



Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Stocking Strategy 2022-2026

The salmon and trout fishery in New York waters of Lake Ontario has been supported by stocking for over 40 years. Previous to this plan, the stocking allocations were prorated based on the lake shoreline distance within each DEC Region. Allocating stocked fish based on shoreline length is problematic as it does not consider other factors that impact the success of the stocking program including angler preferences, fishing effort, and geographic and seasonal differences in fish distribution.

The goal of the Lake Ontario committee is to maximize the survival of stocked salmon and trout to provide optimal benefits to the open lake and tributary fisheries.

This plan provides a strategy for allocating stocked salmon and trout in Lake Ontario and its tributaries.

Stocking allocations established in this plan are based on the 2022 total stocking cap for Lake Ontario. The total stocking cap is agreed upon by New York and Ontario annually, based on predator prey dynamics in Lake Ontario.

Maintaining predator prey balance in Lake Ontario

The number of salmon and trout that can be supported in Lake Ontario is driven by lake productivity and the abundance of available prey. Stocking more predators (salmon and trout) than the prey base can support can lead to reduced prey availability, smaller sized predators, and instability in the food web. The number of salmon and trout that are stocked into Lake Ontario each year must maintain effective balance between predator

fish and prey fish. Salmon and trout stocking numbers in Lake Ontario are agreed upon each year by New York State and the Province of Ontario through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee. The Lake Ontario Fish Community Objectives also state that each agency may not stock more than 5% over the agreed upon stocking target within a given year.

Table 1-Lake Ontario stocking allocations in '22

Chinook salmon	895,600
Steelhead	505,200
Brown trout	480,000
Lake trout	320,000
Coho salmon	135,000
Atlantic salmon	150,000
Total	2,485,800

Lake Ont S&T Stocking Strategy
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Wis trout and salmon management meeting to be held **Aug 30**

The Wisconsin DNR is hosting a public meeting to gather feedback on the management of salmon and trout on Lake Michigan.

The meeting will run from 6 to 9 p.m. **Tuesday, Aug. 30**, at Lakeshore Technical College's Centennial Hall West in Cleveland, Wis. Online attendance is offered.

DNR staff members will present the latest Lake Michigan survey information and stakeholders will be able to share ideas and provide input on fisheries management initiatives. "We have been working very closely with critical stakeholders over the last 10 years to respond to both the science and social preferences that drive this

excellent fishery," DNR Great Lakes District Fisheries Supr. Bradley Eggold said. "At this meeting, we will begin discussions on the most recent survey information, answer questions and gather input and comments that will ultimately culminate in a plan for 2023 and beyond."

For more info: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/LakeMichiganSalmonandTroutMeetings.html. The meeting will be held at Centennial Hall West at Lakeshore Technical College is at 1290 North Ave., Cleveland.

For more information and for the Zoom link, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/61636. ↗

Ohio Governor's Fish Ohio Day Promoting Lake Erie and the region's resources

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council was again invited to attend and participate in Ohio's annual promotion of the Governor's Fish Ohio Day – the great walleye and perch fisheries of Lake Erie – with an invitation from Shores & Islands Ohio, the area's regional Visitors Center. The Governor's Fish Ohio Day was hosted by the DNR, Shores & Islands Ohio and Lake Erie Charter Boat Association.

Traditionally held during the summer, this one was held August 18 with the weather cooperating. A soft westerly breeze with temperatures in the mid-seventies, foretold a great outing. We were not disappointed; everyone caught the Lake's favorite fish – lots of walleye and perch, including some limits of walleye were occasionally filled.

The fishing trips and an afternoon press conference were the highlights of the 42nd Annual Governor's Fish Ohio Day.



I was assigned to fish with Capt. Dean Thompson aboard the *Reel Fun Charters*, with four other guests. After a short 4 mile run, Dean anchored and we were soon fishing for some of Lake Erie's tastiest fish – yellow perch. And fish we did. Using tiny pin minnows for bait we were quickly reeling in one perch after another. The fishing lasted for much of the three hours we were allotted on the water, but it all ended much too quickly. We soon pulled lines and headed back to port and over to the offices of Shores & Islands Ohio for lunch and to continue the festivities

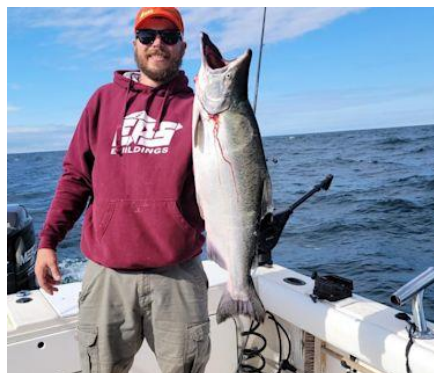
with speeches from Gov DeWine and some other dignitaries.

Speakers included Shores & Islands Director Larry Fletcher, DNR Director Mary Wertz, and LECBA President Paul Pacholski, who commended the 20 charter captains and their mates who donated all the charterboats, equipment and bait for the day's lake outing. Gov Mike DeWine addressed the economic importance of the state and region's natural resources, and what they mean to the economy with their value to the community in the form of jobs, taxes, environment and tourism. DeWine also alluded to the value of the Great Lakes to the region's economy and welfare.

To contact Capt. Dean Thompson, call 419-262-4453, or email him at captdean@bex.net. www.reelfuncharters.org. Captain Dean has over 43 years of experience in fishing Lake Erie. ✧

Minnesotan catches new Wisconsin state record 'pinook

This state record sheds light on evolving Great Lakes fishery. Landen Rodemeyer holds a 12.46-pound pinook salmon caught August 14 in Lake Michigan off Algoma. The fish, caught by Mark Sondreal of Minneapolis, was verified by the DNR as the Wisconsin record for the species. A pinook is a new, wild hybrid of a pink salmon and a chinook salmon. ✧



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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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Barrier at Lake Bella in Nobles County stops 140 invasive carp

The Minnesota DNR has been notified of a fish kill that included 140 invasive carp below the Lake Bella Dam in Nobles County. This is the largest documented number of invasive carp in one location in Minnesota.

