



Michigan AFS Chapter votes to separate Welland Canal from Great Lakes Also approves separating the Chicago Waterway system from Lake Michigan

In a pro-active move, indisputably designed to protect the nation's waterways from further introductions of invasive species, The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society recently and resoundingly voted to urge the United States Congress and Canada to separate the Welland Canal from the Great Lakes.

This action alone would close off the major connection of the world's introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes. To date over 99% of the region's invasive species have been introduced down this waterway, with the major vehicle being the international shipping industry and their destructive ballast water dumpings. They have, of course had plenty of help with an impotent or indifferent Congress and five failed ballast bills.

The Michigan chapter also voted

to urge Congress and the Obama Administration to separate the Chicago Waterway System from Lake Michigan, closing the connection between the Mississippi River Watershed and the Great Lakes.

With these two resolutions passed by the Michigan State AFS chapter at their February 24th meeting in Grayling, the state of Michigan has put the U.S. Congress on notice that they have not done their job to prevent invasive species from entering the Great Lakes.

The Chapter's resolution includes: the Great Lakes sport and commercial fishing industry is worth \$7 billion dollars annually; over 184 non-native species are now found in the Great Lakes and a number of non-native species including zebra mussel, quagga mussel, and round goby have been introduced to the Mississippi River Watershed through the Chicago Waterway System.

The resolutions also note an estimated \$100 million has been spent on zebra mussel control annually, while an additional \$300 million has been spent on lamprey control with over \$16 million spent in 2009 alone. Also, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia, potentially introduced via ballast water, threatens commercial and sport fisheries worth \$4.5 billion in just the State of Michigan.

The chapter resolutions poignantly note ocean-origin Great Lakes shipping transports only about 7% of the total tonnage transported in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system and alternative transportation using Great Lakes shipping, train, barge, and truck would only cost the industry \$55 million per year.

Why don't we see any similar initiatives coming from the State of New York, their environmentalists, activists or any of their bureaucrats?
✧

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Supreme Court to reconsider Asian carp issue

The Supreme Court has agreed to reconsider Michigan's motion to force the closure of Chicago-area locks and stop the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

The legal motion, which Cox filed in December, is part of a broader effort by the attorney general to reopen a decades-old lawsuit filed by several states against Chicago and Illinois over the Chicago Waterway System, the century-old network of canals and locks that were built to divert the city's sewage into the Illinois River instead of Lake Michigan. The ongoing diversion of Great Lakes water, and the canals and locks that are part of it, have allowed zebra mussels and the round gobies to move from the Great Lakes into the

Mississippi River and many other states.

The Supreme Court gave no explanation in January when it rejected Michigan's request to close the locks. The new request has been distributed to the justices for consideration at their private conference Friday, March 19. Orders made during a Friday conference are typically released the following Monday.

Michigan has asked the court to appoint a special master, who would gather evidence and issue recommendations to the court. The state seeks the permanent "ecological separation" of the two bodies of water

Supreme Court reconsiders

Continued on page 11

Sampling Efforts to net Asian Carp ongoing in Chicago Area Waterway System

IDNR, USFWS searching near warm water discharges despite critics and crybabies

CHICAGO – Fisheries biologists from the Illinois DNR and the USFWS are into their fifth week of intensive sampling operations in multiple locations within the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). The sampling efforts, initiated on February 17, include using commercial fishing nets of different variations, and electro fishing gear in an attempt to locate silver or bighead Asian carp above the Electric Fish Barrier System. The operation also includes commercial fishermen and is ongoing.

So far they haven't found any Asian carp. Is it a waste of time and money? Critics and crybabies think so, and they're complaining loudly and vociferously. And so do some sensationalistic reporters (they call themselves 'critics'). But what if Asian carp were present and we didn't look for them and they ultimately materialized in large schools? Wouldn't these same critics and crybabies be up in arms complaining the world was coming to an end because officials didn't do enough? And these sensationalist journalists — the other 'critics' — would be running out of ink.

It's not a "Damned if we do, and Damned if we don't" situation. It's not that complex; we have no other option. That ongoing search and destroy mission is critical and necessary to protect our precious resources while the feds sort out their decision-making process, whatever that ultimately is.

These critics and crybabies are even concerned about the cost! Why worry about the cost? The feds are picking up the tab, and they have new printing presses and they're very adroit at using them as necessary. Oh, we won't have enough to dole out to the environmental community? Or we won't have enough to rid the Great Lakes of the other introduced invasive species? Can you think of a better reason to spend some federal

dollars than to protect the Great Lakes and our aquatic resources??

The Illinois DNR is to be commended for their determination and commitment, as well as their sense of urgency, the urgency and commitment we have found so lacking with Washington DC bureaucrats.

For more information about the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee: www.asiancarp.org/rapidresponse.

Nominations open for GLSFC officers, directors

Nominations are open for all officer and director positions of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council for the '11-'12 term. Nominations will be accepted via e-mail through August 31.

Nominations received to date include:

Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer Tom Couston

Directors

Illinois Robert Gaik
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
New York Thomas Marks
Ohio
Ontario Darryl Choronzey
Pennsylvania
Wisconsin

Voting will again be conducted by First Class mail only. Ballots will be mailed in September, votes counted and results announced in late October or November. Send nominations to: Nominating Committee, staff@great-lakes.org. ✧



• Established 1972 •

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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

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Address Change:

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Policy for the ocean, coasts and Great Lakes still a concern

We're told the White House is no longer receiving any public comments. However, there is this additional information, including some testimony before a Congressional committee earlier this month:

"The head of NOAA announced last week there are no plans to end fishing and the National Marine Fisheries Service chief stressed that the administration "is committed to adopting policies that will ensure that current and future generations have the opportunity to enjoy the great tradition of recreational fishing."

"Both commercial and recreational fishing are vitally important to this nation," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief Jane Lubchenco told a House panel Wednesday (March 10). "We are not proposing any blanket ban on recreational fishing. I would strongly oppose that, and it is not in the works."

"The goal of the key players in the process, specifically the Pew Environment Group and its minions, is to attempt to implement through Executive Order what they had failed to accomplish through the legislative

process," said Jim Donofrio, Recreational Fishing Alliance Executive Director. "We welcome those organizations who feel disenfranchised by the task force to join us in working to prevent what is the usurpation of the management of this nation's fisheries, oceans, coastal waters and the Great Lakes for ideological reasons," Donofrio said.

"Recreational fishermen have been watching fisheries management in this country literally get hijacked by preservationists," Donofrio said this week in response to the national news headlines indicating the president was going to ban recreational fishing. "I don't think this president would consider banning recreational fishing outright, but it's clear to us that the Obama Administration would like to severely restrict recreational fishing." Donofrio said RFA and others are troubled by the number of staffers within the Administration who have direct ties to Pew.

Lubchenco is a past member of the Pew Oceans Commission, the steering committee of the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative, and a director of the Monterey Bay

Aquarium, SeaWeb, and Environmental Defense all of which are Pew funding recipients.

The administration is drafting plans for a new ocean policy and marine planning system. The inter-agency ocean task force has released draft plans that would set ocean conservation as a top national priority and lay the groundwork for marine planning. The group is working on final recommendations. The plan could eventually lead to efforts to map the sea for different uses, but draft reports from the group made no suggestions to ban fishing.

"These draft reports are not map-drawing exercises, they do not contain a zoning plan, and they do not establish any restrictions on recreational fishing or on public access, nor make any judgments about whether one ocean activity or use is better than another," said CEQ spokeswoman Christine Glunz.

