



Great Lakes barrier voltage too weak to stop small carp Science advisors repeatedly warned the Advisory Committee voltage level wasn't adequate

"Voltage coursing through electrical barriers designed to keep invasive Asian carp out of the Great Lakes may need to be raised to keep out juvenile fish," U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials said on March 25. However, science advisors with the Barrier Advisory Committee have, for the past three years, been saying the voltage level wasn't adequate to stop small fish, and sadly Army Corps Major General John Peabody is just getting the message.

"The biggest problem is we can barely monitor for large fish, especially at low densities," said Dr. Phil Moy, a Wisconsin Sea Grant Specialist and former Army Corps employee. Moy has been and continues to be chair of the Barrier Advisory Committee.

"We currently have almost no capability to monitor for small fish unless they're highly abundant," Moy told the *Journal-Sentinel*. "So how will the Corps determine that (it's) the right time to run (the barrier) at the higher setting before it's too late?"

The Barrier Advisory Committee isn't so confident either.

At the direction of the U.S. Congress, the Army Corps of Engineers built an electronic barrier to keep Asian Carp and other invasive species out of the Great Lakes, where scientists predict they could decimate the lakes' \$7 billion fishery. "The current barrier operating parameters are effective for fish as small as 5.4" in length," the Corps said in a news release. "The research published in this report suggests that slightly higher operating parameters than

those currently in use may be necessary to immobilize all very small Asian carp, as small as 1.7 to 3.2" in length."

Juvenile carp can swim 37 miles by the time they reach 6" in length. Conservationists and several state governments have fought to create a permanent ecological separation between the Mississippi River basin and the Great Lakes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, other federal agencies and Chicago-area governments have joined commercial shippers, sightseeing operators and recreational boaters in a bid to keep the waterways open.

Fisheries biologist Duane Chapman, an Asian carp expert with the U.S. Geological Survey, says even

Barrier voltage too weak

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Congress & USFWS act to restrict bighead carp Bighead carp added to Federal List of Injurious Wildlife

Congress, on December 14, 2010 acted to make it a crime to possess or transport Asian bighead carp and The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final rule in the *Federal Register* on March 22, officially adding the bighead carp to the federal injurious wildlife list. The final rule codifies the *Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act* (S. 1421), signed into law by President Obama on December 14, 2010. The injurious wildlife listing means that under the Lacey Act it is illegal to import or to transport live bighead carp, including viable eggs or hybrids of the species, across state lines, except by permit for zoological, education, medical, or scientific purposes.

Under the Lacey Act, an injurious wildlife listing means the species has

been demonstrated to be harmful to either the health and welfare of humans, interests of forestry, agriculture, or horticulture, or the welfare and survival of wildlife or the resources that wildlife depend upon. The penalty for violating the Lacey Act is up to six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine for an individual or a \$10,000 fine for an organization.

Curbing interstate transport of live bighead carp promotes the federal government's goal of preventing the carp's spread into new lakes and rivers in the United States, where it can have devastating effects on native species. The Service listed other Asian carps (the black carp, silver carp, and large scale silver carp) as

Bighead carp restricted

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Lake Huron Fisheries Workshops

Offer current research/info on status of the Lake Huron fishery

Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension, in partnership with the Dept. of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, USGS Great Lakes Science Center, and local fishery organizations will be hosting three evening regional workshops across Lake Huron's coastline.

Workshops are open to the public, and will provide valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals, and others interested in attending, including updates related to salmon management in Lake Huron, walleyes in Saginaw Bay, forage fish surveys and results from the recent Lake Huron predator diet study, among other Lake Huron related topics.

Workshop Registration:

No cost to participants, however pre-registration is requested.

To register, contact:

Cindy Anderson
Michigan Sea Grant - Iosco Cnty Ofc,
989-984-1060, ande1172@msu.edu

Program information or questions:

Brandon Schroeder
Michigan Sea Grant
989-984-1056, schroe45@msu.edu

USGS to continue angler assisted studies

Complimenting the sportfishing community, the USGS glowingly reported about being inundated with fish during 2010. They ended up with over 2700 fish compared to about 2100 in 2009. USGS Research Biologist Jeff Schaeffer said it took longer to work them up, so that is why they did not have any news. But the collection was a smashing success. Analysis is still underway so no results yet.

The big news is the USGS Great Lakes Science Center has decided to run the study during 2011 for a third year. Schaeffer says, "We are still learning new things, and the only thing we have heard from participants

Workshop details available online:

www.miseagrant.umich.edu/fisheries

You are invited to participate!

Three evening **Lake Huron Regional Fishery Workshops** (approx. 3 hours each) are open to the public at **no cost**. Workshop opportunities include:

Cedarville

Date: Tuesday, April 19

Time: 6:00 — 9:00 p.m.

Location: Les Cheneaux Sportsman's Club

M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719
(2-3 miles east of blinking light in Cedarville)

Oscoda

Date: Wednesday, April 20

Time: 6:00 — 9:00 p.m.

Location: Wiltse's Family Restaurant
5606 F-41, Oscoda, MI 48750

Ubly/Bad Axe

Date: Thursday, April 21

Time: 6:00 — 9:00 p.m.

Location: Ubly Fox Hunter's Club
8780 S. Ubly Rd, Ubly, MI 48475 ◇

is continued enthusiasm. So we decided to do it again. It would probably be a good idea to get some new anglers into the study so that the burden is spread out a bit more. So please share the study with your angling friends and encourage them to participate.

"We actually got more angler stomachs in year 2 than in year 1 and nearly all the data sheets have been usable" stated Schaeffer. "Of the 5000 odd fish you collected, we have "lost" only about 25 fish due to bad data.

"We will see you at the spring workshops, and perhaps some tournaments over the coming year," added Schaeffer. ◇



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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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Lake Erie panel sets limits for Yellow Perch and Walleye for 2011

2011 yellow perch and walleye levels similar to last year

YPSILANTI, MI – The Lake Erie Committee (LEC), a binational board of fishery managers from Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario and Pennsylvania, recommended a 2011 total allowable catch (TAC) of 12.651 million lbs. of yellow perch and 2.919 million walleye. Yellow perch and walleye TACs are similar to last year's levels. These recommendations are based on extensive biological assessments and analyses by Canadian and American fishery agencies. For both yellow perch and walleye, the committee is moving forward on a revision of fisheries policies and guidelines for the future.

YELLOW PERCH

Overall, yellow perch stocks in Lake Erie are on the decline, though the stocks are stronger in the lake's eastern basin. For 2011, the Yellow Perch LEC estimates 130 million yellow perch in Lake Erie, a 28% reduction from 2010 and a reduction from more than 400 million fish in the mid-2000s. The decline is due to a weak year class in 2009. The fishery is currently sustained by older fish from some good recruitment during the past decade.

Given the state of the Lake Erie yellow perch fishery, the committee

recommended a 2011 TAC of 12.651 million lbs., a small decrease from last year's allocation of 13.137 million lbs. LEC members say weak year classes may lead to lower allocations in some management units in the future.

The five jurisdictions on the lake divide the lakewide allocation of yellow perch based on allocation formulas by management unit. For 2011, Ontario's allocation is 6.182 million lbs., Ohio 4.991 million lbs., and Michigan 0.188 million lbs. New York and Pennsylvania will receive 0.246 million lbs. and 1.044 million lbs., respectively. In 2010, actual lakewide yellow perch harvest was 9.69 million lbs. or 74% of the TAC.

WALLEYE

The LEC recommended a binational TAC for walleye in 2011 of 2.919 million fish, compared to the TAC of 2.200 million fish in 2010. Actual walleye harvest in 2010 was approximately 2.0 million fish, or 91% of the TAC. Committee fishery experts reported that walleye recruitment in recent years has been moderate, particularly the 2007 year class. Fish from the 2007 year class and the exceptional 2003 hatch remain the major contributors to the

fishery. The increased TAC recommendation for 2011 reflects the LEC consensus that walleye status in Lake Erie appears better than previously forecasted.

The TAC is recommended by the Lake Erie Committee and is allocated to Ohio, Michigan and Ontario by an area-based sharing formula of walleye habitat within each jurisdiction in the western and central basins of the lake. Under a 2011 TAC of 2.919 million fish, Ohio will be entitled to 1.492 million fish, Ontario 1.257 million fish, and Michigan 0.170 million fish. The walleye fisheries of eastern Lake Erie remain outside the quota management area and harvest limits in that area are established by Ontario, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The Lake Erie Committee is aware that the 2011 TAC recommendation, while an increase from last year, is still lower than TACs of five to ten years ago and substantially lower from TACs of the 1980s and 1990s. Abundance of walleye in Lake Erie today is estimated to be 21.2 million fish, compared to highs of between 70 and 80 million fish in the past. ✧

MI Lake Erie daily walleye creel limit is six beginning May 1

The daily creel limit for walleyes in Michigan's waters of Lake Erie will be six beginning May 1, the DNR announced.

