



New Monitoring Shows Asian Carp Closer to Barrier

US Army Corps of Engineers increases electric barrier voltage, Coast Guard issues boating restrictions

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced August 12 it planned to increase the operating voltage for the electric fish barrier system in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal near Romeoville, Ill. Corps engineers says new monitoring techniques indicate Asian carp may be closer to the electric barrier site in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal near Romeoville than previously thought.

The Corps made the decision based on the latest information, including results from preliminary genetic water testing (eDNA) obtained July 31st that indicate that Asian carp are closer to the barrier than previously thought. Preliminary findings of the genetic testing of water samples "indicate there may be silver carp in the Brandon Road Pool, in-cluding at a location just downstream of the Lockport Lock and Dam."

Recent research undertaken at the Corps of Engineers research laboratory indicates that the optimal operating parameters are two volts per inch, 15-Hertz frequency and 6.5 milliseconds pulse rate. However, serious questions arise why they waited this long to conduct this research.

To prepare the barrier for the increase, the Corps initiated operational testing of the equipment at 8 AM August 12 for three days. In coordination with the Coast Guard, the Army Corps will then conduct navigation safety tests at the new operating parameters as early as practicable.

"Once we received the genetic testing results on July 31st, we immediately began making preparations to be able to increase the operating parameters," said Maj. Gen.

John Peabody, commander of the Cincinnati office of the Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. "The earliest we could make the changes was this Friday, so we used the available time to consult with other state and federal agencies and partners. It is clear to us that this is the appropriate action."

As part of its expanded Asian carp monitoring program, the Corps recently began working with a U of Notre Dame team led by Dr. David Lodge to attempt to detect the presence of Asian carp through genetic testing of water samples. Under a contract with the Army Corps' Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss., the university collected approximately 150 water samples

Asian Carp close to Barrier

Continued on page 11

In this issue...

Tips for Teaching Kids to Fish.....	2
Task Group survey on St. Marys.....	2
Berkley Trilene wins Best Line Award....	3
Coastal Program supports local projects	3
2009 "Best of Show" Honors	3
Pflueger Arbor Combo wins Best Of	4
IL Rock River Fish Kill	4
NY brook trout record.....	4
84 lb girl defeats 193 lb catfish.....	4
USEPA proposing problems for boaters	5
IN Lake Shoreline/Seawall Workshop....	5
PA House approves anti-poaching bill ...	6
IN License changes benefit outdoor folks	6
Bass Pro Shops opening in Altoona.....	6
Mich may reunite two agencies.....	6
Soldier shoots his way into record books	6
Rising water – restricted boating	6
Judge upholds NY rules on ship ballast .	7
Successful prosecution of false ballast ..	7
NY Statewide Angler Survey 2007	8
Lake Huron predator diet study update ..	8
Big Bay de Noc walleye stocking	9
State Fair Fishin' Pond	9
\$10 million awarded to Gr Lakes Comm	9
33 states challenge handgun bans	9
IL Shotgun clinics	10
Hamilton confirmed as FWS Director ...	10
Hunter Safety Courses available.....	10
IN online reserved-hunt applications....	10

Saltwater shoreline fishing license now required

Florida's new shoreline fishing license requirement took effect August 1. Resident anglers who fish for saltwater species from shore or a structure affixed to shore must have a \$9 shoreline fishing license or a \$17 regular saltwater fishing license.

Nonresident anglers need a regular nonresident saltwater fishing license to fish from shore or from a vessel. Short-term and annual nonresident fishing licenses cost between \$17 and \$47. Additional fees may apply to all fishing licenses, depending on where an angler purchases the license.

The shoreline requirement allows exemptions for resident anglers who fish in their home county, using live or natural bait, on a line or pole without a line-retrieval mechanism. This exemption does not apply to an-

glers who use nets, traps, gigs, spears or who gather seafood by hand or any type of gear other than hook and line.

Other exemptions apply for anglers who qualify for temporary cash assistance, food stamps or Medicaid. Also, resident anglers who are age 65 or older and children under age 16 may fish without a license. Active-duty military personnel may fish without a license while home on leave in Florida.

Licensed fishing piers have licenses that cover everyone who fishes from them. The State of Florida suggests the \$17 regular saltwater fishing license may be the best option for most resident anglers unless they are certain they will fish only from shore or a structure affixed to shore

Shoreline fishing license

Continued on page 7

Simple tips for Teaching Kids to Fish

There are many things in this life that can test your patience: traffic, downloads, the DMV, but teaching your kids to fish should not be one of them.

Here are a few things to keep in mind that will benefit all when trying to educate kids to fish.

1. Keep it simple. You can't cram years of fishing experience into one day on the water, it is unproductive and violates rule number one. Instead, pick a couple of things that you want to teach them to focus on. Maybe it is casting or fighting a fish.

2. Keep it productive – catch some fish! This is a hard thing to arrange sometimes, but if you can, make sure that you and your kids can be successful on the water.

Nothing will create a more positive lasting impression than catching a fish or two, no matter the species. Many a bluegill have been caught by first time anglers.

3. Document the experience – take pictures! Even if all you catch is a minnow, play it up. Blow up the picture and put it on the wall. The size of the fish isn't important. The smile on the face holding the fish is.

4. Lastly, quit while you're ahead. Don't continue to fish if the fishing is slow or slowing down. When the fishing takes a turn, or you start to see a lack of interest in your young pupil don't forget rule number one.

Skip some rocks, have a stick race down the stream, chase some butterflies, have a snack and keep the whole thing to a few hours tops.

Follow these rules to enjoy a fun and productive fishing experience with your little ones. Seem too complicated? Check out Angling University's Kids Fishing Camps. We facilitate a fun, hands-on learning experience that will create lasting memories for years to come.

Ethan Emery, Angling University Director ✧

Fisheries Task Group plans survey on St. Marys River in August

Member agencies of the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group are conducting a fish community survey of the entire St. Marys River during the month of August.

Fisheries folks are setting survey nets at predetermined sites in the river and capturing a variety of species of fish to collect information on abundance, growth, mortality, and size structure. These data will be compared to data collected in earlier surveys. The information collected by this and other surveys will assist fisheries managers in Ontario and Michigan in making critical decisions related to sportfish regulations, stocking, shared fisheries, and future management goals and actions.

The Assessment Plan and the 2006 survey report can be found online: <http://www.glfc.org/lakecom/lhc/lhchome.php>.

Boaters are asked not to interfere with the nets or their floating markers. Nets will be set overnight and lifted the following day. The well-marked nets should not obstruct normal navigation routes for recreational vessels.

This is the seventh such survey since 1975, but only the fourth done in a cooperative manner by local fisheries management agencies. The Michigan DNR conducted the earlier surveys in 1975, 1979 and 1987 in Michigan's waters only. In 1995, 2002, and 2006, surveys were done cooperatively covering all waters.

This year the MDNR is joined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Bay Mills Indian Community, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Lake Superior State University-Aquatic Research Laboratory to survey the river from Whitefish Bay to Detour, Michigan, and south and east of St. Joseph Island, Ontario. ✧



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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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Berkley Trilene TransOptic wins Best Line Award at 2009 ICAST New Product Showcase

Berkley Trilene TransOptic was awarded the Best Line Award on Wednesday at the 2009 ICAST show. After four years in development, Berkley has designed a nylon monofilament line that captures UV rays to physically change the line's color, making the line a hi-vis gold above the water and transparent below the surface where the UV rays are filtered out. The color-changing line benefits anglers that spend their days watching their line for the subtlest of bites. Anglers see the line, fish don't.

