

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



The Tightline

GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHERMEN FOUNDATION

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

January 2025

ISSUE 552



Let's Go Fishing! Free! Learn-to-Fish Clinic

Saturday, February 1, 2025 from 9 am - 2 pm

Milwaukee County Park Locations



- **Dineen Park** 6601 W. Vienna Ave. (Hosted by Inner City Sportsmen)
- **Greenfield Park** 2028 S. 124th St. (Hosted by Great Lakes Sport Fishermen)
- **McCarty Park** 2567 S. 78th St. (Hosted by Southside Sportsmen)
- **Scout Lake Park** 5902 W. Loomis Rd. (Hosted by Walleyes Unlimited)

Please contact organizers for more information at kidsfishingclinics@gmail.com; 414-416-0591; or scan QR code (search "fishing clinics")

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Your Help is needed and appreciated.

Ice Fishing Clinic is coming up Saturday, February 1st at Greenfield Park. Our chairmen, Ryan and Brandon really appreciate your volunteer efforts to make the event successful. As you see on the Flier on page 27, it starts for the public at 9 am. We need help setting it up at 8 am so they can be ready. It ends at 3-ish, so you will be home for dinner! There is no list, just please show. We can't control the weather, so rain or shine, ice or no ice, the Clinic will take place! Please show up to help out your club!

GLSF FREE SEMINAR Saturday, March 29th, 2025

at the New Berlin Ale House from 9 am to 4 pm

Bucket Raffles, Fishing Gear and Limited Services on Site!

Advanced Registration Required

All Meetings are the
second Tuesday of the Month.
New Berlin Ale House
16000 W. Cleveland Ave,
New Berlin

Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 14
Jason Woda - Lakeshore
Business Association
Discussint what they are
doing to protect our fish
and advocate for the
sport fishery.

Club Events

Page 3

Membership Dues

Page 6

More Club News

www.GLSFCLUB.com

Upcoming Meetings

February 11th 🍷

March 11th 🍀

April 8th ☂️

May 13th 🌸



GLSF — MILWAUKEE

Notes from
your President



Brian Haydin

Dear GLSF Members,

Happy New Year, anglers! As we settle into the heart of winter, it's time to trade in our casting rods for ice augers, and our boat shoes for boots with better traction than a lake trout chasing a minnow! Ice fishing season is here, and it's shaping up to be a good one. The ice is thick in the harbor and Summerfest Lagoon, so pack up your gear, grab your lucky hat (you know, the one that smells like 2014's biggest catch), and hit the hard water. For those looking for convenient access, remember that McKinley Marina offers public access to the docks throughout the winter months.

Now, let's talk winter maintenance. It's the perfect time to tackle those "small" repairs you ignored all season. (Yes, I'm talking about that rod holder hanging on by duct tape and hope, and the tackle box that's mostly zip ties now.) Winter is also a slow time for our local fishing shops and service providers, so drop by and show them some love—they'll appreciate the business more than a salmon appreciates cold water.


Speaking of showing up, we need **YOU** to help reel in some success at the **Milwaukee Sport Show, March 7-9!** The GLSF will have a booth, and this is our chance to connect with the community, spread the word about our great club, and maybe even recruit a few fresh faces. Volunteers, bring your creativity, enthusiasm, and maybe a few fish tales (the believable kind). Let's make this an event to remember.

We're also hosting the annual **Kids Fishing Clinic** in a few weeks, and we need volunteers to help pass on the joy of fishing to the next generation. It's one of our most rewarding events, and seeing a kid catch their first fish will warm your heart faster than a thermos full of coffee on a frozen lake.

Finally, we're casting a wide net this month by upgrading some of our club's technology. Now, we're not exactly tech wizards (our expertise lies more in trolling than troubleshooting), so please bear with us as we navigate these updates. We promise to fix any snags and get everything running smoothly in no time.

Thank you for being part of this incredible club. Whether you're ice fishing, fixing up your gear, or volunteering at our events, remember that the heart of GLSF is its members. Let's make 2025 a year full of tight lines, great catches, and even better memories.

Until next time, stay warm and fish on!

Tight Lines, 

Brian Haydin
President, Great Lakes Sport Fishermen



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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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.



The WCC annual Convention will be held May 9th and 10th at a location to be determined

All the Committee meetings did not complete by October 12th. As a result, many of the submitted resolutions will be discussed at the DLC Meeting over January 10-11 at a place TBD.

The Wisconsin DNR Natural Resources Board will be meeting in Madison on Jan. 20-21 in Madison. At this meeting, the DNR is going to request approval from the NRB, to go forth and start the Scope Statement process. It is important all sport fishermen wanting to protect the Lake Michigan Fishery step up and make their voices heard. If the Commercial Fishermen are allowed to start fishing for Lake Trout, it may have an impact on Lake Michigan Sport Fishing!

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://widnr.widen.net/s/tlnrxltlbx5/2024_december_newsletter

YCC DELEGATES IN ACTION



Solace, YCC delegate from Waukesha Co. was the first to enter a stringer of crappies in the YCC virtual fishing contest



CALENDAR CORNER

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

January 2025

14 - GLSF Board Meeting – 5:30pm
GLSF Membership Meeting – 7pm

New Berlin Ale House, Program: **Jason Woda - Lakeshore Business Association** A discussion about what they are doing to protect our fish and advocate for the sport fishery.