Michigan has adopted a process for setting regulations that allows the DNR to use real-time population data instead of using year-old survey results. This process parallels one adopted by Ohio last year.

Michigan's daily creel limit for walleyes on Lake Erie is based on its share of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the lake, which is determined by the Lake Erie Committee. The TAC is generally based on overall abundance of walleyes; the Committee establishes

quotas for each jurisdiction based on the percentage of habitat for adult walleyes in each jurisdiction's waters of the lake. The daily limit is based on a formula that projects how many walleyes anglers can keep but still remain within the quota.

See the attached table for an explanation of the formula used to set the daily creel limit.

The Total Allowable Catch for Lake Erie for 2011 is 2.919 million fish, with Michigan's quota 0.17 million fish. The new regulations process means that the creel limit for walleyes on Lake Erie will not be set until TACs are determined each March, after the Michigan Fishing

Guide goes to press. Anglers will need to check for changes annually.

There are no changes to either the fishing season or size limit for walleyes on Lake Erie.

| Michigan share of Annual TAC: | Daily possession limit for walleye: |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| greater than 108,364 | six (6) |
| 96,958 to 108,364 | five (5) |
| 85,551 to 96,957 | four (4) |
| 74,144 to 85,550 | three (3) |
| 62,737 to 74,143 | two (2) |
| less than 62,737 | one (1) |

✧

Michigan prevails in Great Lakes ballast water battle

Settlement is a step toward protecting Great Lakes from ballast water invasives

State officials recently announced an important step forward in the effort to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes, signing a settlement agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that will better regulate ballast water from commercial vessels.

Since 2005, Michigan has led the fight for commonsense regulations to protect the Great Lakes from damaging invasive species transported in the ballast water of oceangoing vessels. Michigan and a coalition of other Great Lakes states and leading environmental organizations ultimately prevailed in establishing baseline regulations after suing the EPA in federal district court in California to force it to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to regulate ballast water discharges. EPA's first "Vessel General Permit" regulating invasive species transported in ballast water was issued in 2009.

Yet instead of requiring modern ballast water treatment technologies, the EPA simply required ships use the inadequate "swish and spit" saltwater flushing process developed over a decade ago. The new permit also failed to ensure all state water quality

standards were met throughout the interstate waters of the Great Lakes. Under the federal regulations, states with more protective standards still faced the risk of pollution from ballast water dumped under less stringent guidelines from neighboring states. An effective minimum "floor" standard to unify the various Great Lakes states' water quality standards was still required for the permit to fully protect the region's waterways.

This settlement agreement outlines a process for the EPA to establish common protective standards for ballast water discharges to United States waters. Key elements of the settlement agreement include:

- ▶ Arranging for scientific reports, speeding up the time line for issuance of the next Vessel General Permit;
- ▶ Facilitating regional communication for ballast water regulation; and,
- ▶ Providing information on the development of the next VGP requirements.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette said the state will continue to pressure federal regulators for basin-wide, common standards. "It's time to bring the fight against invasive species into the 21st century," said

Schuette. "This agreement moves the EPA forward to more effective methods that will protect our Great Lakes and the jobs that depend upon them."

The EPA has enlisted experts from the National Academy of Sciences to help develop its next VGP. These experts will craft a risk analysis on release of organisms from ballast water. Further, the EPA's Science Advisory Board will report on the performance and availability of ballast water treatment technology. Both reports are expected to be completed by May 31. The EPA's current VGP expires December 19, 2013, but through the settlement agreement, the U.S. EPA committed to drafting the next VGP by November 30, 2011 and a new final VGP by November 30, 2012.

The agreement also requires EPA to provide information and facilitate communication with Michigan and the other Great Lakes states after the issuance of the next draft VGP. Patricia Birkholz, Director of Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes, said she looks forward to working with other Great Lakes states and federal partners to craft strong and effective common standards. ✧

Indiana to keep boat ramps on Manitou open

The DNR has no plans to temporarily close boat ramps, something it's done for spring/summer portions of the past four years. The reason for the closures had been the presence of hydrilla, a highly invasive plant, and the need to contain the plant to this one body of water. The plant was first confirmed as being in the lake in August 2006.

The reason for the change is DNR's four-year eradication program, which has reduced the hydrilla tuber population by approximately 99%, according to Doug Keller, DNR aquatic invasive species specialist. Even with the high degree of success, the DNR will continue its eradication

efforts in order to eliminate the last of what remains of the plant.

Treatment strategy for the upcoming season is similar to that of the past. The chemical Sonar will be used. Sonar, with the active ingredient Fluridone, is an aquatic herbicide produced by SePRO Corp. of Carmel. Humans, fish and other aquatic life are not harmed by Sonar, especially at the extremely low rate being used at the lake, according to Keller.

Keller cautioned that if the continued effort appears to not be as effective as before, the DNR would interrupt use of the ramps again. "We will place an immediate restriction if

hydrilla plants don't seem to be responding as they have in the past," Keller said, "and if it looks like the threat of escape via boats is possible." Keller said with fewer hydrilla plants and the continued success in stopping the growth while the plants are still small, the risk of moving the plants to other water bodies by boaters is now extremely low but still exists.

Boaters should continue to remove plants, mud and other debris from their watercraft when they remove it from the water, not only at Manitou but anywhere else in the state. For more info on hydrilla: www.invasivespecies.IN.gov. ✧

US Fish & Wildlife Service report on hunting and fishing trends

The USFWS has released *Trends in Fishing and Hunting 1991-2006: A focus on Fishing and Hunting by Species*, that provides a detailed look at fishing and hunting by species and offers a wealth of information on national and state fishing and hunting expenditures, participation rates, and demographic trends.

The new report, an addendum to the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Recreation, represents a comprehensive survey conducted by the Service's Wildlife Sport Fish and Restoration Program. Data used to support the study were obtained from eleven fishing and hunting surveys sponsored by the USFWS and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

"This report provides invaluable information on the state of hunting and fishing participation in America that will help state and federal agencies maintain and increase opportunities for hunting, sport

fishing and recreational boating," said Hannibal Bolton, assistant director of the Service's Wildlife Sport Fish and Restoration Program. "I am encouraged by findings indicating that hunting and fishing participation rates are in many ways stronger and more resilient than previously believed."

Highlights contained in the report:

- ▶ Turkey hunters have increased at more than twice the rate of the growth of the U.S. population since 1991
- ▶ Duck and deer hunters have been stable since 1991
- ▶ Turkey hunters in 2006 went out twice as many days as they did in 1991
- ▶ The rates for duck and deer hunters going out more days have also increased — by 20 to 40%
- ▶ While the overall number of hunters has declined, most of this drop is attributed to a large decrease in small game and dove hunting,
- ▶ Fishing participation has dropped for nearly all types of fishing (i.e.,

freshwater and saltwater) and species of fish

- ▶ One species for which fishing hasn't significantly dropped is flatfish
- ▶ The declining numbers of anglers have increased their average days of fishing so that overall fishing effort has remained stable.

"We want reviewers of this research to understand that while the generalization that hunting and fishing are declining in popularity is often heard, this report shows that the truth is more complicated," said Richard Aiken, the Service's lead economist for the study. "This report aids those who want to point to positive aspects of participation in fishing and hunting in the U.S., and how recruitment and retention efforts can be designed to appeal to the correct demographic groups."

For a complete copy of the report: <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/reports2006.html> and www.fws.gov. ✧

MI DNR reminds anglers of different fishing activities by Tribes

The Michigan DNR is reminding the public that fishing opportunities for tribal members of tribal governments located within the 1836 Treaty of Washington and 1842 Treaty of La Point are different than those allowed for state-licensed recreational anglers under Michigan law.

Tribal governments are sovereign nations and these Tribes have their own Code of Regulation for fishing. The 1836 Treaty of Washington covers the eastern U.P. and the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan and in 2007 Michigan, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Bay Mills Indian Community and the United States government signed a Consent Decree which defines the extent of the Tribes'

inland treaty rights.

The 1842 Treaty of La Pointe covers the western U.P. and areas of northern Wisconsin and there is no formal agreement to define the extent of 1842 Treaty rights within Michigan. However, the 1842 Treaty rights have been adjudicated in Wisconsin and tribal fishers of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community exercise their rights in the 1842 area of Michigan following tribal regulations consistent with the Wisconsin court cases.

As established under the 2007 Inland Consent Decree, tribal members may use spears or conventional fishing tackle to take walleye and steelhead in some waters of Michigan covered by the 1836 treaty. Similarly, a tribally-regulated, spring subsistence spear fishery is

present in the western portion of the Upper Peninsula within the 1842 Treaty area. These activities may occur during periods when these waters are closed to fishing for State-licensed recreational anglers.

