



Sea Lamprey at historic lows in Lakes Michigan, Huron, & Ontario But increase in Lakes Superior and Erie *Rises in Lakes Superior and Erie being addressed aggressively*

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – The Great Lakes Fishery Commission reported that populations of the invasive sea lamprey remain at near-historic lows in Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Ontario, though the destructive, parasitic pest has increased in abundance in Lakes Superior and Erie. Sea lamprey population increases in Lakes Superior and Erie were greater compared to the other lakes even as abundances are generally holding steady. The Commission and its partners believe sea lamprey populations across the basin may be rebounding from the harsh winters of 2013/2014 and 2014/2015, though other factors such as prey availability and warmer water temperature may be factors as well. In response to the

increased numbers, the Commission and its partners have ratcheted up control in problem areas and heightened monitoring and assessment so that future control efforts will be targeted effectively.

Sea lampreys remain a constant battle in the Great Lakes, as the invader, native to the Atlantic Ocean, reproduces in the lakes and destroys many species of fish. Today, the Great Lakes fishery is worth \$7 billion annually to the people of Canada and the United States. Without sea lamprey control, the fishery would suffer significant ecological and economic harm. Before control, sea lampreys killed an estimated 103 million pounds (47 million kilograms) of fish per year. Today, because of control, sea

lampreys kill less than 10 million pounds (4.5 million kilograms) of fish per year.

The sea lamprey is one of the worst human-caused ecological disasters ever inflicted upon the Great Lakes. Sea lampreys invaded through shipping canals and, by 1939, were present throughout the system. They attach to Great Lakes fish with a tooth-filled, suction cup mouth and file a hole through the fish's scales and skin with a razor-sharp tongue. The average sea lamprey will kill up to 40 pounds (18 kg) of fish during its parasitic stage. Sea lampreys prefer trout, salmon, whitefish, and sturgeon, but they also attack smaller fish like walleye and perch.

Sea Lamprey

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Grass carp found spawning in Maumee River

Growing impacts of Asian carp have brought on many new studies recently, including one at the U. of Toledo. The research took place just downstream of the I-80 bridge, around 11 miles from Lake Erie, where five grass carp eggs were collected in mid-July.

Nicole King, researcher at The U. of Toledo and Technician at the UT Lake Erie Center found the first proof of grass carp spawning in the Maumee River. "If agencies want to do any sort of management of this species they need to know when and where these fish are spawning" said King.

Invasive Asian carp has been a concern in the Great Lakes region for years. The biggest problem remains bighead and silver carp. They're already in the Mississippi River basin and if they make it to the

Great Lakes, it would mean big trouble for the lake's food system.

Here, locally, in the Sandusky and the Maumee Rivers, it's grass carp that are being monitored. Grass carp are one of four species that are known as Asian carp. Grass carp are strictly herbivores. They eat aquatic vegetation and pose a threat to our wetland habitats, which could lead to impacts on native species such as pan fish, largemouth bass and pike. However grass carp do not directly compete with every native species as would bighead or silver carp. But it is still a species agencies don't want to see become established.

The research done at UT helps efforts to better understand population and distribution of grass carp so they can take on-the-ground action to control or eradicate current grass carp populations. ✧

Bass Pro completes \$4 billion acquisition of Cabela's

The years of speculation and rumors have come to an end. Bass Pro Shops completed their purchase of Cabela's. The \$4 billion acquisition has been years in the making, so we expect the process to go very smoothly. As of right now, no stores will be closing and things should remain mostly the same for shoppers with some noticeable improvements listed below. What's less certain is the fate of the 2,000 or so employees at Cabela's Sidney, Nebraska, headquarters. Bass Pro stated they expect to move operations to Missouri, but they might keep some employees in Nebraska.

Here is a list of answers Cabela's has provided to their anxious customers. Many of these actually seem much better for the consumer.

What are the customer benefits of uniting these companies?

This is an opportunity to create a "best of the best" shopping experience for all outdoor enthusiasts worldwide for generations to come. Bringing together these two great companies will advance our impact on the future of conservation like never before while protecting the outdoor heritage we all hold dear. We plan to retain and grow everything customers love about both brands.

Will the company's name change?

We will continue celebrating and promoting both the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's brands as we bring our two great companies together.

Will Bass Pro Shops gift cards be honored at Cabela's locations and vice versa?

Customers can exchange a Bass Pro Shops gift card to a Cabela's gift card for an equal amount and vice versa. Gift cards are exchanged at the customer service counter in either store or by contacting our online customer service centers. To exchange a Cabela's gift card that you would like to use at Bass Pro Shops, call 1-800-211-6440 to have it exchanged. To exchange a Bass

Pro Shops gift card that you would like to use at Cabela's, call 1-800-237-4444 to have it exchanged. We are working to improve this process moving forward.

Will I be able to return Cabela's purchases to Bass Pro Shops locations and vice versa?

Yes, Cabela's purchases can be returned to our customer service counters at Bass Pro Shops and vice versa or by contacting our online customer service centers.

Will existing exclusive brands and products still be available at Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's?

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's have strong national proprietary brands in several categories. Our goal is to continue developing and growing our brands to ensure we provide the same exceptional quality, service and value that customers have come to know and trust from Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's exclusive products.

Will Cabela's CLUB Visa cardholders earn points at Bass Pro Shops locations?

Yes, Cabela's CLUB Visa holders will earn 1% back on all purchases made at Bass Pro Shops and all locations that accept Visa. In addition, Cabela's CLUB Visa members will still earn 2%, 3% or 5% back on qualifying purchases at all Cabela's locations, earning points for free gear and incredible outdoor experiences. We are working on solutions to better connect the programs.

Will Bass Pro Shops Outdoor Rewards MasterCard cardholders earn points at Cabela's locations?

Yes, Bass Pro Shops Outdoor Rewards MasterCard holders will earn 1% back on all purchases made at Cabela's and all locations that accept MasterCard. In addition, you will still earn 3% or 5% back on qualifying purchases at all Bass Pro Shops locations, earning points for free gear and unique experiences. We are working on solutions to better connect the programs. ✧



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Position Statement

Representing a major interest in the aquatic resources of the Great Lakes states and the province of Ontario, the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council is a confederation of organizations and individuals with a concern for the present and future of sport fishing, our natural resources and the ecosystem in which we live. We encourage the wise use of our resources and a search for the truth about the issues confronting us.

Inland Seas Angler GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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Fall Indiana trout stockings in October

DNR hatcheries produce 16 different fish species for stocking throughout Indiana. The Indiana DNR does not provide fish for private ponds. The online fish stocking database includes DNR hatchery-raised fish and those approved by permit from a district fisheries biologist. Species include black crappie, bluegill, brown trout, channel catfish, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, grass carp, hybrid striped bass (wiper), hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, muskie, Northern pike, rainbow trout, redear sunfish, saugeye, steelhead, striped bass, walleye and yellow perch. Biologists evaluate fish populations to determine the best sites for stocking. Fish stockings are not done as a cure-all for poor fishing in a lake or stream.

