



Cisco on rebound in Lake Michigan as pros, cons of stocking debated

The cisco (aka lake herring, *Coregonus artedii*) was one of the most abundant fish in Lake Michigan before unregulated commercial fishing, invasive species, and habitat degradation took their toll. By the mid-1960s, cisco were nearly wiped out. Most of their deepwater cousins also disappeared from the lake. Six out of seven native deepwater ciscoes are no longer found in Lake Michigan. The only deepwater cisco that still survives in Lake Michigan is the Bloater.

To confuse matters, not all cisco (*Coregonus artedii*) look and act the same. According to a recent monograph, there are different “minor forms” of the cisco species. Body depth and mouth shape vary somewhat from one minor form to the next, but the reasons for this

variability are poorly understood. It comes down to a classic question of “nature vs. nurture.” At this point, we are unsure if different minor forms of cisco are different because of their genetic code (DNA) or because of the influence of their changing environment and ecological niche.

After all, Lake Michigan has changed dramatically since cisco crashed in the late 1950s and early 1960s. At that time, exotic alewife were taking over and native predators (lake trout) had been wiped out by invasive sea lamprey. With no predators to keep them in check, the small, silvery alewife boomed. Another invader, rainbow smelt, was also in the mix. Cisco populations suffered as alewife and rainbow smelt likely competed for food resources and preyed on the tiny pelagic cisco larvae.

Now Lake Michigan cisco are making a comeback. Populations are on the rise in Grand Traverse Bay and surrounding areas. Anglers are catching more cisco every year, and they are beginning to show up in unexpected places. Cisco have been present in seasonally fishable numbers in Charlevoix, Portage Lake, and Manistee in recent years. Occasional catches have been reported even farther south.

These cisco are not behaving like historic Lake Michigan cisco, though. Most notably, their diet now includes other fish such as alewife and round goby. Historically, Lake Michigan cisco mostly ate zooplankton and other small invertebrates. Cisco in present-day Lake Superior and Lake Ontario do the same, but for some

Cisco on rebound

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PFBC sponsors "Spring into Fishing Giveaway"

HARRISBURG, Pa) – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has partnered with “[The Rest of PA.](#)” a consortia of local tourism entities, Bass Pro Shops in Harrisburg and Bethlehem-based ArtsQuest to sponsor a giveaway that includes a two-day getaway package, Penn State-themed fishing kayak and two concert tickets to see Brantley Gilbert at [Musikfest](#).

The first prize in this giveaway is a choice of three remaining weekend get-away packages from the four regional locations sponsoring this prize: Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau, Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau and Visit Potter-Tioga. The choices will be known after the winner of the “Cabin Fever Getaway” selects one of the four excursions.

The getaway package includes accommodations for up to four people including lodging, meals, and exposure to local fishing. The winner can enjoy the trip at any time through **[Oct. 31, 2018](#)**.

The second-place prize is an Ascend 10T Sit-on-Top Penn State-themed fishing kayak donated by [Bass Pro Shops](#). This sit-on-top model is ideal to target a variety of species on Commonwealth waters.

The third-place prize winner will receive two concert tickets to see Brantley Gilbert August 10 at Musikfest in Bethlehem, an annual music show operated by the non-profit [ArtsQuest](#).

The public can enter this giveaway by visiting www.GoneFishingPA.com from “**Spring into Fishing Giveaway**”

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If you catch tagged walleye in Saginaw Bay area, DNR wants you to report it

The Department of Natural Resources jaw-tagged 3,000 walleyes in a number of Saginaw Bay tributary rivers recently and is now asking anglers to collect and report information on tagged fish they catch.

The DNR has jaw-tagged more than 100,000 walleyes in the Saginaw Bay area since 1981 as part of a long-term research project to monitor survival and harvest rates and to learn about walleye movement. Each tag is stamped with a unique identification number and a post office box address. Anglers who catch a tagged walleye can report their catch by mail using the address on the tag, by calling the DNR Bay City Customer Service Center at 989-684-9141, or online by visiting Michigan.gov/taggedfish.

