



The Outrigger



Volume 43, Issue 2

www.kenoshasportfishing.com

February, 2014

Special points of interest:

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

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Wisconsin Chinook stocking strategy set for 2014 and beyond

Courtesy of: Great Lakes Basin Report

MADISON – The state’s strategy for stocking Chinook salmon in Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan waters in 2014 and beyond is set and seeks to maintain existing great fishing opportunities in spring and summer all along the coast while tweaking the state’s original proposal based on public input to improve fall fishing.

“You spoke and we listened,” says DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. “This stocking strategy reflects your input and will continue to help deliver the fantastic fishing opportunities you’ve enjoyed on Lake Michigan and its tributaries.” Stepp thanked the many people who attended meetings over the past two years to provide feedback on the stocking strategy, and those who submitted comments via emails and other communications. Mike Staggs, Wisconsin’s fish chief, says the updated stocking strategy reflects newer research showing Chinook are highly migratory fish and that where the fish are stocked doesn’t affect the main fishery in the spring and summer.

“But stocking location does affect the fall fishery in Wisconsin, so we focused our strategy on striking a balance between providing opportunities along the coast in the fall and responding to public concerns to pro-

vide more fish where the angler pressure, harvest and economic impact are the greatest in fall,” he says. Research shows that more than half of the Chinook salmon in Lake Michigan are wild and that Chinook swim all over Lake Michigan during the spring and summer. Read more in “Lake Michigan’s salmon fishery thrives,” in the December issue of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.

That information and other research to date suggests that stocking plays a much more important role in determining where fish are caught in Wisconsin in the fall, with the bulk of fish returning on their spawning runs to streams where they were stocked, says Brad Eggold, DNR fisheries supervisor for southern Lake Michigan. “We heard from stakeholders loud and clear that they wanted us to provide fall fishing opportunities in as many places as possible,” says Eggold. “This strategy provides that, but also stocks more Chinook where we see more fishing for Chinook.

“That’s one of the other concerns we heard at the October Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum meeting from anglers and the businesses and communities that depend on Chinook.” (cont’d pg. 2)

Wisconsin Chinook stocking (Cont'd)

Wisconsin and other states and tribes that share fisheries management on Lake Michigan agreed to adjust stocking levels of Chinook starting in 2013 to bring the number of predator fish like Chinook back into line with the number of prey fish. Significantly increased natural reproduction of Chinook in Michigan streams and record low levels of alewives, a key fish food, had led to declines in fish condition in recent years and university researchers projected the Chinook population would crash in coming years if no measures were taken.

That lake-wide stocking adjustment, public input, and the new understanding of fish migration since DNR's longstanding stocking strategy was created spurred DNR to update the stocking strategy, Staggs says.

After the October 12 fisheries forum meeting, DNR kept most of the strategy the same but ratcheted back the number of Chinook that will be stocked in 2014 into Strawberry Creek, where DNR maintains the main egg collection facility for Chinook, and distributed them among other ports. The 2014

stocking plan and other materials are available on the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum web page. "This will still allow us to adequately meet our egg collection goals for Chinook. In addition to Strawberry Creek, we also can collect Chinook salmon eggs at our other two facilities (Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility and Root River Steelhead Facility)," Eggold says.


Two other tweaks made to the proposal change the charter trips factor to include only fall charter trips, and to provide a direct allocation of 30,000 fish to northern Door County, Staggs says. Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Kewaunee counties also will get a larger share of fish under the new stocking strategy because they have the highest angler effort, harvest rates and charter trips in the fall, Eggold says.

Dave Boyarski, fish supervisor based out of Sturgeon Bay, says that local fish managers in those counties with multiple ports will be working with angler organizations and others to help determine where fish go within a particular county if there is more than one port. Manitowoc, Ke-

waunee and Door County all have more than one port. The numbers of fish planned for stocking in the counties are below; for more info: DNR's Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum web page:

- Kenosha County: 76,919
- Racine County: 75,338
- Milwaukee County: 83,046
- Ozaukee County: 89,049
- Sheboygan County: 86,164
- Manitowoc County: 83,515
- Kewaunee County: 95,142
- Southern Door/Strawberry Creek: 120,000
- Northern Door County: 30,000
- Oconto/Marinette counties: 69,082

Staggs says anglers won't see a big change in their fishing opportunities during spring and summer because of the stocking adjustments. "We're doing this to maintain the fantastic fishing on Wisconsin's Lake Michigan waters," he says. "The models show anglers shouldn't see a big change in fishing opportunities because of the increase in natural reproduction in Michigan streams.

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Great Lakes Biology Surveys Aid Fisheries Management

Courtesy of: Great Lakes Basin Report

Cornell and Buffalo State researchers have received a five-year, \$3.5 million grant from the USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to survey lower trophic levels—or organisms at the bottom of the food chain—that provide valuable insights into the health of higher species.

Specifically, Cornell researchers are using a 180' research vessel to collect phytoplankton, zooplankton and mysid shrimp levels in all of the Great Lakes, while Buffalo State researchers will head up collecting benthos (fauna from the bottom of the lakes) levels. Other researchers are also sampling for such pollutants as mercury, nutrients from farm runoff, viruses and bacteria.

