



EPA proposes rules to regulate cooling water discharges to Great Lakes New regulations would protect fish, fish eggs, and larvae that would be drawn into a power plant

This proposed EPA rule, published April 20 in the *Federal Register*, will affect many large cooling water dischargers to the Great Lakes, including large electric utility plants.

The ruling process is a result of a lawsuit concerning the issue of harm to fish, fish eggs, and larvae that would be drawn into the power plant. It was one of the principle environment issues in the suit.

Federal Register document: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-8033.pdf>

This proposed rule would establish requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for all existing power generating facilities and existing manufacturing and industrial facilities that withdraw more than 2 million gallons per day (MGD) of water from waters of the U.S. and use at least 25% of the water they

withdraw exclusively for cooling purposes. The proposed national requirements would be applicable to cooling water intake structures at these facilities by setting requirements that reflect the best technology available (BTA) for minimizing adverse environmental impact.

The Agency anticipates this rule would help protect ecosystems affected by cooling water intake structures and preserve aquatic organisms and the ecosystems they inhabit in waters used by cooling water intake structures at existing facilities.

Comments must be received on or before July 19, 2011.

Submit your comments, identified by Docket No. EPA-HQ-OW-2008-0667 by one of the following methods:

► www.regulations.gov: Follow the on-line instructions.

► E-mail: OW-Docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2008-0667.

► Mail: Water Docket, U.S. EPA, Mail Code: 4203M, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460. Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2008-0667. Include a total of 3 copies. In addition, mail a copy of your comments on information collection provisions to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attn: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20503.

For additional technical info, contact Paul Shriner at 202-566-1076, e-mail: shriner.paul@epa.gov. For additional economic info, contact Erik Helm at 202-566-1049, e-mail: helm.erik@epa.gov. For additional biological information, contact Tom Born at 202-566-1001, e-mail:

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New legislation would protect lead based ammo and fishing tackle

Both U.S. Chambers introduce "Hunting, Fishing/Shooting Sports Protection Act" – S. 838 & H.R. 1558

On April 14, the Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Sports Protection Act ([S. 838](#) and [H.R. 1558](#)), was introduced by the chairs of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus: Senators

Jon Tester (D-MT) and John Thune (R-SD) and Representatives Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mike Ross (D-AR). The Act will prevent a federal ban on lead in recreational fishing tackle and help to ensure that any future regulations on fishing tackle are established based on scientific data instead of unjustified petitions.

born.tom@epa.gov. ✧

Due in large part to industry and angler response, last November the USEPA denied a petition to ban lead fishing tackle under the Toxic

Substances Control Act (TSCA). Despite the EPA's Legislation would

Will help stop unreasonable bans on fishing tackle/ammo

protect lead.. *Continued on page 10*



Memorial Day

It is the soldier
Who salutes the flag,
Who serves under the flag,
Whose coffin is draped in the flag.

- Charles M. Province



Chinook harvests up 47% in 2010, outlook good for '11

Lake Michigan anglers had a banner year of Chinook fishing in 2010, with favorable winds and other factors helping to increase harvest 47%, Wisconsin fishery officials say.

"It looks like our Chinook salmon harvest by Wisconsin anglers was really good in 2010," says Brad Eggold, the DNR fisheries supervisor for southern Lake Michigan, who just completed analyzing surveys of what anglers caught on that water in 2010. "I don't see any reason that 2011 would not be another solid year."

Eggold found that anglers harvested 315,294 Chinook salmon, up from 214,621 in 2009 and 256,796 in 2008. More good news for Wisconsin anglers: they accounted for the bulk of the lake-wide haul.

"Chinook salmon harvest reported by all agencies in Lake Michigan was 531,170 fish. Wisconsin harvest comprised 60% of the total, so we did extremely well in 2010," Eggold says. "It looks like it was very good fishing on our side of the lake in 2010 with favorable wind conditions out most of the summer."

"If we get westerly winds and cooler water like we did in 2010, we're going to see good harvests of salmon and trout in 2011." The 2010 harvest is lower than the average Chinook harvest in the preceding five years (344,077) but is much higher than the average from 1988-2001.

Eggold says Chinook salmon may have benefited from a large number of young alewives produced in 2010; recent years have seen smaller year-classes of the invasive species. Because of the smaller year-classes of alewives and the overall decrease in the forage base, all the agencies around the lake reduced Chinook salmon stocking starting in 2006. "This reduction in stocking looks like it was a good move and is paying off with better Chinook growth and survival," he says.

Lake Michigan agencies cut stocking levels by 25% to better match the number of predators in the

lake with the declining forage base. In 1989 the estimated combined lake-wide biomass of four forage species in Lake Michigan hit a peak of around 770 million lbs., most of it bloater chubs. Today, the total is less than one-seventh that.

In the 1970s, the prime suspect in the decline of native species was alewives where today [quagga mussels](#) and [zebra mussels](#) are usually blamed for changes in the ecosystem, according to USGS research. Invasive mussels feed on plankton at the base of the food chain. Quagga mussels are considered even more damaging than zebra mussels because they can live in a wider range of water temperatures, water depths, and they feed most of the year, even in winter when zebra mussels lie dormant.

The lake-wide stocking reduction is also showing up in improved condition of the Chinook handled at the Strawberry Creek egg collection facility. The lake-wide reduction in stocking has taken full effect now and it seems to be working; weights are creeping back up again.

The condition stayed about the same or was slightly down from 2009, but is still significantly better than in 2007, when we hit historical lows for weight for females.

Fish hatched in the same year the stocking reductions started taking place are now leaving the fishing through harvest or through natural mortality. With fewer mouths to feed, the existing forage base is stretching farther. Sport angler harvest results, also called "creel survey results," are available for other species caught from Lake Michigan on the [Lake Michigan management reports](#) pages of the DNR website.

Get e-mail updates with weekly "Lake Michigan fishing reports." Anglers interested in fishing Lake Michigan can see what's biting when by signing up for free e-mail updates from the DNR or by directly visiting the [Lake Michigan Outdoor Fishing Report](#). ✧



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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 GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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Coast Guard advisory group approves life jacket resolution

Targets future requirements for life jacket wear for all recreational boaters while underway

ARLINGTON, Va. – Meeting in Arlington on April 1-2, the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, a congressionally mandated advisory group to the Coast Guard on recreational boating safety, approved a new resolution for life jacket wear, according to a release from the Marine Retailers Association of America. NBSAC passed the resolution with 15 in favor to 5 opposed.

