



The Outrigger



Volume 43, Issue 3

www.kenoshasportfishing.com

March, 2014

Special points of interest:

- Fly tying class on March 4th 7:00pm at the Moose Lodge
- Fly tying class on March 11th 7:00pm at the Moose Lodge
- Fly tying class on March 18th 7:00pm at the Moose Lodge
- Fly tying class on March 25th 7:00pm at the Moose Lodge
- If you know a business owner or individual that may be interested in becoming a supporting member of the KSFCA please contact Jon FioRito at 262-220-4606 for additional information and details.

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Net pen bill signed into law by Gov. Walker

By: Kevin Naze Courtesy of The Green Bay Gazette

Kewaunee County anglers Tom Kleiman, Charlie Peterson, Brian Risinger and Brett Cook were among those present at the State Capitol in Madison last week when Gov. Scott Walker signed a bill that could mean better returns on chinooks and perhaps other salmon and trout species down the road.

way from others who suggested bill wording changes or wrote legislators in support of it.

A law that previously allowed fish to be held in net pens for only up to 48 hours was changed to allow for multiple weeks. Now local anglers getting DNR hatchery-raised fingerlings will

be able to hold them longer so they can imprint on the river and avoid predation.

A net pen is an enclosure placed in a body of water and used to hold or rear fish. The new law requires DNR to issue a statewide general permit that authorizes a person to place a net pen in navigable water as long as the net pen meets certain conditions.



“It was a great day for sportsmen, the sport fishing [businesses](#) that depend on salmon fishing and the communities that desperately need the tourism dollars that Lake Michigan fishing generates,” Kleiman said.

Kleiman and Risinger were the driving forces for the change in the law, and they had some [help](#) along the

In the past, when not able to [stock](#) upriver due to low flows, ice or other reasons, DNR workers would dump fish directly into the harbors after a long ride from the hatchery. Cormorants, gulls and mergansers would often eat many disoriented fish, and those that weren’t eaten didn’t have a chance to imprint on the

(cont’d on pg.2)

Net pen bill signed into law (Cont'd)

water before heading to the lake.

Even though early research estimates that at least half the chinook salmon now in Lake Michigan are naturally produced — most of them from rivers on the Michigan side of the lake — stocking still plays an important role.

Net pens have been used for many years by some clubs on the Michigan side of the lake, and by a few groups in Wisconsin. Kewaunee sport anglers did a [trial](#) run for 48 hours with a small portion of the city's 2013 allocation, and hope to be able to expand on that from here on out.

There's some interest in Algoma getting net pens as well, but it takes [money](#) for materials and volunteers to build the pens, then feed and watch over the young fish once they're delivered.

In Michigan, fish are often reared in the pens for a month before being released. It is believed that salmon retain an imprint of the odor of the stream they were hatched or stocked in as they migrate out, then are able to return to the same stream years later.

Studies conducted have determined that fish fed and acclimated in net pens have a better return [rate](#) compared to fish stocked directly into the river, and a far better return than those simply stocked into a harbor.

Rep. Garey Bies of Sister Bay



introduced the Assembly bill. He believes the change will increase the survival rate and be a boost for sport anglers while adding a positive economic impact.

When the bill was proposed, Michael Engleson, interim executive director of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, said he was concerned that the measure would create a risk of diseases and invasive species being introduced. He also said it was unnecessary because the state had been

meeting its stocking goals.

What Engleson perhaps didn't consider was the predation factor on fish sent from a truck down a chute and into the harbor. Additionally, he may not have a clue about imprinting and the studies that show it increases return.

Knowing this, the DNR holds and feeds tens of thousands of chinook fingerlings in Strawberry Creek each spring to guarantee a better return for its hatchery egg collection needs when the fish mature and come back three to

four years later.

Area fishing clubs like the Algoma-Kewaunee Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen and a similar group in Green Bay will likely be among the donors of time and money for the project as it continues to grow in the county.

A dissolved oxygen meter, digital thermometer and food for the fish are among the items that will need to be purchased.



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Winter's grip won't release ice shanties; DNR Hotline ready for anglers' calls

Courtesy of: WDNR [Central Office](#)

This winter is not going anywhere fast - and neither are some ice shanties regardless of what the Wisconsin laws say.

The Department of Natural Resources understands the ice shanty removal issues anglers in parts of Wisconsin are facing and is ready assist by taking calls from anglers who want their conservation wardens to know their shanty removal status.

In recent days the DNR wardens have fielded calls from ice anglers statewide asking for advice about their problems to meet state deadlines to clear lake and river ice of shanties because of wild temperatures that have jumped to the 40s only to plummet to the sub-zero range -- yet again.

"We've heard about shanties frozen in place by several inches of slush - and some lakes have thick snow from the recent major storm which poses even more challenges," Chief Warden Todd Schaller says. "There is not enough time to modify the law before the deadline removal dates. But we can use discretion for those who are working hard to get their structures off the ice."

The DNR recommends anglers begin immediately to assess their shanties removal possibilities and work with local vendors, friends and others for assistance. "Anglers often can find services right in their home areas who can either do the removal, rent the equipment to assist in that removal or some other help in removing those shelters from the ice," Schaller says.

Anglers who have difficulty getting their shelters off the ice by the deadline due to deep snow, or shanties frozen to the ice still need to work actively to free their shelters from the ice and arrange to have the shelters removed from the ice.

The DNR encourages ice anglers to call the department's Hotline, 1-800-TIP-WDNR or 1-800-847-9367, to describe their situation if they are having difficulty meeting the removal deadline. The angler's information will be passed on to the local conservation warden who will use discretion in the enforcement of the deadline.

