



USFWS final rule expands hunting/fishing opportunities on public lands

WASHINGTON, D.C. – NSSF, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, welcomes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) publication of a Final Rule that allows more opportunities to be opened for sportsmen and women to hunt and fish on National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs). The [USFWS announced](#) that 52 new distinct hunting and fishing opportunities across 211,000 acres on 12 NWRs are being added to the 571 existing NWRs and wetland management areas where hunting and fishing opportunities already exist.

“The Firearm Industry Trade Association celebrates every new and expanded hunting opportunity on National Wildlife Refuges benefitting outdoorsmen and women,” said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior

Vice President & General Counsel. “It has long been the goal that hunting opportunities should be opened on public lands and made available to the public. They are the public landowners and the ones who are vested in seeing these hunting opportunities benefit sustainable wildlife conservation. The firearm industry is particularly proud of the conservation investments made by firearm and ammunition manufacturers through the federal firearm and ammunition excise taxes that are the primary drivers of wildlife conservation in America.”

NSSF, however, is disappointed that buried within this announcement are restrictions that continue to ban the use of traditional lead ammunition. NSSF will seek to immediately revise and repeal bans on the use of traditional ammunition in the next White House administration or through litigation.

Hunters and recreational marksmen and women should be free to choose the ammunition that will best serve their needs for ethical and efficient harvesting of wildlife. Wildlife management decisions should be based on sound scientific field data. Restrictions on the use of traditional ammunition should only be imposed where the sound science establishes a wildlife population decline caused by hunters’ use of traditional ammunition and there is no other less-costly remedial measure available to effectively address the issue. Today’s “Hunt-Fish” rule does not rely on such science that would justify restricting the use of traditional ammunition on the newly opened big game opportunities.

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Delivering hope to children at Christmastime Toys for Tots

The basic mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. The primary goal of Marine Toys for Tots is, through the gift of a new toy, help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America’s less fortunate children.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity which was created at the behest of the U. S. Marine Corps in 1991. The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation serves as the authorized fundraising and support organization for the Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation provides the leadership, funding, and support needed for successful annual toy collection and distribution campaigns. The Foundation staff is

headquartered in the Cooper Center located just outside the Main Gate of Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia, about 35 miles south of Washington, DC.

Local campaigns are conducted annually in over 800 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The Commander, Marine Forces Reserve has under his command over 150 Reserve Units located in 47 states. To cover all 50 states and more communities within each state, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation works with Marine Corps League Detachments** and Local Community Organizations*** (generally veteran

Toys for Tots

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Lake Erie walleye are plentiful, but low 2024 hatch could cut future numbers

Lake Erie's 2024 walleye hatch is being characterized as "low," meaning that in two years, when the current crop grows to legal keeper size of 15 inches, something fewer than 10 million will be added. The most recent hatch and the only other rated low during the past 10 years happened in 2016.

Key Points

- The 2024 walleye hatch is projected to be low, with fewer than 10 million reaching keeper size in two years.
- This low hatch follows a series of exceptional hatches in recent years, resulting in abundant walleye populations.
- Despite the low hatch, the overall impact on fishing will be minimal due to the lake's large walleye population.
- Lake Erie's walleye population has experienced cycles of boom and bust over the decades, with recent years being largely positive.

That 2016 hatch was preceded by what is termed an "exceptional" hatch in 2015 and was followed by exceptional hatches in 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2023. Exceptional hatches mean that two years after the hatch year "more than 20 million fish" of keepable length will enter the fishery "with the potential to be extremely large" in numbers. "Large" hatches of "more than 20 million fish" occurred in 2020 and 2022. The 2022 group entered the fishery as 15-inchers or more during the summer and autumn of this year.

Walleye can live 20 years and occasionally longer in Lake Erie, which indicates how long the impact of a single strong hatch can endure. Anglers will still be catching a few fish from last year's exceptional hatch in 2043. ✧

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NSSF is proud that the firearm and ammunition industry has [invested over \\$27.38 billion](#), when adjusted for inflation, to wildlife conservation in America since 1937 through the Pittman-Robertson federal firearm and ammunition excise taxes. These taxes, paid by the manufacturers, are dedicated solely for the conservation of wildlife, the habitats in which they thrive, hunter education programs and construction of new, or expansion of existing, recreational target shooting ranges to promote safe and responsible firearm skills, handling and ownership. These 10 to 11 percent excise tax dollars collected for the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act are specifically designated to be used by state wildlife agencies for conservation and related purposes. Collectively, purchasers of firearms and ammunition, hunters and the industry are the greatest source of wildlife conservation funding.

In 2024, USFWS apportioned over \$1.6 billion to the states for wildlife conservation projects, of which [\\$944 million](#) was sourced from Pittman-Robertson excise taxes paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers. ✧

Toys for Tots

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Marines), Posts within the American Legion, VFW and Amvets among others, located in communities without a Marine Reserve Center, to conduct Toys for Tots Campaigns as part of the overall Marine Toys for Tots Program.

Find Your Local Marine Toys for Tots Chapter: [Click Here for the Local Chapter Search Tool](#)
For more information, call 703) 640-9433, <https://www.toysfortots.org/>,
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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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Happy Thanksgiving

Minnesota DNR public land sale **Nov. 7-21**

The Minnesota DNR will offer state lands in Aitkin, Cook, Itasca, and St. Louis counties during its annual public land sale **November 7-21**. These rural and lakeshore properties may appeal to adjacent landowners or offer recreational opportunities such as space for a small cabin or camping.

Annual land sales help the DNR refine its land holdings and this November's sale will help the DNR meet its fiduciary responsibility to K-12 public education. Land is sold through a public auction in accordance with state statutes.

Properties will be available for bidding **through Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024**. The [DNR land sale webpage](https://mndnr.gov/landsale) (mndnr.gov/landsale) has more information about the online public land auction, a preview of lands for sale, and details on how to register for an account to bid on properties.

Before participating in the auction, anyone interested in bidding on a property must [register](https://mnbid.mn.gov) for an account on [MNBid.mn.gov](https://mnbid.mn.gov) (mnbid.mn.gov). People interested in bidding on the available parcels can visit the [DNR land sale webpage](https://mndnr.gov/landsale) (to obtain property data sheets, terms and conditions of sale, and instructions for participating in the MNBid system).

All properties for sale this November are school trust lands. Trust lands were granted to the state by the federal government to generate a continual source of income for public education. The DNR is selling six parcels of school trust land that may be difficult to manage and have limited opportunities to generate income. Revenue from the **one time** sale of these lands will be allocated to the Permanent School Fund to support K-12 public education across Minnesota.

All are welcome to participate in the public auction. Visit the [DNR land sale webpage](https://mndnr.gov/landsale) for more information. For questions about a specific property, call 651-259-5432, 888-646-6367, or email min.landsale@state.mn.us. ✧

Rochester Embayment removed from EPA's most polluted Great Lakes areas list

The Rochester Embayment, a 35-square-mile bay on southern Lake Ontario's shore, is no longer one of the Great Lakes' most environmentally degraded areas, the EPA recently announced.

EPA representatives were joined by state and local officials at the Embayment to mark its removal from a list of "Areas of Concern" on the Great Lakes affected by historical contamination. The list was originally announced in 1987 and included areas in the United States and Canada.

"The Rochester Embayment has become a thriving ecosystem for wildlife and a valuable resource for Rochester area residents," EPA Region 2 Administrator Lisa F. Garcia said in a statement. "It demonstrates we can reverse environmental harm caused by decades of pollution if we collaborate and prioritize environmental stewardship."

The EPA says nearly \$14 million was allocated to the Embayment through the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to fund several habitat restoration projects. Officials say 275 acres of habitat and 30,000 linear feet of wetland channeling have been restored, leading to improved connectivity and biodiversity.

"Today marks a tremendous milestone for Monroe County and our entire region as the Rochester Embayment is officially delisted as an Area of Concern. This achievement reflects decades of hard work, collaboration and a shared commitment to restoring the health of our waters," Monroe County Executive Adam Bello said in a statement. "The embayment, which suffered from pollution for years, is now a thriving ecosystem once again supporting recreation, wildlife and economic activity. ✧

Invasive carp found in lower Chippewa and Black Rivers

LA CROSSE, Wis. – The Wisconsin DNR wants anglers to report any invasive carp they catch while fishing on either the lower Black River or the lower Chippewa River. The DNR said that silver carp were detected on the two rivers this summer.

