



Latest round of Asian carp eDNA sampling on Kalamazoo River produces zero results

The Michigan DNR announced that the latest round of Asian carp environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling on the lower Kalamazoo River in Allegan County produced all negative results.

Earlier this month the DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced a single positive eDNA result for silver carp — a species of Asian carp — within the river, discovered during water sampling efforts conducted this summer.

Immediately after the DNR learned of the positive sample, the agency worked with USFWS to conduct this third eDNA surveillance effort. The two agencies collected 200 additional water samples on the lower Kalamazoo River October 7 and 8. In addition to sampling, the DNR

increased the presence of staff along the river to enlist anglers as part of surveillance efforts.

The previous positive result indicated the presence of genetic material of silver carp, such as scales, excrement or mucous. However, there is no evidence a population of silver carp is established in the Kalamazoo River. In addition to live fish, genetic material can enter water bodies via boats, fishing gear and the droppings of fish-eating birds.

“We greatly appreciate the quick work by USFWS to collect and evaluate these latest samples,” said DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. “We are pleased these samples were negative, but that doesn’t mean our efforts to keep Asian carp out of Michigan’s waters are over.”

The DNR will continue to take action in response to the previous positive result. Those actions will include:

- Conducting additional sampling efforts in the spring with USFWS to continue monitoring the river.
- Enhancing DNR fishery survey efforts, including expanding our outreach to anglers.
- Continuing public education efforts about all aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp, to increase general understanding of this significant threat to Michigan’s waterways.

Anglers and boaters are a first line of defense in the fight against aquatic invasive species. Anglers are urged to become familiar with the

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WI pursues additional testing after silver carp eDNA detected in Lower Fox River

MADISON – Continued surveillance to protect Wisconsin waters against invasive species has turned up a single positive environmental DNA, or eDNA, sample for silver carp in the Lower Fox River.

The sample, among hundreds taken statewide in recent months, does not necessarily signal the presence of live fish. To determine the source of the eDNA found in the river, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is collaborating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has asked the federal agency for its help to collect additional samples from the Fox River in the next two weeks.

Asian carp pose significant ecological and economic threats to the Great Lakes region and its fishery because they eat voraciously and

compete directly with valuable native fish for food.

"The tests for environmental DNA are extremely sensitive and can detect genetic material shed in mucus or excrement from fish as well as from birds that have eaten the fish elsewhere," said Bob Wakeman, aquatic invasive species coordinator for DNR. "Bilge water from boats also can carry traces of the fish. While these genetic fingerprints are clear enough to help us identify specific invasive carp species, the eDNA testing program relies on multiple positive samples over time to indicate the likelihood of live fish."

For example, more than 100 additional samples following a single

WI pursues more eDNA testing

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Suit to nix double-crested cormorant shoot-on-sight orders

Washington, DC – A second five-year renewal of federal “depredation” orders for killing an estimated 45,000 double-crested cormorants each year is legally deficient and scientifically vacuous, according to a federal lawsuit filed recently by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). If successful, the suit will block shoot-on-sight authorizations for the fish-eating bird in 24 states east of the Mississippi.

Earlier this year, the USFWS extended until 2019 open-ended authorization for “lethal removal” of double-crested cormorants “committing or about to commit predation” on fish, the much-maligned black migratory bird’s primary diet, in the covered states. The rationale for these depredation orders is to protect sports fishing and aquaculture, principally catfish farms.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), all major federal actions that will “significantly affect” the environment must go through a rigorous review process, including a study of potential alternatives. Although FWS states that killing tens of thousands of DCCOs per year will make a significant enough impact on fish populations to justify renewing the orders, the agency simultaneously concludes that there is no “significant impact” under the law.

“This gymnastics of semantics contravenes both the spirit and the letter of NEPA,” stated PEER Staff Counsel Laura Dumais. “In short, this suit is an indictment of the Fish & Wildlife Service for biological malpractice,” added Dumais. “The Service’s treatment of the double-crested cormorant epitomizes the growing militarization of American wildlife management, taking us back a few centuries to reestablish lethal take on a mass scale as the default posture.” ✧

Appeals court denies challenge to E15 rule

The latest court case over labeling E15 was thrown out last week because the industries bringing the complaint, including the recreational boating industry, can’t show people have been harmed as a result of the misfueling regulation.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit dismissed the recreational boating industry’s challenge to the EPA’s [rule regarding misfueling mitigation plans](#) surrounding the sale of E15, saying groups bringing the complaint “cannot show members have suffered or are suffering with an injury that is traceable to the misfueling regulation,” the court found in a decision that surprised the boating industry.

“We were expecting a positive result from this case because we feel it was factually different from our previous E15 waiver case,” NMMA director of federal and legal affairs Nicole Vasilaros said.

“Amongst the breadth of industries involved in the case, we did expect to have standing,” Vasilaros said. “However, the court seems to have set a bar for standing which is extremely high.”

The case specifically challenged the EPA’s plans to prevent misfueling, including the use of what the National Marine Manufacturers Association believes is a highly inadequate pump warning label.

“Agencies already have a high degree of deference in their rule-making, but by imposing such a high standing burden on industry to overcome, it makes it difficult to get a case heard in the D.C. circuit court in matters of similar instance,” Vasilaros said. “The court did tie this case to our previous case, which we feel is unfounded. But by doing so, the standing argument also stuck.”

At this time the NMMA is not actively involved in additional court cases regarding E15. “However we are reviewing additional legal options with the ultimate goal of forcing the EPA to better label pumps and warn consumers about misfueling,” Vasilaros said. ✧



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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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Michigan muskies getting fit to fight in Wisconsin

WILD ROSE, Wis. – Standing sentinel around artificial weeds in the rearing pond at the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery, newly arrived spotted musky fingerlings from Michigan leave little doubt about their predatory instincts.

When a minnow strays too close, the fish dart quickly from the artificial cover, showing off their ultimate potential to make a strong Wisconsin fishery even better. With a few months of steady feeding ahead, these fingerlings will soon gain the weight and size they need for a successful introduction into brood-stock lakes managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as well as the waters of Green Bay.

"These Great Lakes spotted muskies represent an important step forward in our efforts to restore a strong and naturally reproducing population to the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan," said Steve Fajfer, supervisor of the Wild Rose hatchery. "In recent years, the waters of Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay and area tributaries including the Lower Fox and Menominee rivers have become known as great destinations for musky fishing, particularly in the fall. This strain of fish from Lake Huron should help us create even more exciting opportunities in the years ahead."