It is illegal to stock fish into public water without a fish stocking permit that has been approved by a

DNR fisheries management biologist. Rules and regulations apply to stocked fish and anglers should read the [annual fishing regulation guide](#) for information about proper fishing methods, seasons and catch limits. Questions about the DNR fish stocking program should be directed to the appropriate [Management Biologist](#) for the area or water.

Indiana trout stocking

• 2017 Trout Stocking Plan

Trout stocking plans may be altered due to weather and river level conditions.

Regulation summary

Rainbow, brown and brook trout

Open season for streams:

Last Saturday in April,
after 6 a.m. local time through
December 31.

Open season for inland lakes: See
details below.

Streams

Bag limit: 5

Minimum size limit: 7 inches

Brown trout fishing regulations on selected waters

Anglers may not possess brown trout at Oliver, Olin and Martin lakes in LaGrange County, and Whitewater River below Brookville Reservoir dam in Franklin County unless the trout is 18 inches or longer. The daily bag limit is five trout but no more than one shall be a brown trout. These regulations are intended to increase the number of large trout available to anglers.

Rainbow trout will be stocked at four locations in mid-to late October.

- Schoaff Park in Allen County
- Oak Lake in Clark County
- Johnson Lake in Jefferson County
- Garvin Park Lake in Vanderburgh County ✧

Invasive Prussian carp damaging Alberta rivers

Critter is worrisome for the Missouri and Mississippi River basins and connecting tributaries

They look like goldfish, but Prussian carp are an invasive fish species that are capable of rapidly cloning themselves—and a new study shows that they are seriously damaging Alberta rivers. That's ominous news for all of North America's freshwaters, say researchers in the Department of Renewable Resources who discovered the extent of the harm occurring in 12 rivers and streams within the Red Deer River watershed.

"Prussian carp decrease the abundance of native fish species and change aquatic invertebrate species (the bugs that live in the water," said Jonathan Ruppert, lead author the study. "We need that natural balance because it supports the fundamental process that delivers us such things as clean water and healthy freshwater ecosystems." Research by Ruppert, supervised by assistant professor Mark Poesch, is the first evidence of precisely how negative an impact Prussian carp is having in North America. When combined with earlier

findings, which showed that Prussian carp exist in southern Alberta, just 200 km from the Missouri River drainage, it is extremely concerning.

"The Missouri River drainage is connected to the Mississippi River," said Ruppert. "Given the canal systems in that part of the province, there is a high-risk potential for Prussian carp to disperse to this system and then to spread throughout North America." Once invasive species are entrenched they are very difficult to eradicate, said Poesch. "And there's some research elsewhere that says it makes the whole ecosystem more susceptible to other invasive species," he said. Prussian carp dominate and choke out native species of fish for several reasons. They can survive extreme environmental conditions, such as low oxygen levels or high amounts of algae. They are also able to reproduce asexually, using the sperm of related species, which interferes with native species spawning. They were first

documented in Alberta in 2000 and in Saskatchewan in 2006, but it is still unclear to researchers how they arrived in North America from Europe.

Now that there's proof of how damaging they are being in Alberta, it's important to educate both recreational fishers and non-fishers about them. Since Prussian carp are almost indistinguishable from goldfish (although they can grow as long as 30 cm) it may be that they are unwittingly being transferred to new waters for bait or fishing stock, by humans who have misidentified them, he said. Poesch's next step is to develop an environmental DNA test, which would allow fisheries managers to easily tell whether there are Prussian carp in a body of water simply by sampling the water, in lieu of the more time-consuming method of catching the fish. www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/prussian-carp-alberta-invasive-1.4341547 ✧

Ohio hands out fines over fish kills caused by farm manure

TOLEDO (AP) – The operators of three agriculture businesses have been told to pay more than \$30,000 for three large fish kills that Ohio's DNR says were caused by livestock manure spread on fields. Investigators think ammonia-laden manure put onto the fields in northwestern Ohio ahead of rainstorms in August washed into creeks and caused the fish kills.

An Ohio law put in place to combat algae in Lake Erie prohibits farmers from putting manure on fields before heavy rains because the manure also contains phosphorous that feeds algae.

State officials say the manure spills killed close to 67,000 fish — including minnows and sunfish — in creeks in Williams, Allen and Hardin counties. They say the biggest spill killed 37,000 fish near Delphos in early August.

The Ohio DNR said it finished its investigations into the fish kills and sent letters last week to three people it found responsible.

The fines were issued to Dan Wagner, of Kenton; David Youngpeter, of Spencerville; and Mike Bockey, of Delphos. Messages seeking comment were left with all three.

Officials have said that the manure spills did not cause any long-term damage in the creek and that fish had returned within weeks.

The fish kills again put a spotlight on questions about how farmers are disposing of manure and the impact that has on waterways, especially in the Lake Erie region.

Ohio, along with Michigan and the Canadian province of Ontario, have agreed to sharply reduce the amount of phosphorus from farm fertilizers, livestock manure and sewage treatment plants that flows into the lake's western end within the next 10 years.

Agriculture organizations in the state have been leading efforts to educate farmers about how to properly use fertilizer and manure. ✧

Stocking advances musky reintroduction project in Green Bay

WILD ROSE, Wis. – Efforts to establish a self-sustaining population of spotted musky in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan waters got a boost this fall when 7,000 musky fingerling averaging 17 inches were stocked into the Fox River, several Green Bay tributaries, Lake Winnebago and three inland lakes. The fingerlings were raised for a year in cool water ponds at [Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery](#). They now weigh about a pound and average 17 inches in length, although some were pushing 19 and 20 inches.

DNR fish crews stocked roughly 1,350 fish into the future broodstock lakes of Anderson and Archibald Lakes in Oconto County and Elkhart Lake in Sheboygan County, according to Jesse Landwehr, hatchery supervisor. The three inland lakes will serve as the source of brood stock in future years. Beginning in 2019, DNR tentatively will spawn spotted muskies in an effort to ramp up production in the hatcheries.

They stocked fish that were hatched from eggs collected from Michigan waters where spotted musky still are found, and raised them at Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery. Those stockings have helped create a popular fishery in Green Bay with anglers reeling in many 50-plus-inch fish but the ultimate goal of the project—creating a self-sustaining population—has been elusive.

DNR staff have worked in recent years to diversify the genetic pool in hopes of seeing better natural reproduction.

All the fish going into the three brood lakes were fin-clipped and PIT tagged so DNR can identify individual fish and their parentage. "This enables us when we are spawning on the brood stock lakes in the future to maintain genetic diversity," Landwehr says.

For the rest of the fish going into the Green Bay system, 20 percent were tagged and clipped to help local biologists identify individual fish and assess their growth rates. ✧

DEC invites Public to comment on Draft Lake Sturgeon Recovery Plan

NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos earlier this month announced the release of a Draft Lake Sturgeon Recovery Plan for New York State that will help guide the agency and its partners in recovery efforts of this iconic, prehistoric-looking creature dubbed "The King of Fishes."

DEC is inviting the public to comment on the plan, last updated in 2005. Since then, new guidance that defines viable spawning populations in the Great Lakes has been published. The New York recovery plan partitions the historic range of lake sturgeon into seven Management Units based on distribution of known sturgeon populations, movement within and among populations, and the genetic structure of lake sturgeon populations across the state.

