

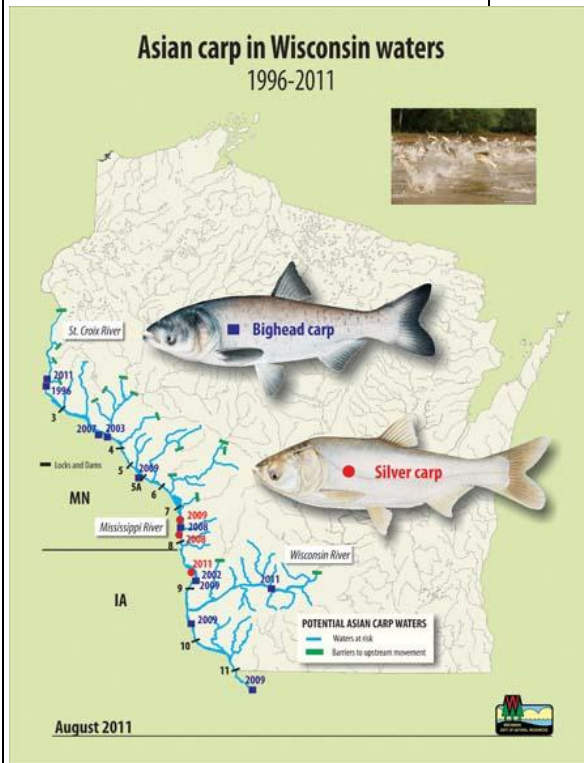


New eDNA evidence of Asian carp in Lower Wisconsin River

MADISON, WI – An angler's catch of a bighead carp in the lower Wisconsin River and traces of silver carp—the carp known for its jumping behavior—DNA in the St. Croix River late last month have state officials calling on the federal government to direct funding and attention to aquatic invasive species in the Mississippi River system.

The two [Asian carp species](#), which have been steadily moving upstream, are among a growing list of invasive species threatening Wisconsin waters of the upper Mississippi River.

"High water levels on the Mississippi River are enabling more Asian carp to move farther into Wisconsin waters," says Bob Wakeman, who coordinates DNR efforts to prevent and control the spread of aquatic invasive species. "Their presence is not a big surprise



Click on image for a larger PDF of the Asian carp distribution map

because their numbers have grown tremendously in the lower Mississippi fish have reached Wisconsin before. But it's a big concern because of the potential damage they can do. "We need the federal government to recognize the importance of the Mississippi River basin's invasive species problem and give it the attention and funding it deserves."

Wakeman says DNR also needs anglers and boaters for their help in keeping these fish from getting established in the **Evidence of Asian carp**

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No eDNA positives on Mississippi River; more testing to be done

All 100 samples tested negative for bighead and black carp

On June 28, a private contractor collected 50 samples from a 4.3-mile stretch of the St. Croix River. The sample area started at the St. Croix Falls Dam and went downstream to near the town of Franconia. The sample area was roughly 48 to 52 miles upstream of the river's confluence with the Mississippi River at Prescott, Wis.

On June 29, the same contractor, Environmental DNA Solutions from Granger, Ind., took 50 samples from the Mississippi River in St. Paul. The samples were collected in a river stretch starting at Lock and Dam 1 (Ford Dam) and ending 3.6 miles

downstream at Pike Island. The DNR received the test results on August 4.

All 100 samples from the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers were tested for three species of Asian carp: black, bighead and silver. The three species could cause serious damage to Minnesota's native fish and aquatic systems by filter-feeding vast amounts of plankton, a key foundation of a river's ecosystem and food chain.

All 100 samples tested negative for bighead and black carp. All the samples tested negative for silver carp in the Mississippi River. Scientists **No eDNA positives on Mississippi**

Continued on page 11

National Task Force tackles carp issue

A Twin Cities-based Asian Carp Task Force, brought together in January by National Park Service officials with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, will immediately begin planning for a new round of eDNA testing in both locations.

Made up of federal, state and local partners, the task force was responsible for initiating the most recent round of eDNA testing, which cost about \$17,000. Two nonprofit organizations funded the testing. The St. Paul-based Mississippi River Fund contributed \$10,000 and St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Fund of the St. Croix Valley Foundation contributed \$7,200. The St. Croix Valley Foundation is based in Hudson, WI.

The St. Croix Falls Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River were chosen as sites for the initial round of eDNA testing because they are river barriers where Asian carp might accumulate, and they are located further upstream than where most commercial fishing and routinely conducted DNR surveys take place. The next round of testing will occur above those dams and elsewhere in the two rivers. Scientists want to test for Asian carp above Lock and Dam 1 in St. Paul and above St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis.

“Our task is to stop or slow down these fish as far south as possible while we continue to develop technologies and techniques to slow down their spread,” said Paul Labovitz, superintendent of the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area.

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton recently signed a bonding bill, approved by the Minnesota Legislature, funding a \$16 million upgrade of the Coon Rapids Dam on the Mississippi River. The dam improvements are designed to provide a permanent barrier to the upstream migration of Asian carp to the upper reaches of the Mississippi River. Construction should begin 2012.

DNR fisheries experts say silver carp are extremely skittish and difficult to catch with traditional netting and fish-shocking equipment. However, two DNR fisheries biologists recently returned from the Illinois River, where they received first-hand training from commercial fishing operators in capturing Asian carp, which have established significant populations there. The training will prove valuable as the DNR begins its own search for the species on the St. Croix. [View study.](#) ✧

Omega-3s may protect infants against common disorders

Even more benefits of omega-3 fatty acids have been found recently. Researchers at Emory University have discovered that consuming these compounds during pregnancy may protect babies against diseases that can occur in infancy.

“This is a large scale, robust study that underscores the importance of good nutrition during pregnancy,” said researcher Usha Ramakrishnan, Ph.D. “Our findings indicate that pregnant women taking 400 mg of DHA (omega-3s) are more likely to deliver healthier infants.”

Babies whose mothers took omega-3 supplements saw a 25% reduction in cold symptoms during their first month of life. After three months, the babies spent 14% less time ill. By the time they reached 6 months of age, the children were experiencing less difficulty breathing and shorter incidences of fever.

All of the infants who participated in the study were breastfed. Researchers also found increased levels of omega-3s in the breast milk, suggesting that may be why the babies experienced the effects of the omega-3s long even after being born. ✧



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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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More Chicago area Asian carp eDNA evidence prompts increased monitoring No carp found in Lake Calumet after intensive monitoring by multi-government agencies

CHICAGO – The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) last week detailed the results of intensive monitoring efforts in and around Lake Calumet within the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) and announced no Asian carp were seen or captured during a four-day response.