Project leaders along with the New York DNR will work to assess lower trophic levels in Lake Ontario.

"Part of the reason we got this large grant was because of our history of collecting data," said Lars Rudstam, Cornell professor of natural resources and the grant's principal investigator. "Without the longer term dataset it is hard to determine changes in the Great Lakes." "We provide information to fishery managers that they use to decide how many fish they should stock and how much they should impose or relax fishing limitations," said James Watkins, a postdoctoral researcher in Rudstam's lab.

Data of lower trophic levels help researchers predict populations of larger fish, as plankton feed small fry, which in turn feed bigger fish. When levels of plankton drop, repercussions may be seen all the way up the food chain. For example, Pacific salmon were introduced into the Great Lakes in the 1980s, but they crashed in recent years in Lake Huron but not in

Lake Ontario, due partly to declining biomass at the base of the food web.

Cornell is also sampling a layer of water called the deep chlorophyll layer, which is located at or below a steep temperature gradient known as the thermocline located around a depth of 15 - 25 m. A long-term shift of algal primary producers from the surface layer to these depths may lead to vertical redistribution of zooplankton and higher trophic levels.

Two additional grants were funded by the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and U.S. EPA Region 2, to continue similar sampling in Lake Ontario. These grants, one for \$100,000 and another for \$50,000, are part of a collaboration that includes the Canadian Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, the Ontario MNR, USEPA, USGS, New York DNR and Cornell.

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Register now for Lake Michigan yellow perch summit

Weekly News article published: January 28, 2014 by the [Central Office](#)

CHICAGO - A yellow perch summit for Lake Michigan anglers and other interested stakeholders is set for March 22 as state agencies and tribes seek to improve management of the fish fry favorite. Two decades of cooperative actions by state management agencies have prevented a complete collapse of yellow perch but have been unable to reverse the species' decline in Lake Michigan, state fisheries officials say.

"Despite a complete closure of commercial fishing and restrictive angling regulations by all the management agencies around Lake Michigan, the yellow perch population has not recovered," says Mike Staggs, Wisconsin's fisheries director. "This workshop will be a forum to update the public on what we've learned and discuss what direction we should go in the future on yellow perch management."

A March 22 yellow perch summit aims to enlist anglers in determining what direction to take to increase populations of yellow perch in Lake Michigan.

The summit, hosted by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, will be held at the UIC Forum, at 725 W. Roosevelt Road in Chicago. It will feature invited experts presenting the latest research on Lake Michigan ecology, yellow perch populations, fishing and management.

The afternoon session will consist of small group breakout sessions where participants can comment on the information presented and provide input to Lake Michigan fishery managers.

Registration is free Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (exit DNR) website until March 15, after which a \$20 fee will be charged. People also can participate via the web at a link provided them after they register.

Brad Eggold, DNR southern Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor and chair of the Lake Michigan Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, encourages Wisconsin anglers to attend the summit in person or via the web and to weigh in.

"This yellow perch summit will give Wisconsin stakeholders the chance to listen to the latest information on not only yellow perch but on all aspects of the Lake Michigan ecosystem," Eggold says.

"In addition, breakout sessions will provide an avenue for stakeholder comment and input into future management actions. This should be a very informative summit and I hope stakeholders will plan to attend or view the meeting via our webinar link."

Eggold says that possible steps by the management jurisdictions may include changes to yellow perch management, assessment and/or research.

Twenty years ago, a yellow perch summit was convened by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to respond to what at that time was a rapid, lake-wide decline in abundance of yellow perch. Significant numbers of yellow perch were not surviving their first year, which meant the aging adult populations were not being replaced readily by new generations of perch in Lake Michigan.

A yellow perch task group was created and developed and implemented a research strategy to explore the causes of declining yellow perch populations. Wisconsin and other states closed the commercial perch fisheries in their waters and adopted restrictive bag limits and closed seasons to help preserve spawning age adults.

At the March 22 meeting in Chicago, participants will learn about research results and management information resulting from those actions, Eggold says.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission was established in 1955 by the Canadian-U.S. Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The commission coordinates fisheries research, controls the invasive sea lamprey and facilitates cooperative fishery management among the state, provincial, tribal and federal management agencies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Brad Eggold, 414-382-7921

FEBRUARY 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1

2 3 Club Meeting 7:00pm 4 Fly Tying 7:00pm 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 Fly Tying 7:00pm 12 13 14 15

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

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

Important dates this month

- 2/03/14 - Club meeting at the Moose Lodge 7:00 pm
- 2/4/14 - Fly tying at the Moose Lodge — Fish skull streamers
- 2/11/14 - Fly tying at the Moose Lodge — Mini Streamers
- 2/18/14 - Fly tying at the Moose Lodge — Mini Streamers
- 2/17/14 - KSFCA Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 2/25/14 - Fly tying at the Moose Lodge — Articulated Flies

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2014 Schedule of Club Events

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

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