



Hunting and fishing images may be viewed as animal cruelty U.S. Supreme Court case threatens Outdoor Industry, anglers and hunters

A case to be heard by the Supreme Court of the United States might result in serious problems for any person, outlet or entity that shows or sells depictions of hunting and fishing activities.

Taking, selling or publishing images of hunting, fishing or trapping could mean felony charges and jail time for journalists, photographers, magazine publishers, television show hosts and producers, Web content publishers, hunters and anglers, in general and many more.

This summary and the documents listed below explain the serious risk the government's case against Stevens poses to those who produce depictions of hunting and fishing activities.

Summary of the Case

UNITED STATES of America v. Robert J. STEVENS, Appellant. No. 05-2497

Robert J. Stevens of Virginia was convicted of criminal charges for producing and selling films about dogs. Stevens' conviction was overturned as a result of a Third Circuit Court of Appeals decision that said the law relied upon to convict Stevens was unconstitutional.

Stevens may still go to prison. The case is now being heard by the Supreme Court of the United States. The outcome could be devastating to all journalists and specifically to the traditional outdoor sports of hunting, fishing and trapping.

The Third Circuit struck down a federal law banning "depictions of

animal cruelty." 18 USC 48. The statute does not ban acts of animal cruelty themselves (and so this case is not about such actions). It bans images of animals being hurt, wounded or killed if the depicted conduct is illegal under federal law or illegal under the state law either (i) where the creation of the depiction occurs, or (ii) where the depiction is sold or possessed.

That means that a picture taken of the killing of an animal during a hunt (perfectly lawful where it occurred) could be a federal felony crime if that picture is sold or possessed somewhere in the United States where hunting (or the particular type of hunting, i.e., crossbow) is prohibited.

USA vs Robert J. Stevens

Continued on page 10

In this issue...

Spotted musky cross Canada border.....	2
Clean Water fight	3
Wis turns good fishing to good eating	4
NY rules on ship ballast water upheld.....	4
City of Cleveland fined for polluting.....	5
Walleye bag limits revised.....	5
IL Summer Urban Fishing Clinics.....	5
Johnson Hunting & Fishing Center	5
Sturgeon reproduction documented.....	6
Wildlife violators pay a national price.....	6
New Web site offers timely flight info	7
MI tent caterpillar outbreak heavy	7
MI DNR hosts open house June 30	7
Animal rights extremist FBI's most wanted	7
IN DNR to survey Fort Wayne rivers.....	7
European rudd found in Lake Erie	7
OH options for boat camping & swimming8	
Gas resource discovered in Gulf of Mex.8	
'Wear It Michigan!' kickoff campaign.....	9
USCG no longer inspecting PMCs.....	9
Best towns for sportsmen.....	9
OLEC fund Lake Erie collaborative	10
FWS funds Ferson-Otter	10
Leave wildlife in the wild.....	10
Public input sought on Chicago Sanitary/	
Ship Canal navigation zone	11

WI Northern zone bass season opened June 20

MADISON – Anglers heading out for northern zone bass should prepare for post-spawn, hungry fish. Anglers will find plenty of nice smallies and largemouth bass now that the northern bass zone season has opened.

“Both largemouth and smallmouth bass will have recently completed spawning in the north. They will likely be found in relatively warm, shallow waters making them accessible to both shore and boat anglers,” says Joe Hennessy, warm water fisheries specialist with the DNR. “Post-spawn bass should feed actively and be willing to strike a variety of lure presentations. Spinners, plastics, and top-water baits are all good choices when fished near available cover this time of year.”

More on bass lures, techniques, and the best time of day to go fishing can be found in a June 2002 *Wisconsin Natural Resources*

[Largemouth](#) and [smallmouth](#) bass together are the most widely distributed recreational fish in the state — found in lakes, cool and warm water streams, and large rivers.

Anglers looking for places to fish can check the DNR Web site for [quality bass fishing opportunities](#) in Wisconsin or take a look at the [2009 Fishing Report](#) to see which waters biologists predict will offer good bass fishing this year.

The northern bass season runs from June 20 to March 7, 2010, and most waters have a daily bag limit of five and a minimum length limit of 14 inches. The northern zone is the area north of highways 77, 64 and 29, with Highway 10 as the dividing line. More information can be found in the [2009-2010 Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations](#) and the [Fishing Wisconsin](#) Web pages. ✧

Spotted musky cross the Canada border with a broodstock passport

The 1,100 fingerlings that made the road trip from Ontario, Canada, to their new homes in three northeastern Wisconsin lakes are among new efforts this spring in the decades-long quest to restore a self-sustaining population of the Great Lakes strain spotted musky to Green Bay.

These young fish will eventually serve as broodstock for Green Bay. Taken as eggs from Georgian Bay and later certified disease free, they were raised in the small, Sir Sanford Fleming College hatchery in Ontario and stocked into Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County, and Anderson and Archibald lakes in Oconto County.

The \$59,000 project, funded by the Wisconsin DNR, money from the Fox River environmental restoration settlement, and some Musky Clubs, is aimed at increasing the genetic diversity in Green Bay's spotted musky population, which in turn will yield healthier fish, according to fisheries biologist David Rowe.

"Greater genetic diversity helps to protect a population from changes in their environment," Rowe says. "If all the fish have the same genotype, they are all likely to succumb to the same illness or an environmental change like a warmer climate. If there is a great amount of diversity, the changes that impact some fish will not affect all fish. This means the population can better adapt to changing conditions, and then they pass those stronger traits on."

The three lakes receiving the Canadian fish have a 50" size limit to protect them, giving the DNR multiple years to collect eggs before the musky would be vulnerable to harvest, according to Rowe.

A \$200,000 grant from the Natural Resources Damage Assessment that resulted from the Fox River environmental settlement will allow the DNR to stock the Ontario-raised strain of musky into the recently established brood lakes for the next four years, which will continue to increase the genetic variation and abundance of the re-established Green Bay population.

Spotted musky are native to Green Bay, but the population collapsed in the early 1900s due to over-fishing,

pollution and habitat destruction. Thanks to stocking efforts that began in 1989, the population in the bay is older and larger than ever, according to Rowe.

"Musky have grown fast in Green Bay's waters," Rowe says. "We estimate the population in the lower bay somewhere between 5,000 to 10,000 musky and just this spring we handled about a dozen fish larger than 50 inches in our nets."