Fisheries biologists, late last month had discovered more eDNA material from Asian carp beyond the electric barrier designed to prevent them from invading the Great Lakes.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported on their web site that samples were collected from Lake Calumet and Little Calumet River on July 12, 2011 and reported July 21. The site says results indicate that we have 2 positive for silver carp and ZERO for bighead carp. All the silver carp positives were from Lake Calumet. Previous eDNA results from Lake Cal/Little Cal, 15 June 2011: 7 positive for silver carp; ZERO for bighead carp. All the silver carp positives were from Lake Calumet.

The ACRCC began a Level 1 monitoring response under its Monitoring and Rapid Response Plan on August 1, after three consecutive rounds of eDNA sampling yielded positive results for Asian carp DNA in and around Lake Calumet. Biologists from the USFWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the IL DNR were on the water with commercial fishermen and biologists from Southern Illinois U. and the IL Natural History Survey August 1st through August 4th. The crews laid various net types throughout the Lake Calumet area, including half-mile long seine nets to sweep large portions of the area. Electrofishing boats sampled fish in shoreline areas, used to drive fish towards the nets.

At present, eDNA evidence cannot verify whether live Asian carp are present, whether the DNA may have come from a dead fish, or whether water containing Asian carp DNA may have been transported from

other sources, such as bilge water. While the Lake Calumet area is regularly monitored for the presence of Asian carp, a level 1 response intensified efforts over a four-day period of time with commercial fishing crews, electrofishing boats, larger sweeping nets called seines, and additional sampling gear such as tandem trap nets and hydro acoustic surveys to determine whether live Asian carp were present in the area.

“Our rapid response plan did what it was designed to do—use aggressive monitoring and the best available technology to confirm there is no establishing population of Asian carp above the electric barrier. We will continue to follow our comprehensive Asian carp control strategy to aggressively monitor the Chicago Area Waterway System, ensure the security of the electric barrier, and use and develop the most advanced technologies to protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp,” said John Goss, Asian Carp Director for the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

The Lake Calumet response action concluded on August 4 after more than 1,066 person-hours on the water using a crew of 38 state and Federal agency biologists and commercial fishermen aboard 11 vessels. A variety of nets and methods were used during the operation, including gill/trammel netting, electrofishing, tandem-trap netting, and hydro acoustic surveys. In total, crews fished more than 11 miles of gill/trammel nets, eight fyke nets, and completed 22.5 hours of electrofishing. In all, 8,668 fish were collected, including large numbers of buffalo and gizzard shad, indicating that fish that share Asian carp habitat preferences were being trapped and identified.

“These crews worked tirelessly during this operation using the best fishing techniques available to try to find Asian carp. The fact that none were found further supports what we

have believed for some time—if there are any Asian carp in this area above the barrier, they are there in very small numbers,” said Illinois DNR Assistant Director John Rogner.

The monitoring response was designed to intensify resources and use the best available technology to search for live Asian carp in the Lake Calumet area. Eight previous monitoring trips to Lake Calumet since March 2011 with various agencies electrofishing and using contracted commercial fishers have identified 4,500 fish and indicated no Asian carp presence.

The ACRCC is continuously confirming the effectiveness of the electric barrier, including implementing new Didson camera technology, telemetry, and other barrier defense and monitoring actions. The ACRCC continues to assess and prevent all possible modes of travel for Asian carp to Lake Calumet, including human release of live carp, flood connections between area lakes and the CAWS, and the possibility a small number of Asian carp traveling to the area prior to the 2002 installation of the electric barrier.

Underwater Didson sonar cameras have recorded images of some fish approaching the barrier but none traversing it or even making the attempt, Goss said. “All the information we have is that the barriers are effective,” he said. Federal agencies have taken two additional sets of water samples from those areas as required by their “rapid response plan.” Both are being tested to determine whether additional measures such as spreading fish poisons or stepped-up commercial netting are needed.

Extensive ACRCC monitoring using the best available technologies and expert fish biologists has consistently indicated that if any Asian carp are present above the electric barrier in the CAWS, they exist in extremely low numbers that

do not approach the levels necessary for them to establish a population.

With the current find of positive eDNA many Fisheries biologists say there are at least a handful of Asian carp in the area.

The Army Corps and other

agencies are planning to complete their study of possible invasive species solutions—including separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins—in 2015. Critics say that's too slow. A federal lawsuit filed by Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio,

Pennsylvania and Wisconsin demands quicker action. Legislation pending in Congress would require the Army Corps to report within 18 months on the feasibility of separating the two systems. For more information: www.asiancarp.org. ✧

eDNA monitoring results above Barrier

Location	Samples	Silver Carp		Bighead Carp		Need to Process	
		Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Silver	Bighead
Lockport Pool (RM 296.2 to 300.6)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago Sanitary/Ship Canal (RM 300.6 to 304)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago Lock to Bubbly Creek (to RM 321.8)	228	227	1	228	0	0	0
O'Brien Lock to Acme Bend on Little Cal North Leg – O'Brien Lock to RM 320.0)	163	106	0	106	0	57	57
Lake Calumet	172	106	9	115	0	57	57
Wilmette Locks to North Branch Chicago River (to RM 333.4)	228	227	1	228	0	0	0
TOTAL	791	666	11	677	0	114	114

State of Michigan job opportunities

You can now apply online by clicking on the job title you are interested in and clicking on the "Apply" link! If this is the first time you are applying using our online job application, you will need to create an account and select a Username and Password. After your account has been established, you can build an application by clicking on the "Build Job Application" link. This application can be saved and used to apply for more than one job.

Click here, [State of Michigan Job opportunities](#) and scroll down till you come to the listing of job opportunities. There are many.

Online applications are stored on a secure site. Only authorized employees and hiring authorities have access to the information submitted. For those positions open to all applicants, first consideration will be given to current state employees and state employees on layoff status. If no one is selected from this pool, consideration will be given to all applicants. Your application for any job does not guarantee that you will be contacted by the department for

Ohio DNR Lake Erie-related fishing and boating projects

- Scheduled removal of the Ballville Dam on the Sandusky River in 2012. The dam's removal will restore the natural flow of the river and open up additional walleye spawning habitat. The Sandusky River is a tributary of the Maumee River, which flows into Lake Erie.

- Renovation of the Castalia State Fish Hatchery supports continuation of the DNR steelhead program, which annually stocks 400,000 steelhead fry in rivers across northern Ohio. The popular steelhead fishery draws anglers from around the state and across the country.

