



Michigan & Wisconsin Chinook numbers and size increase this year Great numbers of Chinooks show up at egg collection facilities

The Chinook salmon, and the eggs they're giving up at Wisconsin's three egg collection facilities along Lake Michigan, are looking good. That's a reversal of sobering trends in recent years and reflects adequate reproduction of the alewives Chinook eat and a lake-wide reduction in stocking that is better matching fish with available food, state fisheries officials say.

"All things considered the Chinook return at Strawberry Creek this year took a very positive turn after generally declining trends of numbers and size of fish returning to

the weir," says Scott Hansen, the Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist heading up egg collection activities at the [Strawberry Creek facility](#) near Sturgeon Bay. The fish appeared heavier and in better condition than last year, and the average size of eggs increased considerably this year from last year. "That is another encouraging sign," Hansen says. Fisheries crews and volunteers at Strawberry Creek handled about 5,400 Chinooks over six harvest days this season, up from 2,014 last year, collecting about 2.3 Lake Erie, declared "dead" in the

million eggs to be hatched and reared at state hatcheries and stocked out next year in Lake Michigan.

The story was the same at the other two facilities collecting Chinook this fall, the [C.D. Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility](#) in Kewaunee, and the Root River Steelhead Facility in Racine.

Fish immediately began to enter the fish ladder and the collection ponds in Kewaunee as soon as the pumps were turned on October 7,

Chinook increase

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Happy Thanksgiving



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Toxic algae, dead zones threaten Great Lakes

1960s and brought back to life in the '70s, may now be on the critical list again. The worst toxic algae bloom in recorded history is plaguing Lake Erie. For weeks now, the current, smelly bloom has virtually covered the western basin of Erie and is moving eastward, where it's expected to create larger dead zones.

The culprit is mainly fertilizer runoff from farms, especially phosphorus that drains into rivers that flow into Lake Erie. Rivers that feed western Lake Erie have been determined to have particularly high phosphorus levels. This triggers algae blooms that begin with the spring rains and last until fall. Once the algae dies, it sinks to the bottom, but it sucks up oxygen there and creates a dead zone in which fish and plant life cannot be sustained

The ramifications for boaters and anglers are huge. Lake Erie is the largest producer of fish, both commercial and recreational, of the five Great Lakes. It's a multi-billion-dollar annual economic boost to Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and Ontario. Lake Erie has the largest number of registered boats on the Great Lakes. Moreover, the smelly algae covers shorelines and beaches, is as thick as 2 feet in some places, and can sicken or even kill people.

Between the algae blooms and invasive species like zebra mussels and, especially, quagga mussels, we're seeing a collapse of the base of the food web resulting in declines in desirable sport fish populations, such as whitefish and salmon in Lake

Dead zones

Continued on page 10

Mexican drug gangs invading Great Lakes Forests

Forest Service Cops in Mich and Wis Decry Agency Head-in-Sand Stance

Mexican drug gangs have expanded their mega-marijuana operations into the Upper Midwest, according to an internal briefing memo released by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). U.S. Forest Service law enforcement agents in Michigan and Wisconsin say their agency is “dangerously unprepared” for the explosive growth of “Drug Trafficking Organizations” in this region which had not before seen “multi-thousand plant grows” tended by armed gangs.

The title says it all. As if it isn’t enough that our planet is under attack by greedy, narrow-minded individuals, and corporations, drug-related activity in forests and park lands will degrade those environments, and create the excuse for state and federal authorities to sell those lands.

The undated 2010 briefing memo obtained by PEER under the Freedom of Information Act describes a “disturbing new trend” in which Great Lakes states are on a trajectory approaching the notorious Mexican gang incursions onto California public lands. The memo warns that the number and size of cultivation operations has spiked dramatically since 2008 but that the Forest Service is outgunned, outmanned and disinclined to deal with the growing role of Mexican drug gangs:

► “Drug traffickers have harmed and threatened innocent civilians and law enforcement. There have been attempts to kidnap civilians and several shootings this year alone”;

► “During the season when DTO [Drug Trafficking Organization] is prevalent, we have been forced to restrict our employees from working in large portions of the forest”;

► Drug gangs have set “large forest fires” and wreaked extensive resource damage in the forests.

“The leadership of the Forest Service’s law enforcement program seems far more intent on covering up problems than addressing them,” stated PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch. “The public has a right to know

what dangers they may encounter while hiking in the woods.”

Forest Service law enforcement officials had earlier released only a highly redacted, virtually unreadable, version of the memo to PEER, claiming that it was pre-decisional and revealed sensitive law enforcement techniques. PEER later obtained the memo from another branch of the Forest Service, which released it largely un-redacted as an attachment to a 2011 report on severe morale problems within the region.

The 13-page memo recounts a litany of instances in which Forest Service brass refused requests for inter-agency cooperation, training and surveillance. It paints a stark picture of an agency in denial:

► “We are not prepared in terms of manpower, training resources for ourselves and local agencies, investigative and operational resources...”

► Supervisors “denied, ignored or failed to support requests for additional training, funding and public education efforts” while one supervisor tried “to convince others that eradication and cultivation numbers in Wisconsin had actually decreased”;

► Referring to an all-inclusive gag order against law enforcement officers speaking with the media, “we are not reasonably allowed to use the media to educate the public on the dangers” they face.

“This memo is a cop calling for help from a stone deaf chain-of-command,” added Ruch. “Disturbingly, the indifference and self-serving reaction from Forest Service leadership may pose a greater threat to public safety than the gangs themselves.”

[Read the Forest Service briefing memo](#)

[Compare redacted version released by Forest Service law Enforcement office](#)

[View email on inability to cooperate with Wisconsin state law enforcement](#)

[See the Forest Service gag on its law enforcement personnel](#) ✧



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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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Sonar-equipped robo-kayak patrols Welland Canal for carp

Canadian scientists are launching a robotic kayak equipped with echo sounder sensors in the Welland Canal to see if invasive fish such as the Asian carp could travel between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Some scientists say it's only a matter of time before Asian carp arrive in the Great Lakes. They worry that the ravenous fish will out-compete native species for food.

The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, which links the Mississippi River basin to the Great Lakes basin, gets much of the attention as a potential entry point for invading carp. Resource managers have focused prevention efforts there. But other invasion routes need to be monitored, too, said Becky Cudmore, a senior science adviser with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, a federal agency. "If we're just focused on our front door and it sneaks in through our back door, we're in trouble," she said.



Many invasive species, such as sea lamprey, have slipped through the Welland Canal, where locks lift ships around Niagara Falls into Lake Erie, said Scott Milne, principal of Milne Technologies in Peterborough, Ontario. That gains them access to the upper Great Lakes from the east, but no one has yet proven that a lunker like the Asian carp would swim through this vulnerable passageway.

Because of heavy ship traffic, scientists aren't allowed to enter the lock chambers with boats and nets to survey how fish move in the canal, Milne said. His robo-kayak, dubbed

the "Waterbug," is ideal for the job since it is unobtrusive and crewless. Powered by a 12-volt battery that runs two small motors mounted on either side of the 14 foot hull, the Waterbug can turn on a dime in response to radioed commands from onshore operators.

In real time, the kayak's echosounders send acoustic images to a laptop computer that estimates the size of fish and pinpoints their movements. A fish as large as the Asian carp would produce a unique echo, Milne said. "The idea is to use the echo sounder to see where fish are in the system, then follow up with a camera that takes acoustic images that show distinctive features such as fins," he said

The sensors can even be tuned to track tiny invasive zooplankton.

Milne and his partners at Fisheries and Oceans Canada hope the pilot survey of the canal will help measure the risk of passage by Asian carp and inform officials whether and where barriers are needed. And they'll keep an eye out for other invaders. Milne doesn't expect to find Asian carp this year. But if his team finds common carp in the canal, it raises suspicions that Asian carp are also capable of navigating the locks.

The kayak launched from near St. Catharines, Ontario, will complete the survey late this fall. The Waterbug will cruise about 26 miles from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie through lock chambers and intervening waters. "It's possible to program the Waterbug to run autonomously for 24 hours surveying a system," Milne said.

Depending on how the Waterbug performs, it could be used for monitoring the effectiveness of such hurdles as the electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, according to Phil Moy, an invasive species specialist with Wisconsin Sea Grant.

Cudmore co-authored a 2004 risk assessment that concluded there is a high probability that Asian carp could become established in the southern Great Lakes basin and have a significant impact on the ecosystem. The most likely route of entry to the Saint Lawrence Seaway and Lake Ontario is through the live fish trade, Cudmore said. Live carp are prized in the Greater Toronto Area where fish markets sold over 100,000 kg of Asian carp, much of it still alive, in 2003.

Unfortunately, people buy fish at the market and then release them. "Individual Asian carp have been found in a tributary of Lake Ontario and in a fountain in downtown Toronto," said John Cooper, a spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. In 2005, Ontario banned the possession and sale of live Asian carp. The U.S. ban on transporting live Asian carp across state lines went into effect March 22.

Over the past year, the Ministry of Natural Resources has partnered with the Canadian Border Services to intercept three shipments of live Asian carp. A Canadian judge slapped one importer with a fine of \$20,000 for a 6,000 pound shipment of carp and fined a repeat offender \$50,000 for a 4,000 pound shipment. The third case is still before the courts.

Imported in the 1960s and 70s to control algae in catfish farms in the southern U.S., Asian carp grow up to 4 feet long and weigh more than 100 pounds. The carp invaded the Mississippi River basin in the early 1990s through accidental and intentional releases, Moy said.

Leaping Asian carp have inflicted broken bones and concussions when they land on boaters, Moy said. The ravenous fish has likely out-competed native filter-feeding species in the Mississippi River ecosystem. "In some parts of the Mississippi River, nine out of every 10 fish caught are Asian carp," Cudmore said. ✧

Indiana hearings set for proposed limit changes, Dec 1 & 6

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission will conduct two public hearings on proposed changes to clear up ambiguity regarding possession limits for legally taken fish and wildlife that have a bag limit, without adversely affecting wildlife species or unnecessarily encumbering legal anglers and hunters.

