



Clean Water Restoration Act spells trouble for Anglers, Hunters, All Outdoorsmen Bill SB787 as introduced a nightmare for sportsmen and conservationists

At first glance, the **Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA)** appears to advance the interests of American hunters, fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts, given the connection between wildlife and water quality. In reality, the CWRA would threaten these interests.

Senate Bill 787 as written and continuing through the legislative process of Congress could prove to be a nightmare in the regulation process of building fishing piers, intensifying the regulatory microscope for angling activities while trout-wading a stream, boating due to incidental discharges, or charter fishing state waters.

The bill actually does not restore anything. It would expand Uncle Sam's current authority to regulate "navigable" waterways to all "waters

of the U.S." Anywhere that water collects could be subject to rules requiring federal permits for moving dirt, constructing ponds, building flood prevention structures and making other changes to the land.

Fishermen and Boaters: Beware the CWRA

Like hunters, fishermen and recreational boaters would find it more difficult to engage in their sports under the CWRA.

For example, the construction of fishing piers and boat docks, which can already require a permit under the CWA, would likely see enhanced scrutiny under the CWRA. Such construction could be regulated in nearly every instance, as every body of water would qualify for federal

oversight.

Though certain activities that affect navigable waters are already regulated under the current CWA, the CWRA would place even more activities under the regulatory microscope. This is because the CWRA not only broadens the jurisdiction of land and water to be regulated, but leaves it to the courts and federal regulators to determine "the fullest extent that these waters, or activities affecting these waters, are subject to the legislative power of Congress, under the Constitution." Because specific activities are not defined in the bill, all activities could be examined and potentially banned or regulated.

Clean Water Restoration Act

Continued on page 9

In this issue...

Genmar files for bankruptcy	2
MI DNR extends comment period.....	2
Tackle / license sales hold steady	3
New Sugar Creek fishing area opens ...	3
1985-2009 Lake Ontario Fishing Boat Survey4-5	
60 years after.. do we face a real 1984?	5
Dingell honored for conservation efforts	6
DOI offers boating grants to 28 states .	6
MI to address human-goose conflicts ..	6
Bergland Dock under renovation	7
CG gets new search/rescue air-boat ...	7
NY DEC expands shellfish enclosure ..	7
Successful spring for sturgeon program	7
Lake Delton fisheries restoration project	7
Emerald Ash Borer found in NY State .	8
Ohio public boating facilities map	8
CG Sector Lake Michigan	8
Clean Water Restoration Act cont...	9-11
Silver Carp cont.	11
Export permits denied for paddlefish .	11
Volunteers sought for IN State Fair.....	
Fishin' Pond ..	11
<i>Golden Rules for Living</i>	11

Population of silver carp found closer to electric barrier Invasive fish survey resumes in Illinois Waterway

On July 21 several juvenile silver carp were found in Marseilles Pool. The electrical barrier is located approximately at River Mile 296.4; the silver juveniles were located at R M 248. There are two navigation pools between the Marseilles Pool and the Lockport Pool where the dispersal barrier is located. Adult bighead and silver carp have been collected in the Dresden Island Pool immediately above the Marseilles Pool. The Peoria Pool is two pools below the Marseilles Pool.

The fact that there were so many juvenile silvers also is indicative that a successful spawn did occur in the pool. It is the first record since finding silvers in the Peoria Pool at RM 207.6. It is a confirmation we have a

sustainable population in Marseilles Pool.

To date no bighead or silver carp have been collected above the barriers. However, survey biologists captured one bighead carp 15 miles below the original barrier in 2007 and two silver carp 20 miles below it in 2008. Reproducing populations of bighead and silver carp have expanded from lower portions of the Illinois River to at least as far upstream as the Starved Rock Lock and Dam near Utica.

The USFWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), USCG, and Chicago's Shedd Aquarium resumed their annual surveillance efforts last

Silver Carp in Illinois Waterway

Continued on page 11

Genmar files for bankruptcy protection Surprise move stuns industry, dealers

If the boating industry had any illusion that a turnaround was near, they were largely put to rest when Genmar Holdings filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

"If someone would have said to me as recently as even one month ago that Genmar would someday be filing for Chapter 11, I would have said it was not even a remote possibility," Genmar chairman and CEO Irwin Jacobs said in a statement.

Announcing that his company had filed for bankruptcy, Jacobs noted that previous economic downturns "do not even remotely resemble" anything close to what has taken place in the industry during the last year.

"I've always looked for ways to enhance Genmar's balance sheet and felt that even though business conditions were incredibly difficult, there were alternatives available," he added. "Unfortunately, I didn't have the necessary time to complete any of the alternative financing acceptable to the banks."

The Chapter 11 petition, filed in St. Paul, Minnesota, lists assets of \$237.5 million and liabilities of \$216.4 million. Omitted from the filing are more than \$400 million in "intangible assets". The only secured creditors, Wells Fargo and Fifth Third Bank, are owed \$75 million.

In fact, the filing credits Wells Fargo with forcing Genmar into court through its continued reduction in Genmar's credit lines. "Despite restructuring steps and infusion of significant equity, the bank reduced [credit] availability," the bankruptcy filing states. "The bank rejected all ... proposals for making adequate capital available and continued to reduce the borrowing base."

Minneapolis-based Genmar Holdings has approximately 1,500 employees in five manufacturing centers. The company builds 15 boat brands, including the recently introduced FinCraft, which are sold

MI DNR extends comment period for changes to trout regs

Michigan DNR officials have extended the period for taking comments on proposed changes to the State's trout fishing regulations on inland streams until September 1, 2009. "We want to make sure everyone has a chance to be heard as this is the first significant change we've proposed to trout regulations in a decade," said Todd Grischke, who oversees recreational fishing regulations for Fisheries Division.

The proposal is an attempt to further simplify regulations, reducing the current seven stream categories to four. The proposal also calls for standard minimum size limits of 7" for brook trout and 8" for brown trout statewide. Previously, size limits for both species differed by peninsula.

In addition, the proposal suggests eliminating the current Type 2 category. All streams in the Type 2 category will be temporarily reclassified into other categories. Further review of an appropriate category for these Type 2 streams will commence in early 2010.

Fisheries Division will also begin a review of streams currently in the Gear Restricted Waters category, as well as those proposed for addition to that category, again commencing in early 2010. To read the proposal, or see proposed new designations for streams currently classified as Type 2, visit the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing.

Comments on the proposals can be sent to DNR-InlandTrout@michigan.gov. ✧

worldwide through its approximately 1,100 dealers. The bankruptcy filing covers the thirteen brands that comprise Genmar's boat building business: Ranger, Champion, Triumph, Seaswirl, Hydra-Sports, Stratos, FinCraft, Larson, Wellcraft, Marquis, Windsor Craft, Carver Yachts, Glastron and Four Wins brands. ✧



• Established 1972 •

President

Daniel N. Thomas, *Illinois*

Vice President

Robert Mitchell, *Michigan*

Secretary

Michael D. Sanger, *Wisconsin*

Treasurer

Thomas G. Couston, *Illinois*

DIRECTORS

Illinois – Robert Gaik

Indiana – Charles Lentine

Michigan – Tom Hamilton

Minnesota – Dave Koneczny

New York – Thomas Marks

Ohio – Rick Unger

Ontario – Darryl Choronzey

Pennsylvania – Ed Kissell

Wisconsin – Todd Pollesch

Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

Editor

Jeanette Thomas

Webmaster

Robert James, 630/530-7760

© Copyright 2008 by Great Lakes Basin Publications, the *INLAND SEAS ANGLERS-GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT* is the newsletter of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council, a federally recognized not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of GLSFC, its officers or staff. Reproduction of any material by paid-up members is encouraged, but appropriate credit must be given. Reproduction by others without written permission is prohibited.