The final report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force is due out at the end of the month. We'll soon see if the administration plans to do just what is outlined above or commit political suicide... ✧

Ohio adds fish attractors

Northeast Ohio has some of the best places to fish in the state. But, more often than not, finding fish on some of the larger lakes can be difficult due to the lack of structure. Now, thanks to collaboration between the Ohio DOW and the Mahoning County Green Team, anglers who fish Atwood Reservoir (Carroll/Tuscarawas counties) will have an area where fish may be concentrated.

Crews from the DOW recently placed fish attractors consisting of recycled Christmas trees in Atwood Reservoir, with some 178 structures introduced into an area of the lake that would not normally attract fish. "Holiday trees make excellent fish attractors due to their complexity, and they should be fully working when

our new crappie regulations come into effect on March 1." says Matt Wolfe, Fisheries Biologist who oversees this project for the Division of Wildlife.

The tree structures can be found at the following locations:

► 164 structures from N 40° 32' 21.7" / W 81° 15' 37.1" to N 40° 32' 24.9" / W 81° 15' 42.3"

► 14 structures underneath the handicap fishing pier located inside Atwood Lake Park (N 40° 32' 23.9" / W 81° 15' 45.7")

The map datum on your GPS unit should be set at NAD 83 to find the structures and the coordinates provided are in degrees, minutes, and seconds.

The goal of this project is to introduce 500 structures into the

waters of Northeastern Ohio annually in order to recruit the next generation of anglers and retain the anglers who already enjoy the sport of fishing. These efforts came at minimal cost to the Division and its constituents since the used block were donated and the holiday trees were recycled through the Mahoning County Green Team www.greanteam.cc. To view pictures of the structure placements, go to the Wildlife News Release page at www.wildohio.com. Structure locations in other Northeast Ohio lakes can be found at the Northeast Ohio Fishing Prospects page at www.wildohio.com. For other inquiries, contact the Wildlife District Three office in Akron at (330) 644-2293. ✧

New firearms possession rules on wildlife refuges

Effective February 22, 2010, the rules governing possession of firearms on National Wildlife Refuges changed as a result of legislation enacted by Congress. The law now allows an individual to lawfully possess a firearm within the boundaries of a National Wildlife Refuge in accordance with federal and state firearms laws.

As directed by this new law, the USFWS will look to the laws of the state in which the refuge or refuge unit is located to govern possession of firearms on the refuge. Visitors will be allowed to possess firearms on National Wildlife Refuges provided they comply with applicable provisions of both federal and state

law. Persons with firearm “carry” permits will be able to possess firearms on a refuge in accordance with the provisions of the state issued permit. The new law applies to all 551 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, as well as the National Monuments and the 392 units of the National Park System.

While possession on a refuge may generally be allowed under state law, possession of firearms will remain prohibited in Federal facilities. Examples include: visitor centers, refuge administrative office buildings, refuge maintenance offices and workshops, field and backcountry offices, ranger stations and fee collection stations.

The law does not differentiate between concealed handguns under state permit and long guns (rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders) and it applies to all firearms, which are defined as a weapon designed to fire a projectile by the use of an explosive charge. All Federal firearms statutes remain unchanged.

Nearly 40 million people visit National Wildlife Refuges each year, generating almost \$1.7 billion in sales for regional economies. In addition to wildlife observation, many refuges provide rich opportunities for hiking, canoeing, hunting and fishing. To learn more about visiting a National Wildlife Refuge go to: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/visitors/>. ✧

EPA wants public comments on Vessel Water Discharges Report

WASHINGTON – The USEPA is seeking public comments on a draft report that, when made final, will provide Congress with information it may use for the regulation of incidental discharges from certain vessels. The types of vessels in the study included fishing vessels, tugboats, water taxis, tour boats, towing and salvage vessels, small research vessels, a fire boat and a supply boat. Incidental vessel discharges including deck run-off, gray water and other types of discharges may have a potential negative impact on water quality.

The draft report summarizes the primary pollutant concentrations in the discharges sampled and evaluates the potential environmental impact of these discharges on large water bodies. For the draft report, EPA sampled wastewater discharges and gathered shipboard process information from 61 vessels. Vessels were sampled in 15 separate cities and towns in nine states across multiple geographic regions.

Public comments on the draft report, “Study of Discharges Incidental to Normal Operation of Commercial Fishing Vessels and Other Non-Recreational Vessels Less

than 79 Feet,” will be accepted for 30 days following publication in the Federal Register. EPA will then consider the comments and finalize the report for submission to Congress.

Congress requested EPA to do the report in 2008.

More info: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/vessels/reportcongress.cfm>,
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-4828.htm>

[EPA-HQ-OW-2009-0828; FRL-9123-6]

Draft Report to Congress: Study of Discharges Incidental to Normal Operation of Commercial Fishing Vessels and Other Non-Recreational Vessels Less Than 79 Feet

SUMMARY:

This notice provides the public with notification that EPA has prepared a draft Report to Congress: Study of Discharges Incidental to Normal Operation of Commercial Fishing Vessels and Other Non-Recreational Vessels Less than 79'. EPA conducted the study and is publishing this draft report to seek public comment prior to finalizing the report. This draft report presents the information required by Public Law 110-299 on the types of wastewater

discharged from commercial fishing vessels and non-recreational vessels less than 79 ft long. The draft report can be accessed in its entirety at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels>.

This notice is being issued to obtain public comment on the draft report.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 7, 2010. http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/vessels_rtc_exec_summary.pdf

Sampled Discharges

EPA sampled a total of nine discharge types from the various vessel classes listed above.

These included:

- Bilgewater
 - Stern tube packing gland effluent
 - Deck runoff and/or washdown Page 1-22, 3-37 to 3-121
 - Fish hold effluent (both refrigerated seawater effluent and ice slurry)
 - Effluent from the cleaning of fish holds
 - Graywater Page 1-28, 3-165 to 3-191
 - Propulsion and generator engine effluent Page 1-23, 3-192 to 3-368
 - Engine dewinterizing effluent
 - Firemain
- ✧

WI Youth Turkey Hunt takes place April 10

MADISON – The 4th annual spring Wisconsin Youth Turkey Hunt is set for April 10-11, and is intended to give youth hunters (both residents and non-residents) an opportunity to hunt turkeys and gain valuable hunting experience. The youth hunt occurs each year, and is held the weekend prior to the opening Wednesday of the spring turkey season.

Youth ages 12-15 who have successfully completed a hunter education program and have purchased a 2010 spring turkey license, 2010 turkey stamp, and have a valid carcass tag for spring 2010 may participate in the 2-day youth hunt.

A full set of regulations for the youth hunt is available in the 2010 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations. More info including the criteria for a qualified adult mentor can be found on the youth turkey hunting page of the DNR Web site.

For more info: Scott Hull: (608) 267-7861, Sharon Fandel: (608) 261-8458, or Krista McGinley: (608) 264-8963. ✧

New Minn license regs

Later this year the transaction fee for resident licenses that do not require a registration tag and are purchased from the DNR's Web site will drop from \$3.50 to 3% of the cost of the license, plus a \$1 agent fee. The transaction fee for a resident annual fishing license, for example, will be only 54¢. That's likely less than it would cost to drive to a license vendor. DNR licenses will continue to be available 24 hours a day by simply placing a toll-free call to 888-665-4236.

The DNR intends to reduce the number of terminals it distributes to license vendors from about 1,750 to 1,600. This reduction will generate about \$1 million in savings over five years. The DNR will maintain an efficient distribution of terminals throughout the state. ✧

FWS director dies on ski trip

The director of the USFWS passed away Saturday, February 20. Sam Hamilton died suddenly while skiing in Colorado after a regional leadership meeting, which had ended Friday.

