



DNR crews begin annual Lake Michigan yellow perch assessment Early indications show 2015 may be a banner year for yellow perch spawning and survival of young fish

The Department of Natural Resources announced that survey crews from the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station headed out on Lake Michigan August 24 to conduct surveys of yellow perch populations and other nearshore fish species. The surveys are being conducted from the research vessel Steelhead, as well as from smaller DNR vessels that permit sampling in shallow, nearshore waters. The surveys ran through September 11.

The DNR has been involved since 1995 in a lakewide collaboration with other Lake Michigan natural resources agencies to assess yellow perch. Data collected during these surveys is used to estimate a broad range of biological variables vital to understanding yellow perch populations in Lake Michigan and associated tributaries.

Assessments by the other states so far have indicated a strong 2015 year



class for yellow perch. The Michigan DNR assessment begins this week, so we hope this trend continues.

“Early indications from work in southern Lake Michigan by our sister agencies are that 2015 may be a banner year for yellow perch spawning and survival of young fish,

so we’re excited to get out and see what populations look like in Michigan waters,” said Dave Clapp, Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station manager. “Fish hatched in 2010 and 2011 are just now reaching full maturity, so we expect to see an increase in spawning activity and an abundance of young perch this year, supported by increased lake levels and slightly warmer water temperatures this summer.”

Survey operations will be conducted near the ports of South Haven, Grand Haven, Portage, Pentwater, Charlevoix and Petoskey. Vessels involved in the surveys will be docked at these Great Lakes ports, and the public is encouraged to visit the vessels and talk with crew members about fisheries assessment operations. ✧

In this issue...

- New Zealand snail and Didymo found..... 2
- Wis sturgeon hook n line season open..... 2
- New evidence shows sturgeon spawned 3
- No evidence of Asian carp in Fox 3
- Lake Ontario nominated as a NMS 4
- Updated fish eating guidance available... 5
- DNR requests angler help in studying..... 5
- DNR seeks anglers for Mille Lacs FAC ... 6
- Fisheries Heritage Tourism Conference.. 6
- No changes for chumming 6
- Applications open for nearly \$8 million.... 7
- Insecticides similar to Nicotine found 7
- Spawning habitat restoration for Detroit .. 8
- 6th annual trapping workshop 8
- Judge slaps down EPA rule 8
- Ind Black Oak Bayou new LaSalle FWA . 9
- OH grants for Boating Safety Education.. 9
- USDA to invest \$20 million..... 10
- DNR wants comment on special regs ... 10
- Great Lakes show sees bustling crowds10
- USFWS expands hunting/fishing opps.. 11
- Hoosier Outdoor Experience..... 11

Sheboygan is "This Close" to landing Marine Sanctuary designation

There are currently fourteen sites designated as National Marine Sanctuaries throughout the United States. Only one of those sites listed in the National Registry is in the Great Lakes Region; [Thunder Bay](#), which is located in Alpena, Michigan. Sheboygan could change that geographical history with shipwreck sites in Lake Michigan that rival some of the current listings, while at the same time upstaging others.

During the Sheboygan common Council meeting held September 8, 2015, Chad Pelishek, Sheboygan Director of Planning and Development said that The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has already cleared Sheboygan area sites of all but one of the hurdles needed to land final approval, and the President’s signature.

Pelishek says all that is left is for NOAA to decide whether to pursue Wisconsin or Maryland from its inventory list of possible sites. That decision he says could come later this fall. If Wisconsin is chosen, NOAA would then move forward with an Environmental Impact study of the stretch of water and land to be included.

NOAA received more than 200 letters from supporters of the Sheboygan area sanctuary designation and Pelishek says right now it seems the odds are in the city’s favor, either way. Pelishek says that already there are plans to promote the shipwreck sites through Marketing and tourism campaigns should Wisconsin lose out the bid for the new sanctuary designation, although, clearly, the city is hoping for the Marine Sanctuary designation. ✧

New Zealand snail and Didymo found in Michigan waters

The Michigan DNR recently confirmed the presence of New Zealand mud snails and Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) in Michigan waters. The confirmed occurrence is of great concern for Michigan because these species have the ability to reach nuisance densities that can cause negative impacts to Michigan's aquatic ecosystems.

Didymo, commonly called "rock-snot" was detected in June in the St. Marys River near Sault Ste Marie, MI by Fisheries and Oceans Canada during their annual invasive sea lamprey removal efforts. Didymo is a type of algae that has previously been identified in the Great Lakes Basin, but this recent detection in the St. Marys River marks the first time that this algae has reached nuisance bloom levels in Michigan waters. In areas where nuisance blooms commonly occur (e.g., western and eastern states) the algae attaches to rocky substrate and covers the bottoms of cold, clean freshwater streams and rivers that recreationally popular trout species generally inhabit. It is debatable whether this species is invasive to MI. Regardless, this is the first bloom ever detected in MI and it is a nuisance species that can negatively impact fishing.

New Zealand mud snails were detected and confirmed more recently in August, 2015 in the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin, MI by DEQ personnel. They are an invasive snail that is small in size (1/8" long) and therefore can be difficult to identify. Similar to most other invasive species, New Zealand mud snails reproduce in massive quantities and are extremely resilient (can live out of water for up to 24 hrs.). Where established, these snails dominate the bottoms of rivers and streams and exhibit invasive qualities, outcompeting and displacing macroinvertebrates that are vital as food sources for many fish species. In addition, these invasive snails have no nutritional value for fish. ✧

Wis. Sturgeon hook and line season open; changes take effect on Menominee River

The 2015 hook and line sturgeon season got underway Sept. 5, and runs until Sept. 30 on waters including the Chippewa and Wisconsin Rivers and other select areas where management has produced a sustainable fishery for the majestic fish.

This year a new rule is in force on a portion of the Menominee River, a Wisconsin-Michigan boundary water, with an extended catch and release zone between the Grand Rapids and Menominee dams. Anglers still have the opportunity to harvest sturgeon greater than 60" in the more than 40 river miles upstream from the Grand Rapids Dam.

The Menominee and Park Mill dams are the farthest downstream on the Menominee River and have been a barrier to upstream movement of sturgeon and other fish. In spring of 2015, adult lake sturgeon larger than 60 inches were moved upstream past the first two dams in an effort to provide the sturgeon with greater access to spawning habitat in the Menominee River and improve population numbers between the Grand Rapids and Menominee dams.