A map covered by the 1836 and 1842 Treaties: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/TCU_map_183629_7.pdf. ✧

NMMA adds Chicago show, Jan 25-29, 2012

The National Marine Manufacturers Association said it will produce the annual Rosemont Sportfishing, Travel & Outdoors Show, January 25-29, 2012, at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. Those are formerly the dates of 32 year old Outdoors Show. The NMMA secured the lease rights to the show. ✧

Major boating grants from feds

The Department of Interior is awarding the following boating grants:

► Ohio: The Ohio DNR will receive \$1,450,400 and match that with \$509,600 to build new floating docks for 53 transient boat slips including 3 ADA accessible slips and ramp, a new shower, restrooms, laundry building, and amenities.

► Illinois: The DNR will receive \$1,500,000 and match that amount with \$565,000 to add a floating dock system that will accommodate 23 transient slips at the Schwiebert Riverfront Park on the Mississippi River.

► New York:

- The New York State Office of Parks & Recreation will receive \$1,450,000 and match that amount with \$2,188,515 to add 64 transient slips with dockside utilities, create a deep-draft safe harbor, create an access point for the City of Rochester, and provide boater services and education on Lake Ontario;

- \$669,286 and match that amount with \$235,154 to renovate an existing marina on the Hudson River to include space for 80 transient vessels, access to NYC, transient recreational boating amenities such as showers, dinghy dock, and pumpout as well as a Chinese junk for transportation between boats and land;

- \$105,963 and match that amount with \$45,413 to add pedestals and improve electrical service to accommodate the needs of large, transient boats; the marina serves Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, and

- \$501,311 and match that amount with \$176,141 to add a new fueling station and berthing for 32 – 45 transient recreational boats on the St. Lawrence River.

Other states receiving boat grants include: Alabama, California, Texas, Washington, Mississippi, Tennessee and Maine. ✧

Become an Outdoors Woman

Indiana - April 29-May 1

Workshop information is available and registration is open [Click Here!](#) This year's workshop will be held April 29th - May 1st at Ross Camp in West Lafayette, Indiana. Whether you've never stepped foot in the woods or you're a seasoned outdoor enthusiast, you'll have a wild time at Indiana's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop. The program is designed for women 18-80+ to learn outdoor skills in a relaxed, low-pressure environment. Shoot clay targets, paddle a canoe, catch a trophy bass, become a campfire gourmet cook, make a fur hat, spot rare wild birds, or learn to track deer...it's up to you. Design your own outdoor experience to match your interest.

Illinois - June 10-12

Workshop information is available and registration is open [Click Here.](#) This year's workshop is June 10-12 at the Lorado Taft Field Campus in Oregon. The cost is \$200 per person. Learn hands-on in a safe, non-competitive atmosphere for women interested in learning more about a full range of outdoors activities, including fishing, horseback riding, firearm safety, kayaking, basket making and outdoors survival.

New York - June 24-26

Workshop information is available and registration is open [Click Here.](#) The workshop will be held June 24-26 at the Silver Bay YMCA on Lake George, Warren County. Nearly 40 different classes will be offered for women 18 and over, at the Silver Bay workshop. These include canoeing, fishing, fly fishing, kayaking, shotgun shooting, GPS, map and compass, backpack camping, turkey hunting, day hiking, wilderness first aid, survival skills, archery, bowhunting, camp stove cooking, reading wildlife sign, muzzle loading, and fish and game cooking. Women can even earn a Hunter or Trapper Safety Education certificate. ✧

Wisconsin Fishing Report 2011

Fishing season is just around the corner and it's time to get excited about what the year might bring to Wisconsin anglers. What better way to feed that excitement by reviewing the 2011 Wisconsin Fishing Report — a detailed newspaper of fishing in Wisconsin waters and fishing forecasts for the coming year.

The Wisconsin Fishing Report 2011 is available for download here in digital format and is available in newsprint form at your local [DNR service center](#) and select Fleet Farm and Gander Mountain stores. Download the entire [Wisconsin Fishing Report 2011. \[PDF 2.4MB\]](#)

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Fishing Report Favorites

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- [50 Places Within 60 Minutes of Milwaukee](#)
- [Tips to Hook Your Favorite Catch](#)

✧

Ethanol Labeling Laws - State by State Guide

Several U.S. states do not label gas pumps when ethanol alcohol is added to gasoline! Other states only label pumps when alcohol added is above 1-2%. Click on the title link above for your state's laws and requirements for pump labeling. Unfamiliarity with state, federal and county fuel laws has lead too many folks to be unaware that the gas they are purchasing contains ethanol alcohol. ✧

Mich DNR to propose closing 23 state forest campgrounds

The Michigan DNR announced that the state's Forest Recreation Program has seen a 63% decrease in funding in the last three years, resulting in the need for the department to close 23 under-performing state forest campgrounds in the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula.

The order to close the 23 campgrounds was submitted as a proposal at the recent Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting, and will be eligible for action by DNR Director Stokes at the NRC May 12 meeting in Flint. If approved, the closures would be effective on May 19, 2011.

General Fund support for state forest recreation programs, such as the state forest campgrounds, has been reduced every year since 2009, when \$72,200 was cut. In 2010, \$24,100 was cut from the program, and in Fiscal Year 2011, the program is targeted for a \$314,700 General

Fund reduction.

Campgrounds targeted for closure are:

- Beaufort and Big Lake state forest campgrounds – Baraga County
- Black Lake Trail Camp – Cheboygan County
- Lime Island State Forest Campground and Cabins and Munuscong River State Forest Campground – Chippewa County
- Manistee River Bridge State Forest Campground – Crawford County
- Deer Lake State Forest Campground – Iron County
- Bray Creek State Forest Campground – Lake County
- Blind Sucker #1, High Bridge, Holland Lake, Natalie and Reed & Green Bridge state forest campgrounds – Luce County
- Black River State Forest Campground – Mackinac County

- Little Wolf Lake State Forest Campground – Montmorency County
- McCollum Lake State Forest Campground – Oscoda County
- Pigeon Bridge and Round Lake state forest campgrounds – Otsego County
- Canoe Lake, Cusino Lake, Mead Creek and South Gemini Lake state forest campgrounds – Schoolcraft County
- Long Lake State Forest Campground – Wexford County

To read the informational memo on the state forest campground closures provided to the NRC at the April 7 meeting, go to the NRC website at www.michigan.gov/nrc and click on Agendas and Minutes to find the April 7 agenda. To read the memo, click on the box for the order on page two of the agenda. ✧

Michigan Lawmakers want to take the wind out of offshore turbine sails

LANSING – Proposed legislation could keep wind turbines out of the Great Lakes, and that's good—or bad—depending on perspective.

The sponsor, Rep. Ray Franz, R-Onekama, said the intent is to keep potential hazards out of the blue waters of the Great Lakes. "It's not environmentally sound to have machines like these on our lakes. They are our greatest asset, and industrialization on them is a hazard to nature and the economy," Franz said.

The permanent nature of wind turbines and related structures creates problems not only for the environment, but also for ships, he said. "If the basic structures are permanently fixed to the lake floor, it would be an obstacle for ships to sail around and create more dangers for them to deal with," Franz said. Aesthetic concerns are also a problem and a majority of residents in his northwest Lower Peninsula district oppose offshore wind development,

he said. "My district is home to one of the longest shorelines of any in the state. People don't want their view blocked by these big structures."

But Hugh McDiarmid, communications director at the Michigan Environmental Council, said the proposed ban would be bad for the economy and environment. "It's bad public policy. Renewable energy like this has been one of the only bright spots for Michigan in recent years, and this is the wrong message to send," McDiarmid said. He said that wind energy is a growing industry in the state and a ban could stunt that growth.

"It's a bit more expensive to put them offshore and it's more dangerous for the people involved and the environment when you're building in water," McDiarmid said. He said that aesthetics are another problem with offshore wind development but that the legislation wouldn't be the right solution. "We are very supportive of wind energy but not in

scenic or protected areas. More guidelines are necessary, but to say no wind at all is a very short-sighted solution," McDiarmid said.

Mark Clevey, manager of the renewable energy program at the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, said that offshore wind development in the state is still in the planning stages. "There are virtually no offshore projects as of right now because research still needs to be done," Clevey said. According to Clevey, there is not enough information available about wind speed on the Great Lakes, which would help determine where to place wind farms. Also, he said there is uncertainty about how the turbines would be fixed to the floor of the lakes. Floating platforms are being discussed also. However, Clevey said the chances are still good that wind farms will pop up in the Great Lakes in the near future. ✧

Pure Michigan Hunt Awards

Michigan announced three winners of the 2011 Pure Michigan Hunt: Randy Willis of Augusta, John Martin of Linden and Bruno Brun of Ann Arbor.

The winners can hunt bear, elk, antlerless deer, wild turkey, and reserved waterfowl during the 2011 hunting seasons. The winners also received prizes from Pure Michigan Hunt sponsors, including: crossbows donated by TenPoint Crossbows along with Quality Deer Management Association and Litchfield Outdoors; turkey hunting vests, custom box calls, and Michigan Turkey patches donated by the National Wild Turkey Federation; hats and shirts donated by Waterfowl USA; hats and record books provided by Boone and Crockett; and Ducks Unlimited gave one-year memberships, Ducks Unlimited quarterly magazines, and duck decoys.

