



## Tackle industry looks to unite 60 million anglers Industry announces KeepAmericaFishing to address access and conservation issues

LAS VEGAS – The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) used the opening day of the industry's fifty-third ICAST Fishing Tackle Trade Show to launch a renewed effort to unite the sportfishing industry and the country's 60 million anglers with one united voice to keep our nation's public waters open, clean and abundant with fish.

"We aren't looking to build the membership roles of the American Sportfishing Association," said ASA Vice President Gordon Robertson at a related press conference, "We want to launch KeepAmericaFishing as a national campaign, uniting all anglers nationwide."

Across the country, preventing or limiting recreational anglers from

accessing public fisheries resources is being touted as a new way to manage fish populations, undermining the achievements of proven fisheries management methods that focus on conservation and promote sustainable fishing. As a result, the past 10 years have seen a dramatic increase in bans or efforts to ban recreational fishing from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes.

"If this alarming trend continues, anglers nationwide may risk similar restrictions being implemented on their favorite lakes, rivers and streams," ASA President and CEO Mike Nussman told over 400 sportfishing business leaders during the annual State of the Industry

breakfast. "The voice of 60 million conservationist anglers who promote conservation over preservation must be heard by legislators, regulators and environmentalists."

Recent closures and restrictions are keeping anglers off the water, which could have a significant financial impact on the sportfishing industry:

- The initial report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force did not include a single reference to recreational fishing. The term 'recreational' now appears over 50 times in the final report, and there is a general theme that promoting recreational fishing and stewardship is

### Unite 60 million anglers

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## Brown Trout chomping on round gobies

The brown trout fishery in Lake Michigan, like the salmon fishery, is supported by stocking originally done to help control populations of alewife, an invasive fish species, but now done as well to support what's become a popular fishery. Now, brown trout appear to be chomping on a newer invasive fish species – round gobies – helping fuel good survival and fishing, says Brad Eggold, DNR fisheries supervisor for southern Lake Michigan.

"One of the things we're finding is the trout species are less discriminating when it comes to food, compared to Chinook," he says. "We know from stomach samples they really go after round gobies and we know there are a lot of gobies. That could be why we are seeing really

good survival of the fish and good condition."

"We've really seen an uptick in brown trout fishing probably in the last 10 years, primarily in bigger harbors like Milwaukee and Racine and Sheboygan," he says. Winter fishing in the mouths of harbors has been particularly popular, he says.

Lake Michigan fishing has been going strong this summer. "The numbers and variety of fish anglers have been catching, particularly in the last four weeks or so, has been excellent," Eggold says. "We've settled into a pretty good summer pattern. The warm weather and winds have pushed the warmer surface water out into the lake, bringing cooler water temperatures closer to shore and making it easier to catch salmon and trout." ✧

## Lake Michigan Brown Trout New State Record 41.8 lb monster a sign of the great fishery

**MADISON** – It's official: the 41 lb., 8 oz. brown trout Roger Hellen of Franksville caught in Lake Michigan on July 16 is now a Wisconsin state record fish. And it may be a world record, too.

The DNR received Hellen's application shortly after he recorded his catch and has confirmed the new state record, which smashes the old record by nearly 5 lbs. The previous record was 36 lbs. 8.9 ounces and 40.5" for a fish caught August 23, 2004, in Lake Michigan.

Hellen's is the ninth state record set this year, and the first for a fish

fish at the tournament. With that certified weight, Hellen's fish would appear to squeak by the 41 lb. 7 oz. world record brown trout caught last year in the Big Manistee River in Michigan.

"It was very exciting – it was certainly the biggest trout or salmon I've ever seen," says Peterson, a fish technician on Lake Michigan since 1997. "We knew as soon as it was on the scale it was going to be a new state record."

The lure was a blue-and-green spoon trolled about 10' below the surface. Hellen's brown was weighed



caught by hook and line. The other records have been for fish taken using [alternate methods](#), including a spearing record for lake sturgeon and six bowfishing records. One of those bowfishing records, for smallmouth buffalo, was first established in March and has changed hands twice since, once in April and again on July 1.

Hellen caught the fish in Lake Michigan north of Racine while competing in a fishing tournament. The fish measured 40.6 inches long and weighed 41 pounds 8 ounces on a certified scale at a local meat market, according to Cheryl Peterson, the state fisheries technician who weighed, measured and processed the

fish on a certified scale at Brossman's Meat Market while being witnessed by three butchers (with at least 23 years of experience each), Hellen and a Salmon-A-Rama official. "They [first] went to a meat market down the road," butcher Jeff Luzich said. "They didn't have a scale big enough."

"I've fished out on Lake Michigan and caught browns of 10-15 pounds, [but nothing like that]," Hellen said. "It was a beautiful fish." "This is great for the lake, great for the club, great for the fishery," said Tom Pietila, president of Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin. ♦



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### Position Statement

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

### Inland Seas Angler

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## Testing complete on bighead Asian carp found in Lake Calumet

Fish may have been planted in Lake Calumet and lived most of its adult life above electric barrier

CHICAGO – A six-year-old bighead carp caught in the waters of Lake Calumet just outside Lake Michigan in late June may have lived nearly its entire life in waters of Great Lakes origin according to tests and analysis conducted by Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC).

Tests of chemical markers in the bighead carp suggest it was not a recent arrival to the waterway and probably did not get there by evading an electric barrier, said Jim Garvey, a fisheries biologist at SIUC. The tests were conducted by the SIUC Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center. The tests looked at chemical markers in the inner ear bones, or otoliths, of the fish. Otoliths incorporate chemicals into their structure that are unique to the environments in which they live. They have been used in recent years to reconstruct the environmental history of individual fish or fish stocks.

“The inferences about the environmental history of this fish should be viewed as preliminary and inconclusive given the data limitations and assumptions. But it is

very plausible that this fish originated in the Illinois River and then moved or was transported to Lake Calumet or Lake Michigan during the early portion of its life” said Garvey, director of the Aquaculture Center.

The bighead carp, which measured 34.6” and weighed nearly 20 lbs., remains the only Asian carp found above the electric barrier despite extensive sampling and search operations since June 22 throughout the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS).

“While this report does not have all the answers, it does suggest to us that the fish caught in Lake Calumet last month may have been put there by humans, perhaps as a ritual cultural release or through bait bucket transfer. It underscores the need for the public to be even more vigilant and educated about Asian carp and the importance of not furthering the spread of these invasive species,” said Illinois DNR Assistant Director John Rogner.

The Illinois DNR will continue to work with nearly 60 Chicago area bait shops in September to test for

Asian carp DNA and educate bait shop owners on how to tell the difference between Asian carp minnows and other fish with similar characteristics that are commonly used as bait.

The fish could have been planted by some devious means, or otherwise – or the suggestion could just be some government spin.

Sampling above the electric barriers also remains an important and continued effort in the Asian Carp Control program, which includes both short and long term actions to stop the migration of Asian carp. Sampling and monitoring will continue at five fixed sampling stations throughout the Chicago Area Waterway System as detailed in the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) Sampling and Monitoring plan to search for Asian carp.