"Four years ago we saw a need for a line that benefited anglers that needed a monofilament that could be watched," said Berkley Product Manager, Clay Norris. "Through efforts with our product innovation team, we were able to come up with the technology to harness UV rays to change the color of nylon monofilament above water. Our team has worked extremely hard to be the first to produce TransOptic."

With superior knot strength, tough abrasion resistance and extra shock resistance, Berkley Trilene TransOptic is perfect for flipping, pitching, jigging and any application that calls for a hard hook set. Being a monofilament, the line is easily managed for a wide variety of baits and techniques. ✧

Lake Michigan Coastal Program supports local projects

Indiana's Lake Michigan coastal area will benefit from the approval of 14 projects to receive \$635,232 in federal funds. Grant recipients will provide the equivalent in local match for a total of \$1,270,464 that will be invested in projects that will improve public access and protect and restore natural areas in the Lake Michigan watershed. ✧

Sportfishing Industry Awards 2009 "Best of Show" Honors

Orlando, Florida – ICAST 2009, the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades, the world's largest sportfishing tradeshow, was in full swing from July 15-17 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Over 7,200 representatives from the sportfishing industry, including over 2,200 buyers and over 500 media representatives, were gathered to see the latest innovations in tackle, gear and apparel and network with the global sportfishing community.

Marine category and the overall "Best of Show."

This year's New Product Showcase winners also included first-time ICAST exhibitors Cablz, Inc., USA Custom Rods and Better Bait Systems. Eight returning ICAST exhibitors were also first-time winners. They are: Durasafe, Master Vision, Ross Reels USA/Ross Worldwide Outdoors, Sebile USA and Hobie Cat. Three 2008 showcase winners — Shimano, Pure Fishing and Plano Molding Company — also won Best of Show honors in 2009.

2009 ICAST New Product Showcase Award Winners

Overall Best of Show – Hobie Cat - Hobie Mirage Pro Angler
 Apparel – Cablz, Inc. - Cablz
 Electronics – Lowrance-Navico - Lowrance HDS-10
 Eyewear – Costa Del Mar Sunglasses - Zane
 Fishing Accessory – Durasafe - Codeable Locks
 Giftware – Master Vision - Mini Lantern
 Kids Tackle – Ross Reels USA/Ross Worldwide Outdoors - Journey Youth Fly Fishing Outfit
 Line – Pure Fishing - Berkley Trilene TransOptic
 Soft Lure – Sebile USA - Magic Swimmer Soft Pro Model
 Hard Lure – Sebile USA - Spin Shad
 Marine – Hobie Cat - Hobie Mirage Pro Angler
 Freshwater Reel – Shimano - Stradic CI4
 Saltwater Reel – Daiwa - Saltist Lever Drag
 Freshwater Rod – USA Custom Rods - Camo Stix
 Saltwater Rod – G. Loomis - Pro Green 882S
 Tackle Management – Plano Molding Company - Liqua-Bait Locker System
 Terminal Tackle – Better Bait Systems - Circle Hook Rig

The sportfishing industry's premier trade event is produced by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), the industry's trade association headquartered in Alexandria, VA.

This year, the 52nd year of ICAST, the New Product Showcase, the tradeshow's flagship event, was more competitive than ever. Sponsored by ESPN Outdoors/BASS, 208 exhibiting companies entered 600 tackle products and accessories into the New Product Showcase. The category with the most product sub-missions was the hard lure category.

The Hobie Cat Mirage Pro Angler, both a boat and a kayak, was voted by buyers and media as the most innovative product in the ICAST 2009 New Product Showcase in both the

Making up a special section of ICAST's 400,000-sq. ft. show floor, the New Product Showcase provides special visibility for the industry's latest innovations in gear and accessories. Buyers and media representatives judged the products based on their levels of innovation, execution, workmanship and practicality to select "Best of Show" honors in 17 categories, as well as the overall "Best of Show" winner.

In 2010, ICAST will be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center, July 14-16, 2010. ICAST 2011 will be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center, July 13-15, 2011. ✧

Pflueger Arbor Combo walks away with Best Of Award at 2009 ICAST Showcase

Designed to handle today's superlines, the Pflueger Arbor Combo has won the ICAST show Best Combo Award.

With the introduction of the new Pflueger Arbor spinning reel, it became apparent the reel needed a special rod to benefit from the reel's oversized spool. Not just any spinning rod would do. The result is a perfectly matched and balanced rod and reel combination that takes advantage of the reel's design and purpose.

"We designed this rod n' reel combo to fish the new generation superlines," said Andrew Wheeler, Pflueger Product Manager. "Whether an angler decides to throw the fluorocarbon or braided lines the Arbor's larger design is perfect. The rod was custom built to take full advantage of the many benefits of the Pflueger Arbor."

The Arbor reel is highlighted with an oversized, large arbor spool, which winds the line on to the reel in larger loops. With 7 stainless steel ball bearings, the reel is smooth on the retrieve. Made with a hybrid aluminum construction the reel is lightweight. An oversized carbon fiber washer manages the sealed drag system. Additional features include a graphite rotor, Sure-Click bail and solid aluminum bail wire.

For the rod, Pflueger started with a one-piece IM-8 graphite blank for its light weight and enhanced sensitivity. To complement the line coming off the reel's oversized spool, the Large Arbor Guide Concept system was developed. This includes a larger stripper guide that is reversed. This reduces line buildup before the front guide during casting.

The remaining guides are also oversized to keep the line moving freely and are made from durable stainless steel. The cork handle split grip design provides a comfortable command of the combo and the graphite reel seat holds the Arbor reel securely to the rod.

IL Rock River Fish Kill Largest in Illinois history

SPRINGFIELD – The Rock River fish kill, one of the largest in state history, is believed to have started on Father's Day weekend (June 20-21) two miles north of Grand Detour and ended nearly 50 miles down stream near Prophetstown.

IDNR fisheries biologists spent several days on the river counting, measuring and sorting affected fish into species. The investigation yielded a preliminary estimate of over 72,000 fish killed with an associated value of over \$272,000. Biologists estimate nearly 37,000 game fish were killed, including catfish, smallmouth bass and walleye. It is estimated that over 34,000 commercial fish including buffalo and carp also were killed. Illinois EPA is working with the Illinois Attorney General's office on enforcement action.

The IDNR considers these estimates to be very conservative. Extremely high temperatures contributed to the rapid decomposition of the fish, and flooding conditions along parts of the Rock River made it difficult to get a more accurate count.

The DNR, on July 16 released about 4,000 hatchery-raised northern pike into the Rock River to assist the recovery of the river fishery following a significant fish kill that occurred in late June. DNR folks released the fish, averaging 9" long, at the boat ramp at Castle Rock State Park. More than 50,000 smallmouth bass were previously stocked shortly after the fish kill. These and other fish stockings should provide a boost to recreational fishing opportunities on the Rock.

The Illinois EPA is working with the Illinois Attorney General's office on enforcement action. ✧

Two models are available; the Arbor 7430 reel is matched with the 6'6" Arbor medium-light action rod. The Arbor 7440 reel comes on the 7'0" Arbor medium action rod. MSRP for the Pflueger Arbor Combo is \$99.95. ✧

NY brook trout record

It was just a matter of time before New York produced another "new" state record brook trout; this time the lucky angler was well-known Utica wildlife artist Tom Yacovella. The monster female brookie tipped the scales at 5 lbs., 4½ oz. on four different state-certified scales. While the 21" length is impressive, it is dwarfed by the fish's big girth of 15".

Yacovella was fishing on Raquette Lake, using an interesting three-way swivel with a pencil lead sinker. His lure of choice was a 3½" floating Rapala with a shad finish.

