



Fish barrier managers to crank up barrier voltage to block carp

The electric fish barrier voltage designed to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes is being cranked up in an effort to ensure that small fish do not slip through. The move comes after lab tests indicated that very small Asian carp might not be repelled by the existing voltage level. Public opinion and congressional leaders added to the impetus that persuaded barrier managers to reverse their position on the levels needed to adequately manage barrier voltage.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) officials claim the voltage is adequate to repel Asian carp and prevent them from slipping through the electronic barrier.

Maj. Gen. John Peabody, commander of the Corps' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, said during last week's teleconference with the media that the Corps will increase

voltage in the electric fields in the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal because lab results suggest the existing voltage may not deter small, immature carp. The barrier's voltage will be increased 15%, the frequency will be doubled and its electric pulses will become more rapid.

Peabody acknowledged that if a human fell into the canal, the charge could be fatal. Safety and warning measures have been put into place to deter such incidents. The barrier channel area is fenced off and signs are posted warning people not to enter. Warning signs and flashing red lights exist on the approaches to the barrier warning boaters from either direction.

Fishery biologist Kelly Baerwaldt, with the Rock Island Army Corps office, said studies have not proved conclusively that the

existing voltage is lethal to carp, but it does deter them.

Officials said that adult Asian carp have been found spawning 120 miles south of barriers and some adult carp have been found approximately 60 miles from the barrier.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a report by four independent scientists who analyzed the "environmental DNA" process that government and university scientists have used the past two years to search for the carp on both sides of the barrier.

The study concluded the means of detecting the carps' genetic material in water samples is fundamentally sound but should be refined to answer questions such as whether the DNA came from live

Crank up barrier voltage

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Wisconsin requires ballast exchange/treatment standards

Wisconsin's permitting requirements, which started in February 2010 and [were modified earlier this year](#), require ballast water exchange or flushing in the open water, and phase-in numerical treatment standards, according to Laura Madsen, who coordinates the ballast water permit program.

New oceangoing vessels will need to meet numerical treatment standards starting January 1, 2012, and existing oceangoing vessels will need to meet them two years later. So far, Wisconsin has issued permits to 241 vessels, approximately 143 oceangoing vessels and 98 "lakers," ships that travel between Great Lakes ports, Madsen says.

DNR has two inspectors — one for Lake Superior and one for Lake

Michigan. The inspectors have been boarding vessels, asking for and reviewing documents describing their management of ballast water and sediment, and making recommendations for improvements, Madsen says.

"What the inspectors are finding is that the shipping companies are doing a good job so far," Madsen says. "The industry is highly regulated internationally, and overall, there's a high compliance rate. They know they're being scrutinized and are, for the most part, already doing what they're supposed to be doing."

More information on [ballast water discharge general permit](#) is available in a media kit on the DNR website. ✧

New York saltwater anglers get refunds DEC to issue refunds for saltwater fishing licenses

Albany, NY – Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on August 5 directed the DEC to issue refunds to recreational fishermen and charter boat operators who purchased a Recreational Marine Fishing License (RMFL) in addition to refunding license fees to New Yorkers who purchased lifetime licenses.

The federal government requires all fishermen in marine waters must be registered, and the state originally met this requirement by adopting the RMFL program. However, the 2011-2012 New York State budget eliminated the license fee, and created a no-fee registration program to comply with federal law. So, any New Yorker who purchased a license for 2011 will be issued a refund.

Refunds totaling \$1,350,000 have already been issued to approximately 9,000 saltwater anglers who purchased a "lifetime license" in 2010. The DEC has begun issuing refunds to approximately 200 charter boat operators totaling \$80,000 dollars; and, approximately 23,000 individuals who purchased an annual license in 2011 will receive refunds totaling \$220,000 dollars.

Jim Hutchinson Jr., Managing Director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance said, "Governor Cuomo has made it clear that his top priority is to stimulate New York's economy and protect our state's natural resources at the same time. In directing the DEC to refund fishermen and businesses, the Governor is putting real money back into the pockets of New Yorkers. I applaud the Governor for creating the no-fee registry that will help create and sustain jobs throughout the fishing community in Long Island."

No-Fee Registry in Place

In compliance with amendments to the Environmental Conservation Law that eliminated recreational marine fishing license fees, Governor Cuomo

directed the DEC to establish a no-fee registration system. All anglers 16 years of age and older who take fish from the waters of the marine district, or who take anadromous fish from any waters of the state, are required to register with NYSDEC through DECALS, the Department's automated sporting licenses system.

The requirement is identical to that of the previously instituted Recreational Marine Fishing License, but is now without charge. Those fishing from a for-hire party or charter fishing vessel that is licensed by DEC are not required to obtain an individual registration.

To register, anglers can go to the usual outlets for sporting licenses, or register online at: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html.

After registering, anglers will be given a card similar to the fishing license the registry replaced. Those registering online should print out their receipt. The registration card or receipt must be in possession when exercising the privileges of the registration.

The new registration fulfills a federal mandate to develop a database of New York marine recreational anglers in order to improve federal recreational fishing surveys about the number and size of their catch.

Anglers must register with New York even if they have already registered with the federal National Saltwater Angler Registry. DEC will be uploading the names and addresses of all lifetime, charter boat operators, and individuals who purchased an RMFL in 2011 into the free registry, therefore those license holders will not need to register this year, but are required to register in 2012.

For more information, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html> on the DEC website. If you have not received a refund by September 15, please call: 631-444-0249 or 518-402-8044. ✧



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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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Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

Editor

Jeanette Thomas

Webmaster

Robert James, 630/530-7760

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Wisconsin hook and line sturgeon season opened Sept. 3

MADISON – Anglers looking for a unique fishing opportunity don't have to look far. The 2011 hook and line season for sturgeon season opened September 3 on about a dozen waters statewide and gives anglers the chance to reel in one of Wisconsin's largest and oldest fish.

Lake sturgeon can grow to more than 200 pounds and live more than 100 years. The 2011 season marks the fifth year that the minimum length for harvesting sturgeon is set at 60 inches, with a one-fish limit per season. The season runs through September 30, 2011. There is a catch-and-release season only on a stretch of the Menominee River downstream from the Hattie Street Dam to Green Bay from September 3-30.

And anglers will find an extra catch-and-release opportunity on the lower St. Croix River from St. Croix Falls Dam downstream to the Mississippi River from October 1 through October 15. This catch-and-release season allows Wisconsin and Minnesota to have the same regulations for the same species.