A nine-month review of current regulations by two DNR divisions – Law Enforcement and Fish & Wildlife – prompted the agency to seek the change, which would exempt from the possession limit restriction legally taken wild animals that have been processed and stored at an individual's primary residence.

Currently, daily bag limit is defined (Indiana Code 14-8-2-18) as the quantity of individual wild animals that may be taken in one day of a specified season or during the entire season, and the possession limit is two times the daily bag limit. These changes would not apply to migratory birds and waterfowl. U.S. Fish and Wildlife authorities interpret possession limit to include processed and stored specimens.

The proposed rule language can be found at: www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20111019-IR-312110470PRA.xml.pdf.

Individuals can provide comments at one of the public hearings scheduled as follows starting at 6 p.m. (EST):

- Thursday, Dec. 1, Spring Mill Inn, Elm Room, Spring Mill State Park, 3333 St. Rd. 60 East, Mitchell, IN 47446
- Tuesday, Dec. 6, Peru Public Library, 102 East Main St, Peru, IN 46970

Comments also can be submitted to the NRC by going to <http://www.in.gov/nrc/2377.htm> and clicking on "Comment on Proposed Rule" next to the "Wild Animal Possession Limit." The deadline for submitting comments is December 7, 2011. ✧

Court rules against Cape Wind Project

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia handed down a ruling that sets back the Cape Wind project in Massachusetts. The court rejected the Federal Aviation Administration's ruling that the turbines would present "no hazard" to aviation — especially pilots flying by visual rules.

The FAA must now consider the dangers again, and if it finds risks, the permits for the long-delayed wind farm would likely be modified or revoked by the U.S. Interior Department, according to the court.

Lawyers for the Town of Barnstable on Cape Cod challenged the FAA's determination that 'no adverse effect' on aviation is presented by 130 wind turbines proposed for construction on land under Nantucket Sound to be leased by the U.S. Department of Interior to a private wind energy firm. The court ruled in the town's favor, finding the FAA's decision ignored its own regulations and also ignored evidence from airport officials that the 'finely balanced airspace over Nantucket Sound is already one of the most congested, foggy, and dangerous airspaces on the eastern seaboard.' The turbines, each 440 feet tall, clearly pose risks to aviation.

"The Cape Wind project will raise energy costs, reduce living standards, kill jobs, kill endangered bird species, and jeopardize small planes like the one flown by John F. Kennedy, Jr. at the time of his tragic death. Yet despite all this, the state and federal bureaucracies continue championing this taxpayer giveaway to renewable power corporations and international environmental activist groups," commented James Taylor, spokesman for the Heartland Institute.

"The federal appellate decision underscores how deeply the Massachusetts political machine and the federal government are in the pocket of fringe environmental groups and the powerful renewable energy lobby." ✧

OH anglers can buy fishing license with phones

"Last minute" One and Three-day fishing licenses can be purchased over the telephone for a small fee

COLUMBUS, OH – Anglers can now purchase One-day and Three-day fishing licenses over the telephone thanks to the newly implemented license system by the Ohio DNR.

Customers have two phone options to purchase a "last-minute" fishing license using a credit card:

1. Calling 866-703-1928 between 5 am - midnight to reach a live operator who will walk the customer through the transaction; a \$5.50 convenience fee is included with this option.
2. Calling 855-765-3474 any time for an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. Callers should be sure to have their nine-digit customer ID #, which can be obtained at no cost from the Wild Ohio Customer Center at www.wildohio.com. The IVR option includes a \$3.25 convenience fee.

In both cases, the customer is issued a 10-digit license number then instructed to carry it along with a picture ID as proof that the angler is properly licensed. A printed copy of the license is not included. Convenience fees in either option can be avoided by purchasing licenses early at license agent outlets or over the Internet at www.wildohio.com. Customers should note \$10 of the One-day Fishing License can be credited toward the purchase of an Annual Fishing License at any time within the license year.

Also new this year is the option of buying in advance an \$11 "Lake Erie Charter 1-Day Fishing License" allowing them to wait and validate the license at the dock the day of the trip. Waiting to sign and date the license allows for its future use in case the original fishing trip is cancelled due to weather or other circumstances. This license is not available for purchase over the telephone.

All license purchases include a \$1.00 writing fee. ✧

MIDNR detects KHV virus in Silver Lake Fish Kill

A Michigan DNR sampling of an August 2011 common carp die-off in Oceana County's Silver Lake has detected Koi herpes virus (KHV). An estimated 2,000-4,000 common carp died, a small proportion of the total carp population, DNR officials said. Other fish species were found to be healthy and unaffected.

"This virus is capable of large scale common carp die-offs as seen in Ontario in 2007 and 2008," said Gary Whelan, DNR fish production manager. "The virus is an internationally reportable disease and has been reported to the World Animal Health Organization (OIE)."

Earlier this year, KHV was confirmed during another fish kill on Kent Lake. KHV had not been previously found in wild fish samples in Michigan until this year, but was detected in a private koi pond near Grand Rapids in 2003. KHV in Silver

Lake was identified through a cooperative effort involving the DNR, Michigan State U. Aquatic Animal Health Lab and the USDA- APHIS.

The underlying reasons for the emergence and spread of KHV in Michigan remain under investigation. KHV affects common carp, goldfish, and koi and is specific to those fish species. KHV is not likely to affect native minnow species and there are no human health effects.

KHV disease is found worldwide and likely was introduced to Michigan waters from the release or escape of infected ornamental fish. It is transmitted fish to fish and usually only causes disease outbreaks at temperatures above 60° F. KHV can live for short periods outside of fish in water or bottom sediments. Disease signs include bloody patches on the fish's sides, lethargic swimming on the surface, sunken eyes, and

deteriorating gills. Infected fish may survive the disease and become carriers of the pathogen for other fish.

"The disease is easy to confuse with other diseases such as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia so laboratory analysis is needed to confirm this disease," Whelan said. "While there are no treatments for this disease, the DNR is evaluating the next steps to manage this pathogen." The public is asked to notify the DNR when they see unusual fish kills at www.michigan.gov/fisheries under "Related Resources."

This outbreak is another example why the DNR reminds anglers & boaters they need to drain bilges and live wells when leaving a boat launch. Anglers should clean their boats, disinfect gear and not move live fish to reduce the possibility of fish diseases being transferred to new areas. ✧

Evaluation of brown trout in Lake Huron

Historically, brown trout have provided a near-shore pier and troll fishery in the spring, and were often caught incidentally by anglers targeting other species. Michigan stocking success using regular yearling brown trout (6-7") has fallen to near zero since the collapse of alewives in 2003, and catching a brown trout is now an extremely rare event. Without alewives, (which served as a buffer between newly stocked brown trout and predators) very few stocked fish survived. Walleye, bass, pike, catfish, lake trout, and fish-eating birds ate most of them before they acclimated to life in the lake.

Alewife collapse in 2003 and all the other food web changes that occurred in Lake Huron have resulted in a resurgence of many native fish species including emerald shiner. We believe stocking of large fall yearling brown trout should be evaluated yet again to see if we can return brown trout to the fishery. October 2009 marked the beginning of a final

attempt by the DNR to restore the Lake Huron brown trout program. Instead of stocking spring yearlings at 6-7", a lesser number of fish are held in hatcheries until October and stocked as larger (11-13") yearlings. It is hoped these larger fish will be too big for most predator fishes to eat and fish-eating birds will have already migrated south for the winter. The onshore migration of vast numbers of emerald shiners should provide an abundant food supply for the newly stocked browns. If they can make it through their first winter and disperse away from the stocking sites, they may again find a place in the Lake Huron fish community.

Even though they are being stocked in smaller numbers, the high cost per fish stocked (\$3.14 each for large fall yearlings, as compared to 87 cents each for spring yearlings) makes this program as expensive as the previous brown trout program.

Large fall yearling brown trout are being stocked for three consecutive years (Oct. 2009-Oct

2011) at several Lake Huron ports. DNRE creel census clerks will record brown trout caught by sport anglers and annual estimates of the total number caught will be made a part of the Great Lakes creel census program. Evaluation of the fishery will continue for three years after the third year of stocking, making this a six year long study ending in 2015. Most brown trout from a single stocking will be caught within three years after their release.

The DNR will estimate the total catch over 16" in the harvest to evaluate the success of this program. The DNR goal is to achieve a return to the fishery of at least 5% at each port where these large browns are stocked. It is possible that even these large fall yearlings might not survive and be caught in numbers sufficient to justify their cost. In that case, the DNR will discontinue the program of stocking brown trout in Lake Huron.

Cormorant populations decreasing in Wisconsin & Michigan

The nearly quarter-century population growth of double-crested cormorants in the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan may have ended. Numbers had been on the rise since 1986, but in 2011 the population on islands where control efforts were conducted showed an 18 percent decline from the 2009 peak of 15,227 nests. Management efforts resulted in 2011 nest numbers of 12,534.

"I anticipate that this year's removal of around 2,500 adult birds coupled with ongoing egg-oiling efforts will result in future reductions in the cormorant population, and bring us closer to the goals set for the managed islands," said Tammie Paoli, a fish biologist with the DNR in Peshtigo.

The number of cormorant nests in Michigan has also been decreasing since population reduction actions were implemented in 2004. Cormorants, which were increasing in numbers throughout the 1980s and 1990s, have been blamed for declining sport fisheries in a number of areas. The breeding population in Michigan stabilized in the late 1990s and early 2000s at around 30,000 nests. Since 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Division has been oiling eggs at nesting sites and removing adults from the population to meet goals set by the DNR.

Cormorant numbers are estimated by nest surveys completed every few years on approximately 10 islands in Green Bay and Lake Michigan/Door County as a cooperative effort with Wisconsin DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services.

