to the DNR conservation officers patrolling the area. The program also uses aerial surveillance for additional monitoring.

"For over 20 years, the annual Sturgeon Guarding Program has proven that people serving as sturgeon guards watching over the river have virtually eliminated poaching, while helping to ensure the protection and reproductive success of the species," said Mary Paulson, the program's volunteer coordinator. "It's a unique and rewarding experience to witness these majestic fish swimming up the Black River, and to be a key player in safeguarding one of Michigan's most valuable natural resources."



While volunteers will be assigned sites to stand guard, there will be on-site coordinators at the river to assist and answer questions. Additionally, volunteers are asked to assist in recording the number of fish active in the area. "The experience of watching researchers capture, tag and release these amazing fish is, in itself, worth the effort of becoming involved," said Jay Woiderski, president of Sturgeon For Tomorrow's sturgeon recovery effort in the Black River/Cheboygan River watershed. "We also encourage those who enjoy mountain biking, mushrooming, hiking, kayaking, canoeing and camping in beautiful wild areas to partner with the sturgeon guarding effort."

Lake sturgeon, which can weigh up to 200 pounds and live to be 100 years old, is listed as a threatened species in Michigan, and sport fishing for the species is closely regulated. Lake sturgeon rehabilitation has seen ongoing efforts at federal, state, tribal and local levels since the late 1900s, when the species dramatically declined due to overharvesting and habitat loss. Monitoring of harvesting practices, along with rearing and stocking efforts in selected lakes, has headlined restoration efforts across the state.

The monitoring activity, designed to protect the fish, is also an opportunity to get involved in natural resource management and has drawn a range of volunteers, including families, church groups, scouting groups, students and photographers.

Individuals or groups interested in volunteering should contact Jim and Mary Paulson at [Sturgeonschedules@gmail.com](mailto:Sturgeonschedules@gmail.com) or 989-763-7568. Volunteers also can [register online](https://sturgeonfortomorrow.org) or visit [sturgeonfortomorrow.org](https://sturgeonfortomorrow.org). ✧

## More firearms banned, yellow flag laws introduced

The Canadian federal government has added 179 firearms to the list of guns banned in May 2020 and last December. In total, since 2020, more than 2,500 firearms have been banned. According to Public Safety Canada, the firearms banned include "semi-automatic firearms with sustained rapid-fire capability (tactical/military design with large capacity magazine) that are not suitable for hunting or sport shooting, and exceed safe civilian use."

There appears to be no definition of what "exceeding safe civilian use" means. The firearms included in the new list revealed March 7 includes many variations of M1 rifles (which saw military use in the Second World War).

The ban takes effect immediately. This means they can no longer be possessed, sold or imported into Canada (except for firearms businesses that have appropriate privileges), and can only be transferred or transported under limited circumstances. These firearms must be securely stored in accordance with the requirements for their classification prior to this prohibition.

An Amnesty Order, which expires on March 1, 2026, was also put in place to protect individuals and businesses who lawfully possessed the firearms prior to the ban from criminal liability while taking steps to come into compliance with the law. It permits the use of these firearms to exercise a right recognized and affirmed under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* or for the purpose of sustenance hunting.

**[A list of the newly banned firearms can be found here.](#)** ✧

## DNR sets open water fishing regulations for Upper Red Lake

Anglers fishing on Upper Red Lake during the 2025 open-water season that starts Saturday, May 10, will have a five-walleye possession limit, with only one walleye over 17 inches allowed. “Upper Red Lake female spawning walleye have been managed at a level that has resulted in a number of strong year classes recently,” said Edie Evarts, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources area fisheries supervisor for Bemidji. “The summer regulation is an opportunity for anglers to keep abundant young walleye while also maintaining the breeding fish at a level that continues to produce successful year classes.”

To continue producing the most successful year classes, enough female spawning walleye need to be present to produce lots of newly hatched walleye (known as fry). But if there are too many spawning walleye present, they produce too many fry. When fry are

overabundant, the young fish don’t survive well because they are competing for a limited amount of food.

The regulation that begins May 10 aims to keep the lake’s stock of female spawning walleye in an ideal range by focusing angler harvest on the abundant immature fish under 17 inches, so future numbers of spawning walleye are not higher than desired. The regulation also aims to make sure overall harvest does not exceed agreed upon levels. “We now have 20 years of data from managing the lake since the walleye fishery reopened in 2006 and a good idea of the impact of fishing regulations from our annual angler creel surveys,” Evarts said.

