



## DNR to erect mesh barrier to block Asian carp

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources will take a lead role in implementing a short-term step to address the advance of Asian carp up the Wabash River system and their potential movement into the Maumee River, a tributary to Lake Erie. The focal point is Eagle Marsh, a 705-acre restored wetland near Fort Wayne that DNR staff identified as a possible pathway for Asian carp passage under certain flood conditions. The marsh is just north of Fox Island County Park near the intersection of Interstate 69 and U.S. 24.

A permanent solution to prevent Asian carp from being able to pass through this area during flooding conditions will take more time to develop, design and construct. Therefore, as an immediate preventive measure, the DNR will install mesh fencing across a section of the marsh,

creating a barrier against passage of Asian carp between the Wabash and Maumee drainage basins.

The DNR convened a recent meeting in Fort Wayne to address the potential carp movement and explore solutions, and the consensus was the mesh barrier is the best short-term option to pursue. The USEPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USGS, U.S. Dept of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Little River Wetlands Project that manages Eagle Marsh, were represented at the meeting.

The fencing will be substantial enough to withstand floodwaters but will be designed so it does not increase flood elevations and cause property damage. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide

design guidance on the fencing. The goal is to have the fencing installed this summer. Additional monitoring will be conducted and more aggressive action taken if the threat warrants.

Although Chicago waterways remain the likeliest entry point for Asian carp into the Great Lakes, the Corps of Engineers is tasked with finding other potential pathways throughout the Great Lakes basin. Corps officials have identified several sites they are investigating to determine the risk of Asian carp advancement, including the Eagle Marsh area.

Although the Wabash and Maumee basins drain in opposite directions and have no direct connection under normal conditions, their waters do commingle under certain flood conditions.

**Mesh barrier** *continued on page 11*

### In this issue...

Asian carp found in Cgo Waterway.....	2
New legislation on Asian carp controls	3
Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force .	3
Angler study has surprising results .....	4
Dispersal Barrier Efficacy Study results	4
New OH steelhead record?.....	5
New IN Fishing Guide posted online....	5
USGS Regional Study update .....	5
IN angler lands record striped bass .....	5
Anglers for closure of trap net fishing ..	6
NY DEC seeks input on baitfish regs...	6
Workhorse plants for lake shores .....	7
IN-Muskie numbers high in L Webster	7
Duluth fisheries announces survey work	7
July is Park and Recreation Month .....	8
Winnebago walleye mgmt meetings .....	8
7 Wis fishing records fall so far in 2010	8
IL system for road kill/salvage deer .....	8
IN State Fair Fishing Pond, Aug 6-22 ..	8
MI - walleye tribal stocking assistance	9
Potential world record wels .....	9
Trail camera shows cougar .....	9
Women's Salmon Fishing Weekend....	9
White bass found in Indiana lakes .....	10
Two DNR offices close to public .....	10
MI Elk drawing results posted .....	10
PA adds "The Fishing Hole" to Web ..	10
Lawsuit filed against Cgo new gun laws	11
Gulf disaster financial impact.....	11

## Asian carp threat via the Wabash and Maumee Rivers not new

### DNR lists facts on Asian carp in Wabash River

Recent reports and discussions lack clarity regarding a potential connection between the Wabash and Maumee River basins and the potential for movement of Asian carp from the Wabash watershed to the Maumee/Great Lakes watershed, according to the Indiana DNR. To clear up these misunderstandings, the DNR offers the following information:

► The potential connection is not new, nor is understanding and knowledge of the potential connection new. Rather, attention is being focused on the potential connection due to collaborative efforts between Indiana DNR, U.S. Geological Survey

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others to better quantify the type of flooding conditions that should present the opportunity for movement of Asian carp. This effort is part of the larger Interbasin Study that the Corps is conducting.

► The potential connection is due to natural geologic conditions dating back to glacial movement at the end of the Ice Age. There is a potential for movement of flood waters between the Wabash and Maumee basins in this area. Indiana DNR has long been aware of the potential flooding connection through study of floodway

### **Carp threat via the Wabash**

*Continued on page 10*

## Asian carp found in Chicago Waterway System

### A 20 lb, 35" bighead netted in Lake Calumet, 6 miles from Lake Michigan

One bighead Asian carp was found on June 23 in Lake Calumet along the Chicago Area Waterway System. This is the first specimen that has been found in the system above the Electric Barrier System.

The Asian Carp Committee enacted immediate measures to remove any additional Asian carp found during sampling efforts, including but not limited to electrofishing and netting. "We set out on a fact finding mission and we have found what we were looking for," said John Rogner, Assistant Director of the Illinois DNR. "This is important evidence and the more information we have about where Asian carp are, the better chance we have of keeping them out of the Great Lakes."



The bighead carp was found in Lake Calumet, which sits between the O'Brien Lock/Dam and Lake Michigan. The find was made in the northwest corner of the lake, six miles downstream of Lake Michigan by a commercial fisherman under contract to the IDNR during routine sampling. The fish was 34.6" long and weighed 19.6 lbs.

Fisheries experts stated it was not known how the bighead got there. Referencing similar finds in the Lincoln Park and McKinley Park Lagoons, both closed systems, biologists plan to take DNA and otolith samples to determine its exact origin; did it get to Lake Calumet on its own or was it dumped there possibly in a cultural release or by more devious means.

This capture represents the first Asian carp discovered above the electric barrier system and just the second in the Chicago Area Waterway System. The first Asian carp was found on December 3 in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal below the electric barrier system and just above the Lockport Lock and Dam.

Intensive sampling operations on the waterway system by the IL DNR and USFWS first began on February 17 in an attempt to locate either silver or bighead Asian carp above the Electric Fish Barrier System. Previous sampling actions throughout the last four months above the barrier did not produce any silver or bighead carp.

Additional sampling actions on Lake Calumet above T.J O'Brien Lock and Dam will include IDNR and FWS fishery biologists supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and commercial fishermen. Commercial fishing nets and electrofishing gear will continue to be used in Lake Calumet and additional resources will be deployed to begin sampling up the Calumet River leading to Lake Michigan. Electrofishing and sampling efforts in Lake Calumet and the Calumet River will continue throughout the next several weeks.

Sampling and monitoring will also continue at five fixed sampling stations throughout the Chicago Area Waterway System as detailed in the RCC's Sampling and Monitoring plan to search for Asian carp. Commercial fishing operations will also continue to remove silver or bighead carp in downstate waters where the fish are known to be present.

The Army Corps of Engineers has no plans to close the locks; they will continue to operate the locks and dams in the Chicago Area Waterway System for Congressionally authorized purposes of navigation, water diversion, and flood control.

For more info: [www.asiancarp.org](http://www.asiancarp.org). ✧



• Established 1972 •

#### President

Daniel N. Thomas, *Illinois*

#### Vice President

Robert Mitchell, *Michigan*

#### Secretary

Michael D. Sanger, *Wisconsin*

#### Treasurer

Thomas G. Couston, *Illinois*

#### DIRECTORS

*Illinois* - Robert Gaik

*Indiana* - Charles Lentine

*Michigan* - Tom Hamilton

*Minnesota* - Dave Koneczny

*New York* - Thomas Marks

*Ohio* - Rick Unger

*Ontario* - Darryl Choronzey

*Pennsylvania* - Ed Kissell

*Wisconsin* - Todd Pollesch

#### Position Statement

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

#### Inland Seas Angler

#### GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

#### Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

#### Editor

Jeanette Thomas

#### Webmaster

Robert James, 630/530-7760

© Copyright 2008 by Great Lakes Basin Publications, the *INLAND SEAS ANGLERS-GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT* is the newsletter of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council, a federally recognized not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of GLSFC, its officers or staff. Reproduction of any material by paid-up members is encouraged, but appropriate credit must be given. Reproduction by others without written permission is prohibited.