Address Change:

Send six weeks in advance with old mailing label to GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT, P.O. Box 297, Elmhurst, IL 60126, (630) 941-1351; or staff@great-lakes.org.

Tackle and fishing license sales holding steady

Millions of Americans turn to fishing during the economic downturn

Alexandria, VA – Despite the sluggish economy and cut backs in consumer spending, there are strong indications that recreational angling remains one of the largest outdoor recreational activities in the nation as well as one of the most solid industries in the United States. Annually, nearly 40 million anglers generate over \$45 billion in retail sales with a \$125 billion impact on the nation's economy creating employment for more than one million people.

“People want a breath of fresh air, literally and figuratively, and from what we're being told; anglers are heading outdoors and putting a line in the water,” said American Sportfishing Association (ASA) President and CEO Mike Nussman. “Although anglers, just as the general public, seem to be deferring higher end purchases, it's clear that people are going fishing and purchasing tackle.”

Going hand in hand with strong tackle sales are increases in fishing license sales. A sample survey of state fish and wildlife agencies indicates that 2009 fishing license sales are up 11% in the first quarter (January – March) compared with the first quarter of 2008. Additionally, there are strong indications that sales in the second quarter will be stronger in 2009 than in 2008 with some state agencies reporting increases that continued through the Memorial Day weekend.

“An 11% overall increase in state fishing license sales is significant,” said ASA President and CEO Mike Nussman, “particularly during the first quarter of the year when license sales tend to hold steady. In fact, these are the best numbers we've seen in several years.”

According to Dennis Schenborn, section chief, Planning, Budget and Outreach, for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the economy does affect license sales. “We've been collecting license sales

data for 35 years and we know that during tough economic times, Wisconsin's fishing license sales increase. We've experienced an eight percent increase in fishing license sales up through Memorial Day weekend compared with 2008. This year, we expect to sell more than 1.5 million fishing licenses.”

“In times of economic stress, many people turn to simple, outdoor pursuits that are easy to do, are close to home, are not expensive and can be enjoyed by everyone in the family,” said Jeff Pontius, president, ZEBCO Brands and ASA's Board of Directors chairman. “Recreational fishing certainly fits that description. We know from past experience that in recessionary times, fishing retains, and even increases, in its popularity.”

The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF), established through the efforts of the sportfishing and boating industries and state fish and wildlife agencies, is taking steps to increase participation in fishing and boating through marketing and education campaigns aimed at both novice and avid anglers. RBFF's State Direct Mail Marketing Program, a three-year initiative to recruit and retain lapsed anglers is seeing success. Thirty-two states currently participate in the State Direct Mail Marketing Program, which has contributed more than \$4 million in gross revenue to date for state fisheries management efforts through increased license and tackle sales.

Interesting statistics on sportfishing include:

- The three states with the most anglers are Florida (2.77 million), Texas (2.52 million) and California (1.73 million).
- The top three states in terms of jobs supported by sportfishing are Florida (75,100), Texas (59,000) and Minnesota (43,100).
- The number of U.S. anglers is greater than California's population.

- One out of every three anglers fishes for largemouth bass, America's most popular game fish.
- Flounder is the most-targeted saltwater fish.
- 45% of anglers come from cities of one million or more people.
- 51% of anglers have a household income greater than \$50,000 per year and 17% have incomes in excess of \$100,000 per year.
- Over half of all anglers have attended college.
- 25% of anglers are women.
- Nearly half of all anglers are between 35-54 years of age. ✧

New Sugar Creek, IN Fishing Area Opens

Outdoor lovers have new access to Sugar Creek, IN with the recent opening of the new Sugar Creek Public Fishing Area, located southwest of Crawfordsville. The Montgomery County site is approximately 1.5 miles south of Indiana 32 on Camp Rotary Road, and about 1 mile west on Offield Road. The DNR purchased the approximately 12.5-acre area as part of a larger partnership to acquire 41 acres.

The 12.5 acre site has been planted with trees and includes a parking lot. The existing path to the creek for canoes has been improved. The remaining land, owned and managed by NICHES Land Trust, was acquired with funds from the Indiana Heritage Trust, NICHES Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and Friends of Sugar Creek. That 28.5-acre area, known as Bachner Nature Preserve, also has been planted with native trees and grasses with support from Pheasants Forever.

Fishing is allowed on both parcels. There is no fee for use of either. For more than 800 other ideas on where to fish, see the Where to Fish Finder at www.dnr.IN.gov/fishwild. ✧

NY - 1985 – 2009 Lake Ontario Fishing Boat Survey

Preliminary Monthly Summary for April and May 2009

April

The start of the Lake Ontario fishing boat survey was delayed from April 1 until April 22 due to administrative issues relating to hiring of creel survey agents. We received numerous reports from anglers on the eastern half of Lake Ontario that indicated good brown trout fishing, and better than typical catches of Atlantic salmon, Chinook salmon, and coho salmon. Few fishing updates were received from the western half of the lake during the first half of April. Creel survey data collected during the end of April (4/22-4/30/09) indicated relatively good brown trout and Coho salmon fishing, and much higher than average Atlantic salmon catch rates.

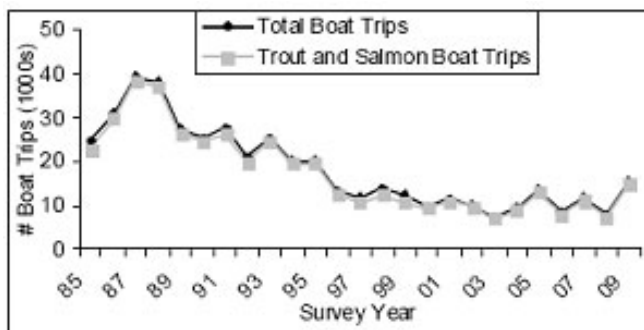


Figure 1 - May Fishing effort, 1985-2009

May

During May 2009, there were an estimated 15,360 fishing boat trips, which was the highest estimated for May since 1995, and a 50.6% increase compared to the previous 5-year average (2004-08; **Table 1, Fig. 1**). Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 14,731 boat trips (95.9% of the total May effort). This is the third year of the pre-season smallmouth bass catch and release period covered by the creel survey, and during May 2009 there were an estimated 319 boat trips targeting smallmouth bass. This was well above the number of trips estimated for May 2006 (196 trips) and May 2007 (43 trips).

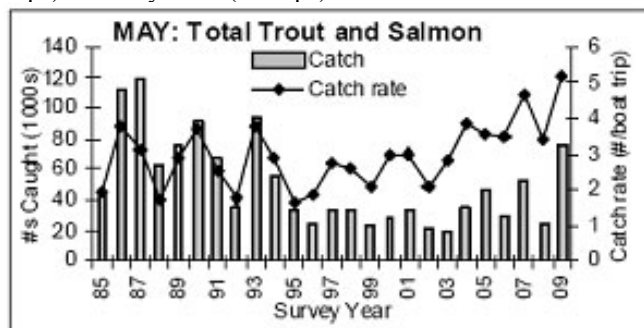


Fig 2 - Total trout and salmon catch and catch rate, during May 2009

The estimates of total number of trout and salmon caught (76,635 fish) and harvested (29,432 fish) during May 2009 were the highest since 1993 and 1994, respectively (**Table 1, Fig. 2**). For the second consecutive year Chinook salmon was the most commonly caught and harvested species (40,831 and 12,978 fish, respectively; **Fig. 3**), followed by brown trout (15,838 and 11,256 fish, respectively; **Fig. 4**). Numerous anecdotal reports from anglers indicated that Atlantic salmon catch was higher than is typically observed. May creel survey data confirmed these reports, with the highest Atlantic salmon catch (430 fish) and harvest (222 fish) estimates since 1994.

