

A publication for sportsmen dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation, and improvement of salmon and trout fishing in the Great Lakes.



# The Tightline

March 2023

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHERMEN FOUNDATION

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

ISSUE 538

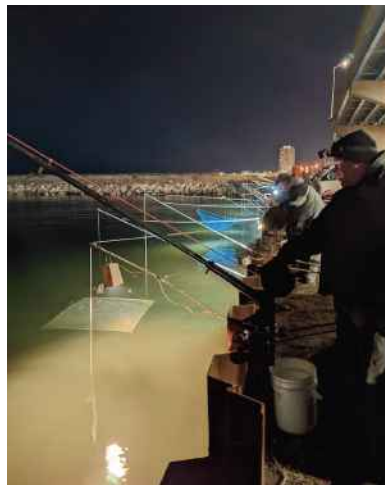
## Milwaukee Smelt Fishing Updates

Once again, this year, the GLSF were able to advocate for the smelt fishermen to secure access under the Hoan bridge for fishing activities. Marina Dimitrijevic, the District 14 Alderwoman, was instrumental in working with the Port of Milwaukee to allow the overnight fishing activities. Unfortunately, due to cleanup work starting later this year, this is the last year fishing will be permitted there for the foreseeable future. Paul Smith from the Journal Sentinel wrote up a great article on March 5th, which you should give a read as it has a lot of great information on the work that will be done.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/outdoors/2023/03/05/prime-milwaukee-harbor-fishing-site-to-be-off-limits-for-construction/69962440007/>

Additionally, here is the official announcement from the Port of Milwaukee:

<https://portmilwaukee.com/Port-Mke/About-Port-Milwaukee/News/Port-Milwaukee-Temporarily-Expands-Public-Access-Hours-for-Residents-to-Enjoy-Smelting-Tradition>



## Milwaukee Net Pens Almost Complete and the Fish are Coming Soon!

This month we officially received the permit approved for the net pens to be deployed at the Milwaukee Rowing Club. The GLSF crew has completed the modifications to the pontoons and the nets have been ordered from Duluth Netting. All of this is coming together as a nail-biter of a race to get the pens deployed not only for the Chinooks, but potentially even for Browns this year.

30 Foot Pontoon, net will hang from inside



22 Foot Pontoon, net will hang from outside



*All Meetings are the second Tuesday of the Month.*

**New Berlin Ale House**

16000 W. Cleveland Ave,  
New Berlin

**Next Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm**

at New Berlin Ale House  
**GLSF Monthly Meeting,**

**Guest Speaker –**

**Laura Schmidt, Fisheries  
Biologist – Southern Lake  
Michigan Fisheries Team.**

All followed by one of  
Dave Bowe's raffles!

**Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm  
Annual Swap Meet to  
be followed by member  
meeting at 7:00 PM.**

**Club Events**

Page 3

**Membership Dues**

Page 6

More News and Updates at  
[www.GLSFCLUB.com](http://www.GLSFCLUB.com)

**Upcoming Meetings**

April 11<sup>th</sup> ☔

May 9<sup>th</sup> 🌻

September 12<sup>th</sup> ☀️

October 10<sup>th</sup> 🍁



GLSF — MILWAUKEE

## Notes from your President



*Brian Haydin*

### February Greetings GLSF Club Members and Associates,

Spring is just around the corner and with the mild winter I know that some of you have been out fishing already. It has been surreal to see boats in the harbor and ice fisherman in the lagoon as I drive over the Hoan bridge in the morning. With the oncoming spring, it's also time for the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress' Spring Hearing. This year, there is a change to the way the hearings will be conducted, with an in-person event for elections, followed by an online resolution vote.

The in-person event will consist of the voting for your local delegates and I am making a plea for your help this year. Wildlife advocates have been organizing in sizeable numbers, especially in the urban areas of Milwaukee, Waukesha and Dane counties. It is critical that our club shows up to vote for delegates that have our interests at heart. Both Milwaukee and Waukesha hearings will be held on April 3rd and the official announcements will be on the WCC page:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>

Please mark your calendar and plan on attending. Reminder that you must be a resident of your county in order to vote for delegates.

In other news, it's been a busy month as we have been solidifying the Brew City location, getting the net pens wrapped up, working to ensure the smelt fishing access in Milwaukee, and staying on top of the commercial fishermen attempts to harvest lake trout. The Fish-In schedule is set for this year and we are just about ready to start the fishing contests for the year. This month we have the Journal Sentinel Sports Show (March 9th-12th) and the 3rd Annual GLSF Free Fishing Clinic (March 25th).

Hopefully you are all aware of the upcoming work at McKinley Marina. As we head into April, keep your eyes open for updates on the ongoing fishing contest. We may need to make some adjustments on where and how you weigh your fish given a lack of availability for a certified scale (R&R Fishin' Hole will be unable to have a scale available). Details will be posted on the website and on Facebook.

Hopefully I'll see you on the water sometime soon!

Cheers and Tight Lines!

See you Tuesday, March 14th at 7pm  
– New Berlin Ale House for our GLSF Meeting



Established  
1972

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please contact any of the directors regarding any information or issues of the coordinating activities.

### President

**Brian Haydin**

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### Vice-President

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**Joelle Curro**

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All articles published are ideas and thoughts of the writer and don't necessarily reflect the ideas or beliefs of the GLSF Club or Foundation.





New "Hearings Format" info can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing> and that Delegate Elections will be held April 3-6, 2023, at WCC/ DNR Open Houses from 6pm to 8pm in all 72 Counties. The exact dates and locations are still being decided and will be posted to the above website as soon as they are available. It is imperative that all sports minded folks show up in-person at the County Open House where they reside to help elect/reelect active WCC delegates!. However, if there is something you'd like address in the form of a proposed resolution, now is the time to be discussing it with your elected Conservation Congress representative. Feel free to reach out to Bob for Waukesha County or Brian Haydin for Milwaukee County if you have any ideas.

**Bob Wincek is one of the Waukesha County Conservation Congress Representatives and is Vice-Chair of the Great Lakes Advisory Committee.**  
**Brian Haydin is one of the Milwaukee County Conservation Congress Representatives.**  
**Both are the Chairpersons for their County and a member of the Bear Committee.**

How many members are aware that there is a Youth component to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress called the Youth Conservation Congress? Their Charter is the same as the WCC and their members are mentored by members of the WCC. To learn more, click the link below and read their newsletter. You might be amazed!

[https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/About/WCC/YCC/2023\\_February\\_Newsletter.pdf](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/About/WCC/YCC/2023_February_Newsletter.pdf)



Gabby, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. participated in late season goose hunting.



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. tried his skill at spear fishing in Minnesota. He was successful, spearing his first northern!



