



Ontario rolling out new rules for baitfish and leeches when fishing

Ontario is rolling out new rules related to the use and movement of baitfish and leeches when fishing in the province. This is all part of the province's plan to prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases that can devastate Ontario's fish stocks.

Starting on January 1st, 2022, Ontario will be divided into four Bait Management Zones (BMZs)—Northwest, Northeast, Central and Southern. Anglers, if you live in the zone where you are fishing, you will be permitted to harvest and use baitfish and leeches in that zone. If you are fishing outside the zone in which you reside, then you will need to purchase and use baitfish and leeches from the BMZ where you are fishing.

Baitfish and leeches can only be moved within the BMZ where they were harvested or purchased, with some exceptions, including moving baitfish and leeches into an adjacent Great Lake or a portion of the Ottawa River.

Anglers fishing in their home BMZ should be prepared to show government issued identification to demonstrate their place of residence. Anglers using live bait outside of their home BMZ must purchase their baitfish and leeches and can keep them for up to two weeks. They must also keep a legible receipt after you have purchased them to show to a conservation officer.

These changes come after years of

research, data collection and consultation with anglers in the province. Anglers are also reminded to:

- Safely dispose contents of your bait container at least 30 metres from any lake, pond, river or stream
- Dispose of fish waste, heads and tails in the garbage, not waterways, when cleaning fish
- Put unwanted roe or baitfish in the garbage
- Empty livewells and bilges away from water, where the water will be absorbed into the ground
- Inspect and disinfect your gear, if necessary

Check ontario.ca/baitfish for updates on BMZs.

Ontario rolling out new rules

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New state and Great Lakes record Chinook salmon tops 47 pounds

Using a Moonshine raspberry carbon spoon lure, an angler from Ortonville, Michigan, turned in a new state-record fish! Luis Ricardo Hernandez Martinez was troll fishing with Capt. Bobby Sullivan of Icebreaker Charters on Lake Michigan near Ludington early Saturday morning, Aug. 7, when he caught a Chinook salmon weighing in at 47.86 lbs. and measuring 47.5 in.

"I never expected a catch like this would happen," Martinez said. "It's possible for anyone if I can do it! I would like to extend a great 'thank you' to Capt. Bobby, as it was he who made this catch possible for me."

Captain Sullivan added, "Luis did an amazing job, executing perfectly everything I asked him to do in order to bring this fish in." This record breaks the previous state-record Chinook salmon—46.06 lbs., 43.5 in. long—caught in 1978 by Ray Essex, of Grand Rapids, out of the Grand River in Kent County.



The new state-record Chinook salmon was verified by Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin coordinator with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, with Scott Heintzelman, the DNR's Central Lake Michigan Management Unit supervisor, also present.

To view a current list of Michigan state fish records by species, visit Michigan.gov/StateRecordFish. ✧

Chinook and Coho salmon runs begin as DNR gears up for egg takes



The days are getting cooler, the leaves are beginning to change and the salmon are starting their annual spawning runs—all signs that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is preparing for Chinook and coho salmon egg takes.

Managing Michigan's world-class fisheries is dependent on egg takes each fall. Salmon return to the rivers and streams where they were hatched or stocked. To aid in annual egg collection, the DNR has strategically placed weirs in rivers with high concentrations of spawning salmon.

DNR facilities begin operations in mid-September and complete the process in late October for all Pacific salmon egg takes. Though the egg collection work is scheduled, the DNR team will act only when there are sufficient numbers to indicate the fish are ready. Conditions can vary day to day.

DNR staff conduct egg takes not only to support Michigan's yearly fish production goals, but also to assist other Great Lakes states in meeting their fishery needs. This season, portions of Michigan-collected eggs will be directed to Illinois and Indiana.

Chinook egg takes occur on the Little Manistee River at the Little Manistee River Weir facility. This work typically occurs during the first week of October. The DNR plans on collecting 2.5 million eggs for Michigan's waters, as well as 600,000 eggs for Indiana and 800,000 eggs for Illinois, in support of each state's salmon stocking programs.

Coho egg takes on the Platte River at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery typically occur during the third week of October. The DNR plans on collecting 3 million eggs for Michigan's waters, as well as 1.1 million for Indiana and 1 million for Illinois.

All eggs collected for out-of-state needs are reared in that state's hatchery facilities and stocked in the Great Lakes.

Egg take operations are open to the public to allow visitors to see these amazing fish and the process of harvesting their eggs. Weir tours combined with education and outreach efforts bring classrooms and hundreds of students to the facilities every year to learn about the life cycle of fish, invasive species, the history of salmon in the Great Lakes and the DNR programs that manage and sustain these prized fisheries.

For a detailed explanation of the life cycle of a Chinook salmon, view our [Chinook Salmon Lifestages video](#). To learn more about the work at Michigan's state fish hatcheries or to plan a trip to see the egg take activities, visit Michigan.gov/Hatcheries.

For everyone's safety, people not yet fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are encouraged to wear face masks when inside buildings open to the public. ✧



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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

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eDNA from invasive carp identified in Milwaukee River

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR announced it would conduct targeted invasive carp sampling in the Milwaukee River with assistance from USFWS during the week of October 4, 2021, after detecting invasive carp environmental DNA (eDNA).

In June 2021, routine eDNA sampling by the USFWS detected bighead carp eDNA at one of the 100 sample locations in the Milwaukee River. In response to this detection, an additional 150 eDNA samples were collected and analyzed in September 2021. One of these samples returned positive for invasive carp DNA, indicating the presence of either bighead or silver carp eDNA.

The targeted sampling efforts in the Milwaukee River include electroshocking and netting at locations near the positive eDNA detections and in suitable habitats for invasive carp species, such as bighead or silver carp.

The eDNA sampling cannot specify if the detected DNA was from a live fish or from another source, such as bird feces, water transported in the live well of a recreational boat recently in invasive carp infested waters, or from melted ice used to store invasive carp at fish markets that flowed into storm sewers. However, repeated detections increases the concern that the genetic material may have come from fish living in the area where the sample was collected.