Crews followed up on the report to recover the carcasses and take data on the invasive carp. Low oxygen levels and high temperatures are believed to be the cause of the fish kill.

Lake Bella is about 100 yards from the Iowa border and is connected to the Ocheyedan River, which in turn connects to the Little Sioux and Missouri Rivers in Iowa. Populations of invasive carp have been confirmed in those rivers of the Missouri Basin, south of the Minnesota border, since at least 2011. The DNR routinely collects invasive carp below Lake Bella Dam.



“There is a dam at the Lake Bella outlet that keeps invasive carp out of the lake, and it would take an extraordinary flood event to overtop the structure, so there is currently no concern about these carp moving farther upstream into the reservoir,” DNR Invasive Fish Coordinator Grace Lopnow said.

Invasive carp have been moving upstream in the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio river basins since escaping into the Mississippi River in Arkansas in the 1970s. These fish compete with native species and pose a threat to rivers and lakes. No breeding populations have been detected in Minnesota waters.

The DNR is actively engaged with invasive carp prevention efforts in southwest Minnesota.

- The DNR proactively surveyed the Missouri River watershed in Minnesota to identify locations to prevent expansion of invasive carp populations in southwest Minnesota.

The DNR completed eight projects that limit expansion and protect valuable aquatic resources. Lake Bella’s dam structure already prevented fish movement, so no additional work was needed at that location.

- The DNR provided financial support to the Iowa DNR to build an electric barrier at the outlet to the Iowa “Great Lakes” Okoboji area. The outlet channel also flows into the Little Sioux and Missouri rivers. This barrier helps protect not only the Iowa lakes but also aquatic resources in southern Minnesota.

- The DNR Fish and Wildlife Division leads a comprehensive sampling program to monitor fish population changes and impacts of management actions. This includes routine monitoring in southwest Minnesota.

State funding sources, including the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund and Outdoor Heritage Fund, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have provided key funding for deterrent actions and the DNR invasive carp detection and response program.

Invasive carp captures must be reported to the DNR immediately by calling 651-587-2781 or emailing invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us. Take a photo and transport the carp to the nearest DNR fisheries office or make arrangements for it to be picked up by a DNR official. Do not release captured invasive carp. A [permit can be requested](https://mndnr.gov/Permits/Invasive_Species) (mndnr.gov/Permits/Invasive_Species) to keep captured invasive carp for consumption or disposal.

More information about invasive carp is available on the [DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/Invasive-Carp) (mndnr.gov/Invasive-Carp). ✧

Saginaw River Mouth Boating Access Site to close this fall for improvement project

For people who want to access the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay this fall, please keep in mind that the Saginaw River Mouth Boating Access Site in Bay County will temporarily close beginning Monday, Sept. 12, for a parking lot and boat ramp expansion project.

The work will include the addition of vehicle and trailer parking, vehicle-only parking and a new skid pier with a lane on each side, as well as the repaving of the parking lot. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources anticipates the project will take roughly eight weeks, with the boating access site expected to reopen Saturday, Nov. 5.

During the closure, boaters are encouraged to use one of the following locations that also access the Saginaw River and/or Saginaw Bay:

- Linwood Bay Marina, located at 135 S. Linwood Beach Road in Linwood (Bay County).
- Independence Launch, located off Harry S. Truman Parkway in Bangor Township (Bay County).
- Edward M. Golson Boat Launch, located at 1598 N. Johnson St. in Bay City (Bay County).
- Quanicasse River Boating Access Site, located on Barney Drive off M-25 in Fairgrove (Tuscola County).

It’s recommended that anyone planning to visit the Saginaw River Mouth Boating Access Site first visit Michigan.gov/DNRClosures to view any changes to the anticipated reopening date. Additional information on closures and trail detours in DNR facilities, including state trails, boat access sites, state parks and campgrounds, also is listed on this page.

For more information, contact Rich Fenner, Bay City State park manager, at 989-684-3020 or FennerR@Michigan.gov. Information on additional boating resources is available at Michigan.gov/Boating ✧

DNR, USFWS using eDNA to learn about invasive carp

The Minnesota DNR and the USFWS have been using environmental DNA (or eDNA) technology to detect invasive carp in the St. Croix, Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. May sampling in the St. Croix River showed silver carp eDNA about four miles north of where invasive carp has been confirmed in the St. Croix.

eDNA is DNA released from an organism into the environment that is detectable at very low concentrations. USFWS screens for three markers: one for silver carp, one for bighead carp and one general invasive carp marker.

“While eDNA results are not conclusive evidence that invasive carp were present, eDNA is another helpful tool the DNR and partner agencies are using to learn more about invasive carp movements,” DNR Invasive Fish Coordinator Grace Lopnow said.

Due to the nature of eDNA and of invasive carp movements, caution must be taken in interpreting these results. eDNA analysis detects DNA in the water but cannot determine whether the DNA came from a living fish or another source such as bird feces or a fish carcass. It also does not determine when the DNA was deposited in that area. Invasive carp are highly mobile, so it is not unexpected that they would range throughout the open stretch of the Lower St. Croix River. For example, since 2017 the DNR has been tracking a tagged bighead carp on the St. Croix that has a home range of about 23 river miles. Tracked carp in other states are known to range more than 60 miles.

USFWS staff notified the DNR that eDNA samples from May showed a small percentage of positive samples in the St. Croix River at Andersen Bay near Bayport and the Boom Site just upstream of Stillwater, a priority invasive carp surveillance area. Of the 100 samples taken in Andersen Bay, five tested positive for bighead carp DNA and three tested positive for a general marker for invasive carp DNA. Of the 100 samples taken at the Boom Site, three tested positive for silver carp DNA

The DNR regularly samples for invasive carp and has removed several bighead and silver carp from the bay and the adjacent portion of the St. Croix River in years past. No invasive carp have been captured in Andersen Bay thus far in 2022. Andersen Bay is one of the locations that the DNR-tagged bighead carp frequents, making this area a target for surveillance and management.