#### Address Change:

Send six weeks in advance with old mailing label to GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT, P.O. Box 297, Elmhurst, IL 60126, (630) 941-1351; or [staff@great-lakes.org](mailto:staff@great-lakes.org).

# New legislation introduced on Asian carp controls

## Would require Corps of Engineers to accelerate study/findings on hydrological separation

Senators Stabenow (D-MI) and Durbin (D-IL), and Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI), on June 30 introduced a bill in the U.S. House and Senate that would greatly accelerate the move toward separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins, something we ALL want.

The bill—called the "Permanent Prevention of Asian Carp Act of 2010"—requires the U.S. Army Corps to accelerate a study that determines the feasibility AND the best means of achieving hydrological separation. The companion bills, introduced in both U.S. Chambers, have the same name "Permanent Prevention of Asian Carp Act of 2010". Neither bill has yet been assigned a number.

There are two main differences between this bill and the corps' existing authority. First, this bill significantly narrows the scope of the corps' work—it focuses on Chicago and it says "tell us how to separate" instead of directing the corps to study the full gamut of options throughout the region. Second, it establishes some tight deadlines—an initial report is due in six months with the final report due in a year and a half. Also, the Council on Environmental Quality (the White House), under this bill, would play a role in oversight.

This legislation is consistent with public statements made by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Great Lakes Commission, Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council and other conservation groups: that separation is the only viable end point and that it should be done with all haste.

The bills would require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine the feasibility and the best means of achieving hydrological separation of the two watersheds. Hydrological separation is essential in blocking the movement of Asian carp and other invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins via a waterway system in the Chicago area.

"The bill introduced last week, if passed, would set into motion a process that we at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission have long supported—a process to permanently separate the Mississippi and Great Lakes basins," said Commissioner Michael Hansen, a professor at the U. of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. "This bill directs the corps to tell us how to achieve separation."

Hansen added: "Asian carp and other invasive species should not be allowed to enter the Great Lakes, harm the ecosystem, and threaten the \$7 billion fishery. The only true solution to the invasive species corridor that is the Chicago Waterway System is to separate the two watersheds. This bill provides a path to achieving that goal sooner rather than later".

In the Senate, the legislation is also cosponsored by Carl Levin (D-MI), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Al Franken (D-MN), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Roland Burris (D-IL). In the House, the legislation is cosponsored by Michigan Representatives John Dingell, Vern Ehlers, Pete Hoekstra, Dale Kildee, Carolyn Kilpatrick, Sandy Levin, Thaddeus McCotter, Candice Miller, Gary Peters, Mike Rogers, Mark Schauer, Bart Stupak, and Fred Upton.

We in the conservation community need stimulate all members of Congress with a sense of urgency to pass these bills and get them to President Obama's desk ASAP.

"Last week's discovery of an Asian carp in Lake Calumet was a wake-up call that we need to do more and we need to do it quickly," said Senator Dick Durbin. "We can't wait while the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies broadly examine methods of controlling invasive species; we must act now. Our bill creates an expedited study of the

feasibility of separating the waterways.

The study must begin within 30 days of the bill's enactment, and the Army Corps must send a progress report to Congress and the President within six months and again in 12 months. The full study must be completed and given to Congress and the President 18 months after the bill is enacted. It will be monitored by the Council on Environmental Quality to ensure its thorough and timely completion.

The study will also address flooding threats, Chicago wastewater, water safety operations, and barge and recreational vessel traffic alternatives. It will examine other modes of transportation for the shipping industry and influence new engineering designs to move canal traffic from one body of water to the other without transferring invasive species. ✧

### Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

**Late-breaking news** – As we were going to press on July 19, the Obama Administration released the Final Recommendations of the Ocean Policy Task Force, which will establish a National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes and create a National Ocean Council to strengthen ocean governance and coordination. The Final Report prioritizes policies to be pursued, and calls for a framework for coastal and marine planning to address conservation, economic activity, user conflict, and sustainable use of the ocean, coasts and Great Lakes.

**We will report on this in the near future as a special bulletin.**

## Angler study has surprising results on a nationwide basis

### Public lands are important to anglers as a means to access places to fish

Results of a recent comprehensive angler access study by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) and Responsive Management — 2010 Angler Access in the U.S. Report — reveal some surprising views by anglers, private landowners and professional fish and wildlife managers who make decisions regarding angler access. Interviews were completed with more than 4,000 landowners and more than 4,100 recreational anglers. This is the first study of its kind to include landowners that have water on, adjacent to or running through their property to document their assessment of angler access. The most important finding is that two-thirds of anglers access most of their fishing from public lands with about half of those anglers primarily fishing from private boats, this includes both fresh and saltwater.

#### The five major findings are:

- ▶ Public lands are important as a means to access places to fish.
- ▶ Angler access is tied to boating access.
- ▶ Fish and wildlife professionals are concerned about angler access.
- ▶ While liability is an important issue for landowners, a landowners' privacy is the most important reason why they don't open their land to more people.
- ▶ Landowners are generally unaware of the many programs that agencies and organizations have to help them create access on their property.

"The most important finding in this study is the predominant role that public lands and access to public lands plays in anglers being able to enjoy their sport," said ASA Vice President Gordon Robertson. "That is crucial information for our state and federal fish and wildlife and land managers and must be taken into account for budgeting and planning purposes."

Robertson further said, "Access is consistently identified as the top issue of concern among anglers and the study reveals that if anglers can't

access areas to recreationally fish, they may desert the sport."

Mark Duda, executive director of Responsive Management, emphasized, "This is a thorough and definitive study of angler access in the United States. Agencies and organizations interested in angler access will find this an invaluable resource."

#### Other highlights include:

- ▶ 92% of landowners approved of recreational fishing and believe it is important for the public to have the opportunity to do so.
- ▶ About one-half of landowners fish on their own property and two-thirds allow access to those people they know.
- ▶ Approximately one-tenth of landowners allow completely open access to their lands.
- ▶ Approximately 1% of private landowners charge an access fee to anglers.
- ▶ 64% of recreational anglers access their primary fishing areas from public lands while 16% use private lands.
- ▶ 54% of recreational anglers seek areas with boating access.
- ▶ 54% of anglers surveyed cited that their primary source of information about where to fish is word of mouth.
- ▶ The survey found that 89% of landowners say they have not experienced problems with recreational anglers in the last five years.

"Anglers have long been viewed as conservationists and generally as good citizens," said Robertson. "It is encouraging to understand from the survey that almost 90% of landowners have not experienced problems with recreational anglers over the past five years."

The study was conducted under a multi-state conservation grant from the USFWS and administered by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. ✧

## Corps of Engineers releases results of Dispersal Barrier Efficacy Study

CLEVELAND – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has conducted two studies focused on enhancing the efficacy of the electric barrier system and reducing the risk of Asian carp reaching the Great Lakes.

Copies of both reports are available on the Chicago District website at [www.lrc.usace.army.mil](http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil). Interim Report IIIA is a final report.

For additional information, contact the Chicago District at (312) 846-5330.

"Interim IIIA, Fish Deterrent Barriers, Illinois and Chicago Area Waterways Risk Reduction Study and Integrated Environmental Assessment" considered how technologies such as bubbles, lights and sounds could be used to deter Asian carp movement. USACE recommends installing one acoustic bubble curtain with strobe lights (ABS fish deterrent) near the Brandon Road Lock and Dam as a demonstration project.

The second report, "Interim III, Modified Structures and Operations, Chicago Area Waterways Risk Reduction Study and Integrated Environmental Assessment," evaluated the potential for risk reduction that might be achieved through changes in the operation of the Chicago Area Waterway structures, such as locks, sluice gates, and pumping stations.