Even though the musky population has been revived and anglers are finding opportunities for trophy fish, biologists, who have been looking for signs of natural reproduction for 20 years, are just now starting to see hopeful results.

"Last fall, for the first time, we collected two, unmarked fingerling musky in the lower Menomonic River," Rowe says. "We know from genetic analysis that these two had the same genetic markers as the adult fish from Green Bay, meaning they are Great Lakes Spotted muskies, and the first evidence of natural reproduction."

To help determine why the DNR hasn't seen more spotted musky reproduction, fisheries crews have begun a two-year study funded by the USFWS, Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Program and several musky angling clubs.

This spring 20 female musky were inserted with miniature radio transmitters when they were captured during DNR fyke netting. When those females spawn and expel their eggs, the transmitter will also drop, pinpointing their spawning location. This information will allow biologists to identify the area and see if there are any problems that might be hindering natural reproduction such as habitat degradation, poor water quality, or invasive species. ✧



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Position Statement

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

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U.S. Senate Committee moves Clean Water fight out of Committee

WASHINGTON, DC, June 18, 2009 – The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approved six water-related bills on June 18, including the controversial Clean Water Restoration Act, S. 787. The bill would amend the Clean Water Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the federal government over waters of the United States.

Over time, several U.S. Supreme Court decisions and previous administration policies have created uncertainty regarding federal protection for some waters, especially headwater streams and so-called isolated wetlands. Headwater streams are the small swales, creeks and streams that are the origin of most rivers.

Committee Chairman Senator Barbara Boxer of California said, "Today the Environment and Public Works Committee took historic steps to restore, in a balanced way, the common-sense Clean Water Act protections that have been in place for decades. We also passed important measures to ensure our families have clean, safe water, to promote conservation of migratory birds, and to protect America's beaches, lakes, rivers, bays and wetlands. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as these bills are considered by the full Senate."

The Clean Water Restoration Act replaces the term "navigable waters," which are subject to the Act, with the term "waters of the United States."

This change in language would bring under federal protection all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide — including the Great Lakes, the territorial seas, and all interstate and intrastate waters and their tributaries, including lakes, rivers, streams, including intermittent streams, mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, and natural ponds to the fullest extent that these waters, or activities affecting them, are subject to the legislative power of Congress.

The bill declares it does not regulate under the Clean Water Act return flows from irrigated agriculture;

or uncontaminated stormwater runoff from oil, gas, and mining operations.

It does not impose federal regulation on dredged or fill materials resulting from normal farming, silviculture, and ranching activities, from upland soil and water conservation practices, or on activities regulated by the states under a federally approved water quality program.

Nor does it regulate dredged or fill materials for the maintenance of currently serviceable structures, the construction or maintenance of farm or stock ponds, irrigation ditches and maintenance of drainage ditches, or farm, forest, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment in accordance with best management practices, or the construction of temporary sedimentation basins on construction sites for which discharges do not include placement of fill material into the waters of the United States.

Even so, Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma, the ranking Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee called the bill, "a dagger directed right at America's heartland."

"I see this bill as a significant part of a hostile agenda aimed squarely at rural America," Inhofe said. "Allowing EPA and the Corps to exercise unlimited regulatory authority over all inter- and intrastate water, or virtually anything that is wet, goes too far and is certainly beyond anything intended by the Clean Water Act. But, that is what S. 787 does."

Inhofe said the bill, "vastly expands federal control of private property, despite assurances contained in S. 787. In fact, the very premise of the bill is to override a state's fundamental right to oversee waters within its borders and to usurp the power of land owners to manage their property as they see fit."

Inhofe listed groups that have expressed concerns with this bill including: The Associated Builders and Contractors, the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, the American Forest and Paper Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the

National Association of Home Builders, the National Association of Realtors, the American Highway Users Alliance, and the American Association of Airport Executives.

Inhofe says he and fellow Republicans intend to fight this bill on the Senate floor.

Environmentalists say this bill is a major step in the right direction after Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and in 2006 and subsequent directives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have confused which waters are protected under the Clean Water Act and which are not.

Chris DeScherer of the Southern Environmental Law Center said the court and agencies, hinging their rationale on the term "navigable," have muddied the scope of protections for so-called "isolated" wetlands and headwater streams that are "ephemeral or intermittent." "This bill is critical to protecting drinking water, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and any number of community economies in the South," DeScherer said.

Virtually all U.S. waters were once protected, but the current approach is to make determinations on a case-by-case basis, which creates uncertainty for all interests, including developers and others in the regulated community as each Corps district is applying its own criteria for determining what waters are and are not covered.

DeScherer says regulating the nation's water resources in this piece-

Clean Water fight

Continued on page 11

10 Wisconsin waters to turn good fishing into good eating

SPOONER – Catch-and-release has caught on so big in the bass fishing world that Wisconsin anglers are only keeping about 5% of what they catch. They kept only 550,000 of the 10 million smallmouth and largemouth bass they caught in 2006, according to a mail survey of anglers. In contrast, Wisconsin anglers in the same year kept about 30% of the walleye they caught, or 2.2 million of 7 million caught.

In some places in northern Wisconsin, bass are very abundant and can make a tasty meal. Fisheries managers are encouraging harvest on these waters to keep the numbers in balance and to improve bass growth rates. As always, larger bass are less common and anglers should consider releasing them.

“No one should feel bad about harvesting largemouth bass in

northwest Wisconsin,” says DNR fisheries biologist Larry Damman, who is stationed in Spooner. “They are our most abundant and under-utilized, naturally reproducing game



Two bucketmouths are better than one fish. High minimum size limits coupled with angler catch-and-release ethic have resulted in many lakes with over abundant, stunted populations where few largemouth ever reach legal size. The biological need is to harvest fish less than the present minimum size limit.”

Here are 10 waters to try in northwestern Wisconsin where harvest is encouraged and there are no minimum length limits. Check the [Hook and Line Regulations for 2009-2010](#) for specific regulations. Polk County: Balsam, Butternut Lake; Big Round Lake; Half Moon Lake; Pipe Lake and Ward Lake.

Washburn County: Big McKenzie Lake and Middle McKenzie Lake, both of which are actually in the southern bass zone, and Long Lake and Nancy Lake.