The DNR routinely monitors the Milwaukee River to assess multiple species and is also monitored by the USFWS for aquatic invasive species. The USFWS conducted netting and electrofishing surveys during the week of Sept. 13. The DNR conducted an electrofishing survey on Sept. 29.

No live or dead bighead or silver carp have been observed or reported in the river by the DNR or USFWS.

Prevention remains the most effective tool to protect the Great Lakes from invasive carp. The DNR asks anglers who encounter any bighead or silver carp to keep the fish by putting it on ice and to call the local

Wisconsin DNR announces November wolf harvest quota

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR announced that the statewide quota for the fall 2021 wolf season has been set at 130 wolves.

The department is authorized by state statute and the department's rules to make the final decision on the quota for the fall 2021 wolf harvest. In determining the quota, the department considered the best available information and scientific modeling, as well as the input from the Wolf Harvest Committee, the Natural Resources Board, and the many groups and members of the public who provided comments to the department and the Board.

State-licensed hunters and trappers will be authorized to harvest 74 wolves within the six zones established in the department's regulations. The department will honor the Ojibwe Tribes' treaty right within the Ceded Territory of 56.

The department will use a license ratio of 5:1 to offer the opportunity to 370 successful applicants to purchase a state wolf hunting license. The department plans to notify successful applicants October 25, at which point licenses will also go on sale.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed gray wolves from the federal endangered species list on January 4, 2021, returning management authority to state agencies. As required by state statute, the DNR will continue to plan for a wolf harvest season to open on November 6, 2021.

The DNR is currently updating Wisconsin's wolf management plan with input from a Wolf Management Plan Committee. The department will continue working towards completing a 10-year wolf management plan to guide management decisions beginning in 2022. ✧

DNR. Anglers should also check that any baitfish they purchase or catch are not invasive carp. ✧

DNR certifies tie for record muskie

Anglers over the summer caught and released a new Minnesota state record northern pike (see article above) and tied the record for muskellunge.

The DNR certified a 57 1/4 inch muskie caught July 23 on Lake Vermilion by Todd Kirby of Hudson, Wisconsin that tied a 2019 muskie also caught on Lake Vermilion.

With two Vermilion Lake muskies now tied for the state record, this well-known water body continues to prove itself as a top muskie fishing destination. Kirby had fished the lake a handful of times and was familiar with small pockets that muskie seem to inhabit.

"That Friday night we were up against the weather. There was a huge storm front moving through creating extremely unstable conditions. The humidity was high, and storm clouds were building. It was one of those nights the fish seemed to be super active, our boat had multiple chases, one resulting in a 48 inch fish in the net—at that time my personal best," Kirby said.

They continued fishing into the night and around 10:30 p.m. he had a large "thud" hit his line hard when his bait was only 15 yards from the boat.

"I compared it to reeling in a large moving 'log' and after a few dark splashes, she was in the net. Everything just happened so fast!" Kirby said.

Kirby and fishing partners John and Will Gavic thought the fish looked 50 inches and were amazed seeing they caught a fish even longer, and one that would earn state record status.

"My bait just so happened to be the one that she ate, but that whole night couldn't have been possible without the help of John Gavic and Will Gavic. Muskie fishing is a team effort, and when you have a good team on your side, landing a fish of that caliber creates a memory of a lifetime," Kirby said.

The DNR announces new state records in news releases, on social media and the DNR website. Find current records and guidelines at [mndnr.gov/recordfish](https://www.mndnr.gov/recordfish). ✧

Fishing the Walleye Capital of the World just keeps getting better

Fishing for Lake Erie walleye has never been more exciting thanks to several exceptional years of fish production in the western basin. This summer, the ODNR Division of Wildlife trawl surveys found that there will be another walleye hatch that is well above average.

In research presented to the Ohio Wildlife Council during its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 8, fisheries biologists reported the 2021 walleye hatch was the fifth largest recorded over the past 35 years.

"This is fantastic news for Lake Erie walleye and the future of the fishery," said Division of Wildlife Chief Kendra Wecker. "This hatch will reach harvestable size during the 2023 fishing season. In the meantime, with an incredible run of strong hatches beginning in 2015 there has never been a better time to fish Lake Erie. Anglers can find an abundance of walleye averaging 20 – 26 inches."

The 2021 walleye hatch index was 90 fish per hectare (a standard measure of area), well above the rapidly increasing prior 20-year average of 34 fish per hectare. The young walleye averaged just over 4 inches long and were caught at every site sampled.

"Our fisheries biologists survey nearly 40 locations between Toledo and Huron by dragging a large, concave net along the bottom of the lake," said Division of Wildlife Lake Erie Fisheries Program Manager Travis Hartman. "Smaller first- and second- year fish tend to feed near the lake's floor and are captured in the net, while larger fully-grown fish dodge the net and are not routinely caught."

Lake Erie is managed cooperatively by the five states and provinces that border it: New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario, Canada. Each August, Ohio's fisheries biologists contribute to lake-wide efforts to survey hatch success in

Lake Erie's western basin. Ohio's results are combined with surveys from the other bordering states to estimate the total walleye population in the lake. This estimate is then used to establish fishing regulations and daily limits.

Combined survey results over the last several years show that the Lake Erie walleye population is on the rise. Angler catch rates are near one fish per hour, proving now is a great time to get out and pursue this fan favorite fish.

Additionally, trophy sized walleye are increasing. A Lake Erie walleye 28 inches or longer qualifies for recognition from the Fish Ohio program. Records show that Lake Erie walleye entries have increased every year since 2017, culminating in 1,901 submissions in 2020. So far in 2021, more than 1,100 walleye entries have been submitted. More information can be found on the [Fishing Lake Erie](#) page at wildohio.gov. ✧

New York's opening of Catch-and-Release Season in trout streams Oct. 16 New season expands opportunities for trout stream fishing year-round

New York State DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos reminded anglers that the State's new catch-and-release trout stream season begins on October 16, expanding recreational opportunities.