Walleye management on Red Lake is a collaborative effort between the Red Lake Nation and the Minnesota DNR, governed by a joint harvest plan

revised by the Red Lakes Fisheries Technical Committee in 2015. Winter harvest regulations for 2025-2026 will be determined after the summer fishing season and completion of fall assessment netting.

The Upper Red Lake Citizen Advisory Committee reviews walleye harvest totals and regulation options and provides recommendations for the state waters of Upper Red Lake. Upper Red Lake fishing regulations are available on the [Minnesota DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/fishing/upper-red-lake-regulations.html) (mndnr.gov/fishing/upper-red-lake-regulations.html). Anglers are reminded to protect Upper Red Lake and all Minnesota waters from aquatic invasive species by cleaning and draining watercraft and equipment and disposing of unwanted bait in the trash. A decontamination station is available at the Tamarac River Big Bog Public Water Access, referred to locally as Homestead Park. ✧

## Minnesota fishing facts

The following information can be used for stories in preparation for the 2025 fishing opener, which is Saturday, May 10. Some information is from the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and others. A report summarizing the survey results for Minnesota is available on the Minnesota DNR’ [license dollars at work webpage](#).

### Anglers and waters

- 1.7 million anglers fished in Minnesota in 2022. Of these, 1.2 million were Minnesota residents while 508,000 were nonresidents, according to the USFWS survey.
- About 500,000 people are expected to fish on Saturday, May 10, Minnesota’s opening day of the walleye, northern pike, bass and trout-in-lakes season in 2025.
- Minnesota has 11,842 lakes that are 10 or more acres in size, 4,500 of which are considered fishing lakes. There are more than 16,000

miles of fishable rivers and streams, including 3,800 miles of trout streams.

- Although not every kind of fish lives everywhere, 162 species of fish can be found in Minnesota waters.

### Participation and the economy

- Minnesota anglers spent \$5.9 billion dollars on angling related expenses (for example, angling trips, equipment and licenses) in 2022, according to the USFWS survey.
- Average annual expenditures per angler in Minnesota in 2022 were \$3,600, according to the USFWS survey.
- Fishing supports 28,000 Minnesota jobs, according to the [American Sportfishing Association](#).

### Who goes fishing?

- According to the survey led by the USFWS, an estimated 26% of Minnesota residents aged 16 and

older went fishing in 2022. A closer look at participation by race and ethnicity found that 21% of Black, 26% of Hispanic, and 27% of white Minnesotans aged 16 and older fished in 2022.

- An estimated 38% of male and 14% of female Minnesota residents fished in 2022.
- Among Minnesotans who did not possess a fishing license in 2022, 36% expressed an interest in fishing in the future.
- The most frequently reported barrier to fishing—lacking friends and family to fish with.

The purchase price of every fishing license goes into the Game and Fish Fund, a dedicated account that can only be used for fish, wildlife, law enforcement and certain other outdoor-related activities. More information on fishing in Minnesota is available on the [Minnesota DNR fishing webpage](#) ✧

## Know Your Bass: Largemouths, Smallmouths, and Spots

Once upon a time, ichthyologists (that's fish scientists to you and me) recognized just a few black bass species. Today, they've broken it down to 14, and that number grows every time there's a scientific breakthrough in DNA or other technology that helps geneticists split one species into two or two into four or ... you get the idea.

For our purposes, here, let's cover what could properly be called "The Big Three"—largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass. After all, unless you're a highly trained biologist or geneticist and have access to a centrifuge and microscope, that's about as far as you can break them up. Even experienced anglers would be challenged to distill things further with the unaided eye.

Though they share some similarities, each of the Big Three has unique physical characteristics, habitat preferences, and behavior patterns that every serious angler should understand. Whether you're fishing a southern reservoir or a northern river, knowing the differences between these bass can greatly improve your success on the water.

### Largemouth Bass

For simplicity's sake, when we talk largemouth bass here, we're not just covering Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus nigricans*), but also Florida Bass (*M. salmoides*). These are the most iconic and widely distributed members of the black bass family. In fact, the largemouth is likely the most widely distributed freshwater sport fish in the world. It is also the largest of the black bass genus with a world record of 22 pounds, 5 ounces caught in Japan in 2009.

There are couple of ways to identify the largemouth and distinguish it from other members of the black bass family. First, it has a big mouth that—when closed—the upper jaw extends past the rear edge of the eye. Second, it has a deep, chunky body with a pronounced lateral line and dark blotches that form a

horizontal stripe down the side. Largemouths are typically olive green to dark green on the back with a white or pale underbelly, though coloration will vary depending on habitat and water color.