By extending the catch and release zone to the waters between the two dams, the DNR hopes to boost the region's fishery by limiting the harvest as the new fish acclimate and begin reproducing. The emergency rule is necessary to prevent the harvest and consumption of lake sturgeon that have been moved from Green Bay upstream past the Menominee Dam. In addition, it will prevent the harvest and waste of sturgeon that should not be eaten.

To learn more including the location of sturgeon registration stations, search the DNR website, www.dnr.wi.gov for "[lake sturgeon hook and line season](#)."

For more info: Mike Donofrio, DNR east district fisheries team supervisor, 715-582-5050 michael.donofrio@wisconsin.gov. ✧



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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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New evidence shows endangered sturgeon spawned in Lower Missouri River

Three tiny fish larvae that were captured by U.S. Geological Survey scientists in May 2014 have just been confirmed to be pallid sturgeon. These new genetic identifications add to mounting evidence that endangered pallid sturgeon spawned in the Lower Missouri River downstream of Gavins Point Dam, South Dakota.

Although successful spawning was detected in the Lower Missouri, it does not necessarily mean that the species is on its way to recovery.

"Collection of these recently-hatched pallid sturgeon, still in their early developmental stages, verifies that suitable conditions and functional spawning habitats for pallid sturgeon do at times exist in the Lower Missouri River downstream of Gavins Point Dam," said USGS scientist Aaron DeLonay. "However, the pallid sturgeon population is still small and

reproduction sufficient to increase the population has not been documented."

The three new larvae were 1-3 days old and collected from the main channel of the Missouri, just above its confluence with the Platte River near Bellevue, Neb. The presence of such larvae may be used to infer where the parents spawned between the Platte and Gavins Point Dam. The three fish were among hundreds of larval shovelnose sturgeon and paddlefish captured in the study. Previously reported pallid sturgeon larvae captures in 2014 were of older fish and considerably further downstream.

The pallid sturgeon were positively identified using genetic analyses developed by Jennifer Eichelberger and Dr. Edward Heist at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Recent developments by Dr. Heist have resulted in genetic

tests that inexpensively screen specimens of sturgeon and paddlefish to identify possible pallid sturgeon. Other genetic analyses are then used to confirm identification and determine whether sturgeon larvae collected in samples may be closely related, or possibly siblings from a single spawning event. Preliminary analyses indicate that these three specimens are not siblings.

These findings build on previous efforts under the [Comprehensive Sturgeon Research Project](#), a research collaboration among the USGS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Missouri River Integrated Science Program, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. More photos and trip reports are available on the [Comprehensive Sturgeon Research Blog](#). ✧

DNA sampling finds no evidence of Asian carp in Fox and Milwaukee rivers

Ongoing surveillance efforts this summer found no new evidence of Asian carp in the Milwaukee and Fox rivers as part of work completed by the USFWS in cooperation with the Wisconsin DNR.

USFWS biologists tested 160 water samples collected across three sampling dates in May and June for genetic evidence of silver and bighead carp. None of the samples tested positive for Asian carp DNA.

Bob Wakeman, DNR's aquatic invasive species program coordinator, said the testing represents an important tool in the ongoing effort to prevent the spread of silver and bighead carp into the Great Lakes. Asian carp pose significant ecological and economic threats to the Great Lakes region and its fishery because they eat voraciously and compete directly with valuable native fish for food.

"We certainly appreciate the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducting this monitoring and giving us this good news," Wakeman said. "The continued negative results reinforce other findings that positive detections in 2013 near Sturgeon Bay and

2014 in the Fox River near Green Bay were likely from sources other than live fish."

The environmental DNA sampling approach used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is highly sensitive and can indicate the presence of a target species before traditional sampling techniques may. Early detection of new species aids in effective response efforts.

However, research suggests that small amounts of genetic material can be transported by sources including birds and boats, and even these trace amounts can be detected through the eDNA sampling protocol. As a result, biologists look for repeated detections to provide strong evidence of the presence of an unwanted species.

DNR and the USFWS will continue eDNA and traditional sampling efforts in future years to ensure that Asian carp do not become established in the Great Lakes basin. In addition to the federal monitoring, DNR fisheries team members conduct a variety of netting, electroshocking and trawling operations in state waters as part of the ongoing monitoring effort and

have not captured any Asian carp to date in any waters of the Lower Fox River, Green Bay or Lake Michigan.

Wakeman said anglers and other stakeholders from across the state play an important role in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp. To stop the spread of Asian carp, anglers are asked to review Asian carp identification materials, report any sightings of Asian carp and to dispose of unwanted live bait, including minnows, in the trash since small Asian carp look like many common bait species. These efforts will help prevent the establishment of Asian carp in the Great Lakes.

Photo identification tools and more information on Asian carp can be found by searching the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, for "[Asian carp](#)."

More information on environmental DNA testing is available from the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee: www.asiancarp.us/edna.htm. Results of DNA monitoring from the Midwest region are posted here: www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/eDNA.html. ✧

Lake Ontario nominated as a National Marine Sanctuary

Designation could boost economy and Increase Recreational Use

SYRACUSE – Four Lake Ontario Counties have joined together to submit an application for National Marine Sanctuary. Representatives of the four Lake Ontario counties announced they are pursuing a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to nominate southeastern Lake Ontario as a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS).

The announcement was made at the Lakes of NY exhibit at the New York State Fair by representatives of Oswego, Jefferson, Cayuga and Wayne counties and the City of Oswego. National marine sanctuaries are designated by the federal government and are intended to increase responsible visitation and use of unique resources by visitors, anglers, divers, scientists, researchers, historians and educators.

“Southeastern Lake Ontario is eligible for consideration due to the age, type and preserved state of numerous historic shipwrecks and many other features,” said Oswego County Administrator Phil Church. “Our goal in seeking an NMS designation is to establish international recognition for the unique features of the region and increase economic, recreational, scientific research and educational activities.”

Church emphasized that “the term ‘sanctuary’ does not mean an off-limits preserve. In this instance it means just the opposite—to promote and increase visitation, understanding and appreciation of a unique area without interfering with its commercial and recreational activities.”

Officials from the four counties, the City of Oswego, state and federal representatives, and other agencies are working together to develop the Great Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary proposal. The application is based on a similar Great Lakes model, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, Michigan, where there have been significant economic benefits to the region.