There are signs that the 60" length limit Wisconsin put in place is working to increase fish size and protect the vulnerable female population on some waters, fisheries biologists say.

"Sturgeon fishing on the Chippewa River in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties should be good to excellent," says Heath Benike, fisheries biologist for those counties. "Sturgeon surveys conducted this field season on the Chippewa River in Eau Claire and Chippewa counties showed that 10 percent of the lake sturgeon captured were over 60 inches in length." The largest lake sturgeon was just over 67 inches and weighed almost 60 pounds. There also are a good number of mid- to upper-50 inch fish that will be available for anglers who prefer catch and release angling, Benike says.

The length limit is also helping boost the sturgeon population in the upper Menominee River, according to

Mike Donofrio, fisheries supervisor in Peshtigo. "Our assessment indicates likely very few sturgeon over 60 inches in the upper Menominee River but for those anglers interested in catch-and-release, the population estimate of sturgeon over 50 inches from the White Rapids Dam to the Upper Scott Dam is more than 1,000."

Sturgeon fishing on Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay should be good this fall and into the ice fishing season consistent with previous years, according to Peter Stevens, Lake Superior fisheries team supervisor. Stevens says 30 percent of sturgeon captured in spring surveys were larger than 50 inches with the largest fish coming in at a little over 64 inches and about 68 pounds. Surveys continue to show good recruitment with the bulk of the fish in the 30 to 40 inch range.

"Catch per hours of effort continues to show a steady upward trend, indicating that the best days of fishing may still be in front of us," Stevens said. The Lower Wisconsin River and Lake Wisconsin both support healthy populations of lake sturgeon. Previous to the implementation of the 60-inch size limit the harvest would often exceed 30 percent of the estimated adult population, according to David Rowe, DNR fisheries biologist at Poynette.

"With the higher size limit harvest has been maintained below the 5 percent safe harvest limit except for 2010 when harvest was estimated at 6 percent," Rowe said. "There appear to be many fish between 50 and 60 inches as observed in spring and fall gillnet surveys and fishing should continue to be good for these big river wanderers. There are several radio tagged lake sturgeon in the Lower Wisconsin River and we continue to follow their movements from the Mississippi River and deep water habitat where they spend the summer, through their long swim back up the river this fall and begin to stage for spawning next spring."

The 60-inch limit was enacted because harvest rates on some waters were significantly above 5 percent, the level of harvest DNR considers safe. Lake sturgeon are slow-growing, late maturing fish, with females spawning for the first time when they are 20 to 25 years old and then only every four to five years thereafter. Because females are larger than males, anglers often target them, and their overharvest can cause population declines that may take years to recover.

Remember to buy a harvest tag

If anglers do plan to harvest a sturgeon this season, they must purchase a harvest tag before they fish. The harvest tag is available throughout the season and costs \$20 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. It can be purchased: over the Internet through the Online Licensing Center; by calling toll-free 1-877-WI LICENSE (1-877-945-4236); at license sales locations; or DNR service centers during their regular business hours.

Anglers who harvest a legal-size fish must immediately attach the harvest tag to the fish and take it to a registration station by 6 p.m. the next day for registration.

All anglers must have a Wisconsin general inland fishing license unless they are under 16 years old, or were born before January 1, 1927. Military personnel who are Wisconsin residents — and in active service but on furlough or leave — are eligible to receive a free annual fishing license. They still need to purchase the \$20 lake sturgeon harvest tag if they plan to keep a lake sturgeon. ✧

National Hunting and Fishing Day Sept 24

National Hunting and Fishing Day is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the conservation efforts of outdoorsmen across the nation. For more information and events taking place near you, visit www.nhfd.org. ✧

Progress made with Platte River Michigan State Fish Hatchery effluents

The Platte River State Fish Hatchery's once problematic phosphorus discharge level is almost negligible now, the Michigan DNR and Platte Lake Improvement Association announced.

Prior to 2000, the salmon-rearing facility was the subject of a lengthy legal dispute involving phosphorus discharges that degraded water quality in Platte Lake. The DNR entered into a consent agreement with the Platte Lake Improvement Association in 2000 restricting phosphorus discharges to no more than 175 pounds annually, a significant decrease from nearly 3,000 pounds in the 1970s, and restricted the number of salmon that could move up to the hatchery.

"We are now below 100 pounds annually, a level that was not considered possible for a hatchery of

this size," said Gary Whelan, the DNR's fish production manager. "This is the result of a team effort by DNR employees and Platte Lake Improvement Association officials."

Although the DNR generally met discharge goals from 2000 to 2008, a significant discharge violated the consent agreement. As a result, the DNR paid an \$118,000 penalty into the lake improvement association's rehabilitation fund. With a \$90,000 contribution from the rehabilitation fund and an injection of \$450,000 in DNR funds, a new chemical-treatment system was installed, a new feeding regime was adopted and the wastewater-settling pond was dredged.

"Everyone agreed that the wastewater settling pond dredging was necessary," said Wilfred Swiecki, president of the Platte Lake Improvement Association. "The

remainder of the penalty funds will be expended on additional watershed improvements over the next five years."

Whelan praised the Platte Lake Improvement Association for its ongoing activities. "We are often amazed by the work of this small group of volunteers," he said. "After 30 years, they're still plugging away to improve this watershed. They are involved in every facet that concerns water quality in the watershed from litigation to prevent system degradation to zoning to water quality monitoring to watershed data storage and analysis."

Swiecki singled out consent agreement coordinator Raymond Canale for praise, but noted the achievement would not have been possible "without the help, commitment and cooperation of all involved." ✧

Mustad State & World Record Contest

Million dollar promotion for state and world record fish

Auburn, NY – Mustad is hoping its new "Hook a Million" promotion will deliver \$1.4 million in cash to lucky anglers who set new world and state records.

In announcing the promotion, Mustad General Manager Tom Kurtz said the company was looking for a fun way to involve anglers across the country. "With over 50 new state records set in the last year or so and several world records pending certification, we felt the time was right for a program that rewards these accomplishments. We all know that the next cast could be the new record, and this promotion makes it easy—anglers fish on their schedule and their waters."

The "Hook a Million" promotion, which kicks off this October and runs 12 months, targets 10 of the country's most popular fresh and saltwater fish. These include Largemouth Bass, Walleye, Channel Catfish, White

Crappie, Coho Salmon, Striped Bass, Kelp Bass (Calico Bass), Red Drum (Redfish), Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout) and Yellowfin Tuna. It's open to U.S. residents 18 and older. To participate, anglers must use a Mustad hook and register only once at least 24 hours in advance of fishing during the contest period.