Once the ice removal dates arrive, anglers can continue to use portable ice fishing shelters daily as long as

they feel the ice is safe for travel -- and if they remove their shelters daily and when not actively being used. Permanent shelters, meaning those normally not removed daily from the ice, must be removed from the ice no later than the specified removal date for that water body.

Here are the statewide ice shanty removal dates:

- Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters by March 1
- Inland waters south of Highway 64 by March 3
- Inland waters north of Highway 64 and from Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Lake Superior by March 17
- Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters by March 15

Wisconsin-Iowa boundary waters by February 20

Contact(s): Chief Conservation Warden Todd Schaller, 920-960-3384; Joanne M. Haas, public information officer, 608-209-8147

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Trout anglers urged to take steps to prevent spreading invasive snail

Courtesy of: WDNR [Central Office](#)

MADISON - With a potentially prolific invasive snail recently documented in Black Earth Creek, one of Wisconsin's premier trout waters, and a native parasite spreading among brook trout statewide, anglers can help keep Wisconsin fish and streams healthy by taking a few key prevention steps after fishing



during the early catch-and-release trout season.

"Prevention steps work and everyone's vigilance matters," says Deborah Seiler, aquatic invasive species outreach coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and UW-Extension.

The good news is you don't have to avoid fishing Black Earth Creek or any of the streams where gill lice have been reported," says Matt Mitro, a DNR trout researcher involved in efforts to stem the spread of gill lice and the snails. "As with any lake or river statewide, you're required to clean your gear and drain water from equipment after leaving and before entering another stream. We also recommend disinfecting that gear as well to reduce even more the risk of spreading [New Zealand mud snails](#) and other

aquatic organisms."

Mitro and Seiler are part of a multi-partner group formed to respond to the [discovery in Dane County's Black Earth Creek of the New Zealand mudsnail](#). The invasive species is present in the western United States and in the Great Lakes; the Black Earth Creek discovery marked the first documentation in inland Mid-western waters.

It's hard to predict how the snails will impact the stream, as in some western locations they have had minimal impact, or the snail populations have crashed after an initial

boom, Seiler says. But in the worst case scenarios, mudsnails in some western U.S. waterbodies have been found growing at densities of up to 500,000 per square meter, changing native food webs and potentially decreasing the size and abundance of trout.

Trout Unlimited, River Alliance of Wisconsin, and other state, federal and county agencies are also partners. The response team will be monitoring other streams to look for mudsnails and conducting outreach to stream users, including anglers, researchers, and the construction industry. The River Alliance is seeking an early detection and response grant from DNR to try to contain the snail.

The same prevention steps for the mudsnail may help prevent the spread of gill lice and other aquatic organisms. Brook trout and gill lice have always lived together in Wisconsin streams but recently the balance appears to be tipping toward higher gill lice numbers in some streams. The parasite attaches to a brook trout's gills making it difficult for the fish to breathe and slowing normal growth and development. This increase in gill lice in some streams may be reducing trout numbers, Mitro says.

Statewide, [2013 efforts by anglers and DNR biologists to record the presence of gill lice](#), a native parasite of brook trout, reveals that gill



lice are widely distributed across the state, except they appear to be absent in the Lake Superior basin, or at least in the samples of streams and trout inspected there, according to Mitro. "The prevalence and intensity of infection varies widely, with no geographic "hot spots," he says.

Taking steps to prevent the spread of the New Zealand Mud Snail and other aquatic organisms will just take a few extra minutes but can help keep trout populations and fishing strong, Mitro and Seiler say.

MARCH 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1

2 3 Club Meeting 7:00pm 4 Fly Tying 7:00pm 5 6 7 8 Jalensky's Salmon Series 10:00am

9 Jalensky's Salmon Series 10:00am 10 11 Fly Tying 7:00pm 12 13 14 15 LMA Salmon Seminar 9:00am

16 17 Board Meeting 7:00pm 18 Fly Tying 7:00pm 19 20 21 22

23 24 25 Fly Tying 7:00pm 26 27 28 29

30 31

Important dates this month

- 3/03/14 - Club meeting at the Moose Lodge 7:00 pm
- 3/4/14 - Fly tying at the Moose Lodge — Crayfish patterns
- 3/08/14 - Jalensky's Salmon Seminar 10:00am
- 3/09/14 - Jalensky's Salmon Seminar 10:00am
- 3/11/14 - Fly tying at the Moose Lodge — Bass Popper
- 3/15/14 - Lake Michigan Angler Salmon Seminar 9:00am
- 3/17/14 - KSFCA Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 3/18/14 - Fly tying at the Moose Lodge — Foam Grasshopper
- 3/25/14 - Fly tying at the Moose Lodge — Mormon Cricket

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2014 Schedule of Club Events

- 02/03/14 - Board Elections
- 02/22/14 - Awards Banquet
- 05/10/14 - Kids Fish-N-Fun
- 05/18/14 - Monthly Tournament
- 06/08/14 - Monthly Tournament
- 08/10/14 - Monthly Tournament
- 09/14/14 - Monthly Tournament
- 09/20/14 - Pike River Revival
- General Club meeting are held on the first Monday of each month at the Moose Lodge 7:00pm (no meeting in July)
- Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm location T.B.D. (no meeting in June)

KENOSHA SPORT FISHING & CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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The Kenosha Sport fishing and Conservation Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and proper utilization of the Great Lakes resources. Established in 1969 by local family fisherman, we continue to focus on conservation of the Great Lakes. For over 40 years the K.S.F.C.A. has worked to support our community and the Great Lakes through various activities and educational programs. Some current examples include: kids fishing programs, fly tying classes, Pike river clean-up efforts, and stocking Lake Michigan with over 40,000 Chinook salmon annually.

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