It’s estimated that Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary on Lake Huron annually generates in excess of \$100 million to the regional economy and supports over 1,500 jobs. The visitor center for Thunder Bay NMS is a major tourism destination for the region, hosting approximately 60,000 visitors annually.

The sanctuary could include Lake Ontario waters from the western boundary of Wayne County to the international border in Lake Ontario and east to Cape Vincent in Jefferson County. NOAA would determine the boundaries during the review process, which will involve extensive public participation. If approved by NOAA, the Great Lake Ontario NMS would be part of a collection of a very few spectacular natural settings in the U.S. stretching from the Olympic Coast of Washington State, to Lake Huron, Stellwagen Bank in Maine, the Florida Keys, and American Samoa in Hawaii.

“As the site of the Great Lake Ontario Marine Sanctuary, the City of Oswego welcomes visitors to experience the beauty and history of Oswego,” stated Oswego Mayor Thomas W. Gillen. “Said to be the home of America’s oldest freshwater port, Oswego has been the focus of military conflict and conquest, a site of record trade revenue, and a significant part in the history of American expansion, industrialism and shipping. Countless shipwrecks still rest in the deep cold waters of Lake Ontario and offer an incredible opportunity for historical and recreational diving as well as fishing and boating. The formation of a tourism economy based around shipwreck history and diving would positively impact not only the city, but our entire region. This opportunity is compelling and we are excited to support and embrace this regional initiative.”

“NOAA’s commitment to these National Marine Sanctuaries provides the basis for not only healthy ecosystems, but also thriving

recreation, tourism and commercial activities that drive coastal economies through investment in visitor centers and collaborations with local organizations and stakeholders,” said Jean B. Gleisner, program manager for the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board. “As a region, we are extremely fortunate to have an opportunity to submit a nomination to NOAA for designation of Lake Ontario as a National Maritime Heritage Sanctuary. If we work together in support of this initiative, it will bring unprecedented growth in economic opportunity that is founded on preservation and conservation of our region’s significant collection of natural and cultural resources.”

“Oswego Harbor, the oldest freshwater port in the United States, is the epicenter of Lake Ontario’s marine roots,” said Mercedes Niess, Executive Director, H. Lee White Maritime Museum at Oswego. “As a center for discovery, trade, warfare, innovation and commerce the southeastern shores of Lake Ontario played a pivotal role in the making of modern America. The submerged cultural resources contained within those waters serve as a living testament to our combined regional maritime history, heritage and culture. An NMS designation will allow for the preservation, protection, education and access to these truly nationally significant, largely untapped, resources.”

Public meetings will be held across the four counties during September and October to gather input from Lake Ontario fishing charters, marinas and other waterfront businesses, waterfront property owners, environmental groups, elected officials and other stakeholder groups.

Additional information about the Great Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary application is available at www.lakeontarionms.com. Info about National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>. ✧

DNR makes updated fish eating guidance available online

MADISON – Updated fish eating guidance, *Choose Wisely: A Health Guide for Eating Fish in Wisconsin*, is now available online through the Wisconsin DNR website. Detailed information also is available through "[Find Advice](#)," an online search tool that allows anglers to select their county and fishing spot to see local consumption advice. This year, the booklet takes a different format that is designed to show advice by area of the state to ease readers' use.

For rivers where PCBs build up in fish, new testing reconfirms current advisories with slight modifications for some species from Lake Superior, the St. Louis River, Green Bay and sections of the Fox, Menominee, Milwaukee and Mississippi Rivers and no change for other reaches. Advice for some inland waters, where mercury is the primary fish contaminant, was also updated. Fish consumption advice varies by location and species of fish and ranges from unrestricted or one serving per week to "do not eat."

DNR, in consultation with the Department of Health Services, examines contaminant results for fish samples obtained each year at a subset of Wisconsin's waters, along with data from recent years, to re-evaluate fish consumption advice.

The 2015 fish consumption advisory reflects new results for fish collected mostly in 2013 from 45 inland lakes, river reaches and lakes Superior and Michigan and also considers results from bordering states and the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission as well as DNR.

Most waters in the state are covered by general statewide advice. In 2015, the number of waters that carry more specific, stringent advice due to higher contaminant levels in some species from those waters is 146.

Candy Schrank, the DNR toxicologist who coordinates the fish contaminant monitoring and advisory program, urges anglers to check the 2015 advice to see if there have been any changes to the advice for those

waters they fish frequently. "Our sampling efforts at times do result in changed advice and we work hard to make that information easily accessible to anglers," Schrank said.

Dr. Henry Anderson, chief medical officer of the Department of Health Services, noted that fish are a low-cost, low-fat source of protein, minerals and vitamins, but that people need to be aware of the kinds of fish they eat and where the fish come from.

"By following Wisconsin's fish consumption advice, you can enjoy the fun of fishing as well as obtain the health benefits that come from eating fish. If you eat fish, you should make sure to follow the fish eating guidance and advisories that will help you to reduce your exposure to environmental contaminants that can build up in fish," Anderson said.

For more information search the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, for keywords "[eating your catch](#)." Printed copies of the booklet will be available at DNR service centers and regional offices in a few weeks. ✧

DNR requests angler assistance in studying Lake Michigan smallmouth bass

The Michigan DNR is requesting help from anglers in an ongoing study of smallmouth bass in northern Lake Michigan.

Central Michigan University (CMU) and the DNR have been tagging smallmouth bass in the Beaver Island Archipelago since 2005, at Waugoshance Point (Wilderness State Park) since 2009, and in parts of Grand Traverse Bays since 2014. Anglers are asked to report the whereabouts of these tagged smallmouth bass by providing information on capture, capture location and tag number to the DNR via michigandnr.com/taggedfish/tags. If anglers release tagged fish, please do not remove the tag and just report the requested information on the website



as indicated.

"Northern Lake Michigan is recognized as one of the top bass fishing destinations in the country, and tagging studies help to provide the scientific basis for management of this world-class fishery," said Dave Clapp, Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station manager. "Thanks to the efforts of many contributing anglers who've reported information on captured smallmouth bass, we have greatly expanded our knowledge of the northern Lake Michigan fishery."