The Boom Site detections are four miles north of the farthest upstream capture of invasive carp in the St. Croix River, and one and-a-half miles upstream from the farthest detection of a tagged invasive carp. Additional sampling at the Boom Site is planned for this fall.

The DNR believes continued eDNA monitoring in both Andersen Bay and the Boom Site is important as part of a proactive approach to invasive carp monitoring and response. Changes in the eDNA detection rate over time can be used as a tool to assess potential changes in the invasive carp population. eDNA may also be used to identify locations to target for management. To that end, the DNR is working with USFWS to explore how eDNA can be used to inform targeted removal efforts, including the Modified Unified Method the DNR, USFWS and other agency partners piloted on the Mississippi River in 2021-2022.

These large fish compete with native species and pose a threat to rivers and lakes. Thus far, there has been no evidence of reproduction or spawning populations in Minnesota waters.

Individual invasive carp have been caught as far upstream as Pool 2 of the Mississippi, near the Twin Cities (bighead, grass and silver), the King Power Plant on the St. Croix River by Oak Park Heights (bighead and silver), and just downstream of Granite Falls in the Minnesota River (bighead). Invasive carp have also been captured in the Missouri River drainage in southwest Minnesota, where control structures are in place to

prevent invasive carp movement into Minnesota waters.

The DNR is actively engaged with several other prevention efforts:

- The DNR is an active partner in the Upper Mississippi River Invasive Carp Workgroup. The group includes representatives from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and several federal agencies.

- The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota, in partnership with the DNR, is testing and evaluating carp deterrents in Mississippi River locks and dams.

- The DNR leads a program to monitor fish population changes and impacts of management actions.

- The DNR leads Modified Unified Method events to capture and remove invasive carp, in partnership with the USGS, Wisconsin DNR, USFWS and other agencies.

- The DNR is working closely with stakeholders to update the [Minnesota Invasive Carp Action Plan](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/carp-action-plan-draft.pdf).

State and federal funding sources, including the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund and Outdoor Heritage Fund, have provided key funding for deterrent actions and the DNR invasive carp detection and response program.

Invasive carp captures must be reported to the DNR immediately by calling 651-587-2781 or emailing invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us. Take a photo and transport the carp to the nearest DNR fisheries office or make arrangements for it to be picked up by a DNR official. Do not release captured invasive carp. A [permit can be requested](https://mndnr.gov/Permits/Invasive_Species) to keep captured invasive carp for consumption or disposal.

More information about the eDNA program is available on the [Whitney Genetics Laboratory website](https://fws.gov/office/whitney-genetics-laboratory/what-we-do/projects-research) (fws.gov/office/whitney-genetics-laboratory/what-we-do/projects-research). ✧

New York State DEC to host third Annual Women's Fishing Expo

September 17 Expo is a Great Introduction to Fishing, with Emphasis on Fly-Fishing

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) will hold the third annual Women's Fishing Expo at Connetquot River State Park Preserve on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

"Women are a vital and fast-growing segment of New York's fishing and outdoor recreation community," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "DEC's annual Women's Fishing Expo gives participants the skills and knowledge necessary to feel confident about getting outdoors and fishing."

"Fishing is a great way to enjoy the beauty of our great State Parks year-round," State Parks Commissioner Erik Kulleseid said. "We're glad to work with DEC to offer this Women's Expo again, which opens up opportunities to learn more about a lifelong sport and make it a family experience or simply a quiet getaway."

"DEC is excited to once again offer this wonderful program," DEC Regional Director Cathy Haas said. "Long Island has numerous fantastic areas for fly-fishing, and we are eager to introduce this rewarding activity to women who may not have had the opportunity to participate in past fishing expos."

The Women's Fishing Expo will provide hands-on instruction and experiential learning in a fun and supportive environment. This event will be run primarily by female anglers and fisheries professionals. There will also be women-owned businesses and fishing clubs present for networking opportunities. Everyone is welcome to attend, although the event is focused on introducing women to fishing.

Expo activities begin at 10 a.m. and are free of charge. Participants will be able to learn about fishing opportunities on Long Island and

statewide, fishing basics and intermediate fishing skills, basic knots, fly-tying demonstrations, fly-casting instruction, fisheries management information, a trout hatchery tour, marine fishing information, and free fly-fishing on the renowned Connetquot River. Fly-casting and fly-fishing are limited to those aged 14 and older.



According to the most recent National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, women make up more than 25 percent of all anglers, a number that has increased over the last several decades.

This is a rain or shine event. Seats are limited, and pre-registration is required. For more information, or to register, call the DEC's I FISH NY Program at (631) 444-0283, or email fwfish1@dec.ny.gov with the subject title 'Women's Fishing Expo.'

A vehicle use fee of \$8 will be in effect. Parking is free for Empire Passport holders. The 2021 Empire Passport can be purchased for \$80 at state park offices, or online at the [New York State Parks website](#) (leaves DEC website).

For information about freshwater fishing on Long Island, call the DEC Bureau of Fisheries at (631) 444-0280, e-mail fwfish1@dec.ny.gov or visit [DEC's website](#).

New York State has expanded recreational opportunities of residents

and tourists, positioning New York as a recreation destination, connecting communities to state lands, and improving the quality of life. The NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative is an effort to improve recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women and to boost tourism activities throughout the state. This includes streamlining fishing and hunting licenses, reducing license fees, improving access for fishing, and increasing hunting opportunities in the state. In support of this initiative, \$10 million in NY Works funding has been dedicated to fish hatchery repairs and 50 new land and water access projects such as boat launches, hunting blinds, trails, and parking areas.