Tim Simonson, a DNR fisheries biologist and expert on muskies, said the productive waters of the region offer optimal conditions for the fish to grow, with current data predicting an average adult size of nearly 53 inches for female fish and 47 inches for males. "The muskellunge in Green Bay grow relatively quickly and we also see high rates of catch-and-release fishing in the area. These factors really contribute to the area's reputation for trophy fish," Simonson said. "As we continue to diversify the genetics with the addition of these latest fish, we are looking at truly world-class opportunities in the years ahead."

Although spotted muskies are native to Green Bay and other Lake

Michigan waters, overfishing, loss of habitat and diminished water quality extinguished local populations by the mid-1900s. DNR began a reintroduction program by obtaining spawn from a Lake Huron tributary in Michigan in 1989. Additional genetics and fingerlings have come from Lake St. Clair in Michigan as well as Lake Huron's Georgian Bay in Canada.

The establishment of brood-stock lakes in Wisconsin starting with Long Lake in 1989 has allowed for more efficient production of spotted musky fingerlings and stocking volume has ranged from 2,000 fish to as many as 30,000 per year in the early 2000s. However, the number of original wild fish that contributed to the brood stock was relatively small and the 2012 [Green Bay Great Lakes Spotted Musky Management Plan](#) pointed to the need for continued expansion of the source population.

"We've been pleased to see that some natural reproduction is occurring in Green Bay and we are finding a limited number of young, wild Great Lakes spotted musky," Simonson said. "However, we believe that with the introduction of a more diverse breeding population and an expanded number of stocking locations, we'll ultimately increase the chances for successful natural reproduction in the region."

The new batch of 12,000 fingerlings from Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Michigan is part of a cooperative effort to improve musky genetics in both states. While Michigan recently has focused on the Great Lakes spotted strain, Wisconsin's highly successful inland lake musky breeding program is contributing fish to help expand the inland strain stocking program there.

If all goes as planned, some 2,000 of the fierce fingerlings now stalking the ponds at Wild Rose will be transferred to the three brood-stock lakes in summer 2015. The remaining fish are destined for a variety of locations throughout Green Bay in an

effort to maximize the use of potential habitat.

To learn more about muskies and to find the best spots for fishing this fall, visit DNR.wi.gov and search "musky." Wisconsin's musky season continues through November 30 for the state's boundary and outlying waters including Lake Michigan as well as northern inland lakes. For southern inland waters, the season continues through December 31.

For more info: Steve Fajfer, Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery supervisor, 920-622-3527 Ext. 201, steven.fajfer@wisconsin.gov. ✧

Input needed on No. Lake Michigan Islands Management Plan

The Michigan DNR is seeking additional input and comments on the management of northern Lake Michigan islands.

Based on meetings with partners, tribal governments and other conservation organizations, a proposed management plan for state-owned lands on northern Lake Michigan islands has been initiated. A [preliminary vision and a set of draft goals and objectives](#) have been developed and are available for comment. Written comments can be submitted to kintighk@michigan.gov until November 30.

Recently, the Beaver Island Natural Resources and Ecotourism Steering Committee outlined a set of recommendations to focus on natural resource protection, economic development and an environmentally informed public. The Northern Lake Michigan Islands Management Plan, the Beaver Island Plan and the Public Land Strategy each will focus on management efforts with the greatest impact in those three focus areas.

The northern Lake Michigan islands management planning effort is one of the outcomes of the [2013 DNR Public Land Management Strategy](#). ✧

DEC proposes freshwater fishing regulations

Public comments accepted through December 1, 2014

New York State DEC is accepting comments on proposed changes to the freshwater fishing regulations through December 1, 2014

DEC modifies the sportfishing regulations approximately every two years as part of DEC's commitment to enhance fishing opportunities and protect the State's freshwater resources. The new sportfishing regulations are scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2015. The regulations in the 2013-14 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide will remain in effect until the new regulations are enacted. Once enacted, a new regulations guide will be available.

Comments on the proposals can be sent by email to regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov or mailed to Shaun Keeler, New York DEC, Bureau of Fisheries, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753.

The proposed regulations are available at: www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/propregulations.html.

Some of the proposed changes include:

- Modify the statewide regulation for muskellunge by increasing the minimum size limit to 40 inches and lengthen the season by three

Southern pine beetle confirmed in NY state

New York, in cooperation with the various federal agencies confirmed the presence of southern pine beetle (SPB) in three locations along the southern shore of Long Island. Personnel worked together to verify the presence of this destructive beetle after the discovery of dead and dying pine trees in portions of the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, Connetquot River State Park and the Henry's Hollow Pine Barrens State Forest. This is the first detection of SPB in New York State. ✧

weeks to start on the last Saturday in May;

- Increase the minimum size limit for muskellunge to 54 inches in the Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River;
- Establish year round trout seasons, with catch and release fishing only October 16 - March 31, in the following streams in Western New York: Chenunda Creek, Oatka Creek, Clear Creek, Fenton Brook, Prendergast Creek, and waters in Allegany State Park;
- Initiate a catch and release season for trout for sections of the Salmon River (Franklin County) and Ninemile Creek (Onondaga County), and extend the catch and release season at Fall Creek (Cayuga Lake);
- Establish a special trout regulation of a daily creel limit of five fish with no more than two fish longer than 12 inches, in Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and St. Lawrence counties, Little River and Oswegatchie River in St. Lawrence County, Millsite Lake in Jefferson County, and Oriskany Creek (Oneida County);
- Establish an all-year trout season, with a 12-inch minimum size limit and daily limit of three fish, at Hinckley and Prospect Reservoirs

Conservative deer season will lower harvest

Hunters may not see fewer deer when firearms deer season opened November 8, but regulations implemented to help increase Minnesota's deer population will place more of those deer off limits. "By design, this year's deer harvest will be one of the lowest we've seen in decades," said Leslie McInenly, big game program leader. "In fact, our total harvest this year may end up coming in around 120,000, a level not reported since the early 1980s." ✧

in Herkimer and Oneida counties, North Lake in Herkimer County, for an additional section of the North Branch Saranac River in Franklin and Clinton counties, as well as for the entire set of waters that are a part of the Massawepie Easement;