## CALENDAR CORNER

[www.glsfclub.com](http://www.glsfclub.com)

Membership Meetings are normally held at the  
**New Berlin Ale House**  
 – And Open to the Public  
 16000 W. Cleveland Avenue,  
 New Berlin at 7pm

### March 2023

- 7 - GLSF Board Meeting** – New Berlin Ale House, 6pm
- 9-12 - MKE Journal Sport Show** – We need volunteers to work. *See Dave Bowe to sign up!* (Set-up on March 8)
- 14 - GLSF Membership Meeting** – New Berlin Ale House, 7pm, Program: Laura Schmidt, Fisheries Biologist  
 – Southern Lake Michigan Fisheries Team
- 25 - 3rd Annual FREE GLSF Sponsored Salmon School**  
 – New Berlin Ale House, 9am to 3:30pm  
 Featured speakers are Dan Keating and Dan Small

### April 2023

- 1 - Start of GLSF Ongoing Fishing Contest and Federation Meeting** – 8:30 am in Sheboygan (contact Bob for details)
- 4 - GLSF Board Meeting** – New Berlin Ale House, 6pm
- 11 - GLSF SWAP Meet** – 4pm to 7pm (Ale House North Hall) Followed by Monthly meeting at 7pm – Program – TBD
- 18 - Kid's Spring Fishing Clinic** – Greenfield Park, 8am – 4pm

### May 2023

- 2 - GLSF Board Meeting** – New Berlin Ale House, 6pm
- 9 - GLSF Membership Meeting** – New Berlin Ale House, 7pm, –Program – Bob Kracak, Master Boat Builder and Net Pen Engineer
- 20 - GLSF First Fish In**
- 21 -Kid's Fishing Clinic** –at Daniel Boone Conservation League – 8 am to noon

For updated information please visit our club website at [www.glsfclub.com](http://www.glsfclub.com)  
 Group Login: glsfclub-member, password: fishing53151

## Fishing Clinic Coming up!

Reminder, a kid's fishing clinic will be held Saturday, April 15th , 2023 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Greenfield Park (2028 S 124th St.). Volunteers are still needed and appreciated. Set up starts at 8:00 and clean up should go pretty quick.

Please let Brandon Witt (262-370-4295) or Ryan Flohr (414-349-2016) know if you are able to help.

Thank you!



## GLSF 2022 Fish-In Winners

Prize	Details	Captain	Boat
\$100.00	1st Place Overall	Brandon Witt	Finatic
\$75.00	2nd Place Overall	Andy Korducki	Rays The Limit
\$50.00	3rd Place Overall	Roger Droukas	No Bad Days
\$25.00	4th Place Overall	Dave Bowe	Kid-N-Me
\$25.00	5th Place Overall	Jacob Reinert	Been There Wrecked That
\$25.00	6th Place Overall	Sal Mazza Jr	Fishskilly Irresponsibly
\$25.00	7th Place Overall	Kevin Kaari	Finn Lander
\$25.00	8th Place Overall	Jerry Kozar	My Boy
\$25.00	9th Place Overall	Peter Brekke	Norwegian Sea E O
\$25.00	10th Place Overall (tie)	Oscar	Oscars Boat
\$25.00	10th Place Overall (tie)	Dan Luling	Typical Situation

## GLSF 2023 Fish-In Dates

Mark Your Calendars!

5/20 (Saturday)  
6/25  
7/23  
8/20

### May Fish-in

1st Place 18.1 lb Lake Trout Ethan Flohr

### June Fish-in

1st Place 8.75 lb Lake Trout Ethan Flohr

2nd Place 6.8 lb Coho Salmon Quintin Witt

3rd Place 5.4 lb Coho Salmon Kaylee Witt

### July Fish-in

1st Place 6.8 lb Coho Salmon Kaylee Witt

2nd Place 5.76 lb Chinook Salmon Ethan Flohr

3rd Place 1.6 lb Chinook Salmon Quintin Witt

### August Fish-in

1st Place 12.8 lb Brown Trout Ethan Flohr

2nd Place 8.34 Brown Trout Quintin Witt

3rd Place 5.3 lb Brown Trout Kamm Reyna

### Youth Fish-in Overall

1st Place 18.1 lb Lake Trout Ethan Flohr

2nd Place 8.34 Brown Trout Quintin Witt

3rd Place 6.8 lb Coho Salmon Kaylee Witt





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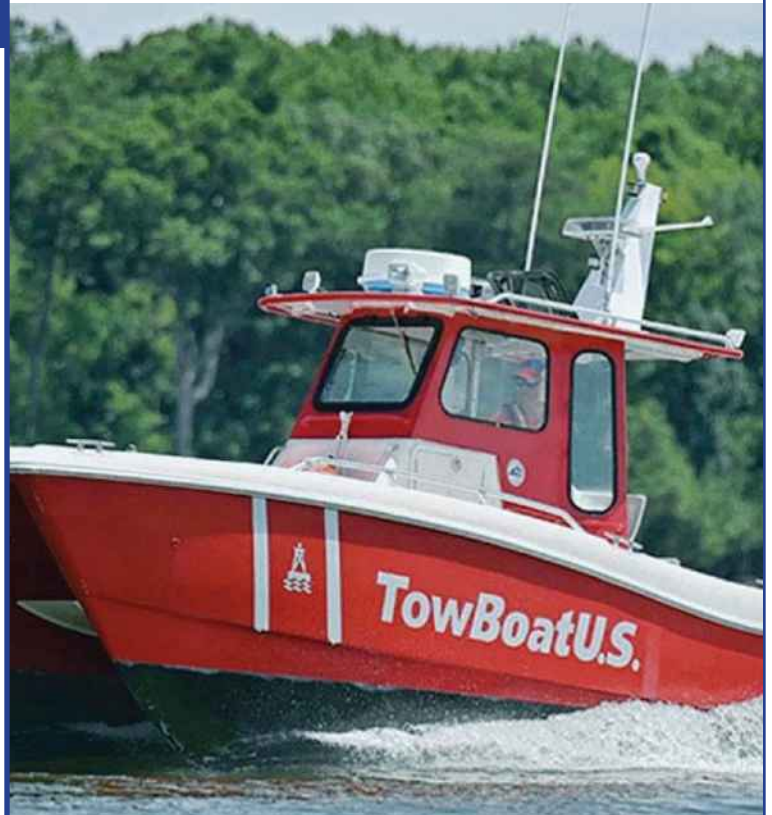
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Visit [BoatUS.com/Membership](#) to learn about all benefits and services offered to BoatU.S. Members.

MB411 8/17

**Tow Boat USA is now located in Milwaukee!**

<https://www.boatus.com/products-and-services/boat-towing>



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**[www.cedarlakesales.com](http://www.cedarlakesales.com)**

## Membership and 2023 Membership Dues

As of this newsletter, we are at 107 Regular members and 46 Senior Members on our roster. In February we had 153 members and this month, we have 154 members. We do need to continue to grow our membership! We have lost many members in the last 2 years who have not renewed their dues. Unless they notify me, I keep them on the mailing list in hopes they will become motivated to renew their dues. Please take the time to renew when you get the reminder messages. Over the next few months, many of you will be receiving these notices. It helps the club and helps support the Lake Michigan Fishery as well. If you have questions, please call Bob at 414-217-9752 or send him an e-mail at [bob@glsfclub.com](mailto:bob@glsfclub.com). You, the membership of this organization, are the life and blood that keep it alive! Please renew when notified. If there is something you would like addressed or changed, please see any board member, or better yet, consider volunteering for a future Board position.