Hamilton, 54, was a career FWS employee. He was sworn in as the 15th director of the service on September 1, last year. He began his career at age 15 when he worked on refuges as a Youth Conservation Corps volunteer repairing fences in Mississippi. Throughout his career Hamilton held many positions within the FWS including Director of the FWS Southeast Region, and also served as the agency's state administrator in Texas, where he oversaw implementation of the Endangered Species Act. He was a Mississippi native and graduate of Mississippi State U. ✧

WI Boating safety classes available

It's not too early for people to start thinking about safe boating next summer: boating safety classes begin around the state in mid February, with courses running through summer.

A Wisconsin boating safety certification or out of state equivalent certification is required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 to operate a power boat on Wisconsin waters. The boating safety course objectives include reducing the potential for boat accidents, injuries and fatalities, reducing the potential for conflict between different types of boating activities and others on the water, and promoting safe, responsible, and ethical use of the environment and our resources.

For more info: [boating safety, boating safety education](#) courses, and a [searchable directory of upcoming safety education courses](#) is available on the DNR Web site, or Roy Zellmer: (608) 264-8970. ✧

Early WI trout season opened March 6

MADISON – Trout anglers will find new maps, loosened tackle regulations, and dozens of new trout waters for the early trout season, which opened March 6. Anglers are not required to use barbless hooks. Artificial lures and flies are still required. Wisconsin's official list of classified trout streams has been updated and contains 58 more streams. Most of those 260 miles are found in west central and southern Wisconsin counties.

New online maps and interactive maps will make all of the trout waters easier to find and provide other info to increase anglers' success. The season runs until midnight April 25.

"It should be a good season," says Larry Claggett, DNR trout specialist. "Trout populations have recovered from the floods of 2007 and 2008, we've identified new trout waters for anglers to try, and our new maps should make it easier to get to trout waters once the snow melts." ✧

Sturgeon Season ends quickly on Black Lake

It took just 30 minutes into the second day of the season for anglers to harvest the five-sturgeon quota from Black Lake. Spear fishermen took four fish during the first six-hour day of fishing. This year, the DNRE allowed open access to spearing instead of issuing a limited number of permits. Officials registered 255 anglers for Saturday's opener (Feb. 6) and 169 on Sunday. Successful anglers were required to register their fish immediately with the DNRE. The season closed when the fifth fish was taken Sunday morning.

Sturgeon taken ranged from 28 lbs. to a 104 lb., 75" specimen. "The season worked out very well," said DNRE fisheries biologist Tim Cwalinski. "We were able to allow a lot more participation and still protect the sturgeon population. We received nothing but positive comments from the public." ✧

Feds outline plan to nurse Great Lakes to health

CHICAGO (AP) – The Obama administration has developed a five-year blueprint for rescuing the Great Lakes, a sprawling ecosystem plagued by toxic contamination, shrinking wildlife habitat and invasive species.

The plan envisions spending more than \$2.2 billion for long-awaited repairs after a century of damage to the lakes, which hold 20 percent of the world's fresh water. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the document, which Lisa Jackson, head of the EPA, was releasing at a news conference Sunday in Washington. "We're committed to creating a new standard of care that will leave the Great Lakes better for the next generation," Jackson said in a statement.

Among the goals is a "zero tolerance policy" toward future invasions by foreign species, including the Asian carp. Others include cleanup of the region's most heavily polluted sites, restoring wetlands and other crucial habitat, and improving water quality in shallow areas, where runoff from cities and farms has led to unsightly

algae blooms and beach closings. Also promised is a strategy for monitoring the ecosystem's health and holding federal agencies accountable for carrying out the plan.

During his 2008 campaign, Barack Obama pledged \$5 billion over a decade toward fulfilling a Great Lakes cleanup wish list developed by a coalition of agencies, scientists and activists. Congress last year approved his request for a first installment of \$475 million. The newly released plan assumes yearly appropriations of the same amount through 2014, except for the \$300 million President Obama requested this month in his 2011 budget.

The 41-page plan sets out ecological targets and specific actions to be taken by 16 federal agencies working with state, local and tribal governments and private groups.

Among the goals it seeks by 2014: finishing work at five toxic hot spots that have languished on cleanup lists for two decades; a 40 percent reduction in the rate at which invasive species are discovered in the lakes; measurable decreases in phosphorus

runoff; and protection of nearly 100,000 wetland acres.

It also will help save species such as the lake sturgeon, a prehistoric fish that can reach 8 ft. long and 200 lbs. but is endangered because of over-harvesting and habitat degradation. The plan promises to provide 25,000 young sturgeon for stocking programs.

Combined with enforcement of environmental rules and new ones where needed, officials said the plan would help make Great Lakes fish safe to eat, their waters suitable for drinking and swimming, and their native plants and animals thriving.

The lakes provide drinking water to more than 30 million people and are the backbone of a regional economy dependent on tourism, outdoor recreation, and shipping and manufacturing.

Cameron Davis, EPA's senior adviser on the Great Lakes, said about \$58 million in restoration funds would go to the carp battle this year. But invasive species programs are getting less restoration money than other needs such as toxic cleanups and habitat improvements, he said. ✧

2010 WI Rules Hearing questionnaire available online

The questionnaire package for the 2010 WI DNR Spring Wildlife and Fisheries Proposed Rules Hearing and Annual Conservation Congress and meeting locations is now available for review on the DNR web site.

On April 12, there will be 72 public hearings, one in each county starting at 7 p.m. where individuals interested in natural resources management have an opportunity to provide their input by non-binding vote and testimony to the Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Board and the Conservation Congress on proposed hunting and fishing rule changes and advisory questions.

Printed copies of the questionnaire will be available after March 1. This year, in addition to

DNR service centers, a limited number of copies is being distributed to DNR license vendors. Copies will also be available at the spring hearing locations the night of the hearing.

The spring hearings cover three major areas: elections for county Conservation Congress delegates, proposed wildlife and fisheries rule changes that have been developed through previous Conservation Congress meetings, and Conservation Congress proposals for future rule development.

Among the wildlife rule proposals being considered are: establishing a definition and allow the use of atlatls for small game hunting; establish and clarify definitions of a normal "agricultural or gardening practice" and "manipulation" for the

purposes of enforcing existing prohibitions of baiting and feeding wild animals; and allowing participation in the youth turkey hunting season by 16 and 17 year olds.

Among the fisheries rule change proposals are: permitting motor trolling in Ashland, Iron, Price and Sawyer counties; and changing the open season for anglers targeting game fish on the Chippewa Flowage to one consistent with statewide regulations.

In addition to voicing their opinion on these proposed rule changes, county residents have the option to run for a seat on the Conservation Congress and to elect delegates from their county to represent their views. ✧

WI - Fishing tournament application deadlines coming up

Submit requests starting April 1 for 2011 events

MADISON – Organizers of certain fishing tournaments planning events for 2011 will want to apply for a permit starting April 1, 2010.

“If you plan on holding a fishing tournament in 2011, we recommend that you apply in the open period that starts April 1 and runs through June 30, 2010, to have the best chance of getting your desired dates and waters,” says Joanna Griffin, WI DNR tournament coordinator.

All applications received during the open period will be reviewed by August 1, 2010, and in the unlikely event another tournament conflicts with an organizer’s choice of dates or waters, DNR fisheries biologists will discuss options with the tournament organizers, Griffin says. Permit applications from tournament organizers applying after June 30, 2010, for events in 2011 will be considered on a first-come first-served basis.

NRA Women's Wilderness Escape Sept 23-Oct 1

NRA is hosting its 2nd annual Women's Wilderness Escape scheduled for September 23 – October 1 at the Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico. The cost of this nine-day retreat is \$1,250 and is open to women 18 and older. Fee includes housing, food and all event activities. Transportation is not provided.