- Extend Great Lakes tributary Regulations upstream to the section of the Genesee River (Monroe County) from State Route 104 Bridge upstream to the Lower Falls;
- Eliminate the special brown trout and landlocked salmon regulations (minimum size limit, daily creel limit and season length) at Otsego Lake;
- Eliminate the 10-inch minimum size limit for black bass at Lily Pond and Pack Forest Lake in Warren County, eliminate the "all year – any size" special regulation for black bass at Cayuta Creek in Tioga County, and adopt a consistent minimum size limit for black bass for sections of the Schoharie Creek at 10 inches;
- With the exception of the Salmon River, permit the use of floating lures with multiple hooks with multiple hook points, on all Lake Ontario tributaries. ✧

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identification of Asian carp, including adults and juveniles, as the spread of juvenile Asian carp through the use of live bait buckets has been identified as a potential point of entry into Great Lakes waters. Anglers and boaters are strongly encouraged to drain all water from their boats and to clean boats and gear after each trip. Invasive species and eDNA are known to "hitchhike" within live wells and attach to boat trails, anchors and fishing gear.

For even more information on Asian carp, visit www.michigan.gov/asiancarp. ✧

Mille Lacs Lake fall fish survey shows promise

For the first time since 2008, Mille Lacs Lake walleye surviving into their second year remain abundant and the following year's hatch appears to be doing well, according to the Minnesota DNR.

"We're far from out of the woods on Mille Lacs Lake," said Rick Bruesewitz, Aitkin area fisheries supervisor for the DNR. "But younger walleye are showing more positive signs of survival than they have in past years."

That's good news for the lake's walleye population, which has been declining because the vast majority of walleye that hatch in Mille Lacs have not grown into yearlings by surviving to their second autumn. When not enough smaller fish grow into larger ones, the population eventually drops.

As expected, the walleye catch in all types of nets during this fall's population assessment was down slightly from last year but there were strong numbers of walleye hatched the previous year in all surveys. Catch rates of these walleye were among the highest observed since 1991 for electrofishing and 2006 for fine-mesh gill nets.

"This year class survived its first year much better than any of the year classes from the previous four years," Bruesewitz said. "They look pretty strong going into 2015."

Electrofishing for walleye hatched this year produced average numbers when compared with catches from previous years, indicating that reproduction in 2014 was again successful. Walleye hatched this year were a little below average in size. This may be related to a lack of food caused by low numbers of newly hatched perch, which serve as the primary food source for newly hatched walleye.

High numbers of newly hatched and yearling tullibee, which range from 3-8 inches long, were too large for newly hatched walleye to eat but their availability will provide more food for larger walleye.

"Both of these tullibee age classes were caught at the highest

levels we've seen in the forage nets," Bruesewitz said. "With that much food for larger predators, smaller walleye may have had a better chance of survival from predation. This food resource also appears to have improved the overall condition of larger walleye, which was better than we've seen for several years."

More perch ranging from 6- to 7.9-inches were caught in near-shore and offshore nets but the number of perch longer than 9 inches remained at about the same relatively low level.

Results of assessment netting also showed high numbers of northern pike, many of which range from 22- to 28-inches although fish as long as 39.7 inches were observed in the survey. Smallmouth bass numbers decreased slightly close to shore but increased in off-shore nets. Tullibee numbers increased throughout the lake.

DNR staff continues to compile catch information from fall assessment surveys, including age analysis. Once complete, the data will be added into the stock assessment modeling carried out by both state and tribal biologists.

Annual Mille Lacs Lake safe harvest levels are based on fish population assessments in combination with other sources of information, including past harvest statistics. The DNR and eight Indian bands will evaluate technical data and modeling results related to Mille Lacs Lake and use that information to reach agreement on final safe harvest levels in January. The DNR uses these levels as the basis for walleye management.

Mille Lacs Lake covers 132,000 acres. State anglers are expected to harvest close to 30,000 pounds of walleye this fishing season from an allocation of 42,900 pounds. Indian bands with rights under the 1837 Treaty harvested about 13,000 pounds of walleye last spring. Their total allocation was 17,100 pounds. For more info:

www.mndnr.gov/millelacslake. ✧

DEC toll-free hotline to report poachers and polluters

Members of the public will be able to instantly report poachers and polluters using a new toll-free hotline that will help to ensure strict enforcement of environmental laws that protect the State's natural resources. The toll-free hotline number is **1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)**. It will be staffed around the clock and connect callers to a DEC police dispatcher. ✧

DNR taking applications for U. P. Citizens' Advisory Councils

The Michigan DNR is now taking applications for open volunteer positions on the Eastern and Western Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Councils. The councils are designed to advise the DNR on regional programs and policies; identify areas in which the department can be more effective and responsive; and offer insight and guidance from members' own experiences and from the public at large. The deadline to apply for open council positions is Friday, December 5. Application forms and more information are available online at www.michigan.gov/upcac. Completed applications can be faxed to 906-228-9441, emailed to dahlstromk@michigan.gov, or mailed to DNR (Attn: CAC), 1990 U.S. 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855. ✧

Trout hatchery report

The Lake Huron Fishing Club reports they have just started our brown trout releases. They have 55,000 healthy browns to be stocked. It will require 18 trips to get them all into the water from Point Clark to Pike Bay and one load to Barrow Bay. Once all the browns are gone they will be cleaning tanks and then transferring the rainbow trout into the larger tanks to give them room to grow. ✧

NOAA makes \$16.7M available for Great Lakes habitat restoration

NOAA Fisheries is making available roughly \$16.7 million for habitat restoration projects in severely degraded areas of the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes are one of our most important natural resources—they are the largest freshwater system on earth, and support numerous industries including commercial and recreational fishing, shipping, transportation, and coastal tourism. However, the Great Lakes face many threats including invasive species, oil spills and other pollution, overfishing, and habitat degradation. To date, about 50 percent of the Great Lakes wetlands habitat has been lost.

“Great Lakes communities deserve a clean and healthy environment,” said Buck Sutter, Director of NOAA’s Office of Habitat Conservation. “We’re excited to support local projects that will help reverse decades of pollution and clear a path for sustainable fishing and other treasured pastimes.”