Additional management activities have also been performed by Tribal natural resource agencies to address concerns related to cormorant impacts to commercial and sport fisheries, as well as alleviating potential conflicts with other species of nesting birds and reduce damage to native plants.



Cormorant nesting colony on Cat Island, near the mouth of the Fox River, Green Bay

Comprehensive statewide counts from 2007 and 2009 document a 38 percent decrease in breeding cormorants in Michigan, a drop from 29,509 nests in 2007 to 18,200 nests in 2009.

The U. of Minnesota's Dr. Francesca Cuthbert coordinates the count throughout the U.S. Great Lakes Region, and has noted further decreases on breeding colonies in Michigan. "Preliminary indications are that the final estimate for 2011 will be lower than that for 2009. This trend has been reported by other Michigan researchers and staff from USDA - Wildlife Services," Cuthbert noted.

This mirrors the trend seen at breeding sites where USDA - Wildlife Services conducts population reduction activities; from 2007 through 2010, the nest count at these sites decreased by 37 percent, from 23,345 nests in 2007 to 14,685 nests in 2010.

Cormorants were scarce in the 1950s through the 1970s. Their populations had declined as a result of habitat loss and the use of DDT, which contributed to eggshell thinning and crossbill deformities. They were listed as a state endangered species in 1972, but numbers rebounded reaching problem levels on the islands in this century.

Some research suggests cormorant predation negatively

affects yellow perch abundance. Fisheries biologists collect and analyze survey and creel data annually to investigate the impacts of double-crested cormorant management on fish populations. This information is used to determine future management actions and strategies.

Wisconsin DNR fisheries surveys documented strong year classes of yellow perch in Green Bay during the last eight years. Still, the adult perch population has not rebounded as expected.

Population control methods have not been the only contributor to declining cormorant numbers. Food web changes including reductions in alewives and the invasion of the round goby have altered the food supply for cormorants. Declines in aquaculture farms and conversion to dry-land operations in the southern United States have removed valuable wintering habitat, and cormorant culling operations at southern aquaculture facilities reduced the number of birds surviving the winter to return to Michigan.

The cumulative effect has been to drive cormorant numbers down to the point where the statewide management goal of 5,000-12,500 nests may soon be reached.

Declines in Green Bay brown trout harvest also coincide with increasing cormorant numbers. This prompted DNR to modify stocking strategies for brown trout to try reducing post-stocking mortality. Fisheries biologists are hopeful a combination of fewer cormorants, more forage fish such as alewives in recent years, and adjustments to stocking strategies will result in improved harvest numbers for brown trout.

Additional background information about the cormorant's history in Northeast Wisconsin can be found in a February 2008 *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine story [Cormorant conundrum](#). ✧

Motorists Beware: Deer on the move

Deer can be spotted near rural roadways — or even many urban areas — any time of year, but motorists should be especially vigilant in the fall. Deer breeding season, called the "rut," peaks in mid-November, and this is when deer-vehicle collisions are most likely.

The increase in deer-vehicle crashes is strongly influenced by the rut. During rut, deer travel more than in other seasons and pay less attention to hazards such as vehicles. Also during the fall, many deer move to new locations as crops are harvested and leaves fall, limiting cover.

Not only are deer more active during the fall, shorter days mean dusk and dawn, when deer are more likely to be on the move, occur when commuter traffic is busiest. In most cases, counties with high human populations and high traffic volumes record the most deer-vehicle crashes.

Motorists should observe the following tips to avoid deer collisions:

- ▶ be especially watchful at dawn and dusk when deer are most active;
- ▶ watch for more than one deer — if one crosses the road, others may follow,
- ▶ be alert near wooded areas and near water sources,
- ▶ don't swerve to avoid a deer; most accidents occur when drivers swerve and collide with another vehicle or run off the road and hit an obstacle;
- ▶ heed deer crossing signs;
- ▶ use bright lights and slow down whenever the reflective eyes of deer are spotted.

If you hit a deer, pull onto the shoulder, turn on your emergency flashers, and watch for traffic before exiting your vehicle. Do not try to remove a deer from the roadway unless you are certain it is dead; an injured deer is dangerous. Call the police, depending on your situation and fill out a police report for your insurance company. For more information on what to do when you hit a deer, contact your insurance provider. ✧

Reports show E15 damage in marine engines

The U.S. Department of Energy recently released the results of two studies on the effects of using fuel that is 15 percent ethanol in volume in marine engines, and the reports showed significant problems with outboard, sterndrive and inboard engines, the NMMA reported.

Studies were conducted on engines provided by Volvo Penta and Mercury Marine. The Energy Dept. approved the final results. The reports show severe damage to engine components and an increase in exhaust emissions, reinforcing the recreational boating industry's concern that E15 is not a suitable fuel for marine engines, the NMMA said.

Emissions and durability testing compared E15 fuel and fuel containing zero percent ethanol and examined exhaust emissions, exhaust gas temperature, torque, power, barometric pressure, air temperature and fuel flow. The report showed degraded emissions performance beyond certification limits, as well as increased fuel consumption on the engines using E15 fuel. In separate testing on engine durability, engines tested showed deterioration, including two of the three outboard engines, with damage severe enough to prevent completing the test cycle.

The E0 test engines did not exhibit any fuel-related issues, the NMMA said. "Current proposals by the ethanol industry to increase the amount of ethanol in gasoline should seriously concern all boaters and owners of other small engine equipment," NMMA president Thom Dammrich said. "Although NMMA strongly supports renewable fuels as a means to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, there is growing evidence that ethanol is not the answer to America's energy challenge."

For more information, [Emissions and Durability test](#) or [the Fuel Endurance test](#) from the Energy Department. ✧

Illinois hunters asked to report sightings of feral hogs

Population threatens wildlife and domestic livestock, damage to land, water and habitat

SPRINGFIELD — Various Illinois agencies are enlisting the help of Illinois hunters in efforts to track feral swine and assist in slowing the population and expanding range of the invasive animals in the state.

Feral hogs are an invasive species competing with native wildlife for food resources and damaging soil through their rooting and feeding activities, increasing soil erosion and damaging crops, plants and water quality. Feral swine also carry at least 30 diseases that pose serious implications for people, pets, wildlife and livestock.

"We are encouraging Illinois hunters — especially the thousands of Illinois firearm deer hunters who will be in the field in coming weeks — to be on the lookout for feral swine and report any sightings to us," said DNR Director Marc Miller. "The dangers of disease, costly damage to the land, and negative impacts to wildlife from the further spread of feral swine in Illinois are significant."

"Feral swine pose a significant threat to the Illinois domestic swine industry as the wild hogs are very mobile and can spread a variety of viral and bacterial diseases, as well as dozens of parasites that can affect domestic pigs and other livestock, wildlife, people and their pets," said Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) Acting Director Jim Larkin. "Reports of feral swine from hunters and landowners can be vitally important in helping Illinois control this major nuisance species."

Wildlife impacts of feral swine are estimated at more than \$1 billion annually.

For Illinois sightings of feral swine, call the IDNR at 217-785-2511. For more info, check the USDA website at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/feral_swine/.

✧

54% of avid Wisconsin musky anglers use live bait

More than half of Wisconsin anglers caught a musky in 2010

MADISON – Avid musky anglers are increasingly relying on live bait to catch their quarry, according to a recent statewide survey of musky anglers.

And 56 percent of Wisconsin anglers, 48 percent of nonresident anglers, and 83 percent of musky club members reported landing muskellunge in Wisconsin in 2010, according to a recent statewide survey of musky anglers.

"Anglers might not realize it, but musky fishing is better than it's ever been in terms of the number of fish and availability," says Dan Isermann, a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point assistant professor and the principal investigator in the survey. "Musky are more abundant than they ever have been because of better fisheries management and the prevalence of catch and release."

About 54 percent of musky club anglers reported some use of live bait in 2010, compared to 38 percent in 1990 and 37 percent in 2000, according to a recent survey of anglers by researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Department of Natural Resources.

Resident anglers – those who don't necessarily target musky -- reported lower use of live bait for musky -- 36 percent over the same time period, according to Tim Simonson, a Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist and co-leader of DNR's musky team. That widespread use of live bait makes it even more important that musky anglers follow bait rules aimed at preventing the spread of VHS fish disease and that they use quick strike rigs to decrease the number of fish that die due to single hook rigs baited with minnows, Simonson says.

The vast majority — 98 percent — of avid musky anglers reported using "quick-strike" rigs, which are designed to reduce hooking mortality, compared to using single-hook rigs, which have been shown to result in

greater than 80 percent mortality in hooked muskies, Simonson says.

Forty percent of the resident and nonresident anglers, and 77 percent of the musky club members, caught at least one musky over 32 inches, while the average size of the largest fish anglers reported catching in Wisconsin was 46 inches.

Ninety-five percent of the fish were released by resident anglers and more than 99 percent were released by nonresidents and musky club members.

Starting next year, the use of single-hook rigs (other than non-offset circle hooks) will be prohibited when fishing with live minnows 8 inches and larger. About 68 percent of musky anglers supported this ban on single-hook swallow rigs during voting at the spring fish and wildlife rules hearings, Simonson says.

Musky are one of several dozen Wisconsin native species vulnerable to VHS fish disease, which can cause fish to bleed to death, so it's important to follow state rules to prevent spreading the virus, Simonson says.

Most importantly for musky anglers, buy bait from a Wisconsin bait dealer or registered fish farm. Anglers who have leftover minnows can take them away from a lake or river and use them again on the same water. They may also use them on any other water if no lake or river water, or other fish, was added to the bait container.

The leftover minnows can be taken away at the end of the day in up to 2 gallons of water; otherwise, drain all water from vehicles, trailers, watercraft containers, live wells and fishing equipment.

More 2010 Musky Survey Highlights

- 32 percent of resident anglers and 39 percent of non-resident anglers reported fishing specifically for muskellunge in 2010, versus about 98 percent for musky club members.
- Most fishing (all species) occurred in northern Wisconsin; 65

percent of resident anglers, 70 percent of nonresident anglers, and 90-plus percent of musky club members reporting spending some time fishing there.