The resolution asks the Coast Guard to initiate efforts that target a future regulatory project to pursue requirements for life jacket wear for recreational boaters while underway and riding in or upon 1.) personal watercraft, regardless of length; 2.) human powered vessels (such as canoes, kayaks, rowboats, etc) regardless of length; 3.) any vessel less than 18 feet in length; and 4.) any person being towed while engaged in water sports.

The resolution further charges the Coast Guard to work with its

partners to design a strategy to engage the boating public through in-person and electronic dialogue on this topic through pre-rulemaking consultation aimed at informing the public about the potential benefits of such regulation, gauging public opinion about life jacket wear based on boating type and activity, and making decisions on this topic based on a thorough understanding of both public sentiment and potential benefits.

In addition, the resolution asks the Coast Guard to streamline the life jacket testing and approval process to reduce the overall cost of highly comfortable life jackets, support innovation and creativity in life jacket design and technology, and allow improved life jacket models to reach the consumer more quickly and easily. By doing so, the Coast Guard should give proper consideration to the acceptance of alternative life jackets by completing and accepting a harmonized No. American standard.

"The federal government has been pushing for mandatory adult life jacket wear for several years," the MRAA said. "The action of NBSAC followed on a test project of the Corps of Engineers on three lakes in Mississippi, Ohio, and California and a recent announcement that the National Park Service was going to initiate a test case of mandatory adult life jacket wear on Lake Mead. The Coast Guard has verbally expressed its desire to declare all federal waters an adult life jacket zone."

According to a statistician at the meeting, approximately 82 million Americans go boating each year and there are about 400 drowning deaths on average. If the recommendations of the NBSAC resolution were enacted, it was predicted about 70-80 additional lives would be saved.

MRAA recently issued a position paper opposing mandatory adult life jacket wear, which was distributed to its members and posted on www.MRAA.com. ✧

Posted land limits angler access

New restrictions reduce recreational opportunities

Nearly 16% of United States anglers found one of their fishing spots closed to their use last year, and of that group, the single leading reason cited for that closure was that the area was posted as "no trespassing." The findings were part of a monthly survey of recreational fisherman conducted by AnglerSurvey.com.

Just over 32% of survey respondents said the water they fished or the land they used to access a particular body of water had been posted preventing them from fishing that location. The government no longer allows fishing at the location was the second most cited reason, claimed by 23.8% of survey respondents. That cause of closure was followed by development of the area by 15.7% and then pollution by 7.2%. An assortment of lesser or

"other" reasons was collectively cited by 32.8%. Respondents could provide more than one answer to the question as some anglers may have lost access to more than one fishing location last year.

"These findings should sound an alarm that lost access to the waters they fish is a very real problem for many of our nation's anglers," said Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates, which designs and conducts the surveys at www.HunterSurvey.com, www.ShooterSurvey.com and www.AnglerSurvey.com. "New lands posted as no trespassing are the top reason, but government closures of boat ramps or waterways due to lack of funds or environmental reasons and development along shorelines also greatly factor into limiting angler

access. Once these areas are lost to fishing, it's usually permanent."

Those who hunt, fish and target shoot are invited to participate in the surveys conducted on these sites. Each month, participants who complete the survey are entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 gift certificates to the sporting goods retailer of their choice.

Launched in 2006, [Angler Survey.com](http://AnglerSurvey.com), HunterSurvey.com, and ShooterSurvey.com are non-scientific surveys designed to help the outdoor industry, government fisheries and wildlife officials and conservation organizations track consumer activities and expenditure trends. Results are scientifically weighted to best reflect the attitudes and habits of anglers and hunters across the United States. ✧

Judge denies lawsuit aimed at closing refuge lands to hunting

Federal Judge James S. Gwin has ruled in favor of sportsmen by denying a lawsuit to close hunting on dozens of units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. This long-running case began in 2003 when Fund for Animals, which later merged with the Humane Society of the United States, filed a lawsuit to stop hunting on 39 refuges and later expanded that to 50 refuges.

Gwin's ruling stops HSUS' attempt at using the National Environmental Policy Act to close hunting on these refuges. In making the decision the judge noted that, "Plaintiffs, however, are not entitled to an inviolate sanctuary for their preferred uses — Congress has determined that, to the extent possible, hunters, fishers, observers, photographers, and educators must share the refuges."

The judge's ruling relied heavily on language in the 1997 Refuge Improvement Act, championed by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, which made hunting, fishing and other wildlife oriented activities priority uses on refuge units. The Act also mandated hunting and fishing activities be "facilitated." ✧

UP Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program June 3-5

The 14th annual Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) summer program will be held June 3-5, in Big Bay, 30 miles north of Marquette. This BOW program offers instruction in more than two dozen kinds of outdoor activities, including kayaking, canoeing, fishing, mountain biking, fly-tying, archery, geocaching, boating and birding. Volunteer instructors provide basic and advanced instruction that is tailored to each participant's individual ability, helping the participants learn the basics in a short amount of time.

The \$175 registration fee includes food and lodging, as well as most equipment and supplies (except as noted in the registration materials). Participants will be housed in a dorm-style facility at the universally accessible Big Bay Health Camp, with numerous amenities, including a pool, sauna, tennis courts, hiking and biking trails and easy access to Lake Superior. The BOW summer program also includes special evening programs, such as birding hikes, group bonfires and more.

Class & registration materials: www.michigan.gov/bow. For more info, Sharon Pitz, 906-228-6561 or e-mail pitzs@michigan.gov. ✧

New lake trout and splake regulations in Lake Superior

The Michigan DNR is reminding Lake Superior anglers of regulations changes for lake trout and splake this season. The minimum size limit for splake—lake trout/brook trout hybrids—has been increased to 15", the same as it is for lake trout. This change should negate problems some anglers have had with differentiating lake trout from splake. The change from 10" was made at the request of anglers who wanted to allow splake to attain a larger size before being subject to harvest.

The five-fish creel daily limit for lake trout in waters east of Keweenaw Peninsula has been modified so anglers may only keep one lake trout that measures 34" or longer.