The goals of this recovery plan are to ensure perpetuation of the species in the State, restore self-sustaining populations, and remove the species from the threatened species list in New York. To achieve that goal, recovery metrics are defined that must be achieved in six of the seven geographically defined management units to support removing lake sturgeon from the list of threatened species. At a minimum, 750 sexually mature fish must be present in each management unit, coupled with three-year classes of wild reproduction in a five-year period, to consider that unit recovered.

The plan may be accessed via DEC's website: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111557.html.

DEC will accept comments on the plan until **November 25, 2017**. To comment on the plan, send an email with the subject line "Lake Sturgeon" to rarefish@dec.ny.gov or send written comments via U.S. Mail to: Lisa Holst, Rare Fish Unit Leader, NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753.

✧

Lake sturgeon releases put nearly 6,000 fish into Michigan waters

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and several partners released nearly 6,000 juvenile lake sturgeon into various public waters across the state this summer and fall in an effort to rehabilitate this culturally significant fish species. The table below shows which agencies stocked fish, how many were stocked, and the date and location of each stocking effort.

Agencies	Stocked Fish	Date Stocked	Location Stocked
MI DNR & Michigan State U	549	Aug. 19	Black Lake (Cheboygan Cty)
MI DNR & Michigan State U	2,261	May 26	Lower Black River (Cheboygan Cty)
Little Traverse Bay Band	601	Sept. 7	Burt Lake/Sturgeon River (Cheboygan Cty)
MI DNR & Michigan State U	740	Sept. 19	Mullet Lake (Cheboygan Cty)
Michigan DNR	302	Sept. 8	Cedar River (Menominee Cty)
MI DNR, USFWS, Gun Lake Tribe	2	July 25	Kalamazoo River (Allegan Cty)
MI DNR	72	Sept. 11	Whitefish River (Delta Cty)
MI DNR & USFWS	1,261	Sept. 19	Ontonagon River (Ontonagon Cty)
MI DNR & Michigan State U	193	Aug. 21	Tittabawassee River (Midland Cty)
Total Sturgeon Stocked:	5,981		

Juvenile lake sturgeon were collected from the wild during April and May and reared in streamside facilities until they were large enough to tag. Most fish were tagged prior to being released into their respective rivers to allow future

evaluations of stocked fish.

“Many of these stocking efforts were public events that shined a spotlight on how important lake sturgeon are to Michigan,” said DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. “Our state has a long history with the lake sturgeon, and working with our partners helps us protect them for future generations.”

The lake sturgeon is on the Threatened Species list in Michigan, and these annual stocking efforts are critical to restoring the state’s lake sturgeon population. It takes the work of many partners to secure funding and resources to make restoration possible. Partners include the DNR, the Black Lake chapter of Sturgeon for Tomorrow, the Kalamazoo River chapter of Sturgeon for Tomorrow, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish band of Pottawatomi Indians, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Michigan State University, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service. For more information about lake sturgeon, visit michigan.gov/sturgeon. ✧

DNR adopts updated five-year plan for parks and recreation system management

The Michigan DNR recently adopted a new, updated five-year strategic plan to guide the future management of the state's parks and recreation system.

The DNR Parks and Recreation Division manages 103 state parks and recreation areas, totaling 306,148 acres across Michigan's Upper and Lower peninsulas. It also oversees the state’s boating program, the state motorized and non-motorized trails system and 138 state forest campgrounds.

“In Michigan, our diverse natural, cultural and recreational resources play a defining role in

residents' quality of life and the future of this state,” said Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation Division chief. “This plan will serve as a compass for the next five years and help ensure proactive management and connection to these resources for future generations.”

The plan identifies goals, objectives and strategies to address the key issues affecting the state’s parks and recreation system. It is the culmination of an 18-month collaborative effort to define where resources will be focused to carry the state parks and recreation system beyond its centennial milestone in

2019.

The plan, titled Parks and Recreation Division Strategic Plan 2017-2022: Connections, is an overarching document that will guide the division in carrying out its mission to “acquire, protect and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan’s unique resources, and to provide access to land- and water-based recreation and educational opportunities” over the upcoming five-year period. The plan is available at www.michigan.gov/prdstrategicplans. ✧

Report suspected cases of EHD

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois DNR has received reports of 26 suspected cases of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) so far in 2017. Scattered reports from the southern two-thirds of the state involving a few animals suggest that EHD has been very light this year, to date. However, recent unseasonably warm temperatures coupled with prolonged dry conditions throughout the state suggest that EHD may increase this fall.

Illinois' top year for reported cases of EHD was 2012, when 2,043 cases were reported from 76 counties. In 2013, IDNR received reports of 403 cases from 51 counties. EHD was virtually absent in 2014 and at low levels in 2015 and 2016.

IDNR continues to ask landowners, hunters, and concerned citizens to be on the lookout for dead or dying deer, and to report suspected EHD cases to their local IDNR field office, or to the IDNR Wildlife Disease and Invasive Species Program (WDIS). IDNR is especially interested in sick or recently dead animals, as staff may attempt to collect tissue samples in order to confirm the presence of the EHD virus.

Contact information for local IDNR biologists: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/professionals.cfm>. Contact the WDIS Program: 815-369-2414, doug.dufford@illinois.gov. Please provide your name and contact information, as well as the county, number of dead/sick deer, sex (if known), age (fawn or adult) and specific location of the deer (distance/direction from the nearest town or intersection of two roads).

EHD is a viral disease of white-tailed deer that can cause localized die-offs when conditions are favorable for transmission.

Map showing the distribution of 2017 EHD-suspected deer. [IDNR EHD Release and Map](#) ✧

Effects of invasive Asian carp on native fishes

A necessary first step for integrated pest management

Abstract

Numerous studies throughout North America allege deleterious associations among invasive Asian carp and native fishes; however, no empirical evidence on a system-wide scale exists. We used Mississippi River Basin fish community data collected by the Long Term Resource Monitoring program and the Missouri Department of Conservation to evaluate possible interaction between Asian carp and native fishes.

Results from two decades of long-term monitoring throughout much of the Mississippi River suggest that silver carp relative abundance has increased. To this end, this study provides evidence that silver carp are likely adversely influencing native fishes; however, mere presence of silver carp in the system does not induce deleterious effects on native fishes.

To the best of our knowledge, this evaluation is the first to describe the effects of Asian carp throughout the Mississippi River Basin and could be used to reduce the effects of Asian carp on native biota through an integrated pest management program as suggested by congressional policy. Despite the simplicity of the data analyzed and approach used, this study provides a framework for beginning to identify the interactions of invasive fish pests on native fishes (i.e., necessary first step of integrated pest management).

However, knowledge gaps remain. We suggest future efforts should conduct more in-depth analyses (i.e., multivariate statistical approaches) that investigate the influence on all native species.

The full 15 page document: [Effects of Invasive Asian Carp on native fishes \(DOI\)](#). ✧

New maps make it easier to visit Minn. state forests

DNR updated 6 state forest maps, including digital tracking option for mobile devices

The Minnesota DNR has produced six new, state-of-the-art maps that will make it easier and safer for people to explore, hunt, and recreate in state forests.