In recent months there have been rumors of other potential record brook trout coming out of the Adirondacks, which have turned out to be splake. Yacovella's fish was examined by NYDEC biologists who confirmed it was indeed a brookie. One way to differentiate between brookies and splake is to count the pyloric caeca (the finger-like projections in the small intestines). Brookies have 23 to 55 pyloric caeca, and splake have 65 to 85. Yacovella's fish had 37, thus confirming its status.

This is considered a new record in New York as all the old records dating back to the 1800s, including a rumored 14-pounder by well known politician and dictionary founder Daniel Webster caught in the Carmans River on Long Island in 1827, were retired within the past decade. The previous modern record was 4 lbs., 15 oz. taken by Jesse Yousey on a Lake Clear Wabblers somewhere in the Five Ponds Wilderness in 2006. ✧

84 lb girl defeats 193 lb catfish

EBRO RIVER, SPAIN – In this corner: Jessica Wanstall, 11; weighing 84 lbs. and standing 4' 10"; in that corner: one ugly catfish, 9' long, weighing 193 lbs. The winner? Little Jessica of Sittingbourne, England, who landed the catfish on the Ebro River in Spain while fishing with her dad. They released the fish alive. ✧

USEPA proposing problems for boaters

A proposal from the USEPA has boating organizations up in arms. The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) and (BoatU.S.) have taken serious exception to a proposal that would allow an increase in the amount of ethanol allowed in gasoline to rise from ten to fifteen percent.

That was proposed in March after Growth Energy, a pro-ethanol group collected fifty-four other groups and petitioned the EPA to allow what is a 50% bump in ethanol and reclassify E-10 fuel as E-15.

One small problem for boaters: engines are not designed, certified or calibrated to run with more than E-10 fuel. Recreational boat warranty documents and manufacturer's owner's manuals currently advise boaters not to use more than ten percent ethanol. The end result could be a forced change that would void warranties and potentially damage fuel systems.

"This is not about growing renewable energy," says BoatUS Vice President of Government Affairs Margaret Podlich. "This is really about a group of investors attempting

to profit at the expense of 13 million recreational boat owners. We had significant problems with the nationwide roll-out of E10 a few years ago, and without further independent testing of E15 with marine engines we are very likely to see similar issues."

Podlich's comments refer to the widely known problem with ethanol's ability to attract water into gasoline or "phase separate" which has led to major problems and repair and replacement costs for boaters. Another problem is ethanol degrading fiberglass boat gas tank walls.

The proposal for the ethanol increase could also pose problems for a myriad of other small engines, from boats to chainsaws, lawn mowers, ATVs and virtually any other gas-powered engine.

NMMA Legislative Director Mathew Dunn offers what he calls a simple solution: "Science – not politics – should ultimately determine EPA's decision on whether to allow the sale of any increased ethanol blend that's more than 10 percent," he says, "At present, it is clear there is insufficient scientific and technical data to justify granting the increase,

and EPA should therefore deny it outright."

Testing prior to implementing a content standard for gasoline seems to be a reasonable request, especially when it could radically impact the performance of both civilian and military engines.

And the boating industry isn't the only one concerned about the E-15 proposal. A national association representing convenience stores and gas stations says they're concerned about lawsuits from car owners claiming their cars were damaged by E-15 gasoline.

Underwriter's Laboratories (UL), which certifies gas pumps and safety for a wide range of products, says it will not provide that UL certification to E-15 pumps. UL's safety director says the maximum level that would be certified was always set at E-15. The problem is the potential for slight variations in the mix of ethanol and gasoline. In other words, it's not going to be possible for operators to say without fear of error that their pumps are absolutely dispensing no higher than E-15 mixtures. ✧

IN Lake Shoreline/Seawall Workshop August 28

Rules regulating seawall construction projects on Indiana lakes can be confusing. A workshop designed to help lake residents, lake leaders, realtors, attorneys, and developers understand is scheduled August 28 at Skinner Lake in Noble County.

The event is hosted by the Skinner Lake Homeowners Association (SLHOA), DNR, and the Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS). The goal is to provide information on various shoreline classifications and how those classifications determine the type of seawall that may legally be installed.

The workshop begins at 6 p.m., and should last approximately two hours. After a brief presentation on factors used to classify shorelines, workshop participants will tour Skinner

Lake on pontoon boats to examine various sites and discuss seawall options.

According to Indiana law (IC 14-26-2-3), anyone who constructs seawall along the shoreline of a public freshwater lake must first get a permit from the DNR. When reviewing seawall permit applications, the DNR must follow certain standards under administrative rule 312 IAC 11-1-1, based on one of four shoreline categories. The categories function much the same way as local zoning designations and restrictions.

Concrete, steel or other "bulkhead" seawalls may only be constructed in "developed areas," already impacted by extensive shoreline alterations. Glacial rock seawalls may be permitted within

less-impacted "areas of special concern." In sensitive areas, those classified as "natural shorelines" or "significant wetlands," only bio-engineered seawalls that incorporate native plants into their design may be allowed.

Please contact Ed Sprague of the SLHOA and board member of ILMS at (260) 636-7336 or escs@ligtel.com if you plan to attend. Sweet Lake Church is located east of Albion at the intersection of Noble County 300E and 415N. ✧

PA House approves anti-poaching bill

HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe praised the House of Representatives for the near unanimous approval of House Bill 1859, which would increase penalties and fines for poaching. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Edward Staback, House Game and Fisheries Committee Chair, and similar to House Bill 97, passed the House on July 21 by a vote of 196-3.

“This bill recognizes poaching for the crime that it is; the stealing of natural resources from all Pennsylvanians,” Roe said.

Roe said the causes of poaching vary, but the myth that most poachers are committing their offenses to provide food for their families is, in reality, almost never the case.

“Enactment of this bill will mark the first comprehensive piece of legislation to increase Game and Wildlife Code Penalties since 1987.” Roe noted the bill now goes to the Senate for consideration before being sent to Gov. Edward G. Rendell for his action. ✧

IN License changes benefit outdoor folks

Outdoor enthusiasts can take advantage of several new hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, effective July 1. The changes include: (1) creation of non-resident youth hunting and trapping licenses, (2) a change so that youth under age 18 no longer need a fishing license to fish in Indiana public waters, (3) the resident youth consolidated hunting license now includes trapping, and (4) seniors who are not required to purchase a fishing license may now purchase a voluntary senior annual fishing license, if they want to do so as a contribution to the benefit of fish and wildlife.

These licenses are available on the DNR's automated sport licensing system and at license retailers. To purchase online or for more info: www.IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov. ✧

Bass Pro Shops opening in Altoona, Iowa

An all-star cast that reads like a who's who in the world of sports, entertainment and the great outdoors joins together to help Bass Pro Shops celebrate a spectacular Evening for Conservation, August 26 at the new Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Altoona, Iowa. The new 145,000 sq. ft. store is located at the southeast corner of the I-80 and Highway 65 by-pass.

The store will officially open its doors for a preview celebration during the fundraising event and ribbon-cutting ceremony August 26th from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The event is free and open to the public.

The Grand Opening Celebration begins Thursday, August 27 and will continue through Sunday, August 30.

Altoona is Bass Pro Shops 56th store in 26 states and Canada. ✧

Mich may reunite two environmental agencies

More than a dozen years after lawmakers pulled apart the departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources, Michigan legislation is proceeding to put the two back together.