To renew, you also have several options. You can continue to use the form on the back of the Tightline and send in, or hand in your check or cash at our meetings, pay with a credit card at our meetings, or renew on-line by logging in with your personal login and select the new membership option for either a Regular or Senior Membership. The website already knows it is you when you are logged in, so all you will need to do is confirm your membership data and input your credit card payment on our secure server connection.

I get notification of all transactions and verify that they are recorded correctly in the membership application to guarantee no errors are committed. When you do your renewal in this manner, 12 months gets automatically added to whatever date your membership was set to expire. This allows us to treat everyone the same. If you joined or renewed in October 2021, you will not see your reminders until September 2022. If you get a reminder that seems too soon to you, please contact Bob ([bob@glsfclub.com](mailto:bob@glsfclub.com)) and let him know so he can investigate. There are a few known bugs in our membership program which we hope will be resolved soon. There have been some inconsistencies with our membership module on our website, so if you believe our data is incorrect, contact me, I can give you your exact expiration date. I do keep a manual spreadsheet to track all memberships, because I too, do not trust our membership module. Just send me an e-mail at [bob@glsfclub.com](mailto:bob@glsfclub.com) or text message at 414-217-9752 and I will fix the error.

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## Now is not the time to drop your GLSF Membership!

Our environment lives on and in some cases needs our support. The good news for us is that our DNR is working, and they can now have face-to-face interactions. This is good news, after almost 2 years of quarantine.

There was an NRB Meeting on August 9-10. The Commercial Fishing Board was on the agenda to make a presentation and I heard it was a good one. They are asking for a commercial quota of the Lake Michigan Lake Trout. According to the agenda, there was no one at the meeting or online with any counter views.

This is a slippery slope as currently Lake Trout are listed as a Wisconsin Game Fish and according to the 2022 Wisconsin Fishing Regulations, Game Fish can only be harvested in Wisconsin by hook and line. How it's allowed on Lake Superior, I do not know, but there is a Lake Trout commercial harvest limit for Lake Superior, as well as a Tribal Harvest Limit. There are some Sport Fishermen who do not like or appreciate Lake Trout and they have been advocating that Commercial Fishing for Lake Trout should be allowed. If it is legally allowed, what happens when they start asking for Coho or Chinook Salmon, Rainbow Trout or Brown Trout? These are species stocked using our Great Lakes Sport Fishing Stamp funds. Without Sport Fishermen support, this is certainly a possibility.

At a recent virtual Wisconsin Conservation Great Lakes Advisory Committee Meeting this past Saturday, August 27th, we learned that the recent Whitefish rules and limits for Lower Green Bay were made permanent. Electronic reporting for guides as well as Commercial Harvest has been implemented. This will help the DNR monitor Whitefish harvest throughout the year. Additionally, Trap Net locations now must be reported to the DNR so that people can be made aware of potential navigation issues.

Your membership helps us support and work with the DNR to ensure that stocking of Lake Michigan Salmon and Trout will continue at levels high enough to maintain the current levels of harvest and the current size of the healthy fish being harvested. Please consider renewing and bringing along a friend as a new member, too.



3<sup>rd</sup> Ever Milwaukee Great Lakes Sport Fishermen "Thank You" Salmon School

**Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**9am to 4:00pm**

**New Berlin Ale House**

16000 W. Cleveland Ave, New Berlin, WI 53151

Seminars conducted by AM – Dan Keating, PM – Dan Small

**\*\* BUCKET RAFFLES \*\***

**We will have Fishing gear and Limited  
Services available on-site!**

**Advance Registration REQUIRED-**

**Click Here: [https://www.glsfclub.com/GLSF Seminars](https://www.glsfclub.com/GLSF_Seminars)**

**Admission Fee: FREE \* Open to the Public**

**\*(Free Admission ONLY to bidders on GLSF Raffles and all GLSF Members in  
"good standing" Everyone else will be charged \$50 for a GLSF Membership!)**

**Doors Open at 8am**

**Lunch available for purchase with advance registration –  
\$25.00 for a Buffet Deli-Plate Lunch, with a cookie**

**Free Coffee and rolls will be available at 8:00**

**There will be a cash bar in the room throughout the day**

For more information see

[www.glsfclub.com](http://www.glsfclub.com) or call Ron @ 262-337-2225, or Bob @414-217-9752

See the activities page on website

See us on Facebook at

Milwaukee Great Lakes Sport Fisherman –  
*Seminar Event*

**Registration MUST be received by March 18th so  
a lunch count can be given to the Ale House.**





## Great Lakes Basin Report

**Fish and Wildlife spring hearings happening virtually [April 10-13](#)**

**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and DNR are inviting the public to get involved in April during the annual spring hearing public input opportunity.

The WCC/DNR Spring Hearings focus on natural resource-related questions and proposed rule changes. They will again be held in a virtual format, as they have been since 2020. This year's online questionnaire will be open from April 10 at noon through April 13 at noon via the [Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing webpage](#).

New this year will be open houses in each county to allow the public to ask questions and learn about resource management in their neck of the woods. Open houses will be held from [April 3 through April 6](#). More details will be made available on the [DNR's Events Calendar](#) and [Spring Hearing webpage](#) as soon as details are finalized.

DNR staff and WCC delegates will be on hand at these open houses to discuss local issues of importance, answer questions from the public and open a dialogue between the public, the DNR and the WCC about areas of interest and concern.

In addition, the WCC will hold elections for their delegates at each of these open houses. Two of the five WCC seats will be up for election in each county.

The [Wisconsin Conservation Congress](#) is the only statutory body in the state where the public elects delegates to advise the Natural Resources Board and the DNR on responsibly managing Wisconsin's natural resources for present and future generations. The Congress accomplishes this through open, impartial, broad-ranged actions.

Learn more about the WCC and how to become involved in resource management decisions on the [Wisconsin Conservation webpage](#).

**DETAILS - OPEN HOUSES**

**WHEN:** April 3-6, 2023

**WHERE:** Location and time details for each county to be posted soon to the [DNR's Events Calendar](#) and [Spring Hearing webpage](#).

**DETAILS - SPRING HEARINGS**

**WHAT:** Open public feedback period for Wisconsin DNR/Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearings

**WHEN:** Noon April 10 - noon April 13

**WHERE:** Complete the online questionnaire on the [Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing webpage](#)

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update for Meeting Agendas and Minutes. The Migratory Committee meets [Feb 27, Agenda](#). Spring District Meetings begin March 1, [Schedule](#). More information is available here: [now available](#). ✧

**Protect our Streams from Aquatic Invasive Species**

**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin DNR reminds anglers out for the early inland trout season to help protect our streams from aquatic invasive species. Some fishing streams may contain invasive species, and if care is not taken, those species can accidentally be transferred to another.

