



## Michigan suit seeks to close locks, stop Asian carp

Michigan attorney general Mike Cox on December 21 filed suit with the nation's highest court asking the court to order closure of shipping locks near Chicago to prevent Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes.

The suit was filed to force the closure of Chicago-area locks that separate the Great Lakes from Illinois waters shown to contain Asian carp, saying the ravenous carp would threaten thousands of jobs and the \$7 billion dollar recreational fishery if they get into the lakes. "Asian carp must be stopped now because we will not have a second chance once they enter Lake Michigan," Cox said in a statement. "The combination of finding carp and carp DNA so close to Lake Michigan is something that should cause great concern for us all."

The suit seeks to force the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Illinois, and the Metropolitan Water

Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to close the locks and present a comprehensive, long-term solution to the crisis.

New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio have joined Michigan in the legal fight to force changes in the way Chicago manages its water to keep Asian carp out of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes.

In his suit, Cox requests:

- ▶ Closure of the locks at the O'Brien Lock and Dam and the Chicago Controlling Works;
- ▶ Operation of the sluice gates at the Wilmette Pumping Station, the O'Brien Lock and Dam, and the Chicago Controlling Works in a manner that will prevent carp from passing into Lake Michigan;
- ▶ Creation of new barriers to prevent carp from escaping from the Des

Plaines River into the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal during flood events, and from getting to Lake Michigan through the Grand and Little Calumet Rivers; and a

▶ Comprehensive study of the Chicago waterway system to define where and how many carp are in these waters, to eradicate them, and action to permanently separate these waterways from the Great Lakes.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago spokeswoman Jill Horist said: "It's unfortunate that there would be an assumption that this would make some positive resolution come sooner than is truly feasible. Even if the locks were closed, there's still a variety of ways for DNA or Asian carp to enter Lake Michigan."

**Mich suit seeks to close locks**

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## Supreme Court action on Asian carp in limbo White House opposes closing locks to Asian carp

The U.S. Supreme Court met on January 15 in a closed conference but took no action on the Michigan request for an injunction to shut down Chicago-area locks and to seal off a canal leading into Lake Michigan to keep Asian carp out. They also did not set a date to decide on the injunction or even whether to accept the case.

The justices were originally scheduled to discuss the lawsuit on January 8 but delayed the discussion for one week. Several other Midwestern states are also calling on Illinois to close the lock leading into Lake Michigan. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Obama Administration say the Supreme Court

should reject that request.

The Obama administration opposes closing the shipping locks near Chicago to prevent Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes. In a memo filed January 5, Solicitor General Elena Kagan asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reject a request by Michigan and five other states to order the locks closed. Illinois also filed a brief with the high court basically supporting the administration's position. Kagan said closing the locks would endanger public safety and disrupt the flow of cargo. She said federal agencies are working to keep Asian carp out of the lakes. ✧

## Coast Guard tightens curbs on Chicago canal traffic

Agency orders year-long regulation as Corps ramps up voltage to fight carp

The escalating fight to prevent Asian carp from getting out of the Chicago Waterway System and into the Great Lakes now has the Coast Guard ordering a year-long regulated zone while the Army Corps of Engineers heats up an electrical barrier.

The Coast Guard, through a January 6 notice in the *Federal Register*, said it was ordering a series of water-handling and operational restrictions on barge tows and other commercial as well as passenger vessels transiting the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

The agency said the new curbs will last until December 1, 2010, and it has already begun enforcing them to prevent the invasive species from entering the lakes out of the inland river system, possibly through transfer of fish- or egg-carrying water by ships moving through the channel.

The new curbs are also intended, the Coast Guard said, "to avoid loss of life." That's because the Corps of Engineers has doubled the electrical energy of a fish barrier it is using to two volts per inch. The Coast Guard said even at the one-volt strength the electrical field can cause sparking between vessels, and that a Corps study "found a serious risk of injury or death to persons immersed in the water" near the barrier.

The Coast Guard said in the notice that it recognizes "the commercial significance of this waterway and will work closely with the (Corps) to reduce operational restrictions as soon as possible; however, it is imperative that the (regulated navigation area) be immediately enacted to avoid loss of life."

The rules require flammable cargo tows to use a bow boat at all times through the area, and all tows to tie barges with wire rope to keep all segments electrically connected.

## USCG establishes regulated navigation area near Romeoville

CLEVELAND – The U.S. Coast Guard on December 18, 2009 issued a safety zone and regulated navigation area on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, in Romeoville, IL. The regulated navigation area is from mile marker 295 to 297.5, and the safety zone is between mile markers 296.1 and 296.7.

In summary, the regulation states all vessels (towboats, barges and recreational craft) are prohibited from transiting the safety zone if they intend to carry water attained from one side of the barrier and discharge that same water, in any form, within or on the other side of the safety zone. This applies to vessels north- and south-bound. If vessels intend to discharge water, they must request permission from the Captain of the Port Sector Lake Michigan prior to transiting and any subsequent discharge will be done in a biologically sound manner.

This regulation serves as a precautionary measure to prevent the possible movement of live silver or Asian carp, their viable eggs, or gametes from these carp across the fish barrier through discharge of non-potable water. There is no direct evidence that this is an actual bypass vector, but the Asian Carp Rapid Response Workgroup's executive committee agrees it is a prudent measure to eliminate the possibility. As a precautionary effort, industry has been voluntarily complying with this practice since September.

For more info: <http://greatlakesrestoration.us/action/wp-content/uploads/12-18-2009-CSSC-Safety-Zone-and-RNA.pdf> ✧

Vessels must transmit passing instructions, keep all personnel inside the cabin and may not stop as they move through the zone.

For the entire *Federal Register* notice, click here: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/E9-31350.htm>.

✧



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### Position Statement

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

### Inland Seas Angler

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## Termination of the Loran-C signal Feb 8, 2010

Consistent with the Administration's pledge to eliminate unnecessary federal programs and systems, the USCG broadcast of the Loran-C signal is going to be terminated. The U.S. Coast Guard announced its record of decision January 7, 2010 on Long Range Aids to Navigation (Loran-C) program, notice of intention to terminate the Loran-C signal.