- Between 19 percent (resident anglers) and 32 percent (nonresident anglers) reported catching a musky while fishing for another species (typically, walleye).
- Largest musky anglers ever caught in Wisconsin: averaged 42 inches for resident anglers, 41 inches for nonresidents, and 46 inches for musky club members.
- Most anglers favor the idea of other anglers releasing legal muskies.
- 82 percent of musky club member would be willing to purchase a musky stamp, versus 36-43 percent of general license holders; 54 to 74 percent favored mandatory reporting of harvest.

The [Survey of Angler Attitudes and Opinions Regarding Muskellunge Fishing and Management in Wisconsin](#) is available on the DNR website. ✧

Asian carp caught in North Dakota

North Dakota wildlife officials say an Asian carp species has been caught on the James River. State Game and Fish spokesman Lynn Schlueter says the silver carp was caught in southeast North Dakota. Wildlife officials are disappointed but not surprised that silver carp have entered the state. Schlueter says silver carp have migrated upstream on the James River through South Dakota in recent years.

"We know that one fish has been caught," said Brandon Kratz fisheries biologist for Game and Fish at Jamestown. "We'll know more after we do electro fishing to determine the concentration." Kratz speculated that the high water in the James River this summer might have made it easier for the silver carp to migrate upstream. ✧

WI Salmon Stamp report now available

Anglers enjoying Great Lakes fishing for trout and salmon can see how their purchase of trout and salmon stamps is improving their sport. The Salmon Stamp report for Fiscal Years 2006-2011 is now available online.

DNR's Great Lakes trout and salmon program is supported entirely by anglers and hunters and half of that — about \$1.8 million — comes from the sale of salmon stamps and two-day Great Lakes fishing licenses. The rest of the funding comes from fishing licenses and other contributed to the segregated Fish and Wildlife Account.

Wisconsin started stocking Pacific strain trout and salmon in the 1960s to help control alewives. While Wisconsin waters don't support natural reproduction because of higher water temperatures and other factors, Michigan's do.

In the early 1980s, the loss of federal funding for nonnative trout and salmon stocking prompted the creation of Wisconsin's Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Program to raise money to allow continued rearing and stocking. Since 1982, every angler fishing for salmon or trout in the Wisconsin waters of the Great Lakes has been required to purchase a Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp in addition to a fishing license. ✧

Wild Game Donation Act

Alaskan Congressman Don Young has introduced H.R. 3142, The Wild Game Donation Act.

This bill would make hunters who donate meat to food-based charities eligible for a tax deduction for the processing cost of their wild game. Additionally, this legislation would provide a tax credit for processors who take part in this program. H.R. 3142 requires that all animals be killed in accordance with state and local laws and by the individual making the contribution. ✧

TU promoting wind power energy bill

"Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2011" (S. 1775)

Trout Unlimited is promoting a bill recently introduced by Senators Jon Tester (D), James Risch (R), Dean Heller (R), Harry Reid (D) and Mark Udall (D), which will create a framework for developing wind and solar energy on public lands.

In the press release, Trout Unlimited said the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2011 (S. 1775) would aid in establishing a leasing program for wind and solar projects, and providing funding for conservation and recreational access. The bill is seen as a boost for communities affected by the development of renewable energy.

"This is a big step forward toward creating a renewable energy policy which respects both the rights of developers and those who use and value our public lands," says Keith Curley, director of government affairs for Trout Unlimited."

The bill would move toward a leasing program for wind and solar energy on public lands, and set up a royalty which will be used to provide funding to state and county government, conservation, and the processing of wind and solar permits. Currently, wind and solar projects on public lands are managed using rights-of-way and special use permits, and there is no dedicated funding source set up to offset impacts to fish and game habitats and access that result from renewable energy projects. Revenues would be distributed as follows:

- 25% to the county or counties in which a project is located;
- 25% to the State in which a project is located;
- 15% for a renewable energy permit processing fund for Interior (after 15 years, this revenue stream will be deposited into the conservation fund); and
- 35% to a fund for wildlife and land conservation and protection. ✧

Lindner inducted into IGFA Hall of Fame

Recognizing a 50-year career that has spanned the most revolutionary years in sportfishing history, Al Lindner is among the fishing luminaries being inducted into the International Fishing Hall of Fame. Lindner joins John Chibnail Allen, Buddy Merritt, Frank O'Brien, Jr. and Paxson Offeld in the thirteenth class of inductees on October 26 at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame in Dania Beach, FL.

During a 50-year career spanning the most revolutionary years in sportfishing history, Al Lindner ranks among the most renowned leaders in the sportfishing industry.

Al's deep and abiding faith has led him to share not only his fishing knowledge, but more importantly, tell his Christian life story in many venues. He frequently speaks of his life journey, and his deep spiritual convictions to both young and old alike. ✧



Yamaha Sweepstakes to win a 450 ATV

Yamaha has donated a Grizzly 450 in honor of National Hunting and Fishing Day's celebration of outdoor recreation and conservation. Outdoor enthusiasts still have time to register to win this ATV at www.yamahaoutdoors.com/nhfd. The Yamaha ATV sweepstakes, which remains open through November 30, 2011, was promoted online and at NHF Day events nationwide. The sweepstakes is open to all. One lucky winner, 18 years-of-age or older, will receive a 2011 Grizzly 450; value is about \$6,899. No purchase necessary. The sweepstakes continues to be open until 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on November 30, 2011. ✧

Wisconsin makes progress in aquatic invasive species control

MADISON – Wisconsin made significant progress in 2010-11 in efforts to prevent, contain, and control the damage done by aquatic invasive species, capitalizing on increased federal funding and growing involvement by counties and volunteers, according to a recent report to the Legislature.

[About 200 lakes were monitored this year](#) to paint a more accurate picture of where aquatic invasive species are found across the state, how fast they're spreading, and to evaluate the effectiveness of outreach and education efforts.

"Wisconsin made important progress in building the partnerships and monitoring capacity that will help us slow the spread of aquatic invasive species and respond to new ones before they get established and start causing problems," says Bob Wakeman, DNR's aquatic invasive species coordinator.

"Staff, volunteers and partners spent countless hours protecting our waters from aquatic invasive species and this report shows that together we are making a difference and slowing the spread."

About 67 percent of Wisconsin lakes with public access are free of Eurasian water-milfoil and zebra mussels; only 2.5 percent of lakes predicted to be suitable for zebra mussels are currently infested, and 136 inland waters have zebra mussels. Also, 584 waters statewide have Eurasian water milfoil and only 135 are in northern Wisconsin, which has 12,000 lakes.

The [2010-2011 Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Progress Report](#) is available online, as are earlier reports. Numbers and percentages reflect totals as of report publication date; for the most current totals, visit: [Aquatic Invasive Species](#). ✧

Chinook increase

Continued from page 1

according to Mike Baumgartner, facility supervisor. "By Friday afternoon the fishway leading to the ladder was so full of fish that we had to block the entrance to the fish way until we could get the fish into the facility," he says. "I've been at this station since 1992 and have not had to do that before.

"I've never seen the fish move into the facility all at once like they did in such a short period of time and in such high numbers." Fish crews at the Root River also saw lots of fish in good condition. They are collecting coho and brown trout eggs, and their customers are starting to show up.

Bill Horns, DNR's Great Lakes fishery specialist, expects the coho numbers and size will be as encouraging as they were for the Chinook. "The coho fishery was tremendous early in the summer, so we're expecting they'll be showing up in good numbers and good shape this fall," Horns says. "It's always about whether the fish get enough to eat. Apparently they did, and that is in part because we had adequate reproduction of alewives and also because Wisconsin and the other states surrounding Lake Michigan cut back Chinook stocking 25 percent starting in 2006," he says.

"We did the right thing at the right time, and it's paid off in continued great fishing and in improving condition of fish," Horns says. Wisconsin and other lakes surrounding Lake Michigan are now jointly considering stocking levels for Lake Michigan and will be carefully considering the delicate balance between forage and fish numbers, particularly as natural reproduction in Michigan streams increases.

"I wouldn't say we're totally out of the woods," he says. "Alewife reproduction can be unpredictable and there is no guarantee we are secure. But we can take comfort in the size of the Chinooks harvested and in the number and size of fish returning to our egg collection facilities." ✧

Dead zones

Continued from page 1

Huron. Between the mid-1960s and 1990, phosphorus levels dropped after efforts to change farming practices and a ban on phosphorus in detergents. But in 1995, levels began going up again, leading to huge blooms in Lake Erie starting in 2003.

"It's now out of control," says Ken Alvey, president of the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association. "We can't even begin to calculate the potential damage to our industry if action isn't taken to change allowable farming practices on lands adjacent to our lakes and rivers." Lake Erie may be the problem's poster child right now, but it's not the only problem area. Grand Lake St. Marys in central Ohio, surrounded by farmland, has so much toxic algae in it that the state is prohibiting swimming, and boaters are being advised to find another lake.

Other blooms include Saginaw Bay (MI), Green Bay (WI), and along Lake Michigan's coastline. Federal agencies rate near-shore areas in all lakes but Lake Superior as "poor" for nutrient phosphorus concentrations.

The damage can be reversed, but it will take mandated changes in farming practices, and that must become a priority to protect the lakes, the fisheries, the water supplies and the economic benefits. The Great Lakes represent one-third of the nation's recreational fleet. The boating and fishing industries should move this issue up on the priority list.