If reporting by mail or by phone, anglers are asked to provide their contact information as well as the tag identification number, the date the walleye was caught, the catch location, the fish's length, the fish's weight (if known), and whether or not the fish was harvested, released with the tag attached or released with the tag removed. Anglers who report tagged fish online will be automatically prompted for this information. Once reported, anglers will receive a letter detailing the history of their fish.

About 20 percent of the tags include a \$100 reward when reported. Anglers can keep or release the fish, but in order to obtain the reward they must provide a clear photo of the reward tag. If the fish is released and

anglers are not interested in being eligible to receive a reward, anglers should leave the tag in the fish's jaw and not remove it. This also will be the second year that a new, brightly colored disk tag will be used on some fish to test how well anglers notice and report the tags.

"This information is essential to measuring the health of the population and is critical data we use to plan future management direction needed to protect and enhance this important fishery," said Dave Fielder, research

biologist out of the DNR's Alpena Fisheries Research Station. "Besides ensuring the walleye fishery remains sustainable, we also annually estimate the population size with the aid of these tag reports."

The tagging operation occurs each spring on the Tittabawassee River and other Saginaw Bay tributaries during the walleye spawning run. The fish are collected with electrofishing boats that temporally stun them to allow fisheries biologists and technicians to collect vital statistics, tag the fish and release them back into the river after the fish have recovered. After spawning, the fish migrate back into Saginaw Bay, and a large number migrate out of the bay into Lake Huron. The fish that migrate out of the bay have been found ranging to the Straits of Mackinac to the north and Lake Erie to the south. ✧



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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

GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

Editor

Jeanette Thomas

Webmaster

Chad Lapa

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2018 Family Fishing Festivals set for May and June

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has scheduled several opportunities in May and June for families to learn fishing skills and enjoy fishing.

The PFBC is holding three Family Fishing Festivals in May and three in June. These events lead up to the two statewide Fish-for-Free Days: the Sunday before Memorial Day, [May 27](#), and Independence Day, [July 4](#).

“Family Fishing Festivals are a convenient way to introduce friends and family to the sport of fishing at no cost,” said Carl Richardson, PFBC Education Section Manager. “These are educational events designed for families with little or no fishing experience. Participants will learn basic fishing skills and have an opportunity to practice those skills while fishing during the program.”

PFBC Family Fishing Festivals will be held at these locations:

- [May 19](#), SE Region: Tohickon Access, Nockamixon State Park, Bucks County, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. ([for more info or to register](#))
- [June 9](#), NC Region: Bald Eagle State Park - Pavilion #7, Centre County, 4 – 8 p.m. ([for more info or to register](#))
- [June 16](#), NW Region: Presque Isle State Park – Waterworks Ponds, Erie County, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. ([for more info or to register](#))
- June 23, NE Region: Lackawanna State Park – Pine Pavilion, Lackawanna County, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. ([for more info or to register](#))

The PFBC is waiving the fishing license requirement during the program for registered Family Fishing Festival participants 16 and older. The program is open to all ages, including children ages 5 and older. The PFBC provides equipment, bait, and tackle. PFBC staff will be present to teach skills and assist those who fish. Preregistration is required.

Visit www.GoneFishingPa.com to register or learn more about these programs. ✧

Upper Red Lake walleye regulations for 2018

Anglers fishing Upper Red Lake this spring will again be able to keep four walleye of which only one may be longer than 17 inches, continuing the same regulation that was in place this past winter and the previous 2017 open water season.

Harvest under the four-fish bag limit, one-over-17 regulation resulted in about 152,000 pounds for the winter season – a record high for winter harvest since reopening walleye fishing in 2006 – and there remains room within the target harvest range to allow this regulation to continue into the open water season.

“Anglers really like the current opportunities to keep lots of walleye on Upper Red Lake,” said Gary Barnard, area fisheries supervisor in Bemidji for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “These regulations serve a specific purpose now, but we want to be clear that eventually we may need to pull back.”

The revised harvest plan recommends an aggressive approach when walleye spawning stock is in surplus, as it currently is. The one-over component of this regulation replaced a protected slot limit in December 2015, and has been used ever since in combination with either a three- or four-fish bag limit.