Since 2005, more than 7,000

smallmouth bass have been caught, tagged and released back into Lake Michigan. Each smallmouth bass has a unique number on its tag, allowing for the tracking of its individual movement and growth. Returns of tagged smallmouth bass have provided insights into movement and nesting habitat within the Great Lakes. **Picture:** *Smallmouth bass tag #21 captured 8 years after tagged*

These studies also have demonstrated that smallmouth bass have increased in size and number, compared to 20 or 30 years ago. Smallmouth bass in northern Lake Michigan are among the fastest-growing of this species in North America. Ongoing support from anglers allows the DNR and CMU to continue to expand their knowledge of Great Lakes smallmouth bass populations and fisheries. ✧

DNR seeks anglers for Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee

People interested in being more actively involved in fisheries management on Mille Lacs Lake can apply to serve on a newly formed Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Committee members will be appointed by the Minnesota DNR commissioner and will advise the DNR on fisheries management programs and related issues for Mille Lacs Lake.

“This committee will play an important role in furthering the dialogue about Mille Lacs Lake and focusing on issues relevant to the state’s management of the lake,” said Tom Landwehr, DNR commissioner. “We want committee members and the public to have a more structured and participative process to provide meaningful input, with a goal of reaching a shared understanding with the DNR about issues and potential solutions affecting the Mille Lacs Lake fishery.”

Members will be appointed to serve terms of at least two years on the committee. Membership on the committee will include a diversity of angling interests; local business and tourism interests; tribal and academic representation; and local county officials. To improve openness and transparency of technical discussions, two committee members will also be asked to attend meetings of the state and tribal fisheries technical committee as observers.

The new committee will replace the Mille Lacs Fisheries Input Group, which was formed in 1997 and consisted of citizens and business owners from the Mille Lacs Lake area.

People who want to apply have until Thursday, September 24, to submit applications. Information about the committee structure, functions, expectations of appointed members, and how to apply are available on the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/millelacslake or by calling 651-259-5221. ✧

Sea Grant Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Tourism conference

Wisconsin Sea Grant is teaming up with partners to host a two-day conference on increasing tourism using Great Lakes fisheries as a springboard. It will take place on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 21-22.

“The Great Lakes fishery is estimated at multiple billions of dollars annually,” Titus Seilheimer, Wis. Sea Grant’s fisheries specialist, said. “In addition to the whitefish and lake trout that are harvested, the way of life of commercial fishing is a mark of maritime culture and heritage that could be converted into another coastal benefit. This conference will arm coastal leaders with the tools to build tourism and development in their communities on this fisheries heritage.”

Various speakers at the West Shore Fishing Museum in Menominee, Mich. (Monday’s agenda), and the Best Western Riverfront Inn, Marinette, Wis. (Tuesday’s agenda), will offer information about Michigan’s Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Consortium projects and partnerships, including current partnerships in fostering a statewide fisheries heritage tourism trail.

The Michigan trail explores people, fish and fishing through dozens of locations that are linked by the values of biodiversity, water quality, environmental change and the nature of aquatic ecosystems. It captures these concepts in the present day but also looks forward as well as celebrates the past way of life.

Students can attend for \$10 and others for \$30. Sign up and get further information here:

>> GENERAL REGISTRATION \$30

>> STUDENT REGISTRATION \$10

<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/explore/fisheries/great-lakes-fisheries-heritage-trail/great-lakes-fisheries-heritage-consortium-conference-details/>

No changes for chumming and steelhead bag limit regulations

Michigan DNR staff recently discussed with the public restrictions on the amount of organic material that could be used as chum and a reduced steelhead possession limit on four West Michigan rivers. Seven meetings were held across the state in July with approximately 275 in attendance. Comments also were received through phone and email.

The discussions were initiated after the DNR received requests from anglers and constituent groups to lower the steelhead possession limit on the Muskegon, Pere Marquette, Little Manistee and Big Manistee rivers. A three-fish daily possession limit for steelhead has been in place since 1989. Michigan boasts some of the best river steelhead fishing in the country.

Angler interviews conducted on these four rivers in the past indicated only 5 percent of anglers fishing for steelhead harvest the three-fish daily possession limit.

The DNR also recently received complaints related to excessive use of chum on select Lake Michigan rivers, especially the Muskegon River. The concern stems from lower catch rates for those who do not use chum. The DNR does not consider chumming as a biological threat to fish populations in general.

“Based on our current understanding of these two specific issues, we do not recommend any regulatory changes at this time,” said Nick Popoff, manager of the DNR’s Aquatic Species and Regulatory Affairs Unit. “We appreciate the public’s feedback, as it helped us better understand angler concern related to these two issues and this conversation will undoubtedly continue.” ✧

Partners in staging the conference include the Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Consortium, Michigan Sea Grant and the West Shore Fishing Museum. ✧

Applications open for nearly \$8 million in Legacy grants

Groups that want to restore, protect or enhance public land can apply for Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grants that help pay for work on Minnesota prairies, forests, wetlands or other habitat for fish and wildlife.

Nonprofit organizations and government entities are eligible to submit applications for traditional and metro grant cycles now until 4 p.m., Monday, September 14, on the Department of Natural Resources website at www.mndnr.gov/cpl.

Projects must be on public land or land permanently protected by conservation easements. Applicants may request up to \$400,000 with a total project cost not exceeding \$575,000. Projects must also have 10 percent of the funding come from a source outside a state agency.

In its first six years of funding, nearly \$30 million has been granted through the CPL program for habitat projects throughout Minnesota. Funding comes from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, and each project must be recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and approved by the state Legislature. The Outdoor Heritage Fund is one of several created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008.

Three types of CPL grants

For fiscal year 2016, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recommended allocating \$3,152,000 for the traditional grant cycle, \$3,692,000 for the metro grant cycle (for projects located in the seven

-county metro area or within the city limits of Duluth, St. Cloud and Rochester) and \$1,000,000 for the Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP) grant cycle. The ECP cycle is open continuously through May 18, 2016, or until funds run out.

More information about the three grants can be found at www.mndnr.gov/cpl. Potential applicants are encouraged to review the request for proposal and the “how to apply” tab on the website, which guides users through the application process.

Questions can be directed to: Jessica Lee, CPL grant program coordinator for the DNR, jessica.lee@state.mn.us or 651-259-5233. ✧

Insecticides similar to Nicotine found in half of sampled streams across the United States

USGS discovered insecticides known as neonicotinoids in a little more than half of both urban and agricultural streams sampled across the United States and Puerto Rico, according to a study by the agency published today in *Environmental Chemistry*.