In July, the DNR began receiving reports from anglers of jumping fish suspected to be invasive carp at the Dells Dam on the lower Chippewa River in Eau Claire. The Dells Dam in Eau Claire prevents further upstream passage of invasive carp in the Chippewa River System.

On August 1, DNR staff went to the dam and observed jumping fish but were unable to verify the species of fish. On August 27, the DNR downloaded data from an acoustic receiver tasked with listening for transmitters embedded in fish in the lower Chippewa River, 6 miles downstream of the Dells Dam. Data showed that a single silver carp, originally tagged and captured on the Mississippi River near Davenport, Iowa, was detected on July 21, August 4 and August 26, confirming that silver carp had migrated into the lower Chippewa River at that time.

On September 26, the DNR said researchers using an acoustic receiver on the lower Black River near Melrose showed a silver carp passed that location on May 25 and again on June 5. The fish, they said, was originally captured and tagged in Pool 5A of the Mississippi River.

Flooding and high water in June and July is believed to be the reason the fish was able to move upstream. The dam at Black River Falls prevents any further movement upstream. The Dells Dam in Eau Claire on the Chippewa River also stops passage.

If you catch one of the invasive carp, the DNR is asking you to euthanize the fish, put them on ice and contact a [local aquatic invasive species staff, fisheries biologist or warden](#) to confirm identification. ✧

The Cuyahoga River was so polluted, it used to catch fire. Now it's making a comeback

About a mile from Cleveland's Lake Erie shore, in a stretch of water once among America's most polluted, a team of conservationists just released a few dozen lake sturgeon into the Cuyahoga River. Each of the fry is outfitted with a tiny transmitter to chart its progress. If all goes well, larger releases will follow next year.

It was a celebratory moment for the Cuyahoga—the latest sign that the river that spawned many a joke back in the day is on the comeback. For years now, blue heron and bald eagles have shared those waters with kayakers, paddle boarders and recreational anglers. Clevelanders and tourists alike dine at high-end restaurants along the banks of a river that used to epitomize industrial bleak.

But the release of lake sturgeon earlier this month marks a milestone, says Brian Schmidt, a fish biologist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Lake sturgeon need a “nice clean substrate so their eggs don't suffocate,” he says. Biologists like Schmidt believe the Cuyahoga's improved water quality has made that possible.

To fully appreciate how far the Cuyahoga has come, you have to understand its troubled history. For many decades, it was a dumping ground for industrial waste from the region's factories. By the 1960s, it had become “a completely unregulated sewer,” says Elaine Marsh, the president and co-founder of [Friends of the Crooked River](#).

Then, in the summer of 1969, an oil slick on the river caught fire. For

locals, it was nothing new. The Cuyahoga had occasionally caught fire since as far back as the 1880s, with a [particularly devastating blaze in 1952](#). By comparison, the 1969 fire was small. But it occurred at a propitious time for the nation's nascent environmental movement.

A day after the fire, which was later featured prominently in *Time* magazine, [Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes](#) went on what University of Cincinnati history professor David Stradling describes as a “pollution tour”—a roving news conference during which Stokes “brought the press to point out problematic spots” along the river. The Cuyahoga River came to symbolize an environmental assault by unregulated industry and served as a catalyst for the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1970. The federal Clean Water Act followed two years later to regulate industrial water pollution and set standards for the nation's waterways.



The Clean Water Act also provided a legal framework to go after companies responsible for polluting waterways. But industries weren't the only culprits. Cleveland and Akron—the two largest cities on the

Cuyahoga—have what are known as combined sewer systems that were designed and installed around the turn of the 20th century. These systems send raw sewage and storm water down the same pipes.

“Everything works well when it's not raining, but when it's raining, it exceeds the carrying capacity of the combined system,” says John Hartig, a visiting scholar at the University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research. And the excess gets discharged directly into the river, Hartig says. ✧

Boating Safety Education Grant deadline **December 1**

For boating safety education programs offered by political subdivisions and nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$60,000 with grantee cost share or in-kind contribution of 25%. Program period is two years. All grant expenditures and cost share contributions must occur during the program period.

Application deadline is December 1.

Recipients usually are notified in January/February. A mandatory workshop for recipients is held in winter. Revisions to the grant budget during the program year must be approved by ODNR. Recipients are responsible for year-end reporting of expenses and program activities. Unused funds must be returned. Programs are subject to program visits and auditing. **Grant recipients who receive funds are considered to be "suppliers" of the State of Ohio.** Grant recipients need to visit the [OhioPays website](#) to create or update their Supplier Information status, to fill out an IRS W-9, and to authorize direct deposit of grant funds. ✧

Researchers study how Lake Erie toxic algae can damage health

In a lab not far from Lake Erie, researchers are trying to learn more about the ways toxic algae can damage health. Steve Haller, a clinical researcher in the University of Toledo's department of medicine, has set out to help provide answers about how harmful algal blooms can affect the health of people who live and play nearby.

"I see all of the concern in the faces of people here," Haller said. "They want the answers. They want to know."

For residents in Lake Erie's western basin, the blooms are a common sight. As spring rains push excess nutrients off farm fields and into the creeks and rivers of the watershed, the bacteria that live in the lake feed on that phosphorus and nitrogen, tinting the water green, producing a thick sludge when severe and potentially turning toxic to humans and animals.

Research has shown that toxins from these bacteria called microcystin can make animals and people sick when they come into contact with infected

water. At Haller's lab, researchers hope to better understand how these toxins affect people, especially those with health conditions like asthma.

At the lab, which Haller manages along with David Kennedy, an associate professor of medicine, researchers are examining how microcystin affect people with health conditions such as liver, gut or lung diseases by growing cell samples and exposing the cells to the toxin.

"We've shown that in all those instances, exposure to microcystin makes the disease process worse," Haller said.

One new area of study here is the effects of the toxins when aerosolized—that is, made airborne. In the lab, scientists use a machine that uses high pressure to spray toxin onto human lung cells. At the lake, the toxins could aerosolize as waves hit rocks on shore or as boats and personal watercraft churn through the water.

Monitoring the air near Lake Erie is key

to understanding how the toxins can get aerosolized.

On a warm afternoon around the peak of a bloom near Toledo, Kennedy climbed a ladder about 15 feet onto the top of a small concrete building near shore where an air monitor was collecting and filtering air from the lake. Kennedy installed a clean air filter after collecting the previous week's, stained a light gray from airborne particles.

Along with their lab studies, Haller and Kennedy are enrolling community members in a study in collaboration with the University of Michigan. Over the next five years, they hope to study 200 people to see if algal blooms affect their health. Researchers will ask participants questions about their health during the course of the algal bloom season, run lung tests, take blood samples and try to quantify toxins in their bodies if they have them.

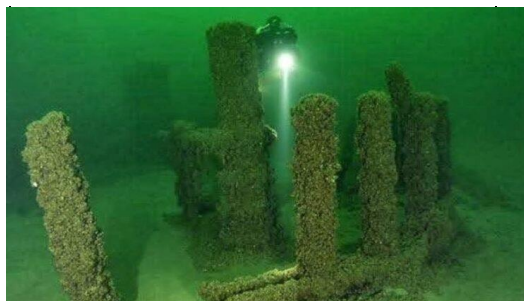
"I want to be able to provide those answers both ways, whether there's an effect or there isn't," Haller said. ✧

A 9,000 year-old Stonehenge under Lake Michigan baffles scientists: "It has no explanation"

A stone structure found recently under Lake Michigan, believed to be 9,000 years old, has left most scientists and historians unclear of its origin. This archaeological wonder, which is said to resemble England's Stonehenge, was discovered in 2007 and is still causing controversy.

Unlike other archaeological discoveries, this submerged wonder provides few answers about who constructed it and for what. It now stands as an enigma, as a question of whether or not the ancients were at some level more technologically sophisticated than we are today.