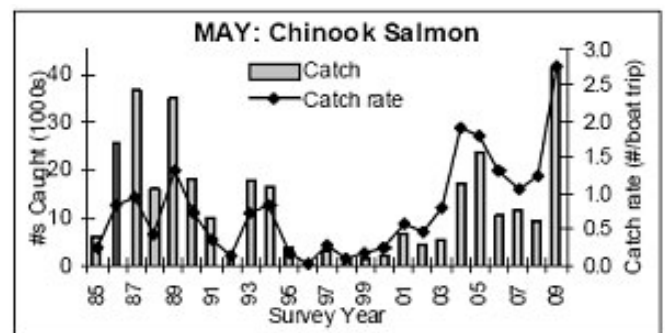


Fig 3 - Chinook salmon catch and catch rate, during May 2009

The quality of trout and salmon fishing during May 2009, as measured by catch rate, was excellent for the sixth consecutive May (5.2 fish per boat trip; **Table 1, Fig. 2**). This was the highest estimated May catch rate among the 25 years surveyed and was a 37.4% increase compared to the previous 5-year average.

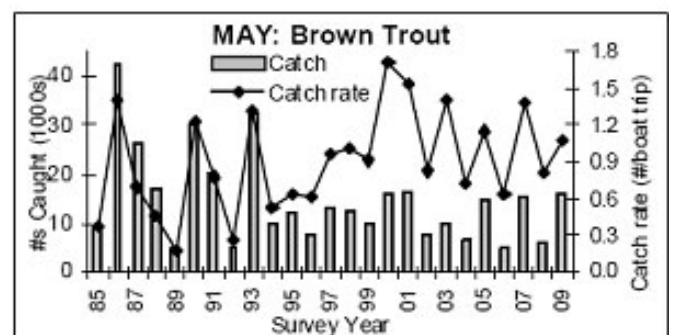


Fig 4 - Brown trout catch and catch rate, during May 2009

May 2009 catch rates were above their respective 2004-08 averages for Atlantic salmon (+503.1%, the highest since 1994), Chinook salmon (+88.6%, highest in the 25 year data series), coho salmon (+26.0%, third highest in the data series; and brown trout (+13.7%), and were below their respective averages for rainbow trout (-17.6%, but comparable to the long-term average; and lake trout (-27.0%; **Fig. 5**).

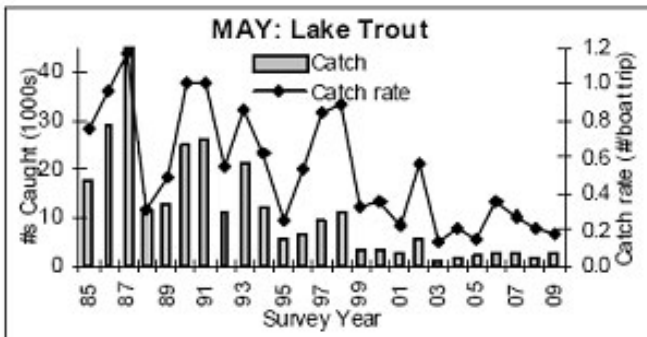


Fig 5 - Lake trout catch and catch rate, during May 2009

Only 38.4% of all trout and salmon caught were harvested, resulting in an estimated total trout and salmon harvest rate (2.0 fish per boat trip) that was well within the range of values observed throughout the data series and comparable to (+1.0%) the previous 5-year average. May 2009 harvest rates were above their respective 2004-08 averages for Atlantic salmon (+1854.3%, highest since 1994), brown trout (+23.1) and Chinook salmon (+21.4%, the highest in the data series), and were below their respective averages for coho salmon (-27.9%, but the third highest in the data series), rainbow trout (-57.9%, the fourth lowest in the data series), and lake trout (-80.7%, the lowest in the data series).

	14y avg 85-98	5y avg 99-03	prev 5y 04-08	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Fishing Boat Trips	24,158	10,166	10,200	13,581	8,556	11,796	7,784	15,300
Number of Fish Harvested:								
Coho Salmon	2,400	1,153	2,883	1,820	4,750	6,368	1,176	3,087
Chinook Salmon	8,851	2,539	7,290	14,208	4,513	4,422	4,385	12,978
Rainbow Trout	7,075	2,150	2,458	1,320	1,872	2,819	2,481	1,668
Atlantic Salmon	208	26	6	0	0	0	28	222
Brown Trout	13,148	7,877	6,213	6,055	4,117	9,083	3,628	11,256
Lake Trout	8,902	1,037	570	264	1,173	345	584	190
Total Trout and Salmon	40,668	14,892	19,328	27,208	16,430	22,638	12,493	29,432
Smallmouth Bass	85	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow Perch	1,236	493	830	1,588	0	1,220	1,857	0
Walleye	130	55	41	308	73	0	28	14
Number of Fish Caught:								
Coho Salmon	3,342	1,658	5,177	3,025	6,022	13,798	2,107	9,550
Chinook Salmon	13,858	4,060	14,298	23,378	10,587	11,811	9,057	40,831
Rainbow Trout	10,088	3,334	5,547	3,100	3,736	7,264	5,840	7,418
Atlantic Salmon	584	114	41	0	17	72	88	430
Brown Trout	17,383	12,031	9,564	14,907	5,181	15,302	5,983	15,038
Lake Trout	17,389	3,089	2,211	1,810	2,855	2,993	1,539	2,558
Total Trout and Salmon	62,585	24,313	30,911	46,820	28,660	51,039	24,727	76,635
Smallmouth bass	6,700	6,043	2,483	5,883	691	915	1,180	1,264
Yellow Perch	1,808	1,166	3,236	6,152	402	5,960	3,483	96
Walleye	137	103	92	348	286	0	28	28
Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon								
Coho	0.107	0.125	0.290	0.141	0.538	0.560	0.162	0.210
Chinook	0.337	0.283	0.726	1.088	0.567	0.402	0.604	0.881
Rainbow	0.320	0.222	0.274	0.101	0.235	0.238	0.362	0.115
Atlantic	0.008	0.005	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.015
Brown	0.560	0.835	0.621	0.746	0.517	0.825	0.527	0.764
Lake Trout	0.354	0.107	0.067	0.020	0.147	0.031	0.082	0.013
Total Trout and Salmon	1.692	1.575	1.978	2.105	2.001	2.006	1.720	1.896
Catch Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout & Salmon								
Coho	0.148	0.177	0.515	0.234	0.680	1.253	0.290	0.649
Chinook	0.514	0.451	1.470	1.806	1.331	1.065	1.247	2.772
Rainbow	0.459	0.344	0.611	0.238	0.480	0.680	0.804	0.504
Atlantic	0.022	0.012	0.005	0.000	0.002	0.007	0.012	0.029
Brown	0.744	1.278	0.944	1.152	0.644	1.300	0.816	1.074
Lake Trout	0.729	0.316	0.238	0.148	0.359	0.272	0.212	0.174
Total Trout and Salmon	2.622	2.681	3.787	3.677	3.456	4.630	3.397	5.201

Table 1 - Preliminary summary of May fishing boat trips, fish caught and harvested, and catch rates and harvest rates per boat trip for trout/salmon among boats seeking these species, 1985-2009

Sixty years after the publication of George Orwell's classic, do we face a real "1984"?