In addition, trout regulations for the Mosquito River and Seven Mile Creek in Alger County have changed. Both were previously research streams with special regulations. Both are Type 1 streams, with a season that runs from the last Saturday of April through September 30 and a daily creel limit of five trout, no more than three measuring 15" or longer. Minimum size limits are 7" for brook trout, 8" for browns and 10" for rainbows. For more information on fishing in Michigan, go to www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing. ✧

Wild Rose Hatchery renovation

After carrying up to 50 tons of fish every year for more than 100 years, Wisconsin's Wild Rose hatchery was showing its age. With much needed renovation now underway, the historic memories are being preserved and a new era is beginning. Wild Rose is a reliable workhorse that's been delivering fishing fun and enhancing and restoring fish populations in Wisconsin for more than a century.

Wild Rose State Fish hatchery grows more trout and salmon than any other and will eventually produce musky, sturgeon and walleye. With

the \$35 million project nearing completion, Wild Rose is currently producing brown trout, Chinook and coho salmon and in the near future, rainbow trout. With the cool-water facilities completed, Wild Rose resumed production of northern pike, walleye, lake sturgeon, tiger and Great Lakes spotted musky, in addition to raising suckers and minnows for forage.

Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery is critical to Wisconsin's \$2.75 billion sport fishery. The hatchery is particularly important to great Lake

Michigan fishing; 100% of the coldwater fish (trout and salmon) raised at Wild Rose is stocked into the big pond. Lake Michigan has been considered a "world-class" fishery and thanks to the renovations of Wild Rose, we can be confident that it will live up to its reputation.

Year in, year out, Wild Rose produces more than two million trout and salmon for stocking; and it's one of only three hatcheries to raise both cold and cool-water fish. For more info: [Hatchery renovation is coming up roses](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing). ✧

Michigan Fishing Guide ready

The "2011 Michigan Fishing Guide" is ready; don't forget to pick one up when you buy your new fishing license. There are a few changes people need to be aware of for 2011. Below are some of the changes; consult the guide for more info or contact the DNR.

- **Statewide – All-Species Fishing License Requirement**

An all-species license is required to take and possess trout, salmon, lake sturgeon, lake herring, amphibians, reptiles or crustaceans.

- **Statewide – Possession Limit**

In addition to one (1) day's daily possession limit of fish, a person may possess an additional two (2) daily possession limits of fish taken during previous fishing days providing that the additional limits of fish are processed (canned, cured by smoking or

drying, or frozen). This does not apply to lake sturgeon; see p. 8 for lake sturgeon harvest restrictions.

- **Statewide – Inland Trout and Salmon Regulations**

Gear restrictions have been added to an additional 82.5 miles of streams and changes have been made to regulations on some existing gear restricted streams. Minimum size limits for trout have been modified on stream Types 1-4 and lake trout possession limits and season has been changed (see guide)

- **Lake Erie – New Walleye Possession Limits Regulations - Toll Free Info Line 888-367-7060.**

Starting in 2011, the daily possession limit for walleye will be set May 1st each year. A special publication announcing

the new daily possession limit will be available at the DNR offices and license vendors starting in April 2011. The new daily possession limit will also be announced in a statewide news release, on the DNR website (www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing), and in a pre-recorded message at 888-387-7060

- **Lake Michigan – Lake Trout and Splake regulations**

The daily possession limit has been changed to restrict harvest of large lake trout to one (1) lake trout 34" or greater and the splake minimum size limit has been increased to 15". Seasons for lake trout have changed based on management zone (see guide)

- **Black Lake – Lake Sturgeon Harvest Quota**

By January 15, 2012, see harvest quota for Black Lake at www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing. ✧

Coast Guard wants permanent safety zone in electronic barrier system Proposing 77 mile zone from Brandon Road Lock and Dam to Lake Michigan

The U. S. Coast Guard is proposing to establish a permanent safety zone from Brandon Road Lock and Dam to Lake Michigan. This safety zone will cover 77 miles of navigable waterways in the Chicago area and is intended to restrict vessels from entering certain segments of the navigable waters of the Des Plaines River, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC), branches of the Chicago River, and the Calumet-Saganashkee Channel (Cal-Sag Channel).

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was posted April 27 in the *Federal Register*: Coast Guard 33 CFR Part 165, [Docket No. USCG-2011-0228] RIN 1625-AA00: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-10194.pdf>.

The *Federal Register* states, "Because the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) may take such actions at any time and in any segment of the waterways

covered by this proposed safety zone, this proposed safety zone would provide the Captain of the Port, Sector Lake Michigan, the ability to take targeted and expeditious action to protect vessels and persons from the hazards associated with any Federal and State efforts to control aquatic nuisance species."

You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG-2011-0228 using any one of the following methods:

(1) Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

(2) Fax: 202-493-2251.

(3) Mail: Docket Mgmt Facility, (M-30), USDOT, West Bldg Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001. The telephone number: 202-366-9329.

To view *Federal Register* posting: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-10194.pdf>. ✧

Indiana Hovey and Dogwood lakes open to more boaters

More boaters can use Hovey Lake and Dogwood Lake in Indiana now. The horsepower limit has been removed. Now, boaters with 10-horsepower motors and larger are allowed on the two lakes, located in Hovey Lake (Posey County) and Glendale (Daviess County) fish & wildlife areas, respectively. A speed limit of 10 mph will now be enforced instead to allow more anglers the opportunity to enjoy these fisheries. After boating on Hovey and Dogwood, as on all water bodies, boaters should remove plants, mud and other debris from their watercraft after they take it from the water. This helps prevent transferring aquatic invasive species to other water bodies.

www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild ✧

WI - Walleye bag limits adjusted for Ceded Territory lakes

Daily walleye bag limits have been adjusted on 539 lakes in the Wisconsin Ceded Territory in response to harvest declarations made by the Chippewa tribes, the DNR has announced. These bag limits are effective between May 7, 2011 and March 4, 2012, inclusive.

There will be a three walleye bag limit for sport anglers on 226 lakes, a two-fish daily bag limit on 311 lakes, and a 1-fish daily bag limit on Potato (Rusk County) and Grindstone (Sawyer County) Lakes.