To further encourage fishing, legislation was signed in 2012 expanding the opportunity for free fishing clinics, allowing more New Yorkers to experience fishing for the first time by enabling DEC to increase the number of free clinics that can be held throughout the state. The Free Fishing Days program began in 1991 to allow all people the opportunity to sample the incredible fishing New York has to offer. ✧

"'Democracy' is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb-contesting the vote!"

Benjamin Franklin, 1759

Steelhead survey - share your input

The Michigan DNR is conducting a brief survey to learn more about steelhead anglers. The survey's purpose is to gather input from anglers to better understand your priorities and experiences, particularly in Michigan. Your answers are important to us.

The survey should only take 10 minutes to complete, and your answers will remain anonymous.

[Take survey](#) ▶

Michigan DNR's next round of ARPA-funded state park projects totals more than \$108 million

Those who regularly spend time in Michigan state parks, trails and waterways know there is a lot to love: beautiful, natural spaces, room to roam, historic sites and so much more. With the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' second round of infrastructure projects starting to take shape, there is even more to look forward to – courtesy of record-breaking federal funding.

A total of \$250 million in federal relief funding was made available to the DNR to help address its long list of critical needs in Michigan state parks. These American Rescue Plan Act funds are part of a \$4.8 billion infrastructure package signed in March 2022 as part of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Building Michigan Together Plan.

"Michigan's beautiful, award-winning state parks are the backdrop of countless memories for millions of people every year," said Gov. Whitmer. "In April, I was proud to work across the aisle and sign the

Building Michigan Together Plan, which made the largest investment ever in our state and local parks. The plan will fund improvements, renovations and upgrades, ensuring our parks remain great places to visit and continue to support tens of thousands of jobs and countless local economies. Pure Michigan is anchored by our state parks, and I will work with anyone to keep investing in them and powering tourism and recreation small businesses across the state. Let's keep working together to ensure our public parks can thrive for generations."

DNR Director Dan Eichinger said the federal relief funding is nothing short of a historic investment in Michigan's state parks and recreation system.

"Our staff puts in a tremendous effort to keep things running efficiently and offer quality outdoor experiences for everyone, but it has been a challenge, especially as we welcome record numbers of visitors," said DNR Director Dan Eichinger. "This is an unprecedented, one-time

funding wave that allows us to direct vital resources toward a decades-long backlog of repair and maintenance needs."

This round includes more than a hundred projects, bundled into 40 contracts, for a proposed investment of \$108.8 million. The funds will cover design, engineering and some construction. All projects, where possible, are sustainably designed to be environmentally sensitive and cost-efficient.

For ease in reporting and sharing information with the public, the DNR has grouped these ARPA-funded projects into seven broad investment categories. A few of the planned projects in each category also are identified below.

- Building projects
- Historical projects
- Major developments
- Operational structures
- Parking lots and roads
- Recreational structures
- Utilities



DEC begins clean-up to coal tar discharges to Scajaquada Creek Harbor

New York State) announced that DEC's Spill Response Unit is beginning work to contain and eliminate coal tar and other hazardous substances from entering the lower section of Scajaquada Creek from a pumphouse at Niagara Street near Scajaquada Creek's outlet to the Black Rock Canal, in Buffalo.

In an abundance of caution, DEC is advising the public to avoid contact with the water until further notice. Fish advisories will be posted to remind the public not to eat fish from the Scajaquada Creek and Black Rock Canal. Black Rock Canal is designated as a Class C waterbody as water quality conditions do not support contact recreation.

DEC's investigation of the lower Scajaquada Creek revealed coal tar and dense non-aqueous phase liquid in

sediments from West Avenue downstream to the mouth of the stream and in the inlet area created when the main stem of Scajaquada Creek was redirected as part of the highway construction to its current configuration.

DEC is overseeing the work of T&R Environmental, a DEC Spill Response contractor, to mitigate the spill and prevent the discharge of contaminated groundwater and coal tar to Scajaquada Creek. Beginning August 26, response efforts over the next several weeks will include:

- removing and replacing existing booms in areas near the pump station and inlet to prevent sheen migration into the creek;
- water sampling to evaluate for potential surface water contamination;

- cleaning and reinforcing sealant on pump house stormwater collection infrastructure to prevent contaminant infiltration;
- inspecting and evaluating subsurface infrastructure for potential infiltration of contaminants;
- managing and treating contaminated groundwater; and
- treating and properly disposing of contaminated coal tar and sediment.

In addition, DEC is working closely with the city of Buffalo and National Fuel to address the spill. DEC is also leading the comprehensive investigation and remediation of Scajaquada Creek in coordination with the State Department of Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the city of Buffalo. ◇

Lake Ont S&T Stocking Strategy

Continued from page 1

The New York waters of Lake Ontario support one of the most popular recreational fisheries in the world, generating over 1.5 million angler days of fishing effort per year (NYSDEC 2019). The open lake fishery has been monitored annually since 1985 through the Lake Ontario fishing boat survey. Data from the open lake fishery are reported using four management areas; West, West Central, East Central, and East. The tributary fishery has been monitored periodically (2005, 2006, 2011, 2015, and 2019) through the Lake Ontario tributary creel survey with data reported by individual tributary (**Fig 1.**). Beginning in 2022 DEC is conducting an annual Lake Ontario creel survey that will cover both the open lake and tributary fisheries every year.

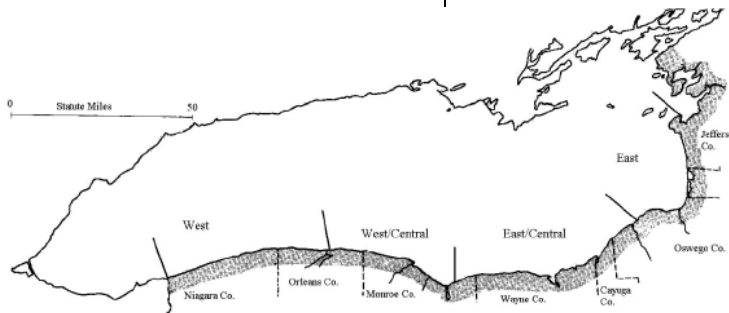


Fig 1- Lake Ontario fisheries management areas

Chinook salmon stocking strategy

Fisheries management philosophy

Chinook salmon provide the primary fishery in Lake Ontario and are an important component of the fall tributary fishery.