- New boat-launch facility on the Huron River in Erie County. This successful project provided critically needed public boating access to Lake Erie's western basin; the site officially opened this summer with four launch lanes and 135 parking spaces. ✧

further consideration. Departments reserve the right to close postings prior to the indicated closing date based upon the volume of applications. ✧

\$11,000 fine for Lake Erie commercial fishing violations

Two Port Stanley commercial fishing boat captains and a Port Stanley commercial fishing company have been fined \$11,000 for committing commercial fishing violations on Lake Erie.

L. R. Jackson Fisheries Ltd. pleaded guilty to failing to retrieve gill nets from Lake Erie within the 8 days legal limit and allowing 104 kilograms (229 lbs.) of fish to spoil and was fined \$4,000. In addition the company was convicted of falsely reporting a gill net set duration on a daily catch report and was fined \$1,000.

Joe Jackson, captain of the G. W. Jackson, pleaded guilty to three counts of falsely reporting gill net set durations on daily catch reports and one count of leaving gill nets in the water for 10 days. He was fined \$4,000.

Sean Cook, captain of the R. Jackson, pleaded guilty to two counts of falsely reporting gill net set durations on daily catch reports and two counts of leaving gill nets in the water for nine days. He was fined \$3,000. ✧

Minnesota eDNA tests suggest presence of silver carp in St. Croix River

Water samples from the St. Croix River have tested positive for genetic material from silver carp, suggesting the invasive, leaping Asian species may be present in the river as far north as the dam at St. Croix Falls, according to the Minnesota DNR.

To date, no silver carp have been caught in the St. Croix River, either by anglers or commercial fishing operators. Only two bighead carp, a different Asian species, have been caught in the river—one in 1996 and another on April 18 of this year. The discovery has prompted the DNR to take several actions.

“Our immediate goal is to mobilize as much effort as possible to confirm the presence of live silver carp in the St. Croix,” said DNR

Commissioner Tom Landwehr. “The results raise the profile and the level of urgency around the Asian carp issue not just for the DNR, but for all agencies, conservation groups, municipalities and river users who have a stake in the health of the St. Croix and the Mississippi.”

The DNR will soon contract with commercial fishing operators to begin using nets on the St. Croix to try to capture live silver carp in the same areas where eDNA tests were positive. DNR staff will also use nets and boats outfitted with electric shocking capabilities to search for fish. DNR operations could start next week; commercial netting operations are expected to start by the end of August.

DNR officials said they would proceed with development of a bubble or sonic barrier at the mouth of the St. Croix River at Prescott, WI, pending results of the additional carp sampling. Scientists believe such a barrier would not be a 100-percent deterrent to Asian carp, but if the populations are low, the barrier could help keep additional carp out of the river while other population control methods are developed.

The DNR is considering a variety of funding sources, including requesting assistance from the Minnesota Legislature, for the barrier. A recent estimate put the barrier’s construction cost (for materials alone) at \$7 million. ✧

Lake Michigan water and weather conditions available online

Innovative sensing buoy deployed near Cook Nuclear Plant provides real-time data

Real-time lake conditions and weather data on Lake Michigan are now available to the public on the Internet thanks to an innovative environmental sensing buoy located off-shore of the Cook Nuclear Plant. Indiana Michigan Power contracted LimnoTech, an Ann Arbor-based company specializing in Great Lakes monitoring and modeling to deploy and maintain the buoy.

The data is being generated for a multi-year environmental study of Lake Michigan and will be used by the Cook Plant for engineering studies on possible improvements to the plant’s water intake system. The buoy is equipped with a range of high-tech instruments that can transmit air temperature, wind speed and direction, water current speed and direction, wave height and water temperature at several depths below the surface.

Data being collected will be useful for fishing, pleasure boating, search and rescue operations and weather-watchers. The buoy is located two and one-half miles from the shore and will remain in operation through the fall. Implementation may be

extended for subsequent years. Information about the buoy and a link to real-time data is available at <http://bit.ly/cookbuoy>.

LimnoTech is currently working directly with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other federal agencies to increase the number of environmental sensors in the Great Lakes and to improve the availability of the data to water quality managers and the public. The data from the buoy will feed into the developing Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS), the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) operated by NOAA, and the University of Michigan’s observing system.

Data is also being used by forecasters at the National Weather Service (NWS) offices in Northern Indiana and Grand Rapids to improve predictions of hazardous weather including high waves and rip currents along the shoreline. Rip currents are particularly dangerous for local swimmers who are often unaware of the hidden threats these currents pose. Together, both offices are responsible for monitoring weather conditions

along 240 miles of shoreline from Manistee, MI to Michigan City, IN.

“Until recently, we’ve had to rely on data collected from buoys in the middle of the lake where conditions may be different,” said Jeff Logsdon, Science and Operations Officer for NWS. “Buoys like this one will greatly improve our ability to predict dangerous rip currents at beaches in Berrien County.”

Data from the buoy will also feed Coast Guard information systems used to respond to distress calls from local boaters, enabling them to quickly assess wind, wave, and current directions before leaving port. Local boaters, fishermen, and swimmers can access the same information to make the decision whether to go out on the water or not. Local fishermen can view the temperature profile in real time to better pinpoint fishing hot spots and temperature bands that lake trout and salmon follow. This will save on gas and improve the catch rate for recreational and commercial fishermen. ✧

Michigan groups plan Asian Carp Summit Sept 13 in Lansing

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Michigan Boating Industries Association and the Michigan Lodging & Tourism Association are co-sponsoring the first Asian Carp Summit to be held September 13 during the Michigan Lodging and Tourism Industry Legislative Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.

The summit represents the first time Michigan tourism and outdoor recreation groups have collaborated on an issue of common concern.

Asian carp have been working their way up the Mississippi since

their release from flooded fish farms in Arkansas in the '70s. These critters are as close as northern Illinois and DNA has been found in waters above an electric barrier designed to prevent their entry into the Great Lakes.

"The potential destruction of a \$3.6 billion commercial and sports fishing industry and \$3.9 billion boating industry by Asian carp should be alarming to all segments of Michigan's leadership," [MBIA](#) president John Ropp said. "And the thought of a 40-lb. silver carp jumping in front of a boat travelling at 30 mph is chilling to boaters

everywhere. We must act now to prevent such possibilities."

The ultimate goal of the summit is to seek passage of a concurrent House/Senate resolution calling on Congress to act immediately to pass the Stop Asian Carp Act sponsored by Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., and Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich. The act would require the speedy creation of an action plan to permanently separate Lake Michigan from the Chicago Area Waterway System, where experts believe Asian carp could enter and cause irreparable harm to the Great Lakes. ✧

New York DEC policy to reduce cooling water intake fish kills by 90%

Power plants and industrial facilities throughout the state will be required to use the Best Technology Available (BTA) to protect aquatic wildlife when seeking cooling water intake permits under a new policy finalized by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). A BTA determination is required in each State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit for industrial facilities operating a cooling water intake system.