For anglers who don't automatically think of bass as shore lunch, here are some recipes shared by Larry Sperling, editor of Natural Resources magazine, to whet their appetite. Remember to follow the [safe eating guidelines](#) to enjoy eating your catch while limiting exposure to environmental contaminants like mercury and PCBs. ✧

Judge upholds NY rules on ship ballast water

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP). – A state judge has upheld rules to require commercial ships in New York waterways to retrofit with ballast water treatment systems by 2012 and to require such systems in new ships starting in 2013 as a means of killing invasive species.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation rules, which also prohibit bilge discharges, are meant to keep additional foreign aquatic plants and animals from the St. Lawrence River, Great Lakes and other New York waterways. The court rejected the arguments of a coalition of large shipping interests that claimed the state had illegally placed further restrictions on a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency nationwide discharge permit for these vessels.

In his May 21 ruling, New York State Supreme Court Justice Robert Sackett agreed with the state of New York and dismissed a challenge to permit requirements issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation designed to control discharges of invasive

species to the Great Lakes and other waterways by ocean-going vessels.

"This decision is a critical win for New York's right and responsibility to protect our Great Lakes and resources," said NY Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. "The court's decision not only defends our state's actions, but affirms our right to take necessary measures to fight the plague of invasive species. Ensuring the continued health of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario is vital to our quality of life, our economic growth and our environment."

Like California's regulations, they add ship overhauls to the new federal requirement for offshore ballast exchanges by inbound commercial ships at least 79 ft. long. Justice Robert Sackett rejected Albany, Oswego and Great Lakes ports' concerns of economic harm.

==In July 2008, Cuomo, together with five other attorneys general from states bordering the Great Lakes and several environmental groups, won a federal court decision confirming that large vessels and other oceangoing

freight ships require a permit to discharge ballast water.

==Earlier in 2008, New York signed onto a successful amicus brief in support of a Michigan law to control invasive species pollution by vessels. The Michigan law, too, was upheld in federal court, defeating a legal challenge by various shipping companies. The Department of Agriculture spends millions of dollars each year to combat invasive species. A study by Congress' General Accountability Office estimated the total annual economic losses and associated costs related to invasive species totals \$137 billion — more than double the annual economic damage caused by all natural disasters in the United States.

The bill was originally introduced into the NY State Assembly by then Assemblyman Richard Smith, former GLSFC vice president and present charter captain on Lakes Erie and Ontario. ✧

City of Cleveland fined \$10,000 for polluting Lake Michigan

MADISON – Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced his office has settled an environmental case with the Village of Cleveland located in Manitowoc County. Circuit Court Judge Patrick L. Willis entered judgment in favor of the State and against the defendant Village of Cleveland in the amount of \$10,000, which is comprised of forfeitures, statutory surcharges, and costs. Judgment was entered after the Village of Cleveland agreed to a stipulated judgment. ✧

Walleye bag limits revised on 255 northern lakes

MADISON – Daily walleye bag limits have increased on 255 lakes in the Wisconsin Ceded Territory to reflect spring spearing harvest by six Wisconsin bands of Chippewa Indians.

A daily bag limit of one or two walleye increased to two or three walleye per day on 92 lakes. In addition, 163 lakes will go from an initial bag limit of one or two walleyes per day to the state daily bag limit of five. Anglers should consult the [2009-10 Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations](#), signs at boat landings, and the [2009-2010 Revised Ceded Territory Walleye Bag Limits pamphlet](#) for lake-specific information.

An administrative rule passed by the state Natural Resources Board in 1998 allows the department to adjust initial bag limits annually to reflect actual spring spearing harvests and projected summer harvests.

Of the 258 lakes with bag limits less than five, 78 lakes will have a bag limit of two walleye per day, and 180 lakes will have a daily bag of three walleye per day. The six Chippewa tribes together declared a harvest of 53,706 walleye for 2009 and had harvested 32,198 as of May 15. ✧

Illinois announces Summer Urban Fishing Clinics

Clinics provide free instruction and fun for kids; “Access to Fishing” gear also available

SPRINGFIELD – Youngsters are invited to learn to fish and have a great time outdoors this summer by attending a free Illinois DNR Urban Fishing Program fishing clinic, planned for more than 30 locations throughout the state.

In addition to the fishing clinics, the IDNR provides fishing opportunities to anglers of all ages through the popular “Access to Fishing” initiative in which fishing gear can be borrowed at more than 165 locations statewide.

The free Urban Fishing program clinics are targeted toward children ages 16 and younger, but anyone interested in learning basic fishing techniques may attend.

Clinic instructors present information on fish and other aquatic life, rules and regulations for fishing, as well as basic instruction on baiting a hook, tying a knot, casting, and how to handle and return fish to the water. As part of each clinic, participants are provided with rods, reels, bait and tackle for 90 minutes of catch-and-release fishing.

Urban Fishing clinics are presented on weekdays during the late spring and summer months at 38 locations throughout the state. In addition to the scheduled clinics, fishing clinics can also be arranged for scouts, seniors, civic clubs and groups with special needs.

Science and physical education teachers interested in starting a fishing program in their schools can also contact the IDNR Urban Fishing coordinator in their area to get more information.

A list of sites offering access to fishing gear is available by checking the web site at www.ifishillinois.org or by phoning the IDNR Urban Fishing Program at 217/782-6424. ✧

Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center Summer Programs

The Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center in Cadillac, MI has announced its summer schedule of programs. The center is located next to Mitchell State Park on M-115 in Cadillac, and is one of 10 Michigan DNR visitor centers around the state.

The summer programs include:

► July 4 – A Fiesta Celebration. Pellet gun and archery range activities will be available to visitors and float fishing on the canal will be available

► July 18 – Old Time Logging History (1860-1910). Wendell Hoover will present an old time logging history at the campground at the east end of the canal. Float fishing on the canal will be available as will shooting range activities.

► July 25 – Storytelling in the Native American Tradition. Wendell Hoover will give a presentation of storytelling in the Native American tradition. There will be a special evening campfire presentation.

► Aug 1 – Family Range Day. Pellet gun and archery range activities.

► Aug. 8 – Picnic in the Park. The annual Picnic in the Park fundraiser for activities at the center will be held. Live Wildlife Sampler with Jim McGrath of Nature Discovery will be held. Pellet gun and archery range activities will be available and float fishing on the canal will be offered.

► Aug 29-30 – Hunter Safety Class will be offered this weekend at the center. Pre-registration is required by calling 231-779-1321.