“The DNR has updated six state forest maps with 53 more to go,” said Forrest Boe, director of the DNR Forestry Division. “This five-year effort will include updating maps for all of Minnesota’s state forests.”

State forest users now have two maps options. A geoPDF map will allow users to download a map onto a mobile device using a variety of map apps and then track their location as a blue dot on the screen. The new user-friendly, paper maps highlight the unique recreation features of each forest and include pop-out maps for popular campgrounds and day-use areas.

“The little blue dot that appears on the map on my phone goes with me whether I’m on or off-trail,” said Laura Duffey, DNR state forest map project coordinator. “This feature lets people know exactly where they are in a state forest—no more getting lost.”

The maps are also more detailed than previous versions and highlight the endless recreation opportunities in state forests. Many state forests also offer campgrounds, piers, boat launches, beaches, and picnic areas.

The six new maps are available in time for fall hunting and cover more than 240,000 acres of state forest land and thousands of miles of trails. Digital geoPDF maps are available on the state forest’s webpage at www.mndnr.gov/state-forests/maps-launch.html.

People can get a free paper map at a local DNR office or the DNR Info Center by sending an email to info.dnr@state.mn.us or calling 888-646-6367. ✧

Fall is hot for fishing in New York State

The cooling waters of fall provide some of the hottest fishing in New York as fish begin to feed more actively prior to cold weather, or head up streams and rivers to spawn. Here are some recommendations:

- Seek [brook trout](#) in an Adirondack pond. Fast fishing can also be found in streams and rivers. Just remember that trout season closes on many waters **October 15**.

- Fish the tributaries of Lake Ontario for [Pacific salmon](#) or Lake Champlain for [Atlantic salmon](#). Great steelhead fishing can also be found in many [Lake Erie](#) and [Lake Ontario](#) tributaries.

- [Northern pike](#) are very active during cool water periods. Fish a crankbait around any remaining aquatic plant beds. Look for pike in Tupper Lake, Chateaugay Lake, Conesus Lake, Delta Lake, Cayuga Lake, Honeoye Lake, Lake Ontario, Lake Champlain, Cuba Lake and many other [medium - large lakes and rivers](#) in upstate New York ✧

New law in Illinois bobcat hunting and trapping season

A new state law will allow hunters and trappers to harvest up to 350 bobcats during the 2017-18 Illinois Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Season which opens on November 10. The legislation making changes in the bobcat season, House Bill 3399, was signed into law on September 22. The new law also changed the list of counties in which it is unlawful to hunt or trap bobcats in the state. Bobcat hunting and trapping season dates are **November 10, 2017** through **February 15, 2018**.

A total of 1,000 permits has been allocated. During last year's bobcat season, Illinois issued 500 permits and hunters and trappers harvested 141 bobcats, a 28 percent success rate. ✧

Onondaga Lake Cleanup Progresses

Progress continues with the cleanup of Onondaga Lake, its tributaries, and surrounding sites in Onondaga County, New York. Native plants, fish and wildlife are returning to the area and the lake is now supporting a range of recreational uses. Plans are in place to continue expanding lake access and the community conversation is shifting toward Onondaga Lake as a public asset.

Draft Long-Term Monitoring Plan

The Draft Onondaga Lake Long-Term Monitoring Plan is available for public review on DEC's website. Public comments are being accepted through **December 7, 2017**. A Public Open House is scheduled for Thursday, **November 9, 2017**.

Nitrate Addition/Monitored Natural Recovery

The addition of diluted calcium nitrate solution in the deep-water areas of the lake began in 2012 and is ongoing. The solution inhibits the production of methylmercury, the most toxic form of mercury to fish and biota. Monitoring results, including mercury levels in surface sediment and settling sediments, and annual sedimentation rates, indicate that natural recovery of the deep lake area is occurring faster than previously predicted.

Sediment Consolidation Area

The Sediment Consolidation Area (SCA), located on Wastebed 13 in the Town of Camillus, is where material removed from the lake was managed and is now fully contained.

Habitat Restoration

Restoration of Onondaga Lake's shoreline and tributaries includes improvements at Geddes Brook, Nine Mile Creek, Harbor Brook, and along portions of the western shoreline. To date, 89 acres of wetlands have been created or enhanced with nearly 780,000 native trees, plants and shrubs. Habitat restoration under the cleanup plan is scheduled to be completed in fall 2017. ✧

DEC seeking Public Comment on crab and whelk regulations Public comment period began on October 26, 2017

DEC Division of Marine Resources has reopened the public comment period for a Notice of Proposed Rule Making to amend 6 NYCRR Part 44 Lobsters and Crabs and Part 50 Miscellaneous Marine Species. The following provisions are proposed:

- 1) Require use of terrapin excluder devices measuring 1-3/4" high x 4-3/4" wide in crab traps set in nearshore harbors, creeks, and tributaries of the marine district;
- 2) Allow 2 horseshoe crab permit holders to harvest from a single vessel or vehicle. Each can take a single harvest limit; and
- 3) Require mandatory catch reporting for whelk permit holders.

The DEC is now reopening the public comment period for this rule making for an additional two weeks, starting on October 26, 2017.

Comments accepted until close of business on **November 8, 2017**. More info: [Marine Resources Proposed, Emergency, and Recently Adopted Regulations](#) page. Submit comments to: Kim McKown, NYSDEC, 205 N. Belle Meade Road, Suite 1, East Setauket, NY 11733-3400, 631-444-0454, fw.marine@dec.ny.gov. ✧

Wheelchair accessible fishing access constructed on Scriba Creek

A new fishing access site on Scriba Creek has been completed at the north end of the Oneida Hatchery in the Village of Constantia (Oneida County). The site accommodates 5-7 anglers and has lowered railing for anglers fishing out of wheelchairs. The site is fully accessible and includes two picnic tables built to accommodate a wheel chair at either end. Fishing is generally best in the spring, but there are fish in the creek most of the year. ✧

Sea Lamprey

Continued from page 1

Given the tremendous damage sea lampreys caused, Canada and the United States, through the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, charged the Great Lakes Fishery Commission with implementing sea lamprey control and research; the commission partners with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey to deliver the program. Sea lamprey control consists of several techniques including lampricides, barriers, and traps. The commission also is experimenting with chemosensory cues as a way to disrupt spawning behavior. For more information, visit www.glfc.org/sea-lamprey.php.

“Sea lampreys are the scourge of the Great Lakes and must be controlled,” said David Ullrich, chair of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. “Without sea lamprey control, the Great Lakes fishery would be laid to waste by the voracious predator. Unfortunately, sea lampreys are here to stay. Fortunately, we can control them effectively such that we lose only a small amount of fish to lamprey compared to the hundred million pounds lost each year prior to our control program.”

Ullrich added: “Today’s news about sea lamprey abundances provides reason for optimism but also is a caution against complacency. Although we saw increases in Lakes Superior and Erie, we still are at or near historic lows in sea lamprey abundances in the remaining Great Lakes. Sea lampreys are resilient beasts and we cannot let up on our control effort. We will always work aggressively to reach our sea lamprey suppression targets in all lakes.”

