



Lake Ontario Agencies adjust predator stocking to promote alewife *Agencies seek to sustain diverse salmon and trout fishing opportunities into the future*

Ann Arbor, MI – In response to conclusive evidence of two successive years of poor alewife reproduction, the Lake Ontario Committee (LOC), late last month announced stocking reductions in 2017 designed to maintain future recreational and economic benefits of Lake Ontario’s sport fisheries. The stocking reductions, which are moderate in size, will help reduce predatory demand on alewife, with the objective of fostering a robust forage base for the future. These actions represent a consensus decision by the two-member LOC, composed of the New York State Department of

Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF).

The stocking adjustments, which will commence in spring 2017, emphasize the LOCs shared commitment to the Lake Ontario Fish Community Objectives including restoring lake trout and sustaining Lake Ontario’s world-class salmon and trout fishery, with Chinook salmon as the top predator in the lake. New York State and the Province of Ontario currently stock a combined 2.36 million Chinook salmon and more than one million lake trout each year into Lake Ontario. In

addition, approximately 50% of the Chinook salmon in Lake Ontario are naturally reproduced or “wild” fish. Stocked and wild salmon are supporting a world class fishery which produces the largest trophy Chinook salmon in the Great Lakes. Maintaining sufficient alewife abundance to support the sport fishery is key to long term success, and these stocking reductions will help achieve that goal.

“New York State is committed to protecting the ecological, recreational, and economic benefits of Lake **Lake Ontario adjusts stocking**

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Happy Thanksgiving



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DNR accepting applications for coastal area grants

The DNR is accepting grant applications for projects through its Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program. Approximately \$450,000 will be available for grant projects starting after July 1, 2017 through funding provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office for Coastal Management. Applications are due **Monday, Dec. 12.**

Grants support projects that impact the natural, economic, recreational or cultural resources of Minnesota’s coastal area. The coastal area covers portions of Carlton, Cook, Lake and St. Louis counties and the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior.

Local, state and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, area-wide and regional planning agencies, colleges and universities,

public school districts, port authorities, joint powers boards, and sanitary sewer districts are eligible to apply.

Grant requests can vary from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Applicants must provide 50 percent of the total project costs from a non-federal source.

“This is a great opportunity,” said Amber Westerbur, coastal program manager. “These grants provide chances to launch new ideas and expand on-going programs that might not be possible otherwise.”

Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program has dispersed more than \$12 million in grants to over 500 projects since 1999. Recent grant recipients are working to enhance

DNR accepting grant apps

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Seasonal lake sturgeon releases put nearly 8,000 fish into Michigan waters

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and several partners released more than 7,800 juvenile lake sturgeon into various public waters across the state this summer and fall in an effort to rehabilitate this



culturally significant fish species.

The juvenile fish were collected from the wild last spring and reared in streamside facilities until they reached at least seven inches or larger in size. Most fish were tagged prior to being released into their respective rivers to allow future evaluations of stocked fish.

“Many of these stocking efforts were public events that shined a spotlight on how important lake sturgeon are to Michigan,” said DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. “Our state has a long history with lake sturgeon, and working with our partners helps us protect the species for future generations.”

These annual stocking efforts are critical to restoring the state’s lake sturgeon population. It takes the work of many partners to secure funding and resources to make the restoration possible. These partners include: the DNR, Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Kalamazoo River Chapter of Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish band of Pottawatomi Indians, Gun Lake Tribe, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Michigan State University, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service. ✧

Status of the Cormorant Management Program

In early 2016, a federal court ruled in favor of a lawsuit filed by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). The court found the USFWS violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by not comprehensively documenting the need to control cormorants. Wildlife Services are working with the USFWS to obtain some form of cormorant management in place for Michigan during 2017 to focus more on harassment and less on reducing the number of birds.

Currently, depredation permits are allowed for limited lethal control. USDA Wildlife Services has a meeting scheduled in December with Region 3, USFWS to discuss how to move forward. Wildlife Services is trying to be proactive before spring when the birds are here. Between now and December, stakeholders should come together and prioritize control sites. USFWS is not going to issue a depredation permit for all the existing sites. Les Cheneaux is probably the number 1 priority, but we do not want to lose ground anywhere. It appears that some of the sites that are currently being comprehensively managed will not be treated in 2017 and the chances of adding new sites like Saginaw Bay for comprehensive treatment are low.

The process needed to reinstate the successful treatment methods that were in use would require the USFWS to update the Cormorant Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Unfortunately, individuals that were involved with developing the original EIS have retired and currently there are no efforts being made to update the EIS. Unless there is renewed emphasis to provide better scientific documentation and properly update the EIS it could be many years before comprehensive cormorant management can be implemented again in Michigan and the surrounding states. This could result in the loss of many years of steady progress. ✧



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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

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Lake Erie managers ask anglers to scan Yellow Perch

Lake Erie was as smooth and flat as glass on a May morning when researchers from the Ohio DNR and the U.S. Geological Survey set out from Fairport Harbor. Their mission: catch, tag and release as many yellow perch as possible. The project—a collaboration among ODNR-DOW, USGS, Ohio Sea Grant and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry—aims to study fish behavior, migration, population size and rate of death by natural causes.

Along for the ride that day were Ohio Sea Grant Extension Program Leader Tory Gabriel and two members of the Ohio Sea Grant communications staff, there to produce a video about the project asking anglers for their help to scan any yellow perch they catch for microchips. The microchips, called PIT tags, are about the size of a grain of rice – 12 millimeters – and work similarly to a pet microchip, explained Carey Knight, a fisheries biologist with the ODNR.

Because of their small size, it is impossible to tell if a fish is tagged without scanning it. The part of the fish containing the tag, just under the skin in the fish's throat, is removed as a part of normal cleaning, so tagged fish are safe to eat.

The team of biologists tagging perch worked methodically, measuring and recording the length and sex of each fish, inserting the microchip into any fish larger than 170 millimeters (6.7 inches), and throwing them back into the lake. A few were placed in a holding pen so the researchers could track what effect the tagging had on fish mortality.

“This research will help us better understand movement patterns of yellow perch in space and time, which in turn will assist management agencies to better manage the yellow perch fishery,” said Patrick Kocovsky, a fishery biologist with the USGS. “Differences in genetics and

morphology of yellow perch throughout Lake Erie discovered through collaborative research were the impetus for the tagging study.”

It took many meetings and discussions between USGS and DOW personnel to figure out the best approach to tag and scan the fish, since the organizations hadn't undertaken such a large-scale fish-tagging project before, Knight said.