"Billions of fish are killed each year when they are caught up in the intake of cooling water for industrial processes," Commissioner Joe Martens said. "The policy we are implementing today will reduce fish kills by 90 percent while allowing flexibility for the industry to reach our goal of protecting aquatic wildlife."

Throughout New York, more than 16 billion gallons of water are permitted to be withdrawn each day for the purposes of industrial cooling. As a result, more than 17 billion fish, eggs, larvae, juveniles and adults are entrained or impinged annually. The policy outlines mitigation measures facilities must implement to minimize impacts to fish and other aquatic organisms from the intake of billions of gallons of the state's surface waters. Implementation of this policy is anticipated to significantly reduce

these losses of the state's aquatic resource.

Fish of all life stages can be subject to entrainment, passing through a plant's cooling systems along with the cooling water, or to impingement, where they are smashed against the intake structure directly. They can suffer from lethally high water temperatures, contact with impellers or heat exchangers, or from exposure to the chemicals used to maintain heat-exchanger cleanliness. Steam electric power plants account for the majority, though not all, of this industrial cooling impact, with some power plants using more than a billion gallons of water every day for cooling purposes. Other industries in New York using non-contact cooling water include manufacturing facilities (*e.g.* cement and sugar industry) and large office buildings.

The policy identifies closed-cycle cooling or its equivalent as the performance goal for BTA to minimize these impacts. Many existing facilities use once-through cooling where water is drawn into the facility, passed through the cooling system, and then discharged back into the waterbody. Fish and other organisms are killed or injured in the process. Closed-cycle cooling systems, such as cooling towers, use significantly less water and recirculate

the water they use, reducing millions of gallons of water that is actually withdrawn from the water body. This, in turn, greatly reduces the impingement and entrainment of organisms—by more than 90%.

However, closed-cycle cooling is not always an available technology for existing facilities as issues of space availability and compatibility of new technology with the facility's original design frequently make it infeasible to implement. The performance goal of the policy allows facilities to propose an alternative mitigative technology, or operational measure, such as flow reduction, to achieve reductions in impact equivalent to what could be realized with cooling towers. This provides flexibility to the industry in designing a mitigative system while ensuring that aquatic impacts are reduced to the greatest extent possible.

A draft of the policy was released for public notice and comment in March 2010. Following public review, meetings were held with various stakeholders to discuss comments and questions on the draft policy. The revised, final policy is available on the DEC public website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/32847.html>, along with a Response to Comments and final SEQR Negative Declaration. ✧

Sportfishing Industry 2011 awards

Best of Show Goes to Pure Fishing

Berkley Nanofil fishing line by Pure Fishing was voted by buyers and journalists as the most innovative product in both the Line category and the "Best of Show."

2011 Award Winners

ICAST 2011 Overall Best of Show – Pure Fishing, Inc., Berkley Nanofil

Apparel – Frabill, Inc., Frabill Suit

Boat – Hobie Cat, Hobie Mirage Revolution II

Boating Accessory – JL Marine Systems, Inc., 10 Ft Power-Pole Blade

Combo – Daiwa Corp, Daiwa D-Shock DSH-4Bi Combo

Electronics – Johnson Outdoor Marine, Humminbird 1158c DI Combo

Eyewear – Costa, Women's Collection

Fishing Accessory – G. Pucci & Sons, P-Line Sparrowhawk

Fly Fishing Accessory – VestPac, DriftPac

Fly Fishing Reel – Temple Fork Outfitters, BVK Fly Reel

Fly Fishing Rod – G. Loomis, Pro4x

Freshwater Reel – Pure Fishing, Abu Garcia Revo MGX

Freshwater Rod – G. Loomis, GL2

Giftware – 3D Picture Store, 3D "Exploring Smallmouth" Picture

Kids' Tackle – Pure Fishing, Casting Game & Sound Fishing Kit

Line – Pure Fishing, Berkley Nanofil

Hard Lure – Pure Fishing, Sebile D&S Crank

Soft Lure – Koppers Fishing Tackle Corp, LIVE TARGET Hollow Body Mouse

Saltwater Reel – Daiwa Corp, Saltiga SATG5000H

Saltwater Rod – Shimano Corp, Terez Rail Rod

Tackle Management – Plano Molding, 674 Hydro-Flo Tackle Bag

Terminal Tackle – VMC, Spinshot ✧

3 million walleye stocked in Wisconsin waters

Nearly 3 million walleye were stocked in dozens of lakes and rivers waters recently. The fish, up to 2 months old and 2" long, were harvested from the Art Oehmcke Hatchery, the [Tommy G. Thompson Hatchery](#), Lake Mills Hatchery, and, for the first time in 20 years, [Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery](#). New coolwater facilities at that century-old hatchery allowed crews there to return to producing walleye.

It's good news for future walleye fishing opportunities in Wisconsin," says Dave Giebtrock, fish production manager. "The longer winter led to later egg collection, which caused a logistical complication at some hatcheries, but the cooler water temperatures were good for the walleye, and we were able to pull off successful rearing at our hatcheries."

Walleye are stocked to provide

fishing opportunities where otherwise there would be none, and to help restore self-sustaining walleye populations in the receiving waters. The majority of the state's walleye fisheries are naturally reproducing but stocking plays an important role.

How long it takes walleye to reach legal size depends on the water where they're stocked and regulations, but count on two to five years before they are likely to turn up in the frying pan. The fish have been raised at the four hatcheries for the last month or two, living in hatchery ponds that DNR fertilizes to help fuel production of algae. Zooplankton in the pond eat the algae, and the young fish eat the zooplankton. Now that the plankton and algae supplies are depleted, it's time to get the fish out. For more info: [state fish hatcheries](#) ✧

DNR, Tribes to stock walleyes in the UP

The DNR and the Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP) teamed up to stock more than 937,000 walleyes in Upper Peninsula waters in 2011. The DNR produced more than 400,000 walleye fingerlings from its hatchery ponds for stocking in Upper Peninsula inland lakes and Lake Michigan waters.

ITFAP hatchery ponds produced 324,000 fingerlings that were stocked in the St. Marys River, 100,000 in Lake Superior's Brimley Bay and 55,000 in Lake Huron's St. Martin Bay. An additional 58,000 fingerlings that ITFAP considered surplus to its Great Lakes needs were stocked in three inland lakes—Brevoort Lake, North Manistique Lake and Millecoquins Lake.

"We are very appreciative of this ongoing offer from the tribes to help assist the state in enhancing not only the Great Lakes walleye fisheries, but also our inland lakes," said Acting DNR Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter. "The surplus walleyes from the tribes freed up more than 50,000 walleye fingerlings to help meet other Upper Peninsula stocking goals."