Largemouth bass prefer warmer, slower-moving water with abundant cover such as stumps, vegetation, docks, and laydowns. They thrive almost anywhere—ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and backwater sloughs of rivers. They are opportunistic feeders and generally target prey like shad, shiners, panfish, frogs, and crawfish. Ultimately, though, if a small critter will fit in a largemouth's large mouth, it's in a world of trouble.

### Smallmouth Bass

The smallmouth (*M. dolomieu*) is the second most widely distributed of the black bass family. It's renowned for its fighting ability and acrobatic leaps. Smallmouths typically prefer clearer, deeper, cooler water than largemouths.

As you'd expect, the smallmouth has a smaller mouth than the largemouth. The upper jaw does not extend past the eye. The smallmouth is generally more streamlined and bronze-colored than the largemouth and has vertical bars rather than a horizontal stripe. Their eyes are often red or orange, and they may have a rough, sandpaper-like tongue

Smallmouths are often found deeper than largemouth, especially during the summer. They eat most of the same things, including a variety of baitfish, crayfish, and gobies.

### Spotted Bass

Often called "spots," spotted bass (*M. punctulatus* and *M. henshalli*) are about the overall size of smallmouths, but their relative mouth size is right in-between largemouths and smallmouths. Spots are prevalent in southern reservoirs and often outcompete their cousins on aging reservoirs. They are aggressive, pugnacious, and prefer deeper water than largemouths.

The spot shares a similar body shape with the largemouth but is slimmer and more streamlined. One of

the best identifiers is the rough, sandpaper-like tongue patch, which largemouths lack. The spot typically has rows of dark spots along its lower sides, below the lateral line.

Spots thrive in clear, deep, man-made reservoirs with rocky structure and open water. Unlike largemouth, they're more tolerant of current and cooler water and often roam farther from the bank. Like the other bass, they're opportunistic feeders, but tend to focus on open water prey like shad and herring.

Understanding the distinctions between these three species can be the difference between fishing and catching. Recognizing their preferences, behaviors, and physical traits allows you to match your tactics and maximize your time on the water. Know your bass! ✧

## Mike Harris new MNR minister

Mike Harris was named Minister of Natural Resources on March 19 as Premier Doug Ford unveiled a new cabinet following the Progressive Conservative government's Feb. 27 election to a third consecutive term.

**Mike Harris, MPP for Kitchener-Conestoga**, will replace Graydon Smith as Minister of Natural Resources. Smith, re-elected MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, was named Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

**Harris**, the son of former Ontario Premier Mike Harris, previously served as the minister of red tape reduction following a 2024 cabinet shuffle. The 40-year-old assumed office in 2019, and is not related to his predecessor, Michael Harris. Smith was appointed then-Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry minister in June 2022, before forestry was dropped from the portfolio in June 2024. Smith replaced Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, who served three years in the role as part of Ford's first cabinet. ✧

## Minnesota DNR sets open water fishing regulations for walleye on Mille Lacs Lake

Anglers on Mille Lacs Lake will have the opportunity to harvest two walleye daily during the upcoming open water season, which begins **May 10**, and continues through **Nov. 30**. Harvested walleye must be 17" or greater, and only one of them can be over 20".

Following years of restrictive regulations, the Mille Lacs Lake walleye fishery appears to be healthy, a viewpoint shared by both state and Tribal fisheries biologists.

The Minnesota DNR and Ojibwe treaty Tribes drastically cut harvest more than a decade ago, concerned by a number of factors including changing ecological conditions and lower survival rates of young walleye. This approach has paid off.

"The walleye population in Mille Lacs is currently in a good place," said Brad Parsons, DNR fisheries section manager. "Ojibwe Tribes and the DNR limited harvest, which allowed for an increased number of adult spawning walleye, and a strong 2024 year class that bodes well for the future health of the fishery."

There also is an abundance of forage in the lake due to strong yellow perch and cisco 2024 year classes that are keeping walleye in a healthy condition. Higher availability of forage can reduce the risk of excessive angler catch rates.

State-licensed anglers share the harvest on Mille Lacs Lake with Ojibwe Tribes that have reserved rights to fish, wildlife and other natural resources under an 1837 Treaty. Ojibwe Tribes—including Mille Lacs Band and Fond du Lac Band—established the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission in 1984 to oversee off-reservation resource protection, and harvest seasons.

"Our commitment to ongoing research, science and using all available evidence to inform Mille Lacs Lake stewardship has benefitted everyone," said Alexandra Bohman, GLIFWC

director of biological services. "Inter-agency resource management works."