The report's primary recommendation is to place screens on the outer two sluice gates at the O'Brien Lock and Dam and changes in lock operations only when needed to support of fish management efforts such as spot piscicide application or intensive commercial fishing efforts by the USFWS and Illinois DNR. ✧

## New OH steelhead record?

**Measures 38" and weighs 21.3 pounds**

AVON POINT Ohio – A state record that has stood for 14 years may soon topple. A Tallmadge fisherman has reeled in what's expected to be a record-breaking steelhead trout.



While fishing the waters of Lake Erie off Avon Point, Jason Brooks caught a steelhead measuring 38" and weighing 21.3 lbs. Brooks was trolling an orange and purple 4" Stinger Spoon 40' below the surface. The fish was weighed on a certified scale and checked by the Division of Wildlife. The next step to the state record is to have the catch verified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio. The current record holder weighed in at 20.83 pounds. The fish was caught in 1995 near the same spot off Avon Point. ✧

## New IN Fishing Guide posted online

The 2010 DNR Fishing Guide online publication is available for viewing at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2347.htm>, by selecting "large format." The large-format version of the 2010 guide is an expanded version of what was available in a printed magazine in past years. In addition to regulations, the new online guide includes feature articles on bank fishing, creel surveys, the Brookville Lake bass survey and fishing for walleye, as well as a list of where to fish in Indiana, and many color photos. ✧

## USGS Regional Study update

**Looking for stomach samples**

Things are going well again this year. USGS biologists say we have more people collecting stomachs, so we have had to spend less time in the field. Our lab crew is processing the fish as they come in, and we have no sample backlog at all. When we run out of samples, we send the lab crew to Saginaw Bay to collect walleye stomachs from anglers, and to pick up stomachs from some of our central freezer locations.

What we are hearing are some reports of better fishing than last year with a bit more diversity in the catch, and fish are definitely eating the small rainbow smelt we saw in last fall's acoustic survey. Gobies also remain prominent. We did see one power shad in a lake trout, but unlike last year we identified it immediately as a lure and not of natural origin. We also learned that lake trout do eat some yellow perch, at least in the Port Huron vicinity early in the year.

Some fish are again feeding on large numbers of terrestrial insects. We are very interested in what insects are out there on the scum lines. If anyone has a butterfly net and could scoop up a sample for us, we would love it. As you troll through a line, just dip the lower half of the net in the water and trawl until you get a representative sample. Ideally, that would be about 100 insects. You can put them in a bag with a little water and freeze them along with stomachs. We would need a reasonably exact location (lats and longs are ideal, but distance and direction are adequate). Also, it would be helpful to jot down the length of time you had the net in the water and your boat speed. I am thinking that a one- or two-minute tow might be enough if the bugs are thick.

The Thumb chapter of the Steelheaders saved the day by collecting stomachs for us from the Can-2-Can tournament when it had to be rescheduled to a weekend that we could not attend. Thanks guys! That was a major source of samples for the

## IN angler lands record striped bass

During the 18 years Jonathan VanHook worked construction jobs in the Indianapolis area, he rarely found time to go fishing. A job switch four years ago provided the leisure time he needed to make up for the missed opportunities, and it paid off when he caught a state-record striped bass at Cecil M. Harden Lake in Parke County. VanHook, 39, hauled in the 39.08 lb. lunker on May 25, snapping the previous record of 35.395 lbs. caught in 1993 by Tony Campisano on the Ohio River.



Harden Lake is a 2,060-acre reservoir constructed on Big Raccoon Creek by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1950s. It is located at Raccoon State Recreation Area, which is managed by the DNR.

The fish VanHook pulled out of Harden was 42.25" long with a girth of 30", while trolling with planer boards and using bluegill for bait. ✧

month of May, and we would have lost some good data.

Jeff Schaeffer says keep up the good work, and thank you for taking on the task of maintaining the study. You guys are definitely doing a larger proportion of the sampling this year. This makes individual efforts even more important than last year so those 5 or 10 stomachs that you save may be the only data we get from that time or place during the year.

Please let us know if you need a collection kit! We have some ready to mail out if you need them. ✧

## WI anglers press for closure of trap net fishing on zone 3 Commercial gear blamed for fatal boat accident

Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen are petitioning the state's Department of Natural Resources for an Emergency Order to close all trap net fishing in Lake Michigan Zone 3, for the months of June, July and August, the high season of recreational fishing in the area. Wisconsin anglers began circulating a petition to force the closure at the NEW/GLSF Derby over the 4th of July weekend.

This action is partly in response to the tragedy that occurred on Friday, June 25, on Lake Michigan just three miles east of Sheboygan, and which resulted in the untimely death of Charles Koenig of Cleveland, WI. "Entanglement of sport fishing gear in commercial whitefish trap nets set in Lake Michigan on June 25 was directly responsible for this tragedy,"

say Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen.

While all information regarding the incident is very sparse due to the ongoing investigation, anglers and facts state it is fairly certain the incident involved entanglement with commercial trap net gear causing the 20' sport fishing boat to overturn and one man of the three-man crew, Charles Koenig, lost his life.

There has been a running battle over commercial trap net issues for over twenty years. Back in 1988 FH-40-88 suggested a proposed closure of June 1, but the date was later changed to a June 14th fishing closure and included a clause that nets could be tied off and not removed from the water until June 28th. In 1989 by WDNR order, commercial whitefish trap net fishing was banned in ALL of

Zone 3 from June 1 to August 31 due to "User Conflict and Safety Issues."

Later, in 1995 Trap Net Fishing in Zone 3 was extended to June 28 and all nets still had to be out of the water by that date. With the amendment of FH 40-88, the June 28 fishing closure remained in effect until 2004 when the Summer Trapnet Season in Zone 3 was extended to include the months of July and August, in two restricted areas, one at Sheboygan and the other at Manitowoc and Two Rivers. In 2005 over tremendous opposition from Sport Fishermen, by DNR Board Order FH-57-04 the Two Rivers/Manitowoc area was moved from North of Two Rivers to an area directly between Two Rivers and Manitowoc and has remained so to the present time. ✧

## NY DEC seeks input on baitfish regs

NYSDEC announced it will seek public input on the current ban on transporting uncertified baitfish.

The ban was established in 2007 after an outbreak of VHS in 2005. VHS is a disease that causes internal bleeding and sometimes death in certain fish when they are stressed in cooler temperatures. While VHS was the primary concern, eight other pathogens also were addressed when the rules were established.

The current regulations ban "the overland (motorized) transport of personally collected baitfish." This is the only part of the state's fish-health regulations that DEC is seeking comment on at this time.

DEC has slated a series of public meetings (schedule below). For two of the dates, there will be live video feed at multiple locations. The public may participate by web conference. To learn how to use a home computer to participate, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/66191.html> for more information.

Written and online comments will also be accepted until September 10, 2010. Written comments should be submitted to Shaun Keeler, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233 or [fishregs@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fishregs@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

For more background info: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/66191.html>.