“One of the best things about working on this project was the affiliation of working with the USGS folks in Sandusky and the Fairport office for the tagging and with the commercial trap netters, cleaning houses, recreational fishers and Sea Grant for the scanning part of the project,” Knight said.

The study began in 2013, and ran through three springs. In total, more than 8,300 yellow perch were tagged during the 2013, 2014 and 2015 spawning seasons—all about a half mile west of Fairport Harbor in less than 30 feet of water.

Lake Erie sport fishing is a \$1 billion industry, according to Tory Gabriel, fisheries educator for Ohio Sea Grant, which assisted with the project.

“Sport fishing on Lake Erie is hugely important to Ohio's coastal economies, and one of the most important species is yellow perch,” Gabriel said. “With this project, anglers have a chance to provide data to the fisheries managers, and in the long term they actually help in keeping Lake Erie a world-class fishery for yellow perch.”

It's an easy opportunity to participate in citizen science. All anglers have to do to help is take any yellow perch they catch to a scanning station. They don't even have to take the fish out of their cooler for scanning, Gabriel added. There are currently seven scanners along the Lake Erie coast, and a map of scanner locations is available at go.osu.edu/perchscan. ✧

Mille Lacs Lake open for winter walleye fishing

Winter fishing limits 1 walleye, 5 northern pike per angler

Minnesota winter walleye regulation will allow anglers to keep one walleye between 19 and 21 inches or one longer than 28 inches in Mille Lacs Lake. The 2016-17 winter regulation continues last winter's one fish limit but moves the harvest slot up slightly from last year's 18 to 20 inches.

The winter walleye season begins Thursday, Dec. 1, and extends through Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017.

Tribal and DNR biologists met November 1 to evaluate the status of the walleye population following the completion of the 2015-2016 fishing season. The key conservation goal of conserving the abundant 2013 year class was achieved, with minimal fishing mortality occurring during the past year and key population benchmarks successfully met. Those factors combined to support a modest winter harvest for Mille Lacs Lake walleye.

Northern pike will provide anglers and darkhouse spearsers with additional opportunity to harvest fish on Mille Lacs this winter. Like last winter, ice anglers and spearsers can keep up to five fish with one longer than 30 inches. However, in order to keep the one northern pike longer than 30 inches, anglers and spearsers must have caught or speared two northern pike shorter than 30 inches and have both smaller fish in immediate possession.

The pike regulation goes into effect on December 1. It continues through Sunday, March 26, 2017, for angling and Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017 for spearing.

For now, bass regulations will remain the same. But on the heels of a very successful Toyota Angler of the Year tournament and the increased attention it has focused on Mille Lacs' world-class smallmouth, discussions with the Mille Lacs advisory committee will be ongoing to determine if changes may be warranted for the open water bass season.

More information about Mille Lacs Lake management is available on the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/millelacslake. ✧

Snowshoe Building Workshops at Sleepy Hollow State Park

Sleepy Hollow State Park will offer several two-day snowshoe building classes in December, January and February. Participants will learn to weave a pair of traditional wooden snowshoes similar to the ones Native Americans made for generations.

The cost for making a pair of snowshoes is \$180 and includes the pre-formed wooden frames, lacing, high-quality bindings and personal instruction. Classes are designed to be fun, informative and interesting. Because this is an activity that requires concentration over long periods of time, it is recommended for ages 16 and older.

These handmade snowshoes can be used for hiking throughout the winter, given as gifts or used as home decoration. Snowshoeing is an easy, inexpensive way to get outside and burn some calories during the winter.

The classes will be held at Sleepy Hollow State Park's headquarters at 7835 E. Price Road, Laingsburg. Please note the classes are split over two days. Class size is limited to a maximum of eight participants, and reservations are required.

For additional information or to make a reservation, please call Sleepy Hollow State Park at 517-651-6217 or email Denise Smith at smithd8@michigan.gov.

Classes are scheduled for:

Dec. 2-3, 2016

Fri., Dec. 2, 5 to 9 p.m. (Part 1)

Sat., Dec 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Part 2)

Dec. 9-10, 2016

Fri., Dec. 9, 5 to 9 p.m. (Part 1)

Sat., Dec 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Part 2)

Jan. 6-7, 2017

Fri., Jan. 6, 5 to 9 p.m. (Part 1)

Sat., Jan. 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Part 2)

Jan. 20-21, 2017

Fri., Jan. 20, 5 to 9 p.m. (Part 1)

Sat., Jan. 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Part 2)

Feb. 3-4, 2017

Fri., Feb. 3, 5 to 9 p.m. (Part 1)

Sat., Feb. 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Part 2)



Make snowshoes at Tahquamenon Falls State Park

Registration deadline Nov. 30 for upcoming workshop

[Tahquamenon Falls State Park](#) is among the Michigan DNR parks and visitor centers hosting snowshoe-making workshops this fall. The 1-day workshop will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17 at the Tahquamenon Falls Brewery and Restaurant, located off M-123 at the Upper Falls area.

“This 8-hour workshop will take you step-by-step through the process of weaving your own traditional wood-framed snowshoes,” said Theresa Neal, an instructor for the workshop. “Each snowshoe kit includes one pair of wood frames, tubular nylon lacing, boot bindings and personalized instruction.”

Advanced registration is required. Class sizes are small and fill quickly. Registration closes Nov. 30. Cost is \$180. “Making your own snowshoes is great inspiration to then use those snowshoes to hike Michigan’s parks, see the beautiful waterfalls and impressive river vistas during the wintertime,” said John Pepin, DNR deputy public information officer. To register call 906-492-3415 or email Theresa Neal at nealt1@michigan.gov.

Elsewhere in the U.P., the [Michigan Iron Industry Museum](#) in Negaunee is holding a snowshoe-making workshop on December 3. Call 906-475-7857 or email Troy Henderson hendersont7@michigan.gov to register.

In the Lower Peninsula, [Hartwick Pines State Park](#) will offer 2-day workshops on Dec. 3-4, Jan. 7-8 and Mar. 4-5. Cost is \$185 and all classes are held at the visitor center. Register by calling 989-348-2537 or email Craig Kasmer, kasmerc@michigan.gov.

[Ludington State Park](#) is offering workshops on Dec. 2-3 and Jan. 8. Cost is \$200 and all classes are held at the warming shelter. Call 231-843-9261 or email Alan Wernetta at wernettea@michigan.gov. ◇

Change in payment options for reservations at Michigan state parks

The Michigan DNR announced it will make modifications in payment options for camping and lodging reservations at Michigan state parks, recreation areas and harbors. Beginning October 27, E-check payments no longer will be accepted. Forms of payment that will be accepted include MasterCard, Visa, Discover and the [DNR state park and harbor gift card](#).