New Zealand mudsnails have one of the highest potentials of spreading from one water body to another. Only 4-6 millimeters in length, they can easily get stuck in the mud and picked up on boots, waders and gear. Felt-soled boots are particularly susceptible to these snails as they can lodge into and under the felt. The snails can lie in the mud along the shore, so they can be spread without ever stepping foot into the water.

Some seeds and fragments of invasive plants can survive throughout winter under the ice. Thoroughly cleaning fishing gear before leaving a fishing site can help stop the chance of spreading invasive species.

Cold Wisconsin winters usually help combat the spread of invasives. The DNR encourages anglers to leave fishing gear where it can freeze for 8 hours or more as this will kill most species, including New Zealand mudsnails. Other methods to kill aquatic invasive species hiding in fishing gear are to steam clean the gear or to soak it in either 140° water or 2% Virkon solution (5.4 tablespoons per gallon) for 20 minutes. Many people aware of the risks will also switch to a new set of gear for a second adventure,

especially if they have been fishing in a stream known to have mudsnails.

A few minutes of preventative action can help preserve and protect waterways for generations to come. Before leaving a fishing site, anglers should:

- **Inspect** fishing equipment for attached aquatic plants, animals or mud.
- **Remove** all attached plants or animals.
- **Drain** all water from buckets and containers.
- **Never move** live fish away from a waterbody (fish out of water = dead).

To learn more about invasive species and their impacts on Wisconsin's waters, visit the DNR's [Aquatic Invasive Species webpage](#) ✧





**March Trivia – St. Patrick's Day Fun Facts** Answers on page 14 (No Peeking!)

1. Was St. Patrick Irish?
2. What was St. Patrick's real name?
3. Why celebrate on March 17th?
4. Why are Shamrocks associated with St. Patrick's Day?
5. Why the color green?
6. Why is drinking associated with St. Patrick's Day?
7. What food is associated with St. Patrick's Day?
8. Where and when was the first St. Patrick's Day celebration?
9. Is the myth of St. Patrick driving snakes out of Ireland, true or false/
10. When was Lucky Charms created?

Caution: When used as directed this product will light the water on fire. When the actual "Fire drill" occurs you should grab the nearest bouncing rod and yell FISH ON!



[www.FireFliesWI.com](http://www.FireFliesWI.com)

## Milwaukee Boat Launching Facilities Updates

According to Eric Lesch, McKinley Marina Manager, There have been NO construction meetings, contract contacts or news from the County Parks Board. That means they are remaining open until some type of notice is given. This is the same information posted on the GLSF Website.

If anyone living in Milwaukee County has an Alderman or a County Supervisor, or a County Parks Supervisor that they know, perhaps we could start a dialogue to see when the Boat Launches might get attention.

With no current connection or dialogue, we hope and pray than Marina construction does not get scheduled for July 2023, interrupting the County Air Show and our 23rd Annual GLSF Brew City Salmon Tournament scheduled for July 28-28, 2023, sponsored by Pratt Gears!



WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

## WINNEBAGO SYSTEM STURGEON SPEARING

### THE 2023 SPEARING SEASON

– The spearing season begins on the second Saturday in February and lasts for 16 days or until any of the sex-specific harvest caps for that fishery have been reached. The 2023 sturgeon spearing season opened on Feb. 11 at 7 a.m.

#### Sturgeon Spearing

#### Daily Sturgeon Tally Sheet

2/25/2023

SATURDAY

DAY 15

Station Number	Station	Juvenile Females (< 55 in.)	Adult Females (≥ 55 in.)	Males	Daily Total	Previous Total	Season Total	100 lb. Today	100 lb. Previous	100 lb. Season
1	North Winnebago	0	0	0	0	122	122	0	2	2
5	Stockbridge	0	3	1	4	180	184	0	7	7
6	Quinney	CLOSED			0	64	64	0	3	3
8	Pipe	3	8	7	18	360	378	2	9	11
10	Southwest Winnebago	0	4	3	7	196	203	0	7	7
11	Downtown Oshkosh	0	0	0	0	59	59	0	5	5
12	Neenah	CLOSED			0	57	57	0	1	1
13	Winneconne	CLOSED			0	133	133	0	4	4
16	Indian Point	CLOSED			0	107	107	0	3	3
17	Poygan	CLOSED			0	45	45	0	2	2

<b>Winnebago</b>	Daily Total:	3	15	11	29			2		
	Previous Total ('BAGO)	115	481	442		1038			34	
	Season Total:	118	496	453			1067			36
	Harvest Cap:	280	714	985						
No. Remaining to 90% Trigger		134	147	434						

<b>Upriver Lakes</b>	Daily Total:	0	0	0	0			0		
	Previous Total (URL)	33	74	178		285			9	
	Season Total:	33	74	178			285			9
	Harvest Cap:	70	79	246						
No. Remaining to 90% Trigger		30	-3	43						

<b>Winnebago + Upriver Lakes</b>	Daily Total:	3	15	11	29			2		
	Previous Total:	148	555	620		1323			43	
	Season Total:	151	570	631			1352			45
	Harvest Cap:	350	793	1231						
No. Remaining to 90% Trigger		164	144	477						



# DECORE

## Tool & Mfg. Inc.



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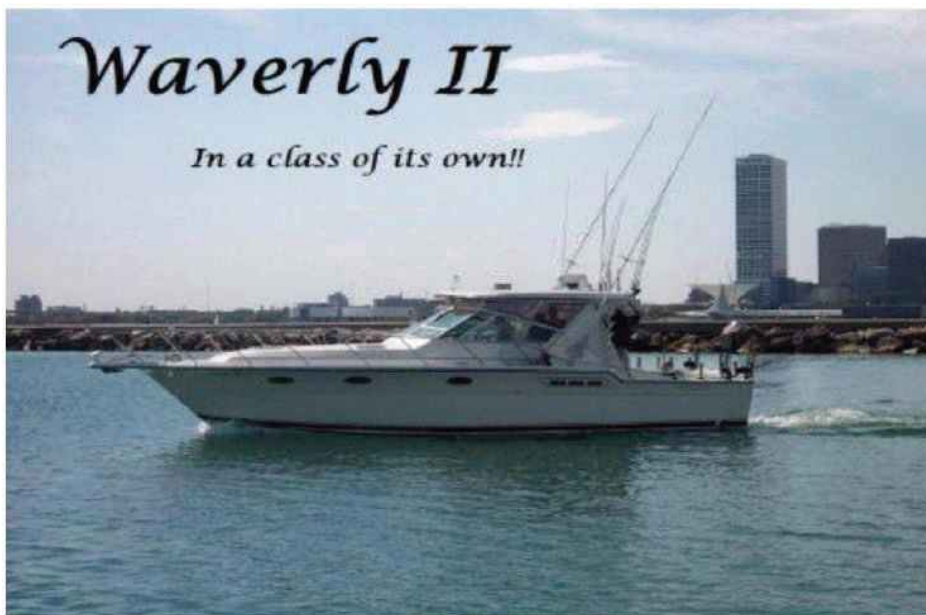