The 2011 stocking effort represents a significant increase in walleye fingerlings compared to recent years. Walleye stocking has been limited in recent years after the discovery of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in Michigan waters. The discovery caused the DNR to severely curtail walleye stocking efforts in the Upper Peninsula, until new VHS detection and disinfection techniques enabled the DNR to begin returning to normal stocking levels.

The stocking is part of an ongoing cooperative partnership between the DNR and ITFAP. Walleye production was slightly lower than anticipated in Upper Peninsula ponds, in part because they had been idled for several years. However, the resulting fingerlings were larger than normal and could result in better survival, said Jessica Mistak, the DNR's Northern Lake Michigan Management supervisor. ✧

Federal fish hatcheries are on the chopping block

Cuts to the system budget could greatly reduce angling opportunity

In response to recent cuts in the federal budget, the FWS has proposed an \$11 million reduction in National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) funding, with \$6 million coming from the account for operating mitigation hatcheries.

<http://keepamericafishing.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=s6Y2oUIIFC1ftc8US0yThOvaDgcTcJsx> The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fish Hatchery System is responsible for stocking many of our nation's waters with the fish that anglers enjoy pursuing. Federal hatcheries across the U.S. raise and release millions of recreationally-important species such as rainbow trout to mitigate the loss of native fisheries due to water development projects. If approved, this large reduction will result in the closure of [nine hatcheries](#), seven of which are located in the southeastern U.S., greatly reducing angling opportunity in the region. The impacts of these

closures will hit both anglers and local economies hard, as the operations of these hatcheries help support over 3,500 jobs and have an annual economic impact of over \$325 million.

The FWS provides millions of hatchery-reared fish to mitigate the impacts of dams and other man-made water projects by agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and the Tennessee Valley Authority. If the FWS does not receive full reimbursement for these efforts, they have proposed stopping operations at these nine hatcheries. **If this happens, recreational fishing opportunities, especially in the southeastern U.S., will be severely reduced.**

The FWS is planning to direct money from the NFHS budget to alleviate the impact of funding cuts on other FWS

programs and provide funding for new initiatives. These programs and new initiatives make few contributions to recreational fisheries. In the recent past, the FWS had sought reimbursement for mitigation hatchery operations. But now, because this reimbursement is unsure, the FWS is proposing to close the hatcheries and redirect any savings out of the Fisheries program. To keep these hatcheries operating, the FWS must either be assured of full reimbursement or restoration of NFHS base funding until reimbursements are negotiated. Unfortunately, neither of these options is likely to happen without Congressional mandate.

How You Can Help

Click here to: [Send a message to your Members of Congress](#) urging them to take the necessary actions to restore the NFHS budget and keep our nation's hatcheries operating. ✧



Lawmaker seeks waiver for U.S., Canadian boaters

U.S. Rep. Bill Owens, D-N.Y., introduced legislation recently that would waive a reporting requirement for Canadian boaters who do not anchor or dock in American waters. If passed, the legislation would not take effect until identical legislation is passed in Canada for American boaters.

“For more than a century the economic development of our border communities has depended on a common-sense relationship between the United States and Canada,” Owens said in a statement. “It is critical to the continued economic recovery of the region that the reporting requirements for boaters and fishermen on both sides of the border are clear and easy to understand, allowing boaters from both nations to

enjoy shared waterways.”

Owens is working with Canadian Parliament member Gordon Brown on the issue.

“Since the end of May, I have been working with our officials and the Minister’s office to try to find a solution to the confusion that exists between our two countries’ rules,” Brown said in a statement. “Though some changes were made to simplify the opportunities for reporting in Canada, I am pleased to note that Public Safety Minister Vic Toews just announced that the department will be reviewing the regulations. For my part, I will continue to encourage the department and the minister to harmonize the regulations with that of our U.S. friends so that boaters will face the same rules on both sides of

the border.”

The legislation is being crafted in reaction to a May 30 incident in which a U.S. boater had his vessel boarded by a Canadian Border Services Agency officer and was issued a \$1,000 fine for not first reporting his entry into Canadian waters to the Canadian authorities. A decades-long lack of enforcement of this requirement led American boaters in the region to believe they could recreate freely without reporting.

The Canadian government later announced that they were reducing the fine for the American citizen involved in the incident from \$1,000 to \$1 and would allow American boaters to report to Canadian law enforcement from their cell phones. ✧

BRP engineer testifies on dangers of E15

Jeff Wasil, emissions certification engineer for Bombardier Recreational Products' Evinrude Marine Engine division, testified last month on behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association at a congressional hearing titled "Hitting the Ethanol Blend Wall: Examining the Science on E15."

The hearing, held by the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, was to examine the scientific and technical issues related to the EPA's recent waiver decisions permitting mid-level blends of as much as 15 percent ethanol in gasoline and receive feedback on draft legislative language.

In his testimony, Wasil outlined the technical reasons that ethanol is incompatible with boat engines and other non-road engines, as well as concerns that the EPA's gas pump label will not do enough to prevent consumers from misfueling.

He also endorsed draft legislation that calls for a National Academy of Sciences survey of scientific information related to the effects on engines of ethanol blends greater than 10 percent.

Wasil also testified that the warning label the EPA has proposed for placement on gasoline pumps is "completely inadequate. The label they propose will not properly warn and inform consumers about problems associated with E15, and it is almost certain to result in massive misfueling and subsequent engine damage."

In addition, Wasil discussed concerns that the EPA is not requiring that E10 continue to be available. "There is no need to rush E15 into the marketplace. Let's have a strategic pause while more testing is done to determine the effects of E15 on various kinds of engines and to see whether there might be alternatives to ethanol, such as butanol," he added.

[Transcript of Wasil's testimony](#)



Updated reporting requirements for boats entering Canada

ONTARIO – While the law has not changed, the Canada Border Services Agency says it has modernized its reporting requirements for pleasure craft entering Canadian waters, in an effort to make it easier for private boaters to comply with reporting requirements.

All recreational boaters are required to present themselves upon their arrival in Canada as per the Customs Act and Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. This includes all foreign boaters entering Canada, as well as private boaters who depart Canada and enter foreign waters, and subsequently return to Canada.

However, certain private boaters may now present themselves to the CBSA by calling the Telephone Reporting Centre (TRC) from their cellular telephones from the location at which they enter Canadian waters. The following groups of individuals may report by cellular phone:

- Canadian citizens and permanent residents who have not landed on U.S. soil; and
- U.S. citizens and permanent residents who do not plan on landing on Canadian soil.

Owners/operators of private boats that are strictly weaving in and out of Canadian waters, but are not in transit, will be required to call the center only once, at the time of their initial entry into Canadian waters.