This decision, which will begin plans to cease broadcasting the North American Loran-C signal February 8, 2010, will result in the decommissioning of two Ninth Coast Guard District Loran-C stations: Seneca, N.Y., and Baudette, Minn. with some exceptions, including the following five sites that are bound by bi-lateral agreements with either Canada (Caribou, ME; George, WA; Nantucket, MA; Shoal Cove, AK) or the Russian Federation (Attu, AK).

As a result of technological advancements during the last 20 years and the emergence of the U.S. Global

Positioning System, Loran-C is no longer required by the armed forces, the transportation sector or the nation's security interests, and is used by only a small segment of the population.

Mariners or other users of Loran-C are encouraged to shift to GPS navigation and plotting systems as soon as possible and not later than the termination date.

Termination of the program was supported through the enactment of the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. The Record of Decision, Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the future of the nation's Loran-C program, and related materials may be viewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-2007-28460.

The notice to terminate the Loran-C signal may be viewed online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), docket number: USCG-2009-0299. For more information on terminations,

reductions and savings contained in the fiscal year 2010 budget, including Loran-C, visit [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/TR/S/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/TR/S/).

Obama's fiscal year 2010 budget supported the termination of outdated systems and specifically cited the terrestrial-based North American Loran-C system as such an example. The president did not seek funding for the Loran-C system in fiscal year 2010. Termination was also supported through the enactment of the 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

The Loran-C system was not established as, nor was it intended to be, a viable systemic backup for GPS. If a single, domestic national system to back up GPS is identified as being necessary, the Department of Homeland Security will complete an analysis of potential backups to GPS. The continued active operation of Loran-C is not necessary to advance this evaluation. ✧

## Ontario supports suit to protect Great Lakes McGuinty government takes steps to prevent spread of Asian carp

Ontario is supporting legal efforts by Michigan and other states to prevent the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. The move recognizes the significant economic threat these fish pose to the province's fisheries.

A legal brief from the Province has been filed with the United States Supreme Court supporting Michigan's motion for a preliminary injunction to close the locks in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The closure is one of a number of measures sought by Michigan to keep this invasive species from passing into Lake Michigan.

Recreational and commercial fishing are vital to Ontario's economy, providing jobs and recreation for

many Ontarians. 1.4 million anglers fish in the province each year, spending more than \$2.3 billion dollars annually on fisheries-related expenditures. The commercial fishery in the Great Lakes is valued at about \$200 million annually.

"Invasive species don't respect international borders", said Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources. "The potential impact of Asian carp on Ontario's economy and ecosystems is a serious concern. We stand with our American colleagues in supporting all steps necessary to prevent their entry into the Great Lakes." The U.S. Supreme Court will determine Ontario's participation in the proceedings. ✧

## 2003 Chicago Summit generates consensus on control of Asian carp

CHICAGO – Nearly 70 top scientists, engineers, conservationists and invasive-species experts from around the globe gathered in Chicago in May 2003 to generate ideas for halting the exchange of invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainage basins.

Convened by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, the Chicago Department of Environment and the USFWS, the consensus of those in attendance was that a separation of Lake Michigan water from canal water was the only 100% guarantee to aid in preventing the movement of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. ✧

## Urgent Asian carp control measures funded for \$13 million

The federal government will spend an additional \$13 million to prevent invasive Asian carp from migrating further toward the Great Lakes.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has identified more than \$13 million in funding needs for measures to deter the large fish from moving closer to Lake Michigan. The majority of the new funds will be used to close conduits and shore up low-lying lands between the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal and adjacent waterways.

EPA and its partners are stepping up to prevent the environmental and economic destruction that can come from invasive Asian carp. The presence of Asian carps in the Great Lakes could cause what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls "catastrophic declines" in abundances of native fish species, cause economic impacts to sport and commercial fisheries, and result in injuries to boaters as the fish are known to jump out of the water as high as 10 feet.

DNA evidence suggests the Asian carp are already very close to an electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal. Scientists believe carp are also present in the Des Plaines River, the I&M canal, the Calumet Sag Canal and the North Branch of the Chicago River near the Wilmette pump station.

Obama has made restoring the Great Lakes a national priority. In February 2009, he proposed \$475 million for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, an unprecedented investment in the nation's largest fresh surface water ecosystem. Congress approved that funding level and Obama signed it into law in October. The funding for immediate carp control measures would come from that \$475 million.

Under the conditions found in the Great Lakes such as water temperature and food abundance, Asian carps could outnumber all other native species, as already is

happening in parts of Illinois, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The potential impact of Asian carps on the Great Lakes sport and commercial fishing industry can be seen right now along the Mississippi River basin. There in just a few years after Asian carp were introduced into the area, many commercial fishing locations have been abandoned, as native fish have nearly disappeared from the catch, replaced by Asian carp.

Illinois and federal agencies remain concerned that during times of heavy precipitation, water and carp can wash from adjacent waterways into the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal. Initiative funding will support work by the Corps to reduce the risk of carp invasion. Some of the funding will support more genetic testing to pinpoint where carp may be in the Chicago Area Waterway System. The agencies will continue to identify other mechanisms for keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. ✧

## Commission & Trust reaffirm 2008 "Separation Study" for Chicago Canal Report becomes more relevant in light of the detection of carp DNA in canal & Chicago River

ANN ARBOR – The recent chemical treatment of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, designed to allow safe disengagement of the electrical "carp barrier," has brought new urgency to the need for a permanent solution to stop the threat of invasive species moving into the Great Lakes.

The chemical treatment, which confirmed the presence of Asian carp at the site of the electrical barrier, and new DNA testing, which suggests that Asian carp may be within five miles of Lake Michigan, has reinvigorated the call to achieve "biological separation" on the canal, a move that would eliminate the possibility of species-transfer between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River watersheds via the canal. Such separation is the same conclusion reached in a 2008 report, Preliminary Feasibility of Ecological Separation of the Mississippi River and the Great

Lakes to Prevent the Transfer of Aquatic Invasive Species, funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. The report assesses potential options to prevent invasive species, including the Asian carp, from entering the Great Lakes and concludes that biological separation of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal from Lake Michigan is the best option.

The report provides a systematic look at commercial and recreational vessel traffic on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and notes that with new technology and infrastructure changes, a long-term solution to prevent species migration between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River is possible. While some impacts to navigation would be unavoidable, biological separation would allow continued use of the system for wastewater disposal and minimize

impacts to commodity movements and recreational boaters.