Barrier defense operations will also continue to remove silver or bighead carp in downstate waters where the fish are known to be present. To view the entire control framework and to receive the latest updates go to [www.asiancarp.org](http://www.asiancarp.org). ✧

## Lake Erie walleye changes coming

Steve Hewitt, Michigan DNR’s Lake Erie Basin Coordinator, said there are potential walleye changes for 2011 for Lake Erie. Walleye management is based on a quota system. The Lake Erie Committee considered recommendations earlier this year at meetings in Ohio and Michigan.

Walleye abundance is declining again this year, and about 15 million are projected for 2011. This would be classified as in crisis mode. The task group recommended a 2010 total allowable catch of 2.2 million walleye. The 2010 Michigan quota is 128,000 walleye.

In 2003, DNRE had to make changes to regulations with help from partners: closed season April 1-

May 31, bag limit to five, minimum size 15 inches. This year DNRE will be working with Lake Erie/Lake St. Clair Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee to evaluate potential reductions under bag limit, size limit and season date changes.

Other considerations in evaluating regulation options include: economic impacts, angler responses, responses of other agencies (Ohio, and Michigan move across borders) and Ohio regulations. In considering regulations options to meet the Michigan quota, DNRE will consider how to incorporate more timely regulation responses, such as the Ohio example. Regulation changes for the current quota year

would always allow DNRE to respond more quickly to walleye increases as well as decreases. The DNRE Fisheries Division will work with citizens to have regulation proposals for this fall to the NRC.

There is no feasible way to stock this size of water body with walleye, or any fish. The best years for walleye are very seasonal based even in the 2003 flux. They have very periodic reproduction, and are surprised that bad age classes have happened for so many years in a row. The bag limit is five in Michigan right now. There is a split season in Ohio. Size limit is 15 inches across all states. ✧

## Groups Want Ban on Lead-Based Ammo and Fishing Tackle Firearms Industry responds to Anti-hunting Attack on Traditional Ammunition

WASHINGTON, DC – A coalition of environmental groups late last month filed a formal petition with the USEPA requesting a ban on the use of lead in hunting ammunition and fishing tackle.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry, announced its opposition to the petition seeking to ban the use of traditional ammunition containing lead-core components by America's sportsmen and women. The petition, filed by several agenda-driven groups including the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), erroneously claims that the use of traditional ammunition by hunters and lead-based fishing lures by anglers is inconsistent with the Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976. The petition goes on to suggest that the use of traditional ammunition and lures poses a danger to fish and wildlife.

"There is simply no scientific evidence that the use of traditional ammunition is having an adverse impact on wildlife populations that

would require restricting or banning the use of traditional ammunition beyond current limitations, such as the scientifically based restriction on waterfowl hunting," said NSSF President Steve Sanetti.

Helping to demonstrate the validity of Sanetti's statement are recent statistics from the USFWS showing from 1981 to 2006 the number of breeding pairs of bald eagles in the United States increased 724%. And much like the bald eagle, raptor populations throughout the United States are soaring.

Also fueling concerns over the CBD petition is the likely ramification a ban on traditional ammunition would have on wildlife conservation. The federal excise tax that manufacturers pay on the sale of the ammunition (11%) is a primary source of wildlife conservation funding and the financial backbone of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. The bald eagle's recovery, considered to be a truly great conservation success story, was made possible and funded by hunters using traditional ammunition — the very ammunition organizations like the CBD are now

demonizing.

"Needlessly restricting or banning traditional ammunition absent sound science will hurt wildlife conservation efforts as fewer hunters take to the field," said NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Lawrence G. Keane. "Hunters and their ammunition have done more for wildlife than the CBD ever will. And the CBD's scientifically baseless petition and endless lawsuits against state and federal wildlife managers certainly do not serve the wildlife that the organization claims to protect."

Express your opposition to this petition by calling or e-mailing:

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, USEPA  
(202) 564-4700, Fax: (202) 501-1450  
[jackson.lisa@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.lisa@epa.gov)

And

Steve Owens  
Assistant Administrator, USEPA  
(202) 564-2902, Fax: (202) 546-0801  
[Owens.steve@epa.gov](mailto:Owens.steve@epa.gov) ✧

## Climate changes could disrupt walleye reproduction

Long-term warming of the Great Lakes climate is melting the ice from Minnesota lakes earlier in the year. As those "ice-out" dates move farther up the calendar, they may be disrupting the reproduction of a popular sport fish, according to a recent study in the journal *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*.

"Each day ice-out gets earlier, walleye spawning tends to get a day to half a day earlier," said Ray Newman, study co-author and professor of fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology at the U of Minnesota. It's not yet clear how that will affect the fish, but it has the

potential to cause a few problems, he said.

First, if walleye spawning occurs too early, baby fish might hatch before the food that they depend on is available. But that won't be a problem if climate change also bumps up production of the tiny plants and animals the little walleye eat. Second, survival of stream-born baby walleye is tied to water conditions like depth, speed and muddiness. Those factors change dramatically in the spring as melted snow and seasonal rains flow into streams.

This study is a reminder that changing ice cover patterns can have

direct biological impacts on the Great Lakes, too. "I think you could expect with a number of things there may be somewhat similar responses," Newman said. "One of the populations of walleye in the St. Louis River goes into Duluth-Superior Harbor and into Lake Superior."

Ongoing research by the Minnesota DNR on another set of long-term data sets seems to show that bass and sunfish — considered warm water species — are getting more common in the northern lakes in Minnesota, Newman said. "They seem to be expanding their range northward," he said. ✧

## Fishing/Boating Groups call for Public Access in New National Ocean Policy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On July 19, the White House Ocean Policy Task Force released its final report on a new national policy with goals of ensuring protection, maintenance and restoration of the nation's oceans, coastal areas and the Great Lakes. Over the past year, the recreational fishing and boating community provided substantial input to the Task Force, the White House Council on Environmental Quality and NOAA and advocated that the social, economic, public health and conservation benefits of sustainable use of our nation's public resources receive priority consideration in the new ocean management policy. Following the release of the new policy, President Obama issued an Executive Order to implement the policies in the report.

“Over the past year, we have had numerous meetings with CEQ, NOAA and Members of Congress to explain the importance of recreational fishing/boating to the economy, conservation, and marine resource stewardship through public

access to coastal and ocean spaces,” said American Sportfishing Assoc. (ASA) President Mike Nussman. “We are pleased to see that the Task Force included recreational fishing and boating as part of the National Ocean Policy. However, we wish the Task Force would have gone further and established public access to these great resources as a national priority. It is vital that we remain vigilant and involved in the design and implementation process.”

The initial report of the Task Force did not include a single reference to recreational fishing. In formal comment provided to the Task Force, the recreational boating and fishing community sought to clarify the goals of the policy and expressed grave concerns over the establishment of a new, overarching, top-down federal management regime and the need to recognize the economic, cultural and social importance of recreation in the nation's public waters.

The term ‘recreational’ now appears over 50 times in the final

report, and there is a general theme that promoting recreational fishing and stewardship is an important national ocean policy objective. However, the top-down tone of the policy is clear while significant concepts that could set the foundation for vast areas closed to angling and public recreation remain vague and undefined.