Cash awards for the promotion total \$1,400,000 and recognize both fresh and saltwater all-tackle state records and new IGFA certified all-tackle world records. "Our goal is to make sure anglers from coast to coast have the opportunity to participate and the chance to win," noted Mr. Kurtz. "It doesn't matter what state

you live in, you're still likely to have five chances for a big cash award." Anglers who establish the first TWO new freshwater or first TWO new saltwater state records for the covered species receive \$100,000 each, for a total of \$400,000 in cash prizes. The first new IGFA certified all-tackle world record for any of the listed species nets the lucky angler \$1,000,000*.

To make sure they qualify for big cash awards, anglers must register in advance and catch the new record on a Mustad hook. "We make thousands of premium hooks for all the species in the promotion and we're encouraging anybody who fishes to register," added Mr. Kurtz. "It's free and you never know when that next record is going to bite."

The promotion runs from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012. [Click here for full details](#) ✧

*Paid over 50 years via annuity

New bill will improve, increase public land opportunities “Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act”

Hunting and fishing opportunities will become a priority on 440 million acres of federal public lands under the newly proposed “Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act” introduced September 1st, by Reps. Dan Benishek (R-MI) and Dan Boren (D-OK).

Cosponsors of the bill include Reps. Don Young (R-AK) and Mike Kelly (R-PA). The bill is also supported by other key members of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, members of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus, and the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance.

This vast acreage is managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is found from coast to coast, and is used — and relied on — by many public land hunters, trappers, shooters and anglers. This bill, championed by leading angling and hunting organizations, establishes in law that recreational fishing, hunting (which includes trapping) and shooting are important and traditional activities to be continued on these public lands and that fish and wildlife conservation is improved by protecting these activities.

This landmark measure recognizes that recreational anglers, hunters and shooters have been, and continue to be, the foremost supporters of sound fish and wildlife management and conservation in the U.S.. The bill further highlights that hunting, fishing and recreational shooting occurs on federal public lands and waters, without adverse impacts or effects on other uses or users. These features are similar to the designation of fishing and hunting as priority public uses on refuge lands in the 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. The Refuge Act has curtailed attempts by anti-hunting groups to stop hunting on some public lands where hunting has traditionally occurred.

Animal rights activists, however, continue to press for fishing and

hunting closures on public lands. These assaults against hunters take several routes. Some courts require the land’s managing agencies to actively consider wholesale hunting and shooting closures to appease this fringe group. In other cases, fishing, and hunting get treated as “new” activities, which cannot be authorized (and continued) until numerous lengthy and costly environmental reviews and land plans are completed. This new bill will block these threats.

When enacted, the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act would specify that federal public land management officials shall exercise their authority under existing law, including provisions regarding land-use planning, to facilitate use of and access to federal public lands and waters for fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting. Going forward, all management plans would include provisions for those popular practices.

The affected lands that will be open include: lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM and the USFS, including lands designated Wilderness or administratively classified as Wilderness eligible or suitable, and primitive or semi-primitive areas. National parks, however, are excluded from the Act as are Wildlife Refuges (already governed by the 1997 Act).

The Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act will also recognize the work of conservation organizations and their assistance to fish and wildlife managers, plus enforcement officers, at the federal, state and local government levels. Hunters and anglers volunteer countless hours to fish and wildlife conservation projects across America that have also benefitted all public lands and citizens in general. Additionally, associated outdoor industries have generated billions of dollars of critical funding for fish and wildlife conservation, research, and management through

revenues from purchases of fish and hunting licenses and permits. Many other projects undertaken on BLM and USFS lands are funded by excise taxes on fishing, hunting, and shooting equipment. Those billions of dollars are critical funding for fish and wildlife conservation, research, and management and are unequalled by any group or program in our nation.

It’s important to note that the new bill recognizes that recreational shooting is also an important and traditional activity in which millions of Americans participate, and establishes that safe recreational shooting is a valid use of federal public lands. Participation in recreational shooting helps recruit and retain hunters and contributes to wildlife conservation.

Opportunities to recreationally fish, hunt, trap, and shoot *are declining*, which depresses participation in these traditional activities. As a result, less participation adversely impacts fish and wildlife conservation and funding for important projects by reducing or limiting monies available. The term “recreational shooting” means any form of sport, training, competition or pastime, whether formal or informal, that involves the discharge of a rifle, handgun, or shotgun, or the use of a bow and arrow. The public interest would be better served, and our citizens’ fish and wildlife resources benefitted, by action to ensure that opportunities are facilitated to engage in fishing and hunting on federal public lands.

Another key provision finds that fishing and hunting are “necessary” to fulfill wilderness purposes on lands designated or managed as Wilderness. This ensures that recent anti-hunting, anti-wildlife management decisions by the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco cannot be used to bar fishing, hunting or wildlife conservation efforts in Wilderness areas. ✧

Spices reduce triglyceride response

Diet rich in spices reduces body's negative responses to eating high-fat meals

Adding spices to a high-fat meal reduces triglyceride response by about 30%, compared to a similar meal with no added spices, U.S. researchers say. Eating a diet rich in spices, such as turmeric and cinnamon reduces the body's negative responses to eating high-fat meals.

Study leader Sheila West of Pennsylvania State University, says eating a diet rich in spices, such as turmeric and cinnamon, reduces the body's negative responses to eating high-fat meals.

"Normally, when you eat a high-fat meal, you end up with high levels of triglycerides, a type of fat, in your blood," West says in a statement. "If this happens too frequently, or if triglyceride levels are raised too

much, your risk of heart disease is increased. We found that adding spices to a high-fat meal reduced triglyceride response by about 30 percent, compared to a similar meal with no spices added."

West and colleagues prepared meals on two separate days for six men ages 30-65, who were overweight but otherwise healthy. The researchers added two tablespoons of culinary spices — rosemary, oregano, cinnamon, turmeric, black pepper, cloves, garlic powder and paprika — to each serving of the test meal, which consisted of chicken curry, Italian herb bread and a cinnamon biscuit. The control meal was identical, except it used no spices.