In 2010, the DNR sold 23,437 applications to 8,719 applicants, which brought in close to \$94,000 to the Department's Fish and Game Fund. ✧

Possible credit card exposure by Ohio Parks vendor

A data security incident with an online vendor that manages the Ohio State Parks reservation system may have exposed consumer credit card information. However, a forensic investigation indicated that the information necessary for identity theft was not part of the data security incident, according to the Ohio DNR. InfoSpherix experienced a malware attack, which exposed database information used in transactions from March 21 to December 22, 2010. Consumers with any questions about their card accounts are asked to contact their credit card companies. No cardholder would be subject to financial liability if fraudulent activity were discovered. ✧

NY 2010 deer harvest up slightly from last year

Hunters harvested just over 230,000 deer in 2010, up about 3% from 2009, New York announced. The Junior Big-Game License was popular once again, with over 16,000 junior hunters taking advantage of the opportunity to hunt big game, harvesting 4,900 deer. The deer take included 123,100 antlerless deer (adult females and fawns) and just under 107,000 bucks. Deer harvests in the Northern Zone were comparable to 2009 with adult buck take (16,100) essentially unchanged and antlerless take (12,500) only increasing 3%. In the Southern Zone, excluding Long Island, adult buck take (89,900). Western New York continues to lead the state in total deer-harvest densities, but Orange County in southeastern New York remains a strong contender.

For the previous year's deer harvest by county, town, and Management Unit: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/42232.html. ✧

NMMA Supports new Small-Boat Security Plan

Following up on its Small Vessel Security Summit in 2007 and the release of the Small Vessel Security Strategy in 2008, the Department of Homeland Security released the public version of its Small Vessel Security Implementation Plan. [The Plan](#) is designed to manage risks associated with the potential exploitation of small vessels by terrorists in America's ports, shores and waterways. The plan does not include any mandate that boaters carry AIS or RFID transponders.

Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano signed an action memo directing law enforcement agencies to look at the report and report back about how they will take action. For more info: www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1199394950818.shtm. ✧

NY DEC suspends sales of Marine Saltwater Fishing License

New York announced that a recreational marine fishing license is no longer required to fish in the marine district of New York, including fishing for migratory fish from the sea (e.g. striped bass) on the Hudson River below the Troy Dam.

Legislation included in the final state budget directs DEC to establish a no-fee registry to take the place of the marine license. DEC expects to have the new registry in place in early June. In the interim, saltwater anglers may fish without a marine license and without registering with DEC. The new law also provides for refunds to holders of a lifetime recreational marine fishing license. ✧

USFWS to launch major national survey Quinquennial Report done every five years

The USFWS will again be conducting the 12th National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. Hunters, anglers and other wildlife enthusiasts will be asked to participate in interviewing already begun. The quinquennial survey, which has been conducted every five years since 1955, will involve 53,000 households.

The survey is authorized by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000. "The last survey published in 2006 revealed 87.5 million Americans enjoyed some form of wildlife-related recreation and spent more than \$122.3 billion pursuing their activities," said Hannibal Bolton, assistant director of the program. Preliminary survey findings will be available in the spring of 2012. Final reports will be issued beginning in the fall of 2012. The completed reports will be posted at <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov>. ✧

IN - Lake Michigan yielded five "Fish of the Year" in 2010

If you wanted to catch an Indiana Fish of the Year winner in 2010, Lake Michigan was the place to cast. It also helped if your name was Kotfer. Hoosiers pulled five winners out the Indiana portion of the Great Lake during the year-long contest, which recognizes the person who catches the longest fish of each species tracked.

Ron Kotfer caught a 24.0" lake trout using a jig and grub. He also caught a 33" steelhead trout using a J-plug. His 13-year-old son Michael caught a 31.0" Chinook salmon using a J-plug. Michael also caught a 7.0" green sunfish from a private lake in Fountain Cty. using a jig and plug to earn Fish of the Year for that species.

Steve Fiorio of Dyer and David Kniola of Michigan City landed the other Lake Michigan fish. Fiorio caught a 16.6" yellow perch using a minnow. Kniola caught a 31.5" brown trout but didn't report a bait or lure.

As successful as Ron and Michael Kotfer were, 16-year-old Danny owned bragging rights for the

most Fish of the Year with three. Danny Kotfer's biggest Fish of the Year was a 29.0" coho he took from the Little Calumet River using a Blue Fox spinner. He also caught a 12.0" rock bass from the same waters using the same type of lure, and a 13.0" bullhead from a private lake in Fountain County using a jig and grub.

The longest Fish of the Year was a 48.0" blue catfish caught by David Mullen in the Ohio River, using a skipjack herring as bait.

Other notable fish were caught in smaller waters. Fiorio caught a 47" muskie from Tippecanoe Lake using a Topy Crappie. Kelly Williams, an Indianapolis man, caught a 42" striped bass in Cecil Harden Lake using a bluegill as bait. Patrick Ross of Mishawaka caught a 32" walleye in the St. Joseph River using a bass minnow as bait. Mark Nance of Greenfield caught a 26" saugeye out of Huntingburg Lake, using a jig.

There were 56 entries for Fish of the Year; 30 were recognized as

winners. River and stream fishing accounted for 12 of the 30 entries. Eight came from inland lakes, and five came from private ponds. To view other Fish of the Year honorees and their information, see http://www.fishing.IN.gov/files/fw-Fish_of_the_Year_Winners_2010.pdf.

Two Hoosier anglers caught fish of state-record weight in 2010.

Jonathan VanHook of Rockville caught a 39.08 lb. striped bass in Cecil M. Harden Lake, using a live bluegill as bait. His striper surpassed the previous state record, caught in the Ohio River in 1993, by almost 4 pounds.

Lindsey Fleshood of Wabash established the first state record for a shortnose gar in 2010. Her fish weighed 1.58 lbs. and measured 24.25". She caught the fish in the Wabash River in Wabash County using a live creek chub as bait. She also caught the white bass and grass carp Fish of the Year. For more info: <http://www.fishing.IN.gov/3577.htm>. ✧

Social media can't block poisoned links

Extreme caution advised when using social networks

USA Today, March 23, 2011

Facebook and Twitter appear stymied in slowing a rising tide of poisoned Web links on popular social networks. A survey in December found 40% of social-network users encountered malicious attacks, a 90% increase from April 2009, according to antivirus firm Sophos.

A recent experiment by network security firm Dasient underscored just how easy it is to create a social-network account, then use it to circulate malicious links all across the service. Social-network denizens exacerbate the problem, because most tend to click blindly on items, says Anup Ghosh, chief scientist of browser security firm Invincea.

Cyber criminals aim to trick you into clicking on a link that will give them full control of your PC. They can then scam you into purchasing

worthless anti-virus protection or filling out sketchy online surveys. They can even steal from your online financial accounts. With 500 million members, Facebook is the largest social network, and the No. 1 target.

Facebook spokesman Frederic Wolens says protecting users has long been a top priority for the company. Facebook's filtering systems "have been very effective," he says. "And despite constant attacks, our data show that the vast majority of people on Facebook have never experienced a security issue on the site."

The experiment run by Dasient paints a different picture. Researchers set up new accounts at 11 leading social networks and found that none stopped them from posting links pre-loaded to deliver a type of malicious program that swiftly infects PCs. What's more, nine of the 11 networks

tested failed to fully block links listed among Google's compilation of known poisoned websites, says Neil Daswani, Dasient's technical officer.

One recent large-scale attack revolved around a Facebook posting purportedly carrying a link to a video of pop singer Miley Cyrus doing something lewd. Clicking on the link led instead to a series of additional links that connected the victim's PC to a premium-rate text-messaging service and began spreading the Cyrus posting to the victim's friends.

In another caper, the user must complete a simple verification test to view an enticing video, such as a whale that the Japanese tsunami smashed into a building. One click activates Facebook's "like" button, which results in reposting the original message to other Facebook users. ✧

MI DNR to raise Great Lakes muskies

The Michigan DNR plans to raise Great Lakes (spotted) muskies at its Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery, a change of direction from the northern muskies the DNR has raised in the past. This strain is native to most of Michigan; the northern muskellunge is native to only a small portion of the far western U.P. in the Wisconsin River drainage. "The spotted muskie will be more at home in more waters than northern muskies," said DNR Hatchery Manager Gary Whelan.

DNR personnel plan to take 1.5 million eggs from spotted muskies in Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River this spring with a goal of producing 40,000 10-12" fall fingerlings.

In order to minimize the risk of spreading disease, the DNR will not take eggs from northern muskellunge this year, but will evaluate the need to produce northern strain muskies in the future. Ideally, the department will address the disease concerns and be able to raise both strains in the future, Whelan said. www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing. ✧

Bighead carp restricted

Continued from page 1

injurious wildlife in 2007.