“Closing our public resources to recreational activities can have a devastating impact on businesses and livelihoods that are dependent on those activities as evidenced by the Gulf oil spill,” Nussman said. “We need to ensure our public resources remain open for all to experience these recreational pursuits consistent with safety and conservation goals.”

Additional articles:

[Recreational Fishing Alliance Blasts Presidential Order](#)  
[Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Information](#)  
[Executive Order—Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes.](#) ✧

## IN - Small bluegills dominate Upper Long Lake

ALBION – Small, slow-growing bluegills continue to over-populate Upper Long Lake in southwest Noble County despite the stocking of additional predator fish to reduce their number.

Since 1996, the local lake association and the Lake Webster Musky Club have released more than 3,000 muskies in the 86-acre natural lake. The fish were purchased from a private hatchery in Wisconsin and stocked with permission of the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Part of the reason for stocking muskies in Upper Long Lake, was that local residents, anglers and the DNR hoped they would prey on small bluegills. The reasoning was that once bluegill numbers declined, those that survived would have more food per fish and could grow larger. That was

a good idea in theory but not so in reality.

Based on recent sampling by DNR biologists, bluegills are now more abundant than ever before. And they are smaller. “I've never seen so many small bluegills in a lake,” said Matt Horsley, a DFW fisheries intern and recent graduate of Michigan State University.

Horsley was part of a three-person crew that captured 700 bluegills in only 30 minutes of electro-fishing along the shoreline. At times, so many bluegills were stunned by the shocker boat that Horsley couldn't net them all fast enough. Of the 700 bluegills, 97 percent were less than 6 inches long. The electro-fishing catch rate of 3- to 5-inch bluegills was 340 per 15 minutes of sampling, the highest ever recorded at an Indiana natural

lake during a June survey and second only to a catch rate of 460 per 15 minutes at nearby Loon Lake in July 2004.

Ironically, muskies stocked in Loon Lake, as well as in Skinner Lake, east of Albion, have also failed to reduce bluegill numbers and increase bluegill size. Biologists speculate that muskies likely prefer to eat other species, including other predator fish, which may actually reduce predation on bluegills.

According to Horsley, the overall catch rate of bluegills at Upper Long Lake averaged 282 per 15 minutes from 1991 through 2010. A typical catch rate at other Indiana natural lakes is 100. Meanwhile, anglers may want to switch to muskie fishing there. Horsley also caught 10 muskies during the survey. ✧

## Midwest fish habitat benefits to protect against effects of climate change

### More than \$1 million available from National Habitat plan and contributions

The USFWS will provide over \$548,000 to support 13 fish habitat projects in eight Midwestern states under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP). An additional \$641,000 in partner contributions will go toward restoring and enhancing stream, lake and coastal habitat, improving recreational fishing and helping endangered species, and supporting long-term protection against the effects of climate change. More than \$13.2 million in total federal and partner contributions will be distributed under NFHAP for fish habitat projects across the United States.

The funding is provided for priority projects identified through Fish Habitat Partnerships established under the NFHAP. Eight of those partnerships directly influence states in the Midwest and direct funding and other resources to habitat improvement projects offering the highest long-term conservation returns.

More than 40 percent of U.S. fish populations are currently considered declining, half of the waters in the U.S. are somehow impaired, and fragmented conservation efforts are not reversing these declines. In addition to helping stem these declines, NFHAP projects also enhance fishing opportunities for the public by putting more dollars on the ground for fish conservation.

NFHAP partnerships to receive funding for Midwest projects include:

- ▶ Driftless Area Restoration Effort – Federal funds: \$300,000; Partner contribution \$368,873
- Richmond Springs Fish Passage Improvement Project to remove four fish passage barriers and reopen 16 miles to fish passage (IA)
- Williams-Barneveld Creek Stream Corridor Improvement to enhance instream and riparian habitat and restore 4 wetland acres (WI)

- Brush Creek Habitat Restoration and Stream Bank Stabilization to restore instream, wetland acres and enhance riparian habitat (IA)
- Maquoketa River Iowa Fish Habitat Improvement Project to enhance 4.4 instream miles and 0.6 miles of riparian habitat (IA)
- Kittleson Valley Creek-Pleasant Valley Habitat Improvement to restore or enhance 4 miles of instream and riparian habitat (WI)
- Wisconsin Stream Fragmentation Assessment to quantify the spatial extent of stream fragmentation caused by road crossings (WI)
- ▶ Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (GLBFHP) – Federal funds: \$90,000; Partner contribution: \$89,250
- Elias Cove Restoration/Native Coastal Wetland Planting Project to restore 0.2 instream/shoreline miles (MI)
- Butternut Creek Stream Restoration and Dam Removal to reopen 13 miles to fish passage and restore instream/shoreline miles (MI)
- ▶ Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) – Federal funds: \$89,946; Partner contribution \$70,150
- Strategic Fish Habitat/GIS Modeling Project to conduct six fish habitat assessments (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, WI)
- Lakescaping Demonstration Projects in Eastern South Dakota (SD)
- ▶ Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (ORBFHP) – Federal funds: \$90,000; Partner contribution: \$119,900
- Using High Temporal Satellite Imagery to Detect Submerged Aquatic Invasives Project to survey aquatic invasive species to support management and control and advancement of early detection techniques (IL, IN, OH, KY)
- North Manchester Dam and Liberty Mills Dam Removal Projects

to reopen 190 miles to fish passage and assess habitat (IN)

- West Milton Dam Removal Feasibility Study (OH)

Complete listing of funded projects: [www.fws.gov/fisheries/fwco/nfhap](http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/fwco/nfhap).

For more info about the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, its partnerships and programs: [www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org). ✧

## Eating fatty fish may help seniors lower risk of eye disease

Older adults who consume fatty fish on a regular basis may have a lower risk of suffering vision loss due to age-related macular degeneration, a debilitating condition affecting nearly 2 million Americans over the age of 65, according to a new study.

A research team from Johns Hopkins University recruited more than 2,500 men and women between the ages of 65 and 84 and had them complete dietary questionnaires and undergo eye examinations, Reuters Health reports. Of this group a total of 15 percent were diagnosed with early-stage macular degeneration while 3 percent were found to have a more advanced stage of the disease that is often accompanied by severe vision loss.

Although the researchers did not identify a link between diet and the overall incidence of macular degeneration, they did discover that older adults who consumed fatty fish at least once a week had a 60 percent lower risk of developing an advanced form of the disease, compared to those who rarely ate fish.

Several earlier studies have suggested that people can reduce their risk of developing age-related macular degeneration by eating healthy, exercising and taking supplements rich in vitamin C, beta-carotene, zinc and copper. ✧

## Tackle industry awards 2010 "Best of Show" honors

G. Loomis, Lowrance-Navico, Pure Fishing, Sebile Innovative Fishing and Shimano American Corporation were repeat winners in the 2010 New Product Showcase. Loomis's NRX was voted by buyers and media as the most innovative product in the ICAST 2010 New Product Showcase in the freshwater rod category and overall Best of Show.

Five 2009 showcase winners – G.Loomis, Lowrance-Navico, Pure Fishing, Sebile Innovative Fishing and Shimano American Corporation – won awards again in 2010.