Mitchell State Park is located on M-115 in Cadillac. For more info, call: 231-779-1321. For information about the park, accessibility, or persons needing accommodations, contact the park supervisor at 231-775-7911 or visit www.michigan.gov/mitchell. Camping reservations can be made online at www.midnrreservations.com, or by calling the reservation system at 800-447-2757. ✧

Sturgeon reproduction documented at Fighting Island Reef

Walleye and lake whitefish also spawning at reef - We built it and they have come!

Last year, in a unique U.S.-Canada partnership, a lake sturgeon spawning reef was built off Fighting Island in the Detroit River. Now it has been confirmed that sturgeon are spawning on the reef. They also found an endangered species — the northern madtom.

Lake sturgeon have spawned four times on the reef constructed last year at the head of Fighting Island! This is the first time in 30 years that spawning by lake sturgeon, a threat-ened species in both Michigan and Ontario, has been confirmed in the Canadian waters of the Detroit River. The new spawning reef, constructed at Fighting Island in October 2008, was celebrated as the first Canada-US funded fish habitat restoration project in the Great Lakes. The strong partnership between our nations and the dedication of everyone involved in protecting our shared natural

resources made this project a reality.

The sturgeon population in the Detroit River is estimated to be about 1% of its former abundance. Over the past century, fish in the Detroit River have been greatly reduced by channelization, loss of coastal wetlands, filling/armoring of shorelines, water pollution, and dredging of the limestone bedrock that served as spawning habitat for lake sturgeon and other native fish species. Scientists determined, based on three previous reef projects in both Canadian and U.S. waters, that they could build new spawning habitat using various types of materials, such as broken limestone rock, to enhance reproduction of sturgeon and other fish. The finding of fertilized sturgeon eggs at Fighting Island indicates that this restoration strategy is yielding very positive results, and that this small, remnant population of native

lake sturgeon may one day be restored to a higher level of abundance in the Detroit River.

Walleye and Lake Whitefish have also spawned on the reef, demonstrating that the constructed spawning habitat is enhancing populations of these high-value fish as well!

Other exciting news at the Fighting Island reef was the discovery of several Northern madtom, a fish that is endangered in Michigan and Ontario and never before confirmed in the mid-reaches of the Detroit River. Madtom were also discovered on the spawning reef constructed at Belle Isle in 2004, indicating that this type of habitat restoration is of value for sustaining threatened and endangered native fish. It is critical that scientists continue to monitor the reef for at least 2 years to document use of the spawning habitat by other valuable native fish. ✧

Convicted wildlife violators pay a national price

Since Ohio became an Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) member state on January 1, 2008, 146 violators have been entered into the system by Ohio wildlife law enforcement officers. Ohio has also reviewed and agreed to recognize over 6,500 suspensions entered in the database by 30 other member states.

In June of 2008, the first entries in the database by Ohio officials were made. Wisconsin fishermen had taken twice the daily limit of walleye from Lake Erie. Their suspensions were recognized in their home state, and one of the men was caught fishing under revocation this past spring. He now has another year added on to his suspension.

"The suspension of hunting, trapping or fishing privileges is a powerful deterrent for violations," said Ken Fitz, law enforcement program administrator. Fitz cites two other instances where the system worked well. One person from Michigan was suspended in Ohio, then went to Florida on a fishing trip and tried to

buy a license and was denied. A Pennsylvania resident was suspended in Montana, when he contacted the ODNr Division of Wildlife to inquire about hunting here; he was told he cannot hunt in Ohio until his suspension ends.

Entries made by Ohio officers include citizens of Ohio (128), Wisconsin (12), Illinois (3), Michigan (2) and Tennessee (1).

The IWVC is an agreement between states that was developed to recognize hunting, trapping, and fishing license suspensions across state lines. The IWVC was begun in 1991, with Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington joining that year. Since that time, over 24,000 entries have been made in the national database used to track suspended violators. Each state must review entries in the database, and recognize suspensions from other states based upon their individual laws or criteria.

The agreement also allows nonresident violators from a compact member state to be treated the same as

a resident of the state where a violation occurs. In the past, nonresidents were immediately taken to jail or had to pay their fine immediately, but were not allowed to pay through the mail. Under the agreement, nonresident violators can be issued a summons (ticket) and allowed to pay through the mail. If they do not pay, their hunting, trapping, and fishing privileges are suspended in all member states until they pay or appear in court.

Member states are listed at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/tabid/20979/Default.aspx>. Several more states are in the process of completing the necessary legislative action to join. For more information, check the ODNr Division of Wildlife Web site at www.wildohio.com. ✧

New Web site offers timely flight info

O'Hare Airport has launched a new Chicago O'Hare International Airport website www.ohare-airport.org offering air travelers great timely flight information. It provides comprehensive real time flight information on arrivals, departures and delays, terminals and maps, parking, transportation, directions, food and shopping, hotels, etc. ✧

MI tent caterpillar outbreak heavy

Michigan is experiencing a heavy outbreak of forest tent caterpillars (FTC) this year, particularly in areas around Gaylord, Cadillac, Traverse City and Petoskey, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Widespread outbreaks of FTC occur at intervals of 10 to 15 years. These outbreaks last for two to five years, with most running their course in two to three years. FTC epidemics commonly begin over large areas simultaneously. This is caused by favorable weather conditions preceding an outbreak. Population buildups often follow periods of unusually warm, dry springs. Fortunately, FTC outbreaks eventually subside as caterpillars succumb to parasites and other insect natural enemies.

Defoliation begins in early May in the northern Lower Peninsula and late May in the Upper Peninsula. Defoliation can be dramatic and becomes noticeable by early to mid-June. However, cool weather slows development and feeding, extending the duration of outbreaks.

Aerial applications of pesticides may help reduce caterpillar nuisance during an FTC outbreak. Applications must be made at the appropriate time and by licensed experienced applicators. Once caterpillars are full grown and defoliation is nearly complete, pesticides are not effective. The DNR can help homeowners determine whether aerial spraying will be effective. ✧

MI DNR hosts open house June 30 in Traverse City Forest Unit

The Michigan DNR will host an open house for the Traverse City Forest Management Unit on June 30, to provide information and receive public comment on proposed forest management treatments for 2011 in the Traverse City Management Unit. The open house will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Traverse City Field Office, located at 970 Emerson Rd. in Traverse City.