Bighead carp were imported from eastern China to Arkansas in the 1970s to improve water quality in aquaculture ponds and sewage treatment lagoons. The fish, which can grow to 60 or more pounds, have since spread through the Mississippi River basin and have been collected as far north as Lake Pepin in Minnesota. Because of their large size and abundance, bighead carp routinely out-compete native fish for food. If bighead carp enter the Great Lakes and become established, they potentially threaten the 1.5 million jobs and \$62 billion in wages connected to the Great Lakes.

The bighead carp injurious wildlife listing is just one of many steps the federal government is taking to protect the country's aquatic ecosystems from Asian carp. On

December 16, 2010, the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) released an updated version of the *Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework*. The ACRCC represents a state and federal partnership dedicated to stopping the spread of all types of injurious Asian carp, including bighead, into the Great Lakes.

For more info: www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/asian-carp.html. ✧

Barrier voltage too weak

Continued from page 1

if fish are spawning just 25 miles from the barrier, that doesn't mean little fish are about to be pushing on the barrier at any moment. He explained that after Asian carp spawn in a river, the eggs and young fish float downstream on the current, sometimes more than 100 miles. Chapman added there is always the chance that spawning populations exist closer to the barrier than people realize.

For now, Corps officials say smaller, juvenile carp are well downstream from the three electrical barriers on the canal that links the river system to the Great Lakes, so the two-volt current laid down by the barriers will be maintained.

Charlie Wooley, deputy regional director of the USFWS, says the best science shows the closest the juvenile fish could be to the barrier at this moment is about 25 miles downriver because there is no reason to believe there is a reproducing population of carp any closer than that. "The best estimate of a potentially reproducible population of bighead carp is 25 miles downstream from the barriers," Wooley said. Lock and dam structures have impeded the carp's progress, Wooley said, and agency crews will be vigilant during the summer spawning season to kill carp in the pools between dams.

Army Corps Major General John Peabody stressed that the voltage impact on the juvenile carp was measured in a laboratory, and "needs to be validated" in the field. ✧

Caution advised for U.S. mail offers to lease mineral rights

Michigan State University Extension folks are warning landowners of unsolicited mailings from oil and gas leasing representatives. These are offers to lease "oil, gas and minerals," said Curtis Talley Jr., Extension educator in Oceana County. "The letter offers a cash bonus and very minimal lease terms," he said.

"The letter states that if they sign and return the offer, they are accepting the lease terms and will sign the lease. However, there is no lease document to review, so landowners are approving a lease that they have not seen." Talley said landowners should be aware that when a landowner signs the lease, he or she is essentially selling the mineral rights.

Among other things, signing the lease can result in a lack of environmental protections, substantially less income to the landowner and very little input as to what occurs on the property after the lease is signed, Talley said. MSUE also offers public meetings for landowners to educate them on mineral and wind energy leasing. The next meeting is scheduled from 6 to 8:30 p.m., April 28, at the Fruitland Township Hall, 4545 Nestrom Road, Whitehall, in Muskegon County. ✧

Inland Mi fishing guides need license

The Michigan DNR is reminding fishing guides who utilize state-owned lands to access Michigan's inland lakes or streams as part of their commercial operation that they are required to have written permission from the DNR prior to using state-owned lands. Guides pay an annual Use of Land fee, must also provide proof of general liability insurance, and must have a state-issued inland pilot's license or a U.S. Coast Guard captain's license. For info on how to obtain an inland pilot license: Sylvia Roossien, DNR Law Enforcement Division, at 517-241-3793. ✧

IGFA confirms Atlantic Salmon World Record

Michigan DNR has announced that the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) has recognized an Atlantic salmon caught at Torch Lake last October as a world record for land-locked Atlantics. The record Atlantic, caught by Indiana resident Tom Aufiero, weighed 26.12 lbs. Aufiero, who caught the fish while fly fishing with a shrimp pattern, released the fish after weighing it.

IGFA regulations require scales used to weigh record fish must have been calibrated and certified as accurate within a year of the catch. Aufiero's salmon was weighed on an uncertified hand-held scale, but the scale was sent to the IGFA, which tested it and certified it as accurate.

"It doesn't surprise me to see a 26-pound Atlantic come out of Torch Lake," said DNR fisheries biologist Mark Tonello of Cadillac. "We know Torch Lake is capable of producing big lake trout, big muskies, and last year someone caught a 29-pound brown trout there." The previous IGFA all-tackle world record for land-locked salmon was a 24.11 lb. specimen caught in Sweden in June 2010. Torch Lake was last stocked with Atlantic salmon in 2008. ✧

Muskie stockings supported at Upper Long Lake

Local anglers have agreed to continue a muskie stocking program at Upper Long Lake, Indiana in Noble County. The agreement calls for 170 muskie fingerlings to be stocked annually for five years to maintain muskie fishing opportunities at the 86-acre lake.

Data compiled by the DNR shows anglers caught 145 muskies, 17 of which were 36" long or longer. Numbers of 12 to 14" bass rose 48% and bass 14-18" nearly tripled after muskies were stocked. Biologists found no evidence that muskies have reproduced in the lake, although several redbfin pickerel are present. These fish resemble small muskies. ✧

Noise distracts fish from dinner: study

At least one species of fish can't track down food as well when underwater noise is annoying it, a new study indicates. The findings are relevant as scientists grow increasingly concerned about the effects on sea life of noise made by boats.

Researchers used underwater speakers to play noise at levels similar to those produced by recreational speedboats. Three spine sticklebacks in a large fish tank, exposed to the noise for as little as ten seconds, made more foraging mistakes and were less efficient at consuming the available food compared to those in quiet conditions, they found.

"Much as you or I might struggle to concentrate on a difficult assignment when faced with loud construction noise, these sticklebacks seemed unable to keep their mind fully on the job at hand, attending to random items of tank debris and mishandling food items more frequently," said Julia Purser of the University of Bristol, U.K., the study's lead author. The findings are published in the research journal *PLoS One*.

In the wild, the din probably increases the chances of fish eating harmful items or of getting eaten in turn by something else, she added, noting that real world under water noise often lasts much longer than that in the study.

"Noise pollution is a rapidly increasing issue of global concern, especially underwater," said co-author Andy Radford, also of the university. "Although lots of research has considered the potential impacts on marine mammals, we know relatively little about how fish are affected, despite their critical importance as a food source for the burgeoning human population. Our study suggests there could be a much wider range of detrimental effects than previously thought, and so there is a vital need for further research."

Purser added: "This study illustrates the importance of not only

MI - More Asian carp eDNA studies planned

Notre Dame University researchers intend to continue testing eDNA for Asian carp, targeting the Grand, Pere Marquette, Raisin, Belle, and Black rivers in 2011. Michigan DNR fisheries biologists will have input into the final sampling plan, and will continue efforts to educate the public regarding Asian carp, especially the anglers who are instrumental in monitoring these efforts. ✧

Senate passes Wallop-Breaux extension

The U.S. Senate last month approved legislation to extend the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Fund for seven months or until the end of the federal fiscal year on September 30, the Marine Retailers Association of America said. ✧

Ohio certifies record White Perch

A new Ohio record white perch has been certified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee. An Ohio state record white perch, weighing 1.72 lbs., was caught by Terry R. Patton of Galion, OH, from Lake Erie on January 29, 2011. Patton's record white perch is 14-1/8" long with a 12-1/4" girth. Ohio state record fish are certified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee. Assisting in the process is a fisheries biologist with the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Tom Cross, Chairman, OWO State Record Fish Committee: tomcross@dragonbbs.com, www.outdoorwritersofohio.org. ✧

looking for the more obvious immediate effects of noise, such as hearing deficits and dramatic behavioral changes associated with stress, but also examining the more subtle but nonetheless important and potentially damaging impacts on the everyday behavior of animals." ✧

Noble Cty bass rules change at 2 lakes

Beginning June 3, the Indiana DNR will modify largemouth bass fishing regulations at Big and Crane lakes in Noble County.

To reduce the number of largemouth bass, anglers will be allowed to keep only bass that measure 10-14" long. The daily harvest limit will remain the same.

Based on sampling, Big and Crane lakes contain three times the typical number of bass found in other northern Indiana natural lakes. Most of the bass, however, are less than 14" long and cannot now be legally taken by anglers. Current rules require all bass that are less than 14" long be released at both lakes. The current limit, however, has been overly protective. As a result, bass grow slowly in both lakes and few bass ever reach the minimum size limit.

"We've seen a huge increase in the number of bass in Big and Crane lakes," said Jed Pearson, DNR biologist. "Both lakes now have more bass than they can support." During sampling, 303 adult bass were captured per hour at Big Lake and 294 per hour at Crane Lake. At most lakes in the area, the average bass catch rate is 96 per hour.