Boat show canceled

The National Marine Manufacturers Association canceled the Rosemont Sportfishing, Travel & Outdoors Show scheduled for January 25-29 at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL. The NMMA said there was not a sufficient critical mass to create an acceptable selling environment for exhibitors and a quality event for attendees. They will now focus on producing a more robust Progressive Insurance Chicago Boat, Sports & RV Show, scheduled for January 12-16. ✧

Prehistoric data from ocean floor could predict Earth's future, Study

Evidence of water mass moving south 70 million years ago shows how warmth was distributed

COLUMBIA, Mo. – New research from the University of Missouri indicates that Atlantic Ocean temperatures during the greenhouse climate of the Late Cretaceous Epoch were influenced by circulation in the deep ocean. These changes in circulation patterns 70 million years ago could help scientists understand the consequences of modern increases in greenhouse gases.

“We are examining ocean conditions from several past greenhouse climate intervals so that we can understand better the interactions among the atmosphere, the oceans, the biosphere, and climate,” said Kenneth MacLeod, professor of [geological sciences](#) in the [College of Arts and Science](#). “The Late Cretaceous Epoch is a textbook example of a greenhouse climate on earth, and we have evidence that a northern water mass expanded southwards while the climate was cooling. At the same time, a warm, salty water mass present throughout the greenhouse interval disappeared from the tropical Atlantic.”

The study found that at the end of the Late Cretaceous greenhouse

interval, water sinking around Greenland was replaced by surface water flowing north from the South Atlantic. This change caused the North Atlantic to warm while the rest of the globe cooled. The change started about five million years before the asteroid impact that ended the Cretaceous Period.

To track circulation patterns, the researchers focused on “neodymium,” an element taken up by fish teeth and bones when a fish dies and falls to the ocean floor. MacLeod said the ratio of two isotopes of neodymium acts as a natural tracking system for water masses. In the area where a water mass forms, the water takes on a neodymium ratio like that in rocks on nearby land. As the water moves through the ocean, though, that ratio changes little. Because the fish take up the neodymium from water at the seafloor, the ratio in the fish fossils reflects the values in the area where the water sank into the deep ocean. Looking at changes through time and at many sites allowed the scientists to track water mass movements.

While high atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide caused Late

Cretaceous warmth, MacLeod notes that ocean circulation influenced how that warmth was distributed around the globe. Further, ocean circulation patterns changed significantly as the climate warmed and cooled.

“Understanding the degree to which climate influences circulation and vice versa is important because carbon dioxide levels are rapidly approaching levels most recently seen during ancient greenhouse times,” said MacLeod. “In just a few decades, humans are causing changes in the composition of the atmosphere that are as large as the changes that took millions of years to occur during geological climate cycles.”

The paper, “Changes in North Atlantic circulation at the end of the Cretaceous greenhouse interval,” was published in the October online edition of the journal *Nature Geoscience*. Coauthors include C. Isaza Londoño of the University of Missouri, E.E. Martin and C. Basak of the University of Florida, and A. Jiménez Berrocoso of the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. The study was sponsored by the National Science Foundation. ✧

Ruling denies 18-yr-olds 2nd Amendment rights

A federal judge in the Northern District of Texas, on September 29, [ruled](#) that adults aged 18 to 20 do not have an individual constitutional right under the Second Amendment to purchase, after a background check, a handgun or handgun ammunition from a federally licensed firearms retailer.

This despite the fact that 18-year-olds can exercise every other individual right guaranteed in the Constitution. Adults aged 18 and over can speak and worship freely, vote, marry and start a family, enter into contracts and serve in the military where they are trusted to use fully automatic firearms. The case will now

Indiana angler wins Chicago Carp Classic

Amos Behanna, an Indiana angler, was crowned Chicago Carp King with a 22.7 lb. carp, using his private bait recipe during the Chicago Carp Classic. Forty-nine anglers participated in the September 10, 2011 Chicago Carp Classic, the premier event for the nation-wide Carp Anglers Group. This year's event was held on the Chicago Lakefront at Montrose Harbor. The tournament is conducted in conjunction with the club's annual meeting and draws anglers from across the country as well as from other countries. ✧

be appealed to the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, where NSSF will seek to file an amicus brief. ✧

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Besides offering critical information to service members and veterans, Military.com also offers a job search for veterans. Military.com's free membership connects service members, military families and veterans to all the benefits of service — government benefits, scholarships, discounts, lifelong friends, mentors, great stories of military life or missions, and much more. Military.com members share stories, insider tips, news from the front lines, and unique slices of military life including the tough stuff of war. Military.com provides headline news and technology updates. ✧

Weber new NE Regional Director for the USFWS

Wendi Weber has been named as the new Regional Director for the Service's Northeast Region. Weber, a 13-year career Service employee, has served as Deputy Director for the region since 2007.

Weber has served as Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services in the Service's Midwest Region in Minneapolis from 2004 to 2007. Prior to joining the Service in 1998, Weber worked for the states of Florida and Georgia as a field biologist. She lives in Hadley with her husband Jon and sons, Bailey, 14, and Clayton, 12. Originally from Rochester, New York, Weber has a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of Rhode Island and a master's degree in fisheries from the University of Georgia. ✧

Victory in fight to preserve traditional ammo

Efforts to protect the rights of sportsmen and gun owners to use the ammunition of their choice received a significant boost recently when a federal judge dismissed part of a Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) lawsuit. The CBD suit challenged the USEPA denial of a petition to ban traditional ammunition and lead fishing tackle under the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA).

The court ruled it does not have jurisdiction over EPA's refusal to regulate traditional ammunition because the complaint was not filed within the statute of limitations to challenge the EPA decision. The ruling does not apply to the lead fishing gear portion of the petition. ✧

MI - Make your own snowshoes

Sleepy Hollow State Park will offer three opportunities to take part in Snowshoe Building Workshops this season taught by Clyde Risdon of Risdon Rigs. The two-day workshops are scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. on Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The workshops will be held on December 2 and 3; January 20 and 21; February 3 and 4 at park headquarters, located at 7835 East Price Rd. in Laingsburg.

The class fee of \$170 covers supplies, materials and equipment to make one pair of snowshoes. The Snowshoe Building Workshop is recommended for participants ages 16 or older. Class size is limited. For reservations, contact Sleepy Hollow State Park at 517-651-6217 or email machowicz@michigan.gov. The park is located near Exit 91 off US-127, 20 miles north of Lansing. ✧

NY hunters needed to help monitor small game species

New York DEC Commissioner Joe Martens encouraged hunters to participate in two surveys for popular game species during this fall's hunting seasons.

"Each fall New York's dedicated small game hunters spend thousands of hours afield exploring the state's landscapes in pursuit of game," said Commissioner Martens. "They're uniquely positioned to assist DEC's wildlife managers by providing data on changing wildlife populations and habitats. Citizen science efforts such as these are a great way for hunters to partner with DEC while enjoying their hunting heritage."

New England Cottontail Survey – The only native cottontail east of the Hudson River in New York is the New England cottontail; however, its populations are poorly understood. New England cottontails look nearly identical to Eastern cottontails and are only reliably identified by genetic testing or examining skull characteristics.

Those that hunt rabbits in Rensselaer, Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam, or Westchester counties, can submit the heads of rabbits harvested to help determine the distribution of New England cottontails. Those interested in participating, or for more information, please contact DEC by phone at 518-402-8870 or by e-mail at fwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us (type "NE Cottontail" in the subject line).

Participating hunters will receive instructions and a postage-paid envelope they can use to submit skulls. Hunters will be asked to provide the location and description of the habitat where each rabbit was taken. Results of these efforts will be available after the close of the hunting season.

Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock Hunting Log – Ruffed grouse and American woodcock are widely distributed across New York State. These species prefer habitats in an early stage of succession such as

young forests, shrub lands, and old orchards and fields. As New York's forests grow older, these preferred habitats are waning, resulting in a decline in grouse and woodcock numbers since the 1960s.

This survey asks hunters to record their daily grouse and woodcock hunting activities in a "hunting log", including the number of grouse and woodcock flushed and the number of hours hunted. Grouse and woodcock share many of the same habitats, so the information provided will help monitor populations of both of these great game birds as habitats change both locally and on a landscape scale.

Those interested in participating can download a hunting log from the DEC website. Detailed instructions can be found with the form. Survey forms can also be obtained by calling 518-402-8886 or by e-mailing fwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us (type "Grouse Log" in the subject line). ✧

Understanding Nutrients in the Great Lakes

Jeffrey M. Reutter, Ohio State University

Nutrients are essential to the growth of algae in the Great Lakes. Just as adding fertilizer to our lawns causes our grass to grow, nutrients entering the Great Lakes cause algae to grow. The nutrients we typically add to our lawns are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). On your bag of fertilizer you will find the N:P:K ratio. These are all essential nutrients for plant and algae growth. Because they are essential, the loss of any of them can cause plant growth to stop. The nutrient in the shortest supply is called the “limiting nutrient.” As algae reproduce and grow, they consume nutrients. When the limiting nutrient is completely consumed, algal growth stops. Therefore, we can control algal growth by controlling the amount of the limiting nutrient. In freshwater, P is typically the limiting nutrient, and it is also ecologically and economically the easiest to control. Nutrients enter Lakes and tributaries in effluent from sewage treatment plants, combined sewer overflow (CSO) from sewage treatment plants during storms, septic tanks, lawn runoff, and runoff from agricultural fields.

Algae is near the base of the food chain and therefore some algal production is desirable and needed to promote fish production. Consequently nutrients can be good for the ecosystem, but it is possible to have too much of a good thing. Excessive nutrient loads lead to excessive algal growth. The dominant algal group varies by season. Excessive P concentrations during cold weather lead to large growths of diatoms, during warm weather they lead to large growths, or blooms, of blue-green algae (also called cyanobacteria), and when temperatures are intermediate we see excessive growths of nuisance algae like *Cladophora*, often found attached to rocks, docks, and boat hulls.

In the 1970s Lake Erie became the poster child for pollution

problems in the world because excessive nutrient loading led to huge blooms of *Cladophora* and blue-greens. Through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Canada and the United States worked together to reduce the loading of P to solve the problem. Loading to Lake Erie was reduced from 29,000 metric tons in 1969 to 11,000 tons by the mid-1980s. Improving sewage treatment was the primary focus because sewage treatment plants were estimated to be putting in about 2/3 of the total load. Lake Erie went from being the poster child for pollution problems to one of the best examples in the world of ecosystem recovery and the “Walleye Capital of the World.” This ecosystem improvement was also a stimulus to the economy.