"Using science, research, and public input, DEC is increasing fishing opportunities while advancing responsible trout management in order to ensure trout reach their fullest ecological and recreational potential," Commissioner Seggos said. "New York State's new catch-and-release season in trout streams expands opportunities for anglers so they can enjoy the State's trout stream fishing resources year-round."

The new catch-and-release trout stream season is a product of DEC's [Statewide Trout Stream Management Plan](#), developed to improve and modernize the State's management of its trout stream fishing resources. The new season, which runs from October 16 - March 31, requires anglers to use only artificial lures and immediately

release trout they catch. The catch-and-release season applies to trout streams only. Fishing for trout in lakes and ponds is prohibited after October 15, unless these waters are managed under a special regulation that allows for angling. Anglers should consult DEC's [regulations guide](#) for regulations associated with lakes and ponds that harbor trout before fishing.

This time period was traditionally closed to trout stream fishing as a precautionary measure during the reproductive period for wild trout. DEC biologists concluded that fishing during the spawning season will not result in negative fishery impacts. To provide due diligence, DEC will conduct an [Angler Use and Wild Trout Young-of-Year Recruitment Study \(PDF\)](#) to gauge angling pressure and young-of-year trout abundance on a statewide sample of 19 wild trout stream reaches from 2021-2024. DEC biologists will use the results of the study to evaluate the new regulation

and guide future management. Anglers are reminded to use best practices when releasing fish to ensure trout are returned to the stream immediately and unharmed. Visit DEC's website for more [information on catching and releasing fish](#).

Anglers venturing to inland trout streams this fall should check out the DEC's Interactive Trout Stream Fishing Map on the [DECinfo Locator](#). The map provides anglers with a one-stop-shop for information about stocking, fishing access, season dates, and regulations. DEC encourages anglers to use this resource before hitting the water, so they are aware of all the trout stream fishing opportunities available to them both locally and afar.

For more information on freshwater fishing in New York waters, go to [DEC's Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide](#). ✧

Interior reveals largest expansion of fishing & hunting on FWS lands

The U.S. Department of the Interior announced that the USFWS has opened new or expanded hunting and sport fishing opportunities across 2.1 million acres, the largest expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities in recent history. This action brings the number of units in the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System where the public may hunt to 434 and the number where fishing will be permitted to 378.

The increased recreational access, which covers 88 National Wildlife Refuges and one National Fish Hatchery, is consistent with the Biden-Harris administration's *America the Beautiful* initiative, a locally led and voluntary, nationwide effort to conserve, connect, and restore 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030.

"Increasing access to outdoor recreation opportunities is essential to advancing the Administration's commitment to the conservation stewardship of our public lands," said Secretary Deb Haaland. "Responsible hunting and fishing helps to promote healthy wildlife habitats while boosting local recreation economies."

"The announcement furthers a rich tradition of providing quality outdoor recreation experiences to the American people on our public lands," said Service Principal Deputy Director Martha Williams. "By expanding these opportunities, we are enhancing the lives of millions of Americans while stimulating the national economy to which hunting and fishing contribute significantly."

The Service manages hunting and fishing programs to ensure sustainable wildlife populations while also offering other wildlife-dependent recreation on public lands.

The Service finalized these changes in time for the upcoming 2021-2022 hunting seasons. A complete list of all refuges and hatcheries is available in the rule. View an [online](#) list.

In addition, this final rule continues efforts to revise refuge hunting and fishing regulations to align with state regulations where the refuge is located. This year's rule also includes revisions that ensure whenever refuge regulations depart from state regulations, for safety or conservation compatibility reasons, these extra regulations are consistent across all refuges in the given state. The Service worked closely with the states in preparing this rule.

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$156 billion in economic activity in communities across the United States in 2016, according to the Service's [National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#), published every five years. More than 101 million Americans—40 percent of the U.S. population age 16 and older—pursue wildlife-related recreation, including hunting and fishing.

There are 70 national fish hatcheries visited by more than one million people each year. Hatcheries offer opportunities for viewing the operations and learning about fish, as well as activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, sightseeing, nature study, birdwatching and photography. The rule also formally brings the total number of [National Fish Hatchery System](#) units open to hunting or sport fishing to 22.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is an unparalleled network of 567 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts. There is a national wildlife refuge within an hour's drive of most major metropolitan areas. The Refuge System receives more than 61 million annual visits. National wildlife refuges provide vital habitat for thousands of species and access to world-class recreation, from fishing, hunting and paddling to nature watching, photography and environmental education. ✧

Ontario rolling out new rules

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Just how vulnerable are Ontario Lakes to aquatic invasive species? Ministry researchers and partners studied the effects of human population and climate change on invasive species. They considered the potential for aquatic invasive species to arrive, survive and spread, developing models to predict which regions of Ontario are at greatest risk for new invasions now and in future. Researchers factored in whether habitat was suitable for species to move into new waterbodies, either through their own efforts or human activities.

Some key findings:

- With projected climate change, more habitat may become suitable for invasive species, especially in the north
- Prevention requires a mix of control methods, such as education and regulation
- Effects of some human activities (such as aquarium and water garden ownership) are concentrated near highly populated areas while others (boat-based fishing and recreational boating) help aquatic invasive species spread throughout the province
- Human activities connect otherwise isolated parts of the province
- Newly invaded waterbodies can be a source for invasion of other (nearby) waterbodies

These results will be used to help prevent the establishment and spread of aquatic invasive species to protect Ontario's lakes.