The change in the size limit is needed to encourage anglers to catch and keep small bass, but the new rule is being imposed on a temporary basis, and will return to the 14" size limit when the quota is reached, or November 1. ✧

\$500,000 NSSF Grants for shooting ranges

The National Shooting Sports Foundation will award up to \$500,000 in grants to help public and private shooting facilities attract more participants. The announcement marks the fourth year NSSF will provide funding to qualifying ranges through its Range Partnership Grant Program. Shooting ranges interested in applying can find more info here: <http://nssf.org/shooting/grants>. ✧

Walleyes abound in Sylvan and Winona, Indiana lakes

Anglers could catch more walleyes than ever before at two northeast Indiana lakes this spring. According to the Indiana DNR, Sylvan Lake in Rome City and Winona Lake in Warsaw contain two of the highest walleye densities in the region.

During sampling last fall, DNR biologists using shocker boats captured more than 77 walleyes per hour of electrofishing at Sylvan, a 669-acre impoundment. At Winona, a 562-acre natural lake, they captured 47 walleyes per hour. In lakes where walleyes are abundant, walleye populations typically provide electrofishing catch rates of 20 to 30 walleyes per hour.

While walleye numbers are high at both lakes, larger walleyes are present in Winona than Sylvan. "Our catch rate of 14-inch and larger walleyes last fall at Sylvan Lake was 25 per hour of sampling. At Winona Lake, our catch rate of legal-size walleyes was 28 per hour," said Jed Pearson, DNR biologist. So far the DNR has released 126,000 fingerlings in Sylvan and 106,000 fingerlings in Winona. ✧

\$1,000 fine for Ont. commercial fishing violation

A Lake Erie commercial fisherman has been fined \$1,000 for violating the terms and conditions of his commercial fishing license and allowing fish to spoil. John S. Anderson of Wheatley, captain of the commercial fishing vessel Jacks Queen, failed to declare his entire catch of walleye on his daily catch report and was fined \$500. He was also fined \$500 for allowing fish to spoil. Investigation revealed the fish had spoiled because the gill nets were left in the water too long. Judge Donald Ebbs heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Chatham, on March 25, 2011. ✧

N. Carolina anglers seek end to trawling

In response to a rash of massive striped bass kills along the coast, CCA North Carolina (Coastal Conservation Association) requested the NC Marine Fisheries Commission to eliminate trawling of any kind as a permissible fishing gear for striped bass. The incidents, photographed and videotaped by recreational anglers in the area, were the result of commercial trawling operations in state waters and have prompted outrage up and down the East Coast.

In response to the first striped bass kills on January 21, the NC Division of Marine Fisheries implemented regulatory changes to address discards of striped bass in the trawl fishery. The Division replaced the 50-fish-per-day commercial trip limit with a 2,000-lb.-per-day trip limit. The action was intended to allow the commercials to keep fishing while avoiding regulatory discards. The plan failed as another fish kill event was again witnessed and recorded.

CCA North Carolina requested the MFC to establish a commercial hook-and-line only fishery for striped bass, a far more selective gear that will prevent the tragic waste of striped bass common to trawls. ✧

Woody named USFWS top cop

William Woody has been appointed the new chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement. Woody, who had served as director of Law Enforcement and Security for the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management since 2003, officially joined the Service on March 7, 2011.

Woody will be only the 14th individual to direct wildlife law enforcement for the Service and its predecessor agencies. He succeeds Chief Benito Perez, who retired on January 31, 2011, after more than 30 years of protecting wildlife resources at both the State and Federal levels. ✧

Shortjaw Cisco – A forgotten American fish

Out of sight, out of mind, the saying goes. By virtue of where this fish lives—the dark waters of an astounding 600' in depth—the shortjaw cisco is anything but forgotten. In fact, what was once a common fish in four of the five Great Lakes, the cisco on the minds of biologists now. Lake Superior and a small area of northern Lake Huron constitute the last portions of the Great Lakes to hold shortjaw cisco.

Near where these last remaining fish are currently found in the U.S. is where the first shortjaw cisco specimen described for science came from in 1908. One of America's greatest ichthyologists, Barton Warren Evermann, then the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries' Chief of Scientific Inquiry, gave a name to the fish. He and fellow researcher David Jordan called the fish *Coregonus zenithicus*. The genus applies to all of the cisco species. The shortjaw cisco species name refers to where Evermann and Jordan acquired the specimen, near "The Zenith City," Duluth, MN.

The shortjaw is one of 10 species of fishes in the group of ciscoes that live in the northern U.S. and Canada. The shortjaw naturally occurred in all the Great Lakes, except Lake Ontario, and northwestward in deep lakes through the Northwest Territories, Canada. It grows to a maximum of 15", and approaches three-quarters of a pound in weight. They become sexually mature in their fourth to sixth year, and spawn during spring and summer.

Spawning males congregate first in water anywhere from 60 to 240 feet deep. The females follow, and drop up to 18,000 tiny yellow eggs over sandy or clay lake bottoms. The eggs hatch in four months. The maximum life span is 13 years. John Van Oosten, a researcher with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, learned in the 1930s that rates of growth are wildly uneven, and that the size of shortjaw cisco was no predictor of age.

Ciscoes are closely akin to trout

and salmon. In body form and habitats, there are similarities—they have a fleshy adipose fin near the tail and live in cold water. In habits, they differ. Trout live life mostly as lone rovers, whereas the ciscoes are schooling fish, and because of their propensity to not be found alone, they were in the past taken en masse in gill nets. The crushing pressure of those deep waters is where the shortjaw cisco lives its life, well suited to survive in low light and cold water.

Though the shortjaw lives for long periods in water as shallow as 180 feet below the surface, this is still considerably deep, and requires special adaptations for life at those depths. The pressure of life in water at 300 feet is 10 times greater than at the surface. To get along in the deep, the shortjaw cisco has high levels of fats in the flesh. Nearly all fish species have a swim bladder, a balloon-like organ that expands and contracts for buoyancy. The shortjaw cisco has a small swim bladder.

High fat content and use of the swim bladder combine to stabilize the fish in a particular place in the water. With these adaptations, the shortjaw cisco stays in deep water, without spending much energy to do so. Deep water equates to cold water. Living in water only a few degrees above freezing benefits the shortjaw cisco, helping it store fat and conserve energy. The source of that energy is other deepwater organisms like bivalve mollusks, but especially freshwater shrimp, like the opossum shrimp.

By day, the opossum shrimp lives near lake bottoms, and migrates upward at night. Where the cisco and shrimp intersect, that is where shrimp become a meal. Given the fish's physical limitations on quickly moving up and down in the water, they can't follow the food very far. Shortjaw ciscoes eat opossum shrimp coming and going to and from the lake bottom, letting the food come to them.

It's important for opossum

shrimp to remain abundant where the shortjaw cisco can feed on them. We know what could happen otherwise. In Lakes Huron and Michigan, opossum shrimp declined, likely the result of competition for food with the invasive zebra mussel. In the deep, offshore areas of Lake Superior, zebra mussels are not abundant because the amount of calcium, which is needed to form the mussel shells, is low. If other invasive species become abundant in Lake Superior and opossum shrimp numbers fall, then populations of shortjaw cisco would probably decline even further. But they don't have much further to go to bottom out.

Data that dates to the 1890s show shortjaw cisco populations have declined significantly. During the 1920s, the shortjaw cisco represented more than 90% of deepwater cisco commercial catches from all of Lake Superior. By the late 1990s, the fish was nearly nonexistent. These precipitous declines are why the shortjaw cisco was a candidate species under consideration for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act.

The shortjaw cisco is listed as follows: Threatened by the Federal Committee On Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada; Threatened by the Michigan DNR; and Endangered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Biologists attribute the decline of upper Great Lakes shortjaw cisco populations to a combination of commercial over harvest, invasive species, and predation.

The deep bodied lake trout, called a siscowet, lives with and eats shortjaw cisco and more siscowet swim in Lake Superior today than did in the early part of the 20th century, when shortjaw cisco were much more numerous. We will never truly know why shortjaw cisco numbers are so low now. However, irrespective of the causes of those declines, we can manage and restore the fish so that the fish isn't forever completely out of sight. ✧

WI DNR announces updates to Voigt decision

MADISON – The Wisconsin DNR and Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) announced a number of updates to the court-approved rules that govern Chippewa Indian hunting, fishing and trapping off-reservation rights in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory.

The 1991 court judgment in *Lac Courte Oreilles Indians v. State of Wisconsin*, most commonly known as the Voigt decision, required the six Wisconsin Chippewa bands to establish a conservation code by which their off reservation treaty rights would be exercised. They did so by creating the Off Reservation Model Code.

“Changes in hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities since the original agreement support these modifications both to maintain the original intent of the agreement and to streamline implementation,” said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. “These changes will not endanger our wildlife, fish and forest resources but will make things simpler and more efficient.”

GLIFWC and DNR representatives worked closely over the past year and a half to address the areas where changes were needed to the Off Reservation Model Code and succeeded in producing modifications without the need for litigation. Both the tribes and the state view the result as a step forward in the way these issues are handled for all parties. “It is really significant that we were able to institutionalize the communication and dialogue between the parties,” said James Zorn, GLIFWC Executive Administrator.

Many of the modifications mirror changes in state hunting, fishing and trapping codes, and other changes represent an increase in the level of shared knowledge and cooperation between the department and GLIFWC staff.