At first, the researchers were unsure what they were dealing with. However, a closer look showed that



these stones had been arranged circularly, and some featured carvings believed to represent prehistoric animals, such as the mastodon, which is related to the elephant.

The positioning and design of the artefacts suggest that there was design and evidence of societies that existed in North America that are not known to the modern world. As was said before the discovery of the stones,

several hypotheses were made that could explain the primary intention of the natives behind the creation of these stones.

These formations, together with the site at Lake Michigan, indicate that the early inhabitants had a profound knowledge of their surroundings and possibly socialized over large distances.

To this day, scientists have no idea where the stones used for the construction of the circle were sourced or why they were placed on the banks of Lake Michigan in the first place, but with technology developing at that rate, the mystery of Stonehenge's equivalent in America may be unveiled in several years of prehistoric North American peoples. ✧

Tribe to restore fish passage for native Great Lakes fish

With NOAA funds, the Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa Indians will remove 12 fish barriers at road-stream crossings on their traditional lands. They will also investigate fish passage options for lake sturgeon at two hydroelectric dams.

Since time immemorial, the Anishinaabe, the indigenous peoples of the Great Lakes, fished and hunted on the land and waterways of Michigan. Plentiful fish species like brook trout, smallmouth bass, and the spiritually important nmé, or lake sturgeon, sustained generations of native people. Today, however, development, agriculture, pollution, and habitat fragmentation resulting from road building and dams threaten the sustainability of local fisheries.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians tribal members still retain the right to fish, hunt, and gather on their traditional lands. They are leading the regional effort in Lower Northern Michigan to reconnect rivers and streams with barriers to fish passage. NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation awarded them \$3.6 million.

The project will:

- Remove 12 fish passage barriers at road-stream crossings
- Reduce the risk of catastrophic road failures and flooding at those road-stream crossings
- Reduce safety issues for boaters at a site located on the Crystal River in Sleeping Bear Dunes
- Investigate fish passage options for lake sturgeon at two dams on the Black River
- Enhance the ability of the Grand Traverse Band to participate in restoration work by sustaining a river restoration project manager position
- Provide tribal members with more subsistence fishing opportunities on their traditional lands. ✧

Great Lakes' water levels plunge with rapid drought

The very dry September combined with the typical seasonal decline in water levels are bringing Great Lakes' water levels down to lowest level in several years.

Lake Superior dropped so quickly and has been in such a dry area in the past few months. It had the driest situation in September with only 38% of normal precipitation. It also increased evaporation to higher than normal amounts. As a result the water level on the largest Great Lake has plunged below the long-term monthly average for September.

Lakes Michigan and Huron are considered one lake when talking about water levels. These two lakes haven't dipped below the long-term average since 2014. During this past September the Lake Michigan-Huron drainage basin only had 44% of its usual rainfall. There was only 1.50 inches of rain in September. Also over the Lake Michigan-Huron area September was very warm. This led to increased evaporation.

Lake Erie is still about eight inches higher than its long-term monthly average. It wasn't quite as dry compared to a September normal, receiving 55% of normal. Lake Erie continues a long stretch of above normal water levels dating back to March 2015.

Lake Ontario's water level fluctuates the most of any Great Lake due to the human ability to regulate some of the outflow into the St. Lawrence Seaway. It also had the most rainfall in September, receiving 80% of normal rainfall. That's dry, but not in a meaningful amount.

The Great Lakes are all in a normal seasonal water level decline from now through March. The winter weather doesn't bring as much liquid precipitation as spring, summer and fall. The colder air over warmer water in fall and early winter leads to the most evaporation at this time of year. Those two factors lead to water level declines through winter until spring rains and snow melt start. ✧

\$15-million goes to ERCA to protect the Detroit River and Lake Erie

New projects to improve the health of Lake Erie and the Detroit River have financial backing from the federal government.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority's projects will get \$15-million from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Great Lakes Fresh Water Ecosystem Initiative. Two habitat projects are planned for the Detroit River Area of Concern. It plans to restore a former wetland that disappeared south of Fighting Island by installing off-shore rock berms to protect wetland bird and fish habitats and slow the island's erosion.

The second is rehabilitating a dyke protecting the River Canard wetlands. "These two important projects will enable the Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment of the Detroit River to be removed, bringing it one step closer to being delisted as an Area of Concern," said ERCA Board Chair Jim Morrison. The funding will also allow ERCA to start restoration work at the barrier beach at the Hillman Marsh. That barrier will be transformed to withstand higher lake levels and storm events.

"Without this significant investment from the Government of Canada these major projects would not be able to proceed," said Morrison. "With increasingly violent storm events, erosion, and other issues related to our rapidly changing climate, the importance of expediently implementing these protective and restorative measures cannot be overstated." The fourth project is the Essex Region Nutrient Reduction Program. ERCA will work with farmers to reduce the use of nutrients in their fields and by extension, nutrient runoff into waterways. ✧

On Lake Erie, getting rid of problem algae starts with giving it less food

OREGON, Ohio – The phosphorus load, the nutrient that feeds harmful algae, into western Lake Erie is trending downward, but the 40% reduction target has yet to be met.

Some 70 miles away, farmer Bill Kellogg is trying to do something about the chronic algae blooms in America's southernmost Great Lake. Instead of scattering fertilizer atop his fields, Mr. Kellogg now uses a strip till machine that knifes fertilizer pellets 8 inches into the soil—deep enough that heavy rains won't wash it away.

He plants cover crops that strengthen the soil so it can absorb more nutrients. In other fields, he's replaced some crops with buffer strips of grasses and other plants that can absorb nutrient runoff before it shoots into streams bound for Erie, where the runoff would be potent fuel for the algae.

“We accept that we have a target on our back in the agriculture community,” Mr. Kellogg said. Bacteria commonly called blue-green algae are often present in bodies of water throughout the world, but if fed too much of the phosphorus and nitrogen in farm fertilizers, they can turn into harmful algae blooms that can affect drinking water, create oxygen-starved dead zones that kill marine life, spoil swimming, boating and tourism and endanger human health.

Western Lake Erie is an ideal environment for the bacteria to thrive: It's about 30 feet deep, the shallowest part of the shallowest Great Lake, and it heats up faster when temperatures are warm. And it's where nutrients from farm fields along streams and creeks throughout the basin eventually drain into the Maumee River, which dumps into Erie at Toledo.

Nutrient runoff from agricultural fields, mostly fertilizer, accounts for about 80% of the nutrients that flow into Lake Erie, and half of the nutrients reaching the lake arrive via the Maumee. Reducing the amount of

nutrients—specifically phosphorus—was one focus of a 2015 agreement between the United States and Canada to cut the phosphorus going into Erie by 40% by 2025. Researchers say progress has been made—the latest figure is that phosphorus is down about 32%—but the target likely won't be met.

This year's algae bloom in western Lake Erie was moderate compared to previous years. It appeared June 24, its earliest since monitoring began, and its late-summer peak covered about 660 square miles—larger than some previous years, but not nearly as thick as some other blooms.

Near Sandusky Bay on the southwestern part of Lake Erie, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is working with other conservation groups to restore wetlands that filter nutrient runoff before it gets into the bay. At one site, engineers reconnected water channels through areas of former farmland to return the area to a wetland state. At another, island barriers are being built near the shoreline in addition to wetland restoration to aid filtration.

As part of the H2Ohio program begun in 2019, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and its conservation partners have completed 23 wetland restoration projects in the western Lake Erie Basin, with another 49 ongoing. These help, but they're only one part of the solution, said Mary Mertz, the director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

“You can't just do wetlands and that's going to clean up Lake Erie,” she said. “Other things have to happen.”

Researchers at the National Center for Water Quality Research in Tiffin constantly monitor phosphorus in the water. Their data show that the phosphorus load into western Lake Erie is trending downward, but the 40% reduction target hasn't been met consistently.

More funding is needed and more farmers must adopt conservation and nutrient management practices, said Emily Kelly, the agriculture and water coordinator for the Ohio Environmental Council. A 2023 report from that group and the Alliance for the Great Lakes found that Ohio needs to increase spending between \$170 million and \$250 million to meet these reduction goals. Michigan needs to spend between \$40 million and \$65 million.