You can help minimize invasive species spread by:

- cleaning, draining, and drying equipment
- properly using and disposing of live bait
- learning to identify invasive species

Check ontario.ca/baitfish for updates on BMZs. ✧

Plan a weekend trip fishing and camping at a DNR property

Fall can be an excellent time to go fishing. The days are cooler and less humid than in summer months. Rivers and streams are more wade-able, allowing you to fish pools and other places you may miss other times of the year. And being outdoors is healthy, safe, and rejuvenating. Consider fishing while kayaking on a river, hiking with friends, or camping with the family. More than 40 Indiana DNR locations provide opportunities for both camping and fishing. Explore our [Where to Fish map](#) for places to fish. Want to eat your catch? Check out a video on how to [fillet a fish](#) and how to [care for your catch](#) back home. For more fishing tips and videos, visit [our website](#). ✧

Lake Ontario tributary fishing

With higher than average water levels, good runs of migrating salmon and trout are expected in Great Lakes tributaries this fall. Anglers can expect quality fishing opportunities for Chinook and coho salmon from now through early-November, but the first two weeks of October is when it typically peaks. Steelhead fishing turns on later in the season, usually in late October through November when water temperatures are around 45-58 degrees F. And lest we forget brown trout, world-class waters such as Niagara River, Oswego River, Oak Orchard Creek, Eighteenmile Creek, Sandy Creek and Maxwell Creek provide peak fishing opportunities in November and December. ✧

Simmons, new DNR Southern Lake Huron Unit Fishery Biologist

April Simmons is the new Fisheries Management Biologist for the Southern Lake Huron Management Unit. April has a diverse set of skills and experience that range both geographically and in subject. She has worked in wildlife ecology directly related to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, as a fisheries observer in the North Atlantic groundfish fishery, in aquatic habitat restoration in Louisiana, and most recently as part of Dr. Ed Roseman's group studying early life history of Great Lakes fishes for USGS. April will be assigned to the waters in the northern half of our Unit. April's start date was Tuesday September 7th. ✧

Fishing – fun with family & friends



1974 off Waukegan, Dan Thomas with a 29 lb. king



1984, a 3lb Lake Erie smallmouth



1984, our daughter with a Lake Erie smallie



Tom Couston, off Amoco oil refinery discharge in Whiting, Indiana. August 1985. Casting a Mr. Champs spoon. The bigger king was 26 3/4 lbs.

Knox Lake Dam restoration completed

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Recently, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Mary Mertz dedicated a completed and refurbished Knox Lake dam in Knox County. The \$4.6 million project rehabilitated the structural integrity of the dam, which was originally built in 1954. Improvements to the Knox Lake dam include stabilization and resurfacing of the spillway, installation of new gates to control lake levels, riprap to prevent erosion, and smoothing out the back side of the dam for easier walking and mowing accessibility. The south boat ramp was also upgraded to provide better access for boaters. “Repairing the Knox Lake dam ensures this popular reservoir will safely provide fishing and other outdoor-related recreation for decades to come,” said Director Mertz. ✧

Salmon River Hatchery Update

The new fish ladder at the [Salmon River Hatchery](#) is up and running, and fish have wasted no time using it. Construction crews continue to lay the foundations for an improved outdoor visitor experience, pouring lots of concrete pillars and pads for new observation decks, a new pavilion, new roadways, and an access ramp to the back of the Hatchery's "spawn house." Although the construction will keep the hatchery **closed** to the public through the fall, the fall egg collection will go on as planned. This much anticipated event generally takes place beginning the day after Columbus Day as long as the hatchery's water temperatures have come down to acceptable levels. A Facebook Live event during the spawn is planned for a day the week of October 11th. Be sure to check DEC's [Facebook page](#) for a scheduled date. ✧

Lake Champlain Atlantic Salmon Study this fall

DEC, along with USFWS, will be collecting genetic samples from adult Atlantic salmon returning to New York tributaries of Lake Champlain to spawn. Over the last few years, genetically tagged Atlantic salmon fry and smolts have been stocked into New York and Vermont rivers so that managers can gain a better understanding of the movement and survival of Atlantic salmon within the Lake Champlain system. The information collected will help determine the success of different stocking strategies and provide insight on the fitness of different strains of Atlantic salmon being stocked. Fish collected will be examined and released back to the river where they were captured. Collection efforts will have a minimal effect on recreational fishing, but anglers should be aware of these efforts and avoid nets marked with orange buoys. Fishing tackle can get caught in the nets and impact the ability of the gear to effectively capture fish. ✧



DNR certifies new catch-and-release record northern pike

The Minnesota DNR certified a new state catch-and-release record northern pike, a 46¼" fish caught June 19 on Basswood Lake by Brecken Kobylecky, a 15-year-old from Geneva, Illinois. The previous record was a 45 ¼" northern pike caught on the Rainy River in 2018.

The record pike was the biggest fish Kobylecky had ever caught. He was fishing with an Ely-based fishing guide and with about 10 minutes left of their final day fishing, they were trolling for pike.

"We hooked onto a huge pike that was barely hooked, and could hardly land it due to the sheer size and weight of the fish," Kobylecky said. Once the fish was in the boat they carefully took a few photos and measured the pike before releasing the fish back to the open water. "The whole experience went by in a flash but it was an experience of a lifetime I'll never forget," Kobylecky said. For details: [DNR record fish page](#) ✧

Saranac River Atlantic salmon run

With much cooler nights and increased rainfall, the fall Atlantic salmon run has begun. Anglers are catching salmon all the way to below the Imperial Mills Dam. Please be advised that DEC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are currently netting salmon in the river as part of a research project but are returning all fish back to the river after a sample is collected. We have received reports of some quality fish. ✧

Reminder: Proposed regulation change for Oneida Lake walleye

Regulations are being proposed to increase the daily possession limit of walleye in Oneida Lake from three fish/day to the statewide daily possession limit of five fish/day. The regulatory proposal is available on [DEC's website](#) for review and public comment. Submit comments on the proposal via e-mail to regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov or via mail to the Inland Fisheries Section, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753; subject line "Oneida Lake Walleye Regulations." DEC will accept comments through **October 17, 2021**. ✧

Lake Erie steelhead: 2021 Fall Fishing Forecast

New York's Lake Erie tributaries boast some of the [highest angler catch rates for steelhead \(PDF\)](#) in the entire country, and the arrival of fall's colors signals the beginning of the steelhead season. This year is shaping up to be a more "typical" fall on the Lake Erie tributaries compared to the hot and dry conditions in recent years. Plenty of rain in recent weeks coupled with cooler temperatures has already brought in the first runs of steelhead into the lower sections of favorite fishing destinations such as Cattaraugus, Eighteen Mile, and Chautauqua creeks. As long as this pattern continues, anglers should experience excellent fishing in October and November. Expect a lot of jacks in the early going with larger fish becoming more plentiful as the water temperatures cool off. Anglers looking for current water conditions can look online at the [USGS water gauges](#) for all of the major Lake Erie tributaries, or visit the DEC [Lake Erie Fishing Hotline](#) for weekly updates on the steelhead fishery.