For customers who don't have a credit or debit card, there are alternative payment options:

► Visit a nearby state park and purchase a DNR state park and harbor gift card. The cards can be loaded in any amount between \$5 and \$500. There are no additional activation fees for these cards, and multiple cards can be purchased if necessary. The gift card then can be used to make a reservation online at www.midnrreservations.com or via the call center at 1-800-44PARKS (1-800-447-2757).

► Visit a local convenience store and purchase a prepaid MasterCard or Visa. The prepaid MasterCard or Visa card then can be used to make a reservation online at www.midnrreservations.com or via the call center at 1-800-44PARKS (1-800-447-2757).

Advance reservations can be made up to six months in advance of a customer's planned arrival date for both campsites and harbor slips. Advance reservations for overnight lodging or day-use shelters can be made up to one year in advance. Reservations can be made by visiting www.midnrreservations.com or calling 1-800-44PARKS (1-800-447-2757).

For questions, contact the reservation call center at 1-800-44PARKS or Christa Sturtevant-Good at 231-861-2703 or sturtevantc@michigan.gov. Emails also may be sent to DNR-Reservations@michigan.gov. ◇

DNR to close energy-inefficient French River Hatchery

Minnesota is closing a 1970s-era fish hatchery because of failing infrastructure and excessive energy consumption. The French River Hatchery, located on Lake Superior north of Duluth, needs \$8 million in capital investment to address failing equipment. It also consumes 10 percent of the energy used by the entire agency statewide.

Fisheries Chief Don Pereira said energy inefficiency and costly repairs make it necessary to close the hatchery, but the remaining fish production from French River will be continued elsewhere.

Pereira said production of Kamloops trout, which are raised at French River and stocked in Lake Superior, will be moved to another hatchery. The Kamloops trout is a domesticated strain of rainbow trout that cannot reproduce in the lake. "Kamloops provide a popular near-shore fishery for Lake Superior anglers," Pereira said. "We will continue to produce Kamloops at another nearby hatchery until an agreed-upon strategy is reached with the Lake Superior Advisory Group, a group of anglers who work with the DNR on Lake Superior issues."

Under current French River operations, each Kamloop an angler keeps costs approximately \$160 to produce. The hatchery is inefficient because it uses Lake Superior's cold water and must heat the water to a temperature at which fish can be raised, a process that is less costly elsewhere.

The hatchery also produced steelhead trout, which also now have self-supporting wild populations.

The DNR's four hatcheries produce trout that are stocked in a variety of lakes throughout the state, with an inland water summer season that closed on Halloween and a winter season that opens in mid-January. A list of trout lakes can be found on the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/fishing/trout_lakes/list.html. ◇

Annual DNR survey will track Lake St. Clair muskie populations

The Michigan DNR is preparing to start the second year of an annual survey to track Lake St. Clair's muskie population. The survey focuses on juvenile populations to determine what the future of the fishery might look like.

Lake St. Clair is one of the most popular muskie fisheries in the state, with anglers targeting this species there for more than 100 years. Part of the lake's success stems from ideal habitat that features clean water, abundant aquatic plants and lots of forage fish. The lake's muskie population has grown over the past 40 years due to an increase in aquatic plants, effective fishing regulations and the expanding popularity of catch-and-release fishing. This survey, conducted every fall in Lake St. Clair, relies on an electrofishing boat to stun young-of-year muskie so they can be counted and examined.

This year's survey was conducted the week of October 31.

"One way we can assess population status is to examine spawning success and survival of young fish," said Todd Wills, manager of the DNR's Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station. "Poor reproduction could indicate a problem with the health of the population and its habitat, which our fisheries managers would then try to address."

The muskies that are stunned are measured and weighed and diet samples are collected to determine what, and how much, they eat. The young muskies then are returned to the water unharmed. Last year's survey had diets mainly consisting of round gobies, gizzard shad and pumpkinseed sunfish.

The survey is coordinated by the Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station. Information collected is shared with the DNR's Lake Erie Management Unit, which is responsible for managing the lake's fishery. For more info: Michigan.gov/muskie. ◇

Salmon and trout egg-take efforts

Fall egg-takes have been completed, or are starting soon, for wild Chinook and coho salmon and for captive broodstocks of brown, rainbow, brook and lake trout. Chinook salmon eggs were collected October 4 and October 20 at the Little Manistee River Weir and October 11 from the Swan River Weir near Rogers City. Collection of coho salmon eggs began October 17 at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery Weir and ended October 27.

The Wisconsin DNR was able to supplement Michigan's needs with an additional 500,000 eggs from their Strawberry Creek weir. These additional eggs will ensure Michigan produces the required number of salmon for stocking in 2017.

The coho salmon egg-take got underway at the upper Platte River Weir October 17. The coho run has been very strong this fall, with 16,691 adults passed above the lower Platte River Weir and an additional 1,491 adults harvested. The goal was nearly 5 million coho eggs at the Platte River Weir, and we had no problem hitting the target.

All Chinook salmon eggs collected at Michigan's weirs will be reared in Michigan. The DNR will continue to provide coho eggs to neighboring states with 3 million staying in Michigan, 1.1 million going to Indiana and 800,000 to Illinois, thanks to a strong run of fish.

Captive broodstock egg-takes for brook trout and lake trout are in progress until mid-November at the Marquette Hatchery. Brown trout egg-takes at Oden State Fish Hatchery were completed in mid-October. Rainbow trout egg-takes at Oden will begin in December and continue until mid-January. Captive egg-takes occur every one to two weeks.

Captive broodstocks will provide 220,000 brook trout eggs, 410,000 lake trout eggs, 3.3 million brown trout eggs and 1 million rainbow trout eggs. An additional 640,000 splake eggs (brook trout and lake trout hybrid) will also be collected. For more info: Michigan.gov/hatcheries. ◇

Mandatory Life Jacket Requirement Starts November 1

When sunny days and fall foliage tempt the boater in you, don't forget about your life jacket, especially if you are planning to use a canoe, kayak or similar small boat.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is reminding boaters that beginning November 1 and lasting through April 30, they are required to wear a life jacket while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or on any canoe or kayak. The requirement applies to all Pennsylvania waters.