The Traverse City open house and compartment review will focus on compartments in Springdale Township in Manistee County; Almira and Weldon townships in Benzie County; Long Lake, Green Lake, Paradise, Acme, East Bay and Fife Lake townships in Grand Traverse County; Kasson and Elmwood townships in Leelanau County; and Elk Rapids Township in Antrim County. ✧

Animal rights extremist becomes FBI's most wanted domestic terrorist

While animal rights extremist Daniel Andreas San Diego isn't toppling Osama bin Laden from his perch as America's number one most wanted terrorist, he is competing for space on that same list. He is suspected of engaging in at least two 2003 bomb attacks in northern California.

The FBI announced it was adding San Diego to its "Most Wanted" terrorist list. The 31-year-old San Diego becomes only the 24th person to be added to the list and the first one that is solely wanted for domestic terrorism. The attacks were directed against the offices of two biotech facilities that did business with a company conducting animal testing for medical purposes. According to the FBI, one of the bombs was "laced with nails to create potentially deadly shrapnel." ✧

Indiana DNR to survey Fort Wayne rivers

The Indiana DNR will conduct fish surveys throughout Fort Wayne's three rivers in July to determine what species are available to local anglers. The surveys are the next phase of the "Fishin' in the Fort" program started by the DNR in 2008. The program was created to evaluate the current status of fisheries there, improve fishing quality and increase awareness that fishing opportunities exist within the city.

Surveys will take place July 6-17.

European rudd found in Lake Erie

COLUMBUS, OH – The first record of European rudd in Ohio waters was recorded this week. It was caught by licensed Ohio commercial fisherman Jim Swartz, who netted the fish near the Lakeside Pier in Marblehead and brought it to state fisheries biologists in Sandusky for identification, according to the Ohio DNR.

Rudd were first recorded in the Great Lakes drainage in 1950, found in Canadian waters of Lake Erie in 1997, and more recently in Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie in 2004. Rudd are benthic cyprinid fish (minnow family) with omnivorous feeding habits and a lifespan of up to 15 years. Adult size is about 18-20 inches. The fish is very similar to the golden shiner in appearance. They are abundant in the upper Niagara River and in Buffalo Harbor, New York.

Rudd may compete for invertebrate food sources with native fishes. Because rudd are fairly hardy, they are likely to fare better than many native fishes in waters that are low in oxygen or polluted.

Bait bucket release seems to be the primary mechanism by which rudd have spread. Lake Erie anglers are encouraged to drain all live wells and use only Ohio approved baitfish. Ohio law prohibits the introduction of any fish species into public waters without written permission from the ODNR Division of Wildlife. ✧

OH parks offer options for boat camping and boat swimming

COLUMBUS, OHIO – This summer, Ohio State Park lakes are offering more opportunities for boaters to camp aboard their crafts or drop anchor and swim in designated areas.

Boaters may now sleep aboard their watercrafts while secured to public docks on the lakes at Burr Oak, Dillon, Grand Lake St. Marys, Guilford Lake, Indian Lake, Paint Creek, Rocky Fork and Salt Fork state parks, along with Buck Creek State Park's C.J. Brown Reservoir. Boaters may drop anchor and spend the night on the water at designated boat camping areas at Buckeye Lake, Caesar Creek, Hueston Woods State Park's Acton Lake, and Portage Lakes State Park's Turkeyfoot Lake, as well as Grand Lake St. Marys and Buck Creek State Park's C.J. Brown Reservoir. Later this summer, docks for overnight use will be available at

Middle Bass Island.

Boat campers should check in with the marina or park office before docking. Transient docks for overnight stays are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some locations charge a fee for overnight docking.

In addition to the parks that offer newly designated camping and swimming areas for recreational boaters, a number of state parks continue to allow these activities. Boat camping is also permitted where designated at Cleveland Lakefront, East Harbor, Geneva, South Bass Island, Mary Jane Thurston, Maumee Bay, Muskingum River Parkway and Shawnee state parks. Boat swimming and camping are permitted at Cowan Lake, Deer Creek, Delaware, East Fork, Lake Milton, Mosquito Lake and West Branch state parks.

Established boat swimming areas are offered at A.W. Marion, Lake Loramie, Lake White, Paint Creek, Portage Lakes and Rocky Fork.

Children who swim at Ohio State Parks with their families this summer can receive credit towards the ODNR Explore the Outdoors Swim with a Buddy activity. Explore the Outdoors is a hands-on family program that gives Ohio children the opportunity to reunite with nature, improve their physical and emotional health and discover the rewards of becoming environmental stewards. For more program info: www.exploretheoutdoorsohio.com.

For more info about boating facilities and other recreational opportunities at State Parks: www.ohiostateparks.org. ✧

Significant gas resource discovered in Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico contains very thick and concentrated gas-hydrate-bearing reservoir rocks, which have the potential to produce gas using current technology, according to a recent report from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Recent drilling by a government and industry consortium confirm that the Gulf of Mexico is the first offshore area in the United States with enough information to identify gas hydrate energy resource targets with potential for gas production.

Gas hydrate, a substance comprised of natural gas and water, is thought to exist in great abundance in nature and has the potential to be a significant new energy source to meet future energy needs. However, prior to this expedition, there was little documentation that gas hydrate occurred in resource-quality accumulations in the marine environment.

“This is an exciting discovery because for the first time in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, we were able to predict hydrate accumulations before drilling, and we discovered thick, gas

hydrate-saturated sands that actually represent energy targets,” said U.S. Geological Survey Energy Program Coordinator Brenda Pierce.

“We have also found gas hydrate in a range of settings, including sand reservoirs, thick sequences of fracture-filling gas hydrates in shales, and potential partially saturated gas hydrates in younger systems,” said USGS Scientist Timothy Collett. “These sites should provide a wealth of opportunities for further study and data collection that should provide significant advances in understanding the nature and development of gas hydrate systems.”

The most important technical accomplishments include:

► The collection of a comprehensive set of logging-while-drilling (LWD) data through expected hydrate-bearing sand reservoirs in seven wells at three locations in the Gulf of Mexico.

► LWD sensors provided unprecedented information on the nature of the sediments and the occurrence of gas hydrate.

The expedition discovered gas hydrate in both sand and fracture dominated reservoirs.

► The discovery of thick gas-hydrate-bearing sands validates the pre-drilling integrated geological and geophysical approach used to identify the targets and provides increased confidence in assessing the energy resource potential of marine gas hydrates.