The findings, published in the August 1, 2011 issue of *Journal of Nutrition*, under the title "*High Antioxidant Spice Blend Attenuates Postprandial Insulin and Triglyceride Responses and Increases Some Plasma Measures of Antioxidant Activity in Healthy, Overweight Men*," indicate for those who ate the meal that contained a blend of antioxidant spices, antioxidant activity in the blood was increased by 13 percent and insulin response decreased by about 20%. "The incorporation of spices into the diet may help normalize postprandial insulin and TG and enhance antioxidant defenses." <http://jn.nutrition.org/content/141/8/1451.abstract> ✧

Moderate drinking may cut Alzheimer's risk

CHICAGO – Moderate drinking — no more than two drinks a day for men and one for women — reduces risk of dementia and cognitive impairment, U.S. researchers say.



Edward J. Neafsey and Michael A. Collins, professors in the department of molecular pharmacology and

therapeutics at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, analyzed 143 studies dating from 1977 that involved more than 365,000 study participants from 19 countries.

Moderate drinking is defined as a maximum of one drink daily for women and two drinks daily for men. A standard drink is defined as 1.5 ounces of spirits, 5 ounces of wine, or 12 ounces of beer.

The study, published in the journal *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*, finds moderate drinkers were 23% less likely to develop cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Wine was more beneficial than beer

or spirits, but most papers did not distinguish among different types of alcohol.

Heavy drinking — more than three to five drinks per day — was associated with a higher risk of cognitive impairment and dementia, but this finding was not statistically significant, the study says.

"We don't recommend that non-drinkers start drinking," Neafsey said in a statement. "But moderate drinking — if it is truly moderate — can be beneficial."

The study found the protective effect of moderate drinking held up after adjusting for age, education, sex and smoking. There was no difference in the effects of alcohol on men and women and the beneficial effect of moderate drinking was seen in 14 of 19 countries, including the United States. Researchers found a benefit in three of the remaining five countries but it was not statistically significant.

<http://www.webmd.com/alzheimers/news/20110817/moderate-alcohol-drinking-may-cut-alzheimers-risk> ✧

IN reciprocal hunting and fishing agreement with Ohio ends

Indiana's reciprocal agreement with Ohio that allowed people who live in the Buckeye state and own land in Indiana to hunt and fish in the Hoosier state without an Indiana license, has ended. The change is in reaction to the Ohio legislature's recent passage of a bill that eliminates the ability of Indiana residents who own property in the Buckeye state to hunt or fish that Ohio property without a license

With the law change in Ohio, Buckeye state residents who own land in Indiana and want to hunt or fish on that or any other land in the Hoosier state must now purchase a nonresident license before they can hunt or fish on that or any other Indiana property. Similarly, Indiana residents who own land in Ohio will need to buy a nonresident Ohio hunting or fishing license to hunt or fish on that or other land in the Buckeye State. ✧

Coast Guard, IL DNR cops bust illegal charter boat operations

Personnel from the U.S. [Coast Guard](#) and the IDNR wrapped up a joint operation recently intended to deter illegal charter boat operations occurring in the downtown-Chicago area.

Coast Guardsmen and IDNR DNR cops teamed up in response to multiple reports by local licensed charter captains that recreational vessels appeared to be operating illegal charters in the Chicago area.

One of those reports prompted Coast Guard and IDNR personnel to investigate a vessel reportedly carrying passengers for hire on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan. Upon return from a trip, personnel from both agencies boarded the vessel. During the course of the boarding, it was determined 15 passengers paid the captain of the unlicensed and uninspected vessel for a three-hour tour on Lake Michigan.

As in most cases, the illegal charter had been arranged through an online buy-and-sell advertisement website. Coast Guard investigators issued the owner of the vessel a Notice of Violations with a total proposed penalty of \$2,350. The maximum penalty the Coast Guard can issue depends on the specific violation and can range from \$110 to \$32,500. Since the captain of the vessel was not a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain, conservation police issued separate citations for violations of state laws to both the captain and the owner of the vessel.

The operation of a charter vessel without the required vessel documents and operator license is a violation of federal law, and if caught, the captain could be subject to criminal or civil liability. The regulations are in place to help ensure

the safety of passengers. Illegal charter boats are typically recreational vessels and are generally operated by a person without the required Coast Guard-issued [captain's license](#).

Coast Guard-issued captain's licenses demonstrate that the captain of a commercial vessel has met requirements in navigation and seamanship rules. The Coast Guard advises the public to ask the boat's captain to show them his or her original Coast Guard license. If the boat is carrying more than six passengers, it is required to be inspected by the Coast Guard, and the Certificate of Inspection should be displayed in an area accessible to passengers. The Certificate of Inspection shows a vessel has met the minimum Coast Guard safety; and sets the maximum number of passengers the vessel can carry. ✧

Rasmussen Poll: Most Americans say climate scientists falsify data

A new Rasmussen poll shows 69% of Americans say it is at least somewhat likely that some scientists have falsified research data to support their own theories and beliefs, including 40 percent who say it is "very likely" scientists have done so. Only 22% of poll respondents do not think it is likely that some scientists have falsified research data, with 10% undecided.

According to Rasmussen Reports, "While a majority of Americans nationwide continue to acknowledge significant disagreement about global warming in the scientific community, most go even further to say some scientists falsify data to support their own beliefs."

A powerful reason for growing public awareness of potential flaws in global warming claims, according to Rasmussen Reports, is recent news coverage of a peer-reviewed study documenting how NASA satellite data show more heat is escaping into space than United Nations computer models have predicted.

"The debate over global warming has intensified in recent weeks after a new NASA study was interpreted by skeptics to reveal that global warming is not man-made," Rasmussen Reports observed. According to Rasmussen Reports, the number of adults who say it's likely scientists have falsified data is up 10 percentage points from December 2009.

"Republicans and adults not affiliated with either major political party feel stronger than Democrats that some scientists have falsified data to support their global warming theories, but 51% of Democrats also agree," observed Rasmussen Reports.

On a related issue, 57% of Americans say there is significant disagreement within the scientific community about global warming, up five percentage points from late 2009. Only 25% of Americans believe scientists agree on global warming. Another 18 percent are undecided. SOURCE: [Rasmussen Reports](#) ✧

New York 3-rod fishing rule is now legal

The new legislation authorizes an individual to angle for fish with up to 3 lines in freshwater. The legislation amends section 11-0103 of the Environmental Law to change the number of lines one person may operate from not more than three, with or without rod in freshwater. This act shall expire and be deemed repealed December 31, 2013.

This new 3-rod rule is designed to favorably impact a fisherman's experience by increasing his probability of catching a fish.