All other private boaters, including those without cell phones, must proceed directly to a designated marine telephone-reporting site and place a call to the center to get Border Services Agency clearance. That includes all vessels carrying foreign nationals (other than U.S. citizens or permanent residents).

Failure to report could result in detention, seizure or forfeiture of the vessel and/or monetary penalties, the agency said. The minimum fine for failing to report to the Border Services Agency upon entry to Canada is \$1,000.

Lime Island in Upper Peninsula newest state recreation area

The Michigan DNR announced that it has designated Lime Island, a 980-acre, state-owned island in the Upper Peninsula, as its newest state recreation area.

The island, located in the St. Mary's River Navigation Channel at the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula, was previously managed and administered by the Forest Management Division of the DNR. The Natural Resources Commission recently transferred Lime Island to the Parks and Recreation Division to be maintained and managed by Parks and Recreation Division. The new designation also includes renaming it the Lime Island State Recreation Area, and makes it the 99th facility within the Michigan state park system.

"The island has been used as a recreational area, and it made sense that it should be managed as a state recreation area," said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division.

Lime Island has rental cabins, platform tent sites, a small harbor of refuge, historical structures and boat access. These facilities have received various improvements over the years. Fees and details can be found on the DNR website under Camping and Recreation.

The island was gifted to the State of Michigan for one dollar by the Consolidated Company in 1982. Accessible only by boat, the island is one of Michigan's most remote and pristine recreational areas. The cabin and campsites on the island will soon be available to rent through the DNR's Camping Reservation System on the same terms as state park and recreation areas' campsites and cabins. ✧

The full fact sheet and updated requirements: [Simplified cell phone reporting for private boaters](#). ✧

BoatUS delivers 15,000 comments to FCC: "Don't mess with our GPS"

BoatUS hand delivered over 15,000 comments from concerned boaters, sailors and anglers to the Federal Communications Commission late last month asking the agency to protect the future reliability of GPS (Global Positioning System) across the United States. The agency is currently considering a request from a private company, LightSquared, to build up to 40,000 ground stations for a new nationwide broadband wireless telephone network, which, tests have shown, could cause significant interference with most GPS signals.

At issue is LightSquared's proposed use of radio frequency bandwidth adjacent to frequencies that are used by the relatively weak GPS signal. A recent report to the FCC said, "all phases of the LightSquared deployment plan will result in widespread harmful interference to GPS signals and service and that mitigation is not possible." In an unusual move, a conditional waiver was granted in January by the FCC to LightSquared to permit the dramatic expansion of land-based use of mobile satellite spectrum, subject to spring testing and public comments.

"We hope these 15,000 comments indicate to the FCC the critical need of having a reliable navigation system, not just for boaters and anglers, but for pilots, drivers, outdoor adventurers, and first responders. It is unimaginable that the federal government—the guardian of the bandwidth—would consider approving a proposal with so many problems and grave public safety consequences," said BoatUS Vice President of Government Affairs Margaret Podlich.

An unusually short 30-day public comment period on the FCC permit ended July 30.

After losing their only other viable navigation system (LORAN) last year after the Department of Homeland Security shut the system down, boaters now solely rely on GPS

for electronic navigation. The US Coast Guard's emergency search and rescue system, Rescue 21, now uses GPS to locate stricken vessels on over 36,985 miles of coastline. Mariners also rely on GPS-enabled communications with DSC VHF radios to provide location information, as do 406MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) for mayday and man-overboard situations, respectively. ✧

DNR Administrator retires from ODNR

Columbus resident John F. Husted retired June 30 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Mineral Resources Management after 31 years with the department. Since 2007, Husted served as chief and was responsible for overseeing coal and industrial mineral mining and reclamation, miner safety and rescue, abandoned mine land and oil and gas production. David Mustine has been named the new DNR Director. ✧

Nominations for Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame Deadline August 26

Nominations are now being accepted for the Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame. Selection criteria and a nomination form are available at www.ohiodnr.com or by calling 614-265-6842. Nomination forms must be returned no later than August 26 to ODNR Communications, 2045 Morse Road, Building D-3, Columbus, OH 43229. Successful nominators of this year's Hall of Fame selections will be notified by September 12. Award presentations will be made this fall with a date and location to be announced. ✧

Feds move against suspected illegal fishing ring

Federal authorities have moved to stop a ring suspected of illegally netting and selling walleye on two Indian reservations in northern Minnesota. The USFWS led the crackdown on the Leech Lake and Red Lake reservations. Spokeswoman Jeanne Cooney says no one has been charged in the operation, which also involved the Minnesota DNR and local police. Tribal members often are allowed fish with methods such as netting that are illegal elsewhere in Minnesota.

Allegations of illegal walleye netting have floated for years around Lake Winnibigoshish and Leech Lake, both of which are partly within reservation boundaries. Leech Lake Band members can net walleye for personal consumption only. ✧

New York new record brook trout

Forestport resident reels in 5.8 lb "Brookie" from South Lake

New York DEC has certified Dan Germain from Forestport, is the new holder of the state record for brook trout. Germain reeled in the record-breaking fish on June 15 while fishing at South Lake in Herkimer County. The new record brook trout, caught on a Lake Clear Wabblers and worm, measured 22" and weighed in at 5.8 lbs., surpassing the previous state record set in 2009 by 3.5 ounces.

Germain submitted details of his winning fish as part of DEC's Angler Achievement Awards Program. The three categories that make up the program are: Catch & Release, Annual Award and State Record.

For more info and application form: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7727.html>, or email fwfish@gw.dec.state.ny.us ✧

Evidence of Asian carp

Continued from page 1

upper Mississippi, and in the lower Wisconsin and St. Croix rivers, two of the most pristine rivers in the country.

Anglers and boaters can help by [continuing to follow rules to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species](#) and [the fish disease VHS](#), and by reporting when they catch a bighead or silver carp or the closely related grass carp and black carp, Wakeman says.

"Please take a photo of it, note where you caught it, put it on ice and bring it to a local DNR office," he says. "We need everybody's help to keep our fishing strong and our rivers healthy."

Bighead and silver carp eat plankton and can potentially decrease populations of native fish that rely on plankton for food, including all larval fishes, some adult fishes, and native mussels. Bighead carp can eat 20 percent of their own body weight in food each day, and can grow to 60 inches and 110 pounds. Silver carp also have been known to jump out of the water and injure boaters.

DNR is supporting Minnesota's efforts to use electrofishing boats and nets to look for fish below the St. Croix Falls dam, where the silver carp DNA was detected earlier this month. Bighead or silver carp have been captured in the Mississippi River along Wisconsin's western border since 1996 and a bighead carp was captured at the mouth of the St. Croix River earlier this year.