► In the case of the Walker Ridge and Green Canyon drill sites gas-hydrate-bearing sand reservoirs between 50 and 100 ft. thick were discovered.

► The discovery of concentrated gas hydrates in sand reservoirs has made Walker Ridge and Green Canyon prime locations for future research drilling, coring, and production testing. Field operations during this expedition were also supported by AOA Geophysics, the Borehole Research Group at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, Schlumberger, and the crew of the Helix Q4000 drilling vessel. ✧

'Wear It Michigan!' Kickoff campaign

The Michigan DNR kicked off its "Wear It Michigan" campaign at Sterling State Park on Lake Erie. The "Wear It Michigan" campaign is a partnership with the National Safe Boating Council to promote boating safety and to encourage all water sport enthusiasts to always wear a life jacket when out on the water.

During the campaign this summer, special teams of state conservation officers in a specially marked "Wear It Michigan" boat donated by Zodiac will be asking boaters they meet on Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River to take the "Wear It" Pledge. Everyone who signs a pledge card will be entered in a weekly drawing to win a manual inflatable (Type III) life jacket that will have a "Wear It" rubber logo sewn onto the life jacket. ✧

USCG will no longer inspect 'permanently moored craft'

In accordance with a Supreme Court decision of 2005, the Coast Guard announced it will no longer inspect or issue new Certificates of Inspection to "permanently moored craft," such as certain dredges, cranes and anchored gambling casino ships, because by implication they do not meet the high court's definition of a "vessel."

Certain maritime cranes, dredges and other permanently moored craft (PMC) may now find themselves subject to building codes, rather than less expensive and time consuming Coast Guard inspection procedures.

"If a craft is a PMC, it is therefore not a vessel under the Stewart criteria and we are without authority to deem it otherwise and inspect it," explained the Coast Guard in its new policy notice.

The Guard said it will continue to provide inspection services for two years to those permanently moored craft that have already been awarded a Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection. ✧

Best towns for sportsmen named by Outdoor Life Lewiston, Idaho, takes top honors

New York – Outdoor Life magazine ranks the top towns for hunters and anglers to live in its June/July 2009 issue. The magazine used extensive data to score 200 towns on available sporting opportunities and quality-of-life for its second annual ranking. Lewiston, ID, population 31,794, took top honors on the magazine's "Best Places to Live" list. The magazine also names 10 great towns on the list for whitetail hunters. For complete details on all 200 towns, please visit www.OutdoorLife.com.

Last year's second-place finisher, Lewiston, ID, moved up one place to score the top spot on Outdoor Life's 2009 list. Lewiston heads a list of three Idaho towns in the top ten—more than any other state. Lewiston's score was elevated by the town's access to world-class hunting and fishing, as well as the economy and industry of the Pacific Coast and Asia. Dubbed "The Gateway to Hells Canyon" Lewiston is located near North America's deepest river gorge, offering the town's 31,794 residents access to public lands and waters and a wide variety of fishable species. Hunters will also find whitetails and mule deer, turkeys, elk, black bears and mountain lions nearby. Other Idaho towns in the top ten include Idaho Falls, making its first appearance on the list at No. 3 (tied with Rawlins, WY), and Pocatello, which maintained its previous year's ranking at No. 5.

Marquette, MI, the easternmost town in the top ten, jumped five spots to No. 2 on the list.

At No. 3 (tied), Rawlins is one of two Wyoming towns in the top 10; Sheridan, which moved down four spots to No. 7 due in part to rising cost of living, is the second. North Dakota's capital, Bismarck, rose four spots to No. 6, based in part on the strength of its duck, geese and pheasant hunting. Coming in at No. 8, Pierre, SD, was hailed by Outdoor Life as the capital of "arguably the most hunter-friendly state in the country." New to the list, Rochester, MN, coming in at No. 9, boasts a population of 99,121, the

largest of any of the towns in the top ten. At the opposite end of the spectrum, with 6,106, is Carbondale, CO, at No. 10, which enjoys the smallest and fastest growing population of any of the towns in the top ten.

Outdoor Life's 2009 "Best Places to Live"

1. Lewiston, ID
2. Marquette, MI
3. Idaho Falls, ID (TIE)
3. Rawlins, WY (TIE)
5. Pocatello, ID
6. Bismarck, ND
7. Sheridan, WY
8. Pierre, SD
9. Rochester, MN
10. Carbondale, CO
11. Kodiak, AK
12. Kanab, UT
13. Cody, WY
14. Granby, CO
15. Page, AZ
16. Sioux Falls, SD
17. Saratoga, WY
18. Colorado Springs, CO
19. Mountain Home, AR
20. Roseau, MN (TIE)
20. Glasgow, MT (TIE)

Quality-of-Life factors considered included population growth since 2000; median household income; median home value; cost of living; unemployment rate; mean commute time and amenities (schools, hospitals). Certain socio-economic categories were weighted more than others to determine the overall Quality-of-Life score, which was combined with the overall Outdoor score to reach each town's rank. ✧

The history of liberty is a history of the

Happy 4th of July

limitation of government power.

Woodrow Wilson

OLEC funds Lake Erie Regional Collaborative

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will provide grants for four studies that will enhance regional collaboration, study environmental concerns along the lake and provide educational resources.

On June 3, OLEC members approved the latest round of Lake Erie Protection Fund small grants.

► [GreenCityBlueLake Institute](#) will receive \$15,000 to help design a process by which planning agencies in the region can work with local officials to explore ways to collaborate on land-use planning and economic development to enhance the Lake Erie watershed.

► [The University of Akron](#) will receive \$15,000 for researchers to construct and test-deploy a Sensobuoy in Lake Erie. A Sensobuoy is a sensor platform designed for long-term, unattended monitoring of the depletion of dissolved oxygen. This is a severe, recurring environmental problem in Lake Erie and its exact causes and development patterns are not completely understood.

► [Kent State University](#) will receive \$15,000 aimed at identifying naturally occurring heterotrophic bacterial species that can actively remove microcystins from open waters.

► [Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.](#) will receive \$14,900 that will develop high quality web resources that link specific community issues to nonpoint source, storm water management, watershed planning, balanced growth, sustainability, regional and community events.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission was established for the purpose of preserving Lake Erie's natural resources, protecting the quality of its waters and ecosystem and promoting economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and the Ohio EPA. ✧

USA vs Robert J. Stevens

Continued from page 1

As the court of appeals explained, the law now makes it a federal felony to buy a picture of bullfighting in Spain or an image shot by a journalist of a hunter or angler taking a shot at a legal game animal or catching a fish — if that action is unlawful anywhere in the U.S.