“Overall, the sea lamprey control program has been a tremendous success,” said Robert Hecky, the Commission’s vice-chairman. “The control program provides fish a chance to survive long enough to spawn, be caught by

humans, or live a natural life. It also allows agencies to restore stressed species and maintain thriving sport, commercial, and tribal fisheries.”

By lake, the latest sea lamprey status is as follows:

LAKE ONTARIO: Consistent treatment effort on Lake Ontario for the past 25 years has contributed to keeping lamprey numbers at or near target and historic lows. Sources to watch include the Niagara River, but this connecting channel currently has a low larval sea lamprey abundance.

LAKE MICHIGAN: Heightened and targeted treatment strategies in Lake Michigan employed since 2012, and biennial treatment of the Manistique River since 2003, have contributed to historic lows in abundances; targeted treatment was applied again in 2017. Lake Michigan likely benefits from treatments in the northern portion of Lake Huron (e.g. St. Marys River). Sources of concern include tributaries that are difficult to treat in the northern and eastern portions of the lake.

LAKE HURON: Heightened and targeted treatment strategies in Lake Huron employed since 2010, including two large-scale treatments of the St. Marys River, have contributed to historic lows in lamprey abundances; another round of targeted treatment is scheduled for 2018. Lake Huron likely benefits from the treatment of tributaries in the northern portion of Lake Michigan (e.g. Manistique River). Sources to watch include the St. Marys River and tributaries that are difficult to treat in the northern portions of the lake.

LAKE SUPERIOR: A targeted treatment strategy was implemented in 2016, and the impact of these efforts will not be seen until 2018. The reasons for the relatively high abundances in Lake Superior are not fully apparent. Sources to watch include lentic areas of the Chippewa, Nipigon, Gravel, and Batchawana rivers. Treatments have recently

occurred in these systems. The Bad River has also been treated recently, however, some concerns remain that treatment effectiveness may not have been ideal for this system. The St. Louis River, which has undergone significant restoration as an area of concern through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, looms as a potential sea lamprey producer that would be difficult to treat.

LAKE ERIE: The reasons for the relatively high abundances in Lake Erie are not apparent. Sources to watch include the St. Clair River, the only known source of sea lamprey not treated regularly. Intensive larval survey efforts recently conducted to identify previously undetected populations did not reveal any untreated tributaries. Preliminary acoustic telemetry results indicate that adult sea lamprey are exploring tributaries not currently treated, however, that does not necessarily mean the tributaries are producing sea lamprey. Larval assessment surveys will be conducted to look for recruitment in these tributaries. ✧

Funding to Hudson River communities remove dams

New York has announced funding of \$910,631 for seven projects to help reduce localized flooding and restore aquatic habitats in tributary streams of the Hudson River Estuary. This funding further expands State efforts to enhance resiliency and improve river ecosystems. To date, New York DEC Hudson River Estuary Program has awarded 479 grants totaling \$18.7 million in shoreline protection and natural resources conservation and improvement projects for communities. The grants will help Hudson communities plan for dam removal and culvert replacement projects to restore aquatic habitat for American eel and river herring. Removing these stream barriers also will benefit resident fish. ✧

PFBC adds waters to keystone stocked trout program

ERIE, Pa. – For the second consecutive year, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is adding more waters to the increasingly popular Keystone Select Stocked Trout Program, bringing to 22 the total number of creeks holding the big 14”-20” trophy trout.

The eight new waters, which will be stocked for the 2018 trout season, include:

- Armstrong County, Buffalo Creek, Section 03 (3.70 miles) – Little Buffalo Run downstream to 0.6 miles upstream of SR4035 (Craigsville)
- Berks County, Tulpehocken Creek, Section 06 (1.95 miles) – Outflow Blue Marsh Lake downstream to SR3008 Bridge (Rebers Road bridge)
- Fayette County, Meadow Run, Section 06 (2.20 miles) – Bridge on Dinner Bell Road (SR2011) downstream to the mouth
- Lebanon County, Quittapahilla Creek, Section 04 (1.10 miles) – Spruce Street Bridge (T-398) downstream to SR0934 bridge
- Lycoming County, Lycoming Creek, Section 04 (1.30 miles) –

First overhead utility line upstream of Powys Curve downstream to bridge on old Route 15 (SR0015) near Haleeka

- Monroe County, McMichael Creek, Section 04 (1.44 miles) – 1.6 km downstream Beaver Valley Road (T-414) bridge downstream to 1.14 km downstream Turkey Hill Road (T-416) bridge
- Snyder County, Middle Creek, Section 04 (1.20 miles) – SR4007 bridge downstream to the downstream boundary of State Game Lands 188
- Tioga County, Pine Creek, Section 06 (1.06 miles) – Darling Run downstream to 150 m downstream of Owassie Slide Run

Under the program, approximately 6,500 large trout will be distributed among the 22 waters. The trout will be stocked at a rate of 175 to 225 per mile, which is comparable to the numbers of similarly sized fish in Pennsylvania’s best wild trout waters.

The waters are regulated under Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (DHALO) regulations, which provide the opportunity to catch

these fish multiple times. Under DHALO regulations, waters are open to fishing year-round, but anglers can harvest trout only between June 15 and Labor Day and the trout have to be a minimum of nine inches. For the rest of the year, these waters are managed on a catch-and-release-only basis and the creel limit is zero. Tackle is limited to artificial lures and flies. ✧

2018 Ill. Tournament applications accepted beginning Nov. 1

Fishing tournament organizers can begin applying for 2018 tournament permits on **November 1, 2017**. Applications can be submitted to the Illinois DNR website: <https://www.ifishillinois.org/tournament/index.php>. Catch results from 2017 tournaments must be entered before fishing clubs and tournament trails will be allowed to request tournament dates for 2018. Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. For 2017, nearly 3,000 applications for fishing tournaments were received. ✧

PFBC votes to reduce spending by \$2 million in 2018

ERIE, Pa. – Facing escalating costs and declining revenues after 12 years without an increase in the price of a fishing license, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission voted to reduce spending by \$2 million in fiscal year 2018-19 if the legislature does not act on legislation to raise license fees. The action came during the agency’s quarterly business meeting.

The current plan for achieving the \$2 million reduction in operating expenses would involve closing two warmwater hatcheries and one trout hatchery. The plan would reduce the number of trout stocked in 2019 by 7.5 percent and would result in severe reductions to the PFBC’s cooperative nursery program.

PFBC Executive Director John Arway said that, barring a price increase established by the state legislature, the agency must begin to take these steps to remain financially solvent and provide basic services to the nearly 850,000 anglers who purchase a license each year.

“The price of a general fishing license was last raised in 2005,” he said. “Since then, we have continued to provide the same level of services to our customers, while seeking a price increase from the state legislature. The Senate has acted twice and passed legislation in 2016 and 2017 to give the Commission the authority to set license fees. But the House has failed to vote on

Senate Bill 30. Until they do, we must cut expenses to pay our bills.”