Surplus spawning stock means that there are more adult spawners than needed for good reproduction. Removing some of the excess is good for the population since it will improve growth and survival of young fish.

Adjustments to size or bag limits may be needed in the future if the spawning stock needs more protection. “For now, the regulations meet our objectives by spreading harvest over a wide range of sizes and removing some of the surplus spawning stock,” Barnard said. More information on Red Lake fishing regulations are available at mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing. ✧

ODNR offers 5th annual Ohio Women's Outdoor Weekend

COLUMBUS, OH – The fifth annual Ohio Women’s Outdoor Adventures weekend will begin on Friday, Aug. 24, and run through Sunday, Aug. 26, at Deer Creek State Park in central Ohio. This annual Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) event blends boating and paddlesport skills with numerous outdoor education and athletic activities. Registration opens on Tuesday, May 15, at 12:01 a.m.

Hosted by the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft, participants at the Ohio Women’s Outdoor Adventures weekend will enjoy improving their skills in paddling kayaks and canoes, operating powerboats or trying the latest watersport — stand-up paddleboarding. Other fun sessions will be offered on backyard wildlife, wild edibles, beginner’s golf, archery, horseback riding, trap shooting, stream quality monitoring, fishing clinics and a host of tours and other outdoor recreational options. Indoor activities include painting and water aerobics. A detailed listing of the weekend’s events is available at: watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/owoa.

The Ohio Women’s Outdoor Adventures Weekend is open to all women, including girls 12 years or older who are accompanied by a parent or guardian. The cost is \$300 per person and includes lodging and five meals. There is room for 120 women to participate, and registration for this weekend fills up quickly.

Participants will stay at the Deer Creek State Park Lodge and Conference Center, located in Pickaway County, just 35 minutes from Columbus. The park’s scenic meadows and woodlands surround the scenic 1,277-acre Deer Creek reservoir. Overlooking the lake, the lodge features modern amenities: indoor and outdoor pools, sauna, whirlpool, exercise room, restaurant and lounge. Additionally, Deer Creek offers an 18-hole golf course, trails, disc golf, marina and a swimming beach. ✧

New estimate shows healthy Mille Lacs smallmouth bass population

Since the late 1990s, Mille Lacs Lake has become an increasingly popular destination for anglers who want to catch trophy-sized smallmouth bass. Until now, it wasn't known how many of these fish – prized more for their fight than their fillets – called the lake home. A population estimate completed in 2018 shows there are some 67,000 smallmouth bass in the 128,000-acre lake.

“This looks like a healthy population,” said Tom Jones, regional fisheries treaty coordinator with the Minnesota DNR. “This estimate roughly represents the number of adult bass in the lake. It does not include bass under 12 inches.”

The population estimate would not have been possible without the help of the Mille Lacs Smallmouth Alliance and Minnesota B.A.S.S. Nation. The Mille Lacs Smallmouth Alliance kept detailed records of their catches and provided length and tag numbers from more than 2,100 smallmouth bass. Minnesota B.A.S.S. Nation held several tournaments on Mille Lacs, including the statewide Tournament of Champions, and anglers provided similar data for more than 1,600 bass.

“Mille Lacs is the number one bass fishery in the United States right now, and we just want to help protect it,” said Jim DeRosa, president of the Mille Lacs Smallmouth Alliance.

In 2013, smallmouth bass regulations changed to allow anglers more opportunity to keep smallmouth on Mille Lacs Lake. The move was made to permit anglers to keep some fish during a time when walleye harvest has been restricted or prohibited. During the past five seasons, smallmouth bass regulations have varied, but they generally have allowed harvest of bass under 17 inches. A 20-inch smallmouth bass is generally regarded as a trophy fish.

“One thing smallmouth anglers were concerned about was that allowing harvest would mean fewer big bass,” Jones said. “That’s not what we’ve seen with the most current assessment. About half of the

smallmouth are over 17 inches, and that is consistent with what we’ve seen in past assessments of Mille Lacs smallmouth.”