Most off-reservation Chippewa tribal harvest takes place during the spring spearfishing season. Tribal spearers typically have harvested walleye from 170-180 lakes annually, regardless of the number of lakes initially declared. DNR will review tribal harvest following the spring spearfishing season and may revise bag limits upwards on lakes lightly or not speared. An administrative rule passed by the state Natural Resources Board in 1998 allows the department to adjust initial bag limits to reflect actual spring spearing harvest and projected summer harvests.

The adjusted walleye bag limits are available in portable document format on the [fishing regulations](#) pages of the DNR website. They will also be posted to the fishing

regulations page of the DNR Fishing Wisconsin Web site and are being published as an insert to the 2011-2012 Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations. Lakes not listed are subject to the regulations printed in the regulations pamphlet. Anglers should check the regulations for special size and bag limits that are in effect on specific waters.

Of 234 lakes declared by the Lac du Flambeau Band, 224 will have a daily bag limit of three walleye for sport anglers, while 10 lakes and chains will have a daily bag limit of 2 walleye. Those lakes are: Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (Iron County), Bearskin, Minocqua, and Squirrel Lakes, Willow Flowage, and the Tomahawk Lake Chain (Oneida), and Big St. Germain, Plum, Squaw, and Trout lakes (Vilas)

An on-going agreement with the Lac du Flambeau giving the Band authority to sell fishing licenses in return for making declarations at a level that allows a three walleye per day recreational angler bag limit was altered this year to accommodate tribal requests to harvest more fish. The Band declared 10 lakes at the two-bag level.

That negotiated change assured that the three-bag agreement would be maintained on the majority of

lakes the Lac du Flambeau traditionally spear. Further, the band has promised that it would not select any lake for a two bag two years in a row. We believe that on balance, the agreement is good for the northern tourism interests and the tribe.

As part of a 1983 federal Appellate Court decision affirming Chippewa off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, the six bands of Wisconsin Chippewa set annual harvest quotas for off-reservation lakes in the Wisconsin Ceded Territory. As part of court agreements, the DNR reduces bag limits for recreational anglers in lakes declared for harvest by the Chippewa bands to assure the combined tribal and recreational angler harvest does not jeopardize the ability of walleye to sustain its population in any lake.

For background information on Chippewa treaty rights, a description of the management and monitoring system used to ensure the long term viability of fisheries in the Ceded Territory, and to see data collected as part of that monitoring system, including walleye population estimates and creel survey summaries for all game fish, see the DNR Bureau of Fisheries Management Internet pages regarding the joint tribal and recreational fishery in the Wisconsin Ceded Territory. ✧

Ontario fines commercials for fishing violations on Lake Erie

Richard Jackson of Erieau, captain of the commercial fishing vessel, "Seven O", pleaded guilty to five counts of violating the terms and conditions of his commercial fishing license while gill netting in the Chatham-Kent waters of Lake Erie and landing his catch of fish in the Port of Erieau. He was fined \$3,500.

The court heard that several investigations conducted by conservation officers with the Lake Erie Enforcement Unit showed that Jackson submitted falsified and inaccurate daily catch reports to the Ministry of Natural Resources in the

winter and spring of 2009. The investigations concluded that Jackson submitted three daily catch reports that contained falsified net set durations and a fourth report with no net set duration recorded. Jackson also failed to report 104 kilograms (231 pounds) of walleye on a daily catch report.

Also, the Family Fish Company Ltd., owner of a commercial fishing license, and Helio Ferreira of Leamington, captain of the commercial fishing vessel Mummery Bros., pleaded guilty to one count each of violating the terms and

conditions of a commercial fishing license. The Lake Erie commercial fishing boat captain was fined \$3,500 and the Leamington commercial fishing company has been fined \$2,000 for committing commercial fishing violations.

To report a natural resource violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). ✧

IN DNR studies muskie growth in Lake Webster

NORTH WEBSTER – A fish-tagging study being done by the Indiana DNR is shedding new light on how fast muskies grow in Lake Webster. The results could affect the number of muskies stocked in the popular 774-acre lake in northern Kosciusko County. The results will also help DNR fisheries biologists determine if the 36" minimum size limit should be increased.

"Based on what we know already, Lake Webster has one of the densest populations of muskies in the Midwest," said Jed Pearson, DNR fisheries biologist for the area. "That's because we stock fingerling muskies each year in the lake at the rate of five per acre."

Other states typically stock one or two muskies per acre and sometimes do so every other year. "What we don't know is whether the high density of muskies is affecting their growth," Pearson said. "A lake can hold only so many fish. When fish densities get too high, there may

not be enough food to go around." According to Pearson, some anglers claim the average size of muskies in Lake Webster is declining and fewer trophy-size muskies, those more than 46" long, are being caught.

Although length data recorded each spring from adult muskies captured during egg-taking operations do not back the claim, DNR biologists are taking a closer look at muskie growth in Lake Webster. "Adult muskies average around 36 inches long but we occasionally catch some over 46 inches long during our hatchery egg-taking operations in spring," Pearson said. "What we want to know is how much a muskie grows each year and how its growth rate in Webster compares to other lakes."

To study muskie growth, Pearson has tagged more than 1,300 muskies with tiny PIT (passive integrated transponder) tags since 2005. Each fish is measured before the tag is inserted into muscle tissue along the dorsal fin. The tag has a unique

numerical code that's read with a special electronic scanner. By noting changes in size from when a muskie is first tagged compared to when it is recaptured, biologists get an accurate account of how much the fish grew.

"Although we're just now getting long-term data on growth, we've already seen a big difference between male and female muskies," Pearson said. Most male muskies stop growing after they reach 36" long. In contrast, females continue to grow about 1-2 inches per year after they reach 36". Biologists call this "sexual dimorphic growth." They think it is an evolutionary adaptation in how a fish uses energy and helps the species survive and reproduce. The difference has management implications.

"This means we may want to ignore the males. For management decisions, we plan to focus on how big the females grow," Pearson said. "As long as female muskies get bigger at normal rates, we don't think there is growth problem." ✧

MI DNR announces 2011 Demo Day Lower Peninsula dates

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Accessibility Advisory Council (AAC) will be holding two accessibility demonstration days in 2011. Demonstration days give persons with disabilities, outdoor recreation professionals and equipment vendors the chance to meet and provide demonstrations for equipment designed to increase accessibility to the outdoors.

