



Pressure on Asian carp activities and potential expansion

Regional committee, agencies committed to control – search and destroy, but how successful?

Right now major research and survey activities are going on in different parts of the Great Lakes Region - searching for any presence of Asian carp. But how successful they are, and will continue to be - at controlling the presence and expansion of these scary and heinous critters, is questionable.

Asian carp sampling for eDNA evidence is ongoing in the Chicago Waterway System (CAWS) by the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee; the state of Michigan, using the study team from the University of Notre Dame is monitoring for eDNA evidence in the southwestern Lake Michigan tributaries; and the Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife & U.S. Geological Survey are monitoring the tributaries of western Lake Erie and looking into the Maumee River for

any Asian Carp populations that may be hunkered down somewhere.

In Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is heading up the Canadian research, while its Centre for Expertise for Aquatic Risk Assessment is leading the risk assessment study, which is being coordinated by Dr. Chris Goddard and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The DFO

effort, under the able leadership of Becky Cudmore is doing an extensive evaluation of the risk assessment of Asian carp in the Great Lakes and the North American continent.

The 18-month long study requested by the GLFC should be

completed late this year. Cudmore tells us, "The data should be available in November-December of this year."

The most intense and possibly the most critical activities are ongoing



IL DNR biologists electro-fishing for Asian carp in the Bubbly Creek area of the Chicago River

and renewed from last year in the Chicago Waterway. Formed last year, The Asian Carp Regional Coordination Committee is committing federal **Asian Carp activities**

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A faster way for boaters to report to U.S. Customs

The Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS), a voluntary program offered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), helps boaters report their arrival to the U.S. at no charge.

The program is designed to expedite entry of legitimate boaters, enabling CBP officers to focus their attention on higher-risk travelers and craft. SVRS is available to: U.S. citizens, nationals and lawful permanent residents, Canadian citizens, and permanent residents of Canada who are nationals of a Visa Waiver Program country.

Enrolling is quick, easy, and free via the Internet in just three steps:

1. Complete application at www.CBP.gov/SVRS

2. Schedule interview online with CBP officer
 3. Receive boater registration number and password by email
- SVRS participants report their entry to the U.S. quickly too, by calling a dedicated telephone line and responding to the questions. (CBP reserves the right to hold an in-person inspection if needed.)

Useful links

- ▶ Enrollment page (not case-sensitive): www.CBP.gov/SVRS
- ▶ General information: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pl easeure_boats/boats/svrs.xml
- ▶ Audio of announcement – for sharing or broadcast: <http://dvidshub.net/r/6mv47y>. ✧

Hot action ahead for Wis northern zone bass harvest opener Cool spring means bass still spawning

RHINELANDER – The northern bass zone harvest season opens June 18 and the cool spring is likely to deliver some hot fishing action, state fish biologists say.

"The cool spring means the bass are spawning later than normal," says Steve Avelallemant, Department of Natural Resources fisheries supervisor in northern Wisconsin. "They're going to be easier to fish because they will still be on the beds in many waters on opening day of the harvest season."

Avelallemant encourages anglers to enjoy the fast action but consider practicing catch and release for a while longer, especially for large bass. "Overall, we don't have a huge concern, but one of the things that can happen when they are that vulnerable is you can overharvest large fish. So please let those big dogs go to complete spawning if you do happen to catch them," Avelallemant says.

Statewide, anglers tend to release far more bass than they keep: a statewide mail survey of anglers showed that only 550,335 of the 10,073,286 smallmouth and largemouth bass caught during the 2006-7 survey year were harvested, about 5.4 percent. There are waters in the northern zone, however, where DNR biologists are actively encouraging harvest of largemouth bass right out of the gate, although the reasons vary. These waters have no minimum length limit for all bass although most have few if any smallmouth present.

"On many of these waters largemouth bass have always been the dominant predator but they have become overabundant and slow growing," Avelallemant says. "They could use some thinning, especially of the small fish." In other waters, where once naturally abundant wall-eye populations have declined, the

NY I Fish Free Fishing Clinics Summer 2011 Fishing clinics sponsored by State

The New York State I FISH NY program will be offering free fishing clinics for all New Yorkers during this summer.

► June 25: Raritan Bay Festival at Conference House Park, Staten Island, Noon - 5:00 pm

► July 13: Fishing w/ Senior Citizens at Baisley Pond Park, Queens, 9:00 am - 12:00pm

(This event has been designated a "free fishing event" during which a NYS freshwater fishing license will not be required. While most of the expected participants will be seniors, ALL ages are welcome!)

► July 17: City of Water Day at Governor's Island, 10:00am - 4:00pm

► September 17: Little Red Lighthouse Event at Fort Washington Park, 10:00am - 4:00 pm Tentative

► September 24: Snapper Derby w/ NYC Parks, 68th St. Pier, Manhattan 11:00am - 3:00pm Tentative

The clinics are open to people of all ages. No pre-registration is required. The events are free and I FISH NY provides all tackle and bait. Equipment is provided on a first come, first served basis. For additional information, please contact Melissa Cohen at (718) 482-4022.

The I FISH NY program is a joint initiative between NYSDEC and New York Sea Grant that introduces urban residents to fishing in New York State. For more information, please visit the NYSDEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/44804.html ✧

DNR is encouraging harvest of expanding largemouth bass populations as one measure to help rehabilitate walleye populations.

"Take a look in the [regulations pamphlet](#) under the county headings to find those waters with have no minimum length for bass," Avelallemant says. Most of these waters also will have signs posted at the landings. ✧



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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.