Monitoring P loading and P concentrations in the water is one of the ways we monitor the status of the Great Lakes. Symptoms of excessive P loading to the Great Lakes typically show up first in the Western Basin of Lake Erie through excessive algal blooms and the Central Basin of Lake Erie through the formation of the “Dead Zone.” The Western Basin, with an average depth of less than 8 meters, seldom stratifies with a warm layer on top and a cold layer on the bottom during the summer. The Central Basin with an average depth of less than 20 meters creates the “perfect storm” for the formation of a dead zone when it stratifies, i.e., a cold bottom layer that is very thin (about 3 meters thick). The dead zone occurs when algal production is very high. As the algae die and sink to the bottom, bacterial decomposition of the algae consumes all of the oxygen in the cold bottom layer and the area is referred to as the “dead zone,” because fish and many other organisms cannot live there. Because of their physical characteristics and nutrient loads, the next most likely problem spots in the Great Lakes are Saginaw Bay and Green Bay.

Changes in agricultural practices, population shifts, warmer weather, and more frequent severe storms have led to a steady increase in the loads of bioavailable P coming into Lake Erie since the mid-1990s. Zebra and quagga mussels tend to hold these nutrients in the nearshore zone. Concentrations of P are back to 1970 levels, blue-green blooms have returned, and the dead zone is growing, starting earlier, and lasting longer. Determining how to rapidly reduce P loading to solve the problem in Lake Erie and prevent the same thing from happening in the other lakes is our challenge. ✧

Young Ohio archers world champions

The Logan Hocking Middle School archery team and Cody Bush of Philo Junior High School took first place at the third National Archery in the Schools (NASP) World Tournament held in Orlando, Florida October 6-8.

1071 student archers participated in the tournament representing 28 states and the countries of Canada, South Africa, and New Zealand. In addition, five other Ohio students placed at the competition: Dylan Crabtree of Logan placed 5th as an individual in the Middle School Male Division; Cole Cook Logan, Hocking Middle School, was 8th, also in the Middle School Male Division; Ryan McGill from St. Peter in Chains School in Hamilton County took 2nd place in the 6th Grade Individual Male Division; Ciara Cox from Logan High School was 4th in the High School Female Division; and Kelsey Taylor from Morgan High School finished 8th in the Female Division.

Ohio students and teams quailed for the NASP World Tournament by participating in the NASP National competition held in Louisville, KY this past May. For more info on the NASP World Tournament go to www.nasptournaments.org. ✧

Basic safety tips can prevent tree stand falls

Your life may depend on it

With the fall hunting season in full swing, hunters must understand the risks of hunting from a tree stand and how to protect themselves from a fall.

Falls from tree stands are the leading cause of deer hunting accidents, accounting for almost half of all accidents. In an average deer season, about 18 hunters will experience a fall.

The first step toward tree stand safety is to make sure the stand is in working order. Only use a tree stand that has the approval of the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) and make sure to read the manufacturer's warnings and instructions before installation. Hunters who use homemade tree stands should check them thoroughly for stability prior to using, especially stands that are exposed to weather from being left outside year-round.

Hunters should also wear a full-body, fall arrest harness system that meets TMA standards. Single-strap and chest harnesses should not be used. Do not leave the ground until the full-body, fall arrest harness system is on. Always have three points of contact with the tree when climbing and descending.

Most of the people falling are falling while they are ascending or descending. A hunter should never climb with anything in his hands or on his back. A haul line should be used to lift a gun, a bow or other gear into the stand. Firearms on a haul line should be unloaded with the action open and muzzle pointed downward.

Other safety tips include hunting with a buddy, telling someone the exact location of your tree stand before heading into the woods, getting a full night's rest before a hunt, and making sure a cell phone, whistle, flare or some other signal device is on your person at all times. ✧

Pork choppers shoot feral pigs

Michigan lists them as invasive species

The U.S. has a wild pig problem in search of solutions. One getting the green light from Texas state officials is helicopter hunting. Texas has declared October "Get the Hogs Outta Texas" month allowing Lone Star State "pork-choppers" to target feral pigs through 2011.

Michigan, on October 10, issued a statement listing sporting swine as invasive species. "Absent a regulatory program in Michigan law for sporting swine facilities, the invasive species order is being put into effect," said DNR Director Rodney Stokes. Stokes said active enforcement of the invasive species order will not start prior to April 1, 2012,

Not so different from extreme sports like heli-skiing and heli-hiking, helicopter hunting expeditions or "aerial deprivation" missions to slim down wild boar populations may be the latest trend in hunting. And in Texas, which has made it legal for the public to hunt wild hog from low-flying helicopters, it's open season all year 'round.

Lone Star State politicians decided to step it up and lift a ban from shooting animals from helicopters. This year they've given the green light for helicopters or "pork-choppers," to enhance the effort, from October 1 through December 31. And hunters are ponying up big bucks — about \$500 an hour — for the privilege of participating.

Texas pigs are prolific, reproducing every 115 days with up to 12 in a litter. Experts say shooting even 60 of them will only maintain the current population in Texas where they range from 2.6 to 3.9 million. ✧



New Wis. firearm rules take effect on opening day of gun deer hunt

New legislation signed by Gov. Scott Walker modifies state law concerning the manner in which long-barreled firearms, bows and crossbows can be transported in motor vehicles or placed in or on stationary vehicles.

The new law was published in time to take effect November 19, opening day of the traditional, nine-day, 2011 gun deer season. In essence, the new law can be boiled down to a single statement, said Tim Lawhern, DNR division of enforcement and science administrator. "Unless otherwise prohibited, you can carry a long gun, uncased and unloaded, in or on a motor vehicle in Wisconsin at any time," Lawhern said. The DNR has prepared a [frequently asked questions on Wis. Act 51](#) page available on the [law enforcement](#) pages of the DNR website.

Here are a few things hunters need to know about the new law:

► The new law allows individuals to hunt from a stationary non-motorized vehicle, such as a hay wagon, so long as it is not attached to a motor vehicle. Previously, hunting from any vehicle was prohibited, without the distinction of whether the vehicle was motorized or stationary. This change previously had been sought by warden administrators. "People used to have to take one or more wheels off the hay wagon to comply with the letter of the law," Lawhern said.

► It will be legal to possess and transport uncased bows and crossbows in a vehicle. However, bows may not have an arrow nocked. A crossbow may not be cocked unless it is unloaded (meaning the bolt or arrow is removed) and cased.

► When in or on a vehicle that is stationary, long guns can be both uncased and loaded. A stationary vehicle can have the motor running. "Stationary" means not moving, regardless of whether the motor is running. This allows a hunter, at a stationary vehicle, to place a loaded gun on a clean, dry surface. ✧

IN - 21 state parks to close for deer reductions

Select Indiana state parks will close temporarily for two rounds of controlled deer reduction hunts in the coming weeks. The first reduction was November 14-15. The second is November 28-29. Participating parks will close to the general public the evening before each of the two efforts and will re-open the morning after each two-day reduction.

The state parks closing temporarily this year for deer reductions are Brown County, Chain O'Lakes, Charlestown, Clifty Falls, Fort Harrison, Harmonie, Indiana Dunes, Lincoln, McCormick's Creek, Ouabache, Pokagon, Potato Creek, Prophetstown, Shades, Shakamak, Spring Mill, Summit Lake, Tippecanoe, Turkey Run, Versailles, and Whitewater Memorial.

Only individuals and those listed on their applications drawn last September may participate at any park, besides Indiana Dunes, Turkey

Run, Fort Harrison, and Spring Mill state parks. A public standby drawing to fill spots left vacant after 7:30 a.m. local time will take place at Indiana Dunes (firearms hunt), Turkey Run (firearms hunt), Spring Mill (firearms hunt), and Fort Harrison (archery hunt) state parks each morning.

To be eligible for the standby drawings, the candidate must be an Indiana resident (or possess an Indiana lifetime license to take deer), be 18 years old by November 14, 2011, and possess any valid deer license for Indiana. You must present a photo ID and any valid filled or unfilled license to take deer. Standby drawings will take place at 8:30 a.m. local time. Potential standby participants can apply onsite between 7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. local time but cannot enter the park before 7:30 a.m.

Applications can include up to three individuals. This is a drawing based on how many unclaimed spots

there are for each day. It is not first-come, first-served. Spots will be limited as they are based on the number of no-shows each day. The need for stand-in hunters increases with each hunt day. If you have questions, please call the property of interest. For more info: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/>.

The DNR will also conduct controlled Canada goose reduction hunts at Ouabache, Shakamak, and Whitewater Memorial state parks. Goose reductions will take place November 28-29. These dates coincide with goose hunting season and annual deer reduction efforts at Ouabache, Shakamak, Whitewater Memorial and several other state parks. The parks will close to the general public the evening of November 27 and will re-open the morning of November 30. Participants must be Indiana residents and 18 years old by November 28, 2011. ✧

City restrictions on gun ranges may violate Second Amendment

Chicago's restrictions on gun ranges, implemented in the wake of a landmark Supreme Court decision striking down the city's handgun ban, may violate the Second Amendment, a federal judge ruled.

The Supreme Court struck down Chicago's de-facto ban on handgun possession on June 28, 2010, holding that the Second Amendment also applies to the states. Afterward, the city passed a new gun ordinance it said complied with the decision. The new law permitted handgun possession for people who attend a gun range for training, but banned publicly accessible gun ranges within the city limits.

Rhonda Ezell sued the city, alleging that the ordinance's ban on firing ranges was unconstitutional and sought a preliminary injunction against it. The court denied the motion, ruling that gun owners' rights were not burdened by having to travel to one of 14 firing ranges located

within 50 miles of the city limits. Ezell appealed this ruling.