18-19 - Winter Free Fishing Weekend

18-19 - YCC ICE FISHING EVENT
on Castle Rock Lake

February 2025

1 - Kid's Ice Fishing Clinic –
Greenfield Park

11 - GLSF Board Meeting – 5:30pm
GLSF Membership Meeting – 7pm

New Berlin Ale House, 7pm, Program: TBD

March 2025

7-9 - Milwaukee Sports Show –
State Fair Park

11 - GLSF Board Meeting – 5:30pm
GLSF Membership Meeting – 7pm

New Berlin Ale House, Program: **Laura Schmidt, WI DNR Fisheries Biologist**, will present her annual reports

29 - 5th Annual FREE Fishing Seminar –
at the New Berlin Ale House
9am to 3pm on Saturday

April 2025

8 - GLSF Board Meeting – 5:30pm
GLSF Membership Meeting – 7pm,

New Berlin Ale House, Swap Meet



2024

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MB411 8/17

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\$20 ANNUAL DUES FOR ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS!



We are always looking for Sponsorships to help cover events and clinics.

Membership and 2025 Membership Dues

As of this newsletter, We currently have 121 regular and 42 senior members.

At the December 2023 Board Meeting, the Board voted to reduce our annual dues to \$20 for all memberships. There is no practical way to update our website, so it continues to send our reminders at your original price. I found a way to offer a discount down to \$20 if I see your renewal notice, so you can renew at the \$20 price, starting in January 2024. If you renew at your original price, I will contact you and offer a partial refund, or to extend your membership appropriately. If you have questions, send me an E Mail at bob@glsfclub.com, or call me on my cell phone – 414-217-9752. You, the membership of this organization, are the life and blood that keep it alive. Please renew when notified. All new membership starting in December, are priced at \$20 per year, and that is the amount charged on-line for new members.

To renew, 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 membership option.

If you joined or renewed in October 2023, you will not see your reminders until September 2024. 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.

Why a GLSF Membership!

1. **Supporting the sport fishery in Lake Michigan** and looking out for sport fishermen. The club works with the DNR on the fish stocking program, works with Milwaukee County Parks such as providing updates to the fish cleaning station and is very active in the advocacy arena as well.
2. **For the community**, we facilitate many fishing clinics throughout the year, mostly geared towards kids, but also for adults.
3. **Annually, we have a FREE fishing clinic** with recognized experts in the field, such as Keating and Woda. This free clinic is for members and anyone who has donated to the club in the last year.
4. **An opportunity to meet and network with other fishermen in the area**, this is a great place to talk about what's working and what isn't. Learn from others who want to pass on their knowledge.
5. **Annual fishing contest** running from spring through the fall, with an opportunity to win \$\$\$!
6. **Monthly fishing events and our fish-ins**, with prizes awarded for the top captains and free food!
7. **Monthly newsletter** to keep you informed on the latest news impacting us as fishermen.
8. **Monthly meetings** to learn from experts, whether that is the DNR, Weather Service, or from expert fishermen to improve your skills and techniques.



GLSF Ongoing Fishing Contest 2024 – Final Standings

Adult Division		
Brown Trout over 6 lb		
1st	Steve Lipski	18.6 lbs
2nd	Dave Halter	14.15 lbs
3rd	Robert Kracek	13.71 lbs
Lake Trout over 10 lb		
1st	Dave Halter	16.84 lbs
2nd	Dominic Federighe	15.8 lbs
3rd	Dave Bowe	13.73 lbs
Rainbow Trout over 8 lb		
1st	Steve Schmitt	15.16lbs
2nd	Steve Lipski	14.88 lbs
3rd	Jim Czysz	12.02 lbs
Coho Salmon over 7 lb		
1st	Robert Kracek	12.24 lbs
2nd	Christine Droukas	11.24 lbs
3rd	Dave Halter	10.5 lbs
King Salmon over 19 lb		
1st	John Wierzba	28.3 lbs
2nd	Dave Halter	22.7 lbs
3rd	Jay Mathwick	22.6 lbs
Junior Division		
Brown Trout over 3 lb		
1st	Ethan Flohr	9.6 bs
2nd	—	
3rd	—	
Lake Trout over 5 lb		
1st	—	20.55 lbs
2nd	—	16.1 lbs
3rd	—	15.7 lbs
Rainbow Trout over 5 lb		
1st	Kaylee Witt	8.44 lbs
2nd	Elaina Lubecke	8.2 lbs
3rd	Quintin Witt	7.93 lbs
Coho Salmon over 5 lb		
1st	Ethan Flohr	7.66 lbs
2nd	Kaylee Witt	6.9 lbs
3rd	Quintin Witt	6.15 lbs
King Salmon over 12 lb		
1st	Kaylee Witt	17.65 lbs
2nd	Quintin Witt	14.63 lbs
3rd	—	

Fish of the Month/Biggest Fish of the Month		
April	FOTM (Brown Trout)	Dave Halter – 14.15 lbs
	Biggest Fish	None Caught
May	FOTM (Brown Trout)	Steve Lipski – 18.6 lbs
	Biggest Fish, Chinock	None Caught
June	FOTM (Coho)	Steve Todd – 8.0 lbs
	Biggest Fish, Chinock	Jerry Kozar – 20.3 l
July	FOTM (Rainbow)	Steve Schmitt – 15.16 lbs
	Biggest Fish, Chinook	Jerry Kozar– 25.15 lbs
August	FOTM (Lake Trout)	Dave Halter – 16.84 lbs
	Biggest Fish, Chinook	John Wierzba – 28.3 lbs
September	FOTM (King Salmon)	Dominic Federighe– 22.4 lbs
	Biggest Fish	None Caught
October	FOTM (King Salmon)	Robert Kracek - 11.6
	Biggest Fish, Chinook	Jay Mathwich - 11.6
2024 GLSF FISHERMAN OF THE YEAR		
Dave Halter, 75.05 lbs		
Brown Trout (14.15), Lake Trout (16.84), Rainbow (10.86), Coho (10.5), and Chinoch (22.7)		
2024 CAPTAINS CATCH		
John Wierzba, 91.68 lbs		
Brown Trout (18.6), Lake Trout (22.44), Rainbow (10.34), Coho (12.0), and Chinoch (28.3)		
Honorable Mention: Jay Mathwick, 63.26 lbs		



Dave Bowe awarded a lifetime GLSF Membership for his years of service and dedication.