The threat of Big Brother in green clothing

Washington, D.C. – Sixty years ago last month, George Orwell's most important work of political fiction, 1984, was published. Orwell's novel warned of the centralization of political power and the lengths that a totalitarian regime, led by Big Brother, would go to maintain its control over society.

On this anniversary, the Competitive Enterprise Institute reminds those who value freedom of a more current threat — the crusade for global governance led by environmental activist groups in the name of combating global warming. With calls for limits on energy use, new global taxes and the regulation of individual behavior, the recent development of environmental policy

has tended ever more toward greater government control and less personal freedom.

"Environmental campaigners have long benefitted from the assumption that they have good intentions," said CEI General Counsel Sam Kazman. "Unfortunately, the modern environmental movement has focused increasingly on policies that increase government control over what business can sell, what consumers can buy and what individuals can do with their lives.

Truly harmful emissions have been successfully restricted for the most part. But with the war on carbon dioxide being escalated to extreme levels, as demonstrated in the new Waxman-Markey bill, we see

expanding government control become a goal unto itself."

CEI's 90-second video campaign dramatizes this threat. The video follows in the steps of Apple Computer's 1984 Super Bowl ad and the 2007 anti-Hillary Clinton "Vote Different" parody. It shows — in place of Big Brother — Al Gore lecturing a captive audience on the need to crack down on energy use, economic growth and personal freedom.

Mr. Kazman stated: "Orwell's nightmarish society rested on a never-ending war fought on constantly shifting battlefronts. Nothing in our experience comes closer to that war than the current campaign to restrict humanity's carbon footprint." ✧

Dingell honored for conservation efforts

Congressman John Dingell of Michigan has been recognized for his major lifetime contributions to waterfowl conservation by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee.

Congressman Dingell received the Plan Committee's International Canvasback Award, an honor recognizing individuals, corporations or organizations that have made substantial contributions over a long period to the implementation and continuation of the Plan throughout North America. The award was presented last month during a meeting of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, of which he has been a member for nearly 40 years.

"The many contributions of Congressman John Dingell to waterfowl conservation are legion and a testament to his dedication to preserving our natural world," said Rowan Gould, USFWS Acting Director. "During his 53 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Dingell has demonstrated time and time again that he is a champion of wildlife conservation and natural resource management."

Dingell has served nearly 40 years as a member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, identifying and approving wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico that best serve the needs of North American waterfowl and other wildlife.

During his tenure in Congress, Dingell has provided leadership in efforts to pass landmark legislation such as the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act and the Clean Water Act. He is also a founding member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus. Dingell was the catalyst for the creation of the first wildlife refuge that spanned national borders — the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Dingell was nominated for the award by Ducks Unlimited. ✧

DOI offers boating grants to 28 states

Department of the Interior announced that \$14.6 million will be awarded to 28 states under the Clean Vessel Act grant program in 2009. The grants will be used to fund the construction and installation of sewage pumpout facilities and floating restrooms, to purchase pumpout boats and provide educational programs for recreational boaters.

Since the program's inception in the early 1990s, the program — administered by the USFWS — has awarded more than \$163 million to states to install thousands of sewage pumpout stations. In addition, many states now rely upon mobile sewage pumpout boats to make the sewage collection process more efficient and convenient. A number of states also have begun installing floating restrooms and pumpout stations in high use areas of lakes and coastal waters.

Funding for the CVA program comes from the Sport Fishing and Boating Trust Fund, formerly known as the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund, which is supported by excise taxes levied on certain fishing and boating equipment and boat fuels.



A listing of grant awards made to Great Lakes States include:

- ▶ Illinois: \$112,500 – To install up to five sewage pumpout stations
- ▶ Indiana: \$495,482 – To install eight sewage pumpout stations and one floating restroom
- ▶ Michigan: \$100,000 – To install four sewage pumpout facilities on coastal waters
- ▶ Minnesota: \$337,500 – To install five sewage pumpout stations at marinas
- ▶ Ohio: \$248,625 – To install sewage pumpout facilities at five locations
- ▶ New York: \$1,270,007 – To purchase 31 stationary sewage pumpout units, three pumpout boats, and 31 dump facilities for portable toilets; and to install two floating restrooms ✧

MI to take action to address human-goose conflicts

The Michigan DNR says it is likely that lethal means will be necessary to address nuisance Canada goose populations in parts of southeast Michigan this year. Increasing conflicts with landowners and a lack of suitable relocation sites leave no other alternative.

Adult geese that are removed from the population will likely be processed for human consumption and distributed to charitable organizations through the Sportsmen Against Hunger program. Michigan's estimated spring population of resident Canada geese has increased from 9,000 in 1970 to 201,000 in 2009. Although the population is within Wildlife Division's desired statewide goal, human-goose conflicts continue to increase, primarily in urban and suburban areas.

Michigan has had a long and successful human-goose conflict program. The program includes the use of harassment and aversion techniques such as scare devices, landscape alterations, fencing, and harassment with dogs. "If these techniques are not successful, Michigan has permitted the round-up and transfer of geese to new locations. "In certain urban areas, especially in southeast Michigan, permits have also been issued for the destruction of goose nests and eggs in an effort to control goose numbers."

The number of sites participating in the Canada Goose Roundup Program has increased significantly in recent years. In past years, the DNR has been able to relocate some geese to other states as well as to various in-state sites, based on criteria such as suitable water and food resources, legal hunting opportunities, limited proximity to agricultural crops, and limited likelihood of causing additional human-goose conflicts. However, in-state release sites are limited and no other states have requested Michigan's geese this year. ✧

Bergland Dock Boating Access Site under renovation

The Bergland Dock Boating Access Site, located in Ontonagon County, MI is undergoing renovation. The \$200,000 project includes a parking area for 35 vehicles with trailers, a 36' X 70' long ramp, a new ADA compliant vault toilet, and a 5' x 30' universally accessible courtesy pier.

The launch remains open during construction but users may experience congestion and, at times, the crew may require temporary closures of the launch. During these times, Lake Gogebic can also be accessed at four alternate locations, which include a facility on the east shore, two Gogebic County facilities and one launch at Lake Gogebic State Park. Completion of this project is tentatively scheduled for September 1. ✧

Coast Guard gets new search/rescue air-boat

SAGINAW, MI – Coast Guard Station Saginaw River is the first to receive a new version of the Special Purpose Craft (SPC) airboat from Midwest Rescue Airboats. The station will be conducting training and testing of the new craft until it is found to be a suitable platform for Coast Guard operations. The new airboat can be one of the many tools it uses to increase its response times and on-scene time. The Coast Guard has been using a different version of SPC airboats successfully for ice rescues, flood responses and hurricane responses.

"The new state-of-the-art Special Purpose Craft will potentially allow the station crew members to do the challenging missions of ice rescue in a safer and more comfortable fashion and will provide the public with safer and more efficient ice rescue service," said Capt. Jeff Ogden, Chief of Response for the Ninth Coast Guard District in Cleveland. ✧

NY DEC expands shellfish closure

New York State has announced that a ban on shellfish harvesting in certain areas in the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, has been expanded due to the detection of a marine biotoxin that can adversely affect public health. This expanded closure adds 5,200 acres to the 2,200-acre closure that DEC implemented on May 27. It covers all the shellfishing lands in Huntington Bay, Northport Bay, Centerport Harbor, Duck Island Harbor, Lloyd Harbor and Coast Guard Cove that lie south of a line extending from the northernmost point of Lloyd Point to the north point of Eatons Neck Point. For a map of the area: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/35917.html>.