This study, conducted from 2011 to 2014, represents the first national-scale investigation of the environmental occurrence of neonicotinoid insecticides in agricultural and urban settings. The research spanned 24 states and Puerto Rico and was completed as part of ongoing USGS investigations of pesticide and other contaminant levels in streams.

“In the study, neonicotinoids occurred throughout the year in urban streams while pulses of neonicotinoids were typical in agricultural streams during crop planting season,” said USGS research chemist Michelle Hladik, the report’s lead author.

“The occurrence of low levels in streams throughout the year supports the need for future research on the potential impacts of neonicotinoids on aquatic life and terrestrial animals that rely on aquatic life,” said USGS

scientist Kathryn Kuivila, the research team leader. “These results will serve as an important baseline for that future work.”

The foundational study is the first step needed to set priorities for environmental exposure experiments and the potential for adverse impacts to terrestrial and aquatic organisms. Scientists and others have raised concerns about potential harmful effects of neonicotinoids on non-target insects, especially pollinating honey bees and native bees.

In May, the White House released the [Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators](#), which includes a [Pollinator Research Action Plan](#).

“This research will support the overall goals of the Strategy, by helping to understand whether these water-borne pesticides, particularly at the low levels shown in this study, pose a risk for pollinators,” said Mike Focazio, program coordinator for the USGS Toxic Substances Hydrology Program.

At least one of the six neonicotinoids tested by USGS researchers was found in more than half of the sampled streams. No

concentrations exceeded the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s aquatic life criteria, and all detected neonicotinoids are classified as not likely to be carcinogenic to humans.

Detections of the six neonicotinoids varied: imidicloprid was found in 37 percent of the samples in the national study, clothianidin in 24 percent, thiamethoxam in 21 percent, dinotefuran in 13 percent, acetamiprid in 3 percent, and thiacloprid was not detected.

Use of neonicotinoids to control pest insects has been increasing over the past decade, especially on corn and soybeans. Much of this increase is due to a shift from leaf applications to using the insecticides prophylactically on [seeds](#).

The paper, “First National-Scale Reconnaissance of Neonicotinoid Insecticides in Streams across the USA,” was published in [Environmental Chemistry](#). To learn more about the study and USGS environmental health science, please visit the [USGS Environmental Health website](#) and sign up for our [GeoHealth Newsletter](#). ✧

\$765,000 Spawning Habitat Restoration for Detroit & Rouge Rivers

WASHINGTON, DC – Michigan's U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, both members of the Great Lakes Task Force, recently announced that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is awarding \$765,605 to fund habitat restoration projects for the Detroit River and Rouge River Areas of Concern (AOC).

"Michigan's economic strength depends on the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem, including our multi-billion dollar fishing, boating and outdoor recreation industries," said **Senator Peters**. "This funding will invest in critical habitat restoration projects in the Detroit River and Rouge River, helping fish and wildlife thrive in Southeast Michigan's waterways."

"Our lakes and waterways are part of who we are and our way of life," said **Senator Stabenow**. "These investments will help protect and restore critical fish and wildlife habitats and make sure our waters remain clean and healthy for generations to come."

Friends of the Detroit River will receive \$415,605 for habitat restoration at the Detroit River AOC at Stony Island, a major step in completing habitat reconstruction among the islands in the lower part of the Detroit River that serve as one of the most important spawning areas for western Lake Erie. This funding will protect and create 50 acres of backwater habitat, resulting in more acreage of habitat restoration in the Detroit River than any previous restoration effort in the past.

The Alliance of Rouge Communities will receive \$350,000 for designing a fish passage around the Henry Ford Estate Dam in the Rouge River AOC. Once completed, this would help restore the Rouge River ecosystem and positively impact 50 main and 108 tributary river miles for fish migration to the Great Lakes system for the first time in over a century. ✧

6th annual trapping workshop Sept. 26-27 in Ontonagon County

The Michigan DNR announced the [Lake Superior Sportsman's Club](#) will offer its sixth annual Trappers Workshop September 26-27 at the club's facilities in Ontonagon County.

The workshop will begin at 10 a.m. EDT Sept. 26 and at 2 p.m. EDT Sept. 27. Lunch will be provided Saturday. The club is located 1.5 miles east of Silver City at 31433 W. M-64.

"The goals are for all participants to gain a basic understanding of how to begin trapping or for those seasoned trappers to get updated on new techniques.

The workshop will cover the ethics of trapping, safe trap handling and basic trap sets for water and land animals including coyotes, raccoons and beavers. Additional topics include proper equipment, skinning and fleshing techniques, fur prices, handling furs, lure use, fur types and many aspects of how to start trapping.

There will be a mix of classroom instruction and field demonstrations. Participants should dress accordingly. "If you have any interest in trapping or fur handling and processing, this workshop is for you," Harris said. "There is something for everyone." Additional information to consider:

- Admission is free.
- Workshop is open to the public.
- Children younger than 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Participants will be given some trapping "goodies" as well as literature on trapping.
- Camping and lodging are available nearby.
- Pre-registration is suggested.

The sportsman's club is situated on about 15 acres of state-managed property, which the DNR began leasing to the club in 1970. In all, there are about 140 acres of wooded state-managed land at the location. To pre-register for the Trappers Workshop, or for more information on the event, call Don Harris at 906-885-5245. ✧

Judge slaps down EPA rule on jurisdiction of waterways

The USEPA received a big face-slap on August 27 from a federal judge in N. Dakota who ruled the entity cannot go forward with a new rule that would give it massive oversight of millions of acres of land and control over waterways, at least for the time being.

U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson issued a temporary injunction against the rule, which gives the USEPA and U.S. ACE authority to protect some ditches, streams, tributaries and wetlands under the Clean Water Act. The rule was scheduled to take effect August 28.

"The risk of irreparable harm to the states is both imminent and likely," Erickson said in blocking the rule from taking effect.

Thirteen states led by N. Dakota asked Erickson to suspend guidelines that they say are unnecessary and infringe on state sovereignty. The federal government says the new rule clarifies ambiguity in the law and actually makes it easier for the states to manage some waterways.