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WI walleye bag limits to increase on 384 northern lakes

MADISON – Daily walleye bag limits increased May 27 on 384 lakes in the Wisconsin Ceded Territory to reflect spring spearing harvest by six bands of Wisconsin Chippewa.

A daily bag limit of two walleye increased to three walleye per day on 88 lakes while 294 lakes went from an initial bag limit of two or three walleyes per day to the state daily bag limit of five, according to Joe Hennessy, who coordinates the treaty fisheries management program for the Department of Natural Resources. The daily bag limit in Grindstone Lake (Sawyer County) increased from 1 to 2 walleye per day, while the bag limit for walleye in Potato Lake (Rusk County) increased from 1 to 3 walleye per day.

All of the bag limit increases were made to reflect actual spear harvest through the month of May. Bag limit increases from 2 to 3 walleye per day in Willow Flowage and the Tomahawk Lake Chain (Oneida County), made just before the May 7 regular-season fishing opener, were facilitated by the Lac du Flambeau band revising its harvest target on those lakes.

Anglers should consult the [2011-12 Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations](#), signs at boat landings, and the [Revised Ceded Territory Walleye Bag Limits pamphlet](#) for lake-specific information.

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. To assure the combined tribal and recreational angler harvest does not exceed a sustainable level, the state reduces recreational bag limits in lakes declared for harvest by the Chippewa bands.

Fish production ends at Lakewood hatchery, Wis; facility closed

LAKEWOOD – Fish production has ended at Lakewood Rearing Station in Oconto County this spring and the site, often a summer stop for tourists, is temporarily closed.

The facility ended production and closed in May after the retirement of Joe Golbach and the transfer of a second employee to another Department of Natural Resources program. Two people are needed to operate the rearing station and the DNR was not able to fill the vacant positions because of the need to balance the budget, according to Al Kaas, DNR fish culture section chief.

Lakewood Rearing Station reared rainbow trout, brook trout and brown trout. The year-old trout at the station this spring were stocked in Wisconsin waters as planned to provide opportunities for people to catch legal-sized trout where there would otherwise be none. Where possible, other DNR fish hatcheries will raise more trout to make up for the loss of Lakewood's production, but the overall number of catchable-size fish for stocking will decrease due to the need to hold positions vacant to balance budgets, Kaas says.

For the short term, the facility will be temporarily closed. Longer term, the DNR is examining a range of alternatives ranging from rebuilding to leasing to decommissioning, he says. ✧

An administrative rule passed by the state Natural Resources Board in 1998 allows the department to adjust initial bag limits annually to reflect actual spring spearing harvests and projected summer harvests.

Of the 245 lakes with bag limits less than five, 70 lakes have a bag limit of two walleye per day, and 175 lakes have a daily bag of three walleye per day. The six Chippewa tribes together harvested 28,883 walleye and 199 musky as of May 19, 2011. ✧

Urge Congress to support bill that opens more federal lands to fishing

Increased development and regulations make access more critical than ever

Lack of access is the primary reason that keeps anglers from enjoying a day on the water. With expanding land development and growing regulations restricting angler access, federally owned lands are more important than ever for recreational fishing opportunity. However, a recent Congressional report concluded that more than 35 million acres of land owned by two federal land management agencies — the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service — have inadequate access for sportsmen and women.

The *Making Public Lands Public Access Act (S. 901)*, introduced in Congress on May 5, 2011, will increase access to angling, hunting and recreational shooting opportunities on federal lands. The legislation directs that a minimum of \$10 million be used to ensure that fishing, hunting and other recreational activities are accessible for these purposes. The funding for access projects such as easements and access roads would come from existing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies that come from offshore oil and gas leases.

This legislation does not seek to increase the amount of land owned by the government, but instead enhances recreational access in existing national parks, forests and other federally owned lands.

The Making Public Lands Public Access Act could open hundreds of thousands of acres of federal land to recreational fishing, hunting and shooting. [Follow this link to send a message to your Senators](#) urging them to support S. 901. ✧

NYDEC proposal allowing crossbows for big game hunting

Proposal allows physically disabled persons to hunt with a modified longbow

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens announced proposed regulation changes that will allow the use of crossbows for big game hunting and eliminate a permit requirement for certain physically disabled hunters to use special archery equipment during any big game or small game hunting season.

“The proposed changes will provide our sportsmen and sportswomen additional opportunities while hunting afield this coming fall,” Commissioner Martens said. “The popularity of crossbows is growing in New York and the use of modified equipment is in high demand to meet the needs of our hunters who are temporarily or permanently disabled.”

The proposed regulations implement new legislation authorizing DEC to allow hunters to take big game (deer and bear) with the use of a crossbow during regular big game hunting seasons in areas where a shotgun or muzzleloader is permitted, and during all late muzzleloader seasons. In accordance with the new

legislation, crossbows cannot be used during the early bear or archery seasons or in any of the “archery only” wildlife management units. Furthermore, hunters may use a crossbow only after they have completed required training in the safe use of hunting with a crossbow and responsible crossbow hunting practices. DEC has proposed implementing the training requirement via on-line education tools, and in the upcoming *2011-2012 New York State Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide*. Hunters would be required to carry afield a certificate verifying that they have completed this training.

Hunters who are incapable of drawing, holding, and releasing a (vertical) longbow because of a permanent physical disability will continue to be allowed to take big game or small game by the use of a specially-equipped longbow. However, the new legislation replaces the former “Modified Archery Permit” with a new “Modified Longbow Authorization,” allowing hunters with permanent or temporary physical disabilities to hunt both big

game and small game in all hunting seasons.