In 2016 and 2017, Mille Lacs Lake hosted the Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship, and in 2017 Bassmaster Magazine named Mille Lacs Lake the best bass fishery in the nation.

“We recognize Mille Lacs is a world-class bass fishery, and we’re committed to protecting it,” said Jones. “Now that we have a good estimate of the abundance of smallmouth bass, we look forward to working with Minnesota bass groups and the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee this summer to discuss potential long-term regulations.”

While Mille Lacs has long been known for walleye, the growth of the lake’s smallmouth bass population is a fairly recent phenomenon. During the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s, smallmouth started showing up in DNR assessments more frequently. And anglers were hooking more of them.

“When fishing pressure increased in the late 1990s, that’s when we decided to protect smallmouth bass,” Jones said. “We thought the population was fragile at the time.”

From 2000 to 2012, anglers on Mille Lacs were limited to one bass over 21 inches, and a very small number of fish were harvested each year. The DNR’s first assessment of Mille Lacs smallmouth bass in 1999 supported the decision to restrict harvest of smallmouth bass, but a 2009 assessment found smallmouth bass in much higher numbers and in a much wider portion of the lake.

Though anglers have been allowed to keep more bass since 2013, creel surveys indicate that interest in keeping bass is low. The average number of bass kept each year is about 2,800. In recent years, anglers have caught and released more than 125,000 bass.

“Based on the estimated number of smallmouth bass in the lake and the number that anglers catch each year,

it’s clear that these fish are being caught more than once,” said Tom Heinrich, DNR area fisheries supervisor in Garrison. “The anglers who are releasing those bass are helping maintain the lake’s incredible bass fishery.”



Bass season on Mille Lacs opens May 12. Prior to May 26, all largemouth and smallmouth bass must be immediately released. Beginning May 26, the combined bass possession limit is three, with only one bass over 21 inches. All bass 17 to 21 inches must be immediately released. For more info: mndnr.gov/millelacslake. ✦

BOW Women's Chartered Trips Women's Guided Fishing Trips on Lake Ontario

Enjoy a 6-hour guided fishing trip for King Salmon, Coho Salmon, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, and/or Steelhead with Captain Dave Wilson aboard his 28-foot Baha Cruiser. All fishing equipment is provided. No fishing experience necessary. The boat has an enclosed bathroom with plumbing! Open to women age 18 or over.

July 15, 2018 at 5:30 am or 1:30 pm

July 22, 2018 at 5:30 am or 1:30 pm

July 28, 2018 at 5:30 am or 1:30 pm

July 29, 2018 at 5:30 am or 1:30 pm

All depart from Oswego Marina,

Oswego, NY

Fee: \$140 per person

Pre-registration is required.

Contact [Captain Dave Wilson via email](mailto:Captain Dave Wilson) ✦

Shipping Industry Fights Great Lakes' Invasive-Species Protections

With the opening March 29 of the 60th shipping season on the St. Lawrence Seaway, oceangoing vessels began transiting the Great Lakes, bringing cargo — and the risk of even more ballast-water invasive species. Efforts to mitigate that invasive-species risk are being fought by the shipping industry.

Court-ordered regulations require oceangoing ships to treat their ballast water before discharging it. However, according to various sources, industry is fighting the regulations, lobbying Congress for passage of the [Vessel Incidental Discharge Act](#) — a broad series of measures to gut shipping regulations.

The bill would eliminate [Clean Water Act](#) authority over ship discharges — including ballast water — and remove the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's authority to decide standards to protect waterways, including the Great Lakes. The measure also would exempt ships operating solely on the Great Lakes and pre-empt states' rights to protect their waters.

Said alliance vice president for policy Molly Flanagan: "The shipping industry marks the seaway opening with fanfare and celebration each year. But behind the scenes, industry lobbyists are fighting to weaken regulations intended to protect the Great Lakes from the biological pollution that is invasive species."

She continued, "Aquatic invasive species cause more than \$200 million in economic damage annually to the region and have caused irreparable harm to the Great Lakes." Members of the Great Lakes congressional delegation prevented inclusion of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act in the federal omnibus spending bill passed in March. However, industry lobbyists continue to push for passage. ✧

Michigan lends Indiana brown trout program a hand

A cooperative arrangement with surrounding states helped save Indiana's annual stocking of brown trout into Lake Michigan and Trail Creek this year.