ICE SAFETY

If you head out to one of Wisconsin's many lakes or rivers to ice fish, snowmobile, ATV, cross-country ski, or just to enjoy a winter day, we want you to have fun and be safe. A bit of advance planning and practicing basic ice precautions can help you return home safely.

When Is Ice Safe?

There really is no sure answer, and no such thing as 100 percent safe ice. You cannot judge the strength of ice by one factor like its appearance, age, thickness, temperature or whether the ice is covered with snow. Ice strength is based on a combination of several factors, and they can vary from water body to water body. Ice strength can also vary in different areas of the same body of water.

Know Before You Go

View and download the [Know Before You Go Ice Safety Brochure](#) [PDF].

Because ice conditions vary, it is important to know before you go. The DNR does not monitor local ice conditions or the thickness of the ice. Local bait shops, fishing clubs and resorts serve winter anglers every day and often have the most up-to-date information on how thick the ice is on local lakes and rivers, as well as areas that are especially dangerous.

Safety Tips

- Dress warmly in layers.
- Don't go alone. Head out with friends or family. Take a cell phone if available, and make sure someone knows where you are and when you are expected to return.
- Know before you go. Don't travel in areas you are not familiar and don't travel at night or during reduced visibility.
- Avoid inlets, outlets or narrow that may have current that can thin the ice.
- Look for clear ice, which is generally stronger than ice with snow on it or bubbles in it.
- Carry some basic safety gear: ice claws or picks, a cellphone in a waterproof bag or case, a life jacket and length of rope.

What To Do If You Fall Through Ice

If you fall through the ice, remain calm and act quickly.

1. Do not remove your winter clothing. Heavy clothes can trap air, which can help provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true in a snowmobile suit.
2. Go back toward the direction you came. That is probably where you will find the strongest ice – and what lies ahead is unknown.
3. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface. This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks are handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.
4. Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice. If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.
5. Once back on the ice, don't try to stand up. Lie flat until you are completely out of the water, then roll away from the hole to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.
6. Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area and warm yourself up immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold-water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to warm up. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death!

January Ice Fishing Trivia – Answers on page 14 (No Peeking!)

1. Ice fishing is the ____ most popular winter activity, following sledding, snowmobiling and ice skating.
2. How many fish are typically caught during the ice fishing season in Wisconsin?
3. How much of the fish that are caught during ice fishing season are kept?
4. What are the top fish caught?
5. Where do you find bluegill and crappies?
6. Where do you find perch?
7. What bait is used when fishing for larger fish, such as Northern Pike or Muskellunge?
8. How many attend the world's largest ice fishing contest on Gull Lake, north of Brainerd, Minnesota?
9. When Did Ice Fishing Begin?
10. Who Started Ice Fishing?



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YCC ICE FISHING EVENT

YCC delegates,

Sharing a reminder to sign up for our YCC ice fishing event (if you haven't already RSVP'd) and encouraging all of you to participate in our YCC virtual ice fishing contest. Even if you don't catch anything at all, it is fun to join and follow the virtual contest leaderboard.

VIRTUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST

All YCC delegates are invited to join an ice fishing contest using the [Fishdonkey app](#). This contest runs through April 13. You can join anytime throughout the contest. Contest winners will need to catch multiple fish of the same species to qualify for a "stringer": bass, bluegill/sunfish, crappie, northern pike, walleye) and wildcard (ANY other fish).

Download the FishDonkey app: fishdonkey.com/app Tap: Fish in a Tournament • Join: "YCC Ice"

Please read all rules. All fish must be entered through the FishDonkey app. A photo of the fish (on a measuring board/tape) AND a photo of you holding the fish are required for the caught fish to be verified.

YCC ICE FISHING EVENT

A reminder to RSVP for ice fishing on Castle Rock Lake – January 18 & 19. We hope you can join us! We will focus on enjoying time on the ice while learning new techniques. We will also discuss safety considerations, regulations, winter adaptations for fish, ecology, and specific characteristics of the Castle Rock Flowage. This is the FREE fishing weekend in Wisconsin. We encourage you to bring a friend or relative who is new to fishing or hasn't gone fishing in years!

Please RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/BpfrLqzPfyFUmwOaA>



NOAA FISHERIES

December 12, 2024

Wild Oregon Coast Coho Salmon Sustain Popular Sportfishing Seasons

Rebound of wild populations boosts productivity enough for harvest.

Low salmon returns have closed salmon fishing in California and limited it elsewhere on the West Coast. But Oregon anglers have enjoyed robust sportfishing on a strong wild salmon species.

Oregon Coast coho salmon are a bright spot among West Coast salmon, supporting popular fall recreational fishing over the last 3 years. Oregon Coast coho offers a special chance to fish for wild salmon so productive that anglers can take their catch home. In many other places, anglers must check whether salmon have clipped adipose fins, signaling that it came from a hatchery. They typically return wild coho to the water.