DEC has proposed that to qualify for this authorization, disabled hunters would need to carry afield while hunting, a standard department form, signed by their physician, verifying that the hunter meets the qualifications established to use a longbow equipped with a mechanical device to hold and release the bowstring. The required form would be the only acceptable and valid form for verification of the medical condition of the hunter. The form would be available from any DEC wildlife office or from the DEC website. Disabled hunters would no longer have to apply for and obtain a special permit from DEC for this privilege.

For more detailed info: www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/propreguations.html. The proposed rulemaking can also be viewed in the www.dos.state.ny.us/info/register.htm. DEC will be accepting public comments on the proposal through July 11, 2011. ✧

Director rescinds order to close 23 state forest campgrounds

Department of Natural Resources Director Rodney Stokes withdrew an order to close 23 state forest campgrounds this summer at a recent Natural Resources Commission meeting in Lansing. Stokes said he wanted to give the Department more time to work with local units of government on lease agreements, and he called on the Department to review the entire state forest campground system for possible local partnerships and interdepartmental agreements to operate state forest campgrounds.

The DNR announced the first lease agreement with a local unit of government earlier in the week, turning over operation of the McCollum Lake State Forest Campground in Oscoda County to

Clinton Township. Talks continue with other local units of government on some of the campgrounds that were slated for closure, Stokes said.

The DNR Parks and Recreation Division will assume management of Lime Island State Forest Campground, and will conduct a pilot project with the DNR Forest Management Division to co-manage the Munuscong River State Forest Campground in Chippewa County.

The DNR will continue to operate the remaining campgrounds this year, Stokes said. He has asked Forest Management Division to develop a comprehensive cost estimate for operating the campgrounds slated for closure. ✧

Gun sales continue to increase

The FBI recently reported that the number of background-check applications for the purchase of firearms significantly increased this year. The NICS processed 4.25 million requests in the first quarter of 2011, which is a 16% increase from the same period in 2010. A chief market strategist tells us the increase in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System represents Americans’ doubts about the nation’s economic future. Similar to the reasons behind gold purchases, widespread interest in firearms reveals that many residents are wary of the nation’s stability. ✧

NY DEC program to protect backcountry hikers and campers

New Steward Interns and Assistant Rangers will improve education and emergency response

Backcountry recreationists and the state's natural resources will both receive a higher level of protection thanks to the creation of the Backcountry Stewards Internship Program, New York State DEC Commissioner Joe Martens announced.

"DEC manages more than four million acres of lands and easements for the free use and enjoyment of the public," Commissioner Martens said. "Backcountry Stewards and Assistant Forest Rangers will help ensure that the public is able to use and enjoy these lands safely, while protecting the natural resources of our incredibly diverse state lands."

The Backcountry Stewardship Program expands the long running partnership between SCA and DEC that began more than a decade ago in the Hudson River Valley and the Adirondacks. Funding from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)

will be matched by contributions from SCA to hire college-aged students to work on state lands. SCA, a national leader in youth service and stewardship, will fulfill its mission to create the next generation of conservation leaders and DEC will improve its capacity to protect the natural resources of the state.

A total of 24 new jobs have been created for young men and women to work this summer as backcountry stewards in a variety of settings including the shores of Lake Ontario, the Catskill Park and the Adirondack Park and on a variety of DEC public lands including State Forests, Conservation Easement lands and New York State Forest Preserve lands. Eleven men and women have also been hired as Assistant Forest Rangers to work on the public lands in the Adirondacks.

While they will be wearing different uniforms, the recreating

public can expect similar service from the Backcountry Stewards and Assistant Forest Rangers. Backcountry Stewards will camp overnight in the areas where they are assigned and the Assistant Forest Rangers will assist Forest Rangers with search and rescue missions and wildfire suppression.

Backcountry Stewards and Assistant Forest Rangers received substantial training before being placed in the field beginning Memorial Day Weekend. The Assistant Forest Rangers and most of the Backcountry Stewards will be patrolling through Labor Day weekend. The Backcountry Stewards in some heavily used areas will continue patrolling through Columbus Day weekend.

For more info: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/41282.html>. ✧

NY – New black sea bass recreational limits for 2011

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced a change effective for the 2011 fishing season for black sea bass that will result in a reduction in recreational harvest. This is a mandatory change to comply with the latest change to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Black Sea Bass.

ASMFC has adopted an addendum to the plan that requires a 40% reduction in coast-wide recreational harvest in 2011. This latest reduction was deemed necessary following a report on a survey of last year's recreational season. Survey results show that recreational anglers greatly exceeded the 2010 allowable harvest limit.

For 2011, the Department will adopt the following recreational management measures: a 13-inch

minimum size limit, a 10-fish possession limit, and a split open fishing season of June 13 through October 1, then November 1 through December 31. The Department's Marine Resources Advisory Council, a group composed of citizens representing commercial and recreational fishermen, generally supported these measures as the best available option.

Numbers of black sea bass have increased in recent years, which likely triggered the overharvest. Though the coastal population of black sea bass is considered "rebuilt," the data used to make that determination is not complete and therefore fishery scientists have urged extreme caution when setting limits for the fishery. New York's commercial fishermen have seen the sea bass quota reduced over the past two years to the point that there is virtually no longer a

viable fishery, while cuts to the recreational fishery have significantly impacted the recreational fishing industry.

The text of the new regulation will be published in the State Register on June 8, 2011 and will be available on the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html>. DEC will be accepting public comments on the new black sea bass regulation through July 25, 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's Marine Resources Division at 631-444-0435. For information on black sea bass management, visit the website of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission at <http://www.asmf.org>. ✧

Michigan Boating Industries outraged by Coast Guard damaging ad

May 11, 2011, Livonia, MI – The MBIA is contacting members of Congress to share the boating industry's outrage at the intent of the U.S. Coast Guard to launch a misguided and damaging advertising campaign that implies boating is dangerous when in fact boating has a strong safety record that continues to improve.