The two dates planned in the Lower Peninsula in 2011 are:

June 11 – "Tips-up for the Troops" at [Kensington Metropark](#) and "Accessibility Demo Days." This event will focus on all areas of recreation and accessible equipment. Contact Rick Briggs at 810-229-5880 or rbriggs@biami.org for specifics on the event. To sponsor this event or register as a vendor, contact Daryl Domke at 616-363-2140 or

ddomke@sst-mail.com. Vendor registration deadline is Tuesday, June 1, 2011. Everyone (including vendors and sponsors) will need to pay the entrance fees at Kensington Metropark (\$5 day pass).

Sept. 10 – "DNR Accessibility Demo Day" at the Michigan State U, [Demmer Center](#), East Lansing, MI, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. This event will focus on all areas of recreation and accessible equipment. For more information or to sponsor this event or register as a vendor, contact Daryl Domke at 616-363-2140 or ddomke@sst-mail.com. Vendor registration deadline is Wednesday, August 31, 2011. Vendors will need to pay the \$35 vendor fee to the Demmer Center and complete the [Demmer Center vendor application](#).

Types of adaptive equipment may include but are not limited to:

- Mobility assistive devices for recreation, hunting and fishing; 4 wheel-drive wheelchairs and ATV side by side
- Hand cycling and biking
- Shooting technology
- Crossbows, modified bows and compound bows (All bows must comply with DNR regulations.)
- Adaptive fishing equipment
- Kayaking/canoeing
- Accessible hunting blinds
- Skiing – water and snow
- Pickup truck and van conversions
- Other adaptive equipment for outdoor recreation

For more information, contact AAC member Daryl Domke at 616-363-2140 or ddomke@sst-mail.com. Additional information can be found on the web at www.michigan.gov/dnraccessibility. ✧

Activities, classes at Michigan Demmer Center range

Archery and firearms ranges are open to the public

EAST LANSING – The Demmer Center has several upcoming opportunities this spring. Activities, special events and classes are available at beginner level or for those with experience. The center is located at 3365 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. Patient, courteous archery (NADA) or NRA certified instructors teach all classes.

Special Events

Dinner and Shoot – Available to beginners or experienced shooters, join the Demmer Center for an afternoon to shoot archery, pistol or rifle. After shooting, enjoy dinner at Gilbert and Blake's Seafood and Steak Grille in Okemos. Packaged for two, the archery shoot and dinner is \$95 or \$115 for the firearms shoot and dinner. Contact the Demmer Center for reservations.

Shoot and Shave – Come out for the afternoon to shoot either archery or firearms and get an old-fashioned shave like you see in the old western movies, courtesy of the Shave, a unique barbershop. Individual registration is only \$35, a perfect gift for any male! Contact the Demmer Center for reservations.

Open Shoots

Archery and firearms ranges are open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays are available for members only 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you shoot a traditional bow, please visit on Mondays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Classes

Introduction to Handgun Shooting: \$35 (cost may be split between two people). Contact the Demmer Center to schedule.

Introduction to Rifle Shooting: \$35 (cost may be split between two people). Contact the Demmer Center to schedule.

The Demmer Center also accommodates the Michigan State U Archery Club and MSU Rifle & Pistol

Club team activities. To register for special events, shoots, classes or for general questions, contact the Demmer Center at 517-884-0550 or www.demmercenter.msu.edu.

In addition to serving its members, the John and Marnie Shooting Sports Education and Training Center provides space for public shooting sports education courses and extramural enjoyment opportunities for the public. ✧

Midwest-specific Hunt/Shoot/Fish programming available With Chicago Comcast Xfinity On Demand Hyper-local, seasonally specific programming only available with Chicago Comcast 24/7

If you are a hunter, shooter or angler in the Chicago area and subscribe to Comcast Xfinity service, then you are in luck with the best hyper-local, seasonally specific on demand programming now available with Sportsman Channel, the leader in outdoor TV for the American Sportsman.

"Sportsman On Demand Illinois" has leading how-to, where-to programming spotlighting Chicago-area fishing waters and hunting grounds. From Angling the Great Lakes to Midwest Whitetail with Bill Winke and Midwest Outdoors Magazine, Sportsman Channel has selected the most informative shows to help Comcast Chicago hunters and anglers.

To access Comcast Xfinity On Demand in Chicago, select channel 1, Get Local and then select Sportsman Channel.

Sportsman Channel is available on Comcast Chicago on channel 416. For more info: <http://comcast.com> or 800-630-2142. ✧

NY changes to recreational fishing regulations for flounder (fluke)

The new 2011 recreational fishing regulations for summer flounder (fluke), which are effective immediately, specify a 3-fish possession limit, 20.5" minimum size and an open season of May 1 through September 30. These new limits replace the 2010 regulations, which included a 2-fish possession limit, a 21-inch minimum size and an open season from May 15 through September 6.

New York State participates in the cooperative management of migratory marine fisheries as a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). ASMFC adopts Interstate Fisheries Management Plans (FMP's) for the prudent management and conservation of quota managed species along the Atlantic Coast. Each member state of ASMFC must implement the provisions of the FMPs for the quota-managed species within its state waters.

The current stock assessment for summer flounder (fluke) shows that the population is nearly rebuilt, not overfished and not subject to overfishing. Recent changes to the fluke FMP allow states to liberalize their harvest of fluke in order to achieve optimum use of the fishery resource. New York State has chosen to adopt new regulations that meet the requirements of the FMP while providing greater fishing opportunities for fluke this year.

The text of the new regulation will be published in the State Register on May 18, 2011 and is available online at www.dec.ny.gov. DEC will be accepting public comments on the new fluke regulation through July 5, 2011. Recreational marine fishing regulations can be viewed on the DEC website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html>. For additional information, contact DEC Marine Resources Division at 631-444-0435. ✧

PFDs for people with larger than normal chest sizes

(Oversize & Extended Straps)

A lifejacket approved in accordance with 46 CFR 160.055 as a Type I is designed and tested to fit a range of chest sizes of at least 75-130 cm (30-52"). The 52-inch chest size is currently the largest approved for Type I requirements. So there is no manufactured Type I lifejacket tested and approved for a chest size larger than 130 cm (52 in.), as it exceeds the Type I lifejacket normal size range. The reality is that the test facility does not have enough test subjects available in the size range to properly test with those large size individuals, and it is impractical to add the expense of design/testing and approval for manufacturers of these devices.