### Public Meeting Schedule:

**July 21, 2010 - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**  
Albany Area; NYSDEC Headquarters  
Public Assembly Room 129A&B  
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233  
518-402-8044

Thousand Island (Live video feed)  
NYSDEC Region 6 Headquarters  
317 Washington, Watertown, 13601  
315-785-2252

Syracuse Area (Live video feed)  
NYSDEC Region 7 Headquarters  
615 Erie Blvd, W. Syracuse, 13204  
315-426-7413

Rochester Area (Live video feed)  
NYSDEC Region 8 Headquarters  
6274 Avon-Lima Rd. (Rtes. 5 and 20)  
Avon, NY 14414-9519  
585-226-5324

Reg. 8 Bath Office (Live video feed)  
7291 Coon Road, Bath, NY 14810  
585-226-5324

**July 28, 2010 - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**  
Albany Area; NYSDEC Headquarters  
Public Assembly Room 129A&B  
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233  
518-402-8044

Catskill Area (Live video feed)  
NYSDEC Region 3 Headquarters  
21 South Putt Corners Road  
New Paltz, NY 12561  
845-256-3018

Adirondack Area (Live video feed)  
NYSDEC Region 5 Headquarters  
1115 Rte. 86, Ray Brook, NY 12977  
518-897-1211

✧

## Workhorse plants for lake shores

Minn. DNR suggests shore-land owners may want to consider adding Minnesota-hearty plants along their shore. The Minnesota DNR and the U of Minnesota recommend these three workhorse plants: giant bur-reed, sedges, and wild bergamot. They will add beauty along the shore while reducing erosion, filtering pollutants and providing habitat for fish and wildlife.

In the shallow water, add giant bur-reed. Its strong roots will stabilize the lakebed. This plant looks a lot like a cattail, but it doesn't grow as tall. Both plants grow in shallow water. Both have blade-shaped leaves, but the cattail leaf is flat and the bur-reed leaf has a spine running down its center, so it is thicker.

These plants bloom in late summer, and that is when their differences become apparent. Cattail has brown hot-dog shaped blooms. Giant bur-reed has delicate white blossoms. Muskrats use the entire plant and the seeds are commonly eaten by waterfowl and marsh birds. Before planting in the water, a DNR permit is required.

Where water and land meet, add sedges. Many have seed heads that resemble their common names like fox and bottlebrush. Bulrushes (one type of sedge) are found in many Minnesota shore-land areas. Sedge is a common name for a family of grass-like and rush-like herbs found in all parts of the world. They differ from true grasses because they have solid, angular (usually triangular) stems. Most are perennial.

Try wild bergamot (also known as Beebalm) along the shore. This plant has pale pink flowers that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. This perennial plant grows to 2 to 4 feet tall with tubular pink or lavender globe-shaped flowers at tops of stems. Wild bergamot blooms in July and August. Its leaves are opposite, up to 5", toothed and lance-shaped. All plant parts have a minty fragrance. It often forms colonies. Leaves and

## IN - Muskie numbers high in Lake Webster

Northern Indiana's Lake Webster contains more muskies than any other lake in the state and has one of the densest muskie populations in the nation, based on figures compiled by the DNR. Biologists estimate there are about 1,900 adult muskies in the 774-acre Kosciusko County Lake. "Our numbers indicate there are currently about 2.5 muskies per acre of water," said Jed Pearson DNR biologist who has monitored the muskie population since the fish were first stocked there in 1981. Most muskie lakes in Indiana and across the nation have fewer than one adult muskie per acre, according to Pearson.

Pearson attributes the high number of muskies in Webster to the high number of fingerlings stocked each year. Since 1997, the DFW has released about 3,800 muskie fingerlings each year into the lake at a rate of five per acre. Stocking rates in other states are typically one or two per acre, sometimes on an alternating-year basis. In several cases, even fewer muskies are stocked in those states. Biologists estimate muskies in Webster from ages 4 through 8 average 31, 34, 36, 38, and 42" long, respectively, with some muskies present more than 48" long". "There seems to be ample number of gizzard shad and other forage fish for them to eat" said Pearson.

Although muskies are abundant in Webster, the DNR has no plans to reduce the stocking rate. "We get our muskie eggs from females at Webster for Indiana's hatchery program," said Pearson. "We want to make sure there are plenty of adult muskies to keep the stocking program going." ✧

roots are used medicinally by American Indians.

Lists of native plant suppliers in northeastern and northwestern Minnesota are available online at: [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/b ackyard/gardens/native\\_plant/suppliers\\_northeast.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/b ackyard/gardens/native_plant/suppliers_northeast.pdf). ✧

## MN - Duluth area fisheries announces survey work

Minnesota DNR Duluth Area Fisheries Office will conduct surveys and assessments on several area lakes and streams during the next few months. Waters scheduled for standard surveys or assessments include:

- West Twin, St. Louis Estuary, •Grand Lake, St. Louis Estuary, •Hanging Horn Lake, St. Louis Estuary,
- Caribou Lake, •Upper Island Lake, •Fish Lake Reservoir, •Grand Lake, •Prairie Lake, Dinham Lake, •Harris Lake, September 7-10;
- (June-September) Blackhoof River, Carey Creek, French River, Gooseberry River, Joula Creek, Keene Creek, Knife River, West Branch Knife River, Little West, Miller Creek, Mission Creek-Tributary 10, Palmer Creek, Pete's Creek, Pine Creek, Skunk Creek, State Line Creek, Stewart River, Stewart River (to Pine Creek), Sucker River, Tischer Creek-Tributary 10, UsKabWanKa River;
- (September Walleye Electrofishing) Bassett Lake, Boulder Reservoir, Eagle Lake, Fish Lake Reservoir, Salo Lake, Stewart Lake.

Data collected is reviewed and incorporated into individual fisheries lake management plans. The plans identify goals for key species in the lake and outline specific management activities.

Survey plans are tentative. Lakes and streams may be added or dropped and timing may change. Questions about these surveys can be addressed to the DNR's Duluth Area Fisheries Office, 5351 North Shore Drive, Duluth, MN 55804. Questions also can be submitted by calling 218-525-0853 or e-mailing [deserae.hendrickson@state.mn.us](mailto:deserae.hendrickson@state.mn.us).

Information collected in 2010 will be available as a lake survey report in 2011. Go to: [www.mndnr.gov/lakefind](http://www.mndnr.gov/lakefind). ✧

## July is national Park and Recreation Month

July is national Park and Recreation month and families and individuals alike are invited to make their way to any state park to camp, hike, swim, fish, picnic, bird watch and enjoy the outdoors. Each July since 1985, the United States has celebrated Park and Recreation Month. This year's theme is Celebrate, Advocate, Recreate. Park and Recreation Month is a program of the National Recreation and Park Association. For more info: [www.nrpa.org/july](http://www.nrpa.org/july). ✧

## Winnebago walleye mgmt meetings

The Winnebago System walleye population and its world class walleye fishery are the topic of three public meetings in northeastern Wisconsin in July and August as the state starts updating its 20-year plans for managing both.

The Winnebago System, which includes lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan, and the connected rivers upstream, the upper Fox and the Wolf, is known nationally for its outstanding walleye fishery. A 2007 study by DNR experts showed that anglers annually spend up to 2 million hours on the Winnebago System pursuing primarily walleye, as well as other gamefish in a fishery that generates a total economic impact of \$234 million annually and 4,300 jobs.

Topics to be discussed include walleye population and harvest estimates, adult walleye size and age distributions by sex from springs 1989-2010, the impact of spring water flows and levels on walleye recruitment, the walleyes' movement and migrational patterns, and the assessment techniques DNR uses to develop population estimates.

The meetings are set for the following dates and locations:

- August 10, Menasha, 7 p.m., Germania Hall, 320 Chute St
- August 11, Quinney, 7 p.m., Quinney Fishing Club, Quinney Rd

## 7 Wis fishing records fall so far in 2010

MADISON – State [fishing records](#) are falling fast as anglers have been hauling in a boatload of true lunkers. By June 1, seven new state fish records had been confirmed in 2010 in the [“alternate methods”](#) category. The fish ranged from 4 lbs. to more than 200, and the longest stretched more than 7 ft. long. Six of the seven were taken with a bow and arrow, one with a spear, and one new record was only on the books for a month before it was eclipsed.