"Every year, millions more people participate in boating, yet fatality rates are holding steady across the nation," said MBIA President John Ropp. "This also holds true for Michigan." Michigan DNR reports show that through the years, boating accidents and fatalities in Michigan have declined steadily as boat registrations in this state have increased dramatically. There were 36 boating related fatalities in 2009 and, according to the April, 2009, Secretary of State report, 921,773 registered boats on file (1 out of every 25,604 boaters) compared to 88 boating related fatalities in Michigan in 1967 with 385,124 registered boats on file (when 1 out of every 4,376 boaters had a fatal accident). "Our industry has made substantial progress in improving and maintaining safety," said Ropp. "We are proud of these gains — they are remarkable and the

Coast Guard message should be to keep up the good work."

Boating's safety record is better than both snowmobiling and motorcycle safety records in Michigan. Snowmobiling had 13 deaths and 346,315 registered snowmobiles in 2009 (1 in 26,639 deaths according to the International Snowmobile Manufacturer's Association) and motorcycling had 121 deaths and 269,669 registered motorcycles in Michigan in 2008 (1 in 2,228 deaths according to the National Highway Traffic Association).

Across the country, boating industry groups are shocked. "In these uncertain economic times it is incomprehensible that the USCG is using taxpayer dollars to push a new ad campaign whose only message is that boating is a dangerous activity," commented the National Marine Manufacturer's Association in a statement about the issue. It is confusing to the industry why the prominent message of this campaign highlights the danger of boating and the smallest message is to "boat responsibly."

"We will tell Congress that they must require the Coast Guard to work with the industry, boaters, and a competent advertising agency to

design an effective boating safety campaign that highlights the importance of safety and responsible behavior rather than scare boaters away from a safe and treasured recreational activity," said Ropp. "These are taxpayer dollars at work and more care should be taken on how they are spent. Not only is this campaign misguided, it is also damaging to an important industry and a beloved American pastime."

The MBIA is a statewide trade association representing the recreational boating industry in Michigan. The MBIA membership is comprised of businesses that manufacture, distribute, service and sell recreational marine products. This includes facilities such as boat dealerships, various types of marine retail stores, marinas, boat yards, boat and accessory manufacturers, distributors and service companies. The MBIA also produces the Detroit Boat Show at Cobo Center in Detroit, the Spring Boating Expo at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, and the Boating & Outdoor Festival in Mt. Clemens, Mich. The Boater's Association of Michigan (BAM) is a division of MBIA and serves as a voice for boaters in Michigan. For more info: www.mbia.org. ✧

Studies on ballast water treatment

Two studies were issued recently relevant to ballast water treatment and our fight against invasive species.

► The first one "[Assessing the Relationship Between Propagule Pressure and Invasion Risk in Ballast Water](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13184)" is led by the National Academy of Sciences National Research Council (NAS), which helps to derive environmentally protective numeric ballast water discharge limits in the next Vessel General Permit and other programs. http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13184

As part of this study, researchers prepared a background paper: http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/vessels_densitymatters_final.pdf.

For more information on the NAS committee: <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=49224>.

► The second one "Efficacy of Ballast Water Treatment Systems" is led by EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB), and provides advice on technologies and systems to minimize the impacts of invasive species in vessel ballast water discharge. A "draft final" report is available on its

website. Click here to view the 188 page report: [Efficacy of Ballast Water Treatment Systems](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/vessels_efficiency_ballast_final.pdf).

As part of this study, EPA and USCG staff prepared a background paper: http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/vessels_efficiency_ballast_final.pdf.

For more information on the EPA SAB committee and Vessel General Permit: http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/fedrgstr_activites/BW%20discharge?OpenDocument.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/vessels/programdevelopment.cfm>. ✧

IN DNR sets bass quotas at two Noble County lakes

COLUMBIA CITY – On June 3 an experimental change in bass fishing rules at Big and Crane lakes in Noble County went into effect; DNR officials have set quotas on how many bass they want anglers to take out this summer. Beginning Friday, June 3, anglers at both lakes will be able to keep up to five bass per day that are 10 to 14" long. Bass that are less than 10" and those that are 14" or longer, must be released.

Biologists say the 14" minimum size limit now in effect has enabled too many small bass to survive. Few exceed the limit and catching one bass more than 18 inches long is nearly impossible. Reducing the number of small bass should increase the size of those that remain. "We want anglers to take home small bass. By doing so, they can catch fish to eat and help restore balance in both lakes," said Jed Pearson, DNR biologist.

Based on recent sampling, Big

Lake contains twice the normal number of small bass and Crane Lake contains three times the normal number. Nearly 75% of the bass in Big Lake are 10 to 14" long. Less than 4% are 14" or larger. At Crane Lake, bass that are 10-14" long make up 88% of its population and only seven percent are 14 inches or larger. "We estimate there are 4,400 bass that are 10-14" long in Big Lake and 1,200 in Crane Lake," Pearson said. "To get bass numbers down to normal levels, anglers will need to take home 2,000 small bass from Big Lake and 600 from Crane Lake."

Although the new rule went into effect June 3, the rule is only temporary until the quotas are reached. After anglers remove half of the small bass in each lake, the 14" size limit will go back into effect. If the quotas are not reached by October 31, the 14" size limit will go back into effect as well. "We don't know how

long it might take to reach the quotas, but we plan to station survey clerks at both lakes to keep a count of the numbers of bass that are removed," Pearson said.

The temporary rule only applies to Big and Crane lakes. Bass taken from these two lakes must not be released into other public waters.