The study was funded pursuant to a recommendation from the Invasive Species Summit convened in 2003 by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley that called for a project to examine long-term solutions to reduce the risk of invasive species in the waterway.

Great Lakes Fishery Commission chair Michael Hansen, a professor at the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point, encourages swift action: "With the benefit of hindsight, the Great Lakes and Mississippi systems should never have been connected in so direct a way. Our task now is to move forward on implementing permanent and effective solutions to the threat that this waterway poses. The commission calls upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help expedite the completion of this essential project." ✧

## Saltwater Angler Registry now open

The National Saltwater Angler Registry, which launched January 1, 2010, is designed to help address concerns about the data used to estimate the effects of recreational fishing on ocean resources and the nation's economy.

The registry will be used as the basis for conducting surveys of recreational saltwater anglers to find out how often they fish. These surveys are used by NOAA scientists to assess the health of fish stocks and to estimate the economic contributions of anglers.

The registry will eventually replace the use of random-digit dialing to coastal households, a system NOAA has had in place since the 1970s. The goal is to improve survey efficiency and reduce bias by making calls only to homes where people fish, and reaching saltwater anglers who live outside coastal counties.

### Who needs to register?

Recreational saltwater fishermen will need to register if they:

- ▶ Hold a license from one of 10 coastal states or territories which do not currently have comprehensive saltwater angler license or registration requirements: Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Virginia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands,

- ▶ Fish for or are likely to catch anadromous species in tidal and salt waters; fish like river herring, shad, smelt and striped bass that live in the oceans but spawn in fresh water, OR

- ▶ Fish in the federal waters more than three miles from the ocean shore or from the mouths of rivers or bays.

### Who Doesn't Need to Register

Some anglers don't have to register if they:

- ▶ Hold a license from one of 15 coastal states with comprehensive licensing or registration — Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington;

- ▶ Are not required under state law in one of these 15 states to hold a fishing license as is sometimes the case with seniors or active-duty military;

- ▶ Are under age 16;

- ▶ Pay to fish on licensed charter, party or guide boats;

- ▶ Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit or subsistence fishing permit; or

- ▶ Fish commercially under a valid license.

National Saltwater Angler registration is free in 2010. To register, anglers can visit NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program and click on the Angler Registry link, or call the toll-free registration line at 1-888-MRIP411 (1-888-674-7411) from 4:00 am to 12 midnight EST daily.

Anglers will need to provide their name, date of birth, address and telephone number, and will receive a registration number that will allow them to begin fishing immediately. They will receive a registration card in the mail in about 30 days. ✧

## Future Fisherman Foundation launches Tournaments for Tomorrow

LITTLE ROCK – The Future Fisherman Foundation announced the launch of a new program, Tournaments for Tomorrow, that will provide financial support for youth fishing programs such as the mentor-based Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs program, the school-based Phys Ed angling and boating education program, and the Boys & Girls Clubs' C.A.T.C.H. after-school fishing program.

Each organization that enrolls agrees to raise funds by asking tournament participants to contribute an extra \$5 to \$10 per entry fee, or an amount of their choosing to support F3 programs. Alternatively, the organization can "pass the hat" (or maybe pass a bait bucket!) at their opening events and ask for contributions. Members can give an amount that's comfortable for them.

And while individual donations may not be much more than the cost of a single fishing lure, some groups have raised hundreds of dollars at a single event, an important contribution that provides fishing experiences and education for dozens of children.

Upon enrollment in the program, the organization will be licensed to use the Future Fisherman Foundation "Proud Partner" logo in their publications and on their website to show their members support efforts to ensure the future of fishing. F3 also will send a special DVD the Tournaments for Tomorrow chairperson can use to show tournament participants and club members how their dollars will help. Each club will receive recognition for their participation in the Foundation newsletter and in the "Partners" section of the F3 website.

Additionally, the Foundation will use their blog and Facebook pages to help publicize youth events held in conjunction with each organization's tournaments.

"We've been contacted by dozens of tournament groups throughout the country that want to get involved with the Foundation's youth outreach programs," Sutton said. "Becoming part of our Tournaments for Tomorrow initiative is a great way they can show their support and let the world know they have the same mission we do — to provide quality fishing experiences for every child in America."

For more info, including a downloadable enrollment form, visit the Future Fisherman Foundation's website, or contact Keith Sutton at (703) 402-3623 or [ksutton@futurefisherman.org](mailto:ksutton@futurefisherman.org). ✧

## Contaminated soil source of mercury in fish in Shenandoah Valley Rivers

Riverbank and floodplain soils are the major source of mercury in fish from several Shenandoah Valley Rivers. A new federal study shows that 96% of the mercury loads to the South River come from soil that was contaminated more than 50 years ago by a textile manufacturing plant in Waynesboro, VA.

“Currently, about 416 pounds of mercury get into the South River per year. To meet safety standards in fish for human consumption, mercury loads to the South River cannot exceed 4 pounds per year. That’s a reduction of 99 percent,” said Jack Eggleston, a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) hydrologist and author of the report.

“Now we know why fish continue to have elevated mercury and what reductions are needed to make the fish safe to eat again,” said Eggleston. Mercury from the textile plant washed into the South River and subsequently contaminated the South Fork Shenandoah River, the Shenandoah River, and the floodplains along the three rivers. The textile plant, operated by DuPont, discharged mercury waste from 1929-1950.

Since 1977 the Commonwealth of Virginia has placed a fish consumption health advisory on 128 miles of river downstream of the plant. Safety standards set by the U.S. EPA are 0.3 parts per million of mercury in fish. High concentrations

of mercury occur in fish because mercury accumulates throughout the lifetime of an organism. This bioaccumulation is magnified in organisms at higher levels in the food chain.

During the study, USGS scientists and partners from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ), and the U.S. EPA collected and analyzed hundreds of water and sediment samples. By using computer models, they simulated water, sediment and mercury movement in the South River watershed. The results of the study will be used by VDEQ to develop plans for cleaning up the rivers contaminated with mercury. ✧

## Live emerald shiners the most important bait in catching yellow perch

### Outfish biodegradable, rubberish artificial shiner imitations packed in stinky liquid

Recently, when yellow perch fishermen have stopped by their favorite bait shop on the way out for a day on Lake Erie, they see a "Sold Out" sign over the tank of emerald shiners—the preferred bait fish for yellow perch. The shortage is directly related to the arrival and spread of the fish disease viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in the Great Lakes region since 2006. The federal government and various state governments have issued restrictions to limit the transport of susceptible fish, making it illegal to move some bait fish across state lines, privately or commercially, even within the same body of water.