Making up a special section of ICAST's 400,000-square-foot show floor, the New Product Showcase provides special visibility for the industry's latest innovations in gear and accessories. Buyers and media representatives judged the products based on their level of innovation, execution, workmanship and practicality to select "Best of Show" honors in 17 categories, as well as the overall "Best of Show" winner.

### 2010 ICAST New Product Showcase Award Winners

For product details, images and other information please contact the individual award winner's media contact listed below.

#### **Overall Best of Show** - G.Loomis - NRX

Contact: John Mazurkiewicz, Catalyst Marketing - 574-289-1331; [jpmazurk@ameritech.net](mailto:jpmazurk@ameritech.net)

#### **Apparel** - Frabill, Inc. - FXE Stormsuit

Contact: Noel Vick, Traditions Media: 612-708-7339; [noel@traditionsmedia.com](mailto:noel@traditionsmedia.com)

#### **Eyewear** - Maui Jim Sunglasses - Guy Harvey Collection

Contact: Cathi Volante - 888-628-4546, cell: 847-542-7332; [cvolante@mauijim.com](mailto:cvolante@mauijim.com)

**Fishing Accessory** - Adventure Products, Inc. - EGO S2 Slider Landing Net  
Contact: Grant Corbett - 541-390-5159; [grante@adventureproducts.com](mailto:grante@adventureproducts.com)

**Combo** - Ardent/Lamiglas - C400/XC704 Fishouflage Bass  
Contact: Michael Brooks - 800-325-9200, x201; [mjbrooks@ardentoutdoors.com](mailto:mjbrooks@ardentoutdoors.com)

**Electronics** - Lowrance-Navico - Lowrance Elite-5 DSI  
Contact: Andrew Golden - 617-413-6521; [agolden@rushtongregory.com](mailto:agolden@rushtongregory.com)

**Giftware** - Boating Expressions, Inc. - Fishfenders  
Contact: Gene Rascow - 714-650-1606; [fishfenders@gmail.com](mailto:fishfenders@gmail.com)

**Kids Tackle** - Pure Fishing - Pflueger-Spinning Combo-Apprentice  
Contact: Ron Giudice, Blue Heron Communications - 405-740-2740; [ron@blueheroncomm.com](mailto:ron@blueheroncomm.com)

**Line** - Rapala - Suffix 832 Advanced Superline  
Contact: Kelly Brockpahler - 612-481-8375; [kbrockpahler@rapalusa.com](mailto:kbrockpahler@rapalusa.com)

**Soft Lure** - Koppers Fishing & Tackle Corporation - Live Target Hollow Body Frog  
Contact: Tom Chopin - 905-327-9095; [tom@koppersfishing.com](mailto:tom@koppersfishing.com)

**Hard Lure** - Shimano American Corporation - Waxwing Sub-Surface Swimming Jig  
Contact: John Mazurkiewicz, Catalyst Marketing - 574-289-1331; [jpmazurk@ameritech.net](mailto:jpmazurk@ameritech.net)

**Marine** - Minn Kota-Johnson Outdoors, Inc. - Talon-Shallow Water Anchor  
Contact: Steve Roth, Swanson Russell - 402-437-6418; [steveroth@swansonrussell.com](mailto:steveroth@swansonrussell.com)

**Freshwater Reel** - Shimano American Corporation - Stella FE  
Contact: John Mazurkiewicz, Catalyst Marketing - 574-289-1331; [jpmazurk@ameritech.net](mailto:jpmazurk@ameritech.net)

**Saltwater Reel** - Shimano American Corporation - Trinidad A  
Contact: John Mazurkiewicz, Catalyst Marketing - 574-289-1331; [jpmazurk@ameritech.net](mailto:jpmazurk@ameritech.net)

**Freshwater Rod** - G.Loomis - NRX  
Contact: John Mazurkiewicz, Catalyst Marketing - 574-289-1331; [jpmazurk@ameritech.net](mailto:jpmazurk@ameritech.net)

**Saltwater Rod** - Shimano American Corporation - Terez  
Contact: John Mazurkiewicz, Catalyst Marketing - 574-289-1331; [jpmazurk@ameritech.net](mailto:jpmazurk@ameritech.net)

**Tackle Management** - HYI, Inc. - Openwater Tackle Backpack  
Contact: Adrian Dare - 714-604-8376; [adriand@hyiusa.com](mailto:adriand@hyiusa.com)

**Terminal Tackle** - Sebile Innovative Fishing - Soft Weight System  
Contact: Russell Gray - 303-437-8103; [rgray@sebile.com](mailto:rgray@sebile.com) ✧

## ESPN agrees to sell BASS

ESPN says it has reached an agreement in principle to sell BASS, LLC to a group of investors led by Don Logan, Jerry McKinnis and Jim Copeland. McKinnis has a long history with BASS, having hosted the network's second longest-running show, Logan at one time oversaw Time Inc., America Online, Time Warner Cable and the Time Warner Book Group, and Copeland retired as U.S. and Global CEO of international finances firm Deloitte.

As part of the agreement, ESPN will continue to carry the Bassmaster Elite Series and Bassmaster Classic. Until the sale is finalized, BASS will continue to be operated by ESPN. ✧

## DNRE applies for mass marking gear

Michigan DNRE has applied for 2 mass marking trailers through the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act as a regional project. These will actually be owned by the USFWS and will be available to all Great Lakes agencies for marking of fish. The state hopes to have them both in state and running for next spring's stocking efforts. Most of the state hatcheries have been upgraded to accept these trailers (electrical upgrades).

This equipment could be used to differentiate between wild and hatchery stocks for regulation purposes. Michigan would benefit the most doing this if all the other management agencies also did this. However, steelhead marking effort has been removed from the budget for several years now intermittently, due to budget shortfalls. ✧

## DNRE increases patrols on Au Sable River

The Michigan DNR has increased patrols on the Au Sable River for the remainder of the summer season because of an increase in incidents and complaints to law enforcement officials.

Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies have noticed increased use over the past few years on the Au Sable River, a National Wild and Scenic River. Along with this use, law enforcement has experienced increased incidents of resource damage, littering, obscene conduct, various alcohol violations, disorderly behavior and illegal drug use.

Irresponsible users will affect future opportunities and experiences for all watercraft enthusiasts. Citizens who witness illegal, dangerous or disorderly behavior are encouraged to call 911. ✧

## WI - First sturgeon stocked from renovated Wild Rose Hatchery

WILD ROSE – Wisconsin's efforts to restore [lake sturgeon](#) to inland waters took a leap forward as the renovated [Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery](#) sent its first sturgeon out the door to new homes in four Wisconsin waters.

On July 7, DNR fisheries crews stocked more than 6,100 tiny sturgeon in the Baraboo River in Baraboo, returning the prehistoric species to that water for the first time since the 1800s, when dams built on the river, along with over fishing and water pollution, helped doom their populations. An [audio slide show recording this historic return](#) is available on the Department of Natural Resources website.

On July 9, another 7,400 sturgeon, spawned from fish from the Yellow River in northwest Wisconsin and raised at Wild Rose, were returned to that river, to the Clam River Flowage in Burnett County, and to Minong Flowage in Douglas County.