New Jersey and Michigan both have a 3-rod rule, to which they have continued to see a favorable impact to their recreational fisherman. In addition, the 3-rod rule will not exploit the fishery since exploitation is constrained by creel limits that would still be in effect. ✧

OH Alum Creek launch ramps slated for improvements this fall

Construction work will begin in October on improvements to the popular New Galena and Hollenback boat launching facilities at Alum Creek State Park. Both launch ramps will close temporarily beginning at 10 p.m. on Sunday, October 16. The construction projects will entail rebuilding and resurfacing the ramps, as well as expansion of the parking areas.

To facilitate the construction, the lake level at Alum Creek will be drawn down a total of eleven feet beginning September 15, and will reach the target level in about two months. Most years, the lake drawdown total for the winter months is just three feet, beginning in mid October.

Alum Creek's Cheshire Boat Launch Ramp will remain open and available to boaters throughout the construction projects, although the boarding and launching docks will be removed for the winter. Two additional boat launch ramps at Howard Road and the park's campground will be unavailable when the lake drawdown is completed, due to the low water level.

Other park facilities at the New Galena area, including the "Players" disc golf course and the snowmobile and multipurpose trail, will also be unavailable to park visitors during construction. The New Galena area will remain closed until the anticipated completion date of June 20, 2012. The Hollenback ramp will remain closed until the anticipated opening of May 1, 2012.

Alum Creek State Park is located south of the city of Delaware. Additional recreational facilities at the park, which will remain open during the boat ramp construction, include the family campground with 286 electric sites; 38 miles of bridle trails and a 30-site primitive equestrian camp; 14 miles of mountain biking trails; and a dog park. ✧

Law gives more rights to property owners "Purple Paint Law" gives option of marking trees/posts to prevent trespassing

A new law allows Illinois landowners or lessees the option of using purple paint markings on trees or posts on their property as a "no trespassing" notice. The "Purple Paint Law" is designed as an alternative, which Illinois landowners can use to protect their property from trespassing.

The new law — Senate Bill 1914 — is now in effect.

While the new "Purple Paint Law" gives Illinois landowners or lessees the option of marking their property with a series of defined purple paint markings on trees or posts, additional notice is still required through 2012. Until January 1, 2013 those landowners using purple marks must continue to issue a "no trespassing" notice either by oral or written notice or by posting appropriate signage at the main entrance to the property in question.

Provisions of the new law require that the purple paint marks used to designate "no trespassing" notice must be either:

1. A vertical line of at least 8" in length. The bottom of the mark shall be between 3 feet and 5 feet high. Each mark shall be no more than 100 feet from another such mark and be readily visible to any person approaching the property.

Or

2. A post capped or otherwise marked on at least its top 2 inches. The bottom of the cap or mark shall be between 3 feet and 5 feet 6 inches high. Posts so marked shall be no more than 36 feet apart and be readily visible to any person approaching the property. Prior to applying a cap or mark that is visible from both sides of a fence shared by different property owners or lessees, all such owners or lessees must agree to the decision to post their own property.

For more details: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/PublicAct97-0477.aspx>. ✧

OH clarifies rule about fishing from pontoon boats

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ohio DNR clarified how its officers enforce a state boating law with regard to fishing from the forward deck (bow) of a pontoon boat while it is being operated with an electric trolling motor. The agency said it continues to promote sport fishing and safe boating practices and is encouraging its marine patrol partners and other local marine patrol officers statewide to follow its waterways enforcement guideline with regard to fishing from pontoon boats.

Under current state law, no occupant of any vessel underway on Ohio waterways may sit, stand or walk upon any portion of the vessel not specifically designed for that movement, unless it is immediately necessary for safe and reasonable vessel navigation or operation. This law, for example, could prohibit a vessel occupant from fishing from the bow of a pontoon boat outside its forward deck rail when it is in operation and the trolling motor is operated by a remote control device.

"We have directed our officers to permit fishing and the operation of a boat in a non-approved area of the boat, such as outside the main gated deck area of pontoon boats, regardless of the type of trolling motor used," said Todd Doncyson, law enforcement administrator for the Division of Watercraft. "We are aware that technology allows for remote control of a trolling motor from behind a pontoon deck railing, but our officers will not treat them any different than an operator of a regular tiller and foot pedal trolling motor and this only applies to the vessel operator."

The clarification from the Division of Watercraft comes in response to concerns from boaters who may not have a clear understanding of the current boating law with regard to the illegal and unsafe practice of riding upon the bow of a boat while it is underway. ✧

Fish contaminant levels decreasing in some waters

Mercury controls, PCB cleanups lead to progress

MADISON – Wisconsin's commitment to cleaning up contaminated sediment and regulating mercury is paying off for anglers, as recent studies and the newly available 2011 fish consumption advice booklet show reduced contaminant levels in fish in some waters.

- Mercury levels in walleye and largemouth bass have dropped in Wisconsin and most of the rest of the Great Lakes region since the 1970s, according to a study presented at the July 24-29 International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and which also appears in the [June 25, 2011, issue of Ecotoxicology](#).
- The PCB advisory for smallmouth bass has been relaxed in the Lower Fox River from Little Lake Butte des Morts to the De Pere Dam as testing appears to reflect the improvements due to river cleanup in this first and most upstream segment.
- In general, PCB levels in fish statewide are declining slowly since the U.S. ban on manufacturing of PCBs. In 2011, this decline resulted in Neshonic Lake in La Crosse County and the Upper Fox River from Swan Lake to Portage no longer needing more stringent advice than the general statewide guidelines, and to a relaxation of consumption advice in some other areas.

"The data we've collected over the past 40 years shows general improvements in mercury and PCB levels in many locations," said Candy Schrank, DNR fisheries toxicologist. "Studies using our data support assertions that fish respond to sediment clean-up and mercury emission reductions, and this is good news for anglers and for state and local economies."

Nearly half of Wisconsin adults say they fish, and sport fishing

generates a [\\$2.75 billion annual economic impact in Wisconsin](#), supports 30,000 jobs, and generates \$200 million in state and local tax revenues.

DNR has been working for more than a decade with local communities to reduce the use of mercury-containing products, promote mercury recycling, reduce mercury spills and reduce air emissions from coal-fired power plants and other industrial sources. Fish are the main source of mercury and PCBs in the human diet; both contaminants can harm developing fetuses and children and are also harmful for adults, Schrank says.

Mercury is naturally occurring in the environment and also comes from human sources. It enters waters and is converted to a toxic form that's easily absorbed by fish and other aquatic organisms, and in turn, by people that eat the fish. PCBs are man-made chemicals once used in a variety of manufacturing processes but now banned; they remain in sediments and accumulate in fish and other organisms.