“Bowfishing seems to be growing in popularity and our record books are starting to reflect that trend,” says Karl Scheidegger, DNR records coordinator. “More people are learning about the alternate methods category and seem to be targeting those records.”

The parade of record fish, and the people who landed them, are listed with the most recent first

► Taylor Hanson of New Lisbon shot a 4.2 lb., 29" short nose gar from the Wisconsin River in Grant County,

► Lance Lyga of Independence shot a 3.8 lb., 19" long spotted sucker, from the Mississippi River in Trempealeau County,

► Nathaniel Fritsch of Ettrick shot a 28.13 lb., 35" long sheepshead, from the Mississippi River in Trempealeau County,

► Kyle Lakey of Trempealeau shot a 29.11 lb., 33.15" smallmouth buffalo, from the Trempealeau River in Trempealeau County,

► Crae Wilke of Hortonville shot a 10.15 lb., 26.6" silver red horse from the Weyauwega Mill Pond,

► Ron Grishaber of Appleton speared a 212.3 lb. [lake sturgeon](#) that stretched 84.25" long on Feb. 13, 2010, opening day of the [Lake Winnebago lake sturgeon spearing season](#). ✧

- August 12, Fond du Lac, 7 p.m., Marghael's Hall, N7688 Van Dyne Rd. ✧

## New IL system for road kill/salvage deer

Illinois has new regulations for road kill and salvage deer (details at “To Report a Road Kill Deer” link on [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)).

**Road Kill** – Individuals who wish to claim a deer killed in a vehicle collision must report the possession of the road-kill deer to the IDNR. Road-kill deer may only be claimed by Illinois residents. Individuals claiming road-kill deer must report the possession within 24 hours using the new online IDNR Road Kill Deer Reporting Form, at: [http://dnr.state.il.us/law3/images/Road\\_kill.pdf](http://dnr.state.il.us/law3/images/Road_kill.pdf).

Possession may also be reported to the IDNR by phoning 217/782-6431 by 4:30 p.m. the next business day. Individuals in deer-vehicle accidents who do not want the deer are not required to file a DNR report.

**Salvage** – Any individual finding a dead or injured deer (other than those killed in a vehicle collision or legally taken by hunting methods) may not move, transport, or take possession of the deer or deer parts until making a salvage deer report to and obtaining permission from the IDNR. Contact info: [http://dnr.state.il.us/law3/images/Road\\_kill.pdf](http://dnr.state.il.us/law3/images/Road_kill.pdf). ✧

## IN State Fair Fishing Pond, August 6-22 Volunteers needed to help out

Go FishIN operates the Fishing Pond during the State Fair. The Fishing Pond allows children ages 5-17 the opportunity to fish for free. Would you like to volunteer? They need around 300 people to help during the 17 days of the fair. Volunteers get free admission to the fair that day, a free fishing pond T-shirt, and the opportunity to fish with kids for a few hours at the pond. If you don't like touching worms, getting fishy, or standing in the sun, you could help at the registration, equipment or education table.

To volunteer, contact Clint Kowalik at [gofishin@dnr.in.gov](mailto:gofishin@dnr.in.gov) or (317) 549-0206. ✧

## MI - Mullett Lake and Little Bay de Noc get walleye tribal stocking assistance

Mullett Lake (MI) walleye recently received a welcome boost with the stocking of nearly 102,000 summer fingerlings, while Little Bay de Noc received 41,000 fingerlings, according to the DNR.

Each year at about this time 1-2 inch walleye fingerlings are stocked in managed waters throughout the state. Unfortunately, only a limited number of walleye eggs were collected once again this year due to ongoing concerns related to the occurrence of the fish virus, VHS, the DNRE said.

DNRE Fisheries Division staff collected walleye eggs in March and April from Little Bay de Noc for pond rearing and eventual stocking into the Bays de Noc this year. The Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP), based in Sault Ste.

Marie, also received eggs from Little Bay de Noc, as they do each year in a cooperative effort to stock other Great Lakes waters.

Earlier this week the Inter-Tribal Fisheries Program made available to the Michigan DNRE approximately 143,000 fingerling walleye that they reared in their ponds. These fish were in excess to the tribes' annual stocking targets and were offered to the state for stocking in areas important to both the tribes and the state.

"Our limited rearing capacity due to VHS concerns has really put a damper on our walleye program, and this additional assistance couldn't have come at a better time," said Jim Dexter, Lake Michigan Basin coordinator for the DNRE.

In addition to the Mullett Lake

stocking, ITFAP also provided walleye fingerlings to the DNRE for stocking in Little Bay de Noc, near Rapid River in the Upper Peninsula. Providing walleye to the state for stocking in inland waters is new for the tribes.

"While we have a history of cooperative walleye stocking efforts with the DNRE in the Great Lakes, such efforts on inland lakes are new," said Joe McCoy, chairman for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. "Mullett Lake is an important inland lake for the tribes, so we are pleased to be able to provide some of our surplus fingerlings for stocking. We anticipate these fingerlings will provide future harvest opportunities for both tribal and non-tribal fishers in that area." ✧

## Potential world record Wels

Guided by IGFA Certified Captain **Alberto Bartoli** and using shrimp for bait, **Roberto Godi** of Arcole Veroma, Italy landed a potential IGFA All-Tackle record after catching a wels (*Silurus glanis*) on February 5. The giant fish weighed 113.5 kg (250 lb. 3 oz.) which Godi caught while fishing Italy's River Po. He said the fish fought for 45 minutes before he was able to pull it to shore onto a smooth surfaced mat where it was weighed, photographed and released alive. The current IGFA record is 242 lb. 8 oz. (110 kg) caught February 2009 also from the River Po.



For more info: [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org). ✧

## Trail camera shows Menominee County cougar

The Michigan DNRE has reviewed a Menominee County trail camera picture of an animal thought to be a cougar. Although the image is blurred, the agency says the photo is consistent with a cougar. On June 11, DNRE biologist Bill Rollo received a call reporting a trail camera picture that appeared to show a cougar. The photo was taken on May 26 near Wallace in the UP.

This is the first confirmed cougar picture in the county. Cougars, also known as mountain lions, originally were native to Michigan but were thought to have been extirpated around the turn of the last century. The last known wild cougar taken in Michigan was killed near Newberry in 1906. Since March 2008, five sets of tracks and two trail camera pictures have been verified in Delta, Chippewa, Marquette, and now Menominee counties. Cougars are classified as an endangered species in Michigan.

[www.michigan.gov/dnrcougars](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrcougars). ✧

## DNRE offers Women's Salmon Fishing Weekend in UP

Women are invited to register for an advanced-level Becoming an Outdoors-Woman "Beyond BOW" Great Lakes salmon fishing workshop, held on Lake Michigan in the UP, August 20-22. The workshop will include fishing trips departing from the marina on Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday. All fishing and safety equipment will be provided. All anglers need a valid fishing license and should bring clothing and outerwear for a variety of weather conditions, including non-slip footwear. The \$200 registration fee also includes two nights lodging and Saturday evening dinner.

Enrollment is limited to six participants, and the registration deadline is August 6. A registration form, maps and other event information can be found online at [www.michigan.gov/bow](http://www.michigan.gov/bow). For more info: Sharon Pitz at 906-228-6561. ✧

## White bass found in Indiana lakes

Indiana DNR biologists netted a 14.7" white bass in Waubee Lake in mid-June, adding it to the growing list of lakes where the fish has apparently been illegally stocked by anglers. DNR Biologist Jed Pearson captured the white bass in a routine fishery survey of the 187-acre natural lake in northern Kosciusko County.

According to state law (IC 14-22-9-8), anyone who stocks fish in public water must first get a permit from the DNR. Doing so without a permit is a Class C misdemeanor. "We are finding more white bass in lakes where they should not be," Pearson said.