Then on July 6, 2011, the Chicago City Council allowed firing ranges to operate in the city, subject to restrictions. One hour before the council changed the law, however, the 7th Circuit granted Ezell's earlier request for an injunction with an emergency reversal ruling.

The city moved to dismiss the case as moot, asserting that the council had given Ezell all the relief she sought. But Ezell claimed that the city's new web of restrictions on firing ranges effectively operates as a new ban on gun ranges.

U.S. District Judge Virginia Kendall refused to dismiss, saying the case is not moot because it is unclear whether the amended statute will end the city's discrimination.

Citing the 7th Circuit's opinion, which granted Ezell's preliminary injunction, the court said the right to possess firearms "implies a

corresponding right to acquire and maintain proficiency in their use. The core right wouldn't mean much without the training and practice that make it effective."

The federal appeals court had also noted that the injunction should prohibit the city "from using its zoning code to exclude firing ranges from locating anywhere in the city."

Kendall said "the new ordinance undoubtedly burdens anyone trying to open or use a firing range. Consequently, whether the new ordinance's restrictions are so burdensome as to effectively ban firing ranges or invade an individual's Second Amendment rights is an issue that must be hashed out in litigation. "

The court wants further evidence before determining whether the requirement that gun ranges be in "certain types of zones and 1,000 feet from residential areas, churches and liquor stores leaves any areas for gun ranges." ✧

MI - Hunting Up for public comment in Huron-Manistee

Comments must be received by Dec. 21, 2011

The U.S. Forest Service has released a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) that will ultimately determine whether or not firearm hunting can continue on more than 66,500 acres in Michigan's Huron-Manistee National Forests.

As a result of a September 2010 ruling by the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the Forest Service prepared the DSEIS to evaluate the impacts of a proposed ban on firearm hunting and snowmobile use in 14 semi-primitive, non-motorized or wilderness areas of the forest.

A 2007 lawsuit filed by Kurt Meister, a lawyer who owns a cabin near Manistee National Forest, alleged that the Forest Service's management plan for the Huron-Manistee favored gun hunters and snowmobile riders over "quiet" forest users. The court ruled in Meister's favor, holding that the plan contained deficiencies.

Specifically, the court found that the Forest Service (1) did not coordinate its recreation planning with the state of Michigan, as required, to "reduce duplication in meeting recreation demands" with respect to firearm hunting and snowmobiling, and (2) violated the National Environmental Policy Act when it failed to consider closing 13 semi-primitive, non-motorized areas and the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area to firearm hunting and snowmobile use.

The DSEIS outlines four alternative actions to address these deficiencies. The Forest Service's preferred alternative, Alternative 4, would allow hunting to continue in the disputed areas. However, it would reclassify 13 of the 14 areas as either "special" or "roaded natural" areas (Nordhouse Dunes would remain a wilderness). This option would allow the Forest Service to continue to promote remote recreation in these areas without impacting the current level of firearm hunting and snowmobile use.

The Forest Service is proposing the reclassification due to the fact that these 13 areas do not meet the criteria for their semi-primitive, non-motorized designation, largely because there are existing roads and private homes nearby.

In contrast to Alternative 4, the "No Action Alternative" (Alternative 1) would leave the 2006 forest plan unchanged.

Under Alternative 2, which was developed to respond to the Meister ruling, the Forest Service would ban firearm hunting and snowmobile use in the 13 existing semi-primitive, non-motorized areas and the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area.

Alternative 3 would change the management designation of the affected areas (with the exception of Nordhouse Dunes, which would remain a wilderness) to either "semi-primitive motorized" or "roaded natural." Hunting and snowmobiling would still be allowed in the same places as they were before, but the new designations would imply more noise and hinder the Forest Service's ability to maintain the remote character of these areas, which the agency would prefer to do.

Although Alternatives 3 and 4 maintain hunting on all the areas challenged in the lawsuit, the reclassification aspect is troubling, says Susan Recce, NRA Director of Wildlife, Conservation and Natural Resources.

"The problem is that the reclassification leaves the impression that the Forest Service agrees with the court ruling that suggested firearm hunting was not an appropriate activity in primitive and semi-primitive areas," said Recce. "And, to avoid banning gun hunting in these areas, the Forest Service is reclassifying them."

However, a bill has been introduced in the U.S. House, H.R. 2834, the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities

Act, to fix the problems that the court ruling created.

The bill states that lands under Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service jurisdiction, including lands designated as wilderness, or administratively classified as wilderness eligible or suitable, and primitive or semi-primitive areas, shall be open for fishing, hunting and shooting unless the managing agency acts to close lands to such activity. The closures or restrictions must be necessary and reasonable and supported by facts and evidence.

H.R. 2834 also corrects another problem that the ruling created with respect to duplication of activities. The ruling suggested that the Forest Service, by its own planning rule, had to look outside the boundaries of the Huron-Manistee to see if hunting was allowed on non-Forest lands, implying that the Service should close forest lands to hunting if other nearby state or federal lands were also open to hunting. The language of the bill removes any obligation for federal land managers to consider sportsmen's activities on other lands when planning for public use on its own lands.

While H.R. 2834 moves through Congress, it remains imperative that hunters make their voices heard in support of continued gun hunting on all the challenged areas in the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

The DSEIS was published in the Federal Register on September 23, 2011, which opened a three-month comment period. The DSEIS is available online at www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DO_CUMENTS/stelprdb5330733.pdf. The DSEIS is also available in print or on CD by calling (231) 775-5023.

Comments must be received by December 21, 2011. The Forest Service will then consider comments received from the public and render a final decision.

Public Comment *cont on pg 17*

Firearms Interstate Commerce Reform Act

Allows for the interstate sale of firearms

WASHINGTON – Recognizing the need to revamp outdated and restrictive gun laws, U.S. Senators Mark Begich (D-Alaska) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) have introduced the Firearms Interstate Commerce Reform Act (S.1691). The bill allows for the interstate sale of firearms and removes several antiquated and unnecessary restrictions imposed on interstate firearms transactions.

“Utahns and Americans everywhere have a right to bear arms, and this legislation ensures that onerous and outdated restrictions on everyone’s Second Amendment rights are no longer in place,” Sen. Hatch said. “By removing these restrictions, we can ensure that the constitutional freedoms we seek to protect remain intact.”

“Current laws restricting interstate commerce of firearms not only lag behind common sense and new technology, they are unfair and burdensome,” Sen. Begich said. “This legislation cleans up decades-old laws that are unnecessarily restricting the rights of Alaskans and other Americans to purchase and sell firearms.”

“The National Instant Criminal Background Check System has made many restrictions enacted in 1968 obsolete. It’s time to bring the law into the 21st century. This important legislation will modernize and streamline interstate firearms

transactions. The NRA and gun owners across the nation thank Senators Hatch and Begich for their leadership on this issue,” said Chris W. Cox, executive director of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

The Firearms Interstate Commerce Reform Act removes a number of restrictions from the Gun Control Act of 1968, which only allowed licensed dealers to sell rifles and shot guns to residents of a different state under a lengthy series of conditions. The restrictions were supposed to prevent buyers from evading “background checks” available at the time, which were mainly carried out through state laws requiring local police chiefs to issue firearms permits.

However, since 1998, all people buying firearms from dealers in the U.S. have been subject to computerized background checks under the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System; a system much more sophisticated and advanced than what was available in 1968. As a result, the complex system of state laws currently restricting the interstate commerce of firearms is outdated. In some cases, current law requires citizens to jump through so many hoops, it hinders or even prevents these sales.

The new law would allow:

► Individuals to buy handguns, as well as rifles or shotguns, from

licensed dealers in another state, subject to the background check requirement. The buyer and dealer would still have to meet in person and comply with the laws of both states,

► Dealers to engage in their business at gun shows in other states, complying with the laws in the state of gun show.

The bill would reduce theft and loss of firearms during shipment between dealers by getting rid of a provision that says dealers may not transfer firearms to one another face to face, away from their business premises. Currently, dealers who agree on a sale are forced to return to their businesses and ship firearms to one another, which involves some risk of theft or loss. The new law would allow an in-person exchange.

Similar legislation has been introduced in the House (H.R. 58). ✧

Public Comment *cont on pg 17*

Comments may be submitted as a .pdf document, a format readable in Microsoft Word 2000 or in the body of an e-mail. Comments may be submitted to the Forest Planner, Huron-Manistee National Forests, 1755 S. Mitchell Street, Cadillac, MI 49601 or faxed to (231) 775-5551. Comments may be submitted electronically to: comments-eastern-huron-manistee@fs.fed.us, with the subject: “Forest Plan SEIS.” ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[With fears of Asian carp fading, a sleek campaign to revive public concern](#)

In an attempt to keep the public engaged in the Asian carp dilemma, the Natural Resources Defense Council organized a recent event highlighting Chicago architect and author Jeanne Gang’s new book about transforming Chicago’s waterways.

[EDITORIAL: All the way around the lake](#)

They’re down in the dumps economically, so it’s not surprising that fewer Americans are crossing the border to visit Thunder Bay and beyond.

[Erie fishery is at risk until algae dealt with](#)

A recent conference highlighted some of the problems contributing to algal blooms in Lake Erie, as well as some possible remedies.

[GOP effort to stop FCC's 'net neutrality' push fails](#)

Senate Democrats voted down a Republican-led effort to stop the Federal Communications Commission from enforcing new "net neutrality" regulations that critics have called a federal takeover of the Internet.

[Steve LaTourette says](#)

Although invasive species are a serious problem in the Great Lakes, LaTourette does have research to back his assertion that they haven't been spreading through ballast water. On the Truth-O-Meter, LaTourette's claim rates True.

[House says states can't regulate ballast](#)

New York's strict new standards for keeping invasive species out of ships' ballast on the St. Lawrence Seaway took a hit in Congress, and probably won't get a second chance on Capitol Hill, a congressional source said Monday.