"Life jackets are the most important piece of safety equipment on a boat," says Ryan Walt, PFBC Boating and Watercraft Safety Manager. "According to Pennsylvania's boating accident reports, almost 80 percent of all boating fatalities happen to boaters not wearing a life jacket. A disproportionate number of the fatalities occur during the months of November through April. During these cold weather months, boaters are especially at risk due to the water temperature and the risk of sudden cold water immersion."

[Link to video message.](#)

When a person is unexpectedly plunged into cold water below 70°F, the body's first response is usually an involuntary gasp. Without a life jacket, a victim may inhale while under water and drown without coming back to the surface. If an individual does make it back to the surface, his ability to swim is usually restricted because of a shortness of breath or hyperventilation.

Individuals who plan to fish, boat or hunt from a boat this fall or winter are encouraged to follow these cold water survival safety tips:

- Always wear a life jacket, even when not required. Many models also offer insulation from cold air. Read the life jacket's approval label to be sure it's appropriate for your boating activity.
- Never boat alone.
- Leave a float plan with family or friends and know the waters you plan to boat.
- Bring a fully charged cell phone with you in case of emergency.

- Wear clothing that still insulates when wet, such as fleece, polypropylene or other synthetics.
- If you are about to fall into cold water, cover your mouth and nose with your hands to reduce the likelihood of inhaling water.
- If possible, stay with the boat. Get back into or climb on top of the boat.
- While in cold water, do not remove your clothing.
- If you can't get out of the water, get into the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP). In this position, individuals bring their knees to their chest and hug them with their arms.
- Once out of the water, remove wet clothes and warm up as soon as possible.
- Seek medical attention when necessary. Some effects of exposure to cold temperatures can be delayed.

To learn more about life jacket wear and cold water survival, visit the Water Safety [page](#) and the "Wear It Pennsylvania" [page](#). ✧

New Accessible Canoe and Kayak Hand Launch on Staten Island

New York State held a ribbon cutting on October 19 celebrating the opening of Old Place Creek Access Site, providing the first public access to critical wildlife habitat in northwestern Staten Island. The completion of this project marks another milestone in the effort to increase public access to DEC Lands across the state.

"The opening of this site allows anyone in the community to explore by land or water, the many natural wonders of Old Place Creek," said DEC Region 2 Director Steve Zahn. "The launch provides access to over two miles of sinuous tidal creek, and the overlook gives a rare opportunity to see native and migratory birds and other wildlife."

Site features include:

- An accessible hand launch for

canoes and kayaks

- An accessible viewing platform
- A 5-car parking area with one accessible parking space

"Staten Island bore the brunt of the Cibro Savannah oil spill, so it is only fitting that the penalty money obtained from those responsible has been directed to the island," Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman said. "This project creates the first public access to Old Place Creek, providing New Yorkers an unparalleled opportunity to enjoy, first hand, one of Staten Island's most extraordinary natural areas."

"This boat launch and viewing platform provides critical public access to a very important restored ecological area" said John Catena, Northeast and Great Lakes Regional Supervisor, NOAA Restoration

Center. "NOAA is pleased that oil spill damage assessment settlements funded both this project and the restored wetlands to which they provide access and will allow the public to fully enjoy this precious resource."

The project was built by DEC Operations staff at a cost of \$142,000. The project was funded through monies obtained by the New York State Attorney General's Office in a settlement that New York, the City of New York, New Jersey, and NOAA reached with Montauk Oil Transportation Corp. over the oil spill from its Cibro-Savannah barge.

Old Place Creek Access Site is located on Gulf Avenue, west of Forest Avenue and across from the Goethals Bridge Toll Booth. ✧

Oral arguments in Wolf Case

On October 18, attorneys for the Sportsmen's Alliance, the federal government and the state of Michigan presented oral arguments in their appeal of the ongoing Great Lakes wolf case. Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota were joined by other states in support of the appeal.

In December 2011, the USFWS removed wolves from the list of endangered and threatened species, restoring management to Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Unhappy with that delisting, and the subsequent possibility for a wolf hunt, the Humane Society of the United States sued. The HSUS lawsuit sought to return wolves to Endangered Species Act protections.

Despite overwhelming evidence that wolves are not only recovered, but thriving, in the Western Great Lakes region, in December 2014, a U.S. District Court Judge ruled that until the predators were recovered throughout their entire historic range—which means from New York City to San Francisco—they could not be delisted. [The Sportsmen's Alliance and the federal and state governments appealed this ruling.](#)

"Under the lower court's ruling, it doesn't matter that wolf numbers in the Great Lakes states are two or three times higher than the recovery goals adopted by the federal government in the 1990s,," said Evan Heusinkveld, president and CEO of Sportsmen's Alliance. "The ruling makes absolutely no sense, is legally and factually incorrect, and spells disaster for the future of the Endangered Species Act, wildlife and our entire ecosystem, which is why we're appealing it."

Joining the Sportsmen's Alliance in the appeal of the lower court's decision are Safari Club International, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, National Rifle Association, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, Upper Peninsula Bear Houndsmen Association and the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation. ✧

Conservation officers share tips for safe bow hunting

Michigan's bow hunting season opened October 1, and DNR conservation officers are sharing tips for a safe hunting experience.

Top safety tips for bow hunting:

- Before going out, inspect equipment, including tree stand or other raised platform. If anything is worn, frayed, cracked or peeling, replace it or get it fixed.
- When sharpening broadheads, be careful and take your time.
- Use a full-body safety harness to get into and out of a tree stand.
- If using a raised platform, always use a haul-line to raise and lower gear.
- Keep arrows in the quiver until ready to use. A common injury is to stab or injure yourself or a companion while carrying arrows in your hand or nocked on your bow.
- Hunt with a friend or family member or make sure you tell someone reliable where you are going and what time you expect to be back. This information is valuable in helping find you if you are lost.
- Carry a cell phone, a compass, a flashlight and other small safety items when in the woods.

Other important reminders:

- Obtain permission from a landowner before hunting on his land or using their land to access public land.
- Never take a shot at a deer that is beyond the maximum effective range of your equipment and your shooting ability.
- If you are successful, field dress your deer and cool its meat immediately. Michigan's unpredictable weather means we sometimes have warm fall days, which can cause the meat to spoil quickly.

For more info about Michigan's conservation officers: www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers. More about hunting: www.michigan.gov/hunting. ✧

DNR auction of surplus public land starts **Dec. 6**

Parcels located in northern/central Lower Michigan and UP.

The Michigan DNR announced it will offer surplus public land for sale by sealed-bid auction between **December 6, and January 10, 2017.**

The auction will feature 58 parcels located in counties mainly in central/northern Lower Michigan and in the U.P. Those counties include Arenac, Baraga, Chippewa, Clare, Gladwin, Lake, Mackinac, Manistee, Midland, Newaygo, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford.