The other states involved in the lawsuit are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Basically, critics of the rule had argued the regulation would give the EPA the power to regulate developments and other land activities next to even puddles of water. Critics also said the rule would result in costly compliance measures for developers, energy companies, businesses, farmers and ranchers and other private property owners.

The federal judge, however, sided with the rule's critics and found in favor of the states.

The 13 states sought court action after attorneys general for more than 30 states sent a letter to the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers requesting a delay of the rule's implementation for several months, but were never answered. So they went to court for the preliminary injunction. ✧

Ind. Black Oak Bayou to become new waterfowl resting area for LaSalle FWA

Wetland habitat and waterfowl management on LaSalle FWA

In recent years, fewer waterfowl have been using wetlands on LaSalle Fish & Wildlife Area. Much of this is due to natural vegetative succession resulting from stagnant water levels over a long period. Also, large resting areas are critical to attracting and holding a large number of waterfowl on hunting areas. The current waterfowl resting area on LaSalle FWA is not large enough or attractive enough to hold migrating waterfowl for an extended period. For these reasons, a change in wetland and waterfowl management will be initiated on LaSalle FWA.

Black Oak Bayou will become the new waterfowl resting area for LaSalle FWA. The new, 240-acre resting area is roughly twice the size of the old resting area. The Black Oak Bayou water level will be manipulated throughout the year to provide the best waterfowl habitat for breeding in spring and also to provide forage during migration. Doubling the size of the resting area and enhancing the habitat should increase the number of birds harvested on the property each year. This increase may not happen the first year. But over time these changes should result in a significant rise in use by waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland species.

Beginning this year, the water level of Black Oak Bayou will be drawn down. Moving forward, Black Oak Bayou will be managed as a moist soil wetland, instead of a lake. Hunting is no longer permitted in the Black Oak Bayou waterfowl resting area and all public access to Black Oak Bayou is restricted until the property manager determines otherwise or the end of the waterfowl season, whichever comes first.

All hunting blinds on Black Oak Bayou will be transferred to the old waterfowl resting area. There will be five blinds added to the old resting area. Therefore, there will only be a loss of two blinds for waterfowl hunting. Access to the new blinds will be from the Area 4 road only. Boats will be provided for the new blinds. The old resting area marsh will also be managed to provide better waterfowl habitat. Planned aerial applications of herbicide targeting buttonbush will eventually create a more diverse amount of emergent vegetation within this area.

Fishing on Black Oak Bayou will continue to be allowed (until the manager determines otherwise or the end of the waterfowl season, whichever comes first), although

the water level manipulation may make fishing less desirable and boating access more difficult. Other fishing opportunities on LaSalle FWA include the Kankakee River and river oxbows. A recent ditch cleaning project on the north side of the river has created walk-in fishing access along the ditch banks to many areas that were previously nearly impossible to reach. These ditch banks will be mowed and maintained to continue to provide this access for fishermen.

► Property provides fishing areas along the Kankakee River and bayous.

► No registration is required for fishing. Fishing areas are closed during waterfowl seasons.

► Species include bluegill, crappie, small- and largemouth bass, pike, [walleye](#), rock bass and rough fish.

► Boat ramps at Black Oak Bayou, White Oak Bayou and at State Line Road for the Kankakee River.

► Shoreline fishing is limited, but available.

► There is a 12" minimum size limit for all bass caught on the Kankakee River. All size and bag limits apply. See the current [fishing regulations](#) for details. ✧

Ohio offers grants for Boating Safety Education Programs

Free grant workshop scheduled

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ohio DNR is accepting applications for the 2016 Boating Safety Education Grant Program to help support community boating safety education programs.

A deadline of October 1 is set for submitting applications to receive funding through the Boating Safety Education Grant Program. More than \$360,000 is expected to be awarded for local community boating safety education programs in 2016. Grants carry a minimum local cost share of 25 percent of total program costs. Eligible applicants include political subdivisions at all levels, conservancy districts, state-supported school systems, the U.S. Coast Guard

Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons and 501c3 nonprofit organizations.

Individual grants provided through the ODNR Division of Watercraft's Boating Safety Education Grant Program are funded by Ohio's recreational boaters through the Waterways Safety Fund. The fund is comprised of a share of the state motor fuel tax, watercraft registration and titling fees and funding from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Ohio law requires any person born on or after January 1, 1982, to be able to show proof they have successfully completed an approved boating safety education course if they are to operate any powered

watercraft greater than 10 horsepower. Many of the funded programs also focus on boating skills development and basic water safety.

The DNR is responsible for boating safety, education and law enforcement on all waters of the state. This statewide area includes the nearshore area along 451 miles of the Ohio River, approximately half the entire surface area of Lake Erie, more than 605 inland lakes and more than 60,000 miles of inland streams, rivers and other waterways.

For more info contact: Craig Watson at 614-265-6674 or craig.watson@dnr.state.oh.us. ✧

USDA to invest \$20 million to help 15 states increase recreational public access

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will invest \$20 million to partner with 15 state agencies to improve and increase wildlife habitat and public access for recreational opportunities on privately-owned and operated farm, ranch and forest lands. The projects are being funded under the [Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program](#) (VPA-HIP).

“Our partnerships with state governments will help them work with interested landowners to enhance hunting and fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation, to enhance wildlife habitat, and to protect wildlife species and encourage new opportunities for local businesses,” Vilsack said. “These projects are excellent examples of USDA’s successful efforts to connect public and private partners for long-term conservation gains that benefit sportsmen, wildlife, private land owners, and the public.”

The selected state governments will encourage owners and operators of privately held farm, ranch or forest land in their respective states to voluntarily open their land for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation and to improve fish and wildlife habitat on that land.

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) awarded grants for projects in Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

This fiscal year’s selected projects include:

- Illinois – The Illinois DNR received a grant of \$540,000 to continue and expand program to bring additional opportunities to youth throughout the state, targeting areas close to metropolitan centers.
- Michigan – The Michigan DNR will expand existing hunting access program into Northern Lower Peninsula to provide increased hunting opportunities and wildlife

conservation and will use a grant of \$951,400.

- Massachusetts – The state’s Mohawk Trail Woodland Community Habitat Program will use the VPA-HIP grant of approximately \$836,500 to build on an existing [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) project designed to create wildlife habitat in a 28-town region in western Massachusetts. The state will create and improve recreational opportunities to ensure all citizens, including low income residents, can participate and enjoy hunting, fishing and wildlife watching on about 10,000 acres of private forestland.