All firearms and ammunition are provided. Participants will learn to shoot rifle silhouette, long range high power rifle, black powder rifle, pistol, trap, skeet, sporting clays and archery. Other activities include map reading, camping, survival training, game calling, hunter education and Native American history. Register now as space is limited!

For more info: www.nrahq.org/women/wilderness_escape.asp, or Patty Zollman: (703) 267-1378, pzollman@nrahq.org. ✧

Under the state rule that became effective in May 2009, some tournaments in Wisconsin must get a permit and there is a cap on the maximum amount of tournament fishing allowed on individual waters.

Tournaments need a permit if any of the following apply:

- ▶ Tournament involves 20 or more boats, or 100 or more participants,
- ▶ Tournament targets any trout species on waters classified as trout streams,
- ▶ Tournament is a catch-hold-release tournament with an off-site weigh-in;
- ▶ The total prize value is \$10,000 or greater.
- ▶ An application fee must accompany all permit applications. Fees vary by type of tournament and total prize value.

Organizers can still apply for 2010 tournaments

Tournament organizers can still apply

DNRE reminds anglers about bait restrictions

The Michigan DNRE reminds anglers that the use of salmon eggs or minnows for bait is restricted in some waters as part of a strategy to slow the spread of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS).

Anglers who purchase spawn or minnows for bait should make sure it is certified as disease-free. Certified bait is widely available and can be used anywhere. Uncertified bait may only be used in waters with fish that have tested positive for VHS. Anglers who collect their own salmon eggs for bait from lakes Michigan, Huron or Erie or their tributaries can only use them downstream from the first upstream barrier from the lake. They may not be used on inland lakes.

“There is no known treatment for VHS,” said DNRE official Gary Whelan. “Our best defense against it is trying to prevent and slow its spread.” ✧

for 2010 tournaments, but the DNR must receive completed applications at least 30 days before the start of the applicant’s tournament. These applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more details on the fishing tournament rule, to submit an application, or to view a tournament event calendar, visit the fishing tournaments page of the DNR Web site.

A 2004 law passed in response to growing citizen complaints about tournaments and perceived problems with crowding at boat ramps, concern over fish that died after being caught during tournaments, and other factors, instructed DNR to update tournament fishing rules where there were significant, documented problems.

DNR worked with an advisory group to develop the rules. For more info: Joanna Griffin (608) 264-8953; Jon Hansen (608) 266-6883. ✧

2009 fishing license sales up 4.7%

In 2009 more anglers got out of the house and out on the water as fishing license sales rose by 4.7% in states that participate in the fishing license sales index released by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation and the American Sportfishing Association. Florida, Minnesota, North Carolina and Texas, four of the 12 participating states, are among the top ten states in terms of the impact anglers have on the nation’s economy.

The 12-state index represents recreational fishing in the United States. Eight of those states recorded higher license sales increases from January through December of 2009 over the previous year, according to Southwick Associates, a research firm that monitored the license sales information. ✧

Biologists rush to protect Great Lakes from onslaught of carp

With Asian carp poised to invade Lake Michigan, wildlife managers are urgently trying to figure out how many of the voracious fish have already slipped past electric fish barriers in a waterway near Chicago.

A new plan, released by federal agencies and other groups earlier this month, aims to improve coordination among agencies dealing with the immediate threat and divvies up \$78.5 million for control and research. Meanwhile, scientists and advocacy groups are pushing with renewed effort for what they say is the only long-term solution — and appears to be the consensus among conservationists: severing the connection between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin.

The two invasive species, bighead carp and silver carp, are native to China and were introduced for aquaculture in the southern United States in the 1970s. After escaping, the fast-growing, fecund fish moved up the Mississippi River and its tributaries. In some places, the carp have caused a 90% decline in crustacean zooplankton. In addition, silver carp jump high out of the water when startled and have caused broken bones and concussions in boaters. Although eaten around the world, Asian carp have too many bones for the taste of most U.S. anglers.

Worried about the threat to the \$7 billion recreational fishing industry in the Great Lakes from this and other invasive fish, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1996 to build a prototype electric fish barrier within a key choke point—the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. After testing started in 2002, a second, full-scale barrier was added to help repel any fish that try to swim upstream through it. From monitoring the canal and the Illinois rivers, wildlife managers believed that the invasion front was still 25 to 30 kilometers south of the barriers.

But last year, they got a rude shock. David Lodge, an invasive

species biologist at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, began testing water samples for Asian carp DNA. The team discovered DNA from silver and bighead carp several places above the barriers. Fish biologist and Barrier Advisory Committee Chairman Phil Moy of Wisconsin Sea Grant in Manitowoc, believes the carp may have passed through the barriers a few years ago either during a power outage or when they were down for maintenance, although there is presently no data to substantiate his hypothesis.

Most alarming, in December, Lodge's team found bighead and silver carp DNA in the mouth of the Calumet River—suggesting that some fish could already be in Lake Michigan. “That’s what really lit a fire under everybody’s seat,” says Marc Gaden, legislative liaison of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in Ann Arbor. Biologists did net a silver carp near to where they found DNA.

The most immediate eradication measures are admittedly a stopgap. Over the next few weeks, the USFWS and the IDNR are putting more than 20 staff in up to nine boats for electrofishing and netting the carp, to the tune of \$2.6 million. They are now into their fifth week of surveillance, and so far have not found any additional Asian carp. It is not an easy process. “They are very difficult fish to catch at low density,” cautions biologist Duane Chapman of the USGS in Columbia, MO. “The chances of getting all of them are close to nil.” Still, he says, the more fish kept out of the Great Lakes, the better the chance of preventing an established population.

The strategic plan also includes \$13 million for the corps to speed completion of a third electrical barrier, now expected by October. Another \$13.2 million would accelerate construction of physical barriers on the Des Plaines River and a canal to prevent fish from moving through with floodwaters. Additional funds would go toward developing

selective “bubble” barriers to keep fish from spawning areas in the Chicago-area waterways or, if necessary, in the Great Lakes. There’s also \$1.5 million for USGS to work on formulating fish poison that targets only Asian carp and \$1 million to study pheromones that might help trap or deter carp.

The surest way to prevent carp from getting established, scientists say and conservationists agree, is to achieve “ecological separation” by creating physical barriers to water flow between Lake Michigan and the main populations of Asian carp south of the Lockport Locks. That might pose problems for the 50,000 or so recreational and commercial boats that pass through the Chicago River Lock each year. One option, say advocates, is to lift the boats over, but the American Waterways Operators opposes any substantial changes. In December, Michigan’s attorney general sued the state of Illinois, demanding that the canal locks be closed, but the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

Lodge and others say that an investment in separating the waterways would pay off by also preventing other invasive species, such as the northern snakehead fish, from reaching the Great Lakes—and reducing the odds that any of the more than 180 invaders in the lakes will travel inland via rivers. “It’s far more expensive to always be reacting” to invasions, he says.