Properties range in size from less than an acre to 77 acres. These lands are isolated from other DNR-managed public land, are difficult to manage and provide limited public recreation benefit. Several of the parcels are forested and have riverside or lake frontage and are better suited for private ownership. In addition, several large-acreage parcels are being offered in Baraga, Clare, Midland, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford counties.

Information, including minimum bid price, property descriptions and [conditions of sale](#), is available at www.michigan.gov/landforsale.

Property listings will not be available for bid until the auction start date, December 6. At that time, instructions for submitting a bid and printable bid forms will be provided at www.michigan.gov/landforsale.

Sealed bids must be postmarked by midnight January 10 and will be opened January 24.

Additional properties remaining unsold from previous auctions also are listed for sale at the former minimum bid price. Click on [DNR Surplus Land to BUY NOW!](#) Printed property information may be requested from the DNR Real Estate Services Section, P.O. Box 30448, Lansing, MI 48909-7948. For general info about the sale of surplus, state-managed public land, contact Michael Michalek at 517-284-5950. ✧

Boardman River site major fish passage, invasive species technology project

Lessons from the project could have regional, national, and global implications

Ann Arbor, MI – A consortium of fishery management and research institutions has selected Michigan's Boardman River as the site for a first-of-its-kind project to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of technologies to pass desirable fish around river barriers while simultaneously blocking harmful species, most notably the destructive sea lamprey. The ten-year project, led by the bi-national Great Lakes Fishery Commission, will take place at the Boardman River's Union Street Dam, located in Traverse City, Michigan. The initiative has gained widespread attention, as lessons learned may be applied to other rivers and optimized to create selective bi-directional fish passage at new sites. The Traverse City Commission unanimously endorsed the technology demonstration and evaluation project during its meeting on September 6th, 2016.

The Great Lakes Basin contains hundreds of thousands of barriers, some dating to the beginning of European settlement in the region. Although the basin's dams often serve industrial, recreational, aesthetic, and ecological purposes, they also block fish access to streams. Many Great Lakes fish move up streams at some point in their life to live, feed, and reproduce. Barriers segment and disrupt natural stream ecological functions, which affect aquatic species and inhibit fish movement while undermining sound fishery management. However, barriers also play an essential role in protecting fish from harmful invasive species and fish disease. Sea lampreys, a noxious, destructive pest, for instance, are denied access to tens of thousands of miles of prime spawning habitat by effective barriers. In fact, without barriers to block sea lampreys, the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery would not exist as we know it today. The Great Lakes are not alone in coping with the

legacy of barriers, as managers globally struggle with rehabilitating fisheries in disconnected river ecosystems while managing around invasive species.

"One of the major fishery management challenges of our time is to find ways to allow desirable fish to pass barriers while denying passage to harmful species like sea lamprey," said Commission chair David Ullrich. "This project will bring together the best minds, the best fishery managers, and the best engineers to identify promising technologies, test those technologies in a real-world setting, and evaluate whether those technologies can be applied elsewhere. If we are successful, we will demonstrate that we can simultaneously pass desirable fish and block harmful species, melding for the first time those two primary fishery management objectives."

The project itself will involve a steering committee of fishery experts and engineers who will identify potential technologies and then modify Traverse City's Union Street Dam to demonstrate whether the technologies successfully pass desirable fish while also blocking undesirable species. The intent is to construct one or more channels in association with the existing dam site so that a suite of tools and technologies can be integrated for fish passage and invasive species control. For instance, natural alarm cues or pheromones could be used to guide fish toward passage devices or to guide sea lampreys into traps. Computer recognition of fish species could be used to automatically sort different species, passing those that should be passed and blocking those that should not. Tools already under development in the Great Lakes region could be used, though the steering committee will also scour the globe for other potential technologies.

✧

Becoming an Outdoors Woman Research

If you have ever participated in a Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshop, in any state or Canadian province, please help us by taking a short (10-15 minutes) survey. Dr. Ann Herda-Rapp (U. of Wisconsin) and Dr. Joy James (Appalachian State U.) are conducting a survey of BOW participants to better understand how the BOW program affects women, their lives and their relationships with the out-of-doors. Ann previously conducted research on BOW participants in Florida, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wisconsin in 2004-2006. Ann is also a past BOW participant. The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete and will be available at this link until **December 10**: https://uwex.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_43pSJhbAxNjQWTr. ✧

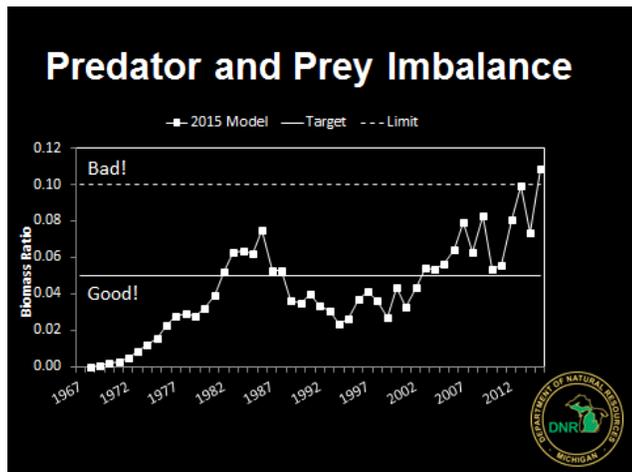
No more \$200 tax stamp for suppressors? A very good chance in a Trump Presidency

Wouldn't it be nice if you could buy a suppressor without having to pay a \$200 tax on an already expensive item? That's exactly what the American Silencer Association and Representative Matt Salmon (AZ) hope to do with the introduction of the Hearing Protection Act (H.R. 3799). The bill aims to remove suppressors from the jurisdiction of the National Firearms Act, which would eliminate the current complicated and expensive process associated with acquiring a suppressor. While this bill faced an uphill battle before the election that's a very different story now. With Trump in the White House, and a Republican Senate & House this bill could be fast tracked to the President's desk. ✧

Little impact for Michigan anglers expected from new Lake Michigan fish-stocking levels

After significant negotiations with the other members of the Lake Michigan Committee (LMC)—which cooperatively manages fish populations in the lake—the Michigan DNR has finalized its salmon and trout stocking levels.

With the new stocking levels, the DNR seeks to protect the ecology of the lake by striking the right balance between predator and prey fish, while also protecting a diverse fishery. The new levels will begin in 2017 and be completed in 2018. Recommendations from the committee represent the consensus of its members.