The DNR also is partnering with the University of Notre Dame and others to collect water samples to test for Asian carp DNA from the Milwaukee, Kinnickinnic, Menomonee, Sheboygan, and Root rivers, and the Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Racine and Kenosha harbors. The Milwaukee, Kinnickinnic and Menomonee rivers were sampled last year and no DNA from Asian carp was detected. The Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins are artificially connected by the Chicago waterway system.

No signs of Asian carp reproducing in Wisconsin waters

The silver lining to the recent findings is that no young Asian carp or other signs of successful reproduction have been documented so far in any Wisconsin waters, says John Lyons, a longtime DNR fisheries researcher and fish identification expert. Also, dams on the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Sac and on the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway at St. Croix Falls will block the fish from traveling farther inland, and measures already in place can help slow the spread. [A fish passage planned for the Prairie du Sac dam has been designed to prevent invasive aquatic species and fish from getting further upstream.]

"The population densities are real low—the bighead and silver carp entering the Upper Mississippi are mainly strays so there really isn't a critical mass up here yet," Lyons says. "Will there ever be? And what is the critical mass? It's a big unknown."

Wisconsin has taken actions within its own borders to slow the spread of Asian carp and other invasive species, ranging from banning the sale, transport, possession and introduction of bighead, black, grass and silver carp, to enacting ballast water treatment standards, to banning harvest of bait fish from the Mississippi River and its tributaries. That's important because young Asian carp resemble gizzard shad and many minnows, and the DNR doesn't want Asian carp to mistakenly be harvested and taken to another water system for use as bait, according to Ron Benjamin, longtime DNR fisheries supervisor on the Upper Mississippi River.

Wisconsin also is supporting research to find ways of eradicating aquatic invasive species or at least limiting their ability to spread to other waters, and DNR has worked with other states and federal agencies along the river to develop action plans to slow the spread of carp and other invasive species.

Federal attention and funding, however, has shifted to the Great

Lakes region in recent years as concerns grew that Asian carp from the Mississippi River system might invade the Great Lakes, Benjamin says.

While the Asian carp can be blocked from reaching the Great Lakes by severing the connection between the two basins, options on the Mississippi River are more limited, the DNR officials say. The dams on the Upper Mississippi River itself are not high enough to be complete barriers to the Asian carp moving upstream, and the chance of closing down the locks, a decision that would need to be authorized by the U.S. Congress, is very small, Lyons says.

Benjamin hopes the recent findings will help bring federal attention back to the Mississippi River, noting that Asian carp were brought to the United States by the aquaculture industry in cooperation with federal agencies. "I hope that the recent finding will refocus some attention and funding the Mississippi to help implement a multi-state plan to prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species within the basin, and to prevent those already here from expanding into unconnected ecosystems," he says. "Finally, one of our best defenses is to keep our ecosystems healthy and diverse." ✧

No eDNA positives on Mississippi

Continued from page 1

cautioned that the negative results on the Mississippi River do not mean silver carp are not in the river. They said the Mississippi was at flood stage during the testing process, which could have limited the accumulation of carp DNA.

DNR staff note that bighead and silver carp have been caught in the Mississippi downstream of Lake Pepin. In contrast, the positive samples from the St. Croix River were more conclusive. Twenty-two of 50 samples (44%) tested positive for silver carp along the 4.3-mile stretch of river. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

No Asian carp found during 4-day hunt for invasive fish in Chicago-area waterway

Authorities hunting for Asian carp in waterways near Chicago say they didn't find any during four days of intensive monitoring. The efforts came after tests found DNA from the carp in the waterways beyond electric barriers meant to keep them out of the Great Lakes.

BP gets OK to dump mercury into Lake Michigan

A BP refinery in Indiana will be allowed to continue to dump mercury into Lake Michigan under a permit issued by Indiana Dept. of Environmental Mgmt. The permit exempts the BP plant from a 1995 federal regulation limiting mercury discharges into the Great Lakes to 1.3 ounces per year.

Agricultural pollution blamed for Lake Erie blooms, fish woes

"In the 1960s, we had an overload of nutrients from sewage treatment plants, industrial plants and phosphate-rich laundry detergent," said Jeff Tyson, the head of Lake Erie fishery management at the Lake Erie Research Unit in Sandusky. The walleye and whitefish populations plummeted and the...

Cleaning up the Great Lakes: Coast Guard ready to issue new ballast water rules

New standards governing the cleaning of ballast water in ocean-going freighters, about to be adopted by the U.S. Coast Guard, should help prevent release of non-native species into the Great Lakes and other threatened U.S. waters, such as San Francisco Bay and the Chesapeake Bay.

Sea lampreys gaining the upper hand

For fifty years Canada and the U.S. have been battling an eel-like creature across the Great Lakes. Sea lampreys are parasites that drill holes in fish to feed on blood and body fluids.

Invasive clams reach Finger Lakes

Dive teams that spread underwater mats to smother invasive Asian clams in an Adirondack lake this spring are now sifting the sandy bottom of a lake in New York's Finger Lakes wine country to determine how widely the water-befouling mollusks have spread there.

Agricultural pollution blamed for Lake Erie blooms, fish woes

The blooms are back on Lake Erie, and are just as destructive as in the 1960s. An overload of nutrients was the culprit a half-century ago, and it is again, but from a different source.

Regs loosened on controlling cormorants in Michigan to help fish populations

A new experimental approach to managing double-crested cormorants in Michigan will allow officials to cull birds without historical population data and will relax regulations on minimal colony sizes in some areas.

Pump helps clear Ontario Beach of algae

A system to pump algae-laden water away from a Lake Ontario beach was tested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Monroe County, NY. The test was intended to see whether algae could be removed from near-shore waters, thus minimizing the chances of beach closures.

Freak storm, aging sewers and Chicago's topography lead to flooding woes

Last weekend's deluge quickly saturated aging sewers in Chicago and soon overwhelmed the Deep Tunnel, a cavernous \$3 billion backup system built to prevent flooding and protect Lake Michigan, the Chicago River and suburban waterways from water pollution.

Asian carp may just be beginning of trouble brought by canal

The potential trouble lurking in the Chicago River system is bigger than just the giant Asian carp, according to a new report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

New York's tough ballast water rules attacked in Congress

New York is facing new pressure to scrap tough ballast water regulations that are set to go into effect next year. The rules are designed to stop invasive species from reaching the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes.

COMMENTARY: Don't quit conservation

The Department of Interior's Appropriation Bill due to come before the full House later this week would significantly compromise our ability to maintain and improve the health of Lake Michigan, the Great Lakes and many of our other national treasures.