The move, which supporters said could save the state up to \$2 million, is getting mixed reviews from those most affected. Environmentalists, who opposed the separation in 1995 under then-Gov. John Engler, say reuniting the two could potentially strengthen conservation and environmental protection provided its funding isn't slashed — but they also are wary the change would be nothing more than a budget cut. Business owners say the process to get state permits for everything from seawalls to factory discharges to development projects is faster since creation of the DEQ, and they worry delays could return if a separation conceived as a way to cut the processing time is undone. ✧

Soldier shoots his way into record books

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's Service Pistol Team set its sights on the National Pistol Matches when the 2009 shooting schedule came out, and that training paid off in a big way, specifically for one soldier who now calls himself a national champion.

The National Rifle Association and the Civilian Marksmanship Program held their annual National Pistol Championships July 12-19 at Camp Perry, Ohio. Sgt. 1st Class James Henderson swept every major individual award, breaking national records along the way and establishing himself as the standard bearer in service pistol.

The soldier's dominance started at the NRA's Pistol Championship when he won the Harrison Trophy as the top individual with a score of 2646, becoming the first active-duty soldier to win the national championship in 24 years. He also finished in first-place in the individual .22-caliber and center-fire events.

At the National Trophy Pistol Matches Henderson took it up a notch, winning every event he was entered in and also led his team to a championship. Henderson's accomplishments lend credibility to the Army; they showcase the best of Army Soldier capabilities to the American people. ✧

Rising water leads to restricted boating on Rock River

No recreational watercraft allowed until further notice

Due to rising water, swift currents and floating debris, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is restricting boating on the Rock River in Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties. This restricted area is off limits to all recreational watercraft until further notice. IDNR has authorization to designate restricted boating areas when navigation is deemed significantly hazardous. ✧

Judge upholds NY rules on ship ballast water

A state judge has upheld rules to require commercial ships in New York waterways to retrofit with ballast treatment systems by 2012 and to require such systems in new ships starting in 2013.

The state 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 USEPA nationwide discharge permit for these vessels.

In his May 21 ruling, New York State Supreme Court Justice Robert Sackett agreed with New York and dismissed a challenge to permit requirements issued by the New York State DEC 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 Dept. 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 U.S.

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. ✧

First successful prosecution of false ballast report Vessel pollution prosecutions – a new twist

On July 15, 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that the Captain and Chief Officer of a foreign vessel pled guilty in the Eastern District of Louisiana (New Orleans) to charges that included not only the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS), False Statements and Obstruction of Justice; but also failure to notify the Coast Guard of hazardous conditions and charges related to presentation of false or incomplete ballast tank reports.

The case involved two primary issues: (1) a 24" outer-hull crack in the vessel's rudder stem, which created a condition that adversely affected the safety and operation of the vessel; and (2) fuel oil in a ballast tank due to a leaking "deep" fuel tank in the forward part of the vessel.

This is the first criminal charge and successful prosecution of a person for violation of the Non-Indigenous Aquatic Uses and Prevention Control

Act 16, USC § 4711(g) for presentation to the USCG of a false ballast water report. The Chief Officer was charged under the Act because he presented a Ballast Report that did not record efforts by the crew to deal with contamination of a ballast tank by an adjacent leaking fuel tank. The Captain not only failed to report the condition to the Coast Guard, but caused oil-contaminated water to be discharged in an attempt to clean the ballast tank. Prior to arrival at a terminal in New Orleans, the Captain attempted to conceal the condition by ordering that a hose with a stopper at one end and partially filled with water be fitted to the ballast tank's sounding tube in order to give Coast Guard inspectors the misimpression that the ballast tank was filled with clean water. Those actions led to charges for the failure to maintain an accurate oil record book (i.e., one that record-ed the discharge of

oil-contaminated water) and Obstruction of Justice.

In addition to an APPS violation and Obstruction of Justice – charges frequently seen in vessel pollution cases – the Captain was charged under the Ports and Waterways Safety Act with failing to notify the nearest U.S. Coast Guard Sector or Group Office that hazardous conditions existed aboard the vessel, namely the rudder stem crack and leak between the fuel and ballast tanks. ✧

Shoreline fishing license

Continued from page 1

all year. By creating the shoreline fishing license, the Florida Legislature arranged for Florida anglers to be exempt from a more expensive federal angler registration requirement that will take effect in 2011. ✧

New York Statewide Angler Survey 2007

The 2007 New York Statewide Angler Survey provides the results of a random survey of approximately 20,000 anglers that fished the freshwaters of New York State during the 2007 calendar year. The survey was conducted by the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Bureau of Fisheries.

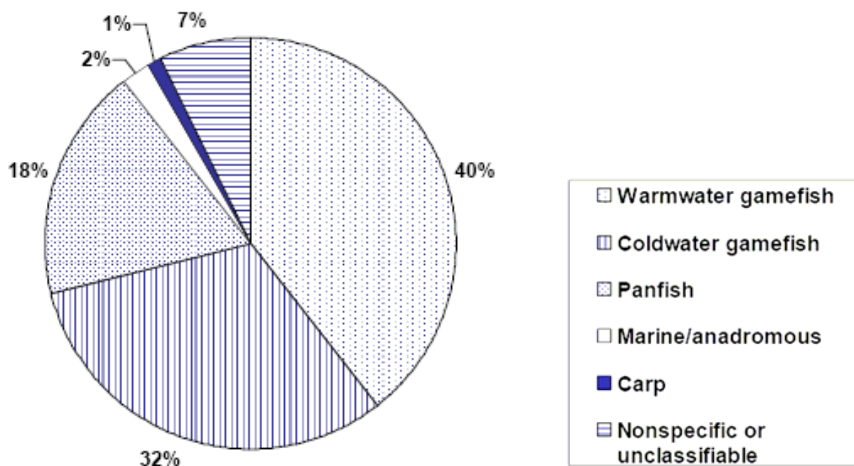
Of the 17,000 questionnaires mailed out during each phase, between 700 and 1,100 were undeliverable and about 7,000 completed questionnaires were returned. This resulted in adjusted response rates ranging from 38% for phase 2 to 49% for phase 3.

Anglers spent an estimated 18,763,715 days fishing New York's freshwaters in 2007. (An angler day is defined as any part of a day that a person spent fishing.) Of the 716,398 fishing license holders eligible to fish between January and May 2007, approximately 49% or 351,035 fished at least one day during that period. Anglers fished an average of 14 days, for an estimated total of 4,939,800 days in New York between January and May 2007. We estimated that 22% (or 91,361) of the anglers went ice fishing during the period and spent an estimated 836,287 days ice fishing in New York in 2007.

Of the 1,023,871 fishing license holders eligible to fish in New York between June and September 2007, approximately 66% or 676,779 fished at least one day during that period. They fished an average of 15 days, for an estimated total of 10,428,826 days between June and September 2007. Of the 572,173 fishing license holders eligible to fish between October and December 2007, an estimated 40% or 228,869 fished at least one day during that period. These anglers fished an average of 15 days, for an estimated total of 3,395,089 days in New York between October and December 2007.

Over 7 million days were spent fishing for warmwater gamefish (Fig.), with the majority of that effort occurring during the summer months (June-Sept.). Almost 6 million days were spent in pursuit of coldwater gamefish, with effort spread across the three study periods. Fishing for panfish accounted for over 3 million days of effort. Fishing for marine/anadromous species in freshwater and carp accounted for less than half a million days each in 2007. Some anglers indicated that they spent time fishing for no species in particular or other unclassifiable species, which totaled over 1 million days of effort in 2007.

The results of the survey are provided in 4 reports. Report 1 contains statewide estimates of angler effort and expenditures, as well as breakouts by region, and major water body. It also provides estimates of specific use of New York's fisheries broken out by species fished for; region fished, and water body.



Percent of total angler days by species group

Lake Huron predator diet study update

USGS scientist Jeff Schaeffer tells us the study is going well! The USGS has averaged about 200 stomachs collected per month, and more are arriving weekly. "Ed and I have supplemented volunteer angler collections by visiting tournaments and some of the more active launch ramps".