[Steelhead Fishing in Lake Erie Tributaries](#). ✧

Fishing Finger Lakes Tributaries

Anglers that prefer to avoid crowds and get in on some high quality tributary fishing should consider setting their sights on New York's Finger Lakes. Of the 11 Finger Lakes, nine have annual migratory trout and salmon runs, so there is no shortage of opportunities to choose from. Pair a fishing trip with a wine tasting for a fun fall Finger Lakes weekend. For information on tributary access (Public Fishing Rights) visit DEC's [website](#).
✧

Rome Fish Hatchery flooding

In what would otherwise be a routine day in August at the Rome Fish Hatchery this day was anything but when the lingering effects of a tropical storm dropped over 9" of rain, inundating the Mohawk River enough to flood a part of the hatchery known as the East Pond Complex. The East Ponds are seven series of ponds with five ponds in each series. At the time of the flooding, only nine of the 35 available ponds were being occupied by approximately 270,800 fingerling brown trout. As the water continued to rise, hatchery staff quickly stepped into action to minimize fish loss and infrastructure damage. As the water reached its maximum, there was nothing staff could do at that point due to safety except wait for the water to recede.

Post-flood assessments calculated an eight percent loss (21,550) of fish from flooded ponds, and given the extent of the flooding that occurred at the hatchery, that's quite remarkable. Hopefully, this isn't something the hatchery has to deal with anytime soon, but should it occur again, staff have developed potential ideas to further prevent fish loss. ✧

Share your thoughts on proposed fishing regulations

You can weigh in on proposed special fishing regulations that, if adopted, would become effective next year. Most of the changes proposed by the Minnesota DNR are aimed at protecting and improving sunfish sizes by lowering daily limits on 52 additional lakes. For more detailed information or to submit input, contact the area fisheries office, attend an in-person public meeting through **October 20**, or complete the online survey through Sunday, Oct. 31. For details: [DNR sunfish page](#). ✧

Enhanced fishing opportunities on Lake Ontario tributaries

The NYS Canal Corporation will be releasing water into some Lake Ontario tributaries this fall to improve fall fishing conditions. Eighteenmile Creek, Oak Orchard Creek, and Sandy Creek will all receive increased flows beginning on September 16 2021. You can find more information about the program by visiting the [NYS Canal Corp. website](#). ✧

Banner year for Catskill Fish Hatchery egg collection

The Catskill Fish Hatchery's annual brown trout egg take was completed in two days this year! DEC Fisheries staff collected approximately 2.1 million eggs (about 5,600 eggs/female) and will share the wealth with Rome and Bath hatcheries in raising these fish until they're ready to be stocked. The eggs will hatch in early October and begin feeding in November, keeping hatchery staff busy throughout the winter months as they grow and their diet and space requirements change. ✧

Cook County Forest Preserves prepare for fall 2021 trout fishing

The Forest Preserves of Cook County's 2021 fall inland trout fishing season is slated to start on Saturday, Oct. 16, at Axehead Lake (Park Ridge), Belleau Lake (Des Plaines), Busse Reservoir-North Pool (Elk Grove Village), Sag Quarry East (Lemont), Horsetail Lake (Palos Park) and Green Lake (Calumet City).

The Forest Preserves is stocking approximately 1,000 pounds at Horsetail Lake, while the Illinois DNR is providing and stocking 850 pounds of Rainbow Trout at Sag Quarry East; 2,700 pounds at Busse Reservoir-North Pool; 1,255 pounds at Axehead Lake; 1,000 pounds at Belleau Lake; and 667 pounds at Green Lake. These are catchable-sized Rainbow Trout, in the 0.5 - 1-pound size range.

As part of the IDNR's stocking program, fishing for and possession of any trout is illegal from October 1 until 5 a.m. on October 16. In addition, the Forest Preserves' trout lakes will be closed to all fishing from Monday, Oct. 11, until sunrise on Saturday, Oct. 16. The lake closings allow the trout to disperse throughout the lakes prior to opening.

Once the season opens, there is a five trout per day creel limit with no size restrictions. No more than two lines per person with no more than two hooks per line may be used. An Illinois sport fishing license is not required for Illinois residents who are disabled and have a State of Illinois disabled I.D. card showing a Class 2 or 2A disability or a Veterans Disability Card, and Illinois residents who are on active military duty and are home on leave. For a list of all lakes and waters open to public fishing within the Forest Preserves of Cook County, visit fpdcc.com/fishing, and download the Fishing Guide. The guide includes maps that show location and depth of each lake, as well as main fish species.
✧

A safe hunt is a successful hunt

With both small game and big game hunting seasons opening across the province the Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCA) would like to remind hunters to put safety first. “Any hunter planning to head out into the field this fall should keep safe hunting practices as a top priority,” says OCA President Matthew McVittie, “Wear hunter orange, respect landowners and other hunters and always be aware of your surroundings while handling a firearm.”

The OCA would like remind all hunters to remember the following acronyms delivered in firearms safety ACTS and PROVE:

- Assume every firearm is loaded
- Control the muzzle direction at all times
- Trigger finger must be kept off the trigger and out of the trigger guard
- See that the firearm is unloaded – PROVE it safe
- Point the firearm in the safest available direction
- Remove all ammunition
- Observe the chamber
- Verify the feeding path
- Examine the bore

With new moose hunting regulations coming into effect in many parts of the province this year, moose hunters are encouraged to review the Hunting Regulations Summary.