In 2003, white bass were found in Lake Wawasee, Indiana's largest natural lake, located not far from Waubee. Since then, white bass have been found at Big Lake in Noble County and Lake-of-the-Woods in Marshall County. An angler also caught a white bass at Loon Lake in Whitley County last summer and reported it to fisheries officials. Numbers of white bass in Wawasee and Lake-of-the-Woods are increasing.

Pearson's nightmare, however, is someday also finding gizzard shad in these lakes. "We understand why anglers may want to stock white bass, but they need to realize white bass can harm fishing," he said. "An even bigger problem would result if fishermen now think these lakes need shad to feed the white bass." "If you're going to take a fish from a lake, take it home to eat," he said. ✧

## Carp threat via the Wabash

*Continued from page 1*

mapping. Under normal conditions, there is no direct physical connection between the Wabash and Maumee, but a natural backwash of flooded Maumee tributaries can spread across a broad floodplain near Fort Wayne and connect with tributaries of the Wabash.

► Indiana DNR has been working with the Corps of Engineers, USGS, Allen County (Indiana) surveyor and others to study the nature of flooding events in the area to determine the types of conditions needed to allow passage of Asian carp. Once that determination has been made, the DNR will quickly turn to planning efforts on preventive measures to deter Asian carp movement into the Maumee River watershed.

► Asian carp have been present in the Wabash River for at least 15 years. The mouth of the Wabash River feeds to the Ohio River, which in turn is a tributary to the Mississippi River. Asian carp have been moving up these waterways since their accidental introduction in Arkansas in the 1970s. Indiana DNR has observed Asian carp in spot locations on the Wabash River as far upstream as the dam that creates Roush Lake (Huntington County). The concrete and earth dam is 91-foot high and 6,500-foot wide, with a top width of 46 feet. Asian carp would be unable to pass beyond this barrier to the upper stretches of the Wabash River.

► In late May of this year, a DNR fisheries biologist detected an Asian carp spawning event (specifically silver carp) in the vicinity of Lafayette, roughly 100 miles downstream from the Roush Lake dam.

► The Wabash River flows southwest for 475 river miles from its headwaters in Mercer County (Ohio), including a 411-mile stretch from the Roush Lake dam to the Ohio River. That is the longest free-flowing stretch of any river east of the Mississippi River. The Wabash headwaters are approximately 60 land miles from the headwaters of the Maumee River in downtown Fort Wayne.

► The USGS has documented several occurrences of Asian carp in Lake Erie dating back to at least 1995 (<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=551>). These isolated findings are believed to be from intentional releases with no reported evidence of a sustainable population. ✧

## Two DNR offices close to the public

The Michigan DNRE has closed its offices in Atlanta and Baldwin. The Atlanta Office, 13501 M-33, is closed to the public except for Tuesdays 8 to noon, when it will open to issue fuel wood permits only. For assistance, call Gaylord Operations Center, 1732 W. M-32, 989-732-3541. The Baldwin Office, 2468 W. 24th St., is closed indefinitely. For assistance, call Cadillac Operations Center, 8015 Mackinaw Trail, 231-775-9727. ✧

## MI Elk drawing results posted on DNR site

The 2010 drawing results for elk hunting are posted on the MDNRE site: [www.michigan.gov/dnr/drawings](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/drawings).

Three elk seasons will be held in 2010: Aug. 31 - Sept. 3 and Sept 24-27, Oct. 16-20, and Dec. 4-12. An additional season may be held Jan. 12-16, 2011 if the DNRE determines the harvest is insufficient to meet management goals. 75 any-elk and 155 antlerless-only elk licenses will be issued. Hunters have a new tool to help them find public lands for hunting. Mi-HUNT allows hunters to select lands based on vegetative types, topography, etc. Go to [www.michigan.gov/mihunt](http://www.michigan.gov/mihunt). ✧

## PA adds "The Fishing Hole" to Web page

In an effort to better inform anglers, boaters, and other interested individuals, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is making it easier to find information about fishing, boating, and aquatic resources. Website visitors to: [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com) will now see a link entitled The Fishing Hole. It directs readers to lists of frequently asked questions about a variety of topics to help them understand, connect to, and conserve Pennsylvania's waterways, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and other aquatic resources. ✧

## Lawsuit filed against Chicago's new gun laws

CHICAGO – Four Chicago residents and the Illinois Association of Firearms Retailers have sued the city over a tough new gun control ordinance put in place after the U.S. Supreme Court made a decades-old firearms ban unenforceable.

The federal lawsuit claims the new ordinance, which city officials say is the strictest in the country, infringes on residents' constitutional right to bear arms.

The city's "Responsible Gun Ownership Ordinance" provisions include: a ban on all gun sales in the city; a ban on possession of firearms for self-defense outside the "home" — even on a patio or in an attached garage; a ban on having more than one assembled and operable firearm in the home; a provision that allows the Chicago police to arbitrarily ban "unsafe" handguns based on unlimited criteria; and a training requirement to obtain a Chicago Firearm Permit. (However, range training would be impossible since it will now be unlawful to operate a shooting range within city limits.)

The city's law department defended the ordinance, saying the Supreme Court's rulings recognized that some restrictions on the possession of firearms are appropriate. "We believe that Chicago's ordinance is a reasonable attempt to balance the right of individuals to possess handguns in the home for self-defense with the substantial risks to public safety that are associated with the proliferation of firearms," Corporation Counsel Mara Georges, the top attorney for the city, said.

The lawsuit's plaintiffs include a trader on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, an educator who lives near a high-crime neighborhood, a veterinarian who owns an animal clinic and her husband, who's self-employed in the aircraft restoration business. All four say they need guns for protection. ✧

## Gulf disaster's brutal financial impact on recreational fishing Congressional action essential if industry to survive in the Gulf

Businesses related to and dependent upon recreational fishing continue to suffer the brutal financial consequences of the Gulf oil spill as recreational anglers keep their lines out of the Gulf of Mexico. The latest survey in a series commissioned by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) indicates 78% of the businesses questioned stated their sales were down in the first half of June 2010 compared to the same period last year. The average business downturn is 56%. Seventy-six percent of the businesses surveyed said they would not survive without financial assistance.

In Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama every business surveyed said business was down for the first half of June. "A business cannot survive these levels of sustained losses," said Scott Frnka, Cabela's vice president for Merchandising. "Congress and the administration need to act swiftly to implement a disaster relief payment process that is fast and efficient."

"The businesses that support their families by servicing the \$41 billion recreational fishing industry in the Gulf, have their futures threatened due to no fault of their own," said Pure Fishing's President and CEO John Doerr. "It is critical that funds get distributed to these individuals quickly and it is imperative that the payments are fair and cover not only their lost profits but their fixed operating costs as well."

On May 27, the Senate approved its 2010 Supplemental Appropriations bill, which included \$15 million for fishery-dependent businesses harmed by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil leak. ASA has [sent a letter](#) urging the House of Representatives to follow suit and ensure that relief funds for recreational fishing-dependent businesses are included in its 2010 Supplemental Appropriations bill.

"The sportfishing industry urges

Congress and the Administration to do everything possible to assure expeditious claims processing for BP funds as well as any Congressionally-appropriated moneys," said ASA Vice President Gordon Robertson. "Jobs, economic health and a generations-long way of life are at stake. ✧

### Mesh barrier

*continued from page 1*

Eagle Marsh straddles a natural geographic divide created by glacial movement during the ice age. The broad wetland marsh extends across the divide into two key drainage ditches, McCulloch Ditch and Junk Ditch. McCulloch drains west into the Little River and eventually the Wabash River near Huntington, while Junk Ditch drains northeast into the St. Marys River and then the Maumee River.