The people who are in the upper 4th percentile of the population for chest size may use additional accessories with a device to permit wearing that device. Clip-on body strap extensions are the preferred method of accommodating large people. We suggest that an additional length of body strap be added to the main strap, preferably using the same types of materials as used in the approved device. The lifejacket or PFD manufacturer may be willing to provide the clip-on body strap extension or necessary material. Ideally, the user should test the modified PFD in the water.

Modifying a PFD, such as (permanently) adding additional body strap webbing, voids the device's approval, no matter who does the modification. However, for a person with a chest size over 130 cm (52 inches), using an adult universal lifejacket/PFD with a clip-on body strap extension does not void the approval. If a PFD manufacturer decides to provide the body strap extension, we recommend that it be provided with a PFD pamphlet and a caution that the PFD with the extension be tested by the individual user.

In lieu of the manufacturer, anyone may produce a suitable strap extension device for larger persons without Coast Guard approval. We advise that any such device be tested in the water as mentioned above. This would permit the use of the USCG approved device for the larger range of chest sizes.

For more USCG info: www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg5214/pfdselection.asp#faq. ✧

Major lure company suspends shipments to Canada

Lurenet.com, home to 12 of the world's most storied lure brands such as Bomber, Heddon, Arbogast, Creek Chub and Rebel has suspended shipments to Canada due to exorbitant duty fees that are being levied by customs on their Canadian customers.

In a recent notice posted on their web site at www.lurenet.com the company says, "The North Country is some of the most beautiful in the world and a lot of us carry the memory of throwing a Jitterbug to hard-fighting smallies or floating along on a clear, gentle current while a Wally Diver buys dinner. We value our Canadian customers and are regretful for the inconvenience, but temporarily we will not be able to process orders from Canada due to exorbitant duty fees that are being levied by customs on our Canadian customers."

The company adds, "We will resume shipments to Canada as soon as a sensible solution to this issue is uncovered. We very much appreciate our loyal Canadian customer base and are truly sorry for this temporary interruption in service. As soon as a solution is in place we will make an announcement that business has returned to normal." ✧

WI 2011 Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Rule Hearing Results

MADISON – A total of 5,574 people attended the 2011 Spring Fisheries and Wildlife Rules Hearings and Wisconsin Conservation Congress county meetings that were held in every county statewide on April 11. The hearings provided citizens with an opportunity to comment and provide their input on proposed fish and wildlife rule changes, Conservation Congress advisory questions, and to submit resolutions for rule changes they would like to see in the future.

Statewide results and the questions are available on the [Spring Rules Hearings](#) page of the DNR Web site. The results will be presented to the state Natural Resources Board in May. This year's results will be reviewed at the board's May 25 meeting in Madison. Votes are non-binding and are presented to the Natural Resources Board to reflect public sentiment on proposed DNR rule changes. ✧

Michigan loses funds to control cormorants

The USDA has lost funding for cormorant control in Michigan for 2011. In the Michigan State legislation bill, \$100,000 was removed from the Michigan's Fish and Game Fund during 2011 and will be used to fund cormorant control for this year. Controlling the birds is a federal responsibility and if other federal funds are not found for 2011 and a permanent federal funding source is not implemented in 2012 and beyond the heavy drain on Michigan's fish and wildlife funding will continue.

This could impact fish surveys, hatchery production, etc. Contact your federal legislators and let them know that cormorant control is very important in protecting the fisheries of the Great Lakes and it is a federal responsibility to fund the program. ✧

New Ohio River fishing regulations

Rules to unify several fishing regulations along the Ohio River were passed according to the Ohio DNR.

The Ohio River Management Team, which consists of the fishery managers from Penn., Ohio, W Va., Ken., Ind., and Ill., is working towards greater uniformity in regulations between the eastern and western units of the Ohio River, and throughout the river among all border states. This will mean that Ohio River anglers will encounter the same fishing regulations at any place on the Ohio River.

Regulations passed in the Eastern Unit include implementing a 12" minimum length limit for black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass); changing striped, hybrid striped and white bass from "no daily limit" (with no more than four over 15") to a daily limit of 30 (with no more than four over 15"), and removing yellow bass from this regulation. It was also approved to implement a black and white crappie daily limit of 30 fish, and remove the northern pike daily limit and minimum length limit.

In the Western Unit, regulations approved were to change the 12" minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass to include all black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass). Also, this approved regulation removed yellow bass from the striped, hybrid striped, and white bass combination for regulations.

A 9" minimum size limit on crappie with a 30-fish daily bag limit was approved for Metzger Reservoir in Allen County and the Mahoning River between Berlin Lake and Lake Milton in Mahoning and Portage counties and the Mahoning River from the dam at Lake Milton to West Mahoning/Trumbull County Line Rd.

This approved regulation will add these two areas to the already 44 existing waterways with the same regulations.

The final approved proposal is for a 10-horse power limit on Wayne R. Carr Lake in Paulding County. ✧

Ohio hunting and trapping regulations approved for 2011-12

Hunting and trapping regulations for 2011-12 seasons were passed by the Ohio Wildlife Council at the April 6 meeting, according to the Ohio DNR. A rule to eliminate the requirement for all packages of deer meat produced during the butchering process to be marked with the tag, seal or certificate number was passed. The tag, seal or certificate must be maintained until the entire deer has been consumed, but the package no longer needs to be marked.

Hunters can again buy antlerless deer permits at reduced prices for hunting in an urban zone, participating in a Division of Wildlife-authorized controlled hunt or hunting during the September 24 to November 27 portion of the deer season. The sale of reduced priced antlerless permits will cease after November 27, so hunters need to commit early to buying and using the extra reduced-cost permits to take full advantage of this opportunity. The deadline for using the antlerless permit will be extended to December 4 for those hunting in Deer Zone C. Cost of the antlerless deer permit remains \$15.

The maximum number of deer that a hunter may take in Deer Zone A is two. Prior to November 28, hunters may take up to two deer in Zone A, one of which may be on a \$15 antlerless deer permit. Beginning November 28, hunters may take only one deer in Zone A and antlerless permits may not be used.