"This is really good news," says Ron Bruch, DNR senior sturgeon biologist and co-leader of the agency's statewide sturgeon team. "We have the Wild Rose facility online and staff have shown they can produce the quality and quantity of lake sturgeon we need to really look well into the future for our population restoration needs."

The second phase of [renovating Wild Rose State Hatchery](#) is about complete, giving anglers and the Wisconsin's fisheries program state-of-the-art facilities for raising cool-water fish including lake sturgeon, northern pike, walleye and musky. Now, the sturgeon can be raised entirely inside tanks in a climate controlled building where water temperatures, dissolved oxygen, food and others aspects are carefully monitored by staff and by computers.

Waters planned for stocking from Wild Rose are the Menominee River in Marinette County, the

Wisconsin River in Marathon County, the Wisconsin River flowage at Stevens Point in Portage County, Upper St. Croix Lake, Eau Claire River, and St. Croix Flowage, all in Douglas County, and the Namekagon River and Trego Lake, both in Washburn County.

Other waters being stocked with sturgeon in 2010-2011 include the Milwaukee and Kewaunee rivers, which will receive fish raised at streamside rearing facilities along those waters, and the Fox River in Marquette County from the UW-Milwaukee Water Institute, and the Manitowish River, which will receive fish from DNR's Woodruff Hatchery.

Historically, lake sturgeon were found throughout the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basin. They flourished in Wisconsin's boundary waters including the Mississippi, Wisconsin and Menomonee rivers, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Dams, pollution, habitat degradation and over harvest dramatically reduced lake sturgeon populations in some Wisconsin waters over the past 100 years, and eliminated them entirely from other stretches of water. Because female fish don't reproduce until they are 20 to 25, and then spawn only once every three to five years, lake sturgeon populations are very vulnerable to overexploitation and slow to rebuild.

"[Wisconsin's Lake Sturgeon Management Plan](#)" calls for restoring lake sturgeon to many waters in its historic range. DNR will be updating the plan this year and seeking input from people outside the agency interested in sturgeon management. Wild Rose Fish Hatchery will play a key role in that plan, along with protective regulations, research, dedicated funding for sturgeon restoration, and other factors, says Karl Scheidegger, a DNR rivers biologist and co-leader to the state sturgeon team. ✧

## Fish Ohio Day celebrates Lake Erie tourism and sport fishing

PT. CLINTON, OHIO – Ohio's first couple, Governor Ted Strickland and First Lady Francis Strickland, were joined by members of the media, representatives of the tourism industry, elected officials and conservation leaders to draw attention to Lake Erie during the Thirty-First Annual Fish Ohio Day.

For the first time in event history, both the governor and his first lady were in attendance, which added some good-natured rivalry to the mix. No one went without bragging rights – Gov. Strickland caught one of the first walleye of the day and the first lady's boat caught more fish than a number of other boats, including the governor's boat. A total of 165 fish were caught.

Reeling in fish wasn't the only focus of today's events. Governor Strickland touted the importance of taking care of Ohio's great lake, which will continue to help strengthen the state's economic outlook. After a half-day of fishing under excellent conditions, attendees

gathered to applaud local tourism efforts as well as discuss immediate threats like Asian carp and responsible land use.

Ohio's 1.1 million anglers spend an estimated \$1.1 billion on fishing-related expenditures annually. Anglers contribute to local economies through the purchase of goods and services, as well as special taxes, licenses and other fees. Anglers support local jobs and wages, along with hotels, cottages and other lodging, marinas, charter boat services, restaurants, grocery stores, bait and tackle stores, marine suppliers and other local businesses. Their expenditures spur a \$480 million sport fishing industry along Lake Erie and create nearly 10,000 jobs.

Lake Erie is a magnificent recreation area and vital to economic development. Years of water quality restoration and wise use management are pay-ing off for Ohio. Fish Ohio Day brings needed attention to one of the state's

top tourist draws and greatest natural resource.

Fifteen charter captains from the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association volunteered their boats so state leaders, members of the media, representatives of the tourism industry and conservation leaders had an opportunity to experience fishing the lake's Western Basin. All the boats brought in fish, making it one of the more successful Fish Ohio days in recent history.

The 495 pounds of fish caught were donated to the Victory Temple Food Bank. Located in Sandusky, this food bank serves families from the Port Clinton and Sandusky area.

Sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Lake Erie Charter Boat Association and Lake Erie Shores & Islands, Fish Ohio Day celebrates Lake Erie as a destination for numerous recreational activities, such as fishing and boating, which showcases Ohio's high-quality natural resources. ✧

### Unite 60 million anglers

*Continued from page 1*

an important national ocean policy objective. However, the top-down tone of the policy is clear while significant concepts that could set the foundation for vast areas closed to angling and public recreation remain vague and undefined.

- In California, hundreds of miles of the state's saltwater have been designated as no-take marine reserves. This leaves over 760,000 anglers without access to some of the best fishing spots on the Coast and puts \$1.3 billion in sales at risk.

- Along the Atlantic Coast, a \$60,000 loss in sales per store is projected for the 1,300 bait and tackle shops in that region if the proposed bottom-fishing ban in federal waters is adopted. That equates to a possible \$78 million loss in sales for that region alone in the first year.

- In North Carolina, 1.2 million

saltwater anglers risk losing reasonable access to many of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area's best marine sportfishing areas.

In 2006, KeepAmericaFishing was created to keep California's and North Carolina's anglers informed and motivated to speak out on issues affecting sportfishing access in their states.

"Our industry soon realized we needed to give voice to not just California's and North Carolina's anglers, but to the millions of anglers, retailers and manufacturers who share one thing in common — a passion for fishing," said Robertson. "The industry's whole-hearted response to our new advocacy and fundraising campaign will help elevate the challenges facing sportfishing in communities across the U.S."

Through policy, science and conservation, KeepAmericaFishing

works to minimize access restrictions, promote clean waters and restore fish populations. With its conservation partners, KeepAmericaFishing works to limit science-based closures to areas in which they are clearly beneficial to the health of the fishery.

At [www.KeepAmericaFishing.org](http://www.KeepAmericaFishing.org) anglers, retailers, manufacturers and other recreational fishing-dependent businesses will find the latest news regarding fishery closures and KeepAmericaFishing efforts to keep them open, clean and abundant with fish. You can sign up for e-mail alerts and issues confronting the sportfishing community.

Robertson concluded, "KeepAmericaFishing is mission critical to sportfishing in America. To learn more about restrictions to recreational fishing and what you can do to keep America fishing in your community, visit [www.KeepAmericaFishing.org](http://www.KeepAmericaFishing.org)." ✧

## Summer's wet, warm weather fueling invasive plant growth

MADISON, WI – This summer's early warm and wet weather is accelerating the germination, growth, and flowering of purple loosestrife, say experts at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and are increasing the need for property owners and others to take steps now to prevent these young invaders from spreading to new wetlands.

"We need people to control loosestrife plants on their property and report it everywhere else," says Brock Woods, who coordinates purple loosestrife control for the WDNR. "With the wet, warm summer we're getting more purple loosestrife germination than in past years and in places where we haven't seen it before. Additional flooding will continue to move this stuff around, causing real problems into the future if we can't get rid of these first-year plants."