Closing the hatcheries would result in the elimination of 240,000 adult stocked trout in 61 streams and four lakes. (See the PFBC website for specific waters – [map](#), [list](#).) The production and stocking of warmwater species would also be affected, including walleye, American shad, Musky, Northern Pike and Channel Catfish.

“The three hatcheries won’t be fully closed until late 2018 or early 2019, so there is still time remaining this year for a legislative solution,” added Arway. “It is imperative that the House of Representatives act now and pass Senate Bill 30.” ✧

DNR conducting annual Les Cheneaux Islands fish survey

The Michigan DNR recently surveyed the channels and embayments of the Les Cheneaux Islands, along the Lake Huron shoreline on the Upper Peninsula's southeastern tip. Survey nets were fished at sampling stations throughout the island chain to collect specimens representative of the overall fish community. The DNR has performed this survey every year since 1969.

"We counted each fish by species and weighed and measured them," said Dave Fielder, DNR fisheries research biologist. "We also collected spines from some species to allow us to age the fish."

The DNR is particularly interested in determining the status of the local yellow perch population through this survey. This population has been intensively managed, particularly in response to the corresponding management of cormorants. Cormorants have been managed to benefit the yellow perch fishery since 2004 in a joint effort between the DNR and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services. Cormorant management was suspended by federal court action in 2016, and fish population monitoring will be important to documenting any changes to the fish community.

Survey results will be made available to the public in April 2018. ✧

2016 Lake Ontario annual report

The complete 2016 Lake Ontario annual report has been posted on the NYSDEC website and can be found below. This is an in-depth report that summarizes biological data collected from Lake Ontario during 2016. The executive summary is also attached. [2016 Lake Ontario Fisheries Program Highlights](#) 7 pp, [2016 Lake Ontario Unit Annual Report](#) 416 pp. ✧

Long Island for hot fall trout fishing

Each fall, Region 1 and Catskill Fish Hatchery staff stock 12–13" brown trout in Nassau and Suffolk Counties to enhance fall freshwater fishing opportunities. This year, 5,550 brown trout will be stocked into 14 waters in mid-October, with an additional 3,000 stocked in November. To request a stocking list, [e-mail](#) or call the Region 1 Fisheries Unit at 631-444-0280.

While trout fishing closed on many New York waters on October 15, others waters that are open year round are stocked with large breeder trout (14-28") following fall egg take operations. The following waters have either been stocked or should receive fish over the next few weeks: Walton Lake, Big Pond, Case Lake, Harwood Lake, New Albion Lake and Quaker Lake, along with Allen Lake and the Genesee River. ✧

Proposed brook trout regs change in U.P.

Michigan is proposing an increase to the brook trout possession limit on select U.P. streams next year.

The brook trout daily possession limit has been set at five (5) for the past 17 years. During that time, many requests were received from anglers wanting to keep more fish. Sparked by these requests and input from the DNR's Coldwater Regulations Steering Committee, department fisheries staff investigated social and biological aspects of increasing the brook trout possession limit from five to 10 on a subset of Upper Peninsula streams.

The proposal seeks to implement a higher brook trout possession limit on 33 stream sections distributed throughout the Upper Peninsula. In terms of stream mileage, the selected sections represent about 8% of the total mileage for Type 1 Upper Peninsula streams. [Maps of the proposed streams](#) are available on the DNR website. ✧

Trout stream management meeting on Long Island **Nov 2**

Long Island anglers will have the opportunity to voice opinions regarding the NYSDEC efforts to manage stream trout populations at a public meeting on **November 2**.

The meeting will feature a presentation by DEC staff describing current management practices for trout streams and will include key findings of a statewide study completed in 2015. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide input and feedback regarding their preferences and expectations for the management of trout streams.

November 2, 6:30 - 9 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation begins at 7 p.m.)

Suffolk County Water Authority Education Center, 260 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY 11788

Visit DEC's [Trout Stream Management page](#) for more info. [Complete schedule with location details.](#) ✧

Indiana State Parks 2nd Century Survey

We had a great celebration of our Indiana State Park's system's centennial year, 2016. Now it's time to look to the future. Help us by participating in our 2nd Century Survey. You will then be entered into a drawing for 2018 annual park passes, camping gift cards and more. [IN. Park Survey](#) ✧

Roadmap to fishing Lake Michigan

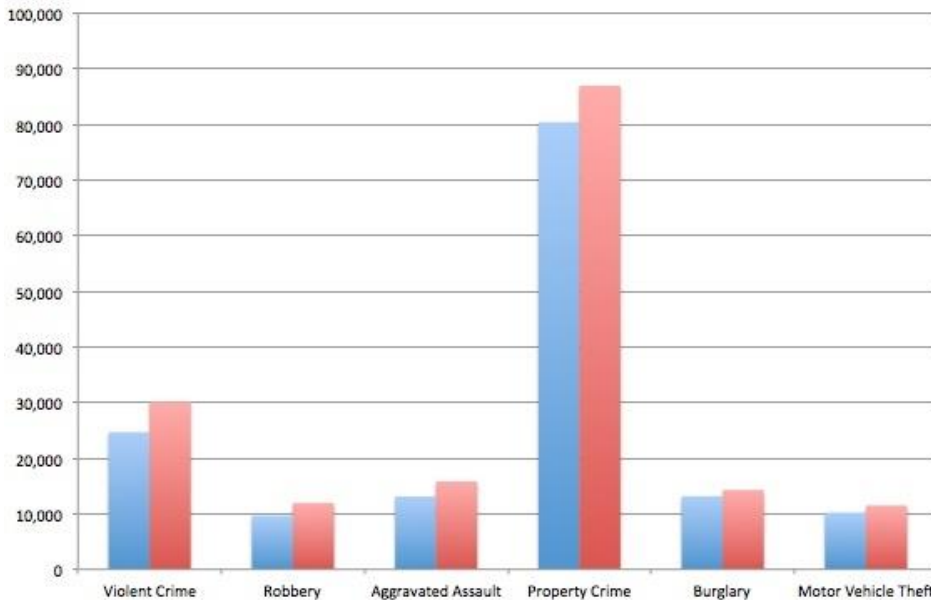
Want to fish Lake Michigan, but aren't sure when or where to go? This roadmap is a starting point to providing information on many fishing sites and times of the year when great opportunities exist. Please note this is not an exhaustive list. [Roadmap to Fishing Lake Michigan](#) ✧

FBI: Chicago violence contributes to nationwide increase in murders

According to the FBI, 2016 Chicago crime saw an uptick across the board compared with 2015

CHICAGO, IL – Murders and violent crimes rose in Chicago in 2016, according to data released in the FBI's annual crime report. The statistics reveal Chicago's uptick in killings played a large role in 2016's nation-wide violent crime surge. According to the FBI report, there were 765 homicides in Chicago in 2016, compared to 478 murders in 2015, marking the deadliest year in nearly two decades.

Here is a comparison of the FBI's crime statistics in Chicago between 2015 and 2016:



According to the FBI report, there were 24,663 violent crime offenses in Chicago in 2015, compared with 30,126 in 2016. The report finds there were more than 5,000 violent crime offenses in 2016 compared to 2015, and property crime also saw an uptick of more than 5,000 offenses.