Since most bait fish sold in Ohio have traditionally come from commercial trappers in New York, shortages of live emerald shiners have hit Ohio fishermen, as well as fishing businesses, hard. Those businesses have started trapping the shiners themselves in an attempt to relieve the market stress, but fishermen have also started to get more creative.

“Some anglers, when there’s a shortage, switch to artificial shiner

imitations,” says Curt Wagner, Biologist for the Ohio DNR, and member of the Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (OCAFS). “Particularly popular are biodegradable, rubberish bait packed in this stinky liquid. It’s supposed to have the look, the scent, and the appeal of the real thing for yellow perch.” However, no one was sure that the artificial baits were as effective as the real thing, so Wagner put together a study for OCAFS members during their annual summer meeting. Since the meeting was to be held at Stone Laboratory, he applied for and received grant funding from Ohio Sea Grant for NOAA shiptime aboard the Gibraltar III research boat.

The weekend of the OCAFS meeting, 13 anglers set out to a spot between Lake Erie’s Rattlesnake and Middle Bass islands, prepared to test four different types of emerald shiner baits: live, frozen, brine preserved, and artificial. “In advance, we assigned a random rotation of bait types so that each angler fished each of the four baits for 30 minutes and not everyone was fishing the same

bait at the same time,” Wagner explains. “We would blow a whistle and everyone would switch to a different bait type. We wanted to get a fair, side-by-side comparison.”

Using identical fishing rigs, each participant was instructed to fish all four baits the same way, letting it go all the way to the lake floor, then cranking it up one or two times to get it a little bit off the bottom.

Their findings were surprising: out of a total of 59 perch caught within the two-hour timeframe, 27 were caught using live bait, 18 on frozen shiners, 14 on brine-preserved shiners, and none on artificial. From a management perspective, the data indicate a potential need for Ohio businesses to begin to cultivate emerald shiners to keep up with demand. Also, start planning ahead for your bait needs.

Emerald shiners are available in Ohio waters in the spring each year, so it may be a good idea to stock up early in the season and preserve them so you have enough to get you through fall. ✧

## NY DEC BOW Workshop Jan 29-31

New York's second annual winter Becoming an Outdoorswoman Workshop is scheduled for January 29-31, 2010 at the Rensselaerville Meeting Center, Albany County.

Nearly 25 different classes will be offered at the Rensselaerville workshop. These classes include ice fishing, snowshoeing, winter camping, nature journaling, trail cameras, bicycle maintenance, winter survival, cross country skiing, fly tying, ecology of the winter forest, reading wildlife sign and backcountry skiing. The upcoming January workshop also includes an exciting biathlon-type class that combines snowshoeing and target shooting with .22-caliber rifles.

The early registration fee is \$310, which covers instruction in three classes, meals, two nights lodging, program materials and use of equipment.

For more info: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/68.html>. Or call 518-402-8862 ✧

## Papp to head Coast Guard

### Will take over for Allen in May

Vice Adm. Robert J. Papp, Jr. will be the new commandant of the Coast Guard, relieving Adm. Thad Allen in May 2010, pending Senate confirmation.

Papp is commander of the Atlantic area, one of the service's major divisions, which includes Coast Guard operations in the Persian Gulf. Previously Papp was chief of staff at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington. From 2004 to 2006 he commanded the Coast Guard Ninth District which covers the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway.

Papp is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and holds a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College, and a master's degree in management from Salve Regina College in Newport, R.I. ✧

## MI - Winter Becoming an Outdoors-Woman set for UP Feb 26-28

Women seeking the opportunity to improve their outdoor skills are invited to register for the 10th annual Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) winter program, set for February 26-28 in Big Bay, 30 miles north of Marquette. The program will be held at Bay Cliff Health Camp, a universally accessible facility, located in a picturesque wooded setting overlooking Lake Superior.

The program offers instruction in more than a dozen kinds of outdoor activities, including cross country skiing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, ice fishing, fly tying, and wilderness first aid. Instructors provide basic and advanced instruction tailored to the participant's individual ability.

The \$175 registration fee includes all 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 with many amenities, including a sauna and hiking trails with access to Lake Superior.

For more info, Sharon Pitz, (906) 228-6561 or [pitz@michigan.gov](mailto:pitz@michigan.gov). [DNR-Outdoors-Woman@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-Outdoors-Woman@michigan.gov). ✧

## MI DNR certifies new record pumpkinseed

The Michigan DNR has certified a 2.15 lb. pumpkinseed caught October 26 from Lake Nepessing as a state record. Deaunti Kemp of Flint was fishing with a leaf worm on the Lapeer County Lake when he caught the 12½" sunfish. Kemp's pumpkinseed eclipsed the record of 1.58 lbs., set in June this year from Pickerel Lake in Emmet County. The pumpkinseed marks the fifth time a state record fish has been caught in 2009. New state benchmarks have also been set for Great Lakes muskellunge, brown trout and Redear sunfish. ✧

## MI Winter Snowshoe Programs

The Gillette Sand Dune Visitor Center in Hoffmaster State Park has announced its dates for snowshoe hikes. The center is located at 6585 Lake Harbor Rd. in Muskegon.

The snowshoe hikes planned are:

**Moonlight Snowshoe Hike, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m.** Participants should meet at the Visitor Center by 6:45 to be fitted with snowshoes. Refreshments following the hike will be provided by the Gillette Nature Association.

**Family Snowshoe Hike, Saturday, Feb. 6, at 11 a.m.** There will be a snowshoe hike for those wanting a family outing. This nature adventure will be slow paced and will include lots of outdoor discoveries.

**Kids Snowshoe Hike, Feb. 13, at 11 a.m.** There will be a snowshoe hike just for kids. Although this hike is set up for children, one adult must accompany each family group. This hike is limited to 20 people.

**Cardio Snowshoe, Saturday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m.** There will be a longer snowshoe hike which will include challenging up and down terrain. Not for younger children.