The maximum number of deer that a hunter may take in Deer Zone B is four. Prior to November 28, hunters may take up to four deer in Zone B, two of which may be on \$15 antlerless deer permits. Beginning November 28, hunters may take only two deer in Zone B and antlerless permits may not be used.

The maximum number of deer that a hunter may take in Deer Zone C is six. Prior to December 5, hunters may take up to six deer in Zone C, three of which may be on \$15 antlerless deer permits. Beginning

December 5, hunters may take only three deer in Zone C and antlerless permits may not be used.

Those hunting in urban zones and at Division of Wildlife-authorized controlled hunts will again have a six-deer bag limit, and those deer will not count against the hunter's zone bag limit. Either a \$15 antlerless deer permit and a valid hunting license or \$24 deer permit and a valid hunting license are required to hunt deer in Ohio. A hunter may take only one antlered deer in Ohio, regardless of zone, hunting method or season. ✧

Legislation would protect lead..

Continued from page 1

ruling, this issue is not yet fully resolved. The groups who filed the petition are now turning to a lawsuit to force the EPA to ban lead fishing tackle and ammunition.

The American Sportfishing Association is asking us to rally behind legislation to ensure further bans are not possible. Please, contact your Members of Congress today urging them to co-sponsor [S. 838](#) and [H.R. 1558](#), the Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Sports Protection Act.

ASA encourages you to FAX a letter to your Members of Congress on your company, club or individual letterhead in support of the Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Sports Protection Act. A template message is included below for your reference. Please be sure to include specific information on your organization. You can find your legislators' FAX numbers by going to [ASA's Legislative Action Center](#) and entering your zip code. It is important that industry members, angling and hunting groups and anglers and hunters send comments!

More info: [Gordon Robertson](#), vice pres. and Government Affairs lead, 703-519-9691 x237, or [Alyssa Hausman](#) ASA Policy Fellow, x244.

You may also [click here to send your message electronically](#). ✧

DNR sets bass quotas at two Noble Cty lakes

Indiana DNR fisheries biologists have started sampling for largemouth bass at Big and Crane lakes in southwestern Noble County to establish quotas on how many bass anglers can remove from each lake this summer.

Beginning June 3 on these lakes, the only bass that fishermen will be allowed to keep will be those that are 10-14" long. This will change the current rule that requires anglers to release all bass that are less than 14" long. Once the new rule goes into effect, anglers will be required to release all bass less than 10" long and all 14" and larger bass. The daily bass catch limit will remain at five.

"By sampling with shocker boats, we're getting a good estimate of the actual number of 10-14" bass in each lake and we'll be able to determine how many bass we want anglers to take out," said DNR biologist Jed Pearson. "After the quotas are reached, the standard 14" minimum size limit will go back into effect."

Based on sampling, both lakes contain about three times the normal number of bass, most of which are 10-14" long. Anglers will likely be allowed, therefore, to remove up to two-thirds of them. Actual quotas will be set once sampling is complete in late May. ✧

Wis. now has one day fishing license

New this year Wisconsin is offering a one-day fishing license that allows people to try fishing, and if they like it, to upgrade to an annual license. The one-day license is \$8 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents. People can buy this new license and the 20 other different fishing licenses DNR offers in three convenient ways:

1. Over the Internet through the DNR [Online Licensing Center](#);
2. From one of the 1,500 DNR [license vendors](#); or
3. By calling toll-free 1-877-WI LICENSE (877-945-4236). ✧

New lake trout/splake limits in Lake Huron

The Michigan DNR is reminding Lake Huron anglers fishing regulations for lake trout and splake changed May 1, 2011

Anglers fishing in MH-1 — the northernmost management unit — will be allowed to keep three lake trout and/or splake daily with a minimum size limit of 10" and a maximum size limit of 24", except that one of the three fish comprising the daily possession limit may be 32" or greater. Key MH-1 ports include Rogers City, Cheboygan, St. Ignace, Cedarville and Detour. Previously, the maximum size limit was 27".

These new regs supersede the regulations printed in the 2011 Michigan Fishing Guide. www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing ✧

Survey for Ohio Anglers

The Ohio DNR is asking anglers to visit www.ohiodnr.com/creel to take a new online angler survey running through September 30, 2011. The online survey asks anglers to provide feedback on a variety of topics including fishing preferences, fish consumption, fishing regulations for American Electric Power ReCreation lands, and potential threats to the quality of fishing in Ohio. Anglers will also be given the opportunity to provide general comments about fishing in Ohio. ✧

Michigan proposes tougher BUI law

Michigan lawmakers are the latest to be considering a bill that would lower the blood-alcohol threshold for boaters from .10 to .08. State Rep. Matt Lori drafted a similar proposal last year, but it did not come up for a vote. He has reintroduced similar legislation for this session.

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad last month approved a law that sets the blood-alcohol limit for boaters at .08, down from .10. ✧

Congress approves Lamprey Control budget

Congress passed a 2011 funding bill on April 14 that included funding for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission at near the fiscal 2010 level. This is extremely good news for the Great Lakes, as the House had proposed about a 20% reduction, a level of funding that would have reduced sea lamprey control significantly, boosted lamprey abundances by hundreds of thousands, and resulted in nearly 9 million pounds of Great Lakes fish destroyed.

Sights now turn to fiscal 2012 funding which, by all accounts, will be a major challenge, particularly given the reduction in the program proposed by the president in his budget. ✧

New rule offers life jacket reform

The U.S. Coast Guard has published a final rule that removes exclusivity for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) as the only approved lab to test inflatable life jackets. The National Marine Manufacturers Association called the move a "positive movement in support of more innovative life jackets and life jacket options for boaters."