"We have a team of three students working up the stomachs under our guidance, so the laboratory processing has begun. This work will proceed slowly for a few weeks until people develop skill at identifying partially digested fish, but it has started. I put together an identification guide for fish remains that summarizes key characters.

"I am not sure that we mentioned this before, but Great Lakes Science Center has been completely supportive of this project, and has helped us get the resources we needed to start the project this summer. Next we plan to collect walleye stomachs at Linwood, MI, and will try to sample some of the northern Lake Huron salmon tournaments over the next few weeks."

Good fishing!

Jeff Schaeffer

USGS Great Lakes Science Center ✧

Report 2 assesses angler characteristics, preferences, satisfaction, and opinions on management topics.

Report 3 provides estimates of angler effort and expenditures in New York State Counties.

Report 4 compares two different survey methods used in this study and provides an analysis of trends in fishing effort

[Summary Report](#)

[Report 1: Angler Effort and Expenditures](#)

[Report 2: Angler Characteristics, Preferences, Satisfaction, and Opinion on Management Topics](#)

[Report 3: Estimated Angler Effort and Expenditures in New York State Counties](#)

[Report 4: Survey Method Comparison](#)

[and Analysis of Trends in Fishing Effort](#)

✧

Big Bay de Noc walleye stocking gets assistance

Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program aid resource

Each year at about this time walleye spring fingerlings are stocked in managed waters throughout the state. A limited number of walleye eggs were collected this year due to Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) concerns statewide, DNR said.

DNR Fisheries staff collected walleye eggs in April from Little Bay de Noc for pond rearing and eventual stocking into Big Bay de Noc this year. The Inter-Tribal Fisheries Program, run by the Tribes recognized under the 1836 Treaty of Washington and based in Sault Ste. Marie, also received eggs from Little Bay de Noc in a cooperative effort to stock other Great Lakes waters.

The Inter-Tribal Fisheries Program also made available to the Michigan DNR approximately 70,000 spring fingerling walleye they have reared. These fish are in excess to the Tribes' needs and were offered for stocking back into Big Bay de Noc. These fish were stocked July 10. Big and Little Bays de Noc are stocked on an alternate year basis due to their large size and the number of walleye required. Management plans required Big Bay stocking this year.

"We are very appreciative of this offer from the Tribes to help assist the State in rehabilitating the Bay's walleye fishery," said Jim Dexter, Lake Michigan Basin coordinator for Fisheries Division.

The DNR is operating only two rearing ponds in the U.P. this year. These ponds did not produce as well as expected due to a later than normal harvest necessary to accommodate further VHS disease testing. Combined stocking efforts should result in nearly 250,000 spring fingerlings being stocked this year into Big Bay, well below the 750,000 fish requested. ✧

State Fair Fishin' Pond awaits young anglers

About 4,500 kids learned to fish for free during last year's Indiana State Fair at the DNR's 312,000-gallon Fishin' Pond. This catch-and-release fishing program runs from 9 a.m. to noon, and 4 to 7 p.m., daily, through Aug. 23, (except the mornings of Aug. 17-21).

As last year, 3,500 hybrid bluegill and 1,500 channel catfish will be stocked before and during the fair to keep the fishing fresh. Friendly volunteers will again teach kids, ages 5-17, how to be safe and successful. These adults will also bait the hook and release the fish if needed. Kids must be accompanied by an adult to participate. After the fishing, participants will want to head over to the education table where kids can do crafts and adults have the chance to make an Angler's Legacy pledge to take a kid fishing in the upcoming year.

=Registration, which is required before fishing, is located next to the Natural Resources Building, outside the doors of Mother Nature's Mercantile, near the paddlefish pond (sorry, no fishing there). ✧

33 States file high court brief challenging handgun bans

Thirty-three of the nation's attorneys general have filed an amicus brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to grant certiorari in the case of *NRA vs. Chicago* and hold that the Second Amendment applies to state and local governments through the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The 33 attorneys general, along with California's attorney general in a separate filing, concurred that the Second Amendment protects a fundamental individual right to keep and bear arms in the home for self-defense, disagreeing with the decision recently issued by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. ✧

\$10 million awarded to Great Lakes Commission for Muskegon Lake restoration project

Ann Arbor, Mich. – Federal stimulus dollars totaling \$10 million have been awarded by NOAA to the Great Lakes Commission for a major wetland and wildlife habitat restoration project on Muskegon Lake, MI along the east shoreline of Lake Michigan.

Partnering with the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, the GLC will coordinate the restoration of some 10,000 feet of shoreline "hardened" over several decades by broken concrete, foundry slag, sheet metal and other materials. The project will also remove more than 180,000 tons of degraded lake bottom sediment to improve aquatic habitat for fish and other species.

The project also includes a job creation commitment: it is projected to generate almost 40,000 labor hours to support 125 jobs, largely in engineering and construction. More than \$20 million will be contributed by local sources through in-kind services, donations of land, and conservation easements.

Muskegon Lake is part of the Great Lakes coastal wetlands ecosystem and provides more food and habitat for wildlife than just about any other Great Lakes ecosystem. Due to filling, development and pollution, Great Lakes wetlands are one of two ecosystems listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Midwest Region as "Imperiled Ecosystems." The restoration project, to be supported by ARRA funds, builds on more than a decade of research, assessments, planning and design work, as well as large-scale remediation and pollution control efforts on Muskegon Lake. The lake is identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as one of 43 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes for its legacy of toxic contaminants. ✧

IL Shotgun Clinics

The Illinois DNR and partners host wingshooting clinics at state sites to help improve shooting skills. Youth/Women's clinics are designed to teach basic firearm and hunter safety and the fundamentals of wingshooting. Hunter clinics are designed to enhance skills and provide sound practice techniques.

For more info: <http://dnr.state.il.us>.

Upcoming clinics include:

Aug. 22-23 – Hunter Clinic – Cender Conservation Camp, 217/935-6860

Sept. 12-13 – Youth/Women Clinic – Sauk Trail State Park, 309/853-5589

Sept. 12-13 – Youth/Women Clinic – Sam Dale Lake, 618/835-2292

Sept. 19-20 – Hunter Clinic – Des Plaines SFWA, 217/785-8129

Sept. 26-27 – Youth/Women Clinic – South Fork Dirt Riders Park, 217/496-3113

Sept. 27 – Youth Clinic – Decatur Gun Club, 217/521-9469

Oct. 3-4 – Hunter Clinic – WSRC-Sparta, 618/295-2700

Oct. 10-11 – Hunter Clinic – Panther Creek SFWA, 217/452-7741

Oct. 17-18 – Hunter Clinic – St. Charles Sportsmen's Club, 630/363-6180

Oct. 24-25 – Youth/Women Clinic – Ten Mile Creek SFWA, 618/643-2862

✧

Hamilton confirmed as FWS Director

Sam Hamilton, President Obama's nominee for Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was confirmed with strong bi-partisan support by the U.S. Senate July 31st. Formerly the FWS Regional Director for the Southeast, Hamilton has worked for the Service in an array of capacities for the last thirty years. From his early days building fences on refuges with the Youth Conservation Corps, to restoring vital habitat in areas such as the Florida Everglades, to managing over 128 wildlife refuges in the Southeast, Hamilton has acquired a wealth of experience in both acquiring and reconstructing habitat. ✧

Hunter Safety Courses available

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Hunters of all ages and all levels of experience are encouraged to focus on safety and to take a free Illinois Hunter Safety Education Course coordinated by the Illinois DNR. Hunters now also have the opportunity to go online to sign up for one of two new web-based hunter safety courses to earn their hunter safety certificate.