According to the Chicago Police Department, the city saw a surge in gun violence in 2016: there were 3,550 shooting incidents, and 4,331 shooting victims.

The city's crime spike played a large role in the [rise in violent crime across the U.S. for a second straight year](#), accounting for more than 20 percent of the nationwide murder rate increase. The 11 largest cities with populations greater than 1 million saw a 20 percent murder increase and a 7.2 percent violent crime increase. ✧

Huge gun rights victory

D.C. declines to take CCW Case to SCOTUS

Apparently fearing a devastating loss that could crush arbitrary concealed carry laws in a handful of states, the District of Columbia has declined to appeal its loss of a concealed carry case that struck down its “needs based” permit requirement, the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) learned.

The SAF case is *Wrenn v. District of Columbia*. A three-judge panel on the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia struck down the city’s “good cause” requirement as unconstitutional in July. The court declined a request for an en banc panel review.

“We believe the city was under intense pressure to take the hit and not appeal the ruling by the U.S. District Court of Appeals,” said SAF founder Alan M. Gottlieb. “If the

District had lost the case before the high court, it would have dealt a fatal blow to similar requirements in California, New Jersey, Maryland and New York, for example, and that prospect had anti-gun politicians in those states quaking in their shoes.”

Gottlieb recalled that the District’s loss in 2008 when the Supreme Court struck down its handgun ban as unconstitutional under the Second Amendment opened a floodgate for legal challenges to state laws. That led to SAF’s 2010 victory in *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, which not only nullified the Windy City’s handgun ban but more importantly incorporated the Second Amendment to the states via the 14th Amendment.

“Let’s face it,” Gottlieb said,

“anti-gunners are determined to cling to their dogma of public disarmament rather than admit that their resistance to common sense concealed carry reform amounts to nothing more than stubborn denial. These people simply do not want to enter the 21st Century. They refuse to accept the Supreme Court ruling that the Second Amendment protects and affirms an individual right to not only keep arms, but to bear them as the Founders understood.

“However,” he added, “this decision opens the gate farther to an inevitable high court confrontation because there are now conflicting opinions on concealed carry from the different circuit courts. Common sense says that the 14th Amendment’s equal protection clause will not allow that conflict to continue.” www.saf.org. ✧

Federal Firearms Licensee Protection Act of 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) commended U.S. Sen. Lindsay Graham's (R-S.C.) introduction of [S.1854](#), the Federal Firearms Licensee Protection Act of 2017, which will strengthen the criminal penalties for thefts of firearms from retailers and impose mandatory minimum sentences.

"Thefts from federally licensed firearms retailers represent particularly brazen offenses that hold potential for additional crime when stolen guns are sold on the street," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. "The Federal Firearms Licensee Protection Act is a significant reinforcement of our federal laws to help deter both first-time and repeat violators and to ensure those convicted of these crimes serve serious time."

Sen. Graham's legislation would impose a minimum sentence for a successful conviction of not less than three years for burglary and five years for robbery.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has reported a 48 percent increase in the number of burglaries and a 175 percent in the number of robberies over the past five years. In 2016, about 7,758 firearms were stolen from Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) in burglaries and robberies.

As part of Operation Secure Store, NSSF helps educate FFLs on steps they can take to reduce theft. NSSF, in cooperation with ATF, also conducts retailer store security seminars, assists retailers with store security audits, and encourages the use of methods and technologies to reduce the likelihood firearms will be stolen. NSSF also continues to match ATF reward offers for information that leads to the arrest of criminals responsible for thefts from FFLs. ✧

Ohio's Updated Hunter Ed Course

The next generation of hunters are the first to benefit from Ohio's revamped hunter education course, according to the Ohio DNR. A new course book and enhanced online learning options provide a more current and comprehensive curriculum for aspiring hunters of all ages. The fully-illustrated booklet includes 11 chapters covering firearms safety, preparation, equipment, conservation and more.

Prospective hunters who want to complete their hunting education in person can sign up for an instructor-led course, which usually lasts eight to 12 hours spread over two days. Specially-trained volunteers and ODNR Division of Wildlife staff teach the courses in a classroom environment. Interested individuals should visit www.wildohio.gov to find a course in their local community. Hunter education remains free for those who complete an instructor-led course.

For people with busy schedules, a new online hunter education option offers flexibility while still providing the same educational material needed to become a responsible hunter. Anyone who is 12 years or older can complete the approximately four-hour course online. The course is compatible with smartphones, tablets and personal computers. A \$15 fee is paid to the online vendor once an individual completes the course and passes the final course exam.

For aspiring hunters under 12 years of age, a home-study course combines the flexibility of online learning with the hands-on approach of in-person hunter education training. After completing each unit and taking a test online, students are required to attend an in-person classroom session. A \$15 fee is paid to the online vendor after the online exam is completed. The final classroom session is led by an ODNR employee or certified instructor volunteer and usually lasts about four hours. ✧

MN Duck season dates

Duck season has similar bag limits and season dates that were in place last year. Duck season is again open for 60 days in each of the three waterfowl zones. In the **north zone**, duck season is open through **November 21**. The **central zone** was open September 23 - October 1, closed for five days and reopened **October 7**, and then runs through **November 26**. In the **south zone**, duck season was open September 23 through October 1, closed for 12 days, then reopened **October 14**, and runs through **December 3**. [DNR's waterfowl hunting page](#) ✧

Rule changes approved by Ohio Wildlife Council

COLUMBUS, OH – Changes to bag and size limits for fish in certain bodies of water and adding the rusty patched bumble bee to the list of state endangered species were among the rule changes approved by the Ohio Wildlife Council on October 18.

Changes to sport fishing regulations include: exempting striped bass, hybrid striped bass and white bass taken from Pymatuning Lake from statewide bag and size limit regulations in order to be consistent with neighboring Pennsylvania, which also oversees part of this lake; removing the 15-inch minimum length limit on saugeye harvested from Lake Snowden; and reducing the bag limit to four fish in the aggregate for channel and blue catfish harvested from Hoover Reservoir. Additionally, in an effort to develop and promote a trophy catfish fishery, anglers harvesting channel and blue catfish from Hoover Reservoir will be limited to taking only three fish less than 18 inches and one fish 28 inches or larger. ✧

NY Attorney General leads 17 AGs in opposing Concealed Carry reciprocity

New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman led a coalition of 17 Attorneys General in forcefully opposing the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017, arguing that the ill-conceived legislation would override local public safety decisions and endanger communities and police.

The legislation (H.R. 38 / S. 446) would force states to recognize concealed carry weapon permits from other states. [The letter](#), sent to House and Senate leadership, was led by Schneiderman, and signed by the Attorneys General of NY, Massachusetts, Hawaii, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, the District of Columbia and Pennsylvania.

“What’s right for one state is not right for all. This lowest-common-denominator approach would undermine states’ basic responsibility to protect our communities – including by determining who may carry a concealed, loaded gun within our borders,” said **Schneiderman**. “After each tragedy we lament the loopholes in our federal gun laws; it’s vital that we not create another one. This legislation would risk the lives of our families and our law enforcement officers, while facilitating gun trafficking and promoting mass violence – and Congress must swiftly reject it.”