Lake-Wide Stocking Plan

- 1.35 million Chinook salmon (-24%).
- 1.10 million brown trout (-24%).
- 2.54 million lake trout (-18%).
- 1.45 million steelhead (-3%).
- 2.25 million coho salmon (-2%).

Under the lakewide agreement, stocking levels of salmon and trout from all state management agencies will be reduced by 1.77 million fish by 2018. This represents a 17 percent reduction from the average numbers stocked lakewide since 2013. Each state contributed to the stocking reduction to varying degrees to achieve the desired result across the lake.

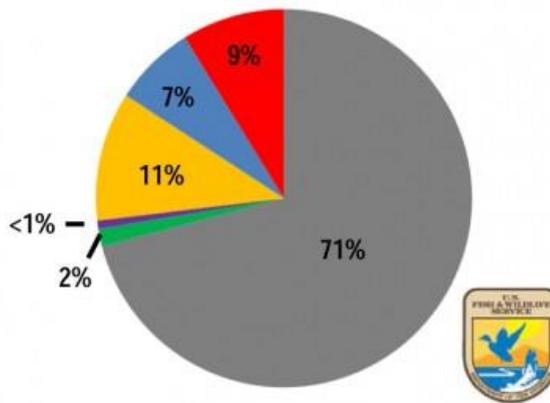
Michigan anglers are not expected to see a significant impact from the new stocking levels. Over 70 percent of Chinook salmon harvested by Michigan anglers are wild and

hatched in Michigan rivers. Of the stocked fish caught by Michigan anglers, the majority come from neighboring Wisconsin, which will maintain its Chinook salmon stocking at current levels.

Compared with other Lake Michigan Committee member states, Michigan made the smallest reduction in its overall stocking.

- Michigan will reduce lake trout by 270,000 fish, Chinook salmon by 230,000 fish and coho salmon by 96,000 fish. These reductions represent 11% of all salmon and trout stocked by the DNR in Lake Michigan. In response to angler concerns about salmon stocking in particular, Michigan opted to cut fewer Chinook salmon than initially planned. The state originally had proposed cutting 360,000 Chinook only.
- Illinois will reduce 76,000 Chinook salmon and 4,000 lake trout (15% of all Illinois stocking).
- Indiana will reduce 123,000 Chinook salmon and 120,000 lake trout (21% of all Indiana stocking).
- Wisconsin will reduce its entire allocation by 25%, including a minimum of 517,000 lake trout and 350,000 brown trout. Wisconsin will continue to work with its stakeholders to refine its final reduction strategy.

Origin of Chinook salmon caught by open-water anglers in Michigan waters of Lake Michigan (April-September of 2014-2015)



Origin (stocking location or wild recruitment)



“Fish don’t know borders or boundaries, so it is critical that we work together as states toward a lakewide solution,” said Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin coordinator for the Michigan DNR and chair of the LMC. “The science solidly

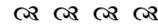
points to the need for change. These changes will help us achieve the important goal of a better balance of predator and prey. We will continue to annually monitor fish populations in the lake. The Lake Michigan Committee reviews this information annually and would recommend increasing stocking levels in the future if conditions are favorable.”

Implementing this plan will take two years. Anglers

may begin to see full effects of these actions in three to four years.

Learn more about the changing ecology of Lake Michigan and its impact on salmon by watching a [video on YouTube](#). ([fact sheet for full details and results for other states](#)).

For additional information, visit the [DNR's salmon web page](#), under Managing Michigan's Fisheries on the DNR website www.michigan.gov/fishing. ✧



Lake Ontario adjusts stocking

Continued from page 1

Ontario's sport fisheries. These reductions will help ensure that trout and salmon stocks are sustained for generations to come,” said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. “By working with partners in Canada, this bi-national management effort used the most current science available to inform our plans. I applaud the work of DEC's biologists, the Lake Ontario Committee, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in carefully crafting this balanced plan.”

Alewife are not native to the Great Lakes, and juvenile alewife cannot tolerate very cold water for long periods of time. The extremely long, cold winters of 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 resulted in poor survival of young alewife in those years. The LOC is concerned that the two years of poor alewife survival will result in too few adult alewife, starting in 2017, to sustain the large numbers of trout and salmon in the lake.

To help reduce predator demand on alewife in 2018 and 2019, the LOC has agreed to reduce Chinook salmon stocking in 2017 by 20%. Given that, on average, 50% of Lake Ontario's Chinook salmon are wild, this reduction effectively reduces Chinook salmon numbers added to the lake by only 10% in 2017. In addition, lake trout stocking will also be reduced by 20% in 2017, which will reduce predator demand on alewife in 2020 and beyond. Adult lake trout abundance is currently above restoration targets, and a reduction in stocking should not compromise restoration efforts. Under this action, DEC and OMNRF will still stock 1.88 million Chinook salmon, 750,000 lake trout, and more

than 2.45 million other trout and salmon into Lake Ontario in 2017.

Anglers should continue to regard Lake Ontario as a premier sport fishing destination and should not expect diminished fishing quality resulting from these reductions. Other factors, such as weather, significantly impact fishing success. For example, in 2008, Chinook salmon stocking was reduced by 42% due to an inability to meet egg collection targets, however, there was no measurable impact to sport fishing quality resulting from this reduction.

The Lake Ontario Committee considered all the public input and believes the current plan of action will help reduce predatory demand on alewife and promote alewife population recovery. Future management decisions, if required, will be based on fisheries survey data collected in 2017 and future years.

“Our most critical message is to expect excellent fishing in 2017, Said NYSDEC Great Lakes Fisheries Section Head, Steve LaPan.

“New York has met its Chinook and coho salmon egg collection targets. Ontario exceeded their Chinook salmon egg collection goal as a contingency in the event that NY's collections fell short. Once again, we're indebted to OMNRF staff for their willingness to assist NY. OMNRF also expects to meet their coho salmon egg collection targets.”

The Lake Committee will continue to engage angler groups, tourism interests, and the public when future survey results become available. For more info www.glf.org/lakecom/loc/lochome.p hp. ✧

Indiana voters approve constitutional amendment protecting right to hunt, fish

Hoosier voters have approved a constitutional amendment protecting the right to hunt and fish in Indiana. [The amendment](#) will prohibit laws from being passed that would restrict hunting and fishing in the future. It will also make hunting the state's preferred method of wildlife conservation. Proponents of the amendment say if hunting were restricted, then the state would miss out on money from licenses and permits. Opponents of the amendment questioned whether Hoosiers' ability to hunt and fish is in jeopardy to begin with. Some fear the amendment could cause a court to strike down a future policy protecting endangered species. ✧

DNR accepting grant apps

Continued from page 1

public understanding of natural resource concerns along the North Shore of Lake Superior and piloting new approaches for sustaining flow and water quality of Lake Superior tributaries. Others are identifying important migratory patterns and wintering locations of common terns and constructing new public restrooms and an interpretive trail.