Several big reduction efforts took effect in 2010: utilities were required to reduce mercury emissions by 40 percent by January 1, 2010; ERCO Worldwide, which owns and operates a chlor-alkali plant in Port Edwards that until 2009 was responsible for about 20 percent of the annual mercury emissions reported in Wisconsin, [voluntarily moved to a new technology that eliminated mercury emissions from its manufacturing processes](#); and a new law effective November 1, 2010, bans the sale of mercury-containing devices including fever thermometers, barometers, toys and thermostats, according to Martin Burkholder, lead staff on mercury for the air management program.

Wisconsin and the federal government have worked with a variety of responsible parties, committing significant resources

toward removing PCB-contaminated sediments from rivers and harbors that historically received wastewater discharges from paper mills and other operations that used PCBs.

In March 2011, Gov. Scott Walker travelled to Little Lake Butte des Morts to announce that [successful remediation had reduced PCBs in walleye](#), sediment and water significantly to levels that would have taken 15 to 20 years to achieve if nothing had been done. Other stretches of the Lower Fox where remediation efforts are ongoing, or have been planned but not yet started, still carry advice ranging from "don't eat" to "limit to one meal per month" depending on the species.

"What we're doing is working and we need to keep at it until all of our waters are fishable and swimmable," says Ken Johnson, DNR's top water official. ✧

Washington State anglers must release Chinook salmon

Anglers must release any Chinook salmon they catch in ocean waters off Washington's coast beginning August 29, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife announced.

Anglers' total catch of Chinook salmon this summer was nearing the overall harvest quota for Chinook in Washington's ocean waters, requiring the change in fishing rules for marine areas 1-4, said Pat Pattillo, salmon policy coordinator for WDFW.

The requirement to release Chinook salmon does not affect fishing for hatchery coho or other salmon species.

Fishery managers continue to monitor the ocean salmon fishery, and announce any other changes on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>. ✧

Crank up barrier voltage

Continued from page 1

carp and, if so, how many. Research to improve the system is under way, Army Corps officials said.

In the report released September 9, the independent scientists said the methodology used to detect carp DNA in the water was solid. But they called for improvements, saying it "does not unequivocally indicate the physical presence of live bighead or silver carp."

David Lodge, the University of Notre Dame biologist whose team developed the DNA process, said he never claimed otherwise. The advantage of DNA is that it's easier to find than live fish, so it provides an early indicator that carp might be present, he said.

"This should bring to a closure any questions about the technical robustness or the usefulness of eDNA," Lodge said. "This also should make it possible to move quickly toward refining the tool to provide more of the kinds of information that the independent review team pointed out would be useful."

The news conference was held about two weeks after a federal appeals court refused to order the canal locks closed. Ohio and four other Great Lakes states had sued to force the lock closure to protect the lakes from the carp. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has denied requests by the attorneys general of Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin for an order requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take measures to halt the migration of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

The appellate court upheld a December 2010 U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois decision rejecting the states' motion for a preliminary injunction. The lower court concluded that the invasive species did not appear to be an imminent threat and that closing Chicago-area shipping locks might not keep the carp from reaching Lake Michigan.

Fishing Alliance organizes Wal-Mart boycott

The Recreational Fishing Alliance says angler and business response to the group's call for a nationwide Wal-Mart boycott have been overwhelming.

The RFA called for a boycott of Wal-Mart after learning the Walton Family Foundation had awarded more than \$36 million to groups such as Ocean Conservancy, the Conservation International Foundation, the Marine Stewardship Council, the World Wildlife Fund and the Environmental Defense Fund in support of marine protected areas and catch-share programs.

"We've had calls of support from both coasts, even from a few Midwest bass fishermen. Our nation's anglers are extremely agitated by the Walton Family Foundation's actions," RFA executive director Jim Donofrio said. "When you spend your hard-earned money on fishing tackle only to learn that the profits are being used to close down fishing access, it gets folks justifiably upset.

"The fishing community supports conservation, but we're not willing to accept preservation, exclusion or privatization," he added. The alliance is reminding anglers who want to organize grassroots protests outside their local Wal-Mart store to consult with local authorities first.

"We encourage peaceful protest, but every municipality has its own rules and regulations regarding active protest," Donofrio said. ✧

The appeals court held that ongoing federal efforts to prevent the fish from reaching the lakes outweigh the states' demand for immediate relief. The court added that if the agencies' efforts "slip into somnolence" or if new information surfaces at the permanent injunction stage, the ruling would be reconsidered. ✧

VHS fish disease found in yellow perch from Lake Michigan

Test results show that yellow perch in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan were infected with VHS virus even though there was no fish kill.

Positive VHS results come four months after the deadly fish virus was confirmed as the cause of a fish kill that left thousands of gizzard shad dead. Together, those 2011 findings show that VHS persists in Lake Michigan and remains an active threat to fish in the big lake and in nearby inland waters and fish farms, and that anglers and other boaters need to continue to follow the rules to prevent spreading VHS and other aquatic invasive species.

Specialists also say VHS seems to be following a common path that infectious disease takes in fish. "We expect that VHS will recur in the Great Lakes, much the same as other animal and human diseases cycle over time," says Sue Marcquenski, the DNR fish health specialist.

Michigan tests show VHS returned in 2011 to an inland lake, [Budd Lake](#) after three years of looking for, but not finding the virus. VHS caused a die off in that lake in May 2011 of largemouth and smallmouth bass, and some panfish.

VHS does not affect people but can infect several dozen species of fish and cause them to bleed to death. Dr. Tony Goldberg, a UW-Madison veterinary epidemiologist conducting a VHS study in Lake Winnebago says, "I often get asked, 'Why do we have to worry about VHS any more — it's gone?' The answer is that infectious disease can cycle. You can get peaks of infection every few years, and then valleys. Just because we don't see a disease for a few years doesn't mean it's gone.

The finding marks the second time VHS has been found in yellow perch. The first detection was from fish sampled June 5, 2008. Alewives that washed ashore Lake Michigan beaches earlier this summer do not have VHS, test results show. ✧

USFWS expands Hunting and Fishing Opportunities On 10 refuges across the nation

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 9th announced the opening of [Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge](#) in Minnesota to big game hunting of deer and upland game hunting of turkey for the first time, while expanding hunting and fishing activities at nine other refuges. Notice of the final 2011-2012 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations was published in the *Federal Register* on September 9, 2011.

More than 250 comments were received during the 30-day public comment period on the proposed expansion. Only 18 comments opposed the amended regulations.