Snowshoes are available from the Gillette Nature Association for a donation of \$5. Reservations for all hikes are required, and can be made by calling the visitor center at 231-798-3573 ✧

## MI DNR holding Snowshoe Making Workshop Jan. 23

The Michigan DNR will host a snowshoe making workshop January 23, at the DNR's Pocket Park, 1111 US Hwy 2 in Escanaba on the Upper Peninsula State Fair Grounds. Participants will learn how to weave a pair of traditional snowshoes that will last for generations. The workshop fee is \$160, which includes all materials and equipment needed to make one pair of snowshoes. Class size is limited and reservations are required. Call (906) 492-3415. ✧

## Largemouth caught in Japan ties All-Tackle World Record

**It's official: Freshwater fishing's "Holy Grail" now has dual holders; 22 lb 4 oz bass caught by Japan's Manabu Kurita matches IGFA record held for 77 years by Georgia's George Perry**

After nearly six months of waiting, Japan's Manabu Kurita is taking his place along side Georgia, USA angler George Perry in the International Game Fish Association's (IGFA) World Record Games Fishes book as dual holders of the All-Tackle record for largemouth bass each weighing 22 lb. 4 oz. and caught 77 years apart.

The IGFA, on January 8, approved Kurita's application for the fish caught from Japan's largest lake on July 2, 2009. The 70-year old non-profit fisheries conservation, education and record-keeping body, received Kurita's application and documentation on September 19, 2009. The largemouth bass was caught from Lake Biwa, which is an ancient reservoir northeast of Kyoto.

Kurita, 32, of Aichi, Japan, was fishing Biwa that July day using a Deps Sidewinder rod and a Shimano Antares DC7LV reel loaded with 25 lb. Toray line when he pitched his bait, a live bluegill, next to a bridge piling. It was Kurita's first cast to the piling where he had seen a big bass swimming. He only twitched the bait a couple of times before he got bit. After a short, three minute fight he had the fish in the boat.

Kurita was quoted as saying "I knew it was big, but I didn't know it was that big." But big it was. Using certified scales, his fish weighed in at 10.12 kg or 22 lb. 4 oz. When measured, the fish had a fork length of 27.2" and a girth of 26.7". The IGFA only has line classes up to 20 lb. for largemouth bass, so Kurita had no chance at a line class record as well.

IGFA rules for fish caught outside the U.S. allows anglers 90 days to submit their applications from the date of their catch. The documentation was received through the IGFA's sister association the Japan Game Fish Association (JGFA). IGFA conservation director Jason Schratwieser said Kurita's application was meticulously

documented with the necessary photos and video.

Kurita's fish ties the current record held for over 77 years by Perry who caught his bass on Georgia's Montgomery Lake, June 2, 1932, near Jacksonville, Georgia. That 22 lb. 4 oz. behemoth won Field and Stream Magazine's big fish contest and 46 years later, when the IGFA took over freshwater records from Field and Stream, it became the All-Tackle record now one of over 1,100 fresh and saltwater species the IGFA monitors.

IGFA All-Tackle records are now free for viewing by the public at [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org). Kurita's name is now on the IGFA Web site with that of Perry's and will appear in the 2011 edition of the World Record Games Fishes book...unless that record is broken this year.

In North America the largemouth bass, and especially the All-Tackle record, is considered by millions of anglers as the "holy grail" of freshwater fish because of its popularity and the longevity of Perry's record. That fish undoubtedly helped to spawn a billion dollar industry that today makes up a significant part of the sport of recreational fishing.

Schratwieser said, "The moment Kurita weighed his fish, word spread like wildfire. We knew this would be significant so we immediately contacted the JGFA for more information. Established in 1979, JGFA compiles and translates all record applications of fish caught in Japan before forwarding to the IGFA. "It works out well because they not only translate applications but can also contact the angler if more documentation is needed."

### It turned into a lengthy process

"Since the IGFA requires three months from the time of capture before a record can be approved, the official word would have to wait until Oct. 2," said Schratwieser. "However,

almost right away rumors began to circulate that Kurita may have caught his fish in a 'no-fishing zone'. In response, the IGFA immediately corresponded with the JGFA to speak with the angler about this issue and to gather information regarding the legality of fishing where Kurita caught his bass. Official word came back that the location of the catch was not a no-fishing zone, but was an area where anchoring or stopping was prohibited. This spurred more correspondence with the JGFA and the angler, including affidavits asking the angler if he stopped his boat at anytime. Again, the testimony and affidavits that came back indicated that the Kurita did not violate any laws and that his catch was indeed legitimate."

### It didn't end there.

A considerable amount of time and correspondence was to continue between the IGFA, JGFA and Kurita, a primary reason it took so long to come to a decision. During this time, the IGFA was also besieged with letters and emails from the bass fishing community, said Schratwieser. "Many were incredulous that the All-Tackle record could be tied from a fish in Japan. Others beseeched the IGFA to approve the record and give Kurita the credit he deserves. Still others wanted to know why the entire process was taking so long. It soon became clear to the IGFA staff that this would be a contentious issue no matter if the record were approved or rejected.

"The IGFA was also sensitive to this particular record because in past years there have been several attempts to sue us over largemouth bass record claims. Although none of these claims have been successful, they have resulted in considerable legal fees for the IGFA," he said.

In the end, the IGFA staff concluded it would be both in the best interest of the IGFA and that of Kurita if he submitted to a polygraph

analysis. The IGFA reserves the right to employ polygraph analyses to any record application, and this is explicitly stated in the affidavit section of the world record application form.



Again, more correspondence was issued to the JGFA to request that Kurita take a polygraph test. He immediately agreed. On December 15, Kurita was examined by a professional polygraph analyst in Japan. The many questions he was given included if he was truthful about the information reported on the application form and if his boat ever came to a complete stop while fighting his fish. The results from the polygraph concluded that Manabu Kurita answered the questions honestly and that the catch was legitimate. George Perry's 77-year-old record was officially tied.

Due diligence pays off. "Six months may seem like a lot of time to determine if a fish ties a record," said Schratwieser. "Hopefully, people now understand the amount of due diligence the IGFA conducted on this record. Although we treat all records with equal rigor, the All-Tackle largemouth bass record is nothing less than iconic and the bass angling community deserved nothing less."