Desired outcomes for Chinook salmon stocking

1. Provide sufficient adult returns to Salmon River Hatchery so that Chinook salmon egg take targets can be met for all Lake Ontario stocking sites.
2. Provide a minimum of one staging and tributary fishery within each of the four Lake Ontario fisheries

management areas. a. West: Eighteenmile Creek (Olcott) b. West Central: Genesee River c. East Central: Oswego River d. East: Salmon River

3. Provide additional staging and tributary fisheries at Niagara River, Oak Orchard Creek, and Black River.

General approach to Chinook salmon stocking

Chinook salmon stocking is concentrated at a small number of locations using higher numbers of stocked fish to maximize survival and provide improved staging fisheries.

Rationale

The Chinook salmon fishery has three distinct phases: the open lake mixed fishery, the staging fishery, and the tributary fishery. The open lake mixed fishery occurs from April – July when fish from all stocking and wild production sites are mixed in the lake. The staging fishery occurs during

August and September as mature fish move

toward/stage near, and ultimately return to, their stocking or natal stream. The tributary fishery occurs when Chinook salmon run into Lake Ontario tributaries during September and October.

Coded wire tagging studies of stocked Chinook salmon indicate that stocking location does not influence where Chinook salmon are caught in the open lake mixed fishery and Chinook salmon from all stocking locations are mixed in the lake during April – July. These studies also indicate that the staging and tributary fisheries are greatly influenced by stocking location. Chinook salmon return to tributaries to spawn and most Chinook salmon stocked in Lake Ontario return to the tributary where they were

stocked, or to nearby tributaries. Straying to tributaries greater than 20 miles from the stocking location and straying back to the Salmon River Hatchery is generally low.

Concentrating Chinook salmon stocking to a few locations with higher numbers of fish should provide improved staging and tributary fisheries at major fishing ports. Additionally, all stocked Chinook salmon will be pen-reared or Salmon River broodstock (which perform similarly to pen-reared fish). Maximizing pen-rearing should provide improved survival of stocked fish and improved fishing quality during all phases of the fishery.

Brown trout stocking strategy

Fisheries management philosophy

Brown trout provide the primary nearshore salmonine fishery in Lake Ontario, particularly during the spring, and are important in select tributaries.

Desired outcomes for brown trout stocking

1. Provide an early season, nearshore fishery, in all management areas.
2. Improve catch rate of brown trout in the east lake area, while maintaining current catch rates in all other lake areas.
3. Maintain a reliable brown trout fishery in the open lake throughout the fishing season.
4. Enhance the fall/winter fishery on the Niagara Bar.
5. Provide a world class, destination, brown trout fishery in the lower Niagara River, Oak Orchard Creek, Sandy Creek (Monroe County), and Oswego River.
6. Provide opportunities to catch brown trout in other Lake Ontario tributaries.

General approach to brown trout stocking

Brown trout stocking allocations are designed to spread fish out along the lakeshore so they are available to anglers in all management areas, while

providing higher numbers in the east management area, and near select tributaries.

Rationale

Brown trout are an important component of the Lake Ontario fishery, throughout the fishing season, and in all management areas. They are often the primary species targeted during the spring fishing season (April/May), and the spring brown trout fishery is especially important to anglers with smaller boats who can take advantage of the nearshore fishery. Brown trout remain the primary species targeted in the east management area for a larger portion of the fishing season compared to other lake areas, primarily due to lower catch rates for Chinook salmon during spring and early summer. Brown trout are also a staple in the Lake Ontario tributary fishery. The brown trout tributary fishery provides anglers with a unique opportunity to catch trophy brown trout and anglers are drawn from around the world to Lake Ontario tributaries specifically to catch brown trout.

Stocking brown trout at ports spread out along the lakeshore, with higher numbers in the east lake area should provide anglers with a nearshore spring brown trout fishery in all management areas and an extended brown trout fishing season in the eastern part of the lake. Stocking higher numbers near the Niagara River, Oak Orchard Creek, Sandy

Creek, and the Oswego River should provide increased returns to these tributaries that will continue to support a world-class destination brown trout tributary fishery.

Steelhead stocking strategy

Fisheries management philosophy

Steelhead provide the primary fishery in Lake Ontario tributaries and add to the diversity of species that can be caught in the Lake.

Desired outcomes for steelhead stocking

1. Provide sufficient adult returns to Salmon River Hatchery so that steelhead egg take targets can be met for all Lake Ontario and Lake Erie stocking sites.
2. Provide for fisheries in rivers that support steelhead fishing throughout the winter to maximize angling opportunity.
 - a. Lower Niagara River
 - b. Oak Orchard Creek
 - c. Genesee River
 - d. Oswego River
 - e. Salmon River
 - f. Black River
3. Maintain or improve steelhead fisheries in other Lake Ontario tributaries that have good public fishing access and significant fishing effort.

General approach to steelhead stocking

Steelhead stocking allocations were determined using a “Big Rivers” approach. This approach directs stocking toward developing major steelhead fisheries in large Lake

Ontario tributaries, while continuing to provide steelhead fisheries in smaller streams. Lake Ontario tributaries within the two groups of streams (i.e., big rivers and smaller streams) were ranked according to public fishing access, fishing effort, steelhead catch rate, winter fishing opportunity, and increased use potential (Tables 2 and 3).