## A Reminder from our Great Lake Fisheries Manager of Southern Lake Michigan – Cheryl Masterson

For all the conscientious Fishermen wanting to help science in a big way for tracking our Lake Michigan Fish, the DNR in conjunction with Sea Grant has deployed an App Called the Great Lakes Angler Diary. The details on the Great Lakes Angler Diary and registration info can be found here –

<https://www.michiganseagrant.org/topics/fisheries-and-aquaculture/angler-citizen-science/great-lakes-angler-diary/>

Your Help is needed and appreciated as a volunteer to accurately fill out this Diary for every Lake Michigan Trip you take! It easy, fast, and free and helps the Sport Fishermen! Think about this for 2023!



**Captain Marc Sobeski**

**Phone: 414-247-1660**

**E-Mail: CaptMarc@att.net**

The Waverly II, our 36-foot CustomTiara is fully equipped with the latest Raytheon

state of the art electronics. This fully integrated system includes GPS chartplotter, HD Digital fishfinder, radar, autopilot, and more!







## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program - USFWS Midwest Region 3

February 24, 2023



Fish Lines monthly publication that highlights the recent news and work conducted by USFWS Midwest Region Fisheries personnel and their partners and friends. For questions or for more information contact the editor, email: [tim\\_smlrjstsk@fws.gov](mailto:tim_smlrjstsk@fws.gov)

## There's Always More to Our Story...

### "Big Brother...Carp Edition"

By Wes Bouska, La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

The sun peeked up over the bluffs as dawn broke across the Mississippi River valley. Nature was awakening from its winter slumber and the air was filled with the smells and sounds of spring. The end of winter is normally a time for rebirth, for celebration. But not for Steve. The sleepless nights were starting to get to him. His paranoia had reached epic heights and at every turn, he knew "they" were watching him. Somewhere, somehow, someone or something was *always* watching. It had all started about a year ago. It seemed so far away now. The abduction, the bright lights, the mysterious figures looming over him, poking and prodding. What were they doing? Had they put something foreign inside of him? At first Steve tried to warn his friends, warn them of what, he wasn't sure. Now, Steve wasn't even sure he could call them friends anymore.



"I'm telling you guys. I have a bad feeling about today. They are watching us right now, I know it! We need to be on the lookout and be careful!" Steve pleaded.

Steve's warnings fell on deaf ears. The unfortunate reality was that Steve had become a pariah, a laughingstock. He was now a cautionary tale whispered about in close circles.

"Here comes crazy Steve" they would say. "I'm surprised he isn't wearing his tinfoil hat today!" and they laughed and laughed. Maybe they were right, maybe he was crazy.

Just then a large net encircled Steve and everyone else. The laughing stopped and panic ensued. "OH NO!!! We should have listened to Steeeeeeeve!!!!". It was too late.

At the surface, a partnership of biologists from state and federal agencies were working together on a removal operation for invasive carp. Sometimes it was hard to locate these fish, especially near the edge of the invasion where densities were low. But today they knew they were in the right spot because somewhere in the murky depths was a Silver Carp that had been surgically implanted with a telemetry tag the year before. The tag, about the size of a pinky finger, emitted a sub-sonic sound every 90 seconds or so. That sound in turn, was picked up by receivers that had been placed throughout the river, telling biologists what fish was where, and when. Some receivers are even capable of sending location data to biologists in real-time via text message. The biologists had been following the fish, learning about its behaviors and favored habitats. They had followed the tagged fish to this very spot and hoped he had friends with him. As the nets were pulled in, and as the bottom of the boat filled with carp, they knew their plan had worked. The biologists were careful to separate the tagged fish from the others. This fish would get to swim again, continue to provide valuable information, and hopefully lead the removal crews to their next big haul.

The bright lights, the mysterious looming figures "Oh no, not again" thought Steve. And then it was over, just like the last time. Suddenly Steve found himself back in the water. What had happened? Was it all a dream? Steve sighed, maybe he really was going crazy, but maybe not. He still had that sneaking suspicion that something, somewhere, was watching, following his every move. Steve tried to push the thought to the back of his mind. "Get it together Steve!" he told himself. As he swam away through the water he wondered where everyone else had disappeared too. Suddenly it seemed lonely down here. Steve headed upstream, he would find some other friends soon. But maybe this time he would keep all that talk about being watched to himself.

Above: State and Federal partners work together to round up invasive carp in Pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River. Credit: Wes Bouska/USFWS

## Assisting our Refuge Friends: Surveying Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

By Jenna Haag, Cody Henderson, Levi Suchla, La Crosse FWCO

Late last summer 2022, staff from the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) sampled East Pool and the Minnesota River headwaters within Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Fish and Wildlife staff have not sampled Big Stone NWR since 2002. East Pool is a 1,286-acre impoundment of the Minnesota River. The Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates the dam that controls lake levels in East Pool. Water levels were low (around 1-2 feet) in East Pool, which made sampling difficult at times. Fish and Wildlife staff used mini fyke nets, regular fyke nets, and electrofishing to collect data on the size and species of fish within East Pool and the Minnesota River. Overall, the crew collected data on 30 fish species during the trip and had multiple species of turtles to contend with in the fyke nets, some more angry than others! The data collected from this trip will help refuge staff determine the best course of action to improve the quality of fishing on the refuge and how to improve angler access in the future.



Above: Cody Henderson and Levi Suchla with La Crosse FWCO holding two Bigmouth Buffalo that were collected via electrofishing. Credit Jenna Haag/USFWS

## Fish Lines Field Focus: Ashland FWCO

### New Effort to Evaluate Brook Trout Population Response to Re-Establishing Aquatic Connectivity

By Peter Leonard, Ashland FWCO

Beginning in the summer of 2022, staff from the Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) began a new effort to evaluate the efficacy of restoring connectivity in cold-water streams on conserving and enhancing self-sustaining populations of brook trout in the Lake Superior Basin. Our efforts, funded as a component of the Fish and Wildlife Service's contributions under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), are being carried out in cooperation with our partners from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Sustain Our Great Lakes Program, Trout Unlimited, and US Forest Service, along with the Alpena, Green Bay, and Lower Great Lakes FWCOs.



Brook trout is a priority species that has experienced population declines throughout its native historic range due in part to a loss of habitat caused by fragmentation from manmade barriers. Our objective is to restore fish passage for native brook trout populations in hopes that it will net a positive demographic response. In order to measure a population response to barrier removal, a Before After Control Impact (BACI) study design has been adopted. A section of stream below each culvert represents our control reach, while the same above represents our impact reach. Each reach is closed off from the rest of the stream using block nets. We complete a three-pass depletion survey using backpack electrofishing units and all brook trout are measured for total length and weight before being released back into the stream. Brook trout density and the number of size classes present will be compared before and after the fish passage barrier is removed.