“Coho are fun to fish for in the ocean and bays because the salmon bite well and fight hard and everyone has the opportunity to catch a big coho salmon,” said Lance Kruzic, who leads NOAA Fisheries’ office in Roseburg, Oregon. He has worked for years on coho recovery in Oregon. “This has been a very welcome and exciting opportunity for a lot of people to experience what it’s like to catch a wild salmon.”

Hatcheries once produced millions of coho to support sport and commercial fisheries. However, the hatchery fish swamped coho spawning grounds and mixed with wild fish, compromising their wild fitness and survival. The species also lost habitat to logging and other development impacts and faced overfishing.

NOAA Fisheries listed the species in 1998 as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Oregon had already begun reducing hatchery releases from the high levels of the 1990s. The state, tribes, and local watershed groups have also worked with NOAA Fisheries to restore and reopen habitat, especially for juvenile coho salmon on their way to the ocean.

Coho Numbers Rebounding

Coho numbers remain far from their historic annual peak of 1 to 2 million returning adults. However, they have now rebounded to the point where NOAA Fisheries has determined the population can sustain recreational fishing seasons. The Endangered Species Act allows for these expanded harvest opportunities, under a well-managed fisheries plan, when the survival of the salmon runs are good.

Close to 99 percent of adult coho now returning from the ocean are wild fish born and reared in the rivers of the Oregon Coast. The species has regained its natural fitness and has become increasingly productive given the improvements in hatchery practices, habitat, and harvest management.

The rebound has benefited recreational anglers who took home more than 40,000 wild coho salmon from the Oregon Coast this year. This far exceeded the catch of hatchery fish.

Forecasts project that following the summer’s productive catches, more than 150,000 coho salmon will spawn in Oregon’s coastal rivers and streams this fall. A 2022 viability assessment found that the species “showed a remarkable ability to avoid the extremely low abundances and marine survival rates” that sent other salmon into declines in the 1990s.

A later 5-year review by NOAA Fisheries found “that freshwater habitat may be sufficient to support self-sustaining populations and serves as an indication that Oregon Coast coho recovery is within reach.” A recovery plan for the species outlines improvements necessary to bring the species back.

Those include habitat conservation plans for state and private forest lands in Oregon that will improve conditions for Oregon Coast coho. Restoring access for juvenile coho to the floodplains that serve as their nursery on the way to the ocean will also improve juvenile survival. That will help meet the criteria to delist the species under the Endangered Species Act.

“This helps demonstrate that Oregon Coast coho are on the road to recovery,” Kruzic said. “We can begin to see the many benefits of the robust wild populations that long ago flourished in these coastal rivers.”



Oregon angler Jim Anderson displays a wild Oregon Coast coho salmon that he caught in the popular coastal fishery for the rebounding species. Although still listed under the Endangered Species Act, the wild species is productive enough to support a popular sport fishery. Photo courtesy Lance Kruzic/NOAA Fisheries.

Great Lakes Basin Report

Plan a Winter Free Fishing Weekend clinic, Jan. 18-19

The Wisconsin DNR invites clubs and organizations to host free fishing clinics on Winter Free Fishing Weekend, January 18-19, 2025. On Free Fishing Weekend, residents and nonresidents can fish *most* waters of the state without a fishing license or a stamp for trout or salmon (see exceptions regarding trout waters below).

Please submit the [event registration](#) and [materials request](#) forms by January 8. The clinic will be promoted, and educational materials will be sent. Anglers ages 15 and under may fish without a license any day of the year. Therefore, organizers are encouraged to also welcome adults new to ice fishing.

No ice is safe ice. A strong ice safety message is recommended to be stressed at every clinic. The DNR does

not monitor ice conditions, but local bait shops and fishing clubs may have current information. Download the brochure [Know Before You Go](#) for facts about ice and tips to prepare for a safe outing on the ice. If the lake for the clinic doesn't freeze over, anglers can cast from shore into open water.

Clinic plans should include anglers with limited mobility. Many state properties and community partners have accommodations or equipment to make the outdoors accessible for all. Learn about the available accommodations at state-managed properties on the DNR's [Accessible Recreation webpage](#) and other options from [partner organizations](#).

Clinic hosts are advised to consult the trout regulations when planning

clinics and outings. While catch-and-release trout streams are included this weekend, only artificial lures are allowed, and anglers must release all trout caught. The following bodies of water remain off-limits for fishing:

- Spring ponds and lakes (page two in the [trout regulations](#) has a list of these waterbodies).
- Lake Michigan tributaries and major Green Bay tributaries.
- All other Green Bay tributary streams, rivers and ditches upstream to the first dam or lake or streams flowing into Lake Superior and their tributaries upstream to the first impassable barrier.

All other [fishing regulations](#), including bag limits, size limits and species restrictions, remain in effect. ✧

Fisheries are Evolving

Thanksgiving 2024 is behind us and, in many places, there's a skim of ice on the ponds. It wasn't that many years ago that we would be confident there would be fishing through the ice the weekend after Thanksgiving. Not so anymore in most traditional ice fishing locations. Ice fishing is starting later and ending sooner across much of the ice fishing belt. To the surprise of no one who enjoys fishing or outdoor activities, our outdoor world continues to evolve.

These evolutions have little to do with equipment. They involve habitat, water quality and fish species changes to name a few. A friend who sells ice fishing equipment to retail stores in Wisconsin told me that one of his stores has lost at least 20 days of the ice fishing season in recent years. Warming temperatures prevent safe ice. This certainly hurts that retailer as well as other area businesses that benefit from ice fishing. And the shorter ice season also creates changes in the ecosystem of the lake.