Funded projects are spread throughout Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and New York. They will benefit a variety of important recreational fish species such as lake whitefish, northern pike, and walleye in eight Great Lakes Areas of Concern. This funding builds on years of investment in the Great Lakes to restore waterways threatened by poor water quality, contaminated fish, and other environmental concerns.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Environmental Protection Agency and 15 other federal agencies to build on existing and current work to restore the Great Lakes.

NOAA Fisheries’ investment in the effort to restore aquatic habitat is part of a long-term effort to rebuild fisheries, many of which have declined from habitat loss,

over-fishing and climate change. [Recent successes](#) show that restoring habitat is a way not only to stop the decline of fish populations, but also to regrow them to historic high numbers.

Funded Projects

Lorain, OH (\$1,347,644 awarded to the City of Lorain)
 Lorain OH (\$175,000 awarded to the City of Lorain)
 Toledo, OH (\$1,488,944 awarded to Ducks Unlimited)
 St. Clair, MI (\$648,000 awarded to the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority)
 Detroit, MI (\$50,000 awarded to the Alliance for the Great Lakes)
 Detroit, MI (\$319,692 awarded to the Friends of the Detroit River)
 Detroit, MI (\$2,511,800 awarded to the Macomb County Public Works Office)
 Muskegon, MI (\$5,966,500 awarded to Great Lakes Commission and working with local partners)
 Duluth, MN (\$400,000 awarded to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)
 Buffalo, NY (\$2,919,053 awarded to the Great Lakes Commission and working with local partners)
 Milwaukee, WI (\$692,626 awarded to Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department)
 Stream and Wetland Restoration in the Ulao Creek Milwaukee Estuary AOC Project
 Milwaukee, WI (\$200,000 awarded to Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District).

For more details: [NOAA Fisheries Grants 16.7 million for habitat restoration in Great Lakes](#) ✧

Ohio's youth deer-gun season is Nov. 22-23

Ohio’s 12th annual youth white-tailed deer hunting season gives young hunters the opportunity to pursue the state’s most popular big-game animal on November 22-23. The youth deer-gun season is open to hunters with a valid youth hunting license and a deer permit. Youth hunters must be 17-years-old or younger at the time they purchase their youth hunting license. All hunters (except waterfowl hunters) are required to wear hunter orange. For more info: 2014-2015 Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations and www.wildohio.gov. ✧

WI pursues more eDNA testing

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positive detection for silver carp DNA in Sturgeon Bay in late 2013 did not turn up further evidence of the fish. In the latest case, the single positive sample from the Lower Fox River was among 200 samples collected from the river in June and July. The monitoring was part of a coordinated program that included drawing some 1,950 samples from tributaries to Lake Michigan during the summer months.

In addition to the federal eDNA monitoring, DNR conducts a variety of netting, electroshocking and trawling operations in state waters as part of the ongoing monitoring effort. To date, these efforts have not captured any Asian carp in any waters of the Lower Fox River, Green Bay or Lake Michigan. ✧

Cabela’s plans two new stores

SIDNEY, Neb – Cabela’s announced plans to open two new stores: League City, Texas; and Lexington, Kentucky.

■ League City – The 72,000-sq ft store will be at the intersection of Interstate 45 and Big League Dreams Parkway near Kohl’s, HEB Grocery and Big League Dreams Sports Park. Cabela’s expects a fall 2015 opening.

■ Lexington – The 70,000-sq ft store will be located on Polo Club Boulevard near the intersection of I-75 and Man O’ War Boulevard. Cabela’s anticipates a spring 2016 opening. ✧

Boat sales show big gains in September

The industry had one of its best performances of the year in September, posting sales gains of nearly 10 percent in the main powerboat segments and across the industry.

Led by stalwart post-recession categories such as aluminum fishing boats and pontoons and fiberglass outboards, sales climbed 9.8 percent, or 469 boats, to 5,258 in the main segments and by an identical percentage, or 742 boats, to 8,322 industry wide from the same month last year in 25 early reporting states that represent 62 percent of the national market, Statistical Surveys reported today.

The figures compared with an even more robust September last year, when sales in the main segments were up 18.3 percent and industry wide sales climbed 19.9 percent.

Through September, industry wide sales in the early-reporting states are up 8.2 percent, or 14,561 boats, at

191,328, putting the industry on a pace that would easily eclipse its 2013 total of 207,277.

Sales of aluminum fishing boats rose 8 percent, or 102 boats, to 1,375, in September and pontoon sales climbed an even higher 13.7 percent, or 139 boats, to 1,150. The surge in pontoon sales that followed the Great Recession had appeared to be slowing this year, but the September sales figure indicates that this is going to continue to be one of the top three segments in the industry.

Fiberglass outboards posted the best results among the main segments, with sales surging 13.8 percent, or 265 boats, to 2,180. Sales of 14- to 30-foot inboard and stern drive fiberglass boats continued to lag other segments. Sales of 438 boats were 3.9 percent lower than in September last year. However, Statistical Surveys also said that sales of stern drives 23 feet and larger are up 4.5 percent for the year through September, or 146 boats, to 3,388 in

the early-reporting states.

Sales were higher in six of the top 10 states in September this year than they were in the same month last year. Florida was the sales leader with 1,893, a gain of 400. Texas ranked second at 1,395, a gain of 214, and Michigan was third at 571, a gain of 117. North Carolina had sales of 520 boats, a drop of 69, and sales totaled 492 in South Carolina, a gain of 101. Rounding out the top 10, sales were lower in California (416, down 116), Tennessee (307, down 35) and Minnesota (299, down 75) and higher in New York (274, up 25) and Washington (258, up 39).

Among smaller vessels, sales of personal watercraft climbed 7.8 percent, or 118 units, to 1,625, and sales of jetboats rose by 7.6 percent, or eight, to 113. Ski-boat sales climbed by 34.9 percent, or 80, to 309. It was another September sales number that Kloppe singled out as impressive. Sailboat sales fell by 25, or 18.9 percent, to 107. ✧

MI Operation Freedom Outdoors Independence Hunt Event a success

Hunters with health challenges from all corners of Michigan joined Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors October 16-19 for the first-ever Independence Hunt Event at Sharonville State Game Area in Jackson County. This firearm deer hunt was for wounded veterans and others with disabilities.

Two of the 15 hunters participating in the event successfully harvested deer. Many others saw deer but chose not to take a shot. All hunters reported beautiful conditions, great camaraderie and new friendships.