Among the changes are:

- [Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge](#), CO, increases big game hunting by offering elk hunting for the first time. The refuge also allows migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting and fishing.
- [Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge](#), LA, adds waterfowl and coot hunting to its list of migratory bird hunting activities. The refuge also allows fishing.
- [Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge](#), MS, adds duck and geese hunting to its migratory bird hunting activities; squirrel, rabbit and raccoon hunting to its upland game hunting activities; and deer and hog hunting to its big game hunting activities. The refuge also permits fishing.
- [Currituck National Wildlife Refuge](#), NC, opens to big game hunting of deer and hogs.
- [Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge](#), MN, increases acreage for migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting.
- [Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge](#), MN/IA, increases acreage for migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting, and expands the species for migratory bird and upland game hunting.
- [Ouray National Wildlife Refuge](#), UT, allows upland game hunting of turkey and big game hunting of elk for the first time. The refuge also allows migratory bird hunting and fishing.
- [Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge](#), MN, opens new areas to migratory bird hunting. It allows big game hunting of turkey and deer for the first time. The refuge is also open to fishing.
- [Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge](#), TX, opens three new units to upland game hunting of squirrels and rabbits, and big game hunting of feral hogs and white-tailed deer. The refuge is also open for migratory bird hunting and fishing.

While definitions of hunting categories vary by refuge and state, migratory bird hunting generally includes ducks and geese. Upland game hunting may cover such animals as game birds, rabbit, squirrel, opossum and coyote. Big game

hunting may include such animals as wild turkey, deer and feral hogs.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 directs the Service to permit hunting and fishing along with four other types of wildlife-dependent recreation where they are compatible with refuge purpose and mission. Hunting, within specified limits, is offered on more than 300 national wildlife refuges. Fishing is offered on more than 270 national wildlife refuges. Other wildlife-dependent recreation on national wildlife refuges includes wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife observation and interpretation.

Hunting programs offered in the National Wildlife Refuge System: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting/>. Final regs in the *Federal Register*: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-09-09/pdf/2011-22752.pdf> ✧

Communicating Conservation

This billboard delivers an important conservation message of the national Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers campaign. The campaign elevates equipment cleaning as a preventative and cost-effective way to deal with aquatic invasive species. ✧



Great Lakes alewives healthy

Lake Michigan coho and Chinook salmon apparently have lots to eat and the alewives they eat are apparently healthy. Tests have shown that the alewives that washed up by the millions on shore this summer did not have the VHS virus. The die-off was then, presumably, natural and the large die-off on the beaches suggests even more baitfish are alive and kicking in the big lake ✧

EHD disease confirmed in NY deer

The New York State DEC has confirmed that approximately 100 white-tailed deer found dead in the Town of Clarkstown, Rockland County, over the last two weeks were killed by Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD). EHD is a viral disease of white-tailed deer that is transmitted by the biting midge in the family Culicoides. The EHD virus does not infect humans and humans are not at risk by being bitten by the infected midge also known as a nose-see-um or punkie.

DEC wildlife biologists collected a sampling of deer carcasses in Rockland County and submitted them to the Fish and Wildlife Health Unit for necropsy. Tissue samples were then sent to the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell University and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory where the diagnosis of EHD was identified.

The EHD virus was last confirmed in New York in 2007 in Albany and Niagara Counties. EHD outbreaks are most common in the late summer and early fall when the midges are abundant. The symptoms of EHD include fever, small hemorrhages or bruises in the mouth and nose, swelling of the head, neck,

tongue and lips. A deer infected with EHD may appear lame or dehydrated. Frequently, infected deer will seek out water sources and many succumb near a water source. An infected deer may die within 1-3 days after being bitten by the midge or the disease may progress more slowly over weeks or months. There is no treatment and no means of prevention for EHD. The dead deer do not serve as a source of infection for other animals.

EHD outbreaks do not have a significant impact on deer populations. Generally, EHD outbreaks occur in a specific geographic area and about half of the EHD infected deer may die in an outbreak. In the North, the first hard frost kills the midges that transmit the disease and the EHD outbreak ends.

Hunters should not handle or eat any deer that appears sick or acts strangely. DEC will continue to monitor the situation. Sightings of sick or dying deer should be reported to the nearest DEC Regional Office or to an Environmental Conservation Officer. For more information on EHD and helpful related links, visit the DEC website directly at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39767.html>. ✧

Bass Pro Shops opens 3rd store in Illinois

Peoria store grand opening set for Sept 22

The 145,000-sq. ft. Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Illinois' third, is located in the Peoria area, on the north side of I-74, opposite of Riverfront Park.



The Peoria facility Grand Opening is

set for Thursday, September 22nd but a special "Evening for Conservation" to help benefit area conservation groups will be held Wednesday night, September 21st beginning at 6 p.m. This exciting, celebrity-packed event is free and open to the public.

The entire store is a tribute to the vast diversity of the Illinois landscape, its history and the culture of its people and, like other Bass Pro Shops stores, takes on the flavor and atmosphere of the region in which it is located. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Dupont tree replacement & salmon pollution](#)

Decades ago, residents sued to stop a fish hatchery in northern Michigan from polluting a lake. More than thirty years later, the legal battles have ended and the pollution has been greatly reduced.

[USGS christens two new Great Lakes research vessels](#)

In the next few days, a new 70-foot research vessel will be keeping tabs on the health of Lake Erie's economically important fishery. Officials on Wednesday christened two new ships commissioned by the USGS. They were built under an \$8.2 million contract

[Personal cormorant cull costs man \\$6,000](#)

A Picton man has been fined \$5,000 and ordered to make an additional \$1,000 donation to Ducks Unlimited for killing more than 100 cormorants on the St. Lawrence River

[Solution to Asian carp problem may be in kitchen](#)

Researchers at Southern Illinois University Carbondale who are studying the problem fish are looking into the possibility that residents might instead come to know the ugly critter by another name: "Dinner."

[Hunt is on for carp pathways](#)

Not quite 5 miles long, Jerome Creek winds through farmland and Pleasant Prairie, Wis., about 35 miles south of Milwaukee. In some places, it's narrow enough to jump across. Its fish population consists mostly of minnows. Yet this unremarkable stream could be an ecological time bomb, for ...

[Lake Erie Death Watch](#)

Brought back from the brink once before, Lake Erie Death again faces biological collapse.

[NRDC: Saving a Great Lake](#)

Lake Erie was widely declared to be dead, because it had massive inputs of pollution from factories and wastewater treatment plants. The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 in part to address that problem, and it worked, but it wasn't a perfect success.