It's interesting how a change of just a couple of degrees in average air temperature has a significant impact on a lake's ecosystem. Cisco are a fish

that are found in northern waters that are deeper and have colder water. They're an important food source in some lakes. In Minnesota just a couple of decades ago, about 650 lakes were home to cisco. Recent population surveys indicate that now fewer than 200 lakes have cisco. Warmer air temperatures created warmer water and reduced cisco populations.

The warmer water also changes gamefish populations. Warmer waters are friendlier to largemouth bass than trout. Walleye populations have declined in some places due to warmer water. Ecosystem change can significantly alter fish species populations. There aren't fewer fish, there are just fewer fish of some species. And there are more fish of other species.

Longer periods of no ice can create longer growing seasons. In some places we're catching bigger fish more often. Today's angler is more skilled than yesteryear, equipment is better, and catch and release helps in creating bigger fish. But longer growing seasons allow fish to get bigger.

Another reason for changes in water quality is fewer wetlands. Some states have lost half of their wetlands. Other states have lost more. It's understandable. There are a lot of people who need grains and such for daily living, and those wetlands are turning into fields where those grains can be grown. However, wetlands filter some of the bad things out of runoff water, and that makes better water quality and cleaner lakes and rivers. Fewer wetlands can mean more bad things in the water. But we've learned lots about improving water quality. In some places water quality is better today than it was yesterday.

Changes in climate and temperatures don't need to be bad things. In fact, if we let them, good things can happen. More fish and bigger fish, just not the kind of fish that some of us prefer. And if we can identify a potential problem, we can fix it. It's important that we understand that things change, and change doesn't need to be a bad thing. If we change how we do things, we can turn a possibly bad situation into a good situation. That's always a win. ✧

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 2025!



Screamin' Drags Tackle Co.

Sussex, WI

Great Lakes Basin Report

DNR permitting decisions for proposed Enbridge Line 5 relocation

MADISON, Wis. – After careful consideration of applicable state laws, all input received and the administrative record, the Wisconsin DNR announced [its decision to issue an individual wetland and waterway permit with conditions and convey coverage under the department’s Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System \(WPDES\) General Permit for Construction Site Storm Water](#) for Enbridge, Inc.’s proposal to replace a segment of its Line 5 liquid petroleum pipeline in Ashland and Iron counties.

The DNR’s review of these permits follows prescribed standards in Ch. 30 and ss. 281.36 and 283.33, Wis. Stats., and associated administrative codes, which specify the criteria the DNR is authorized to consider.

The wetland and waterway permit authorizes Enbridge to conduct specific construction-related activities that impact navigable waterways and wetlands as specifically described in the permit application, associated

plans and permit conditions. The permit contains more than 200 conditions to ensure compliance with the state’s wetlands and waterways standards. Permit coverage under the WPDES Construction Site Storm Water General Permit authorizes Enbridge to conduct land-disturbing construction activities in accordance with the application for coverage and associated plans, including specific plans for erosion control and water quality protection.

Approvals from both the DNR and U.S. Army Corps are needed before the project can proceed. Additional DNR permits or approvals for discharge of hydrostatic test water, dewatering of groundwater, burning of slash and incidental take of listed species may also be required.

Enbridge has also applied for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to discharge dredged or fill material to waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which is required before the project can proceed. The DNR has issued a

water quality certification with conditions that serves as a determination that the project as proposed will meet State of Wisconsin water quality standards. The U.S. Army Corps will consider [Wisconsin’s water quality certification](#) as part of their permitting process.

Operational since 1953, Line 5 is part of an extensive network of petroleum transport pipelines owned and operated by Enbridge Energy, LLC. The existing line runs for 645 miles from Superior, Wisconsin, to Sarnia, Ontario, including a 12-mile segment that passes through the Bad River Reservation of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Enbridge is proposing to replace 20 miles of existing pipeline, including the 12-mile segment within the reservation, with 41 miles of new pipeline routed entirely outside the reservation’s border.

[For a list of frequently asked questions and answers, or a general overview of the project, visit this DNR webpage.](#) ✧

Wisconsin Brook Trout Program



MADISON – The Wisconsin DNR announced the implementation of the Brook Trout Reserves program, a new initiative to protect Wisconsin’s native brook trout populations from changing environmental conditions. Cold water streams provide the ideal habitat for native brook trout. Wisconsin has an estimated 22,000 miles of cold water stream habitat suitable for brook trout to call home. However, with warming stream temperatures, it’s projected that in 30 years, two out of every three miles of this habitat will become too warm to support brook trout.

To help combat this problem,

DNR fisheries biologists have used survey and environmental data to identify cold water streams in 205 subwatersheds that are the most likely to persist in the face of climate change. Each subwatershed within the Brook Trout Reserves contains:

- Self-sustaining brook trout populations.
- Above-average brook trout abundance, exceeding that of nonnative trout and salmon.
- Limited or no brown trout stocking.
- More than two stream miles of brook trout habitat are projected to remain by 2050.

To learn more about the Brook Trout Reserves, visit the DNR’s [StoryMap](#) and the [Brook Trout Reserves webpage](#).

How to Get Involved

There are many ways to get involved

in this program. Members of the public can help protect our brook trout populations by:

- Enrolling your property in the DNR’s Streambank Easement Program.
- Volunteering to help resource managers with forest and fish habitat management projects.
- Planting trees along stream corridors to restore shade and keep streams cold.
- Implementing healthy land use practices in these watersheds.
- Identifying and fixing steam crossing impairments associated with roads.
- Joining local conservation or watershed groups.