The law creates an exception if a jury finds that the images have "serious" value. The government defined "serious" as "significant and of great import." The result accordingly is that all depictions of animal killings that might be unlawful somewhere in the U.S. are now presumptively federal felonies, with the only hope of protection being that a jury in San Francisco (or wherever an eager prosecutor wants to go) agrees that the images are "significant and of great import."

The government and Humane Society, which is pushing this issue hard, are trying to paint this as a case about dog fighting, since that incites peoples' emotions. It's about the First Amendment.

Mr. Stevens is a 69-year-old hunter and Pit Bull dog lover from Southern Virginia. He is a published author. He has no criminal record at all — other than this conviction. He has been sentenced to more than three years (37 months) in prison for making films, nothing else.

A prosecutor hauled him to Pittsburgh, perhaps because obtaining a conviction in rural Virginia would be difficult, to prosecute him for: one documentary he made about training catch dogs for hunting (called "Catch Dogs"); and two documentaries he made about Pit Bulls and their fighting history.

For that, Stevens faces spending three years in federal prison.

Of particular concern to the hunting and fishing industry is the fact Stevens' prosecution rested on his film "Catch Dogs," which showed how dogs are trained to help catch prey (wild boar, etc.). The film shows a dog making a mistake in trying to catch a hog, but does so with Stevens talking

over the images about the training mistake and explaining what should be done to teach dogs to catch prey properly.

There is no allegation that Stevens engaged in dog fighting or any acts of animal cruelty. Nor is it even alleged that the images depicted in his films were illegal when taken. Furthermore, he did not take the images himself, but edited together films taken by others — films that were recorded in Japan, where the conduct is perfectly legal, and from historic films from the '60s and '70s in rural America.

To be sure, the latter two films contain extensive images of dog fighting. But Stevens is not a dog fighter, he opposes dog fighting, but loves the traits in Pit Bulls that made them fighters.

Stevens' films were made to document the strength, endurance, and similar features of Pit Bulls to support his argument (made at length in his book) that Pit Bulls make great hunting dogs, protection dogs, and schutzhund (strength contests) dogs.

The case has the potential to make it a felony to sell or publish images of hunting, fishing, trapping, and virtually anything else that's ruled as a "depiction of animal cruelty."

For more info view these links:

[Decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals](#) for the Third Circuit in United States v. Robert Stevens

[Brief in Opposition](#) – filed before the U.S. Supreme Court

The Professional Outdoor Media Association, a writers group comprised mainly of hunting and angling journalists is playing a leading role in informing the public of this issue, largely because they are at risk as they pursue their vocation and assignments if the Humane Society prevails in court. POMA is also encouraging journalists and others to sign on to the First Amendment Brief defending the Constitutional rights of hunters and anglers as they pursue the culture of traditional outdoor activities. ✧

FWS funds Ferson-Otter Creek Fish Passage Restoration

The USFWS office in southern Illinois will receive \$14,000 to support efforts to remove or modify the Davoust and Creek Bend Forest Preserve dams, two primary fish passage barriers in the lowermost portion of the Fox River watershed in northeast Illinois.

The existing barriers impact movements and limit habitat availability for populations of fish and mussels. Restoration of fish passage in the lower Ferson-Otter Creek watershed will be the first step in reconnecting this system to downstream source communities, and will help to reopen the lower watershed for spawning and nursery habitat. By reconnecting previously fragmented habitat, this project will also provide benefits to the larger Fox River watershed, tributary to Green Bay in Lake Michigan. ✧

MI DNR reminds public to leave wildlife in the wild

As wildlife birthing season proceeds in the spring, it is not unusual for people to come across seemingly abandoned fawns or other baby critters. The first instinct many people have is to try and help; DNR personnel offer a word of advice: DON'T. The truth is, the animal doesn't need help.

It is not uncommon for does to leave their young unattended for up to 8 hours at a time. This is an anti-predator mechanism because it minimizes scent left around the newborn animals. The same is true for rabbits, ground-dwelling birds and other wildlife. In most cases, the animal is better off left alone than removed from the wild. Even avian parents will continue to care for hatchlings that have fallen from a nest.

Many baby animals will die if removed from their natural environment. Also, some animals have diseases or parasites that can be passed to humans or pets. And some "rescued" animals that do survive become

habituated to people. These animals are unable to revert back to being wild. Eventually they pose additional problems as they mature and develop adult animal behaviors. Habituated deer have been known to become aggressive as they mature, especially bucks. Raccoons also are well known for becoming aggressive as they mature.

It is illegal to possess a wild deer in Michigan and every day it spends with humans makes it that much less likely to be able to survive in the wild. ✧

Clean Water fight

Continued from page 3

meal fashion disregards the interconnectedness of our watersheds upon which clean, healthy water relies.

The impacts of confusing jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act protections has taken an especially heavy toll in the water-rich South, where clean, plentiful water is directly related to the health of a web of tributaries and wetlands, DeScherer said, adding that, "These smaller waters are considered the first-responders to controlling pollution and floods."

"Although SELC and many others have fought hard to protect these waters, I can't tell you how many wetlands or small streams may have been lost forever because of misinterpretation of the Clean Water Act," he said.

"Our most cherished iconic waterways, Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River, can only be as healthy as the streams and wetlands that feed and clean them," said Max Muller, program director at Environment Illinois.

The U.S. EPA estimates that over half of Illinois streams are headwater or seasonal, the types of streams most in danger. At least 800 polluting facilities located on at-risk streams have their discharges limited by Clean Water Act permits, permits that Muller worries may no longer be required if this legislation is not enacted. He cites EPA data indicating that more than 1.6 million Illinois residents receive drinking water from supplies fed at least in part by these streams. ✧

Public input sought on Chicago Sanitary/Ship Canal navigation zone Coast Guard seeks public comment on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

CLEVELAND – The U.S. Coast Guard is seeking public comment on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking establishing a regulated navigation area and safety zone on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, near Romeoville, Ill.

The proposed regulated navigation area and safety zone places navigational and operational restrictions on all vessels transiting the navigable waters located adjacent to and over the Army Corps of Engineers electrical dispersal fish barrier system.