If Asian carp cross the divide at Eagle Marsh and reach the Maumee, they would be in the Lake Erie drainage basin and additional more costly and invasive steps would be required to protect the Great Lakes from the threat.

The DNR and the Corps of Engineers are working with U.S. Geological Survey to analyze historic flood data and determine the depth and duration of flooding in the Eagle Marsh area.

Asian carp were first detected in Indiana in 1996 at Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area in the southwest corner of the state. Subsequent DNR surveys located bighead carp and silver carp in low abundance in the Wabash River or its tributaries, but the location of those findings show the fish moving upstream. A 2008 survey collected a total of 25 silver carp and two bighead carp over a 105-mile stretch of the Wabash River.

Adult bighead carp have been found below the dam at Roush Lake near Huntington, and silver carp have advanced to the Mississinewa River near Peru. In late May, a DNR biologist found evidence of silver carp spawning near Lafayette, 105 river miles downstream from the mouth of the Little River. ✧

# Lake Ontario creel summaries for April and May 2010

The Lake Ontario fishing boat survey began on April 15, 2010. Prior to the survey start, angler reports indicated good brown trout fishing, and better than typical catches of Atlantic salmon. Creel survey data collected April 15 – April 30 indicated relatively good brown trout fishing and Atlantic salmon catch rates similar to April 2009, which were well above average.

## May

Trout and salmon fishing effort and quality were good during early May; however, both declined after the second week and remained low through the remainder of the month. During May 2010, there were an estimated 11,111 fishing boat trips, which was a 27.7% decrease compared to 2009 but was comparable to (-2.7%) the previous 5-year average (2005-09; Table 1, Fig. 1).

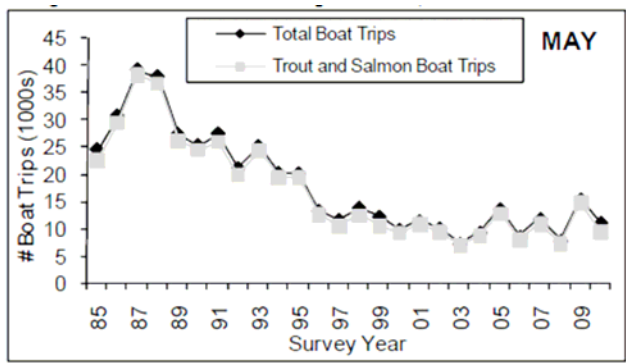


Fig 1 - May fishing effort, 1985-2010

Boats targeting trout and salmon accounted for 9,401 boat trips (84.6% of the total May effort and the lowest percentage among all years surveyed). This is the fourth year of the pre-season smallmouth bass catch and release period covered by the creel survey. During May 2010 there were an estimated 237 boat trips targeting smallmouth bass, which was within the range of estimates observed since the regulation change (43 trips in May 2007 - 319 trips in May 2009). Estimated total numbers of trout and salmon caught (20,573 fish) and harvested (11,638 fish) during May 2010 were 54.8% and 46.3% decreases compared to previous 5-year averages, respectively (Table 1, Fig. 2).

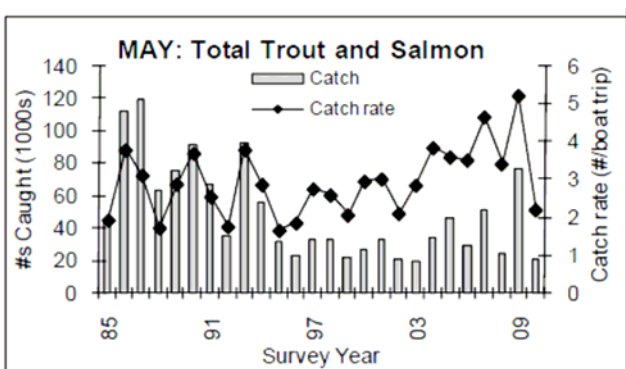


Fig 2 - Total trout/salmon catch and catch rate during May

For the third consecutive year Chinook salmon was the most commonly caught and harvested species (5,866 and 3,932 fish, respectively; Fig. 3). For the first May since 1993, lake trout was the second most commonly caught species.

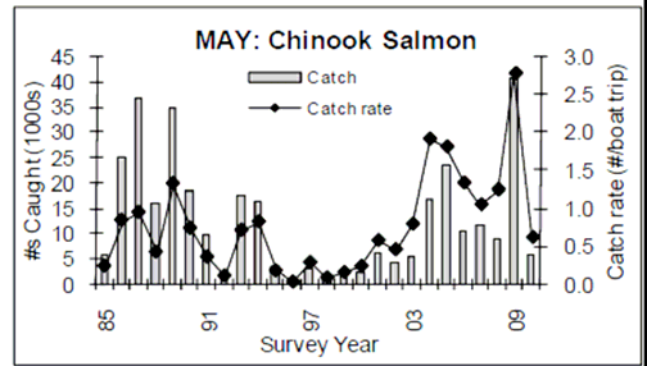


Fig 3 - Chinook salmon catch/catch rate, during May

Estimated catch (5,660 fish) was the highest since 1998 (Table 1). This increase is primarily attributed to an increase in the number of anglers targeting lake trout in the east/central and eastern portion of the lake during the second half of the month. Typically, during May many eastern anglers specifically target brown trout; however, this May many of those anglers began targeting lake trout when brown trout fishing slowed mid-month. For the second consecutive year, numerous anecdotal reports from anglers indicated that Atlantic salmon catch was higher than is typically observed. May creel survey data confirmed these reports with the highest May 2009 and 2010 Atlantic salmon catch estimates since 1994 (2009: 430 fish; 2010: 223 fish; Table 1).

The quality of trout and salmon fishing during May 2010, as measured by catch rate, declined from the highs observed in recent years to an estimated 2.2 fish per boat trip (Table 1, Fig. 2). May catch rate was a 46.1% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average. May 2010 catch rates were above their respective 2005-09 averages for lake trout (+158.7%, highest since 1998) and Atlantic salmon (+137.3%, the highest since 1994), and were below their respective averages for coho salmon (-63.1%, but comparable to the long-term average; Chinook salmon (-62.0%, lowest since 2002), brown trout (-59.0%, lowest since 1992), and rainbow trout (-45.8%). Nearly 57% of all trout and salmon caught were harvested, resulting in an estimated total trout and salmon harvest rate of 1.2 fish per boat trip. This was the fifth lowest harvest rate among the 26 years surveyed and a 37.4% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average.

May 2010 harvest rates were above their respective 2005-09 averages for lake trout (+345.5%, highest since 1998) and Atlantic salmon (+122.0%), and were below their

respective averages for brown trout (-64.3%), coho salmon (-55.2%), Chinook salmon (-41.1%), and rainbow trout (-20.1%).