All shellfishing in these areas is prohibited until further notice. The action was taken after DEC determined that shellfish samples collected on June 1, from both Huntington Bay and Northport Bay, tested positive for saxitoxin, a marine biotoxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). The samples were tested as part of DEC's marine biotoxin monitoring program. In 2006, DEC implemented New York's first-ever closure of shellfish lands due to the detection of biotoxins in shellfish in Northport Harbor; a similar closure was also necessary in 2008.

DEC will re-open areas as soon as possible based on the results of laboratory analyses of shellfish and water samples that will be collected over the next few weeks. A recorded message advising harvesters of the status of these shellfish areas may be heard by calling (631) 444-0480. The message will be updated during the course of the temporary closure.

For more info, DEC staff: 631-444-0475 or go to: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/345.html> on DEC's website. ✧

Another successful spring for Black River Sturgeon Program

The sturgeon spawning season on the Black River in Cheboygan County, MI concluded late last month, and those involved with collecting data have declared the season highly successful. The research team collected eggs and milt from numerous sturgeon to raise in the newly developed streamside hatchery.

The hatchery is now home to between 5,000 and 6,000 newly hatched sturgeon, which are destined to be stocked in Black Lake. Data indicated that of the 200 sturgeon netted and released during this spring's spawning season, 46 were sturgeon never before captured, while the remainder were recaptures from previous spawning season efforts. This information indicates that new generations of sturgeon are reaching maturity in Black Lake, a sign that the population is slowly recovering. ✧

WI - Lake Delton Fisheries Restoration Project

Lake Delton, WI – June 9th marked the first anniversary of the disaster that drained Lake Delton and shook this small Wisconsin community to its core. But June 9 also marked the completion of a yearlong effort on the part of dozens of volunteers and donors to restore and improve the man-made lake and its fishery.

For much of 2008, it was a mostly empty lake basin after a portion of a county highway that forms part of the dike wall eroded last June 9, 2008, under the pressure of floods in the area. The resulting washout caused the lake to empty, leaving behind only rainwater pools and the flow from Dell Creek. By March 2009, major repairs to correct the problem were completed, and the lake was allowed to refill.

The lake is now completely refilled and has been usable since Memorial Day weekend of 2009. ✧

Emerald Ash Borer found in NY State

New York State has announced the discovery of an Emerald Ash Borer infestation (EAB) in Randolph, Cattaraugus County. The EAB is a small but destructive beetle that infests and kills North American ash tree species, including green, white, black and blue ash. This is the first time it has been detected in New York.

New York has more than 900 million ash trees, representing about 7% of all trees in the state, and all are at risk should this invasive, exotic pest become established. This is just the latest in a series of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species detections across New York State, including the Asian Longhorned Beetle, Sirex woodwasp, didymo, zebra mussels, and Eurasian water milfoil. This has prompted the state to strengthen regulations, increase educational outreach, and encourage ways of limiting the unintentional spread of these potentially devastating pests throughout the state.

The infestation was initially reported to the NY Department of Agriculture on June 15, 2009, by Rick Hoebeke, an entomologist at Cornell U, after two USDA employees recognized damage to some local ash trees just off Exit 16 of State Route 17/I-86. After receiving the report and conducting an initial inspection, an adult beetle from the infested area was submitted with the identification confirmed by the USDA's Systematic Entomology Laboratory at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Photographs depicting the infestation will be posted to <ftp://ftp.dec.state.ny.us/dpae/press/>. Approximately 30 trees are infested or highly suspected of being infested to date.

Jonathan Staples of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said, "The detection of the Emerald Ash Borer will have a profound effect on the state's landscape given the huge number of ash trees located throughout New

Ohio public boating facilities map

Recreational boaters looking for a marina facility or convenient boat launch ramp can request the newly updated Ohio Boating Areas map and guide from the Ohio DNR. The free publication is available online at www.ohiodnr.com and by calling toll-free 1-877-4BOATER.

Recreational boating generates a statewide economic impact estimated at \$3.5 billion annually, according to a 2007 Great Lakes Commission study. (<http://glc.org/recboat/>). Ohio's recreational boating industry supports the fulltime equivalent of more than 26,000 jobs. Ohio also ranked ninth nationally in 2008 with a total of 411,366 registered watercraft.

Local communities with marinas, boat launch ramps and other related facilities especially benefit economically by attracting boaters to spend money locally on lodging, meals, fuel, entertainment, shopping and more, according to the Division of Watercraft.

The new Ohio Boating Areas map includes facility locations, amenities and phone numbers grouped by waterways based upon their horsepower rating and regional location such as Lake Erie and the Ohio River. Additional information on navigation rules, life jacket safety, boating safety tips and launch and loading tips for boaters is included as part of the map. ✧

It's all in a name

There's a lake in Massachusetts named Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaub unagungamaugg. Translation: "You fish on your side. I fish on my side. Nobody fish in the middle."

York. Exotic invasive species such as this need to be closely monitored not only for its potential to spread naturally, but also, the potential for artificial spread through firewood movement and other regulated articles." ✧

Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan transfers command MILWAUKEE – Command change took place June 30

Responsible for protecting 1,640 miles of coastline and hundreds of miles of inland rivers, Sector Lake Michigan is responsible for 22 field units in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. In 2008, Sector Lake Michigan crews saved approximately 80 lives on more than 1,250 search and rescue missions.

Employing 750 active duty and reserve military members and civilian employees along with 1,200 auxiliary volunteers, Sector Lake Michigan is responsible for multiple Coast Guard missions, including port safety and security, search and rescue, law enforcement, aids to navigation, waterways management, marine environmental protection and commercial vessel safety.

Capt. Luann Barndt assumed the responsibilities of Sector Lake Michigan Command from Capt. Bruce Jones, who took command in June 2005.

Jones' next assignment is as Chief, Office of Strategic Analysis, at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Barndt comes to Milwaukee from the National Defense University in Washington D.C. Barndt became the first woman to command Sector Lake Michigan.

The Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service and is part of the Department of Homeland Security. It is unique among federal agencies in that it is an armed service, and a humanitarian, regulatory, law enforcement, environmental, and emergency management agency.

The Burr Ridge (Chicago region) office also saw a change with CDR Bob Bailey replacing CDR Paul Mehler III who took a new assignment as representative to the U.S. Congress

For further information, contact the Sector Lake Michigan Public Affairs Officer at (414) 349-5109. ✧

Clean Water Restoration Act

Continued from page 1

This means trout and small-mouth bass fishermen could lose access to their favorite rivers and streams, as wading in these waters necessarily disturbs rocks and sediment, and therefore could be considered harmful to fish and other wildlife. Lead lures, sinkers or split-shot could be deemed pollutants, and even requiring new permits for every day outdoor recreational activities.

Recreational boating could be restricted or banned in certain waters due to the incidental discharge of engine cooling water, bilge water, deck runoff or ballast water. In fact, environmental litigators have already struck a blow against recreational boating under the current CWA.

In 2003, several environmental organizations filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the agency's refusal to repeal its three-decade-long exemption for certain discharges, specifically, those that are incidental to the normal operation of boats, from requiring a permit under the CWA. According to the EPA, such exempt discharges include "any discharge of sewage from vessels, effluent from properly functioning marine engines, laundry, shower, and galley sink wastes, or any other discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel."