Rankings assigned for each category are a relative rank, 6 through 1 for the big rivers with 6 being the highest and 11 through 1 for the smaller streams with 11 being the highest. Relative rankings compare each tributary to the other tributaries within the group, and a low rank does not necessarily mean that a specific tributary is ‘poor’ for that category, it only means that it ranks lower compared to the other tributaries. For example, the Black River was ranked as a 1 for shore fishing access (lowest rank). This does not mean that the Black River has poor shore access, the low ranking only indicates that the Black River has less public shore fishing access than the other tributaries within the big rivers group.

The rankings for each tributary were added together to come up with a total score for each tributary. For example, the Salmon River had rankings of 6, 5, 6, 2, 5, and 5. These rankings are added together for a total score of 29. Each tributary was then given a final ranking based on the total score and stocking allocations were set based on the final rankings.

Table 2. Lake Ontario tributaries in the “Big Rivers” group ranked according to steelhead fishing attributes.

Tributary	Shore access	Boat access	Fishing effort	Catch rate	Increased use potential	Winter fishing opportunity	Total score	Final rank
Niagara River	4	6	4	5	6	6	31	1
Salmon River	6	5	6	2	5	5	29	2
Oak Orchard Creek	3	1	5	4	2	3	18	3
Genesee River	5	2	2	6	1	2	18	4
Oswego River	2	4	3	1	4	4	18	5
Black River	1	3	1	3	3	1	12	6

Table 3. Lake Ontario tributaries in the “other streams” group ranked according to steelhead fishing attributes.

Tributary	Shore access	Fishing effort	Catch rate	Winter fishing opportunity	Increased use potential	Score	Rank
Irondequoit Creek	10	8	5	10	11	44	1
South Sandy Creek	11	7	7	8	10	43	2
North Sandy Creek	9	5	10	7	8	39	3
Eighteenmile Creek	1	11	9	11	7	39	4
Sandy Creek	5	9	6	9	9	38	5
Maxwell Creek	2	10	8	6	5	31	6
Johnson Creek	3	6	11	4	4	28	7
Grindstone Creek	8	1	3	5	6	23	8
Twelvemile Creek East Branch	7	4	2	3	2	18	9
Stony Creek	5	2	4	1	3	15	10
Twelvemile Creek West Branch	6	3	1	2	1	13	11

Steelhead stocking allocations

Location	Area	Number
Salmon River	East	157,450
Niagara River	West	65,375
Oswego River	East central	35,000
Genesee River	West central	35,000
Oak Orchard Cr	West	35,000
Black River	East	35,000

Rationale

Steelhead are primarily being managed to support a fishery in Lake Ontario tributaries. This allows for a more quantitative approach compared to other species that are primarily being managed for the open lake fishery, where fish often move from one area of the lake to another. The ranking system used for steelhead fishing streams allows for steelhead stocking allocations to be prioritized based on the ability of each tributary to support a steelhead fishery.

The big rivers approach was used because large Lake Ontario tributaries are more likely to stay ice free during winter and provide anglers the opportunity to fish for steelhead throughout the entire tributary fishing season. Large tributaries can also hold more adult fish and concentrating adult returns to large tributaries should provide more fish returning to the

stream and sustain a high catch fishery for a longer period of time.

Coho salmon stocking strategy

Fisheries management philosophy

Coho salmon add to the diversity of species that can be caught in Lake Ontario and the tributaries.

General approach to coho salmon stocking

Coho salmon stocking will be done to improve the coho fishery, in both Lake Ontario and tributaries, to the maximum extent possible within the constraints of the hatchery system.

Desired outcomes for coho salmon stocking

1. Provide for sufficient adult returns to Salmon River Hatchery so egg take targets can be met for all stocking locations.
2. Provide anglers with the opportunity to catch a unique/different fish species in Lake Ontario.
3. Provide a tributary fishery for coho salmon in select Lake Ontario tributaries, with special emphasis on tributaries with impassable barriers associated with public fishing access.

Coho stocking allocations

Coho	area	quantity
Eighteenmile Cr	West	22,500
Oak Orchard Cr	West	22,500
Salmon River	East	90,000

Rationale

Coho salmon have previously been stocked as spring yearlings at the Salmon River and as fall fingerlings at other locations. Results from a coho salmon coded wire tagging study indicate that spring yearling stocking provides improved returns compared to fall fingerlings. Beginning in 2021 all coho salmon stocking will use spring yearlings. The maximum number of spring yearling coho that can currently be raised in the NYSDEC Hatchery System is 135,000. Coho salmon stocking allocations maintain 90,000 fish at Salmon River to support egg collections at Salmon River Hatchery.

The remaining 45,000 are split evenly between Eighteenmile Creek and Oak Orchard Creek to determine if staging and tributary fisheries for coho salmon can be developed using spring yearling stocking. These streams were chosen because they have high fishing effort and impassable barriers relatively close to the stream mouth. Coho salmon run to the headwaters of tributaries very quickly and can move past public fishing locations before anglers have an opportunity to catch them. Placing emphasis on tributaries with impassable barriers will block coho salmon from upstream reaches and allow anglers to fish for them for an extended period.

Lake trout stocking strategy**Fisheries management philosophy**

Lake trout will be managed to restore self-sustaining populations of an endemic deepwater predator for the purpose of ecological function and with the long-term goal of creating a sustainable fishery based on wild fish.

General approach to lake trout stocking

Lake trout stocking will be geared toward achieving restoration goals and objectives. Stocking will continue to focus on stocking spring yearling lake trout offshore using a landing craft. Stocking allocations will be set at

Lake trout stocking allocations

Lake trout will be stocked at Olcott, Oak Orchard, Sodus Point, Oswego, and Stony Point. Four locations will be stocked each year. Olcott and Stony Point will be stocked every year. The other locations stocked in a given year are rotated through Oak Orchard, Sodus, Oswego and each of these locations are stocked in 2 out of every 3 years.