The Ashland FWCO Brook Trout Monitoring crew battled the heat, bugs, and brush to successfully complete 14 pre-barrier removal surveys at seven barriers spanning all three states in the Lake Superior basin. Over 1,000 brook trout were caught along with several other cold-water species including sculpin, dace, and other salmonids. Overall, it was a great kickoff to this new, exciting effort and opportunity to begin to assess and monitor the effects of our habitat restoration projects on one of our priority species. Many of our barriers are set for construction in 2023 and while it will be a few years before we may see measurable results, we are excited and hopeful that the impacts of our barrier removal efforts will be positive on brook trout populations in these cold-water tributaries to Lake Superior.

Above: Ashland FWCO Biologist Peter Leonard electrofishing a small tributary on Lake Superior's North Shore with a Partner from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

## Recent ANS Announcements

### Wildlife Forever Releases 2022 National Report on Invasive Species

Wildlife Forever is proud to release the [2022 Clean Drain Dry Initiative annual accomplishment report](#). Through applied use of media and community outreach, the public awareness campaign generated a staggering 90 million impressions in 2022.

Targeted marketing and consistent messaging are key elements ensuring Clean Drain Dry communications are relevant to a broad range of stakeholders. Last year, the campaign and associated outreach efforts generated investments, discounted services, and savings of over \$912,000.00.

In addition to multi-media outreach campaigns, Wildlife Forever conducts on-the-ground, landscape-scale, efforts to slow the spread of invasive species. The [Access Enhancement Guidebook](#) is the culmination of years of evaluation, analyzing water accesses, recommending signage, and deploying infrastructure improvements that empower users to prevent the spread of invasive species. The report includes case studies at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge. [FULL PRESS RELEASE](#).



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### March St. Patrick's Trivia – (Continued from page 9)

1. No. According to St. Patrick's autobiography, he states that he was born in a town called Bannavem Taburniae.
2. His real name was thought to be Maewyn Succat and he took the name St. Patrick after becoming a priest.
3. This is the day of St. Patrick's death and his entrance into heaven. This is St. Patrick's feast day.
4. St. Patrick used the three leaves of the seamrog plant (three leaf clover grown in Ireland) to explain the Holy Trinity and convert Irish pagans to Christianity. The Shamrock was also supposedly worn to symbolize the cross
5. The original color associated with St. Patrick was blue. There is some debate over why the color green slowly became associated with St. Patrick's Day. One reason green is supposedly associated with St. Patrick's Day is because Ireland, nicknamed the Emerald Isle, is a very green and lush country. Wearing green became a tribute and symbol of Irish pride. It was also worn by Irish soldiers on March 17 in an uprising against British rule in Ireland. This was done to show unity and make a political statement.
6. St. Patrick's Day falls within Lent, the season before Easter when Catholics give up their vices as penance. The feast of St. Patrick's Day is a one day reprieve when Irish men could down some ale.
7. Cabbage and boiled bacon was a traditional dish served on this day in Ireland. When the Irish came to America, they couldn't afford bacon and bought brisket and cabbage for special meals. Thus, corned beef and cabbage became associated with St. Patrick's Day in America.
8. The first St. Patrick's day celebration was in Boston in 1737
9. False, there are no snakes in Ireland. It is said this story symbolizes St. Patrick cleansing the island of Paganism.
10. In 1963 by General Mills.

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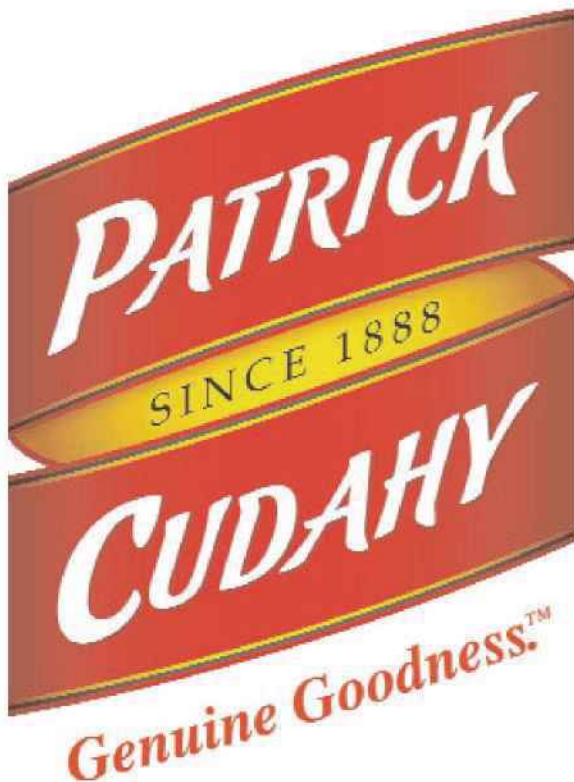
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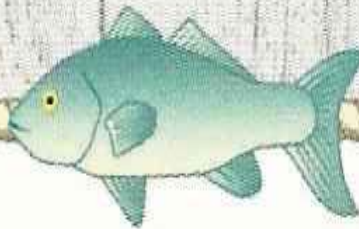


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SU IL Open	Northpoint	TBD



February 10, 2023  
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NEWS



Vessels fishing for Pacific hake, shown here, sometimes inadvertently catch salmon in the wintertime fishery. The catch locations help understand the distribution of salmon in the ocean in winter. Photo by Jeff Bash/NOAA Fisheries.

## Sharper Picture of Salmon in the Ocean Resets Threshold for Fishing Limits

New research examines how Chinook salmon from West Coast rivers travel through the ocean. It shows that endangered Southern Resident killer whales do not have access to as many salmon prey as previously thought. That does not mean the number dropped, but that it has always been lower than estimated.

Calculating the number as accurately as possible is important because it determines whether to shut down West Coast salmon fisheries. These limits are imposed at certain places and times when the number of salmon falls to a certain level, or what fisheries managers call a “threshold.” The Chinook salmon threshold is a measure of where the endangered whales have a markedly harder time finding prey.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council recently asked NOAA Fisheries to update the threshold to incorporate new science showing fewer salmon in parts of the ocean accessible to the whales. The new science illustrates the way technology is revealing the Pacific salmon life cycle and its intersection with other species in ever-greater detail.

The numerical threshold for fishing limits was first established under Amendment 21 of the Pacific Coast Fishery Management Plan. The plan drew thousands of supportive comments in 2021. The threshold was determined as the average of 7 years of low salmon abundance that included years when the Southern Residents were in varied health. It considered the prey needs of pregnant and nursing whales.