To become involved in brook trout habitat projects in your area, contact your local [fisheries biologist](#). ✧

January Trivia Answers

(Continued from page 9)

1. Fourth
2. 14 million fish
3. Almost half, compared to only about one-third during open water season
4. Panfish (11.7 million), Northern Pike (866,000) and Walleye (750,000)
5. Weed beds
6. Colder, deeper waters
7. Minnows or roaches
8. 15,000 anglers! That's right...It's held in the month of January each year. They actually drill over 20,000 holes for the event!
9. Archeologists have found evidence that leads us to believe ice fishing dates back over 2000 years ago, but it is likely that it was many years before that.
10. Ice fishing was a tradition of natives from North America and Canada. Historians believe that they used ice fishing as a means of survival.

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McKinley Marina Upgrade Phase 2

Project construction began on May 15th, 2023, and is progressing on schedule. A new curb and gutter, and some paving work have been completed at the new boat storage area and west side of the main boat trailer parking area. As work switches to the east side of the lot in mid-August, there will be temporary, intermittent closures of the government pier while construction work in the area near the entrance to the pier occurs. In August Parks began work on the new public walkway along the seawall near the Roundhouse building and marina offices. The boat launch ramps will continue to remain operational throughout the project.



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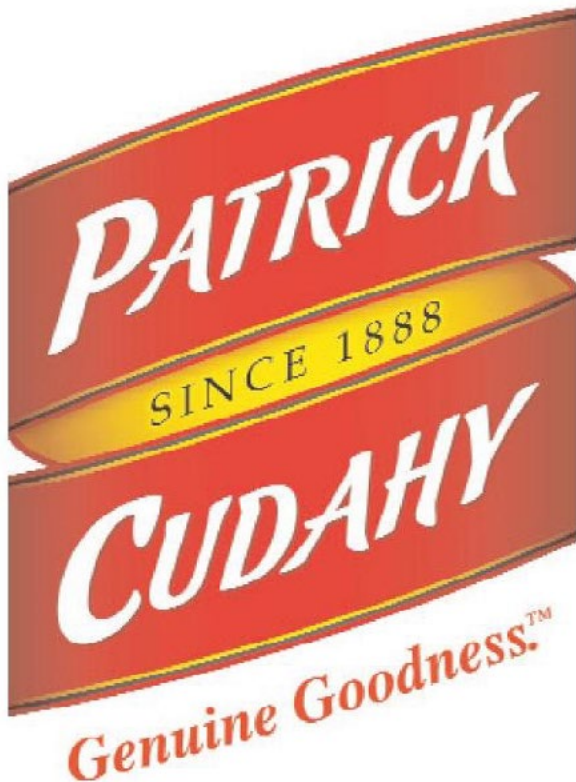
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Our Nation's Lakes are in Crisis

Experts urge moving away from short-term “fixes” that only worsen the lake’s condition over time, and instead advocate for a holistic, science-based strategy that tackles the underlying causes of lake health to revitalize the entire ecosystem.

Lakes are more than just bodies of water; they are vital ecosystems that support diverse life forms, provide recreational enjoyment, and sustain local economies. Yet, across the country, these precious resources are under threat. The water quality in our lakes is declining at an alarming rate, leading to severe repercussions.

Observable indicators of this deterioration include the emergence of symptoms such as invasive weeds, algae blooms, the emission of unpleasant odors, and "fish kills." When a crisis occurs, specialists are called in to evaluate and oversee the situation. Diagnostic tests are performed to confirm the presence of a harmful algae bloom (HAB) – a fact that usually is already evident. Frequently, the application of chemicals like biocides is advised.

While the notion of eradicating algae to improve the lake's appearance before an upcoming holiday is enticing, this can lead to a detrimental cycle that accelerates the deterioration of the lake's ecosystem. The elimination of algae results in the release of toxins, leading to the destruction of more beneficial organisms and favoring the proliferation and dominance of the harmful organisms in the lake. Over time, the continued application of algaecides causes lake algae blooms to worsen. In other words, the symptoms are treated temporarily, but the patient never gets better.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has confirmed the severity of this issue. The findings are clear: we are losing the battle to protect our lakes, and unless we

change our approach, the situation will continue to deteriorate. As a result, many experts are urging a different approach and a more permanent solution.

“The goal should be to reverse the damage and restore these vital ecosystems, but to do so, we must revise, and sometimes abandon practices of the past that have been widely recognized to be ineffective and embrace a new way of managing our lakes—one that is proactive, science-based, and focused on addressing the root causes of degradation,” says Wayne Carmichael, PhD, a prominent expert in aquatic toxicology, known for his work on toxic cyanobacteria.

Carmichael has over 500 peer-reviewed papers, publications and presentations and has consulted on cyanobacteria issues in over 25 countries. He advises federal, state and local agencies, participates in national and international committees and has contributed to reports for the World Health Organization. Fortunately, there are effective, comprehensive solutions that can help in the fight to save our nation's lakes. The solution is a multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of water quality degradation. Ultimately, this approach can improve water quality, enhance recreational opportunities, and preserve aquatic ecosystems for future generations.

The Root Causes of Lake Deterioration

The decline in lake health is driven by several interconnected factors, described in general as eutrophication. Eutrophication is the technical term for the process that occurs when water bodies become overly enriched with nutrients, resulting in sediment nutrient accumulation.

These nutrients are recycled back into the water, fueling further algae growth and creating a feedback loop that

perpetuates the cycle of degradation. A tipping point is eventually reached when sediment nutrient recycling is sufficient to sustain eutrophic conditions and facilitate a switch to cyanobacteria dominance. In short, HABs become more prevalent, persistent, and intense.