Rationale

The Niagara Bar is the most consistent producer of wild juvenile lake trout. Stocking lake trout at Olcott every year should continue to provide an adult spawning population in this area. The Eastern Basin has several historic lake trout spawning areas and produced higher numbers of wild juvenile lake trout in the 1990s. Continuing to stock lake trout at Stony Point every year should provide an adult spawning population near these historic spawning areas. Spreading the remaining stocked lake trout evenly across the other stocking locations should continue to provide an adult lake trout population in all management areas.

80,000 fish at each site to facilitate evaluation of survival to the adult stage. Coded wire tag lots are held in batches of 40,000 fish at Allegheny National Fish Hatchery and stocking 80,000 fish per site allows for two strains to be stocked at each site.

Lake trout stocking will use a rotational approach. Lake trout will be stocked at five locations in Lake Ontario but only four locations will be stocked each year. Stocking locations were set based on ports that are accessible by landing craft, areas where successful natural reproduction has been documented, and a desire to

maintain an adult stock in all management areas.

Desired outcomes for lake trout stocking

1. Restore self-sustaining populations of lake trout in Lake Ontario
2. Provide for the primary coldwater fishery in Lake Ontario's eastern basin
3. Provide anglers with the opportunity to catch lake trout in all management areas
4. Provide a unique tributary fishery in the lower Niagara River

Location	Mgmt area	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Olcott	West	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Oak Orchard	West	80,000	80,000	0	80,000	80,000
Sodus	East central	80,000	0	80,000	80,000	0
Oswego	East central	0	80,000	80,000	0	80,000
Stony Point	East	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000

Summary of total salmon and trout stocking

The following table summarizes the combined stocking of all species of salmon and trout in Lake Ontario.

Species	West	W Central	E Central	East	Total
Chinook Salmon	297,800	111,400	111,400	375,000	895,600
Steelhead	134,375	77,500	47,750	245,575	505,200
Brown trout	113,050	127,980	123,220	115,750	480,000
Coho	45,000	0	0	90,000	135,000
Lake trout	120,000	0	120,000	80,000	320,000
Atlantic salmon	30,000	30,000	0	90,000	150,000
Total	740,225	346,880	402,370	996,325	2,485,800

To review entire document: [Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Stocking Strategy 2022-2026](#) ✧

Help guide planning for new Cheboygan County property, Gete Mino Mshkiigan, at Sept. 8 open house

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will host an open house 4-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, to get public feedback on future management planning for the new Gete Mino Mshkiigan property, formerly referred to as Mullett Lake South, in Cheboygan County.

The 147-acre property, located south of Topinabee, includes 1,500 linear feet of water frontage on the southwest shore of Mullett Lake. The Little Traverse Conservancy initially acquired the property, and the DNR then purchased it from the conservancy in 2013 with a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. The property is largely undeveloped except for the North Central State Trail that runs parallel to the lakeshore.

The meeting will be held at Mullett Township Hall, 1491 N. Straits Highway in Topinabee, and the public may attend anytime between 4 and 6:30 p.m. DNR staff will showcase components of a [draft general](#)

[management plan](#) for the property and provide opportunities for people to comment and share feedback.



The DNR uses general management plans to define a long-range planning and management strategy that protects resources on the property, while addressing recreation and education needs and opportunities. As part of the planning process, the DNR adopted Gete Mino Mshkiigan as the new name for the property. [Pronounced "Geh teh mi no mush key gun,"](#) the name was suggested by the current and former tribal historic preservation officers of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. The name roughly translates from Anishinaabemowin to English as Ancient Good Wetlands, capturing the land's history, beauty, abundance and

centrality within the larger wetland chain that is the Inland Waterway.

Post-meeting survey and project website

An online public input survey – open through September 25 – will be available on the project website under "Gete Mino Mshkiigan property" at Michigan.gov/ParkManagementPlans immediately following the meeting. Comments also can be shared via email to Debbie Jensen, park management plan administrator for the DNR Parks and Recreation Division, at JensenD1@Michigan.gov.

All general management plan resources for Gete Mino Mshkiigan can be found on the [project website](#). There you will find the draft plan, interactive survey link (immediately following the September 8 public meeting), pronunciation guide for the property name and other resources.

Additional information on the DNR's general management plan process is available at Michigan.gov/ParkManagementPlans.

For more information about the plan or September 8 meeting, contact [Debbie Jensen](#). ✧

Stay safe this hunting season; sign up for a hunter safety course

Hunting season is right around the corner. New hunters can take the first step to finding an adventure in the field by signing up for a hunter safety class. And for experienced hunters, it's a great time to retake it as a refresher.

More than 20,000 people take hunter education courses in Wisconsin each year. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1973, must complete a hunter education course and have a hunter education certification on file to purchase any hunting license in Wisconsin unless hunting under the Mentored Hunting Law. Anyone aged 17 and under must complete an in-person course.

There are three ways to earn a hunter education certification:

- **Online + Field Day** – In this class, students complete training both online and in-person with one day of training with a certified instructor. This class is a good fit for a person who has handled firearms or is planning to hunt with someone with more experience to learn from. There are 4 to 6 hours of firearm handling opportunities in this class. All age groups are welcome.
- **Traditional Class** – This class offers students a more hands-on approach, as they will work with a certified instructor over a few days. Most students and families enjoy this option because they can do it right in their community. This option provides students with opportunities to handle hunting equipment and covers topics

like safe hunting practices, shooting and more. In-person feedback from instructors also enhances student learning. All age groups are welcome.

- **Online Only (18+ Only)** – Students who choose this option spend multiple hours studying and completing modules online. A passing score on the final exam is necessary to be certified. This option is a great fit for students with a connection or mentorship within the shooting sports to help establish and strengthen their skills and lessons learned. This course is only for those aged 18 and above.