In September 2006, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ruled in favor of the environmentalists, forcing the EPA to begin regulating incidental discharges from boats by September 30, 2008. Though the EPA is currently appealing the court's decision, it is also preparing to implement a new CWA permitting process for all U.S. boat owners.

"Because the Court's decision is not limited to vessels with ballast water tanks," the EPA reports, "it appears to implicate an extremely large number of vessels and a range of discharges." The agency includes all "State-registered recreational boats" in its tally of vessels that could now

require a CWA permit for operation.

The pending regulations prompted U.S. Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) to introduce legislation that would exempt recreational boaters from having to acquire a CWA permit simply to operate their boats.

"Requiring family boaters to secure a Clean Water Act permit so that they can wash their boat, fish, or go waterskiing is ridiculous," said Martinez. "This permit requirement is unnecessary and onerous. If allowed to take effect, it will be costly and essentially unenforceable."

Considering the CWRA would encourage a courtroom examination of all activities that affect all waters of the United States, fishing, pier and dock construction and recreational boating could all come under increased fire from litigious environmental groups. That is how they have operated for decades, with new enhanced legislation why would they change now?

Hunters: Beware the CWRA

Like anglers and recreational boaters, hunters would find it more difficult to engage in their sports under the CWRA.

Prairie potholes and sloughs, particularly those found in the prairie pothole region in the upper Midwest, constitute perhaps the best duck breeding and hunting grounds in the United States. As such, in 2006 nearly 1.3 million hunters flocked to North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Montana, the five states that comprise the prairie pothole region.

Under the Clean Water Restoration Act, however, something as simple as constructing a duck blind on private land on or near these prime hunting waters could require hunters to submit to a costly and time-consuming permitting process.

Both "prairie potholes" (depressed areas that temporarily hold rainwater and snowmelt) and "sloughs" (swampy depressions typically comprised of stagnant water or mud) are specifically named in the CWRA as "waters" that would be subject to regulation — a departure

from the original Clean Water Act. As a consequence, driving posts into water and mud near a prairie pothole for construction of a duck blind could constitute discharging dredged or fill material into the "waters of the United States," which is illegal under the CRA without a permit.

In addition, hunters who fire shot over and near prairie potholes, lakes, rivers, ponds and wetlands could be considered polluters under the CWRA. In 1996, a U.S. District Court in New York ruled against a shooting range when it found that expended shot, even non-toxic steel shot, is considered a pollutant under the current CWA.

Limiting or barring access to the prairie pothole region and other popular hunting areas throughout the nation would not only spoil a rich tradition, but also threaten regional economies. In 2006, hunters spent nearly \$1.4 billion on hunting purchases in prairie pothole region states alone. In the same year, hunting expenditures nationwide totaled \$22.9 billion.

Off-road use of all-terrain vehicles or trucks, which is sometimes necessary to transport gear to hunting spots, might be forbidden or require a special permit under the CWRA. Traversing a wet meadow or intermittent stream in a four-wheeler could be deemed a threat to the "waters of the United States."

In addition to limiting access to hunting lands, the CWRA poses a threat to the activities of hunters and wildlife enthusiasts who wish to construct food plots on their land to attract deer, ducks and other wildlife. Clearing scrub or tilling soil to plant such plots could be barred, or require landowners to embark on a lengthy permitting process under the CWRA if the proposed plots are in the vicinity of any wetlands, drainage ditches, wet meadows, intermittent streams, ephemeral lakes or ponds. Indeed, there is precedent for such heavy-handed regulation under the original CWA.

In 2002, in a rare 4-4 tie, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed a lower court's ruling that a property owner

had violated the CWA when he plowed his dry land in order to convert it from cattle grazing land into vineyards.

Robin Rivett, an attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation who worked on the case, found the court's broad interpretation of the CWA troubling. "Congress never intended the Clean Water Act to regulate customary farming practices or the planting of new crops," he said.

Under the CWRA, an even wider array of basic farming practices, including habitat creation and conservation, could be heavily regulated or restricted. According to the Texas Wildlife Association — If the government expands its jurisdiction [under the Clean Water Act], not only will federal agencies lose their administrative direction, but will likely create regulations that actually limit private conservation...

In addition to expanding the federal government's jurisdiction, [the Clean Water Restoration Act] eliminates permitting exemptions for agriculture, ranching, wildlife management and forestry. The cost of permitting can be prohibitive in terms of money and time.

When Congress fails to clearly define regulatory parameters in the legislation it passes, and instead defers to the courts to divine congressional intent, everything from the practical to the absurd becomes fair game for lawsuits. Any land use activity that could possibly impact the "waters of the United States," as broadly defined in the CWRA, could be subject to environmental lawsuits and regulatory scrutiny. This should be of utmost concern to hunters, who could find themselves, and their pastime, in the crosshairs should the CWRA become law.

Shooting Sports Enthusiasts: Beware the CWRA

Already a target of the environmental movement, skeet and trap shooting ranges will likely see increased scrutiny should the CWRA become law. In fact, environmental activists have already successfully sued outdoor shooting ranges under the

current CWA.

The CWA makes it illegal for anyone to discharge pollutants from any "point source" into "waters of the United States" without first obtaining a permit. A "point source" is typically a discernable source of pollution such as a factory discharge pipe. However, much like the definition of "waters of the United States," what constitutes a "point source" has been subject to broader interpretation. The EPA and courts have determined that outdoor shooting ranges loosely qualify as a "point source" of pollution into our nation's navigable waterways, and, therefore, are subject to permitting requirements under the CWA.

EPA notes that lawsuits "have been the driving force behind most legal actions against outdoor ranges." For example, in 1994, the Long Island Soundkeeper Fund, an environmental organization, successfully sued the New York Athletic Club under the CWA because the club had been operating a trap shooting range on its property. In this case, the court found that debris from clay targets and expended shot, including non-toxic steel shot, are pollutants under the CWA. According to EPA, "Based on the court's decision... any range whose shot, bullets or target debris enter the 'waters of the United States' could be subject to permitting requirements as well as governmental or citizen suits."

More recently, Blue Eco Legal Council, an environmental organization, filed a lawsuit under the CWA against the United States Department of Justice, Coast Guard, Navy, Marines and Department of Defense, alleging that an FBI shooting range in North Chicago is endangering Lake Michigan with stray bullets.

The CWRA would create more opportunities for environmental activist groups to sue shooting ranges for Clean Water Act violations. No longer would a range's activities need to pose a threat to mere lakes and other navigable waters. An intermittent stream or nondescript

drainage ditch in the vicinity of a shooting range could be sufficient ground for a crippling lawsuit.

Though Representative Oberstar claims the Clean Water Restoration Act would simply restore the original intent of the Clean Water Act, the reality is much different. By expanding the federal government's regulatory reach beyond "navigable" waters to all "waters of the United States" — including every prairie pothole, isolated pond, wetland and intermittent stream under congressional authority — Oberstar's bill would truly enter uncharted territory. Moreover, by inviting judicial review of all "activities affecting these waters," the bill would open the door to a dizzying array of lawsuits that could challenge virtually any activity, no matter how benign, that takes place in or near any so-called "waters of the United States."

The results could be disastrous for sportsmen, our nation's frontline conservationists, who since the inception of the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs over 75 years ago have contributed more than \$10 billion for wildlife conservation efforts through excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery and fishing equipment. Hunters and fishermen annually provide more than 80 percent of the funding for most state fish and wildlife agencies, and in 2006 contributed over \$76 billion to the economy through expenditures related to their sports.