[Michigan health department tightens fish advisories](#)

Past Lake Michigan advisories have cautioned against eating larger lake trout; now the line has been moved down to 18". And, since only lakers over 20" can be kept by anglers, it's in effect an eat-no-lake-trout advisory. The culprits, according to the advisory, are PCBs, chlordanes and dioxins.

[GREAT LAKES: Early returns show strong yellow perch class](#)

State fisheries crews completed the 34th annual late summer yellow perch trawling surveys on Green Bay, collecting various sizes of fish and species for research during nine days on the water. Early indications are this year's class of perch was comparable to strong 2005 and 2009 year classes, ... though not as good as last year's 2010 hatch, the third highest on record.

[COMMENTARY: Build Cleveland's wind farm: Frank Jackson](#)

In a public letter, Mayor of Cleveland Frank Jackson, announces that Greater Cleveland has the potential to become the national leader in the growing renewable energy economy because of local efforts to develop the first freshwater wind farm in the country and that Cleveland fully ...

[N.Y. State officials determined to get tough on invasive species](#)

New York State intends to require a ship's ballast water to be 100 times cleaner than international standards by 2013, and eventually up to 1,000 times cleaner.

[Great Lakes, Mississippi split sought](#)

Six attorneys general in the Great Lakes region called for a multi-state coalition Wednesday that would push the federal government to protect the lakes from invasive species such as Asian carp by cutting off their artificial link to the Mississippi River basin.

[Gov. Snyder explains opposition to Muskegon County Indian casino plan; seeks reasonable regulations on offshore wind](#)

Regarding a controversial West Michigan issue — wind energy turbines on Lake Michigan — governor Rick Snyder indicated science, economics, and the environment would dictate the future regulations of offshore wind development on the state's Great Lakes waters.

[Boat tax break may be thrown overboard](#)

Some Great Lakes lawmakers have put forth a new bill seeking to eliminate the tax provision giving a tax break on boats classified as second home

[Wisconsin fish could become climate change casualty](#)

According to a new study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 30 to 70 percent of Wisconsin's cisco fish, sometimes called lake herring, could disappear from Wisconsin lakes by 2100 due to changing climate.

[Salmon disappear from Lake Huron](#)

Today, southern Lake Huron is virtually devoid of king salmon, thanks to food web changes wrought by invasive species like zebra and quagga mussels. The salmon, simply put, have been starved out

[Ballast system may kill Great Lakes invasives](#)

Researchers have conducted a large-scale test of a new system to kill invasive species hiding in the ballast water of Great Lakes freighters and expect to get test results back next month

[Anglers dealt another blow from faulty Federal Fisheries management](#)

By approving regulations that limit or possibly close numerous marine fisheries to recreational fishing despite a lack of scientific data, the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils have again landed the federal fisheries management process in hot water with the angling community.

[Collapse of salmon in Lake Huron \(Part 3\)](#)

Changes in Lake Huron have caused a collapse of salmon, causing devastating economic impacts to coastal communities. Will Lake Michigan be next?

[Big returns for subsidized fish \(Part 2\)](#)

Fishing in the Great Lakes wouldn't be what it is today without stocking Pacific salmon in the lakes. But it costs a lot of money. Michigan fisheries managers say it's worth every dime.

[Panel rejects 5 states' bid to close Chicago-area shipping locks](#)

A federal appeals panel Wednesday rejected the request of five Great Lakes states to close Chicago-area shipping locks. But the panel warned that the issue could be revisited if ongoing efforts to stop the advance of Asian carp stall.

[Top EPA official embraces NY's controversial ballast water rules](#)

For the first time, a top official with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has publicly embraced New York's tough new ballast water rules.

[Security complicates boating along the border](#)

It's been a year of uncertainty for boaters along the St. Lawrence River. When Canadian border agents seized an American fishing boat earlier this season, they upset a long held understanding of U.S. boaters. Roy Anderson hadn't docked or anchored. He had simply drifted across the international border.

[Invasive species ballast battle gets bigger](#)

Researchers working with the American Steamship Co. tested a new system Sunday to kill invasive species in the ballast water of a 1,000-foot Great Lakes freighter.

[WI DNR to allow fish passage in Grafton](#)

The state DNR will permit construction of a fish passage with a fish trapping and sorting facility at the Bridge St. dam on the Milwaukee River, Water Division Administrator Ken Johnson said Tuesday. A state permit likely will be issued this month with some restrictions...

[It's official: St. Lawrence Seaway expansion study is dead](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has officially scratched the idea of expanding the St. Lawrence Seaway to allow larger, ocean-bound ships to enter the system.

[In Lake Michigan, resilient whitefish, fishermen fight for a comeback](#)

While Lake Michigan's commercial fishery has survived overfishing, industrial pollution and lakeshore development, the last commercially fished species is jeopardized by an onslaught of destructive invaders, many of which have arrived as stowaways aboard ocean freighters since the opening.

[Sport fishing abides on stocked salmon](#)

While commercial fishing on southern Lake Michigan has hit hard times, recreational fishing for salmon continues to hang on even in the face of a long-term drop in populations of forage fish — the little fish that the big salmon feast upon.

[Iconic Minnesota walleye fishery besieged by invasive zebra mussels](#)

Huge Lake Mille Lacs — Minnesota's most popular fishing hot-spot — rocked gently on Friday, but beneath the surface was bedlam. There, on the lake bottom, a population explosion of tiny zebra mussels is occurring that could change the great lake forever.

[PCB cleanup on the Milwaukee River to start soon](#)

Site work is under way for the \$20 million cleanup of contaminated sediments in Lincoln Creek and the Milwaukee River. The cleanup is expected to begin by the end of the month, with work being completed by the end of November.

[Could wind energy develop along Lake Michigan?](#)

Gov. Pat Quinn signed two new bills last week that hand both Illinois and Cook County more control over renewable energy projects, especially wind turbine research.

[Officials must move faster to solve Asian carp threat](#)

Felicia Kirksey, program manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said last week that a complete study on the spread of Asian carp to and from the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River will be completed in 2015.

[COMMENTARY: How big a risk is too big?](#)

Somehow, advancement of invasive species from Lake Michigan by way of Green Bay and the Lower Fox River must be stopped. If the efforts fail, so does the future of the Lake Winnebago System as we know it.

['The lake left me. It's gone.'](#)

As mussel numbers explode and fish vanish from Lake Michigan, the last in a long line of Milwaukee commercial fishermen sets course for Alaska.

End