As part of the new plan, the Army Corps has moved up the deadline for its comprehensive study of how to prevent the movement of invasive species between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin to 2012. That’s not fast enough for Gaden and others. “We don’t have the time,” he says. There will be quicker action, according the strategic plan: By 30 April, the corps could begin modifying Chicago River Lock operations—opening it for only a few days a week, for example—to reduce the chance of carp getting through. ✧

2009 Harvest summary by port, Lake Michigan

2009 Harvest summary by port, Lake Michigan (major species only), does not include charter boats.

SITE	Brn trout	Chinook	Coho	Lke trout	Herrin g	Whitefis h	Steelhea d	Walleye	Y. perch
Menominee Harbor	46	3,181	0	32	0	21	379	1,658	4,063
Stoney Point	0	364	0	0	0	0	0	30	0
Cedar River	29	2,478	0	0	0	0	166	573	0
Little Bay de Noc	0	378	0	0	0	1,633	0	9,191	24,468
Big Bay de Noc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	328
Harbor Springs	0	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Petoskey	0	2,289	0	559	0	0	71	0	0
Charlevoix	0	1,287	0	830	0	33	42	0	0
Elk Rapids	43	124	0	0	0	0	182	0	330
E. Gr Traverse Bay	0	2,429	33	1,666	139	4,582	58	0	1,016
W. Gr Traverse Bay	35	3,774	0	2,589	101	1,459	575	28	21,414
Leland	0	1,188	4	602	0	0	8	0	0
Glen Arbor	9	796	51	233	0	0	16	0	0
Platte Bay	121	1,525	1,998	76	0	0	114	0	0
Frankfort/Elberta	818	11,534	852	248	0	0	1,792	0	0
Arcadia	20	2,542	1,403	24	0	0	880	0	0
Onekama	185	5,931	49	707	0	0	2,620	0	0
Manistee	2,641	14,230	633	1,557	0	11	3,594	22	14,652
Ludington	386	20,987	1,472	1,425	0	0	3,416	0	0
Pentwater	255	8,272	396	951	0	0	2,455	0	3,914
Whitehall/Montague	411	9,571	838	991	0	0	1,780	0	5,428
Muskegon	0	12,775	1,192	1,249	0	0	1,835	0	5,147
Grand Haven	267	11,581	2,888	1,499	0	0	4,113	16	57,740
South Haven	73	5,021	629	1,320	0	0	837	0	271,995
Benton Harbor/St. Joe	108	6,227	2,753	1,117	0	1,393	1,578	0	49,956
<i>Total</i>	<i>5,450</i>	<i>128,531</i>	<i>15,191</i>	<i>17,675</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>9,132</i>	<i>26,512</i>	<i>11,534</i>	<i>460,452</i>

Felt-soled shoes banned to prevent spread of diseases

A new ban on felt-soled wading shoes is set to take place as Juneau anglers take to freshwater streams. The ban is meant to keep nasty fish diseases from creeping into waters on waders. A proposal to expand the ban from the Southeast region statewide will be considered by the state Board of Fisheries at its March meeting.

A bill introduced in Vermont would prohibit the manufacture and sale of felt-soled wading boots. ✧

Do not call registry Available for cell phones also

You do not have to register your cell phone to block telemarketing calls. FTC rules prohibit telemarketers from using automatic dialers to call cell phones so most calls would be blocked without registering (see link below). The FTC does allow cell phone registration if you want to prevent calls made without automatic dialers and there is no deadline to register. See FTC document below and its many valuable links www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/donotcall/index.html. ✧

MN switches to touch-screen licensing

Minnesotans who buy their hunting, fishing and other DNR licenses at retail outlets can now do so via a new electronic licensing system. Effective February 18, DNR retail license sales became available on new touch-screen terminals that allow sales clerks to be more efficient when inputting data and outputting licenses.

The DNR switched to electronic-generated licenses in 2000. This is the first major change in license sales and management equipment in 10 years. ✧

WI DNR and spearkers happy with 2010 sturgeon spearing season

OSHKOSH – Spearkers took 1,820 fish during the 2010 sturgeon spearing season on the combined lakes of the Winnebago pool, which includes Lake Winnebago, and the Upriver Lakes — Poygan, Winneconne, and Butte des Morts — before the season closed after six days.

Sturgeon history was made on the first day of this season when the all-time record sturgeon, a 212.2 lb., 84.2" female, was speared by Ron Grishaber of Appleton. It was a record weight not only for Lake Winnebago, but also set new sturgeon spearing record for Wisconsin. On the same day a second record was broken when the largest male sturgeon ever registered in the spearing season, 116.8 lbs., 71", was brought into the Calumet Harbor station on the east shore of Lake Winnebago by spearker Matt Judkins of Mt. Calvary.

The record for the longest fish harvested was in 1951; a 90" that weighed only 118 lbs. A sturgeon spearing season has been held annually on Lake Winnebago since 1932.

"The number of these trophy-size fish has been increasing significantly over the last decade. The increase is due to the impact of harvest regulations implemented over the last 18 years, which were designed to increase survival of these large fish. The 2010 harvest consisted of 270 juvenile females, 801 adult females and 749 males. Eighty-two fish were taken that were 100 lbs. or more. A 100 lb. sturgeon can be anywhere from 65 to 80 years old. This was the 78th consecutive sturgeon season on the big lake. On the Upriver lakes there have been sturgeon spearing seasons held intermittently since 1952, and annually since 2007 with the new lottery system.

There were 10,366 spearing licenses purchased for Lake Winnebago and 494 out of 500 authorized for the Upriver Lakes 2010 sturgeon fishery, up 6.1% from the 2009 season when 9,750 licenses were sold for Lake

Winnebago and 490 for the Upriver Lakes. Spearkers included 179 non-residents (170 for Lake Winnebago and nine for the Upriver Lakes).

Upriver Lakes participation in this season was determined by a lottery for the required sturgeon tag with 500 people selected from 4,228 who submitted an application by August 1, 2009. Sturgeon spearing licenses for the Lake Winnebago season were not limited and were available to those spearkers who purchased them by October 31, 2009. The department reported there were 4,527 shacks on the ice on opening day.

The average success rate on the Upriver Lakes is 61.4%. The success rate on Lake Winnebago averages 13.4%. On average a spearker on Lake Winnebago harvests a fish every 7 to 8 years, although some have gone 20-30 before taking their first fish. A person applying for the Upriver Lakes lottery fishery will get a tag about every 8 years. ✧



Ron Grishaber of Wisconsin poses with his state record-setting sturgeon that weighed 212.2 lbs. Photo: Ross Bielema

IL DNR plans to stock more fish in Rock River

Catfish among target species for 2010

STERLING, IL – The Illinois DNR is developing plans to stock flathead catfish and channel catfish in the Rock River later this year as part of a continuing effort to speed the recovery of the river's fishery in the aftermath of a June 2009 fish kill.

Tens of thousands of sport fish were lost in the Rock River fish kill event first reported on June 20-21, 2009. At that time, dead fish were discovered in the Rock River in an area from two miles north of Grand Detour to 50 miles downstream at Prophetstown.

The IDNR stocked the river with smallmouth bass and northern pike

last summer and channel catfish last fall in the aftermath of the fish kill.

"The Rock River fishery is very important to the local anglers and to the communities along the river," said Dan Sallee, IDNR Fisheries official. Although the fishery is expected to fully recover, the public would like to see all possible efforts made to speed this recovery."

IDNR fisheries biologists this spring plan to collect and relocate up to 100 pairs of flathead catfish into areas of the Rock River that were affected by the fish kill. At the same time, IDNR personnel will relocate pre-spawn channel catfish to the same

area of the Rock River, and further supplement the channel catfish population by stocking small fish from state hatcheries.