Bass taken from these two lakes must be 10.0 to 13.9", measuring from the tip of the mouth to the tip of the tail. Big Lake is 228 acres in size and Crane Lake is 28 acres. Both are located seven to eight miles north of Columbia City off State Road 109. Free public access is available at each lake at DNR-owned boat ramps and gravel parking lots.

To find the boat ramp at Big Lake go west off State Road 9 onto Lakeshore Dr. The Crane Lake boat ramp is located along Noble County Road 500 South about one mile east of State Road 109. ✧

Wire clippers required for anglers trolling with downriggers on Great Lakes

MADISON – Starting May 15, anglers trolling with downriggers on Wisconsin's Great Lakes waters must have wire clippers on board that can cut their downrigger cables should they get tangled in commercial fishing trap nets or other obstructions below the water's surface.

The requirement is part of an emergency rule adopted late last month by the state Natural Resources Board and aimed at better protecting sport anglers on Lake Michigan and Lake Superior from hazards under the water, including commercial fishing nets.

"This rule requires the boat operator to have wire clippers on board and easily accessible, which many anglers already do," says Conservation Warden Supervisor Chris Groth, who leads the Marine Enforcement Unit for the Department of Natural Resources.

"The most important thing anglers can do is steer clear of the nets and other obstructions," he says. "Having wire cutters on board is a small but important step anglers can take to protect themselves should they get into a bad situation on Lake Michigan or Lake Superior."

Cutting any cable or line that gets tangled in an underwater obstruction is the only safe way for a boater to get free. Backing, circling or other attempts to retrieve the snagged gear is extremely dangerous because a boat tethered or caught on a rock or other object on the bottom can be swamped and capsized.

In June 2010, a boat carrying three anglers who were trolling in Lake Michigan near Sheboygan capsized after their downrigger cables got tangled in a legally set trap net. While in the water, one of the anglers suffered a heart attack and died.

Bill Horns, the DNR's Great Lakes fisheries specialist, says that new measures commercial fishermen must take also will better protect sport anglers. Nets on Lake Superior must be marked in the same way as nets on Lake Michigan, and nets set on both waters must have reflective tape on the staffs of the flags marking them.

Horns says that having consistent net markers on both lakes will help increase angler awareness of the nets, what to look for, and the potential dangers they pose. If anglers bring a strong light at night, the reflective tape will be easier to see and allow the operators to steer clear of the nets.

DNR and UW Sea Grant will be releasing revised informational materials in coming weeks showing the new markings and boundaries. More information on trap net safety can be found on DNR's web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/greatlakes/trapnets.htm>. ✧

Pressure on Asian carp activities and potential expansion

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funds and resources to contain any carp movements.

Federal and state officials announced at a recent media boat outing an updated plan to prevent Asian carp from expanding beyond the Chicago River system, or other



Illinois Natural History biologists sampling for fish eggs and larval fish in the Chicago River

waterways, and establishing themselves in Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes. The program does not include closing the locks at the head of the Chicago River, an activity sought by state officials from other Great Lakes States who went so far as filing federal lawsuits to accomplish that task. That and subsequent appeals were rejected by the courts.

"We're not letting up in our fight to keep Asian carp from the Great Lakes," said John Rogner, assistant Illinois DNR director. "We're not letting up on our monitoring activities. We are building on what we did last year and expanding on those programs and eDNA evidence." Rogner added, "If Asian carp are above the barrier, they're in very low numbers. We're prepared to take any action to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes."

Rogner added Illinois DNR biologists/researchers have been on the water since late March monitoring the area. Right now Asian carp have

been monitored 35-65 miles downstream of the barrier, where the majority of the carp are located.

The ACRCC committee, comprised of federal, regional and state natural resources agencies, is using all known methods to deal with this pending environmental disaster, including electro-shocking, hiring commercial fishermen to set gill nets to remove the carp from the CAWS system, and eDNA testing by the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Asian Carp Director John Goss and other state and federal officials



USFWS biologists electrofishing for Asian carp in the Chicago River

took the media and this individual for a boat ride to see Asian carp monitoring and sampling strategies on the Chicago Area Waterway System to an area called Bubbly Creek, about three miles from the lakefront. State

and federal fisheries biologists, and commercial fishermen were using electro-fishing boats and gill nets to sample the waters for any carp activity. They only found the common carp, and some game fish. They were also taking water samples for subsequent eDNA testing, all activities they will be repeating every two weeks.

Illinois Natural History Survey biologists were sampling for fish eggs and larval fish. The agency, a division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is monitoring the river for Asian carp.

USFWS Deputy Regional Director Charley Wooley said, "We have the ability to use federal dollars to survey and sample with nets and electro-fishing. If there is a need for a rapid response anywhere in the Great Lakes USFWS will move with all haste." "We will be using cutting edge scientific methods to monitor Asian carp," added Wooley. "It's an important component of our strategy,

and will include the use of underwater cameras to monitor and evaluate carp activities at strategic locations. Another is to identify and block other avenues into the

Great Lakes." Responding to questions about the camera, he said, "These cameras have sonar/acoustic imaging capability, and we'll be reporting more on them as we proceed." ✧

Utilities companies join forces to battle sea lamprey

Altered water flow to improve trapping and remove lampreys from Lakes

ANN ARBOR, M – The Great Lakes Fishery Commission launched a major initiative last week to significantly enhance sea lamprey trapping on the St. Marys River. The effort, conceived collaboratively by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the International Joint Commission's International Upper Great Lakes Study, is designed to remove large numbers of the noxious, invasive pest before they have a chance to spawn and contribute to the next generation. The enhanced trapping—conducted in partnership with Brookfield Renewable Power in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and Cloverland Electric Cooperative in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan—will involve a change in the timing and volume of water provided to the two companies for their electricity generation.