Updates include changes in walleye spearing harvest monitoring for small-quota lakes, streamlining of

tribal wildlife quota declarations for antlerless deer, bear, fisher, otter and bobcat and a pilot project that allows tribal offices to issue gathering permits for certain forest products.

The changes in walleye harvest reporting procedures apply only to lakes with a harvestable walleye quota of 75 or fewer fish. All fish speared in these lakes must still be reported. In the past, walleye harvest could only be reported at the landing of the lake just speared. Fish speared in these small-quota lakes can now be reported at a location other than the landing of the speared lake. Quotas are not increased, only the reporting procedure has been modified.

DNR can now also move ahead with season structure setting ahead of receiving tribal harvest declarations for antlerless deer, bear, fisher, otter and bobcat if tribal harvests remain below 15% of the tribal share of these species, thereby simplifying the season setting process. The changes were filed with the court as an amendment to the final judgment entered in 1991.

A summary of the changes:

Meetings of the Agency Leadership

Allows for a regularized process to coordinate communication by agency leaders in DNR and GLIFWC, and agrees that both parties will make good faith efforts to coordinate regarding their respective management and regulatory authorities.

Biennial Stipulation Review

Allows both parties to coordinate discussion of proposed management and regulatory issues and to provide a regular schedule for stipulation review and possible amendment in that the parties agree to make good faith efforts to undertake a review of, and propose changes to, the stipulations no less than biennially.

Technical Updates and Amendments

Establishes a mechanism that allows for automatic implementation of provisions of a GLIFWC “Commission Order,” after

consultation with the state and agreement of the parties, for issues that substantially mirror existing and future state law changes to the management of resources within the ceded territory; a Tribe may choose to adopt more restrictive measures thereby reserving each Tribe’s authority. This amendment makes the implementation of a Commission Order less cumbersome by eliminating the need for continuous ratification of the tribal codes that previously had to be amended after the issuance of each Commission Order.

Adjacent Spawning Stream Segments

Establishes designated adjacent spawning stream segments as one “unit” for spearing purposes where the walleye declaration for a particular lake applies to both to the lake and designated river segment.

Designated River and Stream Segment Regulation – Long Term Six Year Joint Study

Establishes a six year joint study of existing stream segments which may be amended upon agreement of the parties, that allows for the harvest of 60 walleye per segment per day without restrictions on the number of boats or spearers, and without the five fish daily bag limit, while maintaining the 120 fish total annual harvest per segment with a maximum of two days allowed for harvest.

Additional Designated River and Stream Segments – Long Term Six Year Joint Study

Establishes a long-term six-year joint study for spearing in eight designated stream segments that the tribes have had annual recurring access for ongoing study.

Calculation of Safety Factors

Establishes defined timeline for the parties to review data, methodology and calculations for the appropriate “safety factors” used in setting walleye and muskellunge safe harvest levels every 10 years, unless both

Updates to Voigt decision - continued

parties agree to meet earlier, or if such review is unnecessary.

Gillnet Mesh Size – Six Year Joint Study

Establishes a six year joint study that makes permanent existing ongoing annual studies which may be amended upon agreement of the parties, that continues to allow for the use of additional gillnet mesh sizes on lakes 1,000 acres or larger.

Alternative Monitoring of Tribal Walleye Harvest on Certain Lakes

Creates an administrative mechanism that sets forth the list of certain low quota harvest lakes (maximum quota of 75 walleye) where on-site monitoring is not required, upon agreement of the parties. Registration of the harvest is still required.

Wildlife Quotas/Bag Limits – Thresholds

Establishes a stipulation change identical to what is currently in place for turkey to implement the threshold harvest system in Wisconsin for the following species: antlerless deer, black bears, fishers, otters and bobcats. The shift from a declared quota prior to harvest to a system limiting harvest in the following year is designed to mirror the state's management system for the species listed, and is based on the fact that the tribes rarely approach the 50% harvest limitation for those species. Tribal members would be regulated by a daily bag limit, registration would still be required (within 3 working days of harvest), and carcass tags are still required.

Tribal Gathering on State Lands – Two Year Joint Assessment

Establishes management and regulatory principles pertaining to tribal gathering on select DNR properties for a two year trial study period; it will provide a means for tribal self regulation while establishing the necessary assurance that the tribes will ensure that their members' gathering activities are consistent with the state's management objectives.

Tribal Mentored Hunting Regulations

Codifies the regulatory change established via state law for mentored state youth less than 12 years in age and GLIFWC Commission Order #2009-01, that established culturally appropriate regulations to provide tribal members more treaty harvest opportunities in line with state harvesters by expanding hunting opportunities for tribal hunters less than twelve years of age and for tribal hunters that have not been issued a certificate of accomplishment from a tribal hunter education and firearm safety course.

Deer Unit Goal Review

Allows the Department the flexibility to re-evaluate the three (3) year time frame for deer unit goal review by establishing a deer unit goal review every five (5) years.

Committee Updates

Updates the list and mechanism for on-going updates to the current DNR committees that routinely address treaty reserved resources covered by the Voigt decision while continuing to deepen and further the ongoing GLIFWC-DNR relationships established to date, and providing for a framework for continued dialogue.

Tribal State Park Hunting Document Established

Establishes an administrative mechanism that sets forth the regulations and state parks available to tribal harvest entitled.

CITES Export Program

Establishes a stipulation change pertaining to GLIFWC's Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Export Program. CITES tags issued under this program would be provided to GLIFWC, which would be responsible for distributing them to the tribes, and which would report to the U.S. Management Authority as required by the program delegation. ✧

Did you know?

That \$1.1 billion is what anglers spend annually just on bait. That's twice what ski enthusiasts spend on all of their pricey gear (a mere \$615 million). In fact, 6 million more Americans would rather wet a line than sink a putt. And they spend \$378 million annually on ice fishing. That's a fact. ✧

DEC offers 2010 Bear Harvest Results

In 2010, bear hunters took more than 1,060 bears in New York. Statewide, hunters took 1,064 black bears this past fall, similar to harvest levels of 2005-2007. In the Southeastern bear hunting area, hunters took 401 bears, with roughly half of the harvest occurring during the bowhunting season and half during the regular firearms hunting season. In the Central-Western bear hunting area, hunters took 142 bears, with bowhunters responsible for about 65% of the harvest. Harvest in both areas was down approximately 20% from 2009.

Summary with breakdown by county, town, and Wildlife Mgmt Unit: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/42232.html. ✧

Ohio Spring Turkey Season opens April 18 Youth hunt set for April 16-17

Spring turkey hunting opens in Ohio April 18 and continues through May 15. Hunters harvested 23,421 turkeys during last year's youth and spring turkey seasons. Ohio's current wild turkey population is around 200,000. A special youth-only turkey hunt will be held April 16-17. ✧

IL – Free Fishing Days June 10-13

Mark your calendars for the 2011 Illinois Free Fishing Days on June 10-13. For more information on fishing in Illinois, check out the 2011 Illinois Fishing Information guide at <http://www.ifishillinois.org/pdf/2011fishingguide.pdf>. ✧

600 lb dolphin jumps onto tour boat

Tourists out looking for dolphins on the Marco (Fla.) River got more than they bargained for March 13 when a 600 lb. dolphin jumped into their 24' pontoon boat. The dolphin hit a woman on board, spraining her ankle, and became lodged inside. Florida state and county officials responded and it took about 10 men to wrap rope around the dolphin, place it on a backboard and get it back in the water. The dolphin wasn't injured. ✧

MI DNR revitalizing Wild Turkey population

Thirteen wild turkey hens that were native to Barry County have been relocated to Oscoda County, the DNR announced. The trap-and-transfer operation was a joint effort of the DNR and other groups as part of a plan to revitalize the northern Michigan turkey population, which has been in decline.

The birds, which were trapped on private land in an area with a robust turkey population, were released on public land near Fairview. More wild turkeys may be released in northern Michigan this year if weather conditions remain conducive to trapping birds. Wild turkeys were once totally extirpated from Michigan, but thanks to cooperative efforts of the DNR and conservation groups, turkey populations are now thriving in many parts of the state. ✧

Health Issues

Could the fountain of youth be your faucet?

**Researchers say people live longer
where tap water has more lithium**

A substance in tap water may promote longevity, scientists say: a study in Japan found that people live longer where tap water has more of the element lithium.

Researchers studied 18 Japanese cities with tap water lithium concentrations measured to range from less than one millionth of a gram per liter, to 59 millionths. This analysis couldn't show cause-and-effect relationships between the lithium and the long life, the scientists cautioned. That is, they couldn't rule out that some third factor leads to both more lithium in water and longer life. To check for a cause-and-effect relationship, they studied effects of lithium in round-worms and found that the tiny animals also lived longer.