Congress should not reward sportsmen with a measure that threatens to limit access to fishing holes and hunting grounds, and to heavily regulate or ban the use of boats, bullets, shot and tackle.

Congress is trying to pretend that S 787 "clarifies" the Clean Water Act and the Supreme Court cases. It does the exact opposite. It greatly expands the power of the Corps and EPA. Besides private property, the Clean Water Restoration Act threatens businesses, agriculture, small

communities, grazing, forestry, mining and many other uses on private and Federal land. It will affect many kinds of manufacturing companies and businesses.

The Real Goal – intended or otherwise – of the Clean Water Restoration Act is to give Corps and EPA control over your water and all your watersheds. That means National Land Use Controls as well as control over all your water and land. That's because all land is in a watershed. (Emphasis ours) ✧

Silver Carp in Illinois Waterway

Continued from page 1

month for invasive fish and fish pathogens, across 200 miles of the Illinois Waterway. Along with other federal, state and regional partners, the team charted the range of bighead carp and silver carp, two Asian invasive species. Biologists also collected tissue samples from captured fish to test for lethal pathogens including the non-native spring viremia of carp virus and the VHS virus.

Sampling covered nearly 200 miles — more than half the length of the Illinois Waterway — from Chicago downstream to Havana. In previous years, surveillance efforts have determined that round goby are most abundant at upstream sample sites like Alsip and Joliet. ✧

Golden Rules For Living

If you open it - close it
 If you unlock it - lock it up
 If you said it - admit it
 If you can't fix it - call someone who can
 If you borrow it - return it
 If you make a mess - clean it up
 If you move it - put it back
 If you value it - take care of it
 If it ain't broke - don't fix it
 If you don't know how to operate it - leave it alone
 If it's none of your business - don't ask questions
 If it will brighten someone's day - say it
 If it will tarnish someone's reputation - keep it to yourself

Author Unknown

Export permits denied for wild paddlefish from Kentucky Lake

The USFWS is denying the issuance of CITES export permits for paddlefish and products (caviar) harvested from Kentucky Lake in Tennessee during the recently completed 2008-2009 fishing season. Kentucky Lake provides at least 63% of all caviar harvested in Tennessee. This action will not impact the domestic sale of the caviar, but will prevent its export.

The Service has determined that the harvest level taking place under current state regulations is not sustainable and this makes it impossible to meet the requirements for issuance of export permits under provisions contained in the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). The specific decision or finding is the “non-detriment finding,” meaning that the Service is unable to find that the export of paddlefish and its products from Kentucky Lake in Tennessee is not detrimental to the survival of the species.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) manages commercial harvest of paddlefish in Tennessee. Recent regulatory recommendations by the agency were based on a scientific research study that was published by Bettoli and Scholten in 2005, "Assessment of Overfishing and Bycatch for an Exploited Paddlefish Population in the Lower Tennessee River." This study originated from the Service's concern over the high number of applications for caviar export permits from this lake. The results of this study indicated that paddlefish were indeed being overfished. To address this, the state wildlife agency developed a five-year plan to gradually increase the minimum size limit to protect more mature females from harvest and close the fishing season earlier in spring to decrease the mortality of discarded fish bycatch.

IN DNR seeks volunteers for State Fair Fishin' Pond

For the last three years, the free DNR Fishin' Pond has been a highlight of the State Fair, and the DNR needs volunteers to keep the tradition going this year, August 7-23, in Indianapolis. Volunteers not only make this feature enjoyable and educational, they receive a free ticket to the fair, good for the entire day of their four-hour shift.

No experience is needed. Optional training, which is highly recommended for new volunteers, is offered twice in July and will serve as a chance for early ticket pick-up. All volunteers also receive a T-shirt to wear during their shift. There are four types of opportunities: fishing instructors, equipment workers, registration workers, and educators (crafts). More details are provided below.

Those 18 years old and older who are interested may register at <http://www.IN.gov/dnr/5495.htm> or contact the GoFishIN program at (317) 562-1338, e-mail fishpond@dnr.IN.gov, with questions or to register a minor (under 18 years old). ✧

Paddlefish are long-lived fish, and can reach ages greater than 25 years. Female paddlefish reach maturity from 8-12 years; depending on the river system they inhabit. Based on a national survey conducted in 2006, paddlefish populations in the State of Tennessee are considered to be declining.

Paddlefish are important because they are one of three egg-bearing (roe) species in the sturgeon family within the United States that are allowed to be exported commercially for their eggs, that are processed into caviar. The other species are the white sturgeon and the shovelnose sturgeon. North American caviar has increased in value, and the export trade has increased in volume, due to declining stocks in the Caspian Sea sturgeon fisheries. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Trillions of invasive mussels in Lake MeadWI - **Waters aren't roiled by record harvest****Improved angling, cooler Muskegon River waters ahead with new upwelling system****Building a better lamprey trap**Ludington - **Dredging begins****Microbes may be answer to invasive mussels****Endangered eel moving on up****Draft Report on Recommendations for Implementing the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Water****Resources Compact****Second study on Lake Michigan water levels still held back****Angler pleads guilty to taking 5-foot sturgeon from Grand River****Ohio's mayflies pack a lot of life into their brief time along Lake Erie**Lake Erie - **Officials want to wait on setting walleye limits****Angler may have landed record****Politics have no place in river study****\$10 million to fund Muskegon Lake restoration****Ancient hunting site may rest under Lake Huron****Ohio EPA, Northeast Ohio Sewer District disagree about source of oil that killed gulls**Sheboygan - **Dirty birds: Gulls making a big mess at South Pier**Duluth - **Zebra mussels infest Pike Lake****Cormorant war rages on across Great Lakes****Environment agencies in Great Lakes states reorganize, downsize****St. Lawrence Seaway's 50th anniversary soiled by invaders****NMC's new freshwater degree is a perfect fit****Bacteria said to be cause of St. Clair die-off****Not One, But Two Kinds Of Males Found In The Invasive Round Goby****Marinas staying afloat in rough economy**WI - **Shoring up the rules****Great Lakes fish hatcheries could benefit from new test for deadly VHS virus****Great Lakes require great changes****Great Lakes study's lack of clarity muddies issue of water levels****Illegal gill nets pulled from bay****Ludington area Cormorants culled****Canada Expands Nahanni National Park Sixfold****Of Fish and Flexibility****Asian carp could be getting weaker in Illinois****Other Breaking News Items:**

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Trillions of invasive mussels in Lake Mead

LAS VEGAS – University researchers estimate that Lake Mead's Boulder Basin is infested with nearly three trillion invasive mussels.

WI – **Waters aren't roiled by record harvest**

The Rite of spring is no longer a hot issue. Tribal spearers quietly hauled in a record number of fish this spring - more than 32,000 walleyes from northern Wisconsin lakes. What's noteworthy is that few noticed.

Improved angling, cooler Muskegon River waters ahead with new upwelling system

Cooler Muskegon River waters should flow from Croton Dam on the hottest days this summer, It is designed to bring cooler water up from the river bottom on the hottest nights, making the water downstream much more tolerable for trout and steelhead.

[Building a better lamprey trap](#)

Sea lamprey will have a harder time wiggling their way into Lake Superior thanks to a new trap placed smack dab on one of the invasive creature's favorite migratory routes.