Illinois law requires that anyone born on or after January 1, 1980 must successfully complete a hunter safety education course before an Illinois hunting license can be issued. The traditional courses, which are coordinated by the IDNR, are taught by volunteer safety instructors. The courses include instruction on hunting regulations, hunter ethics and responsibility, archery, firearms, ammunition, first aid, wildlife identification and conservation. A minimum of 10 hours of instruction is involved.

The IDNR is offering hunters two new convenient ways to familiarize themselves with hunting safety information through the internet; online companies www.HunterExam.com and www.Hunter-Ed.com to provide necessary coursework to help complete hunter safety education requirements in Illinois.

Students may opt to take the coursework section online using either of the two new interactive hunter education courses. **Students are still required to attend a one-day field day to finalize their certification.** "We recognize families have chaotic schedules, and that learning styles can vary considerably," said IDNR Safety Education Administrator Jeff Hopkins. "By offering both the traditional, lecture-style course and the opportunity to learn the material online, parents and students may select the option that works best for them."

Reviewing the online safety coursework is free to anyone, making it a tremendous tool for seasoned

IN Online reserved-hunt applications

Hunters may now apply for a reserved hunt online by visiting www.IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov and clicking on the "Register for a Reserved Hunt" link. The online method will be the only way to apply.

All applications must be completed by the application deadline to be eligible for the drawing. Hunters will be selected through a random drawing. All drawing results will be posted at www.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild (or www.wildlife.IN.gov) within a week after application deadlines.

Military/Refuge Deer Hunt Draw

Online application must be completed by Aug. 28, 2009

Indiana State Park Deer Reduction Hunts

Online application must be completed by Aug. 28, 2009

Pheasant Hunt Draw

Online application must be completed by: Oct. 2, 2009

Wild Turkey Hunt Draw

Online application must be completed by: March 26, 2010 ✧

hunters to refresh their skills or learn about new programs and equipment each year for free. Anyone interested in reviewing the online coursework can do so through the IDNR web site www.dnr.state.il.us/safety. Those who complete the hunter safety education course and pass the final exam receive a certificate of competency. Last year, more than 17,200 students completed the course in Illinois.

The IDNR Safety Education office reports there were 38 hunting-related accidents in Illinois in 2008. Of those accidents, eight resulted in fatalities (six involving tree-stand falls). To date in 2009, there have been three reported hunting accidents and no reported fatalities. For more info and a schedule of the in-person safety courses, go to: <http://dnr.state.il.us/safety> or call 800-832-2599. ✧

Asian Carp close to Barrier

Continued from page 1

from the Dresden Island and Brandon Road pools. Preliminary test results indicate there may be silver carp in the Brandon Road Pool, including at a location just downstream of the Lockport Lock and Dam. Previous monitoring by other techniques never detected Asian carp in the Brandon Road Pool.

"This is new technology and although we don't have all the lab results yet, and we have no confirmed physical sighting of Asian carp as close as Lockport Lock, we are taking this new information very seriously. We have already taken action to gather additional water samples for more DNA testing, increased electrofishing efforts, and are using other traditional monitoring methods to confirm the initial findings of the DNA tests," said Col. Vincent Quarles, commander of the Army Corps Chicago District.

The DNA testing results to date indicate the possible presence of silver carp in the Brandon Road pool of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal immediately below the Lockport pool, including sites between the Lockport Dam (river mile 291) and the confluence with the Des Plaines River near river mile 290.

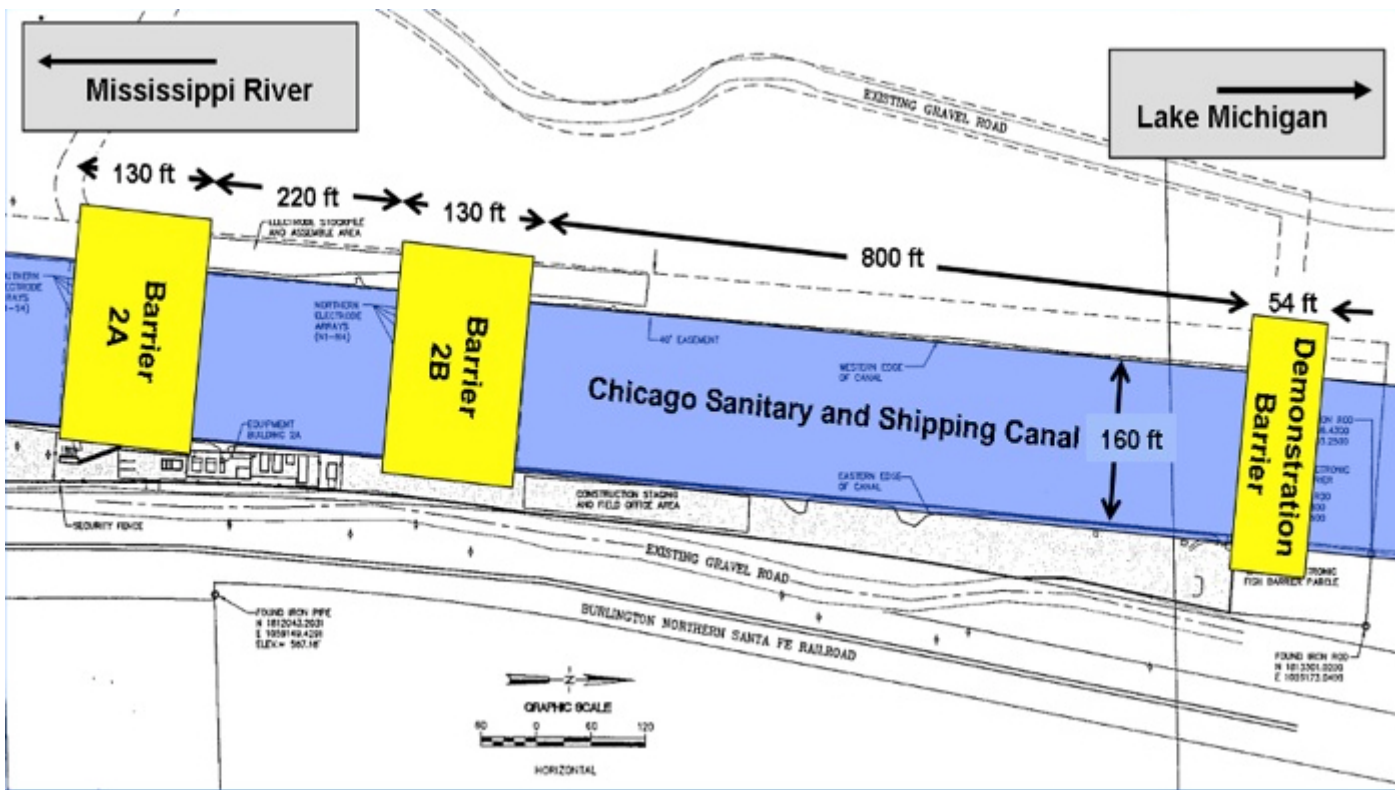
The Army Corps Barrier Project consists of a series of electrical barriers (see drawing below) that mitigate risks of invasive species reaching the Great Lakes through the most vulnerable path. This system of electric barriers provides a non-lethal deterrent to aquatic species that does not interfere with water flow and minimizes impact to navigation in the canal.

"The electric fish barrier illustrates the challenges faced in ensuring safety, security and environmental protection while balancing the oftentimes-conflicting needs of multiple public and private interest groups. The Coast Guard is committed to public safety and

environmental protection and will continue to work closely and openly with all stakeholders," said Capt. Luann Barndt, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan.