[CLICK HERE](#) to obtain the complete NPR.

Submit your comments by one of these methods to the Coast Guard docket # USCG-2008-1247:

► Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

► Fax: (202) 493-2251

► Mail: Docket Management Facility (M-30), U.S. DOT, West Bldg Ground Floor, Rm W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE, Washington, D.C. 20590-0001.

Comments and related material must be submitted to our online docket on or before July 27, 2009 or reach the Docket Management Facility by that date. Any questions – call Lt. Ann Henkelman, Waterways Management Branch, Ninth Coast Guard District, 216-902-6288. Questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Mgr, Docket Operations, 202-366-9826. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Popular, polluted lake gets popular, troublesome fish

Last week, Ohio officials warned people that swimming in Grand Lake St. Marys could make them sick and kill their pets. Today, the state is stocking the polluted lake with 100,000 fish to attract anglers.

Taconite tailings find second life in road construction

Duluth, Minn. – Minnesota has long shipped taconite pellets to steel-makers outside the state. Now there may be a market for the rock left over from the mining process.

U.S.-Canada border closed by Akwesasne protest of guns at crossing

The Seaway International Bridge was shut down last week when the Canada Border Services Agency left their posts on Cornwall Island for the U.S. to avoid a violent confrontation with the Mohawks of Akwesasne over a contentious arming issue.

Shippers lose ballast ruling

New York decision could bolster Wisconsin's case for its own rules. The shipping industry has lost another round in its fight to keep states from passing their own ballast rules to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species. A New York State Supreme Court justice on ...

Study on Lake Huron bacteria points to agriculture

A university study says agriculture is the main contributor of E. coli bacteria to Lake Huron

Officials say natural causes dropped Lake Huron and Michigan levels; homeowners don't buy it

When the Great Lakes are high, shoreline houses risk erosion that could tumble them into the water. When they are low, more structures are exposed to wind damage, boaters can't pull up to docks and ships can't transport as much cargo.

SSM Locks Get Stimulus Funds

DETROIT – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, has awarded a \$3.2 million contract to fabricate equipment that will be used in maintenance at the world famous Soo Locks.

Alliance President Tapped as Obama Administration's Great Lakes Czar

Cameron Davis, president and CEO of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, has been tapped by the Obama administration to serve as special advisor to the U.S. EPA overseeing its Great Lakes restoration plan.

Newest pest can cut you

The sharp-edged water soldier plant, a risk to swimmers, now is fouling the Trent system. An aquatic invader is camping out on the banks of the Trent-Severn Waterway, and from the sounds of it, is getting very comfortable.

Michigan wants to double its cormorant kill

Michigan officials are hoping to double the amount of fish-gulping cormorants they can shoot and kill in the Great Lakes. A growing population of double-crested cormorants have been decimating fisheries and irking anglers for years in parts of the lakes.

European Rudd Found in Ohio Waters of Lake Erie

COLUMBUS, OH – The first record of European rudd in Ohio waters was recorded this week. It was caught by licensed Ohio commercial fisherman Jim Swartz, who netted the fish near the Lakeside Pier in Marblehead and ...

Eckert: DNR trying to simplify regulations

A decade ago, the Michigan DNR streamlined trout fishing regulations. The changes were supposed to make the rules easier to understand as well as to help grow more, bigger trout.

All locks open this weekend

The Trent-Severn Waterway will open from Lake Ontario through to Georgian Bay by tomorrow after the wet spring and heavy rain delayed the opening of several sections last weekend, Parks Canada states.

[Students help turn salmon tide - Atlantic salmon](#)

Thirty Hamilton students are part of a historic effort to return the Atlantic salmon to Lake Ontario, releasing 200 Atlantic salmon with Oakville and Mississauga students into Bronte Creek in Burlington. Schools are part of program to restore Atlantic species to Lake Ontario ...

[30,000 cormorants destroying lakeside park](#)

Dark and swift, flocks of cormorants soar above Lake Ontario before hundreds of them finally dip down to the diamond-flecked water. It's a stirring sight on a bright spring day. But cormorants are less beautiful on land

[Conflicting report on dredging remains secret](#)

The public will have a chance to comment Wednesday night on a controversial study that clears the Army Corps of Engineers of allegations that a botched dredging job in the 1960s permanently lowered lakes Michigan and Huron.

[Feds reject coaster brook trout as endangered](#)

Federal officials have decided against placing the coaster brook trout on the endangered species list, even though the fish has become increasingly rare after long flourishing in the upper Great Lakes. The USFWS on May 18 said a yearlong review had ...

[Flourishing eagles feast on Maine's rare seabirds](#)

PORTLAND – Bald eagles, bouncing back after years of decline, are swaggering forth with an appetite for great cormorant chicks that threatens to wipe out that bird population in the United States. The eagles, perhaps finding less fish to eat, are flying to Maine's remote rocky islands where they've been raiding the only known nesting colonies of great cormorants in the U.S. Snatching waddling chicks from the ground and driving adults from their nests, the eagles are causing the numbers of the glossy black birds to decline from more than 250 pairs to 80 pairs since 1992. "They're like thugs. They're like gang members. They go to these offshore islands where all these seabirds are and the birds are easy picking."

[Lampreys are sucking the life out of Michigan's waterways](#)

Its spawning season for the sea lamprey, a prehistoric creature that invaded the Great Lakes 80 years ago, and Johnson is injecting a love potion into the river to lure female sea lampreys into traps. The eel-like lampreys are one of the Great Lakes' most destructive invasive species, devouring native fish by sucking out their innards. They invaded the lakes in the 1920s, wiping out ...

[Commercial fishermen are coming up empty](#)

Commercial fishermen in the area are wondering where all the smelt have gone. They're also wondering how they seemed to disappear so quickly. According to the DNR, commercials were able to pull more than 650,000 lbs of smelt from Lake Michigan in 2006. By 2008, that number was cut in third to just ...

[Closer lake level hearing sought](#)

Pressure is mounting for authors of a controversial study examining recent low water levels on Lakes Michigan and Huron to do a better job of making their case to the public

[Green Bay looks promising as developing muskie fishery](#)

Unlike muskie fishing on northern lakes, where spring action heats up as the water steadily warms, the opposite seems to occur on Green Bay. There is speculation, however, the fish migrate into deeper water farther out into the bay and it is only a matter of time before anglers discover that pattern and take advantage of it.