### Revision Improves Accuracy

The new science reset the threshold to 623,000 adult Chinook salmon, lower than the original 966,000 first estimated under the Fishery Management Plan 2 years ago. The lower number does not take fish away from the whales or the fishing fleet. Rather, it reflects a more precise and accurate count of how many salmon were present in areas the endangered whales could access off the West Coast all along.

The revision is retroactive to past estimates of salmon numbers. It resets the entire playing field at once—so, years of low salmon abundance are still low. Future salmon numbers would be expected to hit the new threshold and trigger fishing limits just as often as under the original threshold. Salmon abundance has never hit the threshold. The last time numbers would have fallen low enough under the new threshold to trigger the fishing limits was in 2007.

The numerical threshold was never a “set it and forget it” number. Instead, it is determined by a formula based on our understanding of where salmon travel off the coast. The Council expected to refine the number as scientists better understand how many salmon leave West Coast rivers and spread through the ocean. The updates reflect improved technology, more data, and a more detailed understanding of salmon biology.

### Salmon Follow Different Paths

Improved tracking has refined our understanding of how different salmon stocks move through the ocean. They travel along what some scientists have termed “ancestral feeding routes,” each following its own patterns and cues.

“We are gaining a more sophisticated understanding of how salmon use the ocean,” said Andrew “Ole” Shelton, a research scientist at NOAA Fisheries’ Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle who studies salmon distributions. “People may think, ‘Salmon go out and come back.’ It turns out to be much more interesting than that, and that affects what is available to predators such as killer whales.”

One of the best sources for where salmon go in the ocean is coded wire tags—tracking tags embedded in the snouts of mainly hatchery fish. Fishing crews who catch salmon recover and report the tags and the location. Scientists feed that location data into a model that uses it to map the fish distribution.

Since 2021, researchers have incorporated nearly 20 years worth of additional coded-wire tag collections for fall-run Chinook salmon into the model. The additional data includes about four times as many salmon catch locations. This increases the detail of salmon distribution like additional pixels on a higher resolution television.

Scientists also recently incorporated new coded-wire tag data from salmon inadvertently caught by boats fishing for hake, or whiting, off the West Coast. The hake season extends beyond salmon seasons, so the reports help provide data for other parts of the year. The hake fleet has greatly reduced inadvertent bycatch of salmon, but even the locations of only a few salmon helps fill out the picture, Shelton said.

### Salmon Stocks Separate in Ocean

Scientists also now better understand salmon that return to different rivers and tributaries. Scientists had long treated fall-run Chinook salmon from the upper Columbia River and the Snake River as a single group in the ocean. They presumed the fish largely traveled the same way on a similar schedule. That would have made them equally available to the Southern Resident killer whales.

Increasing reports indicated that the Chinook salmon from the upper Columbia swim north into the distant North Pacific Ocean. That’s far from the coastal waters where the endangered killer whales forage in winter. The threatened fall-run Chinook salmon from the Snake River, in contrast, remain closer to the coast where they are more accessible to the whales, Shelton said.



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- **Heavy Freezing Spray Warning\*** – Accumulation of freezing water droplets on a vessel at a rate of 2cm/hr or greater caused by some combination of cold water, wind, cold air temperature, and vessel movement
- **Dense Fog Advisory** – Widespread or localized fog reducing visibilities to 1 nm or less
- **Dense Smoke Advisory** – Widespread or localized smoke reducing visibilities to 1 nm or less
- **Low Water Advisory** – Water levels are significantly below average and may cause impact to safe marine navigation
- **Beach Hazard Statement** – Average wave height of 4 feet or more creating dangerous swimming conditions and a greater likelihood of structural, longshore and rip currents

\* denotes product that is usually preceded by a **Watch**

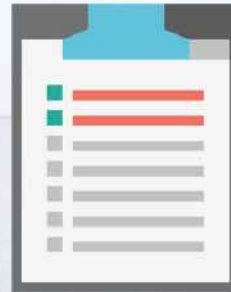
## NOAA Weather Radio

- Receive public and marine weather information 24/7
- Weather Radios will interrupt broadcast and sound a tone to alert you when a Special Marine Warning has been issued
- Three transmitters serving southeast and east central Wisconsin nearshore waters:
  - WWG-91 Sheboygan (162.525 mhz)
  - KEC-60 Milwaukee (162.400 mhz)
  - KZZ-76 Racine (162.425 mhz)
  - KWO-39 Chicago (162.550 mhz)
- Additional information on transmitters around the Great Lakes at: [https://www.weather.gov/nwr/station\\_listing](https://www.weather.gov/nwr/station_listing)

## Staying Weather Ready

### Before You Go...

- What is the forecast?
- Who knows about your boating plans?
  - Timing & Location: Start, middle, & end
  - If someone knows your plans, they know where to direct help if needed
- What is your safety plan?
  - How long does it take for you to get to safe harbor?
  - Where are all the places you can seek shelter?
  - What is your plan if you can't get to a safe place?
  - Do you have a way to call for help?
- Do you have a way to get weather updates?
- Do you have your safety supplies?
- **BE PREPARED!**



### Being Prepared

#### Situational Awareness Tools

- Weather Apps
- Radar Apps
- Radio
- Weather Radio
- Social Media
- Keeping a close eye on the skies



#### Safety Kit

- Lifejacket
- Visual Distress Signals
  - Flare, light, etc.
- Sound Producing Devices
  - Horn, whistle, etc.
- First Aid Kit
- What do you have in your kit?



### Cold Water

- Lake temperatures could be much colder than air temperatures
- Especially in the Spring/Early Summer
- Here are some cold water facts:
- Strong swimmers will lose muscle control in about 10 minutes without proper equipment
- Wearing a life jacket significantly increases chances of survival
- Body heat can be lost 25 times faster in cold water than in cold air
- The onset of hypothermia can occur shortly after being in the water
- **COLD WATER CAN KILL**



### Waterspouts

- Look for spray ring at the water's surface
  - If there isn't a spray ring it is still a funnel cloud
- At least 43 knots in a waterspout
- Can occur with severe storms, but most occur on fair weather days
  - Peak August-October



Waterspout  
Kenneth John  
Lake Michigan 6/25/21

**If you see a waterspout or funnel cloud please call us at: 1-800-545-8197**

- 24/7 line reserved for significant reports



## Lake Michigan Fishing Update

There is a Lake Michigan Lake Trout Commercial Harvest Stakeholder Group that has been selected to evaluate the facts of the request and the scientific data available to make a recommendation if, or if not, the DNR should go forward with a scope statement for the request. There are a multitude of issues that need to be evaluated. Four meetings were set for these events to take place. The first was this past Tuesday, February 21st. The next meetings are March 20th, April 18th, and May 16th. All the meetings are face-to-face at Lake Shore Technical Institute in Cleveland, WI from 6pm to 8pm. There is an on-line opportunity for the public to attend. The information can be found on the DNR's Meeting agenda page on their website: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/calendar>.