Hunters participating in this event had access to assistive resources, secured by the Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors partners, to help facilitate the hunt. These included hunting guides who assisted hunters throughout their hunts, tracked wheelchairs, pop-up blinds, permanent blinds, access to

approximately 9 miles of mowed trails and transportation assistance.

Casey Leonard, the hunting guide assisting with the Independence Hunt, said "The experience was awesome. There's a lot of therapeutic value that goes into hunting and being in nature. It's not all about the harvest of animals. I think it's a lot about the camaraderie that you get in hunting. There's more to hunting than the harvest. I think that gets overlooked a lot."

Those who have health challenges that prevent them from participating in outdoor activities and who would like some help getting back outdoors are welcome to contact Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors program coordinator Tom Jones at 734-612-6677 or tjones@zero-day.us. He can get people connected with helpful resources and recreational opportunities on an individual basis.

Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors is a cooperative partnership between the Michigan DNR, Camp Liberty, Zero-Day, Eisenhower Center, Brain Injury Association of Michigan, Passing Along the Heritage Foundation, Safari Club International Foundation, Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Disabled American Veterans and more. Its mission is to provide improved outdoor recreation opportunities for wounded veterans and individuals with health challenges and to coordinate a support network that facilitates their recovery through connecting with nature. ✧

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

Weigh in on Lake Superior fisheries in Ashland Dec. 1

ASHLAND, Wis. – Anglers, commercial fishers, conservation stakeholders and interested citizens are encouraged to attend a public meeting hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on December 1 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland to discuss Lake Superior fisheries management plans including the lake trout harvest outlook for 2015.

For the coming year, lake trout population assessments show lower numbers of fish will meet the minimum size range of 15 inches, although models indicate that relatively strong lake trout reproduction in 2008 and 2009 should result in higher fish numbers and harvest quotas beginning in 2016. Public input is sought to identify local fisheries issues and discuss management objectives as well as opportunities and challenges. The meeting aims to ensure all aspects of the fishery are considered and increase awareness of the resource.

"We look forward to exploring management options with the public and we welcome diverse viewpoints from stakeholders," said Bill Cosh, DNR spokesman. "We appreciate the vital role lake trout play in the region's economy as well as Lake Superior's ecology and we will use the public comments and latest scientific findings in our continuing efforts to sustain and enhance the fishery."

For the 2015 season, DNR anticipates reduced limits that will affect commercial, recreational and tribal anglers. A temporary rule will be proposed to cover the season for commercial and recreational anglers while long-term sustainability is discussed among stakeholders.

The December 1 public meeting in Ashland is 6:30 - 9 p.m. at the [Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center](#) (exit DNR), 29270 County Highway G, Ashland, WI 54806. For more info: www.dnr.wi.gov and search "[fishing Lake Superior](#)." ✧

DNR monitoring U. P. snow depths Assessing impact on deer herd

After receiving heavy snowfall across much of Michigan's Upper Peninsula recently, the Michigan DNR is monitoring snow depths and assessing potential impacts on wildlife, particularly the deer herd which is still recovering from the two previous severe and snowy winters.

"With more than 20 inches of snow already on the ground in some of the southern U.P. counties and more than 40 inches reported in some northern locations, we are looking at ways to mitigate potential detrimental impacts of the early and significant snowfall on the deer herd," said DNR Wildlife Division Chief Russ Mason. The DNR's Wildlife and Forest Management divisions are also evaluating current timber sale contracts to identify opportunities to retain tree tops at logging sites on public land for deer to forage on throughout the winter.

Private landowners who wish to help in these efforts are encouraged to begin cutting next year's firewood now and leaving the downed trees as forage and cover for deer and other wildlife.

The recreational feeding of wildlife is also allowed on private land in the Upper Peninsula year-round, provided the feed is placed within 100 yards of a residence and the total amount of feed does not exceed two gallons at any time. The feed must be scattered on the ground and must be at least 100 yards from areas accessible by livestock.

Easily digestible food sources most beneficial for feeding deer include grains, second-cut alfalfa, clover, and pelletized deer food. Although deer make use of apples, potatoes, sugar beets, carrots, and many other foods during summer and fall, these provide little benefit for deer during winter conditions and are not legal for supplemental feeding under permits.

Full details: www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws. ✧

Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt

Youth can register now for the 15th annual Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt, scheduled for December 26-27. To register for a drawing to participate in the hunt, youth hunters must phone in to the IDNR at 217-785-8060 by the registration deadline of Friday, December 5. A lottery drawing involving all youth who phone in will be conducted on Monday, December 8, and youth hunters selected will be notified by mail. First-time applicants will be given a priority over previous participants in the drawing. The hunt is open to ages 10-15 at the time of the hunt. All applicants must have successfully completed a hunter safety education course, possess a valid Illinois hunting or sportsman's license, have a Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number, and have a 20 gauge or larger shotgun. Youth hunt participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who must possess a valid firearm owner's identification (FOID) card. To register for the hunt or for more information, call 217-785-8060. ✧

NY firearms season begins November 15

The 2014 regular deer and bear hunting seasons opened November 15, in New York's Southern Zone. These big game seasons close at sunset on Sunday, December 7.

The Southern Zone Regular Season is New York's most popular hunting season, with participation from about 85% of New York's 550,000 licensed hunters. Harvest during this season accounts for nearly 60 percent of the total statewide deer harvest and 30-60 percent of the statewide bear harvest. For specific regulations and open areas, refer to the 2014-2015 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/37136.html>. ✧

Michigan hunters can help fill food bank freezers

With Michigan's deer season swinging into high gear, it won't be long before many hunters are bringing their harvested deer into the local butcher shop to have the venison processed and prepared for the freezer. And thanks to the generosity of those same hunters, thousands of pounds of that venison will end up not in their home freezers, but at local food banks and soup kitchens to feed the state's needy and hungry citizens.

The donated venison is made possible through the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger program, a collaboration between the Department of Natural Resources and a number of conservation groups, designed to help hunters share their bounty with the less fortunate. Participants can donate an entire deer,

Keith Goertz new Region 4 NY Director

New York DEC has promoted Keith D. Goertz to lead the agency's Region 4 office in Rotterdam. Goertz, who has served as Acting Region 4 Director since mid-May, will oversee DEC activities in Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schoharie and Schenectady counties, and manage a staff of more than 200 employees.