Farmers in Ohio have enrolled about 1.5 million acres in the western Lake Erie basin in a nutrient management plan with the state, according to data from 2023. That's about 43% of the basin's cropland, with a goal of enrolling at least half, said Carissa Cochrane, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Farmers develop their own plan and are eligible for incentive payments up to \$40 per acre, though they aren't required to meet any nutrient load reduction targets. They work with local soil and water conservations districts to choose which practices, such as cover cropping and targeted fertilizer placement, might work best on their fields.

To get results, some farmers might need multiple practices, like buffer strips and expensive machines like Mr. Kellogg's. All that can discourage some, said Jordan Hoewischer, director of water quality and research at the Ohio Farm Bureau.

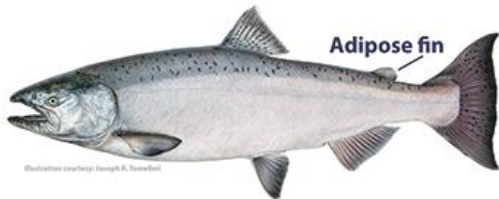
Mr. Kellogg thinks if more farmers voluntarily adopt these conservation practices, there's less chance that government would step in with regulations. He'd rather farmers do it on their own.

“We were probably part of the problem to begin with,” Mr. Kellogg said. “It's upon us to be part of the solution.” ✧

Anglers who report marked and tagged fish provide DNR with critical information

There are many joys of fall fishing: the salmon run, cooler weather and gorgeous fall foliage. Another benefit is the opportunity to help with important fisheries research by telling the Michigan DNR about any tagged or marked fish you catch.

“Marking and tagging fish helps DNR researchers understand fish survival, age, growth and movement, as well as the amount of natural reproduction of a species,” said Jay Wesley, the DNR’s Lake Michigan basin coordinator.



Through mass marking assistance by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Lakes states mark popular gamefish like steelhead, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, brown trout and lake trout. These marks include both clipped adipose fins and coded-wire tags.



The DNR has used a coded-wire tag program to mass mark various fish species in Michigan since the 1980s. The program involves implanting a small, coded-wire tag, which is invisible to the naked eye, into the snout of a fish. The tag is small — like the tip of a lead pencil — so lab technicians are needed to remove it.

Trout and salmon containing a coded-wire tag can be identified because their adipose fins (the small, fleshy fin between the dorsal and tail fins) have been removed. The DNR asks that anglers who catch a fish with a clipped adipose fin remove and freeze the head

of the fish and turn it in at a [local drop-off station in Michigan](#).

Anglers may also come across other fish tags or markings including:

- Telemetry or temperature depth-recording tags, some of which may only be discovered when cleaning a fish.
- Jaw tags, which are metal bands attached to a fish’s upper or lower jaw.
- Anchor tags, which are often inserted near the base of a fin.
- Fin clips (total or partial removal of fins) on fins other than the adipose fin.

Report marked fish through the DNR’s [Eyes in the Field app](#) to provide information such as species, tag details, photos, and date and location caught, or by contacting a [local DNR fisheries office](#). Some tags can be reused, and some tags offer small monetary rewards for reporting them.

[Learn more about marked and tagged fish.](#) ✧

NOAA taps invasive mussels to track Great Lakes pollution

Zebra and quagga mussels have threatened Great Lakes ecosystems since they arrived in the 1980s. Now the invasive species are acting as unlikely allies in identifying pollution hotspots.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Mussel Watch program is collecting the mollusks at sites across the Great Lakes to measure the concentration of harmful pollutants in their tissue. A report with the results, expected this fall, will serve as an indicator to communities that they may be in need of cleanup, said one of the program’s leaders.

The Great Lakes program measures pollution in sediment samples, but most of its data come from the invasive mussels. The tiny bivalves

attach themselves to rocks and hard surfaces in and around the Great Lakes, filtering small organic particles out of the water to feed themselves.

As mussels filter water, they collect pollutants such as heavy metals and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS—toxic compounds found in consumer goods which persist so long in the environment that they’re known as “[forever chemicals](#).” Researchers have identified nearly 600 contaminants in the tissues of sampled mussels, according to [the Mussel Watch website](#).

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary educator and diver Stephanie Gandulla helped Elgin collect mussels for the program last year. Her dive team gathered samples

from Lake Huron coastal sites in large bags for processing in a laboratory. “They seem to be tough little critters, and they’re very sharp,” Gandulla said. “You use a paint scraper to get them off of those rocks and keep them intact.”

The upcoming report will analyze the distribution of PFAS across the Great Lakes based on data the Mussel Watch team collected from 2013 to 2018. The work will help identify communities disproportionately affected by harmful pollutants, said Michael Edwards, acting deputy program manager for Mussel Watch.

The report is in its final stages of review expected to be released by late November, according to Edwards. ✧

New MOU between Great Lakes Fishery Commission and Trent U. to support collaboration among indigenous and Western knowledge systems

OTTAWA, ONTARIO – A new partnership between the [Great Lakes Fishery Commission](#) and the Indigenous Environmental Institute at [Trent University](#) aims to build research-related capacity and develop collaborative programs to support Indigenous Nations and Tribes across the Great Lakes in a way that is respectful of the Treaty and inherent Rights and Interests of participating Nations and Tribes. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirms each institution's commitment to respectful, ethical collaboration of Indigenous and Western knowledge systems in a way that will be mutually beneficial for all involved.

"Indigenous-led research is paradigm shifting," said Dr. Barbara Moktthewenkwe Wall, partnership co-lead, associate professor, and director of the Indigenous Studies PhD program within the [Chanie Wenjack School of Indigenous Studies](#) at Trent University. "Through this collaboration, we will work to bring together Indigenous relationality and science with dominant science and create a deep and holistic understanding of Great Lakes ecosystems. Our work will honor and bring to the forefront Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing."

"The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is excited and proud to enter into this partnership with Trent University's Indigenous Environmental Institute, said Ethan Baker, chair of the Commission and mayor of the City of Troy, Michigan. "As a bi-national organization charged with facilitating cross-border cooperation in fisheries research and management, the Commission recognizes the essential contributions of Tribes and First Nations who have inherent rights to the region's lands and waters. This MOU strengthens the connection between Indigenous ways of knowing and Western science to

ensure diverse perspectives, experiences, and visions for the future are openly shared among those working to protect the Great Lakes."

Through the MOU, the Commission and Trent University will establish a graduate and Indigenous learner scholarship and support program—including developing elements such as fellowships, scholarships, and research support—to advance training and experiences for Indigenous learners. This partnership will also support a process to identify Indigenous research priorities and seek opportunities to support Indigenous-led research on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border. Further, the MOU calls for the development of a new Community Partnership Funding Program, a community-based seed-grant program, to support communities in developing research projects, which will be developed and implemented in collaboration with partners associated with the Indigenous Great Lakes Network.

"This partnership is unique in that it brings a much-needed focus to Indigenous research priorities and seeks to develop appropriate means to enhance access to programs that can address those priorities," said Dr. Marc Gaden, the Commission's Executive Secretary. "The MOU is a commitment from the Commission and Trent University to foster capacity building within Indigenous communities and enhance the broader Great Lakes research network. More inclusive research further supports the well-being of the Great Lakes and the fisheries they support."

"This is an important first step towards creating equitable space for supporting Indigenous research in the Great Lakes and sets the stage for future work to be done in a good way," said Dr. Mary-Claire Buell, partnership co-lead and assistant professor cross appointed

with Trent School of the Environment and Department of Forensic Science. "This partnership will support the Indigenous Great Lakes Network, facilitating connections between Indigenous Nations and those doing important work to care for our Great Lakes. It will also create opportunities for Indigenous students pursue research that is connected to the land and waters of the Great Lakes Basin, often allowing for students to conduct research with and for their home communities." ✧

New state record smallmouth bass established



Another state record fish has been broken this year. That makes three! Dante Piraino of

Baldwinsville smashed the existing record by 8 ounces when he reeled in a 9 lb. 0 oz. smallmouth bass from the St. Lawrence River while fishing in a bass tournament out of Ogdensburg on September 22nd. The massive smallie was caught in 30 feet of water on a soft plastic minnow imitation. The fish was released back into the river after the official weigh-in. Congratulations Dante!