Indiana has historically received brown trout from Illinois in return for providing that state with Skamania steelhead. However, production shortages in Illinois this year required Indiana to reach out to Michigan. Michigan has agreed to provide 40,000 brown trout as 6-inch fingerlings in April.

"This type of cooperation is a great way to ensure the mutual success of all states managing Lake Michigan," said Brian Breidert, Lake Michigan fisheries biologist with the DNR. Of the 40,000 brown trout, 30,000 fish will be stocked at the East Chicago marina. The remaining 10,000 will be released into Trail Creek, a Lake Michigan tributary.

Indiana will also release up to 75,000 Chinook salmon in 2018, which is up from the 60,000 the year before. All the chinooks will have their adipose fin clipped under the USFWS mass marking program. The moderate chinook increase comes as the state has reduced stocking of fingerling steelhead trout in the fall. Those fall steelhead fingerlings experienced less than desirable survival rates.

All other stockings of steelhead and coho salmon remain unchanged from previous years.

The Chinook increase will still keep Indiana under the 2016 stocking quotas agreed upon by the state agencies involved in managing Lake Michigan. This consensus-based decision making has been the cornerstone for Lake Michigan management for more than 50 years.

"These stocking alterations will continue to provide a diverse fishery, while maintaining an appropriate predator-prey balance to ensure the long-term health of the lake for Hoosier anglers into the future," Breidert said. ✧

Ohio offers Marine Patrol Assistance Grants

COLUMBUS, OH – Twenty-four Ohio communities will receive a total of \$565,085.52 from the Ohio DNR to support local marine patrol units. Provided by the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft, these assistance funds represent a continuing effort to keep Ohio waterways safe and enhance recreational boating experiences.

"These grants provide us with a great opportunity to reinvest boater dollars in Ohio communities," said ODNR Director James Zehringer. "Safety is a top priority, and we want to help ensure that our boaters stay safe while boating on Ohio's waterways." The 2018 Marine Patrol Assistance Grants will help local law enforcement agencies provide emergency response to boating-related incidents, conduct routine waterway patrols and purchase safety equipment for use on marine patrol vessels. The recipient agencies are located in counties statewide, including Ohio's more populated counties such as Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton and Montgomery, as well as smaller communities located in Erie, Pickaway and Scioto counties.

In 2017, Ohio had a record 542,602 registered recreational watercraft, a growth of almost 82,000 in three years. Over the last decade, there has been a 192 percent increase in kayak and canoe registrations (including liveries). Overall, Ohio currently ranks eighth in the nation in state recreational boat registrations.

As the number of visitors to Ohio's lakes and rivers increases, Marine Patrol Assistance Grants are vital to ensuring the safety of Ohio's boaters. Boating-related fatalities on Ohio waterways have declined by 9 percent since 2006. Additional boating information and a list of Marine Patrol Assistance Grant recipients is available online at watercraft.ohiodnr.gov. ✧

Regulation change helps anglers with steelhead this spring

Recent legislation passed in Michigan has simplified fishing regulations for anglers, particularly those pursuing steelhead on the state's rivers and streams in the spring.

The legislation removed a net size restriction that has been in place for many years to protect spawning salmon from illegally being harvested. The restriction can be found on page 10 of the printed 2018 Michigan Fishing Guide.

With the removal of this restriction, which immediately took effect, anglers now legally may use hand nets with handle lengths longer than 14 inches. The regulation created a safety issue for anglers fishing for steelhead from boats, as there was concern anglers would not be safe if they had to lean way over the side of their boat to net a steelhead with such a short net handle.