[Removing dam might help Lake Erie](#)

Engineers say Ballville Dam, a 100-year-old structure on the Sandusky River near Fremont, Ohio, needs repairs totaling millions of dollars. A biologist has estimated that removal of the dam would expand walleye spawning beds in the Sandusky River to as much as 15 times what they are now.

[Anti-bully law may overstep Constitution](#)

D.C.'s Anti-bullying referencing an open-ended restriction on references to people's "distinguishing characteristics" is unconstitutionally vague under rulings like *Botts v. State* (2004). The bill's violation of the First Amendment is even clearer as applied to adults in public parks and at the U. of the District of Columbia, since adults and college students have broader free speech rights than high school students.

[\\$2.6-million makeover readies old industrial site for role in Detroit International Wildlife Refuge](#)

After a \$2.6-million makeover, a new piece of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge – a former 44-acre industrial property – will be ready a year from now for its close-up.

[Great Lakes 'heading for trouble'](#)

The Great Lakes are suffering from "massive ecosystem breakdowns" and are "heading for trouble" says wildlife expert Andy Buchsbaum.

[Fishing for a living in Detroit](#)

The fish population in the Detroit River is a small fraction of what it was in the 19th century, when fisheries flourished and were considered among the most lucrative in the Great Lakes.

[Asian carp invasion: Can we fish our way out of the problem?](#)

As urgency rises over need to halt the migration of invasive Asian carp into the Great Lakes, a new solution comes forward: Eat them.

[Officials say ballast water regs could shut down Port of Oswego, St. Lawrence Seaway](#)

The USEPA is set to issue regulations on ballast water release by the end of this month. Collister Johnson Jr., administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., said the Coast Guard will follow with its regulations soon after. He is hoping these new regulations will show New York state that its

[Crews give Coho, Chinook a hand to spawn success](#)

A group of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources employees worked quickly this week to scoop up coho salmon at the Root River Steelhead Facility, siphon eggs and sperm and mix the two together in plastic buckets destined for a fish hatchery.

[Oceana County planners emphatic: No wind turbines on Lake Michigan](#)

An attack by the Oceana County Planning Commission on an offshore wind farm developer can be seen as a pre-emptive strike, even if it came well after the issue seemed settled.

[Collapsed bluff got pass from state regulators](#)

State environment regulators gave We Energies a pass in 2008 — exempting it from certain rules so that construction work could be done atop coal ash landfills on a bluff on the Lake Michigan shoreline at the utility's Oak Creek Power Plant, officials said Tuesday.

[Bad River pursues air quality standards](#)

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa is planning to set their own air quality standards, which could be used against a proposed iron ore mine.

[Coal ash spills into Lake Michigan after bluff collapse](#)

A cascade of coal ash, dirt and mud fell into the shore of Lake Michigan yesterday after a large section of bluff collapsed beside the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.

[Workers try to turn Asian carp into fertilizer](#)

Workers along the Illinois River are hunting for invasive fish to turn into organic fertilizer, fillets, and other commercial products.

[Earthworm research from UMD also highlighted on Science Nation](#)

Cindy Hale of the University of Minnesota, Duluth, has not only recently highlighted the impacts of non-native earthworms in the Great Lakes region, but also has taken strides in public outreach and citizen science.

[Is state losing its love of fish?](#)

A state official says Michigan fisheries are doing fine, but the number of anglers dropping hooks into the water is headed down, threatening funding for fisheries programs and hurting revenue for a billion-dollar industry in the state.

[Botulism confirmed](#)

The Ministry of Natural Resources says a test conducted at the University of Guelph has confirmed that botulism is to blame for the dead birds and fish washing up on shore at Wasaga Beach Provincial Park.

[Wild Atlantic salmon join Pacific fish in NY river](#)

After more than a century without a wild-breeding population, this is the third year in a row that researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey have found young Atlantic salmon in central New York's renowned Salmon River.

[Recapping summer's spectacular salmon season](#)

Lake Michigan enjoyed an ideal formula for salmon production this summer with more fish than recent years, but not too many, and an abundant supply of alewives to grow those fish to larger sizes.

[Michigan DNR: Thousands of fish died from herpes virus](#)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources said Thursday that a herpes virus is to blame for thousands of dead fish that were found in Oceana County's Silver Lake.

[EDITORIAL: Customs costs](#)

Border state representatives in Congress should work to kill these customs fees — or show reason why they should stand.

[Westrec touts new Chicago marina](#)

Chicago may be hundreds of miles and many degrees removed from South Florida, but Westrec Marinas was at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show to tout its new marina, which is scheduled to open next spring in the Windy City

[EDITORIAL: Democrats cling to their guns](#)

Gun ownership is on the rise in some surprising places. As much as President Obama would have us believe that only small-town yokels "cling to guns or religion," a Gallup poll released Wednesday suggests many of the firearms that have been flying off the shelves in the past two years were purchased

[States ask high court to order nets on Chicago waterways to curb Asian carp](#)

Five Great Lakes states are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to require nets in Chicago area waterways to stop the spread of Asian carp.

[Options for new ballast water rules on the St-Lawrence Seaway](#)

The environmental department of New York State has announced the intention to enforce new rules for ballast water after 2012. Revised shipping rules required that ships exchange ballast water prior to sailing upriver to points upriver of Montreal.

[Wildlife: Cormorant reduction efforts are working](#)

Michigan reported a 38 percent drop in cormorant nest counts last year while Wisconsin reported an 18 percent decline on islands where control efforts were conducted between 2009 and 2011.

[Playing on Chicago River could make you sick](#)

According to a long-awaited health study published Wednesday, boating and fishing on the Chicago River is no riskier than doing so on other local waterways.

[Lake Erie lakefront property owners want \\$500,000 for legal fees](#)

A group of property owners along Lake Erie are demanding that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources compensate them for more than \$500,000 worth of legal fees incurred during a legal battle over property lines, according to a news release from the Ohio Lakefront Group.

[DNR expert: Finding invasive carp is like looking for 'a needle in a haystack'](#)

There's renewed concern over the approach of Asian carp into Minnesota waterways, prompted by environmental DNA tests that showed traces of the species' DNA in several locations in the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities. Two species of the carp, bighead and silver carp, are considered invasive species and a threat to the Great Lakes.

[It's going to be quite a year for steelhead](#)

The yearly push of steelhead into Michigan rivers is starting: the run that will primarily determine how many fish winter over, and how many fish will remain in the river for the spring spawn. This year, the steelhead, like the salmon, look like they'll be a little bit bigger than usual.

[Basins separation could hurt water quality](#)

A hydrological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins would send Asian carp swimming back downstream, but would also alter water quality.

[Is the Illinois River a glimpse at Lake Erie's future? The battle against Asian carp](#)

Given how adaptable and resilient Asian carp are, and how they can easily overwhelm an ecosystem, it is impossible not to imagine what would happen should these fish come to Lake Erie.

[Current efforts to stop Asian carp not sustainable, experts say](#)

Amid concerns that current efforts to stop the influx of Asian carp in Illinois may not be sustainable, a coalition of Great Lakes states and cities on Thursday proposed a controversial plan to install metal and concrete barriers to separate the Mississippi River from Lake Michigan, effectively re-reversing the flow of the Chicago River.

[EDITORIAL: Shocking number of boating mishaps should remind all that safety comes first](#)

The number of capsized boats, disabled boats — missing boaters on the Great Lakes State's Lake Michigan Coast — is shocking for this time of the year or any open-water season.

[Reversal of Great Lakes invasive species rules feared](#)

Just a month before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is set to release new rules to protect the Great Lakes from overseas ships carrying in invasive species, legislation is moving through Congress that conservation groups say might roll back those protections. The Commercial Vessel Discharge Reform Act of 2011

[Army Corps reduces power on Asian carp barrier](#)

Power is being reduced on an electric barrier network designed to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes because it might be interfering with operations on a nearby railroad, federal authorities said Wednesday.

[House bill would hurt state's efforts with Great Lakes](#)

A bill moving quickly through the House would undermine New York's tough new regulations aimed at preventing invasive species from entering the Great Lakes

[Lamprey repellent may help control Great Lakes pest](#)

Great Lakes biologists might have found a new weapon in the never-ending fight to control the devastating sea lamprey — the stench of death itself

[River freed from dams' prison](#)

For the first time in a century water is flowing unimpeded in the span thought to be the Paw Paw River's original, natural channel after a contractor removed a pair of crumbling concrete dams.

[Banner year for Little Manistee River salmon run with 6.5 million eggs collected](#)

Salmon anglers are having a banner season on Lake Michigan and its tributaries. Catch numbers are good and the Chinook salmon big. State officials say that is largely due to a banner crop of alewives for them to eat. Those salmon began coursing up northern Lake Michigan tributaries as early as August looking

[Groups hope new study on Asian Carp barrier will speed up action](#)

A \$2-million study that shows three ways to build barriers to separate the Mississippi River from Lake Michigan in an attempt to stop Asian carp from getting into Lake Michigan will be released January, in hopes of spurring the Army Corps of Engineers to a speedier conclusion to its own study, which

[EDITORIAL: Stop the runoff](#)

Deepwater fish in the Great Lakes are starving while invasive mussels choke the shorelines. Congress and the Great Lakes states must act together to curb this latest threat.

[Toxic algae getting worse in Lake Erie](#)

Between the mid-1960s and 1990, phosphorus levels dropped sharply after efforts were made to change farming practices and take phosphorus out of detergents. But in 1995, levels began going up again, leading to huge blooms in recent years.

[Asian carp threaten native species, businesses if they hit the Great Lakes](#)

Scientists believe Lake Erie, especially the Western basin, has the most to lose if the carp find their way there.

[Wisconsin DNR fisheries facility manager says salmon run best in decades](#)

DNR Besadny Fisheries Facility manager Mike Baumgartner of Kewaunee said this fall's salmon run is the best he's seen in two decades of sorting fish for spawning.

End