According to Carmichael, the cause of eutrophication is well established. While some levels of nutrients are natural, human activities such as agriculture and urban runoff have accelerated eutrophication to dangerous levels, overwhelming nature's capacity to clear out these nutrients and maintain balance. Whether caused by climate change or not, the water temperature of lakes is increasing, further fueling eutrophication. Unfortunately, many lake management strategies often prove inadequate because they target the symptoms rather than the root cause factors that drive eutrophication in lakes.

In Search of More Permanent Solutions

According to Carmichael, effective restoration of lake and water reservoir health begins with monitoring key metrics that go beyond confirming the poor condition of the lake. These metrics should assess the entire ecosystem and provide indicators that can be used to evaluate sustained improvement. “[As an agency and industry] we have done a good job of monitoring, but now we need to get more serious about remediation and prevention,” says Carmichael.

This does not include simply applying air, flocculating/binding agents or algaecides as a quick fix. Treating the symptoms in this way often causes a rebound effect, where the underlying issues become more severe over time. “...chemical and physical methods either dampen the effects of a bloom or shorten the bloom, but do not prevent the bloom.” says Carmichael, who notes that the net effect is often only to

Great Lakes Basin Report

temporarily improve lake conditions for a few weeks, or months. The truth is that in most cases biocides, whether herbicides or algaecides, only make the problem worse. Algaecides are more effective against beneficial algae than cyanobacteria, and cyanobacteria are better able to recover after each application.

By killing algae and cyanobacteria cells, toxins are also released, and the dead cells sink to the bottom and compound nutrient recycling when they decompose. As algae die and decompose, oxygen is consumed in the water, leading to hypoxic conditions, "dead zones," where aquatic life cannot survive. Hypoxia is a major driver of "fish kills" and the loss of biodiversity in lakes. Addressing the root cause, therefore, means properly managing sediment accumulation.

"In most cases, the nutrients become part of the sediment, which becomes part of the permanent morphology of the lake," says Carmichael. An important first step is to identify methods that recycle properly in a natural way those nutrient rich sediments without "just physically removing and dumping them somewhere [through dredging techniques] but allowing them to be used in the lake ecosystem because nutrients are needed for organisms to grow," says Carmichael. "Most of the nutrients are organic and can be recycled back through the food web to benefit the natural cycle of the lake—not the HAB cycle of the lake," adds Carmichael.

Addressing hypoxia by ensuring adequate oxygen levels in the water is also crucial for maintaining a healthy lake ecosystem. Although there are

many different solutions that can be used to help revive a lake ecosystem, one promising category involves utilizing Rapid Acting Dissolved Oxygen Restoration (RADOR) technology. Numerous studies have demonstrated that high, stable oxygen levels reduce nutrients and minerals in the water column and can keep phosphorus locked into the organic sediments.

"RADOR helps ensure that the necessary increase in oxygen levels is properly maintained throughout the entire water column within a lake," says Dave Shackleton, president of Clean-Flo International, a US-based leader in biological water management solutions for managing water quality in biological environments such as wastewater treatment, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. "By increasing dissolved oxygen levels throughout the water column, the RADOR system initiates a sequence of events that bio-dredge mucky sediment, control aquatic weeds, improve water quality, reduce organic muck, nutrients, odor, harmful gases, and coliform bacteria. This helps to restore the nutrient clearing capacity of the food web by improving fish growth and health," explains Shackleton.

Clean-Flo designs its RADOR systems using compressors of various sizes based on the lake and application, along with self-sinking airline and diffusers that maintain full oxygenation from the bottom to the surface of the water.

"Another important step in restoring balance to a lake is bioaugmentation, which involves the use of enzymes to break down organic muck, like a compost pile. Boosted by natural enzymes, aerobic bacteria and micro-

organisms consume the organic muck and nutrients, while aquatic insects feed on the bacteria, increasing the natural food source for fish," says Shackleton. Critical micronutrients can also be introduced to stimulate the growth of organisms that form the foundation of a productive food web. This enables balance to be restored at the level of phytoplankton, so that beneficial algae can outcompete the toxic cyanobacteria, preventing HABs and providing better nutrition for the food web. The food web becomes more productive so that nutrient clearance is restored and sediment nutrient stockpiles are depleted as they are biodredged away.

Consistent use of these products over time reduces nutrient availability and helps maintain clean, healthy water. As water quality improves, swimming conditions get safer. The reduction of organic sediments helps control aquatic weeds by minimizing the nutrient-rich rooting bed that mucky sediment provides for their growth.

According to Shackleton, these are only a few of the available solutions, and customized programs based on the specific conditions of each lake are typically required to ensure restoration and long-term lake health.

"To preserve our nation's lakes, the industry must adopt a new approach to lake management—one that supports nature and addresses the root causes of degradation," says Shackleton. "Working with nature, rather than against it, is key to restoring lake health." For more information, Visit www.Clean-Flo.Com; Email Contact@Clean-Flo.Com; Or Call 1-800-328-6656 ✧

2024 Holiday Banquet & Awards



Jay Mathwick received the Margaret Berendt Award this year.

Waukesha County Conservation Alliance Banquet



Friday, February 7, 2025

Doors open 5:30 PM. Dinner at 7:00 PM.