“We wish everyone a safe, enjoyable and successful hunt,” says McVittie, “Safe, responsible and legal hunting are crucial to ensuring future generations will be able to enjoy our natural resources.” Anyone with information about a natural resources or public safety related offence is encouraged to call the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry violation reporting line at **1-877-847-7667**, ✧

Efforts to control Seneca Lake sea lamprey to begin

New York announced that work to combat the parasitic sea lamprey will take place the week of October 11, on the Catharine Creek Canal in Schuyler County. By effectively controlling sea lampreys, DEC can reduce mortality rates for fish it preys upon, especially lake trout, rainbow trout, and landlocked salmon—some of the more popular fish in Seneca Lake. DEC will treat waters inhabited by juvenile sea lampreys in Catharine Creek Canal from Montour Falls Marina to the mouth at Seneca Lake. Lampricide application preparations are scheduled to start the week of October 11, with application on October 13. Application is weather dependent.

Typically, immature sea lamprey live in streams for three to four years before they become parasitic and descend into the lake to prey on other fish. Through the sea lamprey control program, DEC will apply a lampricide called Bayluscide (niclosamide) to canal waters using a boat-mounted sprayer. Bayluscide is a selective pesticide that kills the immature, larval stage of the sea lamprey. It has been used extensively for sea lamprey control in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain and was last used in Catharine Creek Canal in 2014. The dosage of Bayluscide lethal to larval sea lampreys can be processed without harm by most other aquatic organisms. Some minor fish and aquatic invertebrate mortality is expected.

These treatments do not pose any significant hazard to human health. However, as a precautionary measure, the State Department of Health advises against consumption of lake water, fishing, swimming, livestock watering, or irrigation in the treatment zone during and immediately following applications. Signs will be posted along the treated areas. In addition, for four days, treated water should not be used for drinking or cooking. For two days, treated water should not be used for

DNR completes investigation of common carp mortality on Lake Orion

The Michigan DNR has completed its investigation of the [common carp mortality on Lake Orion in northeast Oakland County that occurred in mid-to late July](#). With the assistance of the Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory at Michigan State University, it has been determined and confirmed that the common carp fish kill was caused by koi herpesvirus (KHV - cyprinid herpesvirus 3).

“As the case with most herpesviruses, KHV is very specific on which fish species it will infect and only affects common carp, koi and goldfish,” said Gary Whelan, Fisheries Division Research Program manager. “This is only the third detection of this non-native virus in Michigan waters, and it is known to kill large numbers of its host species at times. KHV does not affect any other fish species and has no implications for any other birds, mammals or humans.”

The July fish kill was reported by residents using the [DNR’s Eyes in the Field website](#). The only species involved was adult common carp, and the number killed was between 300 to 600 mostly adult fish.

The DNR reminds the public that viruses and bacteria that affect fish typically are not human pathogens due to the differences in body temperatures between fish and humans. It is strongly recommended that all freshwater fish be fully cooked to ensure they are safe to consume. For more information on choosing and eating safe fish, visit [Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish](#). ✧

bathing/showering, washing dishes or clothes, swimming, or fishing. Fish within the Bayluscide-treated area may contain low-level concentrations of this compound for 14 days following treatment. ✧

Giving lake sturgeon a lift

Lake sturgeon are a long-lived fish species that were once common throughout the Great Lakes.

However, over the last two centuries, lake sturgeon populations have significantly declined due to several factors, including habitat loss from dam construction. Once numbering in the millions in the Great Lakes region, the lake sturgeon population has now been reduced to a few thousand fish. The lake sturgeon is currently listed as a threatened species in Michigan.

The Menominee River, forming part of the border between Wisconsin and Michigan in the Upper Peninsula, is a large tributary to Green Bay on Lake Michigan and supports one of the largest remaining populations of lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes. The sturgeon here number roughly 1,200 adult fish—compared to roughly 20,000 to 25,000 historically.

Before construction of several hydroelectric dams throughout the Menominee River during the 19th century, lake sturgeon migrated upstream from Green Bay for approximately 70 miles to spawn, before encountering a natural barrier at Sturgeon Falls in Dickinson County.

Currently their access to the river is cut short by the Menominee Dam, which is located approximately 2.5 miles upstream from Green Bay. A second dam, Park Mill, is located only about 1 mile upstream of the Menominee Dam.

Mature, adult lake sturgeon need specific spawning habitat typically



found in rivers and are willing to make long migrations to reach those optimal spawning locations.

“Dams are considered one of the greatest impediments to successful

sturgeon recovery efforts in the Great Lakes because adult fish are unable to access river spawning habitat and critical habitat needed to support juvenile fish,” said John Bauman, fisheries biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The lack of suitable lake sturgeon spawning habitat and juvenile rearing habitat downstream of the Menominee Dam are likely key factors limiting the rehabilitation of the lake sturgeon population.

Luckily for the lake sturgeon, there is ample habitat for both adults and juveniles above the Park Mill Dam up to the Grand Rapids Dam, situated approximately 19 miles upstream.

Given these facts, the question for fisheries managers was how to reconnect adult lake sturgeon from the lower Menominee River to the abundant spawning and rearing habitats upstream of the two dams?

In some situations, dam removal may be an option to restore river access if the dam has outlived its usefulness. However, Menominee and Park Mill hydroelectric dams are viable producers of renewable energy and not candidates for removal.

So, if the dams can't be removed, how can lake sturgeon access be restored to upstream habitats in the Menominee River?

It took a creative and talented team to think of a novel, first-of-its-kind idea.

In the early 2000s, a collaborative partnership among Eagle Creek Renewable Energy (owner of Menominee and Park Mill dams), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Michigan departments



of natural resources, and the River Alliance of Wisconsin formed the Michigan Hydro Relicensing

Coalition to determine how to best address reconnecting adult lake sturgeon from the lower Menominee River with habitats upstream.