[Ludington – Dredging begins](#)

Stimulus money will be used to dredge harbor deeper than usual. Ludington harbor's bottom will soon be deeper than it's been in years after the current dredging project ends. The \$1.3 million project is expected to last until late July

[Microbes may be answer to invasive mussels](#)

An eco-friendly bacteria that kills invasive mussels will be tested for the first time in Canada at the Decew Falls hydro plant. It has worked incredibly well in smaller-scale tests so far, said ...

[Endangered eel moving on up](#)

At the Saunders Generating Station in Cornwall a 300-metre extension has been added to the pre-existing eel ladder. During the 1980s and 1990s the American eel was one of the top three species in commercial value for Ontario's fishing industry.

[Draft Report on Recommendations for Implementing the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact](#)

This report was prepared by the Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council in response to the directive issued to the Council by the New York State Legislature in approving the ratifying legislation of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact ...

[Second study on Lake Michigan water levels still held back](#)

Public hearings wrapped up this week on a controversial International Joint Commission study exploring perplexingly low water levels on Lake Michigan over the past decade, and the three-month public comment period for the study expires in three weeks.

[Angler pleads guilty to taking 5-foot sturgeon from Grand River](#)

GRAND RAPIDS – Secilio David Cantu pleaded guilty this morning to illegally taking a sturgeon from the Grand River near the Sixth Street Dam in Grand Rapids on May 15.

[Ohio's mayflies pack a lot of life into their brief time along Lake Erie](#)

As the sun sets, the short-lived bugs flutter about and cling to buildings, trees, cars and people -- anything near lights. When they die, their inch-long bodies create deep piles that smell like dead fish.

[Lake Erie – Officials want to wait on setting walleye limits](#)

The daily bag limit for Lake Erie walleye might be cut in 2010, but Ohio's fishermen might have to wait until spring to get the official news.

[Angler may have landed record](#)

Since the early 1980s, Southern California's fishermen have been going hard after the biggest prize in freshwater fishing: a world-record largemouth bass. Now it appears that coveted catch has surfaced on the other side of the world.

[Politics have no place in river study](#)

What began as a scientific study of erosion in the St. Clair River has mutated into a case study of questionable political manipulation by Ottawa and Washington. Five years ago, research funded by private sources blamed riverbed erosion between Port Huron and Algonac for declining water levels on Lake Huron-Michigan

[\\$10 million to fund Muskegon Lake restoration](#)

Muskegon Lake will receive \$10 million in federal wetland and shoreline restoration money aimed at returning large areas of the lake's shore to a more natural state.

[Ancient hunting site may rest under Lake Huron](#)

Deep beneath Lake Huron, signs of the Great Lakes' first human settlers are emerging. Some 10,000 years or more ago, hunter-gatherers pursued migrating caribou in a corridor between Michigan and Ontario, a ridge that today is submerged in Lake Huron.

[Ohio EPA, Northeast Ohio Sewer District disagree about source of oil that killed gulls](#)

An Ohio EPA investigator trying to find out who killed more than 500 gulls last month by dumping hundreds of gallons of oil into the Cuyahoga River is focusing on a nine-mile-long storm sewer network that flows from Shaker Heights to Cleveland and the river.

[Sheboygan – Dirty birds: Gulls making a big mess at South Pier](#)

The [Great Lakes](#)' gull population is increasing, and the birds have become a nuisance in numerous lakefront communities in recent years. Chip Lovell, district supervisor with the USDA's Wildlife Services program in Waupun, said there's no silver bullet for ...

[Duluth - Zebra mussels infest Pike Lake](#)

Zebra mussels have been found in Pike Lake outside Duluth, the first confirmed outbreak in a Northeastern Minnesota waterway outside Lake Superior.

[Cormorant war rages on across Great Lakes](#)

Fewer cormorants equal more fish. Perkins and his father Norm run a charter fishing company out of the Les Cheneaux Islands, where an aggressive cormorant control program has reduced the fish-eating birds from 5,000...

[Environment agencies in Great Lakes states reorganize, downsize](#)

Some cash-strapped state agencies charged with protecting the Great Lakes environment are merging and reorganizing to do more with less. Michigan's Senate could vote next ...

[St. Lawrence Seaway's 50th anniversary soiled by invaders](#)

Fifty years ago, we hailed the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The \$470 million system of channels, locks and dams was built to open the Great Lakes to the rest of the world. And it did, for better and for worse.

[NMC's new freshwater degree is a perfect fit](#)

It doesn't get more appropriate than this. The Water Studies Institute at Northwestern Michigan College is launching an associate's degree program this fall in freshwater studies -- smack in the middle of the largest living freshwater lab on planet Earth.

[Bacteria said to be cause of St. Clair die-off](#)

Biologists suspect that a recent die-off among smallmouth bass in Lake St. Clair was caused by a bacteria called chondrococcus columnaris, which has been responsible for similar die-offs in recent years.

[Not One, But Two Kinds Of Males Found In The Invasive Round Goby](#)

Scientists have found the existence of two types of males of a fiercely invasive fish spreading through the Great Lakes, which may provide answers as to how they rapidly reproduce

[Work to begin on what could become major overhaul of Soo Locks](#)

On June 30, the Army Corps of Engineers will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on a modest, \$1.9-million project to build coffer dams — essentially retaining walls in the river — and start work on what some day will be a lock as big as the neighboring Poe Lock. It represents the first dirt turned on what could be a huge project employing 1,000 people.

[Marinas staying afloat in rough economy](#)

Owners get creative with pools, parties as enticements while boat lovers reel in their spending

[WI - Shoring up the rules](#)

New rules for the state's shorelines will benefit property owners and the state's waters. Wisconsin lakes and rivers used to be dotted with small summer cottages used by weekenders and vacationers for fishing or hunting or just sitting by the lakeside and getting away from it all.

[Great Lakes fish hatcheries could benefit from new test for deadly VHS virus](#)

There may be hope for fishery managers still reeling years after a dangerous virus appeared in the Great Lakes. The month-long wait for a VHS test has hobbled hatcheries that must test fish before introducing them to the region's lakes and streams

[Great Lakes require great changes](#)

Recently, the USFWS issued a press release about sturgeon spawning in the Detroit River on a new reef created for that purpose. It got PR for the USFWS, but the reality is that sturgeon runs never stopped in the Detroit River after the major spawning areas were destroyed by dredging shipping channels 100 years ago.

[Great Lakes study's lack of clarity muddies issue of water levels](#)

The day before the study was released last month, study co-chairman Stakhiv told the Journal Sentinel that all the work that went into it had been independently peer-reviewed. The paper learned that was not the case when it asked to see those reviews. It is also paying to have outside reviewers to assess their work: \$250,000.

Illegal gill nets pulled from bay

ESCANABA – Several hundred pounds of rotting walleye and other sport fish, along with two 300-foot large mesh gill nets, were removed from Little Bay de Noc June 12.

Ludington area Cormorants culled

Workers from the USDA Wildlife Services removed 426 cormorants from the breakwater offshore from the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant over the last few weeks bring the population down to 200 birds.

Canada Expands Nahanni National Park Sixfold

Conservationists are celebrating the expanded Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories, an ecological treasure of global significance. The massive expansion increases the size of the park reserve by over six times. Now nearly seven times the size of the original one established in 1972 and more than three times larger than Yellowstone National Park.

Of Fish and Flexibility

Senator Charles Schumer has introduced a bill called The Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act. Flexibility, in this case, means bending to the will of fishermen who want to keep vacuuming up depleted fish populations before they have a chance to recover.

Asian carp could be getting weaker in Illinois

Asian carp continue to terrorize Illinois rivers and endanger fish native to the state, but some observers say they might at least be getting skinnier.