Schratwieser added, "The IGFA wishes to applaud Kurita on his outstanding catch and would also like

to commend him on his patience and candor during the entire review process. We would also like to thank the JGFA for their diligence and tireless assistance in corresponding with Kurita and fisheries officials."

#### ***Kurita shows off his record largemouth bass***

Where will the next bass record come from?

Largemouth bass have also been introduced in many countries but in Japan fisheries officials consider it an invasive species. In addition, because bass are not native and are stocked in Japan, many speculated that the big bass was a sterile triploid. However when biologists in Japan examined the ova of the big female, Schratwieser said they concluded that the fish was not triploid.

For over 77 years the record stood as bass fanatics theorized when and where the record would be broken. Over the years there have been rumors and unsubstantiated reports of bass that could have tied or eclipsed Perry's record, but nothing ever passed IGFA criteria. Some anglers did come close, however.

Schratwieser said the closest came in 1991, when Robert Crupi caught a 22 lb. bass in Lake Dixon, California USA, that still reigns as the 16 lb. line class record and the third

heaviest approved bass record in IGFA history.

"Most people thought that the next All-Tackle record would come from California. Until Kurita's tie the seven heaviest bass records behind Perry's came from California lakes. Although not native to California, it appears transplanted bass have adapted quite well to the deep, clear lakes and reservoirs and the abundant trout forage found in some of them. "Little did people know that introduced bass grew big in places besides California, and that there are true monsters swimming on the other side of the world in Japan." ✧

#### **Mich suit seeks to close locks**

*Continued from page 1*

Late last month, Great Lakes Interagency Task Force chairwoman and USEPA administrator Lisa Jackson announced \$13 million in federal funding to prevent Asian carp from migrating closer to the Great Lakes. Much of the additional money will go toward fortifying areas around the banks of the canal so adjacent waterways already infested with the fish, including the Des Plaines River, won't overflow in floods and spill into the canal, giving the fish a bypass around the electric barriers. It's a start.

Separate from the injunction request, Cox is also asking the Supreme Court to reopen a case dating to 1900 in which Missouri challenged Chicago's right to re-engineer the Chicago River. If the Supreme Court is unwilling to reopen the case, Cox hopes justices grant a new one.

Asian carp eDNA has been discovered north of the barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal as well as the North Branch of the Chicago River near the Wilmette Locks.

The Senate Environment Committee will hold a hearing on Thursday, January 21, 2010, 11:00 a.m. in 16-503 James R. Thompson Center Chicago on the long-term approach to addressing Asian carp in Illinois waterways. ✧

## Asian carp causing problems in Louisiana

Members of the Asian carp family, mostly bighead and silver carp, have been tied to a number of problems for both fishermen and the fish resources in Louisiana waterways.

These nuisance fish were introduced into the United States in the 1970s to help manage aquaculture ponds and wastewater lagoons. They quickly escaped into the wild and eventually descended into Louisiana waters from the north in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Asian carp are commonly found in Louisiana in the Mississippi, Red and Ouachita rivers and Atchafalaya Basin.

It is the silver carp, most recognized for its jumping ability, that can leap several feet out of the water when disturbed by boat propellers. Silver carp can grow up to 50 pounds, posing a threat to boaters and their equipment. A silver carp jumping out of the water can result in injury to the operator and damage to the boat, or in the most extreme cases, death to the boater.

Both silver and bighead carp pose a threat to the local Louisiana freshwater fishery by out-competing local fish for food. Both of these carp species primarily feed on plankton, which is also the main diet for shad, bigmouth buffalo and paddlefish. Plankton is also the primary food of the larval stages of catfish, bass and other freshwater species.

"These Asian carp have been in Louisiana waters for close to 20 years and are sustaining their populations," said Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Inland Fisheries Administrator Gary Tilyou. "This is a problem we have to manage to minimize impacts to our natural resources and the people that enjoy our Louisiana waterways."

Included in LDWF's management plan for Asian carp is creating a demand for the white, delicious meat they possess and relaxing the regulations on fishing for these nuisance fish.

On January 12, LDWF along with Chef Philippe Parola unveiled a new marketing plan that will include a

name change from Asian carp to "Silverfin". At the event, some local chefs prepared silverfin and LDWF announced the rollout of silverfin products being distributed by Rouses Super Market.

Because these fish feed on plankton, they are not susceptible to traditional angling methods. On January 7, LDWF presented the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission a notice of intent (NOI) that, if adopted, will allow fishermen to take Asian carp using dip nets, spears and snagging methods. Additionally, since silver carp can jump into boats, fishermen would be able to use their boats as a legal catching method. Asian carp also have no size or possession limits.

"We will never be able to fully eradicate these fish, so we are trying to make the best out of what these fish have to offer," said Tilyou. "By creating a demand for the meat, we hope to create a commercial and recreational fishing industry for Asian carp." ✧

## DNR reduces walk-in counter service hours

MADISON – The Wisconsin DNR has reduced walk-in service hours at its 30 service centers statewide. Service centers – which had been open three, four or five days per week – will be open one, two, three or four days per week from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m. DNR's service center in downtown Madison at 101 S. Webster St. will close to walk-in traffic. Question on rules, regulations, or other DNR program, call toll free center seven days a week, 7 AM – 10 PM. 888-936-7463.

For licenses, visit DNR's website at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) (click on "Hunting and Fishing Licenses and Permits") or call 1-877-945-4236 24/. Phone callers can, for example, order a fishing license, get a confirmation number, and head out fishing right away. ✧

## No such thing as safe ice, only safer ice

Various DNR agencies are reminding those who enjoy such activities that there is no such thing as safe ice, only safer ice.

Ice fishermen aren't fair weather fisherman that's for sure. Anyone unprepared or uninformed is likely have a date with disaster sometime during their ice fishing years.