The overarching goal of the effort was to increase lake sturgeon recruitment—the process by which small, young fish survive to larger, older fish. It was presumed that these recruits would survive and contribute as adults to the overall sturgeon population in Green Bay and more broadly across Lake Michigan.

The work of the team led to the construction, in 2015, of a “fish elevator” located at the Menominee Dam. The elevator was designed to capture adult lake sturgeon for transfer upstream of the Menominee and Park Mill dams.

The fish elevator was built in an empty bay at the Menominee Dam powerhouse. Within the bay is a rectangular metal hopper, measuring 10 feet by 15 feet. The hopper can be lowered to the bottom of the river.

Water from above the dam flows through the hopper area by opening an upstream gate, creating an “artificial river” to lead lake sturgeon into entering the hopper. A fixed gate at the head of the hopper restricts fish from traveling farther into the dam.

The downstream end of the hopper is open for fish to move in and out until a gate is lowered, trapping fish inside. The hopper is lifted approximately 30 feet to the upper floor of the powerhouse with an electric winch. A door on the side of



the hopper opens, emptying water and the fish into a sorting tank.

From there, fish species captured unintentionally are sorted out and sent back downstream via a pipe with water. Lake sturgeon are visually *cont.*

Giving lake sturgeon a lift – cont.

inspected for previous injuries or disease, measured and then tagged, if no previous tags are observed.

Sex and spawning condition are determined using an ultrasound unit like the ones found in veterinary clinics. Most male lake sturgeon spawn every one to two years, and females spawn every three to five years. Fish that are not ready to spawn during the next spawning period (late April to mid-May) are sent back downstream.

Fish that are ready to spawn are moved to an adjacent holding tank in the powerhouse to await transfer upstream. Minimum fish lengths required for transfer are 45 and 50 inches for males and females, respectively.

When transferring lake sturgeon upstream, fish are loaded into a custom-built trailer and transported about 2 miles to a boat launch above the Park Mill Dam, located on the Michigan side of the Menominee River. There, the trailer is backed into the river and the adult sturgeon are released to continue their migration upstream.

Since 2015, elevator and transfer operations at the Menominee Dam have occurred each year during the spring (mid-April to mid-May) and fall (late August to late September).

“Captures of lake sturgeon have been found to vary widely from year to year and between spring and fall



seasons,” said Elle Gulotty, a DNR fisheries biologist. “As time goes on, we have learned more and more about efficiently operating the fish elevator.”

Over the past six years, the number of fish transferred upstream has ranged from a low of 25 in 2015 to a high of 147 in 2019.

Lake sturgeon transferred during the spring will spawn during that period, while the fish transferred in the fall spend the winter in the river before spawning the following spring. Roughly 90% of the sturgeon transferred upstream stay there for at least one spawning period before migrating back downstream to Green Bay.

During this migration, lake sturgeon pass through the Menominee and Park Mill dams via open gates at the dams or by fish-bypass structures specifically built at each dam for lake sturgeon.

Check out a [video showing time-lapse construction](#) of the Park Mill Dam downstream sturgeon structure.

Lake sturgeon that migrate downstream to Green Bay may then return to the Menominee River when they are again ready to spawn. Recently some adults have been captured at the Menominee Dam fish elevator for the second time, after initially being captured and transferred upstream several years ago.

To meet management objectives, lake sturgeon passed upstream must survive, remain upstream to spawn and eventually contribute offspring to the overall population of lake sturgeon in Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay is currently leading efforts to determine the contribution of juvenile fish that transferred lake sturgeon have added, compared to the overall lake sturgeon population in the Menominee River.



This next phase in this research will provide essential data on recruitment benefits of restoring lake sturgeon connections to historical spawning habitats and will help inform decisions about implementing sturgeon upstream passage efforts in other Great Lakes tributaries.

Capturing and transferring adult lake sturgeon around the Menominee and Park Mill dams in the Menominee River is a unique solution to assist with the restoration of this important fish population to Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

Fish elevator and transfer operations will likely continue though the life of the Menominee and Park Mill dams.

While lake sturgeon can access part of their former range in the Menominee River, natural resource agencies and partners are continuing to seek solutions to restore lake sturgeon access in the river up to Sturgeon Falls.

◇

Indiana plans to stock 67,000 channel catfish this fall

Indiana DNR will stock more than 130 public fishing sites across Indiana with approximately 67,000 channel catfish. State fish hatcheries began harvesting channel catfish September 27 and plan to stock them by November 15. These lake and reservoir stockings occur annually or every other year, depending on the number of catfish produced at the state hatcheries and the requests from DNR fisheries management staff.

The catfish stocked will be 8-10 inches in length with some in the 12-14-inch size range. With careful handling and transport, most newly stocked catfish quickly acclimate to their new environment and offer immediate opportunities to interested anglers.

The bag limit for channel catfish is 10 per day, and there is no minimum size limit. Review channel catfish regs at <https://bit.ly/3hALk96>. For more on catfish fishing at wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/catfish-fishing. For this fall channel catfish stocking locations, numbers, etc.: wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/indiana-fish-stocking. ◇

Other Breaking News Items: **(Click on title or URL to read full article)**

Sturgeon, once nearly wiped from Genesee River, 'thriving' again

One thousand fingerling lake sturgeon were released into the Genesee River, a tributary of Lake Ontario in New York, as part of a statewide recovery effort for the species.

Lake Milton, Pymatuning stocked with popular game fish

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources says nine reservoirs, including Lake Milton and Pymatuning Lake, have been stocked with muskellunge, a popular game fish that can grow to immense sizes.

'The fun part starts now': Leaders plan next steps for Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast along Lake Michigan

Community leaders along Lake Michigan in Wisconsin are celebrating the creation of the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary this weekend.

California oil spill stokes concern for Great Lakes

The California oil spill that has contaminated miles of coastline is renewing concerns about the potential of an oil leak from Line 5, which runs under the Straits of Mackinac

A 2nd finding of invasive carp DNA 'raises the level of concern' the fish could be in the Milwaukee River

State and federal officials on Tuesday confirmed the second finding of invasive carp DNA in the Milwaukee River.