Aside from the famed St. [St. Lawrence River](#), some of the best smallmouth bass waters in New York include [Lake Erie](#)/Upper Niagara River, Lake Champlain, [Cayuga Lake](#), [Oneida Lake](#), and [Chautauqua Lake](#). [Lake George](#), [Mohawk River](#), [Susquehanna River](#), [Lower Niagara River](#), and [Keuka Lake](#) are also great options. ✧

Straight Steel

MUSKEGON, Mich. (November 5, 2024) – Great Lakes steelhead can be found this time of year in most tributaries that run into the lakes. Timing may vary a couple weeks either way, but it’s almost a guarantee when the circus of the king salmon run begins to subside toward the end of October, chrome steelhead magically appear.

Good steelhead anglers hook these fish with remarkable regularity and when asked, these guys and gals will tell you this is the best time to catch a steelhead. No, it’s not so much a numbers thing—it’s quality over quantity. Which begs the question: How do they do it day in and day out?

Honestly, there really isn’t any secret sauce to finding these fish. Successfully targeting them is based on some simple angling savvy earned by plenty of hours spent on the water.

The Basics

Timing is important! Water temps come into play as fall steelhead are not going to migrate upstream when the water is too warm. Generally, streams run in the upper 50’s into the 60’s in October around the Great Lakes, but towards the end of the month, water temps will drop 5 – 10 degrees, which is ideal for steelhead (do not confuse these fish with summer-run fish that tolerate much higher temperatures during migration).

While salmon species are busy spawning and dying, steelhead do not spawn until late winter/early spring (and they can repeat spawn multiple times if released). Steelhead are not distracted or physically exhausted by the rigors of spawning yet, which is one reason why they are so attractive anglers—their power supply is at 110 percent.

A fair number of steelhead will follow salmon upstream during their fall spawning runs and gorge on eggs that drift off the back of redds (spawning

beds). When salmon are done spawning, steelhead will often occupy deeper runs adjacent to gravel flats where they are afforded refuge and expend less energy as water temps cool.

As fall progresses into winter, additional steelhead may enter rivers at any time if water temperatures are not too cold. This is especially the case after rain or even snowmelt occurs, and sort of recharges the river. The magic cutoff water temp that halts migration is roughly 42 degrees Fahrenheit, or just a tad under. It’s important to know when this happens, because once the water is below 40 degrees, fish will lock into a given stretch of river and hold until the water warms up again—which may not occur until late-winter/spring. However, even when water temps are only a few degrees above freezing, these fish will continue to take well-placed flies and lures.

TECHNIQUES:

Egg Bite

The first steelhead to migrate along with the salmon can be found feeding on eggs downstream of spawning king salmon and are without question some of the easiest to catch. Techniques that allow yarn or bead eggs to drift through the zone can be incredibly effective. Fly fishermen may use “chuck and duck” rigs that quickly take the eggs to the bottom and bounces along much like a natural egg. This is a great application for the venerable 9ft 8wt fly rod and appropriate reel. The same rig can also be used with specialized “drift style” spinning rods and reels.

The objective is to probe the “dark water” (a relatively deeper stretch of water where feeding fish hide while they forage) downstream a reasonable distance from salmon, where a steelhead or two may be lined up at the egg buffet. You can even sight fish sometimes.

When the main “egg hatch” subsides, steelhead typically relocate to deeper runs and holes, Indicator rigs cast with fly rods are very effective using the same egg patterns. This style of fishing allows a cleaner drift, albeit with more line control required. 10 to 11ft 7 weight rods, with a bit of extra flex in the mid-section to assist “mending” a floating fly line upstream, work great. Refreshingly, these gems can be found in the “cheaper” rod model lineups from most manufacturers.

Similarly, using bait casting and center-pin “float” rigs with either yarn/beads or spawn bags (real salmon eggs held by thin netting) is very effective and often the preferred choice of elite steelhead anglers.

The Swing

Sometime in November, steelhead begin to transition from a strict egg bite and often smash swung streamers and lures. This is when fly fishermen will take vacation time (or simply quit their jobs) to go fishing. Swinging flies with sink-tip fly lines borders on religion for many anglers, and whether it’s a gaudy streamer or a more subdued, darkly hued natural looking one, if it goes through a steelhead’s living room, chances are it will be none too happy and lash out. There is a saying that goes “The Tug is The Drug” and if you hook a big chrome steelhead when swinging a fly, it’s not hard to understand why.

Gear is more complicated and often expensive, and casting is much more difficult using longer rods such as “spey” and “switch” rods, but this is one of the simplest forms of fly fishing in terms of presentation. Bait and gear guys are known to switch to swinging flies permanently after they’ve hooked one using this tactic. Seek advice from the experts at a fly shop if you think the swing, is your thing.

Plugs

Plug fishermen target steelhead using big-lipped plugs specially designed to

be back trolled behind the boat. These lures quickly dive into deeper runs where winter steelhead lurk. This can be very effective and a great way to put other anglers on fish who may not have the skills to feel their way through intricate drifts or cast a big streamer with a long fly rod.

While plug fishing is typically done with boats equipped with rod holders and medium to medium heavy trolling rods, some anglers cast plugs while wading or even from the bank and have good success. Plugging is another technique that requires some research and advice from experts. There is plenty of info on the web and a lot of plug fishermen are very willing to help a newbie get started.

New boat wash station at Geneva State Park helps protect Lake Erie waters

Workshops Set to Educate Marinas on Best Practices

GENEVA, Ohio – The Ohio DNR announced a new state-of-the-art boat wash station at Geneva Marina located in Geneva State Park through the Ohio Clean Marinas Program. The new boat wash station uses a system that cleans and reuses water from power washing and prevents harmful materials contained in the wastewater from running off into Lake Erie, such as algae, paint chips, and invasive species like zebra mussels or aquatic plants like hydrilla. The wastewater is then treated with bromide and UV light, so it can be reused, saving water and money.

"As a platinum-certified Ohio Clean Marina, it is important to us that we are taking every step to protect Lake Erie," said Geneva Marina Manager Jim Witt. "This boat wash treatment station is helping us do that by keeping bottom paint and other toxic chemicals out of Lake Erie." ✧

Spinners

Good old inline spinners can also be effective by using the same principles. Cast across and slowly retrieve the spinner with the blade engaged just enough to achieve a 360 rotation around the shaft. Allow the spinner to slowly swing downstream in the current, but it must be heavy enough to get down into the zone, which is near the bottom of the river and often snaggy. You're gonna lose some, so bring plenty.

Be sure to switch out light factory hooks with beefier ones as necessary and consider switching trebles to a single siwash style hook. Decent ball bearing swivels mitigate line twist, but be sure they are rated for chrome freight train steelhead!



We have much to be thankful for: our families, our friends, our country and our veterans and our first responders.

Happy Thanksgiving to all



Preferred rods for this style of fishing are the common 7 – 7.5ft medium/fast spinning rod and a reel with good capacity and stout drag spooled with 12lb monofilament, which offers some stretch when it's needed (fluoro and braids do not).

You need a net and do not under-gun in this category. Boat nets should have big hoops with deep bags, and extendable handles, and as far as wading nets go—this is not the situation for smaller trout or bass nets. Thermometers are great for judging what kind of mood fish are in, and good fishing pliers as well as long forceps to extract hooks from big, toothy mouths and keep hands out of icy water. And don't forget line clippers! ✧

Ohio Wildlife Council oks new saugeye fishing regulations at specific lakes

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Wildlife Council voted to approve changes to site-specific regulations for walleye, saugeye, and sauger fishing as well as to set the spring 2025 wild turkey hunting season during its regularly scheduled meeting on October 30, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The council approved amendments to Ohio's inland fishing regulations that will begin on January 1, 2025. The 15-inch minimum length requirement for walleye, saugeye, and sauger was removed on Acton Lake, Alum Creek Lake, Atwood Lake, Buckeye Lake, Caesar Creek Lake, Ferguson Reservoir, Findlay Reservoir 1, Findlay Reservoir 2, Indian Lake, Metzger Reservoir, Piedmont Lake, Pleasant Hill Lake, Rocky Fork Lake, Seneca Lake, and Tappan Lake.