To conserve the fishery, an annual harvest level is set through discussion and agreement between the state of Minnesota and treaty Tribes. Each party manages its own share of the harvest. This year's agreement considered various factors, including the lake's increased adult walleye population, and resulted in a safe harvest limit of 113,600 pounds for state-licensed anglers and 88,000 pounds for Ojibwe treaty fishers.

"We are pleased that anglers will have an increased harvest opportunity this season," Parsons said. "Mille Lacs Lake continues to surprise us, making it hard to assume conditions will be the same from year to year. We appreciate coming to an agreement with the Tribes that allows some additional flexibility for the state to manage its fishery through these changes. Any amount above the state share of harvest would be deducted from state harvest next year."

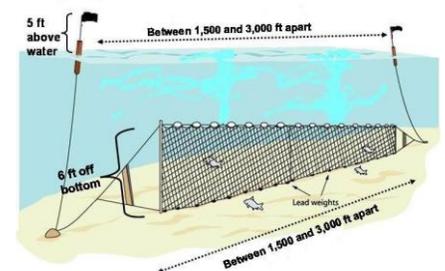
People who fish are reminded to protect Mille Lacs Lake and all Minnesota waters from aquatic invasive species by cleaning and draining watercraft and equipment and disposing of unwanted bait in the trash. A decontamination station is available 24 hours, seven days a week at the Shaw-Bosh-Kung Bay public access on the west side of Mille Lacs Lake about 8 miles south of Garrison on U.S. Highway 169.

Mille Lacs Lake continues to experience changes in part because of invasive species such as zebra mussels and spiny water fleas. State and Tribal biologists collaboratively study the lake's complex food web and other developments such as the recent increase in large yellow perch (*asaawe* in Ojibwe). Additional information about aquatic invasive species and Minnesota's prevention efforts is available on the [Minnesota DNR website](#).

Also of note, on March 11, the daily and possession limit for yellow perch on Mille Lacs Lake was reduced from 20 to five, a regulation that will be in place through November 30. Complete Mille Lacs Lake fishing regulations and regularly updated surveys that show ongoing state-licensed angler catches of walleye, northern pike and yellow perch are available on the [Minnesota DNR website](#) ✧

### S/V Steelhead operations April-June 2025

Michigan's research vessel *S/V Steelhead* will be conducting its spring Lake Wide Assessment Survey in Lake Michigan starting April 21 and completing by June 30. These surveys use overnight gill nets 2,000-4,000 feet in length at depths ranging from 30-150 feet (see diagram below). Our targeted sampling stations can be from 2-10 miles (randomly selected) north and south of the pierheads at the following ports: St. Joseph, South Haven, Saugatuck, Grand Haven, Arcadia, Leland, Elk Rapids, and Charlevoix. Our nets are marked with orange-flagged buoys that stand over 6 feet tall and are labeled with our agency identification.



Please inform all pertinent personnel of our schedule. We can be reached via marine radio channel 16 using the call sign "S/V Steelhead". If you have any questions regarding our sampling schedule, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at [hanchinp@michigan.gov](mailto:hanchinp@michigan.gov) or by cell phone at 231-330-5290. ✧

## Ohio Boating Education Courses Now Available

*Meet Ohio's boater education requirement before boating season gets underway*

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – As boating season approaches, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) encourages boaters to prepare for safe and legal adventures on the water by completing the Ohio Boating Education Course (OBEC) this spring. Whether you're an experienced boater or just starting out, the OBEC provides essential knowledge to help you navigate Ohio's waterways responsibly and confidently.

“Spring is the perfect time to get prepared for a fun and safe boating season,” said Andy Foos, ODNR Boating Education Coordinator. “The Ohio Boating Education Course is a great way to make sure you understand key safety measures, navigate legal requirements, and become a more confident boater. It's not just about meeting the law—it's about enjoying the water responsibly.”

The OBEC is a comprehensive, typically one-day course that covers boating skills, emergency procedures, and water sports safety. It fulfills the state's legal requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1982, who operates a boat over 10 horsepower. The course is open to anyone looking to improve their boating skills and is approved nationwide, no matter where you plan to boat. Each session concludes with a test to ensure participants are well-prepared for their time on the water.