Prior to becoming the Acting Director for the Region 4 office, Goertz served as the long-term remediation engineer for the nine-county region. His duties include supervision of seven staff members and long-term projects, as well as emergency responses and subsurface investigations and cleanup activities.

Goertz began his career with DEC in 1987 as a sanitary engineer in the agency's spill prevention and response unit on Long Island. He later served as a regional oil spill engineer and Unit Supervisor in DEC's Region 6 office in Watertown.

Goertz graduated from the State University at Buffalo, earning a degree in chemical engineering. He is a licensed professional engineer. ✧

a certain number of pounds of venison, or can simply make a monetary donation to support the program.

Since 1991, Sportsmen Against Hunger has helped connect wild game processors with hunters by providing a list of the processors that participate in the program. Hunters can simply drop off their deer at one of the facilities and the program will reimburse the processors \$1 per pound for the venison that goes into the program.

Hunters who don't have an entire deer to donate can participate in the program by donating a pound of their ground venison when their deer is processed. Some meat processors only participate in the Give-A-Pound option rather than processing entire

DEC \$183,000 in grants to improve Hudson River access

New York announced \$183,000 in grants for 80 projects to help communities in the Hudson River area improve access and estuary education, protect water quality, enhance tributary fish habitats and increase storm resiliency.

"Working with local communities, New York has significantly improved the environmental health of the Hudson River estuary," DEC Commissioner Joe Martens said. "Governor Cuomo has made important investments to protect the river, create new and expanded recreation access and upgrade community resiliency, which allows us to realize the potential of this historic waterway. These awards will provide another boost to the Hudson River and its shoreline communities."

For more information about these grants, contact HREP at 845-256-3016. The Hudson River Estuary Program is a project of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html> for more information. ✧

deer, so hunters should check [the list of participating locations](#) and what services they offer before bringing their deer in.

An administrative change in the DNR's license sales system has made donating at the point-of-sale easier this year. In the old days, the system treated the donation as a separate license and vendors had to go back into the system and order the additional license. This year, we reduced the number of steps it takes to make a donation to one. That makes it much easier for hunters to donate."

Current records show that sportsmen have responded well to the change. For more info: www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org. ✧

PA bill gives gun rights groups more power in court

Pennsylvania on Oct. 30 signed into law a bill that will allow third parties to sue municipalities over local gun codes stronger than the state's.

The measure, added as an amendment to a metal theft bill, had passed the state legislature [earlier this month by wide margins](#). It allows groups such as the National Rifle Association to stand in for local citizens in challenging gun city and county control ordinances stronger than the state's own laws in court.

The new law will take effect in 60 days, potentially dozens of strict city and county firearms laws under the gaze of gun rights groups such as the NRA, who [called the bill](#) "the strongest firearms preemption statute in the country."

When asked earlier in the week about which ordinances, if any, the NRA plans to go after local representative John Hohenwarter told media that he anticipates many cities will see the writing on the wall and repeal overly harsh statutes they have on their books before the new law takes effect. ✧

Kentucky to process Asian carp from the Mississippi River

HICKMAN, Ky. – The Associated Press is reporting an \$18.7 million project to process the invasive Asian carp that are taking over North America's waterways. Since first entering U.S. waterways by escaping wastewater retention ponds in the 1970s, the four species known collectively as "Asian carp"—the bighead, black, grass and silver carp—have wrought havoc on native fish populations. The National Park Service says the carp "cause serious damage to the native fish populations in the lakes and rivers that they infest, because they out-compete other fish for food and space."

For anglers, who have seen the consequences of the carp invasion in the degradation of fisheries, the Kentucky-led project to process the carp may come as good news.

The project would create a 75,000 square foot processing plant for the carp in the small Kentucky town of Hickman, located along the Mississippi River just north of the state's southern border with Tennessee.

Riverine Fisheries International, LLC will own and operate the facility, which according to AP will seek to process carp harvested from the Mississippi, Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers into fishmeal, imitation seafood, fish oil, mince and fillets that they plan to ship around the globe.

Establishing a commercial fishery for the carp should be no challenge. According to the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife, commercial fishermen harvested almost 83,000 pounds of Asian carp from the state's 218,000-acre Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley on the Tennessee River. That harvest was landed in just two days of fishing in March of 2013. ✧

Emerald Ash Borer confirmed in Broome, Westchester Counties

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been confirmed in Westchester and Broome counties by the New York DEC and the USDA APHIS. The beetle was found in DEC-deployed traps just north of the city of Peekskill in Westchester County, and southeast of Binghamton in Broome County. The Peekskill find is just outside the current state and Federal EAB quarantine which encompasses all or part of 42 counties through central and western NY, including Orange and Putnam. EAB was first detected in New York in the town of Randolph, Cattaraugus County, in June 2009. With the confirmation of EAB in Westchester and Broome counties, New York now has 24 counties where EAB has been found. Most of the infested areas are small and localized while more than 98 percent of New York's forests and communities are not yet infested. ✧

Chicago Outdoor Sports Show 2015

January 21-25, 2015 at Stephens Convention Center, at Rosemont, IL, www.chicagosportshow.com. The Chicago Outdoor Sports Show will be partnering with Safer USA and On Target Radio on the 3rd Annual Chicagoland Gun Show & USA Gun Safety Conference, being held January 23-25, 2015. For more info: www.chicagolandgunshow.com. ✧

IL online Free Site Hunting Permits

Hunters are reminded that Free Site Hunting Permits (windshield cards) to hunt upland, forest game and waterfowl at IDNR sites are available online from the IDNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/PublicHuntingAreas.aspx>.

Hunters are encouraged to view the link to hunter fact sheets also available at the site. For information or assistance, hunters should contact the site where they intend to hunt. ✧

Alum Creek State Park to receive new marina and updates

Ohio announced a number of notable capital improvement projects at [Alum Creek State Park](http://www.ohiodnr.gov).

Upcoming capital improvements will include: Providing boaters with a redesigned marina with new docks and a new system with room for larger boats, adding more full hookup campsites, updating playground equipment at the beach, renovating the beach house and restrooms, heating the flush restrooms during the winter, installing new picnic tables and grills throughout the park, improving the dog park by adding a group shelter, benches and drinking fountains for dogs, building a new restroom at Howard boat ramp, installing new ADA paddling docks at the Howard boat ramp to improve ADA accessibility for kayakers and canoers, building a new restroom and shelter house near the New Galena boat ramp, sprucing up the Cheshire boat ramp's ADA fishing deck and adding a shelter house.