"Individual female flathead catfish may lay 100,000 eggs or more. If only one in 1,000 of these eggs survives and thrives, this stocking level would result in an increase of up to 10,000 flathead catfish in the population," Sallee said. "This number of spawning pairs should speed the recovery of the fish kill zone. The channel catfish stocking will also be beneficial." ✧

Lakes in Great Lakes region healthier

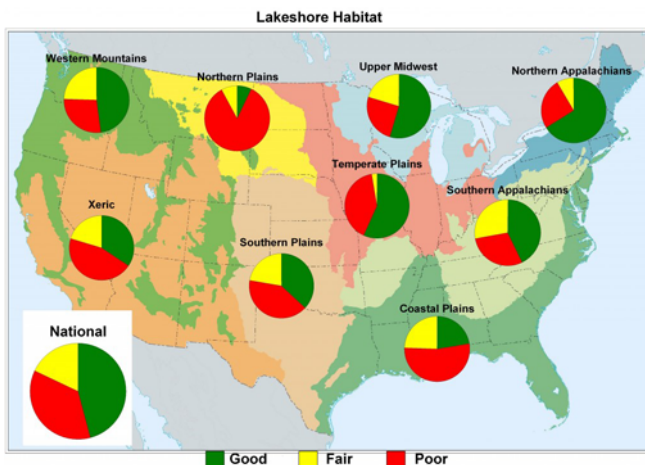
Researchers found mercury and PCB contaminants in every fish they sampled across the country, according to the USEPA's first national lakes assessment that used consistent criteria. Fish in about half of all lakes had dangerous mercury levels. And 17% of lakes had fish whose flesh contained health-threatening concentrations of PCBs.

The overall condition of U.S. lakes is less than encouraging, but the study found thriving lakes in much of the Great Lakes region. About 90% of the lakes in the upper Midwest — including those in most of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan — support healthy aquatic life.

“That speaks to our having some precious resources here that we need to make sure we’re protecting and maintaining into the future,” said Tim Asplund, a Wisconsin DNR limnologist. Researchers found that more than four of every 10 U.S. lakes are in only fair or poor condition, including about 90% of lakes in the northern plains.

The sample of more than 1,000 lakes across the lower 48 states, excluding the Great Lakes and the Great Salt Lake, found that man-made lakes are in far worse condition than natural lakes. Toxin and contamination levels may make lake enthusiasts’ skin crawl.

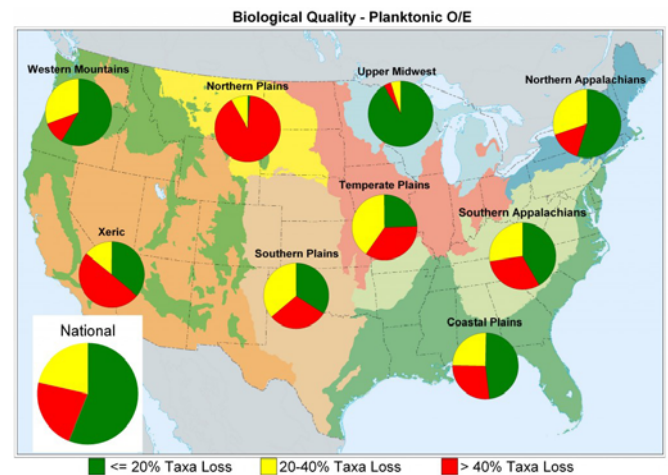
The study was the first to examine toxins produced by algae nationwide. It showed at least a moderate risk of exposure to swimmers in more than a quarter of all lakes. While rarely producing severe health effects in humans, the toxins can produce skin rashes, eye irritations, respiratory symptoms, liver and kidney failure or death, according to the EPA. Pets and livestock can die from drinking the affected water.



Fish in about half of all lakes had dangerous mercury levels, and 17% of lakes had fish whose flesh contained health-threatening concentrations of PCBs, which have been banned in the U.S. for more than 30 years. Exposure to high levels of mercury can permanently damage the brain, kidneys and developing fetus, according to the

Center for Disease Control. PCB exposure can cause skin irritation to adults and behavioral changes in children. The chemicals have caused cancer in animals.

Knowing where contaminant levels are dangerous helps natural resource managers investigate and address the sources, said Sarah Lehmann, the EPA’s national aquatic resource survey team leader. The study showed that poor lakeshore habitat is the biggest problem in the nation’s lakes, affecting the health of one-third of all lakes surveyed. Lakes with poor lakeshore habitat were three times more likely to be unhealthy.



The Wisconsin DNR estimates that developed sites not separated from lakes by vegetation contribute five times more runoff, seven times more phosphorous and 18 times more sediment — all biological stressors — to a lake than do naturally forested sites.

“These poor habitats negatively impact aquatic life forms, as well as the wildlife that depend on the water bodies,” said Amber Finkelstein, spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Asplund said the study doesn’t mean people can’t develop or live near lakes. “It’s how do we use best management practices?” Asplund said. “If we live next to a lake, how can we live lightly in a way that protects those natural resources?” ✧

Supreme Court reconsiders

Continued from page 1

and the justices' decision on the injunction could signal whether they are receptive to that broader request.

Cox’s office confirmed March 16 that the Supreme Court will reconsider his injunction request on March 19, and that the court is scheduled to consider Cox’s larger request to reopen the Chicago diversion case on April 16. ✧

Lawsuit challenges EPA Global Warming Regulations

After lead global warming scientist admits data sloppiness, no warming

Washington, D.C., Feb. 16, 2009 – In two separate filings on February 16, the Competitive Enterprise Institute challenged massive energy regulations forthcoming from the Environmental Protection Agency. The actions come in the wake of damaging disclosures this week by Phil Jones, head of the disgraced British Climate Research Unit, who reversed himself on several basic issues in a BBC interview.

CEI, along with nonprofit ally FreedomWorks and the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP), filed a lawsuit in federal appeals court challenging EPA plans to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. The lawsuit asks the court to review the EPA's regulation.

In addition, CEI joined with SEPP and the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change in updating its petition demanding that EPA reconsider its decision.

Even though the petition was only filed this past Friday, events over the weekend warranted a new supplement. In a weekend interview with the BBC, Phil Jones admitted that there's been no statistically significant warming over the past 15 years and that, in fact, there's been some cooling over the last eight years. He also acknowledged that a big chunk of original historical climate data has been lost. And a new study released Tuesday found no increase in storms over the last 60 years.

The new filing with EPA on Tuesday, hours before the deadline for such petitions, formally brought these late-breaking events into the legal debate. CEI and its allies are urging the EPA reconsider its economy-crushing regulations.

"EPA states that 'the greatest warming occurred over the last 30 years,'" the petitioners state. "But according to Dr. [Phil] Jones, for the

periods 1860-1880, 1910-1940, 1975-1998, and 1975-2009, the warming rates did not show any accelerating trends. In his words, 'the warming rates for all 4 periods are similar and not statistically significantly different from each other.'"

"If there has been no change in warming rates, this contradicts one of EPA's basic contentions," the petitioners point out.

Last Friday CEI, together with the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change and the Science and Environmental Policy Project, petitioned EPA to reconsider its Endangerment Finding. ClimateGate has severely undermined EPA's alleged justification for regulating carbon dioxide, but events since then have done still more damage to EPA's case. Apparently, those events show no signs of letting up. ✧

Global warming snow job

The Washington Times Editorial February 11, 2010

Record snowfall illustrates the obvious: The global warming fraud is without equal in modern science.

The fundamental problems exposed about climate-change theory undermine the very basis of scientific inquiry. Huge numbers of researchers refuse to provide their data to other scientists. Some referenced data is found not to have existed. The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 report that global warming activists continually cite invented a large number of purported facts. Consider a few of the problems with the U.N. report that came to light over the past few weeks.

► The Himalayan glaciers were supposed to disappear as soon as 2035. The United Nations didn't base this hysteria on an academic study. Instead, it relied on a news

story that interviewed a single Indian glaciologist in 1999. Syed Hasnain, the glaciologist in question, says he was misquoted and provided no date to the reporter. The doomsday account was simply made up, and the United Nations never bothered to confirm the claim.

► Because of purported global warming, the world supposedly "suffered rapidly rising costs due to extreme weather-related events since the 1970s." The U.N. cited one unpublished study to prove this. When the research eventually was published in 2008 after the IPCC report was released, the authors backpedaled: "We find insufficient evidence to claim a statistical relationship between global temperature increase and catastrophe losses."