	15yr avg 85-99	5yr avg 00-04	prev 5yr 05-09	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Fishing Boat Trips</b>	23,383	9,576	11,416	8,558	11,795	7,784	15,380	11,111
<b>Number of Fish Harvested:</b>								
Coho Salmon	2,350	922	3,402	4,759	6,168	1,176	3,087	1,353
Chinook Salmon	8,314	4,073	8,101	4,513	4,422	4,385	12,978	3,932
Rainbow Trout	6,781	2,424	1,998	1,872	2,619	2,481	1,698	1,548
Atlantic Salmon	198	21	50	0	0	28	222	79
Brown Trout	12,692	7,593	7,588	4,117	9,083	3,828	11,256	2,266
Lake Trout	8,456	912	513	1,173	345	594	190	2,461
<b>Total Trout and Salmon</b>	<b>38,792</b>	<b>15,945</b>	<b>21,653</b>	<b>16,436</b>	<b>22,638</b>	<b>12,493</b>	<b>29,432</b>	<b>11,638</b>
Smallmouth Bass	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow Perch	1,200	359	833	0	1,220	1,357	0	7,656
Walleye	128	34	44	73	0	28	14	0
<b>Number of Fish Caught:</b>								
Coho Salmon	3,285	1,347	6,902	6,022	13,798	2,107	9,559	2,164
Chinook Salmon	12,861	7,081	19,095	10,597	11,611	9,057	40,831	5,866
Rainbow Trout	9,706	4,053	5,472	3,736	7,264	5,840	7,418	2,724
Atlantic Salmon	538	85	121	17	72	88	430	223
Brown Trout	16,874	11,372	11,442	5,181	15,302	5,983	15,838	3,913
Lake Trout	16,438	2,770	2,371	2,855	2,993	1,539	2,558	5,660
<b>Total Trout and Salmon</b>	<b>59,838</b>	<b>26,715</b>	<b>45,476</b>	<b>28,660</b>	<b>51,039</b>	<b>24,727</b>	<b>76,635</b>	<b>20,573</b>
Smallmouth bass	6,610	6,645	1,987	691	915	1,180	1,264	483
Yellow Perch	1,825	786	3,226	462	5,980	3,443	95	37,864
Walleye	136	78	98	286	0	28	28	0
<b>Harvest Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout &amp; Salmon</b>								
Coho	0.110	0.105	0.321	0.533	0.560	0.162	0.210	0.144
Chinook	0.320	0.460	0.710	0.567	0.402	0.604	0.881	0.418
Rainbow	0.315	0.263	0.206	0.235	0.238	0.342	0.115	0.165
Atlantic	0.008	0.002	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.015	0.008
Brown	0.568	0.814	0.676	0.517	0.825	0.527	0.764	0.241
Lake Trout	0.337	0.098	0.059	0.147	0.031	0.082	0.013	0.262
<b>Total Trout and Salmon</b>	<b>1.658</b>	<b>1.741</b>	<b>1.976</b>	<b>2.001</b>	<b>2.056</b>	<b>1.720</b>	<b>1.998</b>	<b>1.238</b>
<b>Catch Rates Per Boat Trip Among Boats Fishing for Trout &amp; Salmon</b>								
Coho	0.154	0.151	0.624	0.692	1.253	0.290	0.649	0.230
Chinook	0.491	0.800	1.642	1.331	1.055	1.247	2.772	0.624
Rainbow	0.454	0.442	0.535	0.469	0.660	0.804	0.504	0.290
Atlantic	0.022	0.009	0.010	0.002	0.007	0.012	0.029	0.024
Brown	0.755	1.240	1.015	0.644	1.390	0.816	1.074	0.416
Lake Trout	0.702	0.294	0.233	0.359	0.272	0.212	0.174	0.602
<b>Total Trout and Salmon</b>	<b>2.584</b>	<b>2.935</b>	<b>4.052</b>	<b>3.498</b>	<b>4.635</b>	<b>3.397</b>	<b>5.201</b>	<b>2.188</b>

Table 1 - May fishing boat trips, fish caught and harvested, and catch rates and harvest rates per boat trip for trout and salmon among boats seeking these species, from the 1985-2010 New York Lake Ontario fishing boat survey ✧

## Bass over-abundant in two Noble County lakes

The Indiana DNR may seek changes in largemouth bass fishing regulations at two Noble County lakes in hopes of culling high numbers of the popular sportfish to increase their growth and size.

Based on sampling conducted last year, DNR biologists say Big and Crane lakes contain three times the normal number of bass found in northern Indiana natural lakes. As a result, bass grow slowly and few bass large enough to be taken home by anglers are present. Currently all angler-caught bass less than 14 inches long must be released. The DFW imposed the 14-inch minimum size limit at nearly all natural lakes in 1998 to increase bass numbers. The limit has apparently been overly protective at some lakes.

“We’ve seen huge increases in bass numbers at Big and Crane lakes as a result of the size limit,” said Jed Pearson, the DFW biologist who keeps tabs on bass populations throughout the region. “Coupled with angler promotion of catch-and-release fishing, some lakes now have more bass than they can support.”

Biologists captured 303 adult bass per hour of sampling at Big Lake and 294 per hour at Crane Lake. The average catch rate at most natural lakes is 96 per hour. Only two percent of the bass captured at Big and five percent of the bass captured at Crane were of legal size.

According to Pearson, changes in bass fishing regulations may be worth considering at Big and Crane lakes to encourage anglers to catch and keep small bass. The theory is that once many of the small bass are removed, those that remain should then grow larger. Once balance in the bass populations is restored, the 14-inch limit could then be re-instated. ✧

## Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

### [State lawmakers renew call for closing locks and canals](#)

Lawmakers called again Wednesday for closure of locks and canals connecting the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan after officials announced the catch of a bighead carp in Chicago's Lake Calumet.

### [Kill Switch would kill the Internet](#)

It's always a comforting feeling when the fascists tell you to relax. That's what Senator Joe Lieberman told everyone to do Sunday on *CNN's State of the Union*. The President will never take over the Internet, Lieberman—with a warm smile—assured the audience

### [Army building Asian carp barrier](#)

The Centennial Trail has been closed between 135th Street in Romeoville and the Cook County line. The Army Corps of Engineers is constructing a barrier to prevent Asian carp from accessing the Sanitary and Ship Canal, and from there, Lake Michigan.

### [Industry experts huddle to discuss Asian carp](#)

Officials with the Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Department of Natural Resources met Monday with businesses dependent on the Chicago River, trying to assure them closing the river to keep out Asian carp is not imminent.

### [Lake Erie drilling ban opposed](#)

Industry officials in Ontario oppose the total ban on offshore drilling in the Great Lakes called for recently by Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow. Even some environmental groups in Ontario, like the Sierra Club, aren't supporting the ban that Stabenow seeks.

### [Minn. DNR changes Kamloops stocking to prevent the spread of VHS](#)

Fish stocking was curtailed because Minnesota fisheries managers want to prevent the possible movement of VHS, a fish virus, to inland waters.

### [Port Hope Marina not so far away](#)

The redevelopment of Port Hope's East Beach, to accommodate a 250-slip marina, is underway. The municipality received two bids for an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the east beach, with the lowest bid coming in at \$564,393.47 and the highest at \$829,175.

### [Michigan looks to double the cormorant kill](#)

Michigan wildlife officials are pushing for more control of a fish eating water bird. They want to double the number of cormorants killed in Michigan each year, to about 20,000

### [Concrete blocking Menomonee River to be removed](#)

A \$1.1 million grant from the White House Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will allow Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District to remove concrete blocking the Menomonee River. The concrete was put in behind Miller Brewing in the 1960s to ease flooding ...

### [Bat, bird kills alarm group](#)

A conservation group reviewing the number of birds and bats killed by the wind turbines on Wolfe Island is calling the numbers "extremely high."

### [Work is underway for a new lock in the Soo](#)

A long-term project has begun at the Soo Locks. At the end of the project, there will be three locks, instead of four.

### [Secrets of Fish Oil compound probed](#)

A compound found in oil-rich fish such as salmon reshaped the blood lipid profiles of volunteers in an Agricultural Research Service-led study. The study is one of only about a dozen, in humans, to probe the effects of DHA alone, rather than in tandem with another natural oil, EPA...

### [Researchers find genes involved in Yellow Perch growth](#)

28 genes that are involved in bulking up yellow perch, an important aquaculture fish, have been discovered by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and university researchers. Usually, female perch grow faster than their male counterparts, a disparity

### [Many anglers no longer spending their summer fishing off Lake Michigan piers](#)

The summer pier fishery has changed. Spring and fall still bring crowds out for steelhead and salmon, but early morning summer crowds are few and far between.