While these OBEC courses are free of charge, registration is required

Upcoming OBEC Dates and Registration Links:

- April 19 (8 a.m.- 4 p.m.) – Franklin Furnace – [Registration](#)
- April 19 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Bethel – [Registration](#)
- April 26 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Cleveland - [Registration](#)
- April 26 (8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) – Deersville – [Registration](#)
- April 26 (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Dayton – [Registration](#)
- April 26 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Indian Lake – [Registration](#)

### GLFC Lauds Oval Office Commitment

*continued from page 1*

“We have every reason to be deeply worried about Asian carp,” Baker continued. “The carps have decimated the fisheries in every waterway they have invaded already—primarily the Mississippi, Illinois, and Ohio Rivers. They eat massive quantities of food, and they reproduce prolifically. Bi-national, peer-reviewed risk assessments conducted by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans have demonstrated

conclusively that no Great Lake would be spared and that it only takes a few males and a few females for a population to be established. We do not want the Great Lakes turned into carp ponds.”

Baker concluded: “The Brandon Road project, led by the US Army Corps of Engineers, represents the best in design and innovation, which is why the project has received broad, bipartisan support. Michigan and Illinois, together, have provided more than one hundred million dollars in non-federal, matching funds for this

- April 26 (9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) – Columbiana – [Registration](#)
- May 3 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Cleveland – [Registration](#)
- May 3 (8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) – Mineral City – [Registration](#)
- May 3 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Madison – [Registration](#)
- May 17 (7 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Lore City – [Registration](#)
- May 17 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) – Waverly - [Registration](#)
- May 17 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Delaware – [Registration](#)
- May 17 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Huron – [Registration](#)
- May 17 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) – Oregon – [Registration](#)
- May 17 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Indian Lake – [Registration](#)
- May 17 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Waynesville – [Registration](#)
- May 17 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Youngstown – [Registration](#)
- May 24 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Hillsboro – [Registration](#)
- May 31 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) – Port Clinton – [Registration](#)

These additional courses that fulfill the state's legal requirements are offered by partner organizations. They may include a course fee:

- April 19 (8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.) – Dayton – [Registration](#)
- April 26 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) – Lewis Center – [Registration](#)
- April 26 (8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.) – Lakeview – [Registration](#)
- April 26 and May 3 and 10 (10 a.m.-2 p.m. all 3 days) – North Olmsted – [Registration](#)
- May 6 (6-8:30 p.m. for 5 straight Tuesday evenings) – Port Clinton – [Registration](#)
- May 7 (7-9 p.m. for 6 straight Wednesday evenings) – via Zoom – [Registration](#)

Get ahead this season and ensure you're ready to navigate the waters safely and legally! Before heading out on the water, take a course, inspect the legally required equipment, and, if needed, renew your vessel registration. For more details on a course and to learn more about boating safety, visit the [ODNR website](#). ✧

project, for which the entire basin is grateful. I thank Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Speaker Matt Hall, along with Illinois Governor JB Pritzker in February, for raising this issue at the highest level. Additionally, I applaud Congress for appropriating funds, and President Donald Trump for confirming his and the federal government's commitment to the project. The Great Lakes are the lifeblood of our region, and the Commission is very much encouraged by the president's promise to act.” ✧

## RBFF adds Seasoned Outdoor Professionals to Board of Directors

Alexandria, VA – The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) announced the addition of Toby O'Rourke, President & CEO of Kampgrounds of America, Inc. (KOA), Douglas Craven, Natural Resources Director of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Wayne Hubbard, host and producer of the award-winning program Urban American Outdoors, and Ronnie Green, professional angler and host of A Fishing Story to its Board of Directors.

"We are thrilled to welcome Toby, Douglas, Wayne and Ronnie to our Board of Directors," said RBFF President & CEO Dave Chanda. "Outdoor recreation has seen extensive growth since the pandemic with a record 175 million Americans seeking activities in the outdoors such as camping, hiking and fishing, with more casual participants than ever. Our new board members bring deep experience in leveraging a variety of strategies to meet and engage audiences and keep them connected to the outdoors. Their expertise will be vital as we work to drive and retain new increases in fishing and boating participation."

**O'Rourke** is known as a thought leader and visionary in the outdoor recreation industry. Prior to assuming the role President and CEO at KOA, she served as the company's Chief Operations Officer and Sr. Vice President of Marketing. In her 15 years with KOA, she has fueled the modernization of the company through digital marketing and technology. Before KOA, O'Rourke held positions in consumer product goods and consulting.

**Craven** has more than 20 years' experience managing natural resources as the Director of the Natural Resources Department of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, located in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. In his role, he both manages the Tribe's 336 square mile

reservation, as well as oversees the fishing and hunting licensing for Tribal members. Craven has also worked with many partner organizations serving on the boards of the MSU Environmental and Natural Resource Governance, Getting Kids Outdoors Emmet County, Great Lakes Fishery Trust Board and others.