- Minnesota – The Minnesota DNR will use the grant of \$1.67 million to improve and expand new and continued opportunities for hunting in the state.

- Wisconsin – The Wisconsin DNR will use the VPA-HIP grant of approximately \$1.38 million to expand existing VPA-HIP to increase recreational access to private lands and support landowners’ interest in enhancing wildlife habitat.

See list of all [2015 projects](#).

According to a 2013 study commissioned by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the outdoor recreation economy in the United States supports 6.1 million direct jobs, \$80 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue, and \$646 billion in spending each year.

When Congress reauthorized VPA-HIP in the 2014 Farm Bill, Secretary Vilsack assigned administration of the program to NRCS. In fiscal years 2014 and 2015, USDA has invested the Farm Bill-authorized \$40 million for VPA-HIP, which has helped 21 states and one tribal nation complete projects to increase wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation opportunities.

Under VPA-HIP, state and tribal governments apply for grants to encourage owners and operators of privately held farm, ranch or forest land to voluntarily open that land for public wildlife-dependent recreation activities such as fishing, hunting and

birding. State and tribal governments may use VPA-HIP funds to create new public access programs, to expand existing public access programs, and to improve wildlife habitat on enrolled public access program lands. Projects can span up to three years.

For more information, visit the [NRCS VPA-HIP website](#). ✧

DNR wants public to comment on special MN fishing regulations

Anglers and others can give their opinions about Minnesota fishing regulations that are in place or are newly proposed on 18 lakes and one river. The DNR has scheduled 11 public meetings across the state in coming weeks to review regulations, and is also accepting written and verbal public comments on the regulations before and 10 days after each meeting. For more info about a specific meeting, check online at [www.mndnr.gov/fishing/meetings](#).

Anyone who cannot attend a local meeting may attend an open house about the regulation proposals Sept. 23, at DNR headquarters in St. Paul, 500 Lafayette Road. No formal presentations will be made at the open house, but staff will be available to take comments on any proposal before Friday, October 3. Comment by email to al.stevens@state.mn.us ✧

Great Lakes show sees bustling crowds

The second of the three major fall in-water shows on the Great Lakes finished strong recently. The North American Demo Boat Show at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, enjoyed a 9% increase in attendance for its four-day run. “We were up double digits until some rain on Sunday knocked us down some,” show manager Ken Alvey said. “However, we’re happy with these results and, more importantly, so are the exhibitors.” ✧

USFWS expands hunting and fishing opportunities on Wildlife Refuges

The USFWS will expand fishing and hunting opportunities on 21 refuges throughout the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. The final rule also modifies existing refuge-specific regulations for more than 100 additional refuges and wetland management districts.

Fishing will be offered for the first time on four national wildlife refuges in North Dakota: Ardoch Refuge, Lake Alice Refuge, Rose Lake Refuge and Silver Lake Refuge.

More than 560 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts make up the National Wildlife Refuge System. There is a refuge within an hour's drive from most major metropolitan areas. The Service manages refuge hunting and fishing programs to ensure sustainable wildlife populations, while offering traditional wildlife-dependent recreation on public lands.

Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, the Service permits hunting and fishing along with four other types of wildlife-dependent recreation when

they are compatible with an individual refuge's purpose and mission.

Hunting, within specified limits, is now permitted

on 336 wildlife refuges. Fishing is now permitted on 275 wildlife refuges.

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities on refuges help stimulate the economy and generate funding for wildlife conservation. The Service's report *Banking on Nature* shows that refuges pumped \$2.4 billion into the economy in 2013 and supported more than 35,000 jobs.



More than 47 million people visit refuges every year.



The Service's final rule opens the following Great Lakes region refuges to hunting for the first time:

Illinois

- **Great River NWR, IL and MO:** Expand upland game hunting and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory bird hunting and sport fishing.
- **Two Rivers NWR, IL and MO:** Expand migratory bird hunting and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to upland game hunting and sport fishing.

Indiana

- **Patoka River NWR and Management Area:** Expand migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing.

Iowa

- **Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR, IA and MN:** Expand migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting.

Michigan

- **Seneb NWR:** Expand migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to sport fishing.

Minnesota

- **Minnesota Valley NWR:** Expand upland game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory bird hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing.
- **Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR, IA and MN:** Expand migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting.

New Jersey/New York

- **Wallkill River NWR:** Add upland game hunting and expand big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory bird hunting and sport fishing.

To view a complete list of all hunting and sport fishing opportunities on refuges, click [here](#).



Other wildlife-dependent recreation on national wildlife refuges includes wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife observation and interpretation. Visit www.fws.gov/refuges to learn more. ✧

Hoosier Outdoor Experience

See how much fun the Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience can be! Still all free! All ages welcome! At Fort Harrison State Park, September 19-20. Please pre-register at www.hoosieroutdoorexperience.com. Learn how to fish. Then, learn how to clean and cook fish (and try some samples). The Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience is Indiana's largest, hands-on outdoor recreation event. Hosted on the grounds of [Fort Harrison State Park](#), the free event features more than 50 activities and 120 grassroots partners. The event has been condensed and is more convenient this year. All activities are within a mile of each other. The farthest activity from the bus drop-off/welcome center is six-tenths of a mile. ✧

DNR names Justine Hasz Wis. Fish Chief

MADISON – Justine Hasz has been named fisheries bureau director for the Wisconsin DNR, leading the 205 permanent staff member team responsible for fish propagation, management and angler services.

Hasz, a 15-year veteran of the department, previously held the fisheries service's section chief post and has been acting as interim bureau director since the retirement of Ron Bruch earlier this year. A native of Leicester, England, Hasz moved to Wisconsin in January 1997 to study at UW-Stevens Point where she earned a master's degree in freshwater fisheries management. She also holds a master's degree in marine fisheries science from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

An avid angler and hunter who intends to bag her first bear this fall, Hasz said her work around the state with both recreational and commercial anglers has given her important insights into the connection between the environment and the economy. In Wisconsin, sport fishing generates a total economic impact of \$2.3 billion and draws some 336,000 nonresident anglers each year.

The fishing tradition also runs deep among Wisconsin residents with some 938,000 residents aged 16 and older participating.