These new plants can grow to 5', flower, and drop thousands of new seeds in their first year. The seeds, which are very small, disperse easily to new sites, carried by floodwaters, runoff, wind and birds, as well as on

hikers' boots and clothes. They also remain viable in the soil for years.

Kelly Kearns, DNR invasive plant program manager, says that private property owners, who control 75% of wetlands statewide, natural resource biologists and other partners will want to act quickly to find and control new infestations. "The clock is ticking...purple loosestrife started blooming up to three weeks early across the state. It's easiest to identify them when they're flowering, and you want to remove plants before they go to seed."

People can pull young plants to control them or cut larger plants and treat the stumps with herbicide; both methods should be done before seeds drop, she says. When pulling younger plants, be sure to get the entire root and avoid excessively disturbing the soil.

Carefully dispose of purple loosestrife plants that have been pulled or cut in the garbage, first placing them in a bag to prevent the seeds from spreading. A new state law allows landfilling purple loosestrife and other restricted and

prohibited plants, Kearns says.

Purple loosestrife has been a serious exotic invader of state wetlands for decades and can grow taller than almost all other herbaceous plants, spread prolifically, and quickly dominate large areas. It can displace native wetland plants, degrade wildlife habitat, displace rare plants and animals and choke waterways.

Biological control methods using special beetles that target purple loosestrife have been successful in more recent years in reducing many existing purple loosestrife plants, but new plants this year could have sidestepped biocontrol in May and June by germinating later, Woods says. Flooding in June and July may also have decimated some control beetle populations, reducing their effectiveness on all loosestrife, both now and in the future.

"Taking a few minutes now to control purple loosestrife on your property will help landowners protect wetlands now and in the future. So will alerting DNR to new purple loosestrife locations elsewhere," he says. ✧

## Wis DA rejects enforcement of regulating firearms, weapons

Wisconsin District Attorney for Jackson County Gerald Fox has concluded that the recent Supreme Court decision in *McDonald v. Chicago* invalidates a number of Wisconsin state statutes regulating firearms and knives. As a result, Fox concluded the state's firearms, anti-switchblade and anti-gravity knife statute will no longer be enforced by his office.

Fox issued the following press release:

"Yesterday, in a resounding victory for all freedom-loving Americans, the United States Supreme Court confirmed that the Second Amendment's protection of our right to keep and bear arms applies everywhere in America, and serves

as a rampart against state infringement of this fundamental individual liberty. In its ruling, the Court declared that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right, and that self-defense is at the core of the freedoms protected by the amendment.

This Supreme Court ruling is binding on all states and local governments, and immediately renders some of Wisconsin's current laws unconstitutional. Therefore, in keeping with my oath to uphold and defend the Constitution, I hereby declare that this office will no longer accept law enforcement referrals for violations of the following statutes:

▶Section 167.31, prohibiting uncased or loaded firearms in vehicles;

▶Section 941.23, prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons, including firearms;

▶Section 941.235, prohibiting the possession of firearms in public buildings;

▶Section 941.237, prohibiting the possession of firearms in establishments where alcohol may be sold or served; and,

▶Section 941.24, prohibiting the possession of knives that open with a button, or by gravity, or thrust, or movement."

A copy of the *amicus* brief joined by J.B. Van Hollen, the Attorney General of Wisconsin, can be viewed at: [http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/briefs/pdfs/09-10/08-1521\\_PetitionerAmCuStateofTexas.pdf](http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/briefs/pdfs/09-10/08-1521_PetitionerAmCuStateofTexas.pdf) ✧

## IL - New Bighead Carp State Record

The IDNR Fisheries Division has announced certification of the new state-record bighead carp caught on May 4, 2010 by Jack Bailey of Salem, Ill. The fish was caught in the Kaskaskia River in Clinton County. It measured 51.5" in length, had a girth of 33" and weighed 69 lbs. The former record-holding bighead carp weighed 64 lbs. and was caught at Horseshoe Lake in 2008. ✧

## Initiative to find solution to Asian carp Governors and Mayors asked to head up initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLGLCI) has been asked to head up a study to find a solution to the Asian Carp problem. The GLGLCI, under the direction of David A. Ullrich, Executive Director, will be heading up an initiative with the Great Lakes Commission called "Envisioning a Chicago Waterway System for the 21st Century" that will not only deal with the Asian carp and other invasive species problems, but improve the economic, environmental, and social value of the system for the benefit of the entire Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin.

Mayor Daley and Mayor Heartwell will serve on an executive committee to oversee the project, along with Gov. Quinn of Illinois and Gov. Strickland of Ohio. The group will be working with Tim Eder, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Commission to keep the initiative on track. There will be extensive stakeholder involvement in this effort.

Initial funding for this effort is coming from the Joyce Foundation (\$500,000) and the Great Lakes Protection Fund (\$193,000). Several other foundations have already expressed interest, and we expect to have the full \$2 million for the work by the end of the year. [www.glsclcities.org](http://www.glsclcities.org) ✧

## Charter Captain saves downed pilot

Kristin Berg and Capt. Randy Schmidt, a married couple from Park Ridge, IL, were motoring along the Michigan coast on July 24th while also monitoring Channel 16, which ultimately saved a life.

A call from a fisherman to the Coast Guard about a plane crash changed Berg and Schmidt's vacation to a search and rescue on Lake Michigan. "I wrote down the coordinates," said Schmidt, a law professor at the U. of Chicago and a Chicago charter captain. Schmidt changed course and headed toward the crash site where he spotted one man in the water, Jerry Freed, the pilot of the small plane.

The plane crashed about 8 miles off Ludington. There were five people on board, but only Davidson was rescued.

"Spotting a person in that kind of water is very difficult," Schmidt said. "We were right on top of him, and we were lucky to see him." Late that day U.S. Coast Guard authorities reported finding no signs of the other four people on board. Schmidt is also president of the Chicago Sportfishing Association. ✧

## Lake Erie subject of survey

How can we make your Lake Erie experience better? This is the question four Ohio agencies working together to improve Lake Erie are asking people who live, work and play along Ohio's 312-mile coast.

The Lake Erie Ohio Public Access/Visitation Survey seeks to gather data on perception and satisfaction levels with public access to Ohio's portion of Lake Erie, visitation habits of Ohio residents and tourists, and activities people like to participate in while visiting. Open until September 17, the survey can be accessed online by visiting [www.ohiodnr.com/coastal](http://www.ohiodnr.com/coastal) and selecting the "Public Access Survey: Ohio Lake Erie Visitation" icon. ✧

## WI – Inspections show some boaters increasing risk to lakes and river Wardens will shift from education to enforcement of new aquatic invasive species law

MADISON – Surveys at boat landings across Wisconsin in summer 2010 show that 96% of people say they are following a new law to prevent the spread of Eurasian water-milfoil and other [aquatic invasive species](#). But a few are leaving boat landings with aquatic plants attached, potentially putting scores of lakes and rivers at risk.

From May through late July, 182 people were observed arriving at boat launches with aquatic plants hanging off their boat trailers or boats, or driving away from boat launches at the end of the day with invasive plants attached, according to statewide reports entered through July 25 by boat inspectors and DNR Water Guards. Boat inspectors advise the boaters of the law and how to comply, but they do not have authority to issue warnings or citations. [Survey results](#) are available on the Department of Natural Resources website.