Application materials and additional details are available at www.mndnr.gov/mlscp. Questions can be directed to Cynthia Poyhonen, grants specialist, at 218-834-1447 or mlscp.dnr@state.mn.us. ✧

Lake Erie Charter Captains play a major role in Water Quality Sampling

Finding time and money to take regular water quality samples in a space as large as Lake Erie's western basin can be difficult for even the most dedicated researchers. But sometimes, help shows up on a lab doorstep and is too good to turn away.

That was the case in 2012, when a group of Lake Erie charter boat captains approached the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to ask how they could help monitor and improve water quality in the lake on which their businesses depend. They had seen the impact the severe 2011 harmful algal bloom (HAB) had had on their fishing charters and on other Lake Erie businesses, and wanted to contribute to improving the health of the lake.

OEPA had already trained 12 captains in how to collect water samples, before Stone Lab staff took over coordination of the sampling program in 2013. Managed by Stone Lab Research Coordinator Dr. Justin Chaffin, the program currently works with about 10 captains in the western Lake Erie basin to collect weekly water samples during their regular

charter fishing trips from April through October. Captains are recruited with help from the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association (LECBA) and currently hail from five different Ohio marinas, all located between the city of Oregon and the village of Marblehead.

"Charter captains will grab a water sample for us after they've finished fishing, and then my staff picks it up and processes it," said Chaffin. On those weekly runs to pick up samples and drop off clean sample containers, staff members also provide the captains with data sheets on previous weeks' water quality results. That way, captains are able to provide their fishing clients with science-based information on Lake Erie water quality. Yearly training also ensures that captains have a basic understanding of how harmful algal blooms form and what can be done to reduce the blooms' impacts on Lake Erie in general and on their fishing clientele in particular.

"To solve this HABs problem, we need a lot of public outreach, and I believe citizen science can help with

this," Chaffin said. "If we're training captains to collect samples, and we also give them accurate information about HABs, they can help us spread that information. But we're also getting a pretty good dataset in return, so this project is really a science, education and outreach project."

The data the captains have collected has been used in NOAA research to confirm bloom observations via satellite and by researchers from the University of Toledo who were comparing different sampling methods. A current project at NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory is developing a model to predict microcystin concentrations in Lake Erie, and charter captain samples help assess the accuracy of those predictions.

In addition, Stone Lab outreach events often incorporate the trends shown in the water samples into their programming, giving adult tour groups and other visitors a chance to see how citizen science projects like this contribute to larger research and monitoring efforts that help safeguard Lake Erie water quality. ✧

Salmon River flows to return to normal

Rain and successful Chinook Salmon Egg take allow for opening of lower fly section

The temporary reduced water releases to the Salmon River from the Salmon River Reservoir by Brookfield Renewable in collaboration with the New York State DEC were successful and the flows have been restored.

This has prompted DEC to open fishing in the Lower Fly Area in the Salmon River as flows have been returned to 335 cubic feet for second (cfs), the regulated base flow level.

"DEC's fish hatchery system is a vital part of New York State's effort to sustain our popular and economically important recreational fisheries," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "The reduced water flows and closure helped ensure that adequate numbers of salmon entered the Salmon River Hatchery in order to

provide eggs for salmon stocking that support Lake Ontario and tributary fisheries."

Drought conditions in the Salmon River watershed forced Brookfield Renewable in collaboration with DEC to reduce the amount of water released from the Salmon River Reservoir on September 29. In addition, DEC closed the Lower Fly Fishing Area on the Salmon River.

Flows are being increased due to this weekend's anticipated rainfall and its effect on reservoir water levels. Further, the Lower Fly Area is being reopened because the base flow can now be sustained and Salmon River Hatchery egg-take operations for Chinook salmon are complete.

The quarter-mile section of the

Salmon River that comprises the Lower Fly Fishing Area is located immediately downstream of the Salmon River Hatchery and upstream of the County Rt. 52 Bridge in Altmar. The upper boundary of the area is downstream from Beaverdam Brook. This location is a staging area for various species of fish, including Chinook and coho salmon, as they prepare to enter the hatchery via Beaverdam Brook. A 2007 study estimated the value of these fisheries to New York State's economy at \$12.9 million.

Further information on these actions can be obtained by contacting the DEC Fisheries Unit in Cortland at fwfish7@dec.ny.gov or by phone at (607) 753-3095. ✧

Conservation Groups intend to Sue over Camp Perry Wind Turbine Project could set precedent for wind development on Great Lakes Shoreline

(Washington, D.C., Oct. 25, 2016) American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) have filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the Ohio Air National Guard (ANG) for violations of the Endangered Species Act and other federal laws in the course of planning to build a large wind turbine at its Camp Perry facility in Ottawa County, Ohio. Close to the shores of Lake Erie, the site lies within a major bird migration corridor and would be the first wind energy development on public land in this ecologically sensitive area.

In a letter <<https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Camp-Perry-Notice-Letter-Final.pdf>> by the Washington, D.C.-based public-interest law firm of Meyer Glitzenstein & Eubanks to the ANG and other federal officials, the two groups assert that ANG has unlawfully compromised and short-circuited the environmental review process for the Camp Perry wind facility. The letter states that the development of the project is taking place in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

“The site is located within one of the world’s largest confluences of migratory birds and bats, making it among the most poorly placed wind projects in the United States,” said Dr. Michael Hutchins, Director of ABC’s Bird-Smart Wind Energy Campaign <<https://abcbirds.org/program/wind-energy/>>. “It flies in the face of the Dept. of Defense’s exemplary record of wildlife conservation on military lands.”

The Camp Perry facility presents an extremely high risk to migrating songbirds, especially the federally endangered Kirtland’s Warbler <<https://abcbirds.org/bird/kirtlands-warbler/>>. Other birds at risk include migrating songbirds, raptors including Bald Eagles <<https://abcbirds.org/>

<[bird/bald-eagle/](#)>, and waterfowl. Located less than a mile from Lake Erie and close to the Ottawa Wildlife Refuge, this project violates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s (FWS) own recommendation that no turbine be built within 3 miles of the Great Lakes shoreline.