Before enrolling in any course, interested students must first obtain a Wisconsin Customer ID number. ✧

Minn. seeks applications for advisory committees on natural heritage, game and fish funds, hunting and fishing

The Minnesota DNR is recruiting new members to serve on seven key advisory groups related to Minnesota's natural heritage, the Game and Fish fund, and hunting and fisheries management. Interested people can sign up on the [Engage with DNR website](https://engage.dnr.state.mn.us/advisory-group-appointment-opportunities)

(engage.dnr.state.mn.us/advisory-group-appointment-opportunities).

In addition to the specific knowledge and experience required for each committee, the DNR seeks inclusive and well-rounded advisory committees, encompassing differences including but not limited to race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, life experience, ideas, knowledge and learning styles.

Natural Heritage Advisory Committee

The NHAC advises the DNR on issues relating to sustaining the state's natural heritage, biological diversity and ecosystem services. The two Game and Fish Fund committees provide citizen oversight of Minnesota's Game and Fish Fund. NHAC members make recommendations to help protect high quality prairies, forests, wetlands and other native habitats, and the diversity of plants and animals they support. NHAC applicants should have knowledge, demonstrated dedication or experience related to natural resource management, conservation biology, ecological education and outreach, and other aspects of Minnesota's natural heritage.

New member appointments with three-year terms will begin in January 2023 and extend through December 2026. Minnesota residents with interest or expertise in sustaining our state's natural heritage can apply online until **4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17**. Interested applicants can learn more by visiting the committee page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/NHAC).

Game and Fish Fund

Each year, the Fisheries Oversight Committee and the Wildlife Oversight Committee review how the DNR spent funds from the Game and Fish Fund during the previous fiscal year. The Budgetary Oversight Committee, an umbrella committee composed of select members from the FOC and WOC, combines those reviews to produce an annual report and spending recommendations. Minnesota's Game and Fish Fund is the DNR's most important fund for [delivering fisheries and wildlife management as well as natural resource law enforcement](https://mndnr.gov/LicenseDollarsAtWork) (mndnr.gov/LicenseDollarsAtWork). Nearly \$100 million flows in and out of this fund each year. The revenue is primarily the product of hunting and fishing license sales, federal reimbursements and a sales tax on state lottery tickets. DNR's use of money from the Game and Fish Fund is subject to legislative approval.

Appointees to these two oversight committees have a range of experience and a variety of knowledge and interests related to hunting, fishing and trapping. Applicants must have a strong interest in reviewing the proper expenditure of funds received from licenses, permits, stamps and related revenue sources and participating in

writing an annual report. New member appointments with two-year terms will begin January 2023 and extend through December 2024. Any Minnesota resident with interest or expertise in citizen oversight of the Game and Fish Fund may apply online until **4:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19**. Interested applicants can learn more by visiting the [committee page of the DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/GameFishOversight) (mndnr.gov/GameFishOversight).

Hunting and Fishing committees

Seats are currently available on several committees that advise the DNR about important fisheries and wildlife topics. The application period continues until **4:30 p.m. Sept. 19** for the Deer Advisory Committee, the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee, the Minnesota R3 Council (R3 stands for recruiting, retaining and reactivating hunters and anglers), and the state's five fisheries work groups (bass, catfish, northern pike and muskellunge, panfish, and walleye). Members will serve two- to three-year terms and must commit to attending at least three of the four videoconference meetings their committee has annually. Detailed committee and application information for each group is available on the DNR website:

- [Deer Advisory Committee](https://mndnr.gov/Mammals/Deer/Management/Deer-Advisory-Committee.html) (mndnr.gov/Mammals/Deer/Management/Deer-Advisory-Committee.html)
- [MLFAC](https://mndnr.gov/Millelacslake/MLFAC.html) (mndnr.gov/Millelacslake/MLFAC.html)
- [R3 Council](https://mndnr.gov/R3/Council) (mndnr.gov/R3/Council)
- [Fisheries work groups](https://mndnr.gov/FishGroups) (mndnr.gov/FishGroups). ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[US Supreme Court may be next stop for lawsuit challenging public ownership of Lake Michigan shoreline](#)

Property owners in Porter, Indiana, are seeking to undo a 2018 Indiana Supreme Court ruling that proclaimed the shoreline of Lake Michigan to be owned by the state and held in trust for the enjoyment of all Hoosiers

[Lake Ontario water levels to drop another 5 inches](#)

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, below-average precipitation will likely lead to Lake Ontario water levels dropping another five inches by September 19

[As Wisconsin's wild rice season nears, here's what to know about tribal and public harvesting and blue-green algae](#)

Members of the Ojibwe Tribe in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota have stewarded land that grows wild rice for centuries. Now, chiefs and scientists with the tribes are working with the DNR and the Great Lakes Indian Fish &

[These robots are keeping trash out of Lake Michigan](#)

At Pere Marquette Beach in Muskegon, Michigan, regional retailer Meijer announced the launch of two drones to clean up microplastics—small fragments of plastic in the environment resulting from broken down trash and debris—that have been polluting the Great Lakes shoreline.

[Sea lamprey navigate North Shore rivers as reports of the invasive species increase in parts of Lake Superior](#)

A team of biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found evidence of an increase in sea lamprey that are spawning in the Duluth, Minnesota area

[Leaking landfills: Unregulated coal ash poses a buried, brewing threat to Lake Michigan and beyond, lawsuit says](#)

At almost 300 sites on the Great Lakes and coast to coast, unregulated buried and landfilled coal ash is putting water supplies at risk, alleges a federal lawsuit filed August 25.

[DNR: Invasive algae known as 'rock snot' found in Boardman River](#)

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy confirmed the presence of *Didymosphenia geminata*, or didymo — a nuisance algae known as “rock snot” — in a stretch of the Boardman River

[State helping Lake Ontario by helping fish](#)

The New York state Department of Environmental Conservation is studying how fish species spawn in Lake Ontario and hoping to help boost their population in the process by creating two “spawning reefs” in Chaumont Bay and Black

End