"If they had any sense of urgency, this "operational testing" would have been done long ago, instead of waiting until an emergency comes up," said Dan Thomas, president of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council. "We're waiting until it may be too late." The Corps and Coast Guard were cautioned back in April when Barrier IIA was turned on permanently that operating the system at one volt per inch would not be sufficient to stop a carp incursion, and waiting till they were observed closer may be too late.

The Corps of Engineers, who by law are designated the barrier managers, arrogantly and ignominiously chose to ignore the advisory panels' advice. Let's hope that advice doesn't prove prophetic.



Switchblade law opponents rule the day

Opponents of the Obama administration's plan to expand the definition of "switchblades" and block the importing of many common pocketknives suffered a major setback in Congress last month, but they vow the Capitol Hill knife fight isn't over.

"Everyone from our first responders, law enforcement officials, Boy Scouts and hunters will be affected by this regulation," said Rep. Bob Latta, Ohio Republican, after the House Rules Committee rejected his bill to block the change. "It is unacceptable to think that we as citizens cannot carry a pocketknife for work or recreation purposes."

Latta, who has teamed up with Democratic Rep. Walt Minnick of Idaho to fight the measure, is currently exploring other legislative moves to stop the administration's plan, said Latta spokesman David Popp. The two lawmakers had submitted an amendment to a spending bill that would have

blocked the new regulation, but it was rejected on procedural grounds.

Critics of the regulation – including U.S. knife manufacturers and collectors, the NRA, sportsmen's groups and a bipartisan group of at least 79 House members – say it would rewrite U.S. law defining what constitutes a switchblade and potentially make de facto criminals of the estimated 35 million Americans who use folding knives.

The new knife rules proposed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) would affect the interpretation of the Switchblade Knife Act of 1958 to include any spring-assisted or one-handed-opening knife. The law defines a "switchblade" as any knife having a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button or other device in the handle, or by operation of inertia or gravity.

Customs officials argue the rule deals only with imported merchandise, and does not affect knives already in the country or that

are manufactured domestically. The 1958 law bans the possession of switchblades on federal lands and prohibits the mailing or sale of switchblades across state lines. It does not mandate prohibition within states and localities, though a number of states, including Maryland, have passed their own statutes banning or limiting the possession and carrying of switchblades.

The bipartisan Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, boasting one of the largest memberships on Capitol Hill, sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, who oversees CBP, urging her to quash the proposed rule change. The letter was signed by 61 Republican and 18 Democratic lawmakers.

In much the same way that gun rights issues have cut across the partisan divide in Congress, the threat of a knife grab by the government has especially rankled members from western and southern states, regardless of their party. ✧

House climate bill called "immoral"

Washington, DC – The Waxman-Markey climate bill is "an immoral assault on poor Americans" because it is designed to purposely raise the cost of energy in order to force the working poor to reduce their standard of living, according to one of the nation's leading civil rights champions.

Roy Innis, Chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality – one of America's oldest civil rights organizations – made the allegation in a letter to all members of Congress on June 24. CORE has been heavily engaged in the national energy policy debate since the publication of Innis' 2007 book, [Energy Keepers, Energy Killers](#). The book was a *Washington Post* non-fiction best seller.

"In my 40-plus years as the Chairman of CORE, I have seen few federal bills that would do more harm to America's working class and low-income citizens and families than the

Waxman-Markey climate tax bill," Innis wrote to Members of Congress.

"The Waxman-Markey bill is designed specifically to make the use of fossil fuels more costly," Innis said. "That will have a disproportionate and negative impact on those who now benefit most from the affordable and reliable power that fossil fuels provide: poor and working-class families."

"In fact, an underlying goal of this legislation is the morally repugnant concept that constricting sources of domestic energy and raising energy costs is a good thing because it will force conservation by consumers," Innis said. "That elitist view assumes that poor, working class families have the ability to bear that 'social cost.' The plain truth is this: the poor and working families we represent cannot bear that luxury," Innis told Congress.

"Americans don't want 'energy welfare' payments from the government to help ease the sting of these government-driven cost increases," Innis wrote. "They want continued affordable and reliable energy, which this bill will constrict."

Innis concluded: "This is an explicitly anti-consumer package that will have huge impacts – both direct and indirect – on the struggling families we represent."

CORE said it plans to launch a national public education campaign against the Waxman-Markey legislation. CORE has more than 100,000 members nationwide. ✧

DNR to conduct auction of confiscated property Aug 29

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois DNR will conduct an auction of its inventory of confiscated and abandoned property on Saturday, August 29 at the IDNR Jack Perschbacher Service Center warehouse in Pawnee, Illinois. Bidder registration for the auction will begin at 7 a.m., with the auction beginning at 10 a.m. Potential bidders may inspect the merchandise beginning at 7 a.m. the day of the sale. The auction merchandise will not be available for inspection prior to the gates opening at 7 a.m. on August 29.

No guns or vehicles will be sold.

Among the items offered at the auction:

- ▶ 15 fishing tackle boxes with contents;
 - ▶ 20 commercial fishing trammel nets;
 - ▶ 8 commercial fishing hoop nets;
 - ▶ 109 sport fishing rods and reels;
 - ▶ 24 leghold traps; five box-style live traps;
 - ▶ Five crossbows; 23 compound bows;
 - ▶ 27 handheld spotlights;
 - ▶ 223 assorted deer hunting tree stands and ladders;
 - ▶ One aluminum 17' canoe;
- Etc, etc

All property at the auction will be sold as is and all sales will be final. For more info and rules: <http://dnr.state.il.us/pubaffairs/2009/August/idnr.html>. ✧

Indiana finds unwanted pike and white bass in lakes

Two species of fish, although popular among Hoosier anglers, are not what biologists wanted to find in three lakes north of Columbia City in Whitley County. Northern pike were netted at Loon Lake, while a white bass was captured in Big Lake during surveys by the DNR. ✧

FWS backpedals on status of gray wolves

The USFWS has reached a settlement agreement with plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the Service's 2009 rule removing Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the Western Great Lakes. A recent decision by the FWS to return the Great Lakes population of gray wolves to the federal endangered species list will result in several significant changes to the management of wolves in Michigan, the MI DNR said.

When wolves were removed from the endangered species list in early May, the DNR gained the authority to manage wolves under the state's wolf management plan, which allows for lethal control in cases where nonlethal methods, such as noisemaking devices and barrier fencing, are not successful or viable.

Gray wolves in the area have exceeded recovery goals and continue to thrive under state management. However, the Service agrees with plaintiffs that additional public review and comment was required under federal law prior to making that final decision.

However, the federal decision to return wolves to the endangered species list means the new lethal control laws and the state's wolf management plan are no longer valid. Wolf management and monitoring will now revert to the parameters set out by the federal government. This settlement agreement does not affect the status of gray wolves in other parts of the United States. ✧

Crews surveying Ohio areas to find sea lampreys

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assessment crew will conduct work offshore of Conneaut Creek in Ashtabula County, the Grand River in Lake County and in the Huron River in Erie County, Ohio. ✧

Feds announce renewed commitment to eliminate Pythons from Everglades

The Department of Interior announced the National Park Service and USFWS, in partnership with the State of Florida, are renewing their commitment and expanding existing programs to eliminate Burmese pythons from the Everglades.

The Burmese python, a large exotic snake, is well established in the Everglades. Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, and the Water Conservation Areas, represent the core areas of the python infestation.

As effective predators, pythons are having negative impacts on native species in the Everglades ecosystem.

Because of the serious threat posed by pythons, the NPS, FWS, and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), along with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, the South Florida Water Management District, and many other partners are actively engaged in a large variety of potential python control efforts.