Huge alewife die-off a sign of life for the lake

The sight and smell of thousands of dead alewives on Lake Michigan beaches, although unpleasant, might be a sign of health for the lake.

[Limits to ballast rules fail in court; lawmakers debate similar action](#)

Attempts to limit state authority over ballast water rules fell flat last Friday, but the legal tug-of-war continues this week as lawmakers consider the nation's environmental spending.

[EDITORIAL: New carp DNA should raise alarm](#)

The voracious Asian carp has built an indisputable reputation for ecological disruption, and arguments for acting quickly and effectively against the carp's invasion of the Great Lakes basin continue to gather strength.

[US court rejects challenge to EPA ballast permit](#)

A federal court has rejected a shipping industry challenge to a government permitting system designed to prevent the spread of invasive species that have disrupted ecosystems and cost billions in the Great Lakes and elsewhere.

[Two more samples test positive for Asian carp in Chicago system](#)

For the second time this week, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is reporting that "environmental" DNA samples taken from the Chicago waterway system above its electric fish barrier have tested positive for Asian carp.

[International fisheries expert calls for complete hydrological separation to combat Asian carp menace](#)

A Michigan State fisheries and wildlife professor and international fisheries expert maintains that if Asian carp enter the Great Lakes, drastic changes will reverberate throughout the entire system. He believes the electric barrier currently in place to keep Asian carp from invading is not enough.

[COMMENTARY: Current strategies to fend off Asian carp don't match devastating threat](#)

The Corps of Engineers is playing a form of biological Russian roulette with the Great Lakes. If allowed to invade, Asian carp – which eat like pigs, breed like rabbits and rocket out of the water when disturbed by boat motors – could devastate the lakes' \$7-billion fishery and endanger boaters' lives.

[EDITORIAL: A day to celebrate: White Lake moves step closer to clean bill of health](#)

White Lake in Muskegon, Mich., has come a long way since the week, decades ago, it was featured in Time magazine as the site of one of the nation's worst cases of industrial pollution.

[More evidence of Asian carp found above electric fish barrier](#)

With no fanfare, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers posted on its website this week news that nine water samples taken above the barrier in recent weeks have tested positive for the giant, jumping fish.

[EDITORIAL: Alewives are manageable, for now](#)

Thousands of dead alewives are washing up along the shores of Lake Michigan this summer, from Kenosha to Door counties.

[Asian carp \(part 6 of 6\): Scientists race to win war on carp: pheromones, noise guns, biobullets tested](#)

Scientists in the Great Lakes and beyond are trying to outsmart the Asian carp, using inventive technologies – and the invaders' own biology and behavior – against them

[Asian carp \(Part 5 of 6\): Carp can be harvested -- but who will eat it?](#)

In the U.S., some entrepreneurs see places such as China as a solution to the Asian carp infesting domestic waters. These businesses are trying to flash-freeze wild bighead and silver carp from the Illinois River and ship the fish overseas

[Asian carp \(Part 4 of 6\): U.S. as much to blame as fish farms for escape](#)

If you say "Arkansas fish farms" and "Asian carp" in the same sentence, you can almost hear the boos and hisses. They're the ones who let the fish escape into the wild, right? Maybe not

[Asian carp \(Part 3 of 6\): Battle lines are drawn at Chicago ship canal](#)

The most contentious issue in the debate over Asian carp is whether to barricade the superhighway for the fish – and future invasive species – created by the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal

[Asian carp \(Part 1 of 6\): The truth about Asian carp](#)

An electric barrier is the main line of defense against the much-feared invasive species entering the lakes. But this defense might not have been needed if the U.S. government had framed a more comprehensive, urgent policy in the late 1990s, when scientists first noted that Asian carp were reproducing in southern rivers.

[Group to push for new border laws](#)

An organization hopes to get all parties involved in border regulation — border patrols on both sides of the river, Canadian MPs and U.S. congressional members — to update laws regulating cross-border recreation in the Thousand Islands.

[Asian carp: How deadly would it be to Great Lakes?](#)

The question of how deadly an Asian carp invasion would be to the Great Lakes has led to a fierce debate among researchers, environmental groups and governments, who disagree on the answer.

[Congress considers limiting states' ability to regulate ballast water](#)

The House is considering legislation to discourage states from regulating ballast water more strongly than federal rules. The amendment, proposed by Steven C. LaTourette (R-Ohio), would particularly affect New York, as it is the only state that currently exceeds EPA's standards

[Who owns the fish? How tribal rights could save the Great Lakes](#)

The tribe has always been deeply connected to the lakes economically and culturally. The latest threat to that connection is environmental degradation, particularly invasive species. But the tribes are forming unexpected alliances with old enemies to fight the threat.

[COMMENTARY: Fight against Asian carp begins with prioritizing](#)

It's a matter of weighing one dilemma against another. Shut down the canal and cause economic hardship or allow carp to get into the Great Lakes and cause what could only be considered a natural disaster

[Michigan's largest wind farm starting to take shape](#)

About 150 construction workers will begin building the first of 133 wind turbines at the new Invenergy wind farm in the northeast corner of Gratiot County, west of Saginaw

[Plight of Lake Michigan's Yellow Perch](#)

Once a staple of sport and commercial fisheries in communities from Kenosha to Manitowoc, perch numbers have dwindled to modern-era lows, according to recent estimates. Perch have suffered from years of extremely poor recruitment, or survival of young fish, since the early 1990s

[Dead fish wash up on Lake Michigan shores](#)

Thousands of dead fish are washing up on the shores of Lake Michigan. Experts said small, shiny fishes, called alewives, have been dying off and showing up on beaches around Lake Michigan in recent weeks.

[Pollutant levels in walleye drop after Saginaw River dredging](#)

PCB levels in Saginaw Bay walleye have dropped 80% since 1997, said study author Chuck Madenjian, a fishery biologist at the USGS Great Lakes Science Center. He credits the drop to a dredging project in 2000 and 2001 that pulled more than 340,000 cubic yards of polluted sediment out of the

[Obama's 2nd Amendment Assault](#)

Senator Grassley continues to peel back the layers of the Justice Department's conspiracy to send arms to Mexican drug dealers and use those gun sales as a pretext to impose stricter gun laws on the American people. Grassley has told news agencies that high-ranking Justice Dept officials were briefed

[Remodeling to provide better fishing access](#)

The project is the result of a \$550,000 Great Lakes Fishery and Trust grant

[Lake Erie water-use bill draws foes, even within GOP](#)

Legislation about to be signed by Gov. John Kasich regarding the amount of water that can be legally drained from Lake Erie was supposed to bring the state into compliance with the Great Lakes Compact. But there is disagreement about whether it will achieve that goal

End