Chief Conservation Warden Randy Stark says that such numbers will spur conservation wardens and Water Guards to shift from educating boaters about the new law, to enforcing it. "Given the extensive media coverage and boater surveys at the landings showing high public awareness of the new law, we'll begin transitioning to enforcing the law by issuing citations to those individuals who, by not complying, can erase the excellent efforts of the vast majority of boaters."

The vast majority of Wisconsin's lakes and rivers are free from the most problematic aquatic invasive species, but "We need everybody to comply, and hope the enforcement stick can get those last few boaters to comply," says Stark. ✧

## For many ESPN fishing TV shows, it's last cast

ESPN's recent announcement that it will dump nearly all of its outdoor shows by the end of the year is disappointing news for boating.

There'd been rumblings for a few weeks that things weren't quite right with the ESPN2 outdoor blocks, but news on May 21 that the ESPN network would dump all its outdoor programming at the end of this year was nonetheless a shock to the entire outdoors industry.

And with the news comes logical speculation over the future of BASS, which the network owns. It'll be weeks or months until the full ramifications of the news materialize, but clearly, the unstable world of outdoor media was dealt another serious blow.

ESPN's "Outdoor Block" was a long and storied cornerstone of outdoor programming. It grew from the first broadcast of *The Fishin' Hole* in 1980 to encompass a wide array of fresh- and saltwater fishing, as well as hunting varietals.

*The Fishin' Hole*, although now off the air, is still the second-longest running show ever aired on ESPN networks, bested only by *SportsCenter*. ESPN offered outdoor programming for 30 years as it grew from genre pioneer to powerhouse.

The network giant even formed a separate ESPN Outdoors division to focus on the market and in 2005 aggressively branched into competitive bass programming with shows like *Loudmouth Bass*, *BassCenter*, *Bass Tech* and same-day coverage of *Bassmaster Majors*. Although those shows went by the wayside after a short run, ESPN did continue with BASS-centric programming like *Day on the Lake*.

But as the network proceeds with a core mission to focus on live and event-based broadcasting, such programming is out the window. The weekend block will now be filled by other properties, such as English Premier League soccer, NASCAR and *SportsCenter*, which are all either live or event-based programs.

Thus the only show in the current outdoor block that will continue to air on ESPN2 is *The Bassmasters*, which focuses on Elite Series events, as well as *Bassmaster Classic* programming.

The ESPN-owned *Saltwater Series* will not air on ESPN2.

The news does revive rumors that ESPN is actively engaged in an effort to sell BASS. Earlier this spring, there was significant talk about a potential sale of BASS to the Outdoor Channel. No confirmed news surfaced, but highly placed industry officials firmly believed that talks between the two companies did take place.

If ESPN is divesting itself of outdoor programming, that would seem to indicate that its interest in BASS lies only within a potential to broadcast BASS events. BASS's membership program, print media, or youth, conservation and grassroots programs would not seem to fit into that equation.

And sale chatter did noticeably intensify with many industry sources noting that BASS and the Outdoor Channel are deep in talks, but that BASS's print business is something the Outdoor Channel might not be willing to invest in. A BASS official addressed the rumors of a potential BASS sale by saying: "There's nothing there to announce right now. As with any business, the potential for a sale exists. It's a coveted property. People are looking into it. But again, there's nothing to announce there."

ESPN's decision to dump its outdoor programming parallels decisions being made across media as a whole.

The trend today is toward niche production and delivery – channels, magazines and digital properties narrowly tailored to fit a specific fan or enthusiast base.

Just as cornerstone outdoor periodicals find it more and more difficult to profit through appeal to a wide reader base of different types of hunters and anglers, it appears

ESPN struggles to capture and hold a profitable chunk of outdoor-viewer households – even after the network's programming shifted to a heavy focus on saltwater fishing at the expense of freshwater.

Cable television now is rife with niche channels dedicated to the outdoors, including *Sportsman Channel*, *Outdoor Channel*, *World Fishing Network (WFN)* and *Pursuit*. As well, the *Versus Network* carries a heavy load of outdoor programming, including carriage of *FLW Outdoors* programming.

*Sportsman* channel president Willy Burkhardt, formerly of ESPN, said: "This announcement isn't much of a surprise as it's been evident for quite some time that outdoor-related programming really doesn't fit comfortably with the strategy and brand position of ESPN. Serving the information and entertainment needs of the American sportsmen is about celebrating a lifestyle and a way of life rather than covering an event or competition."

Burkhardt added: "At *Sportsman Channel*, we believe passionately in the sportsman lifestyle and our programming strategy and brand position reflect this. It makes sense to us that sportsmen have been gravitating to channels and brands that reflect a commitment to the lifestyle rather than a broader sports-entertainment orientation."

The strength of ESPN's outdoor programming, however, will heavily impact those who produce shows for the other networks, and will further escalate the already desperate struggle for underwriting.

It all signals an intensification of the shakeout as cable networks, fishing leagues, pros, magazines and digital properties all battle for their chunk of a shrinking revenue stream. And as that stream shrinks, the do-all-for-everybody media properties struggle the most. ✧

## **Other Breaking News Items:**

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

### **[Half Million in funding for Boardman River Dam Project](#)**

TRAVERSE CITY – The Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) announced that nearly \$500,000 in federal funding has been secured to help finance the dam removal project on the Boardman River over the next two years. The funding comes from two grants: Great Lakes Restoration

### **[As one non-native fish bears down on Great Lakes, notorious mussels spread across the West](#)**

Despite all the attention they've gotten recently, Asian carp are not the most dangerous invasive to threaten the Great Lakes. Their impact pales in comparison to that of the quagga mussel, which first showed up in the late 1990s and has become ensconced there. Mussels reproduce rapidly

### **[Tribal Law and Order](#)**

The Tribal Law and Order Act, signed by President Obama, requires the Dept. of Justice to create a new unit to track and deal with declining prosecutions. It gives tribal police more authority — they can now be deputized to enforce federal laws. It also allows them to arrest non-Indian suspects, and tribal courts will be able to sentence criminals for up to three years, instead of the present one year.

### **[Is the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service the Next MMS?](#)**

The choice to fill the vacant USFWS Director position will be a key to whether any lessons were learned from the Gulf spill disaster, according to a letter to Obama sent by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). Like the disbanded Minerals Management Service, FWS is an Interior Department agency repeatedly tarred by scandal during the Bush years but its posture and behavior have yet to change under

### **[Officials say Midwest spill will take months to clean](#)**

Officials investigating the cause of a huge oil spill along a major river in southern Michigan say that it will take months to clean up, and that damage to wetlands and wildlife may last considerably longer.

### **[Great Lakes Law Center threatens suit over Michigan oil spill](#)**

The Great Lakes Law Center on Monday sent Enbridge Inc. a notice of intent to file if a settlement isn't reached with U.S. EPA within 60 days. The letter accuses the company of violating the Clean Water Act.