Anglers and other users may notice different-than-usual conditions in the St. Marys River rapids due to re-distribution of water through the compensating gates. The International Joint Commission and its Lake Superior Board of Control, which has authority over water flow levels, facilitated the conditions for this initiative. This work is funded in part

through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The St. Marys River is a significant source of sea lampreys and can produce more sea lampreys than all other Great Lakes tributaries combined. In addition to spot treatments with lampricides and the release of sterilized male sea lampreys, trapping of spawning sea lampreys is a major component of the control program on the St. Marys River. The commission has been working with Brookfield Renewable Power and Cloverland Electric Cooperative for many years to seek ways to improve trapping—some of the most effective trapping sites are located at power facilities, as the higher flows produced at the power facilities are more attractive to sea lampreys.

Evidence shows that trapping can likely be enhanced with increased water flows at night, when sea lampreys are most active and trapping most successful. Power companies, however, normally decrease flows during the night (off-peak hours) to curtail power generation during times of reduced power demands. To help in the sea lamprey control effort,

Brookfield Renewable Power and Cloverland Electric Cooperative have agreed to increase flows during off-peak hours on alternate nights so the commission can determine the effect of increased flows on the efficiency of sea lamprey traps placed at the power facilities.

The International Joint Commission, through its Lake Superior Board of Control, approved the increased water allocation in support of the sea lamprey control program. The water flow—over the course of this operation—cannot exceed a total water limit, known as “Criterion C in Plan 1977A,” the regulations governing the outflow of Lake Superior. In the unlikely event that the “Criterion C” level is reached, this sea lamprey control operation will end and the power companies will forego additional power generation.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is conducting this work in careful coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks Canada, the Batchewana First Nations, and other key stakeholders. ✧

2011 BoatUS Collegiate Bass Fishing National Championship

Record-setting field registers for National Championship

Tournament organizers announced that 191 teams representing 380 collegiate anglers registered to compete in the 2011 BoatUS Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship.



Because the field size for the event is capped at 300 anglers, a waiting list was created to identify which anglers would fill the spots left vacant by registered anglers who were unable to make the trip.

This year's event featured an international field, including a team representing the Canadian Collegiate Bass Anglers as well as the defending national high school champions from The Bass Federation, all of whom met at Lake Lewisville, Texas on May 26 and 27 to decide the 2011 BoatUS Collegiate Bass Fishing National Championship. The anglers who competed for this prestigious championship title earned the opportunity to represent their schools based on their tournament performances over the past year.

The official practice fishing days were May 24 and 25. Following

practice on May 24th, the Cabela's retail store in Ft. Worth, Texas, hosted the Cabela's Collegiate Bass Fishing Day. Every two-person team attending the event was provided a \$100 Cabela's gift card to help outfit themselves prior to the event.

Registration, the pre-tournament banquet and rules meeting took place on the evening of the 25th. Event sponsors had displays on site for the purpose of providing information about their products and services as well as product samples. All told more than \$100,000 in scholarships, prizes and product samples was awarded during the event. ✧

Knife Rights sues New York City

Knife Rights has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit to stop New York City from arresting law-abiding citizens carrying common pocketknives.

The lawsuit challenges New York State law on "gravity knives" and "switchblades," and New York County District Attorney Cyrus Vance's attempt to mischaracterize the most widely owned pocketknives in America as contraband. The case seeks a judicial determination that the law is unconstitutionally vague as applied to these ordinary pocketknives.

"District Attorney Vance is trying to advance his political career by

exploiting a vague state law to demonize common pocket knives," said Knife Rights Chairman Doug Ritter. "In the process, hundreds of law abiding knife owners are being arrested and Vance has extracted nearly \$2 million from retailers to avoid prosecution on bogus charges. This lawsuit intends to put a stop to Vance's abusive and unconscionable civil rights violations."

"One-hand opening pocket knives are legal tools, used and carried every day by millions of law-abiding citizens for work, recreation and self-defense," said Ritter. "Shame on D.A. Vance for demonizing common tools

and turning honest citizens into criminals for purely political ends."

Knife Rights is supported in this lawsuit by the Knife Rights Foundation Sharper Future Legal Fund™ whose major donors include at Platinum level: Benchmade Knife Co., Blue Ridge Knives, Buck Knives, Columbia River Knife & Tool, Taylor Brands and United Cutlery; Silver level: KnifeWorks.com and Wenger NA; Titanium level: Smokey Mountain Knife Works; Bronze level: Ethan Becker and KA-BAR Knives. [Click here to download the Federal Complaint as filed.](#) ✧

NY DEC warns to avoid eating carnivorous snails and hepatopancreas of lobsters and blue crabs

Announces emergency rulemaking to close biotoxin impacted areas

Due the presence of marine biotoxins, the New York State DEC and Department of Health issued a warning to avoid eating carnivorous gastropods (snails, such as whelks, conchs and moonsnails) and the hepatopancreas (tomalley) of blue claw crabs and lobsters harvested from the following areas: Western Shinnecock Bay (Town of Southampton) and Huntington Bay, Huntington Harbor, Lloyd Harbor, Northport Bay, Northport Harbor, Centerport Harbor and Duck Island Harbor (Town of Huntington).

The warning has been issued to protect public health following the detection of saxitoxin in shellfish in certain areas that DEC had previously designated as temporarily uncertified (closed) for the harvest of shellfish (clams, mussels, oysters and scallops).