**Hubbard** is a veteran businessman and avid outdoorsman, who co-founded Urban American Productions, LLC in 1999. At that time, most outdoor sporting shows targeted avid participants and felt unapproachable. He saw an opportunity to develop programming that would meet beginner and average sports men, women and families from all backgrounds to help them connect with nature, outdoor adventure and conservation. Urban American Outdoors is the first African American owned and produced sports reality show and has been nominated for five EMMYs and won more than 80 broadcast awards over the years.

**Green's** career spans multiple industries, exhibiting his leadership and board expertise in business and creativity. Green is a former Marine who transitioned to the private sector with leadership roles at several healthcare companies. In 2014, he made the leap into broadcast, starting A Fishing Story—a show that follows the lives of people with tremendous life experiences, such as entertainers, professional athletes, veterans, as they join Green on a of day fishing. The show has received multiple awards, including an Emmy.

"Storytelling is the bridge that connects hearts and inspires action," said Ronnie Green. "RBFF is doing phenomenal work, not only creating lifelong stories but also igniting a passion for fishing and boating across all audiences

A complete list of RBFF's Board of Directors is [available online](#). ✧

## DNR seeks public comment on Lake Superior fisheries rule proposals

The Minnesota DNR is taking public comment on a proposal that would adjust the trout season dates for Lake Superior anglers and allow more harvest of Atlantic salmon. The proposed rule revisions would change the start and end dates for the open season of trout fishing in stream tributaries above and below posted barriers. For brook trout, splake, rainbow trout, and brown trout above barriers and splake and brook trout below barriers, the change would move the opener date from the Saturday nearest April 15 to the second Saturday in April. The season close date would move from Labor Day to September 30 annually. These proposed dates would provide more consistency in trout fishing regulations in streams across northern Minnesota.

The rulemaking proposal would also eliminate a current provision limiting anglers to one Atlantic salmon. The DNR no longer seeks to protect Atlantic salmon as the stocking program has discontinued. Under the revised rule, anglers would continue to be limited to five salmon, but the salmon could be of any species mix. Finally, proposed language clarifies inland rules apply for all other species not listed in the rule, except in the St. Louis River downstream of the Minnesota Highway 23 bridge, where Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary water rules apply.

Comments may be submitted through Thursday, May 8. If adopted, these rule changes would take effect March 1, 2026. Submit comments:

- Via email to [bethany.bethke@state.mn.us](mailto:bethany.bethke@state.mn.us). Please mention Lake Superior Rules in the subject line.
- Via mail to Bethany Bethke, Fisheries Rules and Regulations Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Division, Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155. ✧

## Happy 75th anniversary to Hammond Bay Biological Station!

As Hammond Bay Biological Station celebrates its diamond anniversary, we're taking a look back at its remarkable history as a source of innovation and discovery that led to one of the greatest success stories in invasive species control and fishery management worldwide.

Seventy-five years ago, on March 21, 1950—the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard granted a permit to the USFWS to transition the former U.S. Life-Saving Service and U.S. Coast Guard Station, Hammond Bay, located near Rogers City, Michigan, to a new mission as a biological station. The newly designated station was tasked with conducting science to control a Great Lakes menace—the invasive sea lamprey. At that moment, sea lampreys were wreaking havoc on Great Lakes fish and the economically valuable fisheries they support.

The invasion of sea lampreys into the Great Lakes began in the mid-1800s, first in Lake Ontario, then eventually spreading to the remaining Great Lakes. By 1950, sea lamprey populations had exploded, numbering 2.5 million individuals at their peak. With each sea lamprey capable of killing up to 40 lbs of fish during its parasitic stage, sea lamprey populations were destroying a staggering 110 million lbs of fish each year. The effects on the region were dramatic and devastating. Populations of large-bodied fish, such as lake trout and whitefish, plummeted. Coastal economies collapsed. Tens of thousands of people lost their livelihoods.

But amidst this ruin, the voices of the people of the region rose loud and clear, asking for an effective control program for this invasive species. The first step toward finding control methods was to understand more about the life cycle of sea lampreys. Research on sea lampreys first began in earnest in the late 1940s at a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp in northeastern Michigan and was led by

a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Vernon Applegate. While working at the camp, Applegate recommended a move to the nearby (then abandoned) Hammond Bay Station, perfectly situated on the shores of Lake Huron.