"The rulemaking signals that the USCG is seriously considering approving an inflatable life jacket standard that will remove the bar on inflatable jackets for youth 16 and under," the NMMA said. "Such a move, if taken by the USCG, will encourage youth life jacket wear as a result of the innovative design and comfort benefits of inflatable life jackets." [The full rulemaking is available here.](#) ✧

Thou shalt not steal, for the government hates competition.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Catchable size trout delivered to dozens of waters in Wisconsin

[Catchable size trout](#) were delivered to dozens of Wisconsin waters for the May 7 opening of the regular inland season to provide trout fishing where it wouldn't otherwise exist. The trout were stocked where the habitat is marginal and there is no natural reproduction. They are a small subset of the state's overall [trout treasury](#)—more than 10,000 miles of classified trout water and trout populations that have generally increased statewide over the last 60 years. About 70,000 fish were stocked in urban fishing waters, small lakes and ponds cooperatively managed with the local municipality and used as a place for fishing clinics and kids fishing. ✧

Boaters advised about swamping, capsizing situations

The swamping and capsizing of a small boat resulting in occupants being unexpectedly immersed in frigid water poses a serious threat to boaters and anglers getting out on the water this time of year as water temperatures slowly begin to warm. The best way to survive a cold-water immersion and guard against hypothermia and drowning is to properly wear a life jacket and be dressed for cold-water temperatures instead of warmer air temperatures, according to the Ohio DNR.

To be prepared for the unforeseen wear an approved life jacket or inflatable vest. Second, wear protective clothing, such as synthetics, wool or polypropylene that helps reduce the loss of body heat when immersed in cold water. Third, ensure that boats are properly loaded with people and gear before launching to reduce the chance of swamping and capsizing.

More safety tips: www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft. ✧

MI-Elk and bear applications on sale now through June 1

Michigan elk and bear hunting licenses are now available through June 1. Apply online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings or at any retail license agent.

There will be 155 elk licenses for the 2011 hunting season, of which 90 licenses will be distributed for the August/September hunt and 65 licenses for the December hunt. The October hunt period will not be utilized during the 2011 season. The August/September hunt is designed to target elk outside the primary elk range before these elk move for the breeding season. The December hunt will occur in the core elk range and also allows additional harvest outside the core area.

Only Michigan residents are eligible to apply for an elk license. This includes qualified military personnel and full-time students attending a Michigan college or university who reside in the state during the school year.

There will be 11,742 bear hunting licenses available for the 2011 hunting season, with license quotas remaining the same as 2010. If any licenses remain after the drawing,

one leftover license may be obtained on a first-come, first-served basis in July until the quota is met in each hunt period. There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any hunt unit or hunt period.

Conditions of the written authorization include, but are not limited to, carrying general liability insurance and paying an authorization fee. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit www.michigan.gov/statelandpermision or call the nearest DNR Operations Service Center for more detailed information.

Hunters are reminded to apply for the Pure Michigan Hunt. Increase your odds of getting a bear and elk license by applying for the 2012 Pure Michigan Hunt drawing. Three lucky winners will receive a hunt package that includes a bear and any-elk license. By applying, you will not impact your preference points or weighted chances. Only \$4 for each application; apply as many times as you would like at www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt. ✧

Hunter's bag 7,744 wild turkeys in first week of season

Ohio hunters harvested a preliminary total of 7,744 bearded wild turkeys during the first week of the spring turkey-hunting season, which closed May 15. Top counties for wild turkeys killed: Tuscarawas – 259, Guernsey – 247, Ashtabula – 241, Knox – 238, Harrison – 224, Adams – 213, Coshocton 210, Muskingum – 207, Licking – 199, and Columbiana – 191.

The DNR estimates that more than 70,000 people hunted turkeys during the four-week season. ✧

It is the Soldier

It is the soldier, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet
Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer
Who has given us the freedom to
demonstrate.
It is the soldier, not the lawyer
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the soldier
Who salutes the flag,
Who serves under the flag,
Whose coffin is draped in the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

- Charles M. Province

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Feds demand Chicago River cleanup

The Obama administration is ordering an ambitious cleanup of the Chicago River, a dramatic step toward improving an urban waterway treated for more than a century as little more than an industrialized sewage canal.

Walker plan calls for more DNR autonomy

Gov. Scott Walker's administration is developing a plan that it says will streamline the Department of Natural Resources to make it more responsive to the public and help speed reviews of environmental permits sought by industry.

Ohio anglers encouraged to participate in survey

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife invites anglers to see www.ohiodnr.com/creel to take a new online angler survey.

Experts search for reasons for so much algae in Lake Ontario

Scientists have searching for an underlying explanation for the presence of so much algae in Lake Ontario. An international research project that may help provide an explanation is in its final stages. The nutrients, especially phosphorus, a constituent of fertilizers, sewage and animal waste, fuel the growth of

Fishing nets 43,000 Minnesota jobs, \$2.8 billion in retail spending

According to the fisheries chief of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, fishing is an economic engine that supports 43,000 Minnesota jobs, generates \$2.8 billion in direct annual expenditures and contributes more than \$640 million a year in tax revenues.

An Asian carp solution?

Asian carp have been threatening to invade the Great Lakes for years, but a permanent solution remains to be found. With the opportunity to act quickly slipping away, a couple of Houghton-based scientists have come up with a plan of their own

Resurgence of native Great Lakes fish welcomed

Thought to have been a lost native fish, the reef Cisco has reappeared in Lake Michigan in increasing numbers after 20 to 30 years out of biologists' view.

On the trail

They aren't the fish that leap out of the water and knock out boaters nor the ones that can reach 100 pounds, but the discoveries late last month of grass carp in the Milwaukee River and in the Lower Wisconsin River are very concerning, according to state fisheries officials.

DNR paying anglers \$100 for landing tagged walleye

The Michigan DNR will pay you \$100 to hook a fish, but there's a catch: It has to be a specially tagged, electronically enhanced walleye.

EDITORIAL: More bad news on Asian carp front

The latest report on the potential problem of Asian Carp finding a new home in Lake Michigan couldn't have been much worse.

Aircraft chemical found in Great Lakes fish

The Environment Report (5/5)

New research finds that fish in the Great Lakes are contaminated with a chemical used in aircraft hydraulic fluids.

How close are Asian carp getting to the Great Lakes? We track them

Today, a Free Press team embarks on a 13-day, seven-state quest for Asian carp.

Minnesota anglers want waterfall altered; DNR says no

Members of the Lake Superior Steelhead Association say not enough fish are clearing a drop on the Knife River. The LSSA has asked the Minnesota DNR to modify the falls by reshaping the riverbed, which they say would allow fish to pass more easily.

Recreational boating industry sees more signs of recovery

The Great Lakes region remained one of the strongest for new boat, engine, trailer, accessory and services sales in 2010 with six out of the eight Great Lakes states seeing growth and the remaining two seeing just single digit declines.