Sanjay Olson, administrator for DNR's division of fish, wildlife and parks, said Hasz was chosen for her exemplary leadership and extensive knowledge of the state's unique regional fisheries. Hasz started her permanent career with DNR in July 2000 as fisheries biologist for Green Bay, then covered Marinette and Oconto Counties before moving to Wisconsin Rapids to cover Adams, Juneau and Wood Counties. In 2012, Hasz became fisheries team supervisor for 13 counties covered by the fisheries team's West District.

In the months ahead, Hasz said she anticipates leading



implementation of efforts to simplify trout regulations and improve panfish size structure through initiatives that gained strong support from citizens and participants at Wisconsin Conservation Congress hearings. A 10-year Lake Michigan Integrated

Fisheries Management Plan and additional stocking as part of the three-year, \$12 million Wisconsin Walleye Initiative also are in the works.

"We're particularly excited and grateful for the support we've received to continue modernizing our hatchery facilities, including the Art Oehmcke Hatchery in Oneida County, Gov. Tommy G. Thompson Hatchery in Washburn County and Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery," Hasz said. "Improvements to these facilities will help ensure enjoyable fishing experiences for anglers of all ages in the years to come."

To learn more about angling throughout the state, search the DNR website, www.dnr.wi.gov for "fishing." ✧

New Lake Angeline boating access open in Marquette County

The Michigan DNR announced the opening of the new boating access site on Lake Angeline in Ishpeming. Construction on the 120' long launch ramp and 30' long skid pier at the lake began July 20. The 1.4-acre site, located off Lower Pine St., also includes a vault toilet and angled parking for 15 vehicles. The fish species within this lake provide a nice hook-and-bobber nearshore fishery for panfish as well as a midwater fishery for trout. This past spring, the DNR stocked 5,000 brown trout in the lake and this October, 150 15" lake trout will also be stocked. The 96-acre lake is popular year-round with anglers. ✧

Michigan grant program to secure snowmobile trail easements

501(c)(3) organizations invited to apply by Nov. 15

The Michigan DNR announced a new grant program for 501(c)(3) organizations and local governments to purchase permanent easements for snowmobile trails. An easement is an authorization to use land for a specific activity, such as snowmobiling.

According to Ron Yesney, a recreation specialist with the DNR, half of Michigan's snowmobile trails exist on private land, and therefore use of these trails is at the sole discretion of the landowner. Yesney said easements are necessary to ensure that people can enjoy the recreational benefits of snowmobiling on these lands.

"Snowmobiling also provides economic benefits for businesses and communities," Yesney said. "This easement grant program will help stabilize the snowmobile trail system to support those economies."

Applications are due November 15 for this year's grant cycle. To apply, visit

www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling,

open the Trail Sponsors drop-down menu and select Grant Programs. Snowmobile trail easement grants are funded through the \$8 fee on all snowmobile registrations. For more information, contact Yesney at 906-228-6561 or yesneyr@michigan.gov.

To subscribe to [snowmobile trail updates](http://www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling), please visit

www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling

and click the red envelope. Other snowmobiling information, including trail report links, trail maps, safety information, laws and more, also is available at this page, [Inside Michigan's Great Outdoors](#); subscribers are always the first to know about reservation opportunities, state park events and other outdoor happenings. Visit

www.michigan.gov/dnr to subscribe now. ✧

Relocation of endangered mussels will allow for dam removal on Grand River

The Michigan DNR announced that the next step to remove the Lyons Dam on the Grand River in Ionia County will proceed as officials start searching for threatened and endangered mussels and moving them out of harm's way.



In 2012, the Ionia Conservation District

received more than \$990,000 from the DNR's Dam Management Grant Program to remove Lyons Dam—a high-hazard dam that has been determined to be in poor structural shape. The discovery of snuffbox mussels (*Epioblasma triquetra*) near the dam leads to significant changes in the original plans to remove the structure. The modified plans will result in a more complete removal of

the aging obstruction while minimizing impact on the snuffbox and other state-listed mussels and, ultimately, a better river restoration project.

Snuffbox mussels are on the federal endangered species list due to population declines attributed to habitat loss, dam construction, pollution and the invasion of nonnative species. As a result of this mussel species' presence, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was initiated to determine how to minimize impact on the mussel and its habitat. The changes to the overall project design were found to be acceptable, and authorization to relocate the mussels, in the form of a USFWS biological opinion, was recently granted.

“Now that the biological opinion has been signed, we can proceed with the relocation of mussels located between Lyons Dam and the Bridge

Street bridge to good habitat located further downstream,” said Scott Hanshue, DNR fisheries biologist with the Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit. “All mussels, even those that aren't Snuffbox mussels, found in the construction area will be relocated as heavy equipment working in the river will be needed to remove the dam.”

A few thousand mussels will be moved during the course of the relocation, which is expected to take several weeks to complete. Anglers and boaters are asked to be mindful of divers and mussel collectors in the river during this time.

Following the relocation effort, demolition of the Lyons Dam is expected to begin in July 2016. An informational meeting on this effort will be held for the public at 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 1, at Hazel Devore Park, 216 Water St. in Lyons. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Battle brewing over fish farming in Great Lakes](#)

Penned fish farms like the ones being advocated for the Great Lakes can bring significant revenue to Michigan. But critics note they also allow fish waste to escape freely into surrounding water

[Invasive round gobies found in lower Fox River](#)

The Fox River Navigation System Authority has closed the Menasha lock on the Fox River in Wisconsin after an invasive species called round gobies was discovered in the river. The DNR wants anglers to be on the lookout to help make sure round gobies have not spread further upstream.

[3 more Asian carp found in Toronto](#)

Three more Grass Carp, one of several species in a group of fish known as Asian Carp, have been found in Toronto — bringing the total number of the invasive fish caught near the city to five. Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) say their officers caught two fish in the waters around the Toronto Islands marina off Lake Ontario.

[DNR research will dive into traveling habits of chinook](#)

Over the last five years, most data have shown at least 50% of chinooks found in Lake Michigan are "wild," or naturally reproduced. At the Brew City Salmon Tournament held last month in Milwaukee, 68% of the chinooks

[Virginia-shootings revive gun myths](#)

Bernie Sanders' record skews way to the left on one issue after another: health care, taxes, campaign finance, international trade, abortion and the Iraq war. Gun control? Not so much. The obvious explanation is that he comes

End