In early 1950, Applegate moved his research program to the station and formed a team of mostly locals, many veterans of WW II, to undertake the heroic effort to develop control methods for sea lampreys. Within 10 years, station scientists discovered nearly all the sea lamprey control methods that are still in use today, namely lampricides and barriers, along with various styles of traps. These control methods showed significant promise. The tasks of the coming decades were to continue to develop new methods of control, test methods in a variety of environments, and find formulations and configurations that allowed the methods to be implemented at the vast scale of the Great Lakes—a substantial ecological, geographical, and jurisdictional challenge.

In 1955, the next major milestone in the history of the sea lamprey control program occurred—the establishment of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission by treaty between the United States and Canada. The mission given to the Commission was to control invasive sea lampreys, coordinate fisheries research, and facilitate cooperative fishery management among state, provincial, tribal, and federal agencies (<https://www.glfsc.org/about.php>). The Commission soon developed partnerships with the USFWS and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to serve as the boots on the ground to implement the sea lamprey control program, while providing direction to scientists at Hammond Bay Station.

By the late 1950s, the Commission and partners were ready to begin what would become a decades-long roll-out of the sea lamprey control program

across the Great Lakes region. After tests in tributaries to Lake Huron in 1957, the first lampricide application with the intent to control larval sea lamprey populations occurred in Lake Superior's Mosquito River in 1958. Applications soon followed in Lake Michigan in the 1960s, Lake Huron and Lake Ontario in the 1970s, and finally Lake Erie in the 1980s

Today, sea lamprey populations have been reduced by 90% in most areas of the Great Lakes. Native fish populations are recovering, including lake trout s in Lake Superior which were recently deemed fully restored. Great Lakes fisheries are valued at over \$5.1 billion annually to the region. The Great Lakes recreational fishery generates \$4 billion in retail sales, nearly \$2 billion in wages, and directly supports 35,000 jobs in addition to hundreds of thousands of jobs related to tourism, navigation, and more..

Hammond Bay Station scientists continue to make discoveries that advance the sea lamprey control program as well as native fish restoration. The station is now a field station of the USGS's Great Lakes Science Center, still receiving its funding and direction for science from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Scientists are studying how to raise sea lampreys throughout their entire life cycle in the lab to identify additional vulnerabilities for control, especially those with the potential to eradicate Great Lakes sea lampreys (<https://www.glfsc.org/pubs/factsheets/SLAP-factsheet.pdf>). ([GLATOS](#); [FishPass](#); [Coregonine Restoration](#); [Buffalo Reef](#)). The wealth of scientific information generated by station scientists throughout the station's history is considerable—hundreds of scientific journal articles, book chapters, popular science articles, and more have been published which have immensely enriched our collective knowledge of sea lampreys, native fish, fisheries, and Great Lakes ecosystems.

As we look back through the last 75 years, our team at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission is honored to highlight this rich history at Hammond Bay Biological Station. The station has

played a significant role in restoring Great Lakes fisheries, reinvigorating coastal communities, and protecting our way of life in the Great Lakes region. Cheers to 75 years of saving

fish and fisheries through the science at Hammond Bay Biological Station!  
◇

### **Other Breaking News Items:**

#### **(Click on title or URL to read full article)**

#### **[Sea lamprey control efforts planned for Cattaraugus Creek](#)**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel will apply lampricides to Cattaraugus Creek in Cattaraugus and Erie counties, New York, between April 22 and May 1 to kill sea lamprey larvae burrowed in the stream bottom

#### **[Sea lamprey control efforts slowed during COVID-19. It let the Great Lakes invaders flourish](#)**

Newly published research from the U.S. Geological Survey looked at more than 25 years of annual sea lamprey data to assess the effectiveness of lamprey control funding. The research showed that after 2020 and 2021, years when control

#### **[Invasive Asian carp are nearing Lake Michigan as Trump, Whitmer discuss ways to stop them](#)**

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan House Speaker Matt Hall, R-Richland Township, met with President Donald Trump on Wednesday to discuss the need to ensure barriers are put in place to keep invasive carp out of Lake Michigan.

#### **[NOAA to hold first advisory council meeting for marine sanctuary](#)**

The Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 1,722 square miles of eastern Lake Ontario waters and bottomlands adjacent to Jefferson, Wayne, Oswego and Cayuga counties in the state of New York. The sanctuary area contains 41 known shipwrecks and one aircraft representing events spanning more than 200 years. The advisory council will meet for the first time later this month, a crucial step in the build-out of the newly designated sanctuary

#### **[Sturgeon poised for next phase of rehabilitation in Milwaukee River thanks to DNR-led efforts](#)**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working to rehabilitate the lake sturgeon population into a self-sustaining future in the Milwaukee River.