In addition, the Ohio Wildlife Council approved adding a 15-inch minimum length requirement for walleye, saugeye, and sauger at Mosquito Creek Lake and LaDue Reservoir. ✧

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

Governance Change Approved! As regular readers of *The Latest Catch* know, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission) has been advocating for a “machinery of government” (MOG) change in Canada, pressing for our file to be moved from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to Global Affairs Canada. The change would vastly improve the Commission’s interface with the Government of Canada, allow for more transparent budgeting and communications with Canada, remove conflicts of interest, and mirror the effective way the MOG occurs in the United States. I am pleased to report that, on September 10, 2024, the 70th anniversary of the *Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries*, I received a letter from Global Affairs Minister Melanie Joly informing the Commission that the Prime Minister has ordered the MOG change. This welcomed announcement comes after several years of effort and some level of contention. I want to stress that this MOG change has never had anything to do with DFO’s delivery of sea lamprey control on behalf of the Commission. We have a 70-year relationship with DFO in the region and their work, along with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the US side, has been truly outstanding. Sea lamprey control staff, in both countries, represent the best of their departments. Although details still need to be worked out—and the details will be important—this MOG change marks a major milestone in the Commission’s history and promises to set us on a new course where we can enhance our partnerships with DFO and other agencies.

• **Welcome Commissioner Cronin:** I am pleased to welcome Niall Cronin as a member of the Commission. Mr. Cronin, the Executive Director of the United States Transboundary Branch at Global Affairs Canada, was appointed by the Privy Council this past June. He brings a wealth of experience in advocating for the Canada-US relationship, and he

represents a departure from Canada in appointing an official from DFO—a departure that complements the MOG change.



Greg McClinchey, Marc Gaden, and Steve Domeracki (L to R) recently testified about the importance of the Commission’s work.

Questions? Contact Marc Gaden, marc@glfc.org

• **Hearings in the Senate of Canada:**

In late September, the Senate of Canada embarked on a series of hearings about the Commission. The Senate is taking a deep dive into all matters related to the Commission’s role and effectiveness; the level of interest in our work has been very well received. A special thanks to Senator Jane Cordy, Co-chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Task Force, for organizing these hearings. Commission Chair Ethan Baker and Canadian Section Chair Earl Provost kicked off the series on September 26. At subsequent hearings, Senators took testimony from myself and secretariat directors Steve Domeracki, Greg McClinchey, Andrew Muir, John Dettmers, and Mike Siefkes; Law Enforcement Committee members Ron Beirnes and Robert Stroess; and Fish Health Committee member Nicole Nietlisbach. Later on the agenda will be Canadian Advisors Tom Whillans, Jane Graham, and David Browne. I expect additional hearings will be added in the coming weeks. For a complete meeting schedule (past and upcoming), and to watch the hearings, visit <https://sencanada.ca/en/committees/P/OFO/meetingschedule/44->

[1#?TabSelected=PAST&filterSession=44-1&CommitteeID=1007&PageSize=10](#)

Fishery Management and Coordination

• **NOAA/GLFC Regional Habitat Partnership:** Feasibility for two projects has made strong progress. Feasibility work has been completed for the Inner Saginaw Bay Reef project. The project team is now in the process of bidding out design and construction for this reef creation project, with construction expected in the summer of 2025. Feasibility work is nearing completion for the Flat Rock-Huroc Dam Fish Passage project. Four alternatives, ranging from no action (with enhanced fish passage) to full dam removal are being considered. The project team is planning to solicit feedback from the public about the alternatives this fall.

Summer Technical Committee Meetings

• The upper lakes technical committees held their summer meetings in July. Topics discussed during the meetings included State of the Lake Dashboards, lake trout recovery in Lake Superior, GLATOS receiver maintenance challenges, and cisco reintroduction in Lake Huron. The technical committees plan to reconvene in January 2025.

• The Great Lakes Fish Health Committee (FHC) and Grass Carp Advisory Committee (GCAC) met in August. The FHC is working to revise its Model Program for Fish Diseases. Major focuses of the GCAC include working to develop alternative methods to capture grass carp, evaluating the feasibility of a seasonal barrier to block spawning migrations in the Sandusky River, understanding sources of reproductive fish caught throughout the basin, and improving eDNA surveillance.

Law Enforcement Activities

• Continuing to conduct proactive law enforcement to prevent aquatic

invasive species (AIS) from entering the Great Lakes Basin, the Law Enforcement Committee (LAW) identified 23 distributors from around the United States who sell aquatic plants listed on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Least Wanted List. Letters were sent out from LAW notifying the businesses of the Least Wanted List and educating them about the prohibition of shipping these species to the Great Lakes region. Contact information for AIS specialists in each Great Lakes state and provincial natural resource agency were also included in the notification to allow each business to obtain greater clarification and knowledge of specific state and provincial AIS regulations as needed.

- Terry Short, Law Enforcement Specialist, presented on behalf of the Law Enforcement Committee (LAW) at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Information and Intelligence Summit held in Marquette, Michigan. The presentation was an overview of the Commission, LAW, and how natural resource law enforcement agencies from around the United States and Canada can assist in Great Lakes protection.

Questions? Contact John Dettmers, jdettmers@glfc.org

Sea Lamprey Control

- **Sea Lamprey Control Directorate:**

The Commission sponsored a community gathering for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians in early August to discuss sea lamprey control activities proposed for tributaries flowing through reservation lands. The community gathering was in support of the new Mashkiiizibii Sea Lamprey Stewardship Plan proposal that was presented to Tribal Council. Mike Siefkes and Ross Shaw (secretariat), Shawn Nowicki and Kevin Mann (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)), and Jacob Rodmaker (Bad River Band) staffed the gathering and Bill Mattes (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and Sea Lamprey Control Board) also attended the event. Tribal Council met after the

gathering and approved the Stewardship Plan that will be in place for the next 10 years. The Stewardship Plan strengthens the Commission's partnership with the Bad River Band and is essential for controlling sea lamprey in one of the largest sea lamprey-producing tributaries on Lake Superior.

- **Adult Sea Lamprey Assessment:** Adult sea lamprey trapping operations went well across the Great Lakes during 2024. The 2024 adult sea lamprey indices for each lake are being finalized and will be released to commissioners and lake committee members by the end of the September. Importantly, the indices are the last piece of information needed to finalize a publication capturing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sea lamprey control and populations across the Great Lakes. The pandemic allowed us to conduct an experiment that never would have been conducted—what would happen if sea lamprey control were paused for a year on a lake? What would happen if sea lamprey control were disrupted at various levels in a given year on a lake? The results are telling and will be shared once the publication is completed.



Adult sea lamprey in a trap on the Carp Lake Outlet, one of the index sites on Lake Michigan located near the tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Photo: Matt Symbal, USFWS

- **Adult Sea Lamprey Control:**

Barriers that block the upstream migration of sea lamprey were

operated during 2024. Work continued to identify barriers in need of repair or replacement that were built for other purposes but that also block sea lamprey. Dedicated congressional infrastructure funding has been allocated for application to these barrier projects that are most critical to sea lamprey control. Additionally, to better understand a barrier's ability to block sea lamprey in a time of unprecedented climate change, a large effort to understand geomorphological processes in Great Lakes tributaries has begun. To help with this rapidly increasing workload, the USFWS has hired a new biologist, Nicole Lexson. Nicole joins sea lamprey control from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in John Day, Oregon, where she was a fish biologist. During her nearly 6 years of employment with the Confederated Tribes, Nicole led multiple large-scale stream restoration projects focused on improving Chinook salmon and steelhead habitat. Her experience in stream geomorphology, habitat, and fish surveys are expected to build the capacity of sea lamprey control as sea lamprey barrier, trapping, and supplemental control efforts further advance.