On May 6, DEC designated western Shinnecock Bay (lying west of the Ponquogue Bridge, Hampton Bays, and east of Post Land Bridge, Quogue) as uncertified for commercial and recreational shell fishing. On May 12, DEC designated areas in Northport Bay, Centerport Harbor and Duck Island Harbor as

uncertified for shell fishing. On May 18, the department expanded the shellfish closure to include Lloyd Harbor and Huntington Bay (south of a line from Lloyd Neck Point to Eatons Neck Point).

Saxitoxin is a potent neurotoxin, or nervous system poison, that at elevated levels is dangerous to human health. Saxitoxin is known to cause paralytic shellfish poisoning in humans, which affects the nervous system and can lead to muscles becoming paralyzed. In severe cases, paralytic shellfish poisoning can result in respiratory failure and death. Carnivorous gastropods prey on bivalve shellfish (clams, mussels, oysters and scallops) and can concentrate the marine biotoxins that bivalve shellfish take in through filter feeding.

The Department is also filing Emergency Regulations authorizing DEC Commissioner Joe Martens to close commercial and recreational carnivorous gastropod fisheries in areas that have been closed for saxitoxin. Commissioner Martens issued a closure order to suspend the harvest of carnivorous gastropods

from the areas currently closed due to saxitoxin, specifically:

Town of Southampton: All that area of Shinnecock Bay, and its tributaries, lying westerly of the southbound lanes of the Ponquogue Bridge and easterly of the western (southbound) side of the Post Lane Bridge in Quogue.

Town of Huntington: All that area of Northport Bay; Centerport Harbor; Duck Island Harbor; Lloyd Harbor; Coast Guard Cove; and, Huntington Bay lying southerly of a line extending northeasterly from the northernmost point of land at Lloyd Point to the northernmost point of land at Eatons Neck Point.

For more info: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html>. ✧

Take the Kids Outside

June is "Leave No Child Inside" month in Illinois and the IDNR encourages youth and families to get outdoors. Go fishing or hiking, visit a state or local park, or simply enjoy nature in your own backyard. For information on youth and family activities: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LNCI>.

Ohio man to pay restitution for poached world class buck

FINDLAY, OH – A Huron County man was found guilty of the illegal harvest of a deer that was taken in November of 2010. Arlie Risner, 58, of Bellevue pled no contest and was found guilty in the Norwalk Municipal Court.

Following a tip from a concerned hunter, Huron Wildlife Officer Josh Zientek and Wildlife Investigator Jeff Collingwood investigated. Risner had poached the massive deer from a property that he did not have permission to hunt on. The deer scored an incredible 228 6/8.

Risner was fined \$200.00 and had his hunting rights suspended for one year. Ohio is a member of the Wildlife Violator's Compact with 36 other states. This means that he cannot hunt in any of the 36 states in the compact.

The Division of Wildlife is imposing restitution for the deer in the amount of \$27,851.33. This is in accordance with Ohio's revised restitution law for the illegal taking of wild animals. The law went into effect March 2008 and allows the Ohio Division of Wildlife to seek an increased recovery value on all illegally harvested wildlife. ✧

Draft Ballast Water Discharge Standard currently under review Coast Guard behind schedule on Congressional mandate

The draft Ballast Water Discharge Standard rulemaking package is currently in review. Once it is submitted to the Office of Management and Budget, OMB will post a summary on its website <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eOPackageMain> and conduct an interagency review. The Coast Guard has revised its date for publication, and the rule is expected to publish in summer 2011, rather than the original date of December 2010. ✧

Norcross new Chief of ODNR Division of Watercraft

COLUMBUS, OH – Rodger M. Norcross has been appointed chief of the state's Division of Watercraft by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director David Mustine. The appointment became effective on June 13.

Norcross began his ODNR career in 1988 as a state watercraft officer in Sandusky where he also served as Watercraft Area Supervisor. He relocated to the Columbus area to administer the division's Search and Rescue program before accepting a position in 1999 with the ODNR Office of Law Enforcement. He returned to the Division of Watercraft in 2009 as a Watercraft Area Supervisor in Delaware.

Norcross served with the U.S. Coast Guard from 1986 to 1988. He graduated from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in 1989. A resident of Morrow County Norcross succeeds acting chief Bill McGarity, who will return to his former post as deputy chief. Former Watercraft chief, Pamela Dillon, retired from the position at the end of April. ✧

Ohio sets boat registration record

Ohio set a boat registration record this year with 424,700 registered boats. It broke the record of 419,364, set in 2009. The Ohio Division of Watercraft reports 316,220 registrations (74% belong to powerboats and personal watercraft; 89,859 (21%) canoes and kayaks; 11,616 (2.7%) rowboats; and 7,005 (1.6%), are sailboats without auxiliary power.

The largest growth is in the canoe and kayak area, with an increase of 103% between 2000 and 2010. Recreational boating has a statewide annual economic impact of \$3.5 billion, which supports the equivalent of more than 26,000 full-time jobs, according to a 2007 Great Lakes Commission study. ✧

NY wants no discharge in Lake Ontario

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York state officials are calling for New York's portion of Lake Ontario to be designated as a "Vessel Waste No-Discharge Zone" by the USEPA. The entire 326-mile-long south shore of Lake Ontario from Youngstown to Cape Vincent would be protected under this designation.

Boaters would be banned from discharging on-board sewage into water in the area. Boaters would instead dispose of their sewage at specially designated pump-out stations, which can be found at many marinas. The state Department of Environmental Conservation, in collaboration with the state Environmental Facilities Corporation and the Department of State, has prepared a petition to the EPA requesting the designation.