#### **[In winter, the waters of Lakes Michigan and Huron separate into layers. Not anymore. Why?](#)**

A new study has found that climate change is erasing a fundamental annual phenomenon in Lakes Michigan and Huron, with potentially serious consequences for life in the water

#### **[ODNR offering free boat safety inspections](#)**

Boaters in Ohio can kick off the season with an added layer of safety, as the Ohio Department of Natural Resources offers free vessel safety checks. These inspections ensure that boats have all legally required safety gear, including life jackets, fire

#### **[Pennsylvania waterways getting stocked for upcoming start of trout season](#)**

With trout season only two weeks away, Pennsylvania is bustling with stocking efforts, releasing over 3 million fish into hundreds of streams and lakes across the state

#### **[Millions of fish killed after getting trapped in Bruce Power nuclear plant's intake system, First Nation says](#)**

Millions of fish along the shore of Lake Huron have died since January after they were attracted to warm water produced by the Bruce Power nuclear plant and became trapped in the station's intake channels, an Ontario First Nation says.

#### **[Moran Iron Works builds 66-foot vessel to boost Great Lakes research by 2026](#)**

A new Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) research vessel, the 66-foot R/V *Steelhead II*, is currently being built in northern Michigan. The vessel will come equipped with a lab, netting, and solar panels, letting the DNR research the

#### **[Great Lakes water levels decline in March. Could seasonal rise be on the way?](#)**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicts that water levels for the Great Lakes will continue a seasonal drop until April; all of the Great Lakes this winter are below the 2023-2024 levels due to winter conditions. But now that spring-like weather is

#### **[As Line 5 tunnel set to be fast-tracked, Great Lakes tribes withdraw from cooperating on environmental review](#)**

After being notified that the Line 5 tunnel project will likely be fast-tracked for federal approval, Great Lakes tribes are withdrawing as cooperating agencies in the federal environmental review process. In a letter, tribal leaders explained that the

**[Proposed fishing bill could threaten Saginaw Bay fisheries](#)**

A Michigan House representative recently introduced a bill that could add a lot of regulations to fishing in Saginaw Bay. This could potentially be a massive obstacle for state licensed commercial fishers in the area.

**[U.S. Senators Moreno and Peters to lead Senate Great Lakes Task Force](#)**

U.S. Senators Bernie Moreno (R-OH) and Gary Peters (D-MI) will co-chair the Senate Great Lakes Task Force for the 119th Congress. They will hold meetings to coordinate legislative initiatives, funding priorities, and oversight efforts to protect the Great Lakes

**[One world, two Great Lakes](#)**

A tropical lake in Central Africa might not seem like the first place you would look to gain insights into our Great Lakes. But that's just what researchers from Bowling Green State University in Ohio have been doing for the past three years.

**[EDITORIAL: Don't panic about Great Lakes funding cuts](#)**

Despite assurances that Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding has not been targeted by the Trump administration, the fretting will continue as long as the administration targets the EPA for indiscriminate cost savings

**[Lake Erie is the walleye capital of the world](#)**

Walleye's reputation as a prized catch makes it a staple for Lenten fish fries, while Lake Erie's thriving population continues to fuel both local fisheries and anglers

**[Illinois presses pause on 'critical' invasive carp project, cites federal funding concerns](#)**

Progress on the Brandon Road Lock and Dam is once again at a stalemate, and several local lawmakers are calling on state officials in Illinois to help end delays for the project.

**[Experts warn of devastating consequences after major cuts to Great Lakes program: 'The impact is immediate'](#)**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees fired in February were responsible for managing invasive sea lamprey. Without their control efforts, sea lamprey populations threaten the Great Lakes fishery.

**[Canada greenlights river study](#)**

A regional assessment study of the St. Lawrence River has now been authorized, after the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake submitted a request for a study in 2020 and Canada's environment ministry approved the request in 2021. One of the goals of the coming study will be to analyze the extent to which decades of development along the river's shores have impacted Kahnawake's people from exercising their rights.

**[U.S. reps want Illinois to quit delaying project to block invasive carp from Great Lakes](#)**

Bipartisan members of Congress from Great Lakes states are urging the state of Illinois to "promptly" end its delay of a \$1.15 billion project to prevent invasive carp from infiltrating Lake Michigan.