Poorly sited wind energy projects can have significant adverse impacts on migratory birds and other wildlife. FWS has repeatedly expressed concerns that migratory birds such as the federally protected Bald Eagle would be harmed by the Camp Perry turbine. Such “take” is a violation of the MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. ANG has not requested, let alone obtained, a take permit from the FWS, even though it has acknowledged that federal agencies are required to comply with these laws and that one purpose of the project is to “study” the adverse impacts of building a wind turbine near a major migratory route.

“We continue to be baffled by the ANG’s determination to install a wind turbine in this Globally Important Bird Area, when local, regional, and national bird conservation organizations have presented a united front against it,” said Kim Kaufman, Executive Director of Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Oak Harbor, Ohio. “It’s especially hard to understand when you consider that an expansion of their existing solar array would not only generate more renewable energy, but would be a move that birders, conservationists, and local citizens would applaud.”

ABC and BSBO have challenged the Camp Perry project before, issuing an intent to sue <<mailto:https://abcbirds.org/article/bird-conservation-groups-announce-intention-to-sue-overohio-wind-turbine-in-key-bird-migration-corridor/>> notice in 2014 that brought it to a temporary halt. ANG agreed to stop the process until it had gone through the proper procedures, but built a foundation for the proposed wind turbine (at the cost of \$200,000

to taxpayers) before it had completed a new Environmental Assessment (EA) or obtained a Biological Opinion (BiOp) from FWS—a violation of the ESA and NEPA.

ANG has now completed an EA and received a BiOp from FWS, but in the view of ABC and BSBO, these assessments are inadequate:

- ▶ Under federal law, NEPA documents must consider reasonable alternatives to wind energy; in this case, distributed solar on the base’s already built environment would be one such option. However, an expansion of distributed solar was not considered, according to the EA. The Camp Perry EA only provides two alternatives—build or don’t build—which represents a violation of NEPA.

- ▶ The validity of both the Camp Perry EA and BiOp is called into doubt by a new radar study <<https://www.fws.gov/radar/documents/Avian%20Radar%20Sp2013%20Ontario%20Full.pdf>> by FWS, which showed that vast numbers of migratory birds and bats move through the area, flying at altitudes that would bring them within the rotor-swept zone of the Camp Perry turbine.

“The ANG’s Environmental Assessment and FWS’s Biological Opinion were issued just before the FWS’s advanced radar study was published. This is highly problematic, especially since the results of this study essentially invalidate both documents,” Hutchins said.

“The fact that the Ohio Air National Guard has gone through the motions and developed a perfunctory Environmental Assessment does nothing to allay our concerns about this turbine, which would be located in one of the worst possible locations for bird and bat conservation—and on public land,” Hutchins added. “Allowing this development to proceed would open the door to yet more wind energy development on the shores of the Great Lakes.” ✧

Whitefish, tullibee sport-netting to open

Recreational netting for whitefish and tullibee is anticipated to open on several Schedule I Lakes in the Grand Rapids, MN fisheries work area beginning in late October. Schedule I Lakes, which are more susceptible to sudden changes that impact water temperatures, will be opened and closed on a 48-hour notice posted at lake accesses, other public places, and the DNR website. Schedule II Lakes, opened November 4.: [Full Story](#).

www.mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing/index.html, then click on whitefish and ciscoes sport gillnetting regulations, or call: 218-328-8836.

[Whitefish cisco netting opens 2016 - Grand Rapids.docx](#). ✧

Remaining firearm deer permits

A limited number of Illinois firearm deer permits are available over-the-counter from DNR license and permit vendors through [December 4](#), or until quotas are exhausted. For vendors: www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Chinook salmon reproducing naturally, DNR says](#)

Chinook salmon will no longer be stocked in Lake Superior because the wild population has become self-sustaining, the Michigan DNR

[Brown trout cut opposed at forum](#)

At a meeting of the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, anglers expressed their support for brown trout and disapproval for the WDNR's plans to cut stocking by 50% and eliminate the domestic brown strain entirely.

[What will Trump mean for the Great Lakes?](#)

Donald Trump's election victory came with plenty of support from the Great Lakes region, but in the aftermath of the election, environmental advocates were trying to determine how his presidency will affect the region.

[New invader found in Great Lakes](#)

The USEPA said last week a new species has been discovered in the Great Lakes — the first since 2006 — bringing the tally of non-native organisms in the lakes to at least 186.

[Plastic fibers emerge as Great Lakes pollutant](#)

A recent study found that microplastic pollution in the Great Lakes comes from more than just beads in consumer products. The study conducted by the USGS identifies fragments (of larger pieces of plastic), foams, and fibers as potential sources of microplastics.

[Access to fish under review](#)

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is keenly interested in seeing as many stocked fish caught by anglers, that's why they are taking strides to remove barriers on streams.

[Fish hatchery to close in Marinette County](#)

The Thunder River Rearing Station, which stocks fish into Lake Michigan, will soon be closed.

Archery Deer and Fall Turkey Permits

Illinois Archery Deer and Archery Fall Turkey seasons are open through [January 15, 2017](#). Permits are available over-the-counter at DNR Direct license and permit vendors. www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx. ✧

Turkey applications

Resident hunters may now apply for the first lottery for 2017 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season permits online. For more info: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/TurkeyHunting.aspx>. The [application deadline](#) for the first lottery for 2017 resident spring turkey permits is [December 1, 2016](#). ✧

Trout stockings complete in Indiana

The DNR has stocked more than 1,200 rainbow trout at three lakes in southern Indiana. [More information](#), Garvin Park Lake, Evansville-550, Johnson Park Lake, Madison-300, Oak Lake, Clark State Forest-405. ✧

New raceways at Chateaugay Hatchery

Thirteen outside fiberglass raceways were installed in the summer of 2016. They replaced the old raceways that had developed many cracks and were in poor shape overall. These new raceways will be able to hold more fish which will help in meeting production goals for the hatchery system. [For more info click here](#). ✧

Mill Creek Range open

A new community-built gun range opened October 14 in Montevideo, MN. The range was the vision of the Tri-County Sportsmen's Club to involve more people in shooting sports, but it took the broader community to help make the project a reality. The range is home to the Montevideo High School trap and skeet teams. It features two combined trap and skeet fields, a pistol range and 200-yard rifle range, and state-of-the-art equipment. Mills Creek Gun Range is located 1.5 miles north of Montevideo on state Highway 29. More information can be found at www.millscreekgunrange.com. ✧