"The scientific community doesn't know much about the physiological function of lithium," said project manager Michael Ristow of Friedrich Schiller University Jena in Germany, one of the investigators. The substance is one of many nutritional trace elements and comes into us mainly through vegetables and drinking water, researchers say. The new findings are published online in the *European Journal of Nutrition*. Further research will be needed to find out whether dietary supplements with lithium make sense, Ristow said. He added that an earlier U.S. study found that concentrated lithium prolonged life by around 36% in the round-worm *C. elegans*, but such a dosage "may be poisonous for human beings."

Ristow and colleagues analyzed the mortality rate in 18 cities in one region of Japan. "The mortality rate was considerably lower in those municipalities with more lithium in the drinking water," with the number of deaths per age and gender group dropping by over 10%, said Ristow. This decrease was partially due to a

Seniors susceptible to life-threatening effects of natural disasters

A new study reveals that senior citizens typically suffer disproportionately during natural disasters, such as the recent tsunami in Japan.

Due to the physical limitations of many people over the age of 65, survival preparations are especially important for seniors. The report, which appears in *The Journal of Gerontology Series A: Biological and Medical Sciences*, states that elderly citizens are especially at risk in the wake of a tsunami or other disasters because of a limited access to food, water and lifesaving medications.

In the 2006 edition of the journal *Public Policy and Aging Report*, it was revealed that three quarters of those who died as a result of Hurricane Katrina were over the age of 60.

When a region is devastated by a catastrophic event, many seniors do not have the physical capabilities to access the services they need in order to survive. Thus, officials from The Gerontological Society of America said that proper preparations must be taken to ensure the safety of these at-risk citizens, including a multi-tier evacuation plan.

For example, "go-kits" should be accessible to all senior citizens. These kits should include contact information of family members and healthcare providers as well as high-nutrient foods. In addition, they should contain at least a week's supply of all prescription and over-the-counter medications they normally take. ✧

lower suicide rate, he added, an aspect of the study that confirmed older findings and suggests low dose lithium may also improve mental health.

The scientists then examined the same range of concentrations in *C. elegans*, often used in animal studies. "The average longevity of the worms is higher after they have been treated with lithium," Ristow said. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Wolf crosses the Lake Superior ice to become leader of the pack](#)

In Ontario, in the winter of 1997, a particularly virile male wolf stepped onto the ice of Lake Superior and headed toward Isle Royale, an island about 15 miles offshore. There he radically changed the genetic makeup of an isolated group of wolves that had lived there since the late 1940s

[ON wind farm developer takes on critics, hosts open houses](#)

The developers of a proposed wind farm just east of the Montreal River Harbour welcome the chance to engage the public in two open houses next week.

[Notre Dame professor leads effort to keep Asian carp out of Great Lakes](#)

When the United States Fish and Wildlife Service decided in March to ban the import and transport of bighead carp — one of the infamous Asian carp — under a century-old law called the Lacey Act, David Lodge had one reaction. “It’s about time,” he said.

[Fox River cleanup reduces levels of PCB in fish](#)

The concentration of PCBs in walleye and sediment in Little Lake Butte des Morts has dropped significantly following the \$92 million government-ordered cleanup of the lake.

[Midwest Wind suspends development work in WI](#)

Midwest Wind Energy says it is suspending development of two wind farms in Wisconsin, citing development opportunities in other states at a time when Wisconsin policy-makers are moving to restrict wind farm development.

[Smuggling of live fish seen as threat to the Great Lakes](#)

In four months of heightened inspections, Canadian customs officials have stopped three trucks attempting to enter the country from the United States carrying live Asian carp — an invasive species feared may one day dominate the Great Lakes.

[Study says young Asian Carp could bypass Electric Barrier](#)

The Army Corps of Engineers has long contended that its electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary/Ship Canal has prevented invasive Asian carp from getting into Lake Michigan, but a study finally released by the Corps on March 24 shows the barrier could indeed be breached by 2-3" long baby carp

[Power generators must protect fish under U.S. EPA rules for cooling water](#)

Power plants and factories face U.S. rules aimed at preventing fish from being sucked into cooling-water systems, helping anglers and costing industry \$384 million a year, the Environmental Protection Agency said.

[Corps acknowledges fish barrier won't repel all Asian carp](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acknowledged March 25 its electric fish barrier on the Chicago Sanitary/Ship Canal is not operating at a level high enough to repel all sizes of Asian carp. A new report says lab tests reveal the barrier, running at 2 volts/inch would not repel juvenile fish. The reason the barrier isn't running full-throttle is the threat that electricity poses to canal barge operators in the area, many of whom are pushing flammable materials through the barrier

[Bigheads worry Lake Erie fishermen](#)

Fish biologists and many sport and commercial fishermen in Ohio fear that, if bigheads reach Lake Erie, they will devastate the most productive fishery in the Great Lakes.

[Indiana DNR to stock 35,000 trout in Lake Michigan](#)

The state of Indiana says it plans to stock Lake Michigan with 35,000 brown trout in hopes of improving the diversity of fishing along the state's 45 miles of shoreline.

[Great Lakes barrier may be too weak to stop carp](#)

Reuters (3/25)

Voltage coursing through electrical barriers designed to keep invasive Asian carp out of the Great Lakes may need to be raised to keep out juvenile fish, U.S. officials said on Friday.

[COMMENTARY: New York's Great Lakes offshore wind decision will provide answers](#)

Despite Ontario's decision to pull the plug on its offshore wind program last month, offshore wind development on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes may be about to move forward. The results of a New York RFP for offshore wind projects in the Great Lakes may be announced in the next week

[Wisconsin lakefront still free of Asian carp, DNA shows](#)

DNA tests show Wisconsin's Great Lakes waters remain Asian-carp free. Samples taken by Notre Dame U. researchers from the Milwaukee, Kinnickinnic and Menomonee rivers, as well as some smaller waterways, show no signs of bighead or silver carp. Similar tests taken across the Great Lakes - outside of the Chicago area - also show no sign of the carp, according to Peter Annin, managing director of Notre Dame's Environmental Change Initiative.

[DEC and USGS say Lake Ontario fishing good and could get better](#)

The Lake Ontario fishery continues to be great for a Great Lake, and it's only going to get greater, provided a few tweaks planned by state and federal fishery biologists take hold. Jana Lantry, a fisheries biologist with the DEC, said creel surveys during 2010 reflected another great year for Chinook salmon fishing, continuing an 8-year string.

[Plan to add voltage to carp barrier must wait](#)

The Army Corps of Engineers said it needs to raise the voltage on the Asian carp barrier near Chicago to deter small carp, but that won't happen until more safety tests are completed. The voltage on the barrier is now 2 volts per inch and should be increased to deter fish smaller than 5 inches, but...

[Lamprey numbers shot up again last year in Lake Michigan](#)

The number of sea lamprey in Lake Michigan shot up again last year. The fight against the parasitic eel is 50 years old, but lately the lamprey has been getting the upper hand.

[AgriMarine signs MOU for eastern Canada fish-farm venture in Lake Huron](#)

AgriMarine Holdings (TSX-V:FSH) has joined forces with the Serpent River First Nation (SRFN) in an attempt to introduce its proprietary closed-containment fish-farming technology to Ontario.

[41,000 lake trout planted in Lake Michigan at Ludington](#)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Jordan River Hatchery planted about 41,000 lake trout fingerlings into Lake Michigan at the Loomis Street boat launch in Ludington Tuesday evening.

[State, federal agencies ready to regulate offshore wind development](#)

State and federal agencies are getting their ducks in a row to regulate offshore wind farms. Wind turbines scheduled to be built in Lake Erie off Cleveland in 2012 may be the first in the water in the Great Lakes, and aren't likely to be the last.

[Pa. hearing opens discussion on offshore wind farms](#)

During a hearing at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie, Penn., representatives of companies interested in developing an offshore wind farm in Lake Erie outlined the pollution-free energy and manufacturing jobs that the system could generate.

[Can wind farms aid criminals?](#)

Could wind farms in Northern New York unwittingly help drug smugglers? That is a question the federal government may have to tackle.

[Snyder Appoints Birkholz to two committees](#)

Former state legislator Patty Birkholz already is serving in the Snyder Administration as director of the Office of the Great Lakes. The Governor added two more duties upon the Saugatuck Republican, naming her to represent Michigan on both the Council of the Great Lakes Governors and the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee.

[Western wind farms & urban farming in Detroit](#)

There's been a lot of talk in West Michigan lately about how wind power could boost the region's economy. As Lindsey Smith reports, the area could be home to several potential wind projects.

[COMMENTARY: Does Chinese ritual doom war on Asian carp?](#)

Tales of Asian immigrants buying live carp in pairs — one for cooking, one for releasing back into the wild — gained renewed currency last week when an Ontario fish importer was fined \$50,000 for attempting to smuggle 4,000 pounds of live Asian carp into the province via the Ambassador Bridge.

[More Live Carp smuggled into Canada](#)

Three times in recent months Canadian officials have caught truck drivers with thousands of pounds of live bighead carp, which Canada banned in 2005. Smugglers keep hauling live Asian carp from Southern fish farms bound for food markets in the Lake Ontario city of Toronto, even as...

End