► Up to 40 percent of the Amazon

rain forest was said to be at risk because of rising global temperatures. Again, the U.N. didn't cite any academic studies but merely one non-refereed report authored by two non-scientists, one of whom worked for the World Wildlife Fund, an activist organization.

► The U.N. dramatically claimed that 55% of the Netherlands is below sea level when the accurate portion is 26%.

Getting facts wrong and citing dubious sources isn't the worst of it. Rajendra K. Pachauri, the U.N.'s climate chief, remained silent when he knew information was false and denied he had been aware of the Himalayan glaciers error before the recent climate-change summit in Copenhagen, which made a big deal about this nonexistent crisis. He only grudgingly came partly clean when

Pallava Bagla, a writer for the journal Science, pointed to e-mail correspondence from last autumn showing Mr. Pachauri already knew of the fraud.

Adolescent name-calling further exposes the weakness of the case for man-made global warming and how desperate the leaders of this cult are becoming. On February 3, Mr. Pachauri defended the fudged IPCC report and slandered critics as "people who deny the link between

smoking and cancer; they are people who say that asbestos is as good as talcum powder. I hope that they apply [asbestos] to their faces every day." This nasty piece of work tries to redirect attention away from his phony science by blaming skepticism about climate change on "business interests" that "spread a lot of disinformation."

Man-made global warming theory isn't backed up by science; it's a hoax. The fact that the world has

been asked to spend tens of trillions of dollars on global warming solutions without being able to evaluate the data upon which the claims were made should have been the first warning that something was seriously wrong. The public and world leaders have been sold expensive snake oil by charlatans like Mr. Pachauri, It's time to admit its all baloney and move on. ✧

End

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Sex hormones tested in fight against lamprey](#)

The next phase of the decades-long fight against sea lamprey was expected to begin Monday when researchers were to pump a man-made love potion into more streams after experiments from last spring showed it helped lure the lamprey into traps.

[EPA issues stricter limitations on fish](#)

The Ohio EPA released new, stricter limitations on fish consumption in local waterways, advising anglers to limit meals of Lake Erie-caught channel catfish and common carp larger than 27 inches to once every two months because of PCB levels.

[Will Canada's wind turbines invade lakes?](#)

A proposal to put 700 wind turbines along the shores of Lakes St. Clair and Erie is provoking controversy in Canada and the U.S. Residents on both sides of the border are worried about how the windmills would affect shoreline property values, fishing, boating and bird migration.

[State matching money needed or St. Louis River National Estuary project dies](#)

The St. Louis River would be the 28th National Estuarine Research Reserve in the country and the 2nd on the Great Lakes. The reserve would bring in \$550,000 in federal grants each year. To get those dollars the state needs to offer a 30% match, or about \$236,000 annually.

[Coast Guard acknowledges Lake Winnebago, Fox River under its jurisdiction; responsibility for buoys, including Buoy 100, still uncertain](#)

The entire Fox River system from Portage to its outlet into Lake Michigan at Green Bay remains navigable waters of the U.S. generally subject to Coast Guard jurisdiction. A coalition wants the Coast Guard to resume responsibility for the buoys after a 23-year absence.

[Almost \\$2 million available to help endangered, threatened species in Great Lakes region](#)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced a request for project proposals under the Endangered Species Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Up to \$1.85 million in grants is available for projects that benefit federally endangered, threatened, candidate or at-risk species.

[\\$5 million stimulus money for tourist attractions caps long campaign](#)

Long campaigns by municipalities, residents and Sault MP Tony Martin paid off with the Canadian federal government investing \$2.6 million on the Sault Ste. Marie canal for draining, repairing, maintaining and upgrading the recreational lock.

[Carp hearing makes progress in blocking fish from Great Lakes](#)

Commercial shipping interests from Indiana and Illinois signaled they'd be willing to support an ecological separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds, so long as it didn't interrupt the flow of commercial shipping traffic using Chicago waterways.

[EPA admits blame for invasive species](#)

The 41-page "Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan" released this week by the Environmental Protection Agency acknowledges that, until recently, the agency hasn't done enough to keep invasive species out of the Great Lakes.

[COMMENTARY: Great goals for the Great Lakes](#)

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a truly bipartisan and binational enterprise, involving leaders and groups from eight states, innumerable communities, the two major U.S. political parties plus our neighbors in Canada.

[EDITORIAL: Timely help for Lakes](#)

Finally, a presidential administration is putting real money where its mouth is when it comes to the Great Lakes.

[EDITORIAL: Great Lakes get attention](#)

The ecosystem of the Great Lakes is unique. It holds 20 percent of the world's fresh water supply, yet it has been treated with disregard for a century. President Obama, as he pledged during his election campaign, is at last doing what has long been needed.

[EDITORIAL: Keeping the lakes great](#)

Canadians are finally able to cheer some solid political leadership in one of our most important environmental areas: protecting the Great Lakes.

[Mute swans muscling way in along Lake Ontario](#)

Mute swans tend to stay in the same area year-round, moving only as far as necessary to find open water in winter. A New York project that put neckbands on some of these invasive, non-native birds to track their movements has definitely confirmed that.

[Sea Grant funds sea lamprey, lake trout research](#)

Despite 70 years of control efforts, a University of Wisconsin researcher said climate change and a warming Lake Superior could lead to a rise of the invasive-and destructive-sea lamprey.

[To raise a trout](#)

An \$890,000 appropriation from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will improve fish recruitment at the Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery near Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and provide a shot in the arm to the local economy.

[Asian carp fishing unlikely to net much](#)

An aggressive - and expensive - Asian carp fishing expedition on the Chicago canal system likely will prove fruitless, say top carp experts.

[Waukegan mayor hammers home harbor cleanup plan](#)

Cleanup of the contaminated Outboard Marine Corp. plant, expected to cost \$21 million, is one of several continuing pollution remediation projects for the Waukegan Harbor area in Illinois along Lake Michigan.

[Scientists to explore sex lives of gobies; study aims to control invasive fish](#)

University of Windsor researchers are hoping to exploit an invasive species' romantic side — and save the Great Lakes sport fishery in the process.

[COMMENTARY: Federal policy can better protect Great Lakes](#)

Like a Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act, a national ocean and Great Lakes policy will improve the health of these environmental and economic engines through better coordination, and will amplify the public's voice in keeping them healthy.

[The politics of the carp crisis](#)

Most of us now know there's a possibility that Asian carp could establish themselves in Lake Michigan, and then move into other Great Lakes, potentially wiping out the \$7 billion-plus fishing industry. This saga also offers some significant insight into how government works ... and doesn't work.

[Great Lakes boosters are carping for restoration money in D.C.](#)

More than 100 people from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are traveling to D.C. this week to press for items including continued funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

[Illinois seeks to block new Michigan move in Asian carp battle](#)

Illinois' attorney general asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to uphold its earlier decision not to force the state to close Chicago-area shipping locks to prevent the spread of Asian carp, arguing that Michigan's renewed pleas were unfounded.

[EDITORIAL: Healing the Great Lakes](#)

Congress should try to restore as much of the financing for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as possible. And the administration must make clear to all of the agencies and governments involved that it is truly committed to seeing this ambitious project through.

[Grand Calumet left off list of sites for cleanup money](#)

Environmentally challenged areas in six out of eight Great Lakes states will get special attention and funding as a result of a federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative revealed Monday. But the Grand Calumet River, originating in Gary, Ind., isn't among them.

[EDITORIAL: Seeing the wind](#)

Wind power is sneaking up on Ontario in a way we haven't seen before, and by and large this is something to be celebrated — except the price.