Our local GLSF organization belongs to a larger group, The Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs. We are to let you know that the Lake Michigan Sport fishery is being challenged by the commercial fishing group and their nets used for gathering their catch. Please be informed with the correct information.

Our priority is to ensure sport fishing and hunting activities continue in Wisconsin for the foreseeable future.

# Should lake trout be commercially netted?



### Outdoors

Paul A. Smith  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WIS.

Among Wisconsin fish and wildlife in the 21st century, white-tailed deer and gray wolves arguably pose the greatest challenges for natural resources managers.

The difficulties are less biological than social and predominantly revolve around human factors.

An emerging issue will likely add a third native species - lake trout - to the top tier of complex, tough tasks for the Department of Natural Resources.

Last year the Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board made a formal request to begin netting lake trout on Lake Michigan.

The bid isn't meritless - lakery are faring well in Lake Michigan, showing decent evidence of natural reproduction and sport anglers are taking less than half of the established annual safe harvest. In addition, Wisconsin allows commercial fishing for the species in Lake Superior.

"It's absolutely time (for a commercial lake trout rule to be implemented)," said Charlie Henriksen, a commercial fisherman from Sturgeon Bay and chairman of the commercial fishing board. "I mean there's just no reason that this isn't happening."

But it would go against decades of fishing history in Lake Michigan and comes before a long-term lake trout rehabilitation project is deemed complete.

Bob Wincek, president of the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs, said his group was opposed to commercial fishing for lake trout in Lake Michigan "until it can be proven by DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that it can be viable to allow a small, commercial harvest."

The DNR hasn't decided whether to start the process to change an administrative rule and allow commercial netting of lakery on Lake Michigan.

But it has decided on a process to examine the issue.

### DNR forms Lake Michigan Lake Trout Commercial Harvest Stakeholder Group

To that end the DNR formed the Lake Michigan Lake Trout Commercial Harvest Stakeholder Group, about a dozen state residents including commercial fishers, sport anglers, charter fishing captains, wholesale fish dealers and others interested in the fishery.

The group held its first meeting Tuesday night at Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland and over Zoom. Three other gatherings are scheduled for the coming months.

The group is "charged with providing input to the DNR for consideration as it develops recommendations and final decisions on pursuing a statement of scope for commercial harvest of lake trout," according to the DNR.

Henriksen and Wincek are members of the group, as are: charter captain Lee Haasch of Algoma; commercial fishermen Dennis Hickey and Todd Stuth; Arnie Arredondo, president of the Wisconsin Lakeshore Business Association; fish wholesaler Jamie LeClair; Michelle Lawrie of Door County Economic Development; John Anderson of the Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association; Dale Maas of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Sharon Fegley Moen and Titus Seilheimer of Wisconsin Sea Grant; and Jerry Fetterer of Sheboygan Great Lakes Sportfishing Club.

### Meeting examines Lake Michigan lake trout assessments

Tuesday's meeting focused on Lake Michigan lake trout assessments and a presentation by Laura Schmidt, the DNR's Lake Michigan lake trout biologist.

The gathering was moderated by Jean Rombach-Bartels, DNR secretary's director for northeastern Wisconsin.

Commercial fishers historically caught lake trout in Lake Michigan and enjoyed a stable fishery until about 1945 when it declined substantially. The primary culprit was the sea lamprey, a parasitic aquatic invasive species which devastated lake trout and burbot populations in the lake.

But lake trout numbers began to recover thanks to protective regulations, an intensive lamprey control program, and



**A commercial fishing board has made a formal request to begin netting lake trout on Lake Michigan.** PAUL A. SMITH / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

intensive lake trout stocking conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The USFWS has a goal of rehabilitating lake trout in the lake expressed as: "Re-establish in targeted high-priority areas and refuges of Lake Michigan a diversity of primarily lean lake trout populations predominately supported by natural reproduction that provide sustainable yields to recreational, commercial, and subsistence fisheries."

About 2.25 million lake trout are stocked annually in the lake.

Biologists determined 82,000 lake trout as the annual safe harvest. Yet sport anglers have taken an average of 29,027 per year over the last 10 years, Schmidt said.

Schmidt showed a variety of rehabilitation benchmarks, including from spring and fall surveys and ranging from "hits to misses." The conclusion was lake trout were "not yet self-sustaining in Lake Michigan."

Lake Michigan at this time only has commercial fishing for lake trout in a portion of Michigan waters. From 1969 to 2021 the sport harvest in Wisconsin waters of LM has been about 45,000 lake trout.

However, Henriksen and the commercial fishing board only want to harvest about 40,000 lake trout a year, a number that when coupled with the sport take would stay within the established safe harvest.

"I think it's now time for us to participate in this fishery," Henriksen said. "To reserve this fish strictly for sport fishing isn't right, it just isn't fair."

Mark LaBarbera, executive director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, said his group sees it differently.

"Our Wildlife Federation members and affiliates who are most familiar with Great Lakes issues strongly oppose commercial fishing of lake trout in Lake Michigan and oppose spending time and money on a scoping statement," LaBarbera said. "They say, 'What's next? Other game fish?'"

LaBarbera said the WWF Great Lakes Committee will be bringing the issue up at its next meeting along with concerns about sportfishing money being used to monitor and deal with commercial fishing issues.

All meetings of the stakeholder group are open to the public and will be held at Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland and via Zoom. Agendas and recordings of previous meetings will be posted to the DNR's website.

The group's three additional meetings are planned for: March 20, with a focus on lake trout mass marking work conducted by the USFWS; April 18, lake trout population and forecast models; and May 16, working group discussion and recommendations.

After the stakeholder group completes its work, DNR managers will review recommendations and comments and decide whether to proceed with a scope statement, the first step in developing a rule needed to allow commercial fishing for lake trout on Lake Michigan.

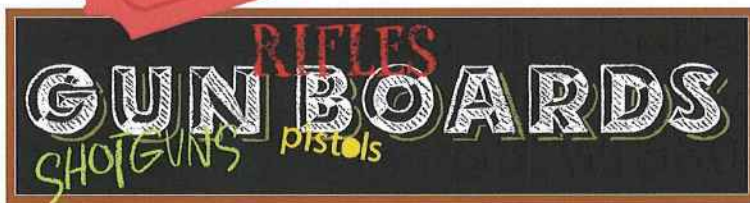
People can submit comments on the topic by email at [DNRLAKEMICHIGAN-PLAN@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRLAKEMICHIGAN-PLAN@wisconsin.gov).

The administrative rule development process typically takes two to three years, start to finish, so even if approved any commercial take of lake trout wouldn't occur for several years.

Tuesday's meeting was the first step in illuminating facts, as well as what isn't well understood, about the status of lake trout in the Big Pond. It also highlighted how people view the resource differently and the challenges the group will face.

Rombach-Bartels thanked the stakeholder group members at the end of the meeting.

"(Your participation) is extremely important to the DNR," Rombach-Bartels said. "We take this very seriously. It's a treasure to the state of Wisconsin and we want to keep it as such."



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