- **Supplemental Sea Lamprey Control:**

Tools to supplement current sea lamprey control techniques were expanded and deployed for the first time in the Traverse River (Lake Superior), Long Lake Outlet (Lake Huron), and Tawas Lake Outlet (Lake Huron) during 2024. These deployments, in addition to ongoing deployments in the Black Mallard, Pigeon, Sturgeon, and Maple rivers (Lake Huron), are coordinated through partnerships with the USFWS, DFO, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Huron Pines, and Michigan DNR. Since 2017, supplemental controls have resulted in a redirection of \$700,000 of lampricide control effort that was used to reduce sea lamprey populations in other streams. Background on this project can be found on the Commission's website. In addition to these field applications of adult control tools, work continues

at the USGS – Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center on the development of next generation lampricides. The development of screening tools to identify potential lampricides and to test their efficacy has been the current focus of the work. Although in its infancy, this line of work is expected to help manage the possible development of resistance to current lampricides, and reduce costs, the impacts to non-targets, and the impacts to the environment.



Portable electric barrier and adult sea lamprey traps deployed on Long Lake Outlet (Lake Huron) as part of the supplemental control project. Photo: Nick Johnson, USGS.

Questions? Contact Mike Siefkes, msiefkes@glfc.org

• **Indigenous Ecological Knowledge retreat:**

In July 2024, GLFC staff, research board members, and partners were invited to the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Neyaashiinigiing, located within the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, for a two-day retreat to learn about Indigenous Ecological Knowledge. Participants came away energized and full of ideas to improve how science is conducted with Indigenous communities. Participants spent two days on the land in Cape Croker Park, learning from community members, Elders, community scientists, and each other. The retreat marks just one step in a long journey of reciprocal learning with the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, and staff and retreat participants are grateful to our hosts for graciously welcoming us onto their land.

GLFC staff and research board members help pilot the “big canoe” during the Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Retreat with the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation at Cape Croker Park, Neyaashiinigiing, in July 2024.

• **Multi-Species Modeling Symposium:**

Several science staff participated in a symposium at MSU in August 2024,

co-organized by MSU’s Quantitative Fisheries Center (QFC) and the University of Guelph’s Centre for Ecosystem Management (CEM). The two-day symposium featured keynote speakers and presentations on the topic of multi-species modeling in fisheries. Attendees also participated in a facilitated discussion about the future of multi-species modeling in the Great Lakes. The CEM and QFC coordinate to conduct research to meet the fishery and ecosystem management needs of agency partners, including the signatories to the agreement supporting the CEM – the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, DFO, and Commission.

• **Research Board fall meetings and DEIC workshop:**

The Board of Technical Experts and Sea Lamprey Research Board met September 10-13 in Guelph, Ontario to review full proposals and recommend a program of research for fiscal year 2025. Additionally, both boards participated in a half-day joint workshop to modernize the existing rubric for evaluating research proposals and include new elements about how to evaluate the quality of scientists’ plans to consider aspects of diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural competency (DEIC) as they form their research teams and design and conduct projects.

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Legislative Affairs and Policy

• **Summer Outreach, the Ottawa Annual, and What Comes Next:**

In the past few months, PLAD has been engaged at ICAIS in Halifax, IAGLR in Windsor, and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Fish Skin Tanning Workshop in Harbor Springs, among other events across the basin. Whether providing a comprehensive Great Lakes update at the AFWA invasive species committee in Madison, or helping to organize special guests at the annual meeting in Ottawa, the team at PLAD continues to meet with experts, officials, and political leadership to foster support and understanding of the Commission’s

work. With the upcoming presidential election in the United States, and the anticipated federal election in Canada, the balance of 2024 promises to be even more interesting and active than the days past. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the work thus far. We look forward to continuing with the partnerships in the months to come.

• **FishPass Rolls Forward:**

After significant delays, the FishPass project in Traverse City is moving forward with the support of the city, state, and several other important partners. In August, one of those important partners, Senator Gary Peters, stopped by the site during his



Commissioners, spouses, and secretariat staff stand with MP Dave Epp in the House of Commons Chamber during the Annual Meeting in Ottawa.

annual summer motorcycle ride. During his visit, he met with reporters, community members, and local officials, while praising the important

work being done and again pledged his support for the Commission and its groundbreaking science program. As in years past, executive secretary and motorcycle enthusiast Marc Gaden accompanied Senator Peters on his ride. While at FishPass, Marc thanked the partners for their ongoing support of the project, and committed to continuing to ensure the Commission remains at the forefront of Great Lakes infrastructure renewal, science and habitat protection efforts. The 30 other motorcyclists on the ride also enjoyed hearing a bit about fishery restoration. A special thanks to Senator Peters and Congressman Bergman for their support for FishPass.

• **Informed Opposition as the Sessions Start:**

A sizable portion of PLAD's work involves proactively meeting with and regularly briefing officials on the plans and priorities of the Commission. Being present and informed is key to what makes the directorate successful. This requires the PLAD team to develop an expertise on a range of subjects, and to liaise with various groups to "get the word out" to those able to make positive changes. As an example of this work, PLAD, along with groups from across North America, participated in an annual summit of outdoors experts on Parliament Hill, hosted by the Official Opposition. PLAD spoke of the ongoing threat posed by invasive species such as sea lamprey; underscored that sound science is the chance to manage threats to a sustainable fishery; and, encouraged cross-border collaboration and strategic management of habitat and other Great Lakes resources. This same message was also emphasized during several PLAD meetings with elected officials throughout the summer, including members of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence group in Ottawa and the Great Lakes Task force in Washington. By setting down this informed groundwork, the Commission's messaging will be top of mind as the legislatures gear up for the sessions ahead.



The PLAD team present Canadian MP Brian Masse with an American Flag from the US Capitol on behalf of Vermont Senator Welch.

Questions? Contact Greg McClinchey, greg@glfc.org

Secretariat Operations Support (SOS)

• **Financial Reporting for FY 2024 and FY 2025:** Autumn is always a busy time of year for SOS, as the books get closed on the Commission's current fiscal year (which ended on September 30). It prepares the end-of-year financial reports, and works with all directorates to develop a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year for commissioners' approval at the interim meeting.

• **IT Support:** SOS hired a new information technology service provider in August. Josh Budde of A2Tech will provide IT support to Secretariat staff as needed, and is well-known to the Commission, as he has provided web hosting services for the GLFC since 2014. Josh has already shown his quick responsiveness and resourceful problem-solving skills in his first month of support.

Questions? Contact Steve Domeracki, sdomeracki@glfc.org

Communications

• **Commission Documentary:** The Commission-funded documentary formerly known as *RELENTLESS*, has undergone a name change as the team

turns its sights towards marketing the film to a wider audience outside of the Great Lakes and finding an appropriate online service to host the film. Now called *THE FISH THIEF: A Great Lakes Mystery*, the documentary is still receiving widespread support at private screenings and film festivals alike, including earning a recent Juried Award at the Green Bay Film festival. Learn more about the film at thefishthief.com and stay tuned the Commission's social media pages for updates about screenings near you.

• **Summer Outreach:** With fall right around the corner, the Communications team reflects upon another successful summer of outreach. From large events like the Upper Peninsula State Fair to smaller streamside outreach at lampricide treatments, the education and outreach program continues to reach more people than ever before. We'd also like to extend a special thank you to the agents, advisors, and other partners who have helped us along the way; your assistance is critical to our success! The team now looks to planning the large show season, beginning in January 2025. Interested in volunteering or have an idea for an event for us to attend? Contact Ross Shaw, rshaw@glfc.org.

GLFC in the News

• **Sturgeon Restoration in the Boardman-Ottawa River:** Lake sturgeon are one of the most charismatic and culturally important fish in the Great Lakes. They were also once one of the most abundant, but years of overharvest, habitat destruction, and damming caused their populations to plummet throughout the 20th century. Native American tribes in Michigan, and the Great Lakes region more broadly, have made it a priority to restore these living dinosaurs in recent years. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, one such group leading these efforts, had hopes of reintroducing sturgeon to the Boardman-Ottawa River, but were stymied by the river's dams. After years of hard work and

three dam removals, culminating in the FishPass project in Traverse City, sturgeon restoration on the Boardman-Ottaway may finally become a reality. Learn more about the importance of FishPass in the efforts to restore sturgeon in the Boardman-Ottaway River by checking out [this article](#) in the Traverse City Ticker.