[Groups like Obama's Great Lakes plan, but funding an issue](#)

The Obama administration's Great Lakes restoration plan is getting favorable marks in the upper Midwest, but many details, including most of the funding, remain to be worked out.

[Parameters of electrical field in carp controversy questioned](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is investigating whether the electrical field generated by the underwater barriers designed to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes has extended into adjacent land near the barrier site in Romeoville, Ill.

[Cox not swayed by latest carp proposal from Obama administration](#)

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox says there's no sense of urgency in President Obama's plan for dealing with Asian carp. The voracious fish have been found in shipping channels near Lake Michigan.

[Asian Carp meeting video](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on behalf of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, held a meeting in Chicago on February 12, 2010 to discuss plans and get recommendations on Asian carp control efforts. This is the archive of the live video webcast of the

[Healing the Great Lakes](#)

The Obama administration's plan to rescue and repair the Great Lakes, which are in desperate condition, will depend on strong and sustained leadership.

[American eel said to be caught in perfect storm of extinction](#)

The lowly American eel may not be the cuddliest of creatures, but it is an important indicator species when it comes to the overall health of the Great Lakes. The bad news is that it has all but disappeared.

[EDITORIAL: We can't surrender lakes to Asian carp](#)

The Obama administration last week unveiled its \$78.5 million plan to block the Asian carp from decimating the Great Lakes. While the plan has many positive aspects, the question is whether it goes far enough to protect the Great Lakes' annual \$7 billion fishing industry.

[EDITORIAL: Don't allow carp to reach Lake Erie](#)

The debate taking place in Chicago these days surrounding how and whether to stop destructive Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes might seem like a far-off issue, but it really isn't when you consider Lake Michigan is a relatively short swim from Lake Erie.

[Worst ice jam since 1984 clogs St. Clair River](#)

Slow-moving chunks of ice in the St. Clair River have created dire consequences along miles of the waterway in recent weeks, tearing apart docks, threatening Great Lakes shipping and leaving some wondering whether the start to boating season will be delayed.

[Vern Ehlers says Asian carp have been concern for 12 years](#)

U.S. Rep. Vern Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, Monday said Michigan residents need to recognize that the Asian carp threat is real and imminent.

[Asian carp may swallow federal Great Lakes cleanup funding](#)

At least one Michigan lawmaker is concerned a \$2.2 billion plan to protect the Great Lakes sacrifices cleanup projects for controlling the latest scourge, keeping Asian carp out of Lake Michigan.

[Indiana joins Asian carp fight](#)

Indiana joined with Michigan, asking the high court to appoint a special master to judge the merits of closing Chicago-area navigational locks to prevent Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan. However, Indiana did not endorse closing the locks, saying it might not be enough to...

[County Legislature calls upon NYS to protect Waterways from impacts of Asian Carp](#)

The head of Oswego County's tourism department is urging the county legislature to call upon the state to do more to protect the region's waterways from the potential impacts of Asian carp. Dave Turner, Director of Tourism for Oswego County, said recreational fishing tourism

[Indiana AG to file brief supporting Asian Carp suit](#)

Indiana's attorney general is preparing to file a legal brief supporting Michigan's lawsuit aimed at keeping the Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. AG Greg Zoeller says he'll file a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday supporting at least in part Michigan's lawsuit.

[Biologists intensify hunt for Asian carp near lake](#)

Fisheries biologists launched the next phase in the hunt for Asian carp on Wednesday, using nets and electric current to corral fish in warm-water discharges along the Chicago Sanitary/Ship Canal. Crews from the Illinois DNR and USFWS will continue searching for Asian carp for two...

[U.S. commits millions to halt Asian carp](#)

WASHINGTON (AP) – Navigational locks and gates in Chicago-area waterways crucial for commercial shipping may be opened less frequently than usual in a stepped-up campaign to prevent Asian carp from overrunning the Great Lakes, federal officials said Monday.

[700 wind turbines proposed for Lakes Erie, St. Clair](#)

Seven hundred offshore wind turbines are being proposed for Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, including wind farms off Amherstburg, Colchester, Kingsville and Leamington, Ontario.

[Hunting for invasives dates back a few decades](#)

Asian carp, the latest invasive threat, has made its way to Chicago via canals leading to the Mississippi River. In the past, most invasives arrived by way of the man-made St. Lawrence Seaway that links the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes.

[In carp debate, anglers, boaters bicker with tour, barge operators](#)

Anglers and boaters from Michigan skirmished with tour and barge operators from Illinois throughout the three-hour hearing in Ypsilanti, Mich., over whose interests should come first in the carp debate.

[Closing the Carp Highway](#)

A federal plan to keep Asian carp, a ravenous invasive species, from migrating up to the Great Lakes may pose problems, but the alternative is worse.

[Fish Could Threaten Shipping in Northwest Indiana](#)

Leaders at Conexus Indiana, the state's advanced manufacturing initiative, are gravely concerned about the suit, saying the closure of the Chicago locks could have a devastating impact on the Hoosier economy, and closing the locks will block Indiana's only access to the Gulf of Mexico from

[A new phase in the Asian carp hunt](#)

Crews are set to fan out on Chicago-area waterways today. They're looking for signs that invasive Asian carp have hopped a barrier designed to contain the fish.

[Asian-Carp Threat Stirs Rethink of Century-Old Feat](#)

CHICAGO – More than a century ago, this city reversed the flow of its eponymous river, connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico and defining itself as the can-do capital of the American heartland. Today, that engineering feat is coming under growing scrutiny, as scientists and politicians intensify their battle against a voracious

[212-pound monster sturgeon is Wisconsin state record](#)

LAKE WINNEBAGO – Imagine spearing a sturgeon that is 212 pounds and was born when William Taft was president; plus, had never been seen by Department of Natural Resources biologists. That's what happened to Appleton's Ron...

[Great Lakes faces tough choices in carp battle](#)

CHICAGO – More than a century ago, this city reversed the flow of its river, connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico and defining itself as the can-do capital of the American heartland. Today, that engineering feat is coming under growing scrutiny, as scientists...

[Federal carp control strategy is widely criticized](#)

A \$78.5 million dollar federal plan to keep Asian carp from becoming established in the Great Lakes is drawing criticism from diverse groups that say the proposed temporary closure of the locks will disrupt the economy without stopping the spread of aquatic invaders.

[Hoekstra backs plan to keep invasive species like the Asian carp out of the Great Lakes](#)

"It is better to be safe than sorry," said Hoekstra. "Rather than saying, well, the research and technology on this is unproven, and (thus) we're not going to use it, let's use it. Let's believe that it is good, and that it gives us a good insight into exactly what is happening. And if we find out..."

[Lake Erie walleye spawning woes the key to dwindling schools of fish](#)

The schools of Lake Erie walleye have been dwindling over the past decade, and many anglers are demanding closed spring seasons rather than lower daily bag limits.

[VHS may change rules for using smelt as bait](#)

Minnesota anglers might see new regulations about using smelt as bait before the Minnesota fishing opener.

[Lake Erie frozen over for the first time in 14 years](#)

Following a cold snap in the Northeast, Lake Erie's surface is virtually frozen over for the first time in about 14 years. The ice ranges in thickness between paper thin along the northern shore and several inches along the southern shore, where many people are ice skating.

[State fisheries officials hope brown trout plan improves population over five-year period](#)

Michigan fishery officials will launch a five-year study aimed at establishing a hardier, more adaptive Brown trout population. They plan to introduce 125,000 Sturgeon River browns and an equal number of Wild Rose brown trout strains in Lake Michigan, its tailwaters and several inland lakes this year.