### **[EDITORIAL: Kalamazoo spill is a wake-up call for state](#)**

Even in these divisive times, protecting the Great Lakes from contamination is a concern that commands unanimous support

### **[Record outbreak of toxic algae feared for Lake Erie after hot summer](#)**

Western Lake Erie could be on the verge of one of its worst algae outbreaks in years.

### **[Good News for Lake Michigan anglers; Chinook Salmon catch to remain big and plenty](#)**

Fewer, but fatter. That's how several charter boat captains and state fishery officials see this summer's Lake Michigan Chinook salmon catch, even though Michigan scaled back its salmon stocking effort by 30% in 2006, reducing the number of planted salmon from 2.3 million to 1.6 million per year.

### **[St. Lawrence River Turbines to be submerged in river this week](#)**

Hydroelectricity pilot project Underwater fans called more reliable, less intrusive than wind energy. The federal and provincial governments have invested \$6 million to test giant underwater fans propelled by the current in the St. Lawrence River, new subaquatic turbines that convert river currents into electricity.

### **[Bill calls for study delinking Lake Michigan, Chicago River to stall Asian carp](#)**

A U.S. House water projects bill introduced Wednesday would require the Army Corps of Engineers to study separation of Lake Michigan from the Chicago River and the local canal system to prevent the migration of Asian carp and other invasive species.

### **[Asian carp fence chosen for marsh](#)**

Wildlife officials hoping to prevent Asian carp from slipping into the Great Lakes through Indiana's Eagle Marsh chose a design Tuesday for a 10-foot-tall, chain-link fence intended to hold back the invasive fish.

### **[U.N. Threatens Second and First Amendments](#)**

The Washington Times reports the United Nations is holding secret closed meetings to work out a global arms trade treaty that is a threat to our Second and First Amendment rights. Some kind of gun registration and licensing system is an extremely likely probability." Registration proposals cover guns

### [Minnesota crane hunting returning after 94 years](#)

Minnesota will have a sandhill crane hunting season for the first time in 94 years. The season will run Sept. 4 to Oct. 10 and only in the northwest goose zone, which includes about six counties in NW Minnesota. The daily bag limit will be two birds, with a four-bird possession limit.

### [Federal ballast rule: Making progress?](#)

The United States Coast Guard is a year into working on their proposed rule for ballast water discharge. The goal of the ballast regulations is to prevent the spread of invasive species.

### [Governors, mayors to do own study on plugging Chicago Canal](#)

Great Lakes governors and mayors – including Ill Gov. Quinn and Mayor Daley – are banding together to explore changes for the Chicago River to protect the world's largest freshwater system. The regional leaders announced plans to embark on a \$2 million study to determine just what it will take to get that job done.

### [Can a lawsuit stop the Asian carp?](#)

It's not the first time the states have turned to the courts to force the federal government to crack down on the carp.

### [Debate emerges over oil drilling in the Great Lakes](#)

It may surprise you that one of the hot issues in the Wisconsin U.S. Senate race this year concerns drilling for oil in the Great Lakes. Putting the politics aside, this got us wondering if drilling for oil in the Great Lakes is a real possibility.

### [Native species returning to Lake Huron](#)

Lake herring could be making a comeback in Lake Huron, part of a cycle that has seen a resurgence of native species.

### [Wisconsin, 4 other states sue Chicago water district over carp](#)

Wisconsin and four other Great Lakes states filed a lawsuit Monday against the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to force changes on the Chicago River to halt the advance of the Asian carp into Lake Michigan.

### [Lake Ontario cormorants gobble up round gobies, fewer sport fish, study says](#)

The double-crested cormorant is eating more round gobies and fewer sport fish, a recent study says. From 2003 to 2007, researchers estimate that the cormorant ate 13 million fewer yellow perch and 600,000 fewer smallmouth bass in two large Lake Ontario cormorant colonies.

### [Illinois agrees to send 30 million lbs of Asian carp/year to China](#)

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed an agreement with China to export as much as 30 million lbs. of Asian carp a year from the Illinois River, a move aimed at reducing the population of the invasive species downstate. Flanked by state lawmakers and business leaders from Illinois and China,

### [Quagga mussels chow down on Lake Michigan's crucial "doughnut" bloom](#)

Ten years ago, Great Lakes scientists discovered Lake Michigan's "doughnut in the desert," a huge ring-shaped bloom of tiny aquatic plants circling southern Lake Michigan's frigid offshore winter waters. The phytoplankton bloom that circles southern in

### [Stabenow: Congress may not have to act to halt Asian carp](#)

It might not take an act of Congress to keep the invasive Asian carp out of the Great Lakes after all. That's the word from Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who said she's working with fellow lawmakers on "several strategies," including pushing the Army Corps of Engineers to accelerate its study on

### [Local news: Next weapon against carp: Annoying noise](#)

Members of Congress were told during a hearing that an underwater sound gun blasted at the fish at high decibel levels might keep them out of places they're not wanted. The guns have been tested on trout from 130 feet away at a noise level of 210 decibels, which injured the fish.

### [Asian carp czar will fulfill lawmakers' wish to monitor fish](#)

Obama plans to name an Asian carp czar within a month to oversee state and federal efforts to keep the fish from invading the Great Lakes. U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin announced the plan after meeting with Nancy Sutley, who chairs the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

### [64-pound Asian carp caught in Chicago lagoon](#)

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is checking out a report of a 64-pound Asian carp caught in a Chicago lagoon. Angler Spencer Miller says he caught the fish July 8 in the Garfield Park Lagoon on the city's West Side. He adds he caught it with a hook and line, and...

### [Parallels between Asian carp and Gulf oil spill](#)

What's the difference between a single 20-pound Asian carp caught on the watery outskirts of Lake Michigan and millions of barrels of oil fouling the Gulf of Mexico? On the Gulf Coast, wildlife, habitat, fishing and tourism industries have sustained months of daily assault. Here, such damage is merely pending.

**[A hex on fine salmon fishing](#)**

The phrasing was a bit inelegant but accurate. "It looks like a big toilet has flushed," John Giuliani said, staring at a 3' swirl on the St. Marys River where a fish had sucked in a floating mayfly. "They're just full of mayflies, and that's making it tough for us to interest them in anything we're offering."

**[Cruises give kids, naturalists underwater views](#)**

Each summer, 1,500 people board the 48' former fishing boat, operated by the Clinton River Cruise Co. of Mt. Clemens. The boat is certified by the USCG to carry 43 passengers per trip, but the cruises are limited to 30 guests to give them more room on the ship to enjoy their time on the

**[Canadian wind project draws ire](#)**

Sharp questions and protesters greeted Toronto's Trillium Power Wind Corp. as the company described its proposal to build a 414-megawatt offshore wind farm in Lake Ontario.

**[Ohio officials call for barrier to keep Asian carp out of Great Lakes](#)**

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland and Ohio's attorney general called for immediate construction of a physical barrier in the Calumet River in Illinois to fight the threat of Asian carp entering the Great Lakes.

**[Thad Allen Spits On The 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment](#)**

New rules issued last week by the U.S. Coast Guard prevent the public—and that includes reporters and photographers—from getting within 65 feet of any oil response vessel or booms on the water or beaches. Violators can be fined up to \$40,000 and charged with a Class D felony.