Pythons are cryptic animals – they blend into their environments extremely well – making them difficult to efficiently locate and capture. Most python sightings and captures occur in developed areas, such as roads and canal levees, which comprise only a small percentage of potential python habitats.

Pythons have been observed within the largely inaccessible and remote mangrove forests of the parks. Conservatively, scientists believe that only small fractions (0.1-5%) of pythons present on NPS lands are detected. Given these challenges, the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service have recognized the need to consider and implement a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to python control. ✧

Zebra Mussels hang on while Quagga Mussels take over

By Carolyn Rumery Betz

The zebra mussels that have wreaked ecological havoc on the Great Lakes are harder to find these days—not because they are dying off, but because they are being replaced by a cousin, the quagga mussel. Yet zebra mussels still dominate in fast-moving streams and rivers. Research conducted by Suzanne Peyer, a doctoral candidate in the UW-Madison department of zoology, shows that physiological differences between the two species might determine which mollusk dominates in either calm or fast-moving waters.

“Zebra mussels quite rapidly colonized rivers close to the Great Lakes right after their introduction, within a year or two,” Peyer explained. “Quagga mussels were introduced in the Great Lakes around 20 years ago, but they are still not found in the rivers or tend to be present only in low numbers.”

The mussels are similar in many ways. Their habitats overlap, and both are suspension feeders that filter water to extract their food. Yet the cousin species are different in many ways, too. Zebra mussels prefer to attach to a hard surface

while quagga mussels can live on soft bottoms, such as sand or silt. Zebra mussels also prefer warmer water temperatures and do not grow as big as quagga mussels.

Peyer’s research focused on the ability of the mussels to attach to underlying material. Both species attach to rocks, sand, silt, or each other by producing tiny but strong “byssal” threads composed of protein strands. These threads act as an adhesive that enable the mussels to attach to surfaces, regardless of how slippery the surface is. Byssal threads are the reason mussels are so difficult to remove from boats or water intake pipes.

Peyer collected both mussel species from Lake Michigan. In the lab, she subjected the mussels to different water velocities that simulated river flow conditions. Her research results supported her hypothesis that zebra mussels are able to produce more byssal threads than quagga mussels do, enabling them to attach more securely to underlying material. This allows them to hang on where water is flowing, such as in a river or stream.

According to Peyer’s research advisor, Prof. Carol Eunmi Lee at the UW-Madison Center of Rapid Evolution, no one has ever looked at differences in attachment between these species as an explanation for their distribution patterns in North America.

Zebra and quagga mussels have permanently changed the Lake Michigan ecosystem. Before the mussels invaded, Lake Michigan water was mostly cloudy, and millions of tiny microorganisms provided a food base for fish. Because the mussels filter the microorganisms, the waters today are surprisingly clear, allowing light to penetrate to greater depths, which in turn promotes prolific nuisance algae blooms. The mussels have also colonized shallow water, beaches, and water intake pipes in layers up to eight inches thick.

“We need to be aware of the distinct differences between the two species,” Peyer said. “If we understand the differences in their biology, we might help to make management more efficient and more effective in the end.” ✧

CEI injects suppressed EPA global warming report into White House science proceeding Requests Agency to do more honest job than EPA in assessing new climate research

Will the federal government consider its own research on global warming as it doles out tax-funded research dollars? The Competitive Enterprise Institute last month asked the U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to do just that.

In a comment submitted to the agency on its ocean research report, CEI Senior Fellow Marlo Lewis asked it to consider a study initially suppressed by the EPA. That study severely criticized EPA’s approach on global warming. One of the major

conclusions of the suppressed report was the ocean cycles appear to be the single best explanation of global temperature variations.

To read the whole story click on these titles : <http://cei.org/print/22862>.
View the [Final EPA Internal Report](#)
View the [Draft Report](#)
Visit the [Author’s Website](#)
View [CEI’s Request To EPA](#)
Read [CEI’s June 18 Public Comment To EPA On Endangerment Finding](#) ✧

Gov calls for python posse

The Florida Everglades is now home to thousands of unwelcome Burmese pythons, descendants of unwanted pets. Florida Governor Charlie Crist has called for a posse of python hunters, snake experts rewarded by a bounty, to kill the large snakes. Recently in Florida a pet Burmese python escaped from its cage and killed a two-year-old girl. Fear, if not snakes, is expanding northward. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Great Lakes water levels rebound after long slump](#)

LUDINGTON, Mich. – Great Lakes water levels are rebounding after a decade-long slump that hammered the maritime industry and

[Do contaminants play a role in diabetes? Evidence is growing.](#)

A Great Lakes study linking a pesticide in fish to diabetes adds to the growing chorus of studies suggesting that environmental contaminants may play a role in the widespread disease

[For Great Lakes fishing captains, rough sailing](#)

OAK HARBOR, Ohio – Gulls shrieked overhead as Bob Hall lugged a pair of plastic 5-gallon gas cans down the dock to fill up his fishing boat, then hopped on a

[Growing Sea Lamprey Embryos Dramatically Alter Genomes, Discard Millions Of Units Of DNA](#)

Researchers have discovered that the sea lamprey, which emerged from jawless fish first appearing 500 million years ago, dramatically remodels its genome.

[Saginaw Bay 'dead zone' may explain muck problems](#)

Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay may have something bad in common with Lake Erie – a dead zone, or area with little or no oxygen for fish and other aquatic creatures.

[NMC leads effort to map bottom of bay](#)

Northwestern Michigan College leads the first effort to map the bottom of Grand Traverse Bay in more than 80 years, and...

[Anglers caught in the middle as U.S.-Canada at odds over live bait restrictions](#)

Clayton fishing guide Rich Clarke was out with clients on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence River last Saturday. He didn't see it coming.

[Western Michigan wins fishing meet](#)

The Western Michigan team of John Gipson and Matt Monroe won the National Guard FLW College Fishing Central Division event on the Detroit River Saturday with six bass weighing 20 pounds even.

[Canada sees sharp decline in American tourists](#)

The number of U.S. tourists visiting Canada is at a 37-year low and declining, mainly due to the recession, but stricter new U.S. passport rules are also to blame, says the head of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada

[Great Lakes fish consumption advisories rise slightly; researchers question extent of mercury risk](#)

Researchers report that mercury levels in fish might not be as dangerous as has been thought. [They say](#) if fish contain more selenium than mercury, they could be safer as damage from mercury occurs after mercury destroys the selenium supply.

[Blood-sucking fish and fish-eating birds](#)

State Representatives Dan Scripps and Mary Valentine hosted a forum on cormorant and lamprey control programs that featured live lampreys and a poster-sized print of a cormorant starting to swallow a 20-inch pike.

[40,000 fish released in Lake Huron](#)

For the third year in a row, the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division planted lake herring in Lake Huron. On Monday, 40,000 fish were released into the lake's waters near Lafarge's west dock in Alpena.

[Great Lakes scientists seek ways to kill invasives](#)

SUPERIOR, Wis. – The tiny worms, midges and water fleas growing in fish tanks at a university lab represent the invasive organisms that have spread throughout the Great Lakes, often by hitchhiking in the ballast tanks of giant cargo ships.

[This catfish had eyes larger than its stomach](#)

This is a fish story to gag over, but imagine almost choking to death while trying to swallow a 20" smallmouth bass. That is exactly what was happening to a 38", 40-pound flathead catfish in the Maumee River when ...

[Work to begin on walkway focusing on Muskegon's maritime heritage](#)

Thousands of visitors and residents each week walk along the south wall of the Muskegon Channel not aware of the history of the area.