Follow these simple safety rules:

- ▶ 4" of new clear ice is recommended for foot travel.
- ▶ if you go by snowmobile or ATV, 5" is the minimum.
- ▶ -Don't consume alcoholic beverages.
- ▶ Never fish alone, and let someone know where you are going.
- ▶ Wear a life jacket under your winter gear; it will keep you buoyant should you fall through, and provide additional warmth.
- ▶ Carry ice picks or ice awls, they will allow you to pull yourself out of the water and onto the ice.
- ▶ Should you go through, remain calm. Turn in the direction you came from. Extend your hands and arms, forcing the ice picks solidly into the ice ahead of you. Kick your feet and pull yourself out onto the ice. Do Not Stand Up! By rolling away from the hole, you spread out your weight until you are able to reach solid ice.
- ▶ Carry a signaling type of whistle; using it may be the only way to let someone know that you are in trouble. A cell phone can be a valuable survival tool but only as long as it remains dry.
- ▶ Carrying a length of rope also can be useful.
- ▶ Stay away from areas on lakes that have inlets or outlets; be mindful about flowing water if fishing on a channel between two lakes ✧

👉 **THINK ABOUT IT** 👈

Do not let what you cannot do  
Interfere with what you can do.  
*They Call Me Coach, John Wooden*

✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧

## 80-year-old mistake may be leading to first species to be fished to extinction

PARIS, FRANCE – A species of common skate is set to become the first marine fish species to be driven to extinction by commercial fishing, due to an error of species classification 80 years ago, reveals research published today in the journal *Aquatic Conservation*.

The European common skate, *Dipturus batis*, has been on the World Conservation Union's Red List of Threatened Species since 2006, with France currently being responsible for 60% of reported landings. These catches are predominantly registered under the name 'D.batis,' however researchers, led by Dr Samuel Iglésias, show that 'D. batis' is in fact two clearly distinct species which have been incorrectly categorised as one since the 1920s.

From the mid-19th century the common skate was described as two distinct species, the flapper skate, *D. intermedia*, and the blue skate, *D. flossada*. However, in an influential work in 1926 R.S Clark recognized only 'D. batis' as a valid species and this classification has largely gone unchallenged since.

This classification confusion has resulted in the depletion of the flapper skate, the more endangered species of the two, being masked in the catch record. This means the risk of extinction is far higher than previously assessed and without immediate and incisive action the species may be in an irreversible decline towards extinction.

Common Skates, which were once abundant in British and European waters, have been in sharp decline for decades. In 2008 the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) noted that the species is depleted in the Celtic and North Seas, the Skagerrak and the English Channel. The ICES advised no target fishing and that by-catch should be minimized.

## Old fish makes new Great Lakes comeback

LANSING – Lake sturgeon, one of the oldest surviving species from prehistoric times, is making a small comeback in the Great Lakes region.

"They've increased about a couple of percent since their lowest numbers, but at least the populations aren't going down anymore," said Bruce Manny, a fishery biologist for the USGS Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor. The increase is due in part to a spawning project in Black Lake, an inland lake in Cheboygan County. About 40% of the lake sturgeon released into Black Lake as part of the project survived their first winter, but Manny said there are no estimates on the actual number due to a lack of comprehensive studies.

According to Manny, there are about 2,000 sturgeon in Lake Erie, 20,000-25,000 in Lake Huron and 45,000 in Wisconsin's Lake Winnebago.

To aid the turnaround in population, the DNR enforces extremely restrictive fishing requirements for sturgeon, including a special license and limits on how many fish may be caught and held per year. Manny describes the fish as an environmental barometer that can be used to test the quality of drinking water. "If these fish can reproduce and thrive, we can say the source from which we draw our water is safe," he said. ✧

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"The threat of extinction for European *Dipturus* together with mislabeling in fishery statistics highlight the need for a huge reassessment of population for the different *Dipturus* species in European waters," concluded Iglésias. "Without revision and recognition of its distinct status the world's largest skate, *D. cf. intermedia*, could soon be rendered extinct." ✧

## OLEC funds research on Lake Erie

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will provide grants for two projects that will investigate water quality issues and create enhanced fishing opportunities in Lake Erie.

The U. of Toledo's Department of Civil Engineering will receive \$14,998 for a project that will enable detection of phosphates in Lake Erie by improving a recently developed microsensor. This sensing tool will be refined and tested to measure lower levels of phosphate and Soluble Reactive Phosphorus which will improve our ability to manage phosphorus in the lake.

Ohio Sea Grant College Program – The Ohio State University will receive \$9,900 for a project to build complex fish habitat structures in seven (7) of Ohio's clean marinas along Lake Erie's south shore. It is anticipated that these structures will attract more fish and increase angling success for Ohioans.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission was established for the purpose of protecting Lake Erie's natural resources, the quality of its waters and ecosystem and promoting economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio DNR serves as the commission's chairman. ✧

## International outflow plan stays

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control will leave the current outflow release plan in place for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The board advised it may adjust releases, depending on "downstream conditions, to facilitate ice formation, and to meet critical hydropower and navigation needs." The supply of water into Lake Ontario has been below average, the board says, which resulted in a "sharp" decrease in water levels, though that level, currently 74.56 metres, is actually at the long-term average for Lake Ontario and similar to levels at this time last year. ✧

## **Other Breaking News Items:**

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

### **Louisiana [Wildlife and Fisheries promotes consumption of Asian carp](#)**

Eat lots of Asian carp, it's part of a new campaign to try to control bighead and silver carp, which were introduced into the U.S. in the 70s to help manage aquaculture ponds and wastewater lagoons farther north. The fish made it into Louisiana waterways in the late 1980s.

### **Hoekstra wants time to study offshore wind farm proposed for Lake Michigan**

Said he was surprised by Aegir wind farm concept

### **Northwest Indiana Forum wants waterways open**

The Northwest Indiana Forum opposes Michigan's lawsuit to force Illinois to close Chicago-area locks to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. The Forum said closing the locks would have, "an immediate and profound impact on Northwest Indiana commerce without providing a permanent solution to the invasive species."

### **Invasive species threatens fishery**

Trying to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes will be difficult — if not futile. Ontario is supporting legal efforts by Michigan and other American states to prevent the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. The move recognizes the significant economic threat these fish pose to the province's fisheries

### **Obama administration's stand on carp criticized**

Conservationists and regional politicians are criticizing the Obama administration's decision Tuesday to oppose efforts by a coalition of five Great Lakes states to force Illinois and the Corps of Engineers to do more to protect Lake Michigan from invasion of the Asian carp.

### **Minnesota DNR to reduce number of trout raised at French River Hatchery**

The French River Hatchery near Duluth will significantly reduce the number of Kamloops trout it produces, fisheries officials with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said Monday.