The Hollenback boat ramp opened earlier this month, and it features a new ramp, flush toilets and improved parking. Ohio State Parks received an unprecedented \$88.5 million for capital improvements to strengthen the infrastructure and modernize facilities in the most recent capital budget. Initial estimates for these capital improvements at Alum Creek State Park are more than \$4 million. To assist in identifying key projects, visit parks.ohiodnr.gov/improvements. Ohio is one of only seven states in the nation where admission to state parks is free. ✧

MN register deer by phone or Internet

Hunters can register deer they harvest by making a telephone call, using the Internet, or bringing deer to a big-game registration station, according to the Minnesota DNR. Registration instructions for all methods at: www.mndnr.gov/gameregistrationhelp. ✧

Bass Pro Shops to open store on Long Island

Bass Pro Shops plans to open a new store in Uniondale, New York. The Bass Pro Shops retail attraction will be the lead tenant of Blumenfeld Development Group and Forest City Ratner's newly designed and renovated Nassau Coliseum and surrounding development project in Uniondale, New York. The site is adjacent to the Roosevelt Field mall and retail node. An opening date for the new 80,000-120,000 square-foot Bass Pro Shops store will be announced at a later date. ✧

Bass Pro Shops opens Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Bass Pro shops opened another store on November 19 at 300 Taylor Rd, #A1, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The new 81,250 square-foot Bass Pro Shops Outpost is the anchor for The Outlet Collection at Niagara—a 480,000-square-foot shopping center under construction, at the intersection of Queen Elizabeth Way and Homer Road. ✧

Remaining NY deer management permits available for hunters

New York announced that remaining Deer Management Permits (DMPs) in several Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) are now available to hunters. Leftover DMPs **will not** be available by phone, by mail or via the internet.

Deer Management Permits, which allow hunters to harvest antlerless deer, are issued for specific WMUs to control deer populations. In some WMUs, all applicants received permits during the initial application process, but the DMP target still has not been reached. www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html.

✧

Invasive Species Plan up for public comment

The New York DEC released its Draft Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) strategy to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS in New York State for public comment. Comments will be accepted through December 15.

The Plan can be viewed at: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99053.html. Comments will be accepted through December 15. Email them to fwfish@dec.ny.gov with "AIS Mgmt Plan" in the subject line. ✧

Snowshoe-building workshops at Sleepy Hollow State Park, MI

[Sleepy Hollow State Park](#) (Clinton County) will offer several two-day snowshoe-building classes this winter, and registration is available now. Participants will learn to weave a pair of traditional wooden snowshoes similar to those made by Native Americans for generations. Below is the class schedule:

Friday, Dec. 5: 5-9 p.m. (Part 1)
Saturday, Dec. 6: 9-1 p.m. (Part 2)
Friday, Jan. 9: 5-9 p.m. (Part 1)
Saturday, Jan. 10: 9-1p.m. (Part 2)
Friday, Jan. 23: 5-9 p.m. (Part 1)
Saturday, Jan. 24: 9-1 p.m. (Part 2)
Friday, Feb. 13: 5-9 p.m. (Part 1)
Saturday, Feb. 14: 9-1 p.m. (Part 2)

The cost is \$170 and includes the pre-formed wooden frames, lacing, high-quality bindings and personal instruction. Sealing is required before the snowshoes can be used. Sealing will not be included in the cost of the class, but the instructor will demonstrate the sealing process. Classes are recommended for ages 16 and older.

All classes are held at Sleepy Hollow State Park's headquarters, located at 7835 E. Price Road in Laingsburg. Class size is limited to a maximum of eight participants, and early registration is required to ensure a spot in the class. To register, call 517-651-6217 or email Denise Smith at smithd8@michigan.gov. ✧

Hussar sworn in as District 5 Representative

HARRISBURG – Union County sportsman Eric Hussar has been sworn in as the District 5 Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), representing Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union counties.

An avid fly fisherman who fishes more than 80 days a year, Commissioner Hussar is owner and president of Mid-Penn Energy, a Lewisburg-based heating and cooling company. He also serves as the Vice Chairman of the Central PA Workforce Development Corp. and is a former board member of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement of Central PA. ✧

Snowshoe-making workshop Dec. 6

The Michigan Iron Industry Museum will offer participants in its [snowshoe-making workshop](#) Saturday, Dec. 6, the chance to lace their own pair of traditional snowshoes to give as a gift or to enjoy for personal use. The all-day workshop (9 - 5 p.m.) will give participants the opportunity to choose from two snowshoe styles:

- Green Mountain Bearpaw, which is 36" long by 10" wide, with no tail (and recommended for those with a weight under 200 pounds).
- Ojibwa, which is 54" long by 11" wide.

Space for this workshop is limited and reservations are required. It is not recommended for children under 13. The workshop fee of \$175 per person includes all materials and a \$25 nonrefundable reservation fee. The registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 21; the [registration form](#) can be found online at www.michigan.gov/ironindustrymuseum. For more info: Troy Henderson at 906-475-7857 or hendersont7@michigan.gov. ✧

MI grants as part of new invasive species initiative

A [handbook](#) has been released outlining the scope and guidelines for the [new Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program](#), made possible through funding in Gov. Rick Snyder's fiscal year 2015 budget. The program will devote \$3.6 million toward projects to detect, manage and eradicate invasive species.

Applications must be submitted by December 5, 2014, and those applicants approved for funding will be announced February 15, 2015.

Collaborative projects will receive higher scoring than those for individual agencies. The minimum grant amount is \$25,000 and applicants must commit to provide at least 10 percent of the total project cost in the form of a local match. Applicants with more than a 10-percent match will receive greater scoring consideration. www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies. ✧

Minnesota's snow-trails open Dec. 1

Minnesota's snowmobile trails open December 1; however, several conditions must first be met:

Ground must be frozen allowing for crossings in wet areas; trails must have adequate snow cover – about 12”– to allow for trail packing and grooming; landowner permits that allow trails on private land must be in place and trails must be cleared of dead fall, signs need to be in place and gates need to be opened.

The majority of the state's 22,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails exist on private property with written permission from the landowner. The permission allows snowmobile use only from December 1 - March 31.