• *Vampire Fish in the News:* A [recently published article](#) in the UK newspaper *The Sun* highlights the sea lamprey's struggle to shed its negative reputation, even in its native habitat. Despite being an ecosystem engineer and essential part of its native ecosystems, sea lampreys are still mistaken for blood-sucking vampires

across the world thanks to their primitive bodies and toothy mouths. Articles like these highlight the importance of the Commission's work in spreading awareness about native lamprey species in the Great Lakes, while still emphasizing the importance of ongoing sea lamprey control.

Questions? Contact Jill Wingfield, jwingfield@glfc.org ✧

Some Suggested Christmas gifts

SEVIIN Fishing reels by St Croix

New Baitcasters

Park Falls, WI – Built for greater power, smooth and simple operation, and uncompromising durability, SEVIIN expands its performance-focused GS Series with six all-new 150-size GS casting models—each combining premium components and innovative designs for maximum adjustability, satisfying feel, intuitive operation, and uncompromising reliability.

“GS Series spinning reels debuted in January, setting the standard for this SEVIIN series that couples premium performance with exceptional mid-price value,” says Robert Woods, Product Manager for SEVIIN Reels. “Our first casting reels in the GS Series are designed to excel in freshwater power-fishing applications like heavier pitching and flipping and casting larger lures. Their larger 150 size allows for an upsized 95-mm carbon fiber handle and spool designs optimized for varied line types, including heavier braids of 40 lbs. and greater.”

SEVIIN's all-new GS Series of casting reels consists of six models in three available gear ratios – 6.6:1, 7.3:1, and 8.1:1 – with right-hand or left-hand retrieve configurations.

Retail price is \$180.

ONE-PIECE ALUMINUM FRAME

GS Series casting reels are crafted on a robust & lightweight one-piece aluminum frame. Combining extreme strength with maximum rigidity, the one-piece aluminum chassis works with carbon-fiber side plates to isolate gears and eliminate flex that leads to premature wear and reel failure.

DUAL BRAKING SYSTEM

A dual magnetic and centrifugal braking system works in concert with a precision spool-tensioner to offer three levels of adjustability for maximum casting distance and positive spool control in any conditions. Magnetic and spool-tension controls are located on the reel's exterior, while the angler-friendly centrifugal braking system features a simple control dial, easily accessed behind an attached hinged speed Cover.

OPTIMIZED SPOOL DIAMETERS

Each of GS's three available gear ratios – 6.6:1, 7.3:1, and 8.1:1 – feature variable spool sizes optimized for maximum performance with intended techniques, ultimately providing greater angler control in the most-common fishing applications associated with each specific GS model.



SEVIIN GS Series Casting Reel Features

- Lightweight & rigid one-piece aluminum frame with carbon fiber side plates
- Custom-designed 95 mm carbon fiber handle with soft-touch paddle grips
- 9 + 1 stainless-steel bearing system with Japanese spool bearings
- 34 mm lightweight forged-aluminum spool
- Strong multi-stack carbon fiber / stainless-steel drag system
- Highly adjustable, dual magnetic / centrifugal braking system
- Aluminum drive gear and brass pinion gear for maximum longevity with exceptional feel
- One-year warranty backed by no-questions-asked accelerated replacement program
- Designed in Park Falls, Wisconsin, U.S.A
- **Retail price \$180**



New SEVIIN GF Series Spinning Reels

Placing excellence within reach of any angler, SEVIIN expands its workmanlike GF Series with five all-new efficient and ultra-durable GF spinning reel models—each meticulously engineered for smooth and satisfying operation, uncompromising performance and reliability, and unprecedented value.

- Lightweight carbon fiber / polymer body, side cover, and rotor
- 5+1 stainless-steel bearing system
- Forged and anodized aluminum spool with braid band
- Custom designed aluminum handle with soft-touch paddle
- Multi-stack carbon fiber drag / stainless steel drag system
- Stainless-steel 2-piece bail
- Precision-hobbed hard brass pinion and die-cast helical drive gear
- S-Curve slow-oscillation system
- One-year warranty backed by no-questions-asked accelerated replacement program
- Designed in Park Falls, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Slow Oscillation System

The S-Curve design features a super-slow oscillation that ensures line is stacked evenly on the spool resulting in longer casts and fewer line management issues even when using lighter finesse size lines. An internal support guide ensures spool oscillation remains consistent even under heavier drag loads.

Braid-Ready Forged Spool

One-piece forged aluminum spool is machined and hard anodized. The forged design minimizes weight while maintaining strength. A braid band allows the use of braid tied directly to the spool without the need for backing. A unique spool lip design maximizes casting distance by minimizing line contact during the cast

Carbon Fiber Drag

The friction washers are made from woven carbon fiber, which is virtually impervious to wear. The carbon washers are mated to stainless steel washers providing a wide drag range with minimal variation to protect against break-offs with lighter lines.

Retail price \$110

Model	Size	Gear Ratio	Retrieve Rate	Wt (OZ)	Max Drag (Lbs)	Mono Cap Yds	Braid Cap Yds	Application
GFS750	750 UL	5.2:1	24" / Turn	6.5	9	110/4	200/6	Jigs, Inline Spinners, Small tubes, Small crankbaits, grubs
GFS1000	1000 Lt	5.2:1	24" / Turn	6.5	9	125/6	185/8	Jigs, Inline Spinners, Small tubes, Small crankbaits, grubs
GFS2000	2000 ML	6.0:1	32" / Turn	7.8	20	115/8	120/10	Jigs, Tubes, Soft Jerkbait, Jerkbait, Ned rigs, wacky rigs, Neko rigs, grubs
GFS2500	2500 ML	6.0:1	32" / Turn	7.7	22	150/10	185/15	Jigs, jerkbaits, topwaters, , dropshot, wacky rigs, bait rigs, crankbaits, small swimbaits, grubs
GFS3000	3000 M	6.0:1	34" / Turn	8	22	165/12	215/20	Jigs, jerkbaits, topwaters, dropshot, wacky rigs, bait rigs, crankbaits, small swimbaits, grubs

<https://stcroixrods.com/> 866-844-7335

info@seviinreels.com <https://seviinreels.com/>

<https://stcroixrods.com/> 800-826-7042 ✧

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

[Proposed DNR rule would allow quicker changes to harvest quotas for lake trout, cisco](#)

Currently, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's process for setting new fishing limits can take years. The agency says that a new rule would allow it to better respond to changes in the lake trout and cisco populations

[Western Lake Erie algal bloom lasts into November again](#)

The 2024 western Lake Erie algal bloom has become the second in modern history to linger into November with about 10 square miles of the bloom remaining

[COMMENTARY: DNR preparing proposal to allow Lake Michigan commercial fishers to keep, sell lake trout](#)

Lake trout could be part of a commercial fishery in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan if a new administrative rule is approved

[New research boat being built to help gather fish data in Great Lakes](#)

Soon, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources research center in Charlevoix, Michigan, will have a new and improved boat to help gather fish population data across the Great Lakes. After more than five decades of service,

[Ohio EPA seeks to become a defendant in Lake Erie case, as well](#)

Less than a month after agricultural groups sought to join a landmark case that could affect how western Lake Erie is managed, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has filed a motion to become a defendant too. The lawsuit targets the U.S. EPA for approving an Ohio EPA planning document under the Clean Water Act, which plaintiffs argue is weak and ineffective.

[Understanding how the PFBC stocks 4.2 million trout and improves wild trout fishery](#)

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is finalizing its Strategic Plan for Management of Trout Fisheries, which involves wild trout and finding places to stock 4.2 million hatchery trout each year. The plan is open for public comment until November 2

[Great Lakes' water levels plunge with rapid drought](#)

The very dry September combined with the typical seasonal decline in water levels are bringing water levels on the Great Lakes down to lowest level in several years.

[Why is a Navy combat ship docked at the Port of Cleveland?](#)

The USS Nantucket, a U.S. Navy littoral combat ship on its way to Boston for christening, is stopping by Cleveland on the way.

[Summer walleye catches in Pa. portion of Lake Erie were 2nd highest in more than 20 years](#)

Anglers in Pennsylvania's portion of Lake Erie reported the second-highest walleye catch rates since 1993 for July and landed in the top five highest rates for August. A July survey found a catch rate of 1.99 fish per hour

End