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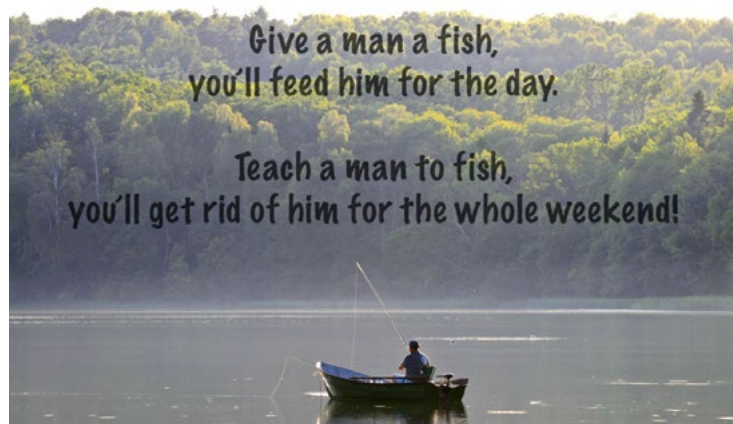
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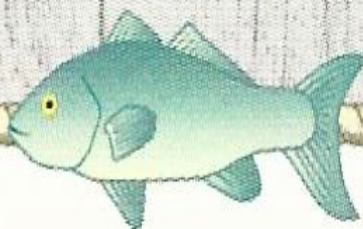
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**Current Dates for 2025
 SW Lake Michigan Tournaments**

Tournament	Port	Date
SU WI Open	Racine	TBD
SU IL Open	Northpoint	TBD
Kenosha Classic	Kenosha	TBD
SU IL Pass the Passion	Northpoint	TBD
Salmon a Rama	Racine	07/11-20/2025
Two in a Boat	Racine	TBD
Super Sweepstakes	Racine	TBD
Brew City		
Brew City Pro/Am	Milwaukee	8/2/25

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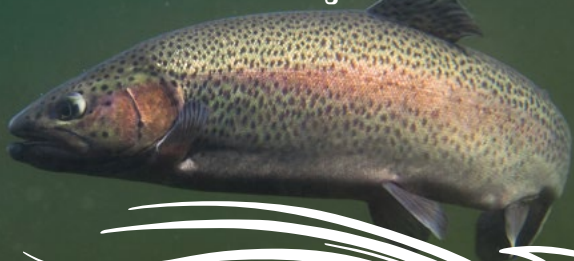
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Fishing northern pike through the ice

“Northern pike are the ultimate winter sport fish, the “people’s fish.” Any angler worth his or her salt will admit a northern pike has saved many fishing trips from being a skunk.”

Where to fish

Do a little homework. If you don’t have a favorite lake already, check our internet page (dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing) for lakes in your area, or better yet, contact your local fisheries biologist. They can provide information from recent surveys and send you in the right direction.

Keep it simple. Don’t try to out think a northern pike. Northern pike will suspend in the water column, they will be found along deep rocky bars, but for the most part they are going to be associated with vegetation. Vegetation is where the food generally is located and also provides concealment for a stalking predator like the northern pike. In most inland lakes vegetation extends to depths of 10-15 feet of water. Find the vegetation and you will find northern pike.

Best depths and bait placement

Split the difference. Many anglers when setting tip-ups place their bait a certain distance off the bottom. For example, say water depth is twelve feet. Find bottom and set your bait one or two feet off bottom. If you are fishing in vegetation my general rule is to think in halves. Twelve feet of water –put your bait at six feet. This serves two purposes. First, vegetation is still occupying a fair portion of the water column at early ice. If you place your bait based on x feet from the bottom there is a good chance it’s in the vegetation. No sight – no bite. Second, predators like northern pike cruise the water column. Even if they are near the bottom they can find prey above them. The opposite is less likely to be true.

Don’t forget the shallows. Especially during early ice northern pike will frequent water less than 5 feet deep. When setting up your tip-ups put one in shallow. You won’t be disappointed.

The mystique of the northern pike

- Northern pike are common in Wisconsin. At last count they were found in over 2,000 inland lakes, rivers, and flowages in Wisconsin. Not to mention the bays of Lakes Michigan and Superior, and the Mississippi River.
- Northern pike are multi-dimensional. They are mostly known as a food fish but also provide trophy opportunities. Northern pike fillets in a skillet are second to none. Check our website for proper filleting techniques to remove those troublesome “Y” bones.
- Northern pike are active and bite all day. Show up at noon and you are good to go. No more of that putzing around in the dark. You should be on your way home by then.
- Northern pike are low maintenance; the perfect winter fish for kids. Drill a few holes in the ice, put in some tip-ups, sit back and have a cup of coffee, let the kids play, and when a flag goes up, everybody runs. That’s good living in a Wisconsin winter.

- Terry Margenau is a fisheries supervisor stationed in Spooner. You can often find Terry... on the ice...fishing... for northern pike.



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Saturday, February 1, 2025 from 9 am - 2 pm

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- **Greenfield Park** 2028 S. 124th St. (Hosted by Great Lakes Sport Fishermen)
- **McCarty Park** 2567 S. 78th St. (Hosted by Southside Sportsmen)
- **Scout Lake Park** 5902 W. Loomis Rd. (Hosted by Walleyes Unlimited)

Please contact organizers for more information at kidsfishingclinics@gmail.com; 414-416-0591; or scan QR code (search "fishing clinics")

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- **4/12 WCSFO Spring Clinics**
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- **4/26** Wern Valley Sportsmens Club, 536W29657 Wern Way, Waukesha
- **5/7** Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo, Havenwoods State Forest, 6141 North Hopkins
- **6/28** Daniel Boone Coservation League, 4694 WI-167, Hubertus

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