As the highest ranking law enforcement officers for their states, the Attorneys General fear that, if enacted, the legislation would inevitably “lead to the death of police officers and civilians, the proliferation of gun traffickers, and acts of terrorism and mass violence.”

“Under the legislation, our residents would lose the protections that their legislators and law enforcement agencies have deemed appropriate, in favor of rules made by States legislating for very different local conditions. Rather

than creating a new national standard for who may carry concealed firearms, these bills would elevate the lowest state standard over higher ones and force some States to allow concealed carry by people who do not qualify under their laws,” the AGs wrote. That lowest state standard would, for example, weaken local prohibitions on concealed carry by violent misdemeanor offenders, domestic abuses, and others who states have determined would pose a danger.

The Attorneys General also point out that our country’s Constitution and federalist system primarily reserve policing the public safety to the states, given the great diversity between them. “We would not mandate that one State honor another’s fishing, liquor, or hunting permits, yet the proposed legislation applies that same flawed approach to the far more serious issue of who may carry a concealed firearm.”

“The result of the proposed legislation would be a proliferation of potentially dangerous or irresponsible non-residents with concealed weapons in the states, cities, and towns across America that have made local judgments that certain regulations on the carrying of such weapons are necessary to protect public safety. Furthermore, the House bill would override some state laws that prohibit carrying concealed weapons in bars, schools, malls, movie theatres, subways, or parks. States would not be able to enforce those restrictions; nor would law enforcement officers reacting to specific risks to the public in such locations, which have tragically been the site of mass shootings in recent years,” the Attorneys General wrote.

The letter also highlights how the legislation would endanger local law enforcement officers by forcing them to determine quickly, and often under duress, whether an armed individual is allowed to carry a concealed weapon under his or her local laws. This is particularly disturbing, given that 12 states allow

concealed carry without a permit. Finally, the legislation would facilitate gun trafficking, allowing traffickers to even more easily transport guns across state lines with just a driver’s license from a “permitless” state.

“Please do not let concealed carry reciprocity become the next federal loophole lamented in the aftermath of a tragedy,” the AGs conclude. In addition to these AGs, law enforcement from across the country have spoken out against this legislation – including local police commissioners (including NYPD and LAPD) and the Law Enforcement Partnership (which is comprised of a dozen law enforcement associations such as the Int’l Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, and Police Foundation). ✧

Apply to serve on DNR fish work groups

Volunteers can apply to join one of the citizen-agency work groups that discuss how the Minnesota DNR manages fish. There are individual work groups for bass, catfish, panfish and walleye, and one focused on both northern pike and muskellunge. New members are needed for all of these work groups except the panfish group.

Volunteers can apply to one of the groups until **Oct. 30**. Each group will include volunteers and DNR staff who meet 2-3 times per year to discuss new research, population, harvest trends and fisheries management. Meetings average three to four hours, not including travel time. Applicants must be Minnesota residents age 18 or older.

Participants will be selected by the DNR and can serve a term of either two or three years. The groups are advisory and do not make decisions on policy or fish management. For more info or an application, visit mndnr.gov/fishgroups or call 651-259-5182. ✧

Leaky lifejacket lights

The Coast Guard has recently received a safety bulletin from Cruise Lines International Association that reported problems with lifejacket lights.

The bulletin relates to Alcares water activated flashing lifejacket lights models Jack A1-ALK and Jack ARH-ALK (CG approval numbers 161.112/88 and 161.112/90). Inspections have discovered over 3,000 non-operational lights. All of the faulty lights had leaky batteries, and some were identified as having incorrect battery expiration labels. All of the faulty lights were found to be non-operational before their expiration date. Contact Alcares for questions or concerns, including determining if non-operational lights are under warranty for a battery replacement. Phone: +45 47 19 00 00; alcares@alcares.dk; Website: <http://alcares.dk/leaking-batteries-found/>.

The Coast Guard recommends that lifejackets with lights, especially those with automatic lights, be stored in temperature and humidity controlled, water-tight environments. Questions: Stephanie.M.Groleau@uscg.mil. ✧

Resident Archery Deer Permits

Illinois Resident combination and antlerless-only archery deer permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. Find a vendor link here:

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx>. ✧

Moving company says more people leaving Chicago than any other major city

The nation's biggest mover is corroborating Census data showing the exodus of residents from Chicago and across Illinois. The U.S. Census released its report that said most Illinois cities are shrinking in population, with the entire state estimated to have lost 58,456 people on net in 12 months ending in July. United Van Lines tracks how many people come and go from the nation's larger cities. They found that more people moved from Chicago than any other state. The Windy City led the nation in percentage of departures in 2016 as well. United Van Lines' numbers confirm that Illinois as a state is seeing more people depart than arrive. ✧

Non-Resident Archery Deer Permits

Illinois Non-Resident Archery Deer combination permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. The Illinois Archery Deer Season is **October 1, 2017 – January 14, 2018** (except closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting). ✧

Firearm Deer Permits

Over-the-counter sales of remaining 2017 Illinois Firearm Deer Permits will begin on **October 17**. Permits will be sold until quotas are exhausted or until the close of the season, whichever occurs first. Individual hunters can purchase one or more permits beginning **October 17**, subject to availability. ✧

Nominations sought for Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee advises the Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters under the Department of Commerce. NOAA Fisheries is seeking to fill [current and pending vacancies](#) on the committee. Nominations are due **November 27**. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Schumer announces bill to support and expand fish population in Lake Ontario](#)

In New York, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer announced on Monday a major push to support Orleans County's sport fishing industry, and protect local fish populations.

[Indiana Supreme Court hears arguments in Lake Michigan beach ownership case](#)

The Indiana Supreme Court heard oral arguments Thursday in a case that could determine whether the region's residents and visitors will enjoy the same open access to Lake Michigan beaches as generations past

[EDITORIAL: Ban open-water fish farms on state's Great Lakes](#)

State Sen. Rick Jones, (R., Grand Ledge), and State Rep. Gary Howell, (R., North Branch), have introduced legislation to ban aquaculture facilities from lakes and streams in Michigan. They claim fish farms in the waterways would damage our clean water, water-based economy

[Asian carp confirmed in Lake Huron](#)

A delegate to last week's Coastal Municipal Forum in Goderich says there is conclusive evidence that Asian carp are now in Lake Huron, based on DNA found in the water. Dave Myett, a counselor with Saugeen Shores, says the OMNR has told them they're able

[Fish farm on Au Sable River 'clearly violates' law, judge says](#)

A judge questioned the use of public property for a private fish farm on the East Branch of the Au Sable River. Anglers of the Au Sable River filed a lawsuit against Harrietta Hills Fish Farm – which operates an old state fish hatchery – alleging that it pollutes

[Battle to keep Asian carp from Great Lakes expands to Erie tributaries](#)

Chicago remains ground zero for efforts to keep Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes, but agencies also are concentrating efforts to block potential connections between the Mississippi River watershed, including at least two spots leading to Lake Erie,

End