### **BASS eliminates Bassmaster Women's trail**

BASS eliminated the Women's Bassmaster Tour from the Bassmaster Tournament Trail Monday. Despite BASS' best efforts to grow the WBT, participation levels have been declining significantly since the inception of the tour in 2005.

### **Two jailed in gill net case**

ESCANABA – Time behind bars and thousands of dollars in fines and restitution were handed down to two Delta County men convicted of using illegal gill nets last fall. The sentencings took place in district court Monday.

### **Illinois fights back over carp lawsuit**

The fight to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes could soon turn into a testy legal tussle between a coalition of Great Lakes states and Illinois — and its favorite son, President Barack Obama.

### **Cox wants to meet with Obama about carp**

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, who filed suit to force closure of the locks in Illinois to prevent migrating Asian carp from getting in Lake Michigan, said today that he's disappointed by the Obama administration's response to the suit.

### **New law makes salt-water fishermen register with U.S.**

The National Saltwater Angler Registry, authorized by Congress, is a new tool for scientists to get a better handle on the numbers of recreational anglers and migratory fish caught — part of their effort to protect species and rebuild dwindling stocks.

### **Uncle Sam will dip into anglers' pockets**

NOAA's plan to register all tidal water sport anglers is little else but a new federal tax. NOAA said all anglers not now "licensed or registered by a state that has been exempted and want to fish in federal waters" will be required to register with them. Anglers must also register if they drop their lines in tidal waters, seeking migratory fish species. On or after Jan. 1, go to [www.countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov) or call 1-888/674-7411 to register.

### **NAUBINWAY: 2 sentenced for dumping fish guts**

Two Upper Peninsula brothers accused of dumping fish remains for years into a Lake Michigan bay have been sentenced to six months of home confinement and fined \$80,000. Carl Frazier and Donald Frazier process whitefish in Naubinway in Mackinac County. The government says they dumped barrels of fish guts — at least 216,000 pounds, according to an estimate — into the water and shoreline of Epoufette Bay.

### **Group: Closing local waterways will hurt area**

The American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat and barge industry, released statistics detailing the impact a Lake Michigan lock closure proposed by Michigan officials would have on businesses and the economy.

**[More states endorse lawsuit against Illinois in battle over carp](#)**

Ohio, Wisconsin and Minnesota are just some of the states that have endorsed a lawsuit against Illinois. Michigan filed the initial lawsuit earlier this week. They all want Illinois to stop Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.

**[Don't meddle with lake levels, report says](#)**

Do nothing. That's the continued recommendation of the International Great Lakes Study after peer review and more studying with a look at climate change on the St. Clair River and its connection to the water levels of the Great Lakes.

**[COMMENTARY: Coast Guard rules bad news for inland guides](#)**

This past summer, the U.S. Coast Guard decided to extend the "Six-Pack" license designed for small ship captains on the Great Lakes and international waters, and apply it to inland fishing guides who operate for hire on small lakes and rivers in Minnesota.

**[4 of 5 Great Lakes on the rise](#)**

The levels of four Great Lakes are higher than a year ago and all except Lake Ontario should start next year's recreational boating season at or above last year's levels, according to two reports this month.

**[EDITORIAL: Gov't must halt Asian carp](#)**

Congress, the federal courts and even the White House must take immediate action to force a reluctant U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to close shipping locks and canals near Chicago that could provide a pathway for the Asian carp to enter Lake Michigan.

**[Guides say cost of Coast Guard plan is too steep](#)**

Fishing guides on many lakes across northern Minnesota would have to be fingerprinted and spend up to \$1,300 on federal exams to help their clients catch walleyes under a new U.S. Coast Guard policy.

**[Coast Guard targets zebra mussels in Great Lakes](#)**

Twenty years after the pervasive zebra mussel was first detected in the Great Lakes, the U.S. Coast Guard is preparing rules to prevent new invasive species from infiltrating the nation's freshwater systems.

**[Environmentalists, shippers blast U.S. ballast proposals](#)**

A federal plan to prevent foreign species carried in ship ballast tanks from invading the Great Lakes and inland waterways is riddled with loopholes and would take effect too slowly, with a provision that could postpone the deadline for years if the Coast Guard decides it isn't workable. "They're saying maybe they will, maybe they won't, they'll figure it out as they go."

**[Stop Plans to Regulate Greenhouse Gases in Wake of Climategate Fraud](#)****EPA Poised to Issue Economy-Killing Energy Regulations**

In the wake of the burgeoning Climategate fraud scandal, the Competitive Enterprise Institute on December 2, filed an emergency [petition](#) demanding that the Environmental Protection Agency stop its plans to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act, pending a complete investigation.

**[Lake Erie - Scientists: Mayflies may amplify oxygen and algae problems, but don't blame the bugs](#)**

Lake Erie's pollution in the '60s and '70s killed off its mayflies, insects that spend most of their lives underwater before flying off in huge hatches that carpet coastal towns. But the bugs have returned in a big way.

**[Coast Guard urged to adopt tough standards for ships in Great Lakes](#)**

Six Minnesota organizations urged the U.S. Coast Guard to adopt tough national standards for ships on the Great Lakes in order to finally stop the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species into those five water bodies and their tributaries on Monday.

**[Carp battle not over yet](#)**

Biologist says Asian fish need right conditions to breed in lake. "If a few fish get into the Great Lakes, it's not game over," said Chapman, a U.S. Geological Survey researcher who has made a career out of studying the fish on the heavily infested Missouri River.

**[The incredible, indelible cormorant](#)**

Along with the ducks, geese, and gulls that frequent the waters of Milwaukee is a bird that may be less familiar to most landlubbers: the cormorant. But appreciation for cormorants here has waxed and waned over the past century as human and bird have repeatedly crossed paths.

**[EDITORIAL: Close the gates](#)**

The Asian carp appears to be not only on the doorstep of the Great Lakes; it's managed to push the door ajar and is trying to wriggle through. But before we get used to adding a carp menu to Friday fish fries, there are still some things authorities can do to prevent a full-scale invasion.

**[EDITORIAL: Keep those monster carp out](#)**

No need to cue the "Jaws" soundtrack. They don't eat people. But the giant Asian carp threatening to invade and terribly disrupt Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes must be stopped.