The DNR reminds riders to verify their snowmobile registration is current. For more info: www.dnr.state.mn.us/snowmobiling/index.html or by contacting the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 651-296-6157, 888-646-6367. ✧

MI state-owned property available at auction through Dec. 2

The DNR is offering 11 state-owned properties in seven counties for sale by sealed-bid auction at www.michigan.gov/landforsale. The auction runs now through Dec. 2, 2014. This auction includes properties that were listed on the DNR calendar for approval in 2014.

Properties range in size from about 1 acre to 80 acres and are located in Alpena, Cheboygan, Clare, Isabella, Midland, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties. Sealed bids must be postmarked no later than December 2, 2014, and will be opened December 15, 2014.

Details about each property (including the minimum bid amount, photos, map, property descriptions and conditions of sale) are available online. Instructions for submitting a bid are given on the printable bid form. A list of the properties with general locations can be found at www.michigan.gov/landforsale.

Printed property information and bid forms may be requested from the DNR Real Estate Services Section, P.O. Box 30448, Lansing, MI 48909-7948 or by calling 517-284-5962. View unsold surplus land from previous auctions by clicking [“Surplus Land to BUY NOW!”](#) ✧

DNR to hold Michigan bear symposium Dec. 6 in Roscommon

Michigan DNR will host a Michigan Bear Symposium Saturday, Dec. 6, in Roscommon. This one-day, inaugural event will be held at the MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, 10-2 p.m. The symposium is open to everyone.

Cost is \$15 with lunch included. To register, visit the Michigan E-Store (www.michigan.gov/estore) and click the [DNR Wildlife Events](#) tab or visit www.michigan.gov/bear. For more information, contact the DNR Wildlife Division at 517-284-9453. ✧

DNR reminds hunters to apply for Pure Michigan Hunt

With archery deer season under way and firearm season right around the corner, the DNR reminds hunters, when buying their deer licenses, to take a moment to purchase their Pure Michigan Hunt applications.

The Pure Michigan Hunt began in 2009, and since then 15 lucky Michigan residents have won the hunt of a lifetime. Three winners are randomly drawn each year to win a package of hunting licenses and over \$4,000 in prizes. Winners receive an elk*, bear, spring and fall turkey, and antlerless deer license as well as first pick at a hunting spot on opening morning at any managed waterfowl area. (*Only Michigan residents are eligible for the PMH elk license.)

The prize package for the Pure Michigan Hunt, donated by Michigan businesses and organizations, is a bit different each year due to more sponsorships and changing donations. Past years' winners have taken home shotguns, rifles, crossbows, guided hunts, pop-up blinds and much more.

From March 1 to December 31 every year, applicants may apply as many times as they would like for \$5 (per application). Each entry puts the applicant's name in the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing, in which three winners are selected and announced in January. The 2014 lottery had a total of 38,080 applications. Pure Michigan Hunt applications may be purchased at all [license agent locations](#) or on the DNR's [E-license website](#). Visit www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt to learn more, to apply and to view the entire prize package. ✧



Let's keep our veterans and warriors in our prayers, wherever they may be.

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Study shows smallmouth bass's weight increases with growth of gobies

Research demonstrated the ecological trade-offs going on with invasion of round goby; the positive side is that the fish, particularly smallmouth bass, seem to be in better condition which can lead to faster growing, healthier fish.

Immediate salmon outlook steady despite fewer eggs collected

Natural resources officials are reporting record-low numbers of salmon eggs gathered at state collection sites in Michigan this year, evidence that could have implications for future fishing seasons.

Ohio clamping down on Lake Erie fishing nets

U.S. and Canadian fisheries experts say it's possible the carp will have little impact on Lake Erie perch and walleye populations if they get into the lake and become established. In fact, the study says that the presence of Asian carp could boost walleye and perch

Salmon Egg Take Dismal

Fall salmon egg-take efforts have drawn to a close in Michigan, and state officials are reporting another successful year. But coho and Chinook salmon runs were far smaller than average on two key waters, the Platte and Little Manistee rivers, where most of the eggs are

Massive Lake Huron Wind Development Planned for Key Migratory Bird Corridor

American Bird Conservancy has raised serious concerns about a plan by Heritage Sustainable Energy, DTE Energy, Exelon Corp, and NextEra Energy to construct additional commercial wind turbines in Huron County, Michigan, which could eventually result in up to

Bloody red shrimp found in Cayuga Lake

Little is known about bloody red shrimp, a new non-native species found this fall in Cayuga Lake, N.Y., but one thing is sure, it isn't edible.

Student discovers Atlantic Salmon are reproducing in Great Lakes

A Lake Superior State University graduate has published findings in the Journal of Great Lakes Research that answer the question many anglers have been asking for years: Are Atlantic salmon reproducing in the Great Lakes?

Ontario revives efforts to combat invasive species like dangerous Asian carp

Ontario is targeting the Asian carp and ash borer beetle by reintroducing its Invasive Species Act first proposed last February but killed off by the spring election.

Crews constructing Milwaukee River reef for spawning lake fish

The reef is being constructed now for the future needs of sturgeon and other rock-spawning fish, such as walleye and redhorse.

Meeting explores efforts to tackle Lake Michigan Yellow Perch Decline

Three tanks of live perch greeted attendees. One tank held 10-day-old larvae, nearly transparent and ½" long. Another had 3-month-old fingerlings, about four inches in length. The third had 2-year-old "dandies," many 12" long and the dream of any angler or diner.

Ohio biologists encouraged by 2014 Lake Erie hatch results survey

Results from the 2014 Ohio Division of Wildlife bottom trawl survey on Lake Erie showed an average walleye hatch and a good perch hatch

Officials: still no Asian carp in Great Lakes

Testing by Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, confirmed that there is no evidence of an Asian (or silver) carp population in Lake Michigan or the nearby waters of the Kalamazoo — or any of the Great Lakes.

Asian carp DNA found in Fox River

Wisconsin natural resources officials say they've identified a genetic sample indicating invasive Asian carp may have found their way into the Fox River in the Green Bay, Wis., area.

PA opens path to lawsuits over local gun ordinances that supersede state law

The Pennsylvania legislature approved a bill Monday that provides a pathway for organizations like the NRA to sue cities in the Keystone State for passing any local ordinances that go beyond state law in regulating the possession and use of firearms.

End