Since 1976, DEC has designated most of the coastal waters and connecting waterways in New York as Vessel Waste No-Discharge Zones. In 2010, DEC announced it had set a goal of 2012 to establish No-Discharge Zones for all water bodies and waterways in the state. The Lake Ontario petition is part of DEC's continuing effort to meet that goal. Approval would extend protection to 326 miles of Great Lakes shoreline from Youngstown in the west, to Cape Vincent in the east.

Upon concurrence by EPA, an opportunity for public comment would be announced later this summer in the *Federal Register*. When that concludes, EPA will address comments and determination if there are an adequate number of vessel pump-out stations to support the No-Discharge Zone. If EPA concurs, the No-Discharge Zone would be enforced by DEC law enforcement, State Police and local authorities. ✧



Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[MNR braces for Asian carp invasion](#)

While there is no indication of the Headwaters region being in imminent danger of a carp infestation, there are many reasons for the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to be both vigilant and proactive.

[Lake Erie wind project embraces regionalism with revenue sharing agreement](#)

Lake Erie's offshore wind project took a giant leap toward regionalism last week with an agreement to share revenue associated with submerged land leases across four counties.

[Vessel searched during inquiry into suspected Erie illegal fishing](#)

Officials with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission served a search warrant on an eastside commercial fishing operation and its fishing vessel Wednesday as part of an investigation into suspected illegal fishing activities on Lake Erie.

[Researchers: Western Lake Erie could support growth of Asian carp](#)

Two researchers have found that western Lake Erie and its tributaries, including the Maumee River, would make a fine home for Asian carp, despite previous reports that the Great Lakes are too cold with not enough food to support the invasive fish.

[Testing for fish virus begins](#)

Researchers are trying to determine if a deadly virus that can cause fish to bleed to death still poses a threat in Wisconsin's Lake Winnebago. They've developed an experimental blood test to detect antibodies in fish to gauge their immunity to viral hemorrhagic septicemia, better known as VHS.

[Ontario lawmaker wants to legalize public beachcombing; law varies across Great Lakes](#)

A bill proposed in Ontario, Canada may let the general public walk along the Great Lakes shoreline instead of just the people who own lakefront property. Right now they can't.

[EDITORIAL: Block the carp](#)

Federal and state officials in Illinois this week outlined a plan for stepping up the multimillion-dollar war against invading Asian carp. These positive steps fall short of the best way to keep the invaders out of the Great Lakes.

[A Great Lakes invader is doing some good](#)

Millions of round gobies are thriving in the waters of Lake Michigan off Chicago and throughout much of the Great Lakes. But as is often the case with invasive species, their ecological impact has not been devastating, but complicated.

[Lamprey cuts threaten charter boat captains](#)

A \$3 million federal cut from sea lamprey control in 2012 could cause many of Michigan's charter boat captains to go out of business, according to the state's Charter Boat Association.

[Researchers look for VHS fish disease in Winnebago System](#)

The Wisconsin DNR and other researchers were on the Lake Winnebago System Monday, where a deadly fish disease was first diagnosed in Wisconsin four years ago.

[Funds to restore Great Lakes available to farmers in Lake Erie watershed](#)

Farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin have the chance to sign up for a special program to improve water quality in the Great Lakes

[Invasive species imports flagged](#)

Ships on the St. Lawrence Seaway receive much of the blame for bringing pests from foreign lands into the Great Lakes waterway, but this week environmental groups are turning to another culprit: pets gone bad.

[Record 106 lb Missouri Bighead Carp](#)

Gene Swope was snagging for paddlefish on Lake of the Ozarks when he hooked and landed an unfortunate Missouri state record. Swope hauled in a 106 lb bighead carp, which easily passed the previous 80 lb state record and outweighs the IGFA all-tackle world record by 16 lbs. However, Swope's catch won't be counted as an IGFA world record because snagging isn't allowed under IGFA rules.

[All bait buckets in Minnesota must be emptied](#)

The fight to slow the spread of invasives into Minnesota lakes means major changes for the state's 1.5 million anglers following passage of a new law. The biggest change: Anglers will have to drain their minnow and leech buckets when they leave *any* waters -- not just waters infested with invasive species -- if they want to keep their bait.

Michigan invader stopped at Oregon border: Tenacious zebra mussel hitchhikes cross country

A tenacious zebra mussel that hitchhiked across the country, attached to a Michigan boat bought by an Oregon man, was stopped by inspectors there before it could invade the waters of that state.

Group to track walleye in St. Marys

A group of several constituents that work with the St. Marys River fishery is conducting a walleye movement study in the river this summer. Walleye from Munuscong Bay have been fitted with internal acoustic transmitters that will allow Lake Superior State University students and fisheries biologists to track their movement

Asian Carp issues aired in Muskegon town hall meeting

There may be bigger fish to fry than Asian carp when it comes to invasive species — but that doesn't mean the carp risk can be ignored. That was the view of many at a Muskegon town-hall meeting Friday on fighting the spread of Asian carp, a catchall term for several non-native species.

Lake Erie walleye kill was probably weather-related

The dead walleye that began appearing on Lake Erie several weeks ago are the result of natural forces, and likely not the result of commercial fishermen from Canada or a deadly virus, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources reports.

Carp-stopping dam plan killed in Minnesota House committee

A move by the Minnesota House Ways and Means Committee to eliminate funding for a carp-stopping dam at Coon Rapids on the Mississippi River has drawn sharp criticism from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Thousands of Lake Erie Walleye turn up dead

Thousands of walleye are washing up on the western shore of Lake Erie. Wildlife researchers are trying to find out what's causing the massive kill and to determine if it could spread to the other Great Lakes. One expert says the die-off can likely be blamed on natural causes based on the stress of spawning, and the cold, stormy spring.

End