Michigan's Tribal Nations Respond to Canada's Move to Invoke 1977 Pipeline Treaty

Michigan's Tribal Nations are responding after the Canadian government attempted to use a 1977 pipeline treaty to keep Line 5 open

House passes National Defense Authorization Act with critical Great Lakes provisions

The U.S. House passed the National Defense Authorization Act which included provisions that strengthen U.S. national economic security and protects shoreline communities in the Great Lakes region. A vital component of

Migration of unpopular cormorants underway

The cormorant population was once dangerously low in the Lake Erie area due to DDT byproducts. Now cormorants are abundant and there is discussion about culling cormorants to protect habitat.

Indiana American Water restarts intake after U.S. Steel discharge

Indiana American Water placed its Ogden Dunes treatment facility back in service Sunday, a week after taking it offline because of a discharge from the U.S. Steel Midwest facility

Plante promises new swimming beach on the St. Lawrence River

Montrealers will have access to a new beach in the east of the city as of 2022, Projet Montréal mayoral candidate Valérie Plante announced Sunday. Access to the water is a key plank for Projet Montréal, Plante said, noting that Montrealers now have the Verdun beach, which opened in June 2019, and the Place de l'Est in Pointe-aux-Trembles.

Advisory council for proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary to hold virtual meeting on Oct. 20, 2021

The advisory council for NOAA's proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary will meet virtually from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 20. NOAA will discuss elements of NOAA's sanctuary proposal and address questions from council members and the public

Holding advance of invasive carp: A ride-along seeing contract netters manning the front lines

Contract fishers and various agencies removed, by 2020, 1,268,956 invasive carp, weighing 10,357,069 pounds. Removing invasive silver, bighead, grass, and black carp helps to prevent them from reaching the Great Lakes via the Chicago Area Waterway System

Despite political promises, plastic continues to fill Canada's lakes, rivers and oceans

Chelsea Rochman, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Toronto, co-authored a paper with other researchers published in the journal Science last September which estimates that between 24 and 34 million metric t

Invasive mudsnails found in Michigan creek ahead of salmon season

Invasive New Zealand mudsnails have been detected in a Michigan creek, the sixth known infestation in Michigan in recent years. The Michigan DNR said the mudsnails were found at the mouth of Shanty Creek, a tributary of the Grass River in Antrim County during routine monitoring in May and confirmed through DNA analysis in August.

Industrial plastic pellets called 'nurdles' are littering Great Lakes beaches

In 2018, a research team from University of Western Ontario examined 66 beaches in each Great Lakes state and Ontario, and found resin pellets used in manufacturing known as "nurdle pellets," at an average of 19 pellets per square meter. The heaviest concentration site had more than 7,200 pellets found in the top two inches of sand along the high water mark

[Raising Fish: An inside look at how one hatchery is helping to restore native Great Lakes species](#)

Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians' fish \$2.5 million hatchery's primary objective is to help native Great Lakes species. In 2021, the hatchery's goal is to raise and release approximately 500,000 whitefish, 1,000 sturgeon and up to 60,000 walleye

[Michigan Maritime Museum breaks ground on \\$3.6 million Heritage Center](#)

The new museum will replace the small, cramped one-story structure that has housed the museum's exhibits and programs for the past several decades. The new two-story museum will house a large exhibit space that can be divided in half, more bathrooms, a learning center for children's programs, and an atrium spanning both stories.

[What's behind all of the dead fish along Lake Erie?](#)

An upwelling event brought debris to a 25 mile stretch of shoreline from Eastlake to Perry, OH. Fortunately the impact from the anaerobic conditions, had minimal effect to walleye and perch despite the less than enjoyable view and smell.

[Chicago Tribune covers Invasive Mussel Collaborative project at Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore](#)

The Chicago Tribune recently published a piece covering the [Invasive Mussel Collaborative's 2019 test](#) of an experimental method to reduce invasive quagga mussels at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The project led to a substantial reduction in quagga mussel density as well as a significant reduction in nuisance Cladophora algae at the site.

[Muskegon Lake to be removed from list of Great Lakes "Areas of Concern"](#)

After nearly three decades, Michigan's Muskegon Lake is on the verge of being removed from the list of Great Lakes "Areas of Concern." Three remaining restoration and cleanup projects are on track to be finished by September 30

[Bighead carp DNA found in Milwaukee River for the first time](#)

For the first time, bighead carp DNA has been found in the Milwaukee River, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The genetic material, called environmental or eDNA, was detected in a water sample taken in June during routine sampling on the river.

[Major project breaks ground to restore 100 acres of wetlands in Calumet region of southeast Chicago](#)

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle was present for a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off a project that will restore more than 100 acres of wetlands by connecting Powderhorn Lake to Wolf Lake in the southeast area of Chicago, Illinois.

[Lake Michigan and Lake Huron lost almost 14 trillion gallons in past year; Why?](#)

Most of the Great Lakes continue to have declining water levels from the record-high levels over the past few years. The water level decline of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron has been the most amazing

[Environments that Minnesota's fish depend on face their own challenges](#)

Previous research and current study find troubling trends for the freshwater fish of Minnesota and elsewhere, owing in part to the impact of global warming caused by climate change.

[Enbridge ordered to pay \\$3M for Line 3 groundwater leak](#)

Minnesota regulators have ordered Enbridge to pay more than \$3 million for allegedly violating state environmental law by piercing a groundwater aquifer during construction of the Line 3 oil pipeline.

[Tips, tricks, recipes: Want to know how to eat Great Lakes fish?](#)

Tens of millions of fish from the Great Lakes are caught annually and most of them meet the same culinary fate becoming fried filets. However, groups and individuals around the region have recently been working on projects aiming to encourage this culinary path and expand the scope of Great Lakes fish and wild game consumption

[Local hatchery supplies fish to Ohio waterways](#)

The Senecaville State Fish Hatchery is one of six fish hatcheries operated by Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, that produce more than 40 million fish a year to stock many of Ohio's waterways.

End