Anglers still can only use hand nets to help land lawfully hooked fish, except under a few circumstances

The 2018 Michigan Fishing Guide was printed prior to the passage of the legislation, so the net restriction on designated trout streams still is listed in the current guide available at license retailers, even though it will no longer be in effect or enforced. However, it has been removed from the [online 2018 Michigan Fishing Guide](#), and will be removed from future versions. ✧

Illinois Free Fishing Days: **June 15 – 18**

The 2018 Illinois Free Fishing Days celebration coincides with Father's Day weekend, June 15–18. During this four-day celebration of fishing in Illinois, anglers can fish without purchasing a fishing license, salmon stamp or inland trout stamp.

Discover the fun of fishing or [introduce your kids to the outdoor adventure of fishing!](#) If you're new to fishing, here's a [guide to everything you need to get started](#). ✧

Can bubbles keep Asian carp out of Great Lakes?

There's no shortage of theories for stopping the Asian carp's move toward the Great Lakes. Big gates, underwater electric barriers, annoying sound — all have been used or talked about as solutions.

Now, add bubbles. That was the winning idea from "Carp Tank," a \$500,000 competition that wrapped up in Michigan this week.

[Edem Tsikata, a software consultant in Massachusetts](#), took first prize with a plan to use a row of specially designed propellers to generate a wall of bubbles that implode and emit high-speed jets of water. The painful sensation of the bubbles — and the noisy propellers — aim to repel the fish.

Tsikata, who won \$200,000, works for Ab Initio Software in Lexington. In a statement announcing the winners, he said, "It's gratifying to be able to contribute ideas that benefit the economy and ecology of [the Great Lakes] region even though I live in Boston."

Other ideas from contest finalists would target the fish with chlorine, strong currents and recognition software. Mich. Gov. Rick Snyder and other judges assessed entries on their feasibility, environmental impact and other factors.

Millions of dollars have been spent already to keep the invasive species out of the Great Lakes, and defenses are concentrated near the southern tip of Lake Michigan.

Two varieties of Asian Carp -- the Silver and Bighead -- pose the biggest threat because of their voracious feeding habits. They consume lots of zooplankton, the microscopic animals that other fish feed on.

The issue got new attention in June, when a live Asian carp was discovered beyond an electric barrier, just nine miles from Lake Michigan. In August [the Army Corps said new measures are needed](#) to prevent Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes.

Ohio APV Areas now open

COLUMBUS, OH – Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the spring weather at one of the state's designated All-Purpose Vehicle (APV) areas. The APV areas are located on four state forest properties—[Maumee](#) in northwest Ohio, [Pike](#) and [Richland Furnace](#) in southern Ohio and [Perry](#) in east-central Ohio.

Pike, Richland Furnace and Perry state forests are now open for APV trail use, and they will close in the fall following the last day of regular deer-gun season.

The APV area at Maumee State Forest is open year-round, and snowmobile use is allowed when conditions permit. The APV areas are maintained by the ODNR Division of Forestry.

Funds from each APV registration are deposited into the State Recreational Vehicle Fund and are used by the ODNR Division of Forestry for projects that directly support the state's APV areas.

Trail users must have a valid APV registration obtained through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). Riders must wear the required safety gear, which includes helmets and eye protection. APVs, including utility vehicles (UTVs), may be up to 62 inches in width as long as valid title and registration have been acquired through the BMV. People should know there is a requirement for an out-of-state registration for visitors from states without similar registration laws. Additionally, there are requirements for a spark arrestor and a muffler to be compliant with industry-standard sound limitations. ✧

The report says the underwater electric barrier at the Brandon Road lock in Illinois should be beefed up. The recommended \$275 million plan would add water jets and complex noises – like the underwater recordings of a boat motor. ✧

2018 IGFA World Record Game Fishes book now available

DANIA BEACH, Fla. – All the facts and figures behind recreational angling’s most amazing catches are now available in the 2018 edition of *IGFA World Record Game Fishes* published by [The International Game Fish Association](#).

[IGFA World Record Game Fishes](#) is the world’s definitive publication of recreational angling records. The 2018 edition includes comprehensive information on all freshwater, saltwater and fly-fishing world records for all-tackle, line classes and length-based catch and release records, including new world records set in the last year. In addition, the publication features a wide variety of unique content like *Ten Fishing Tips & Techniques* from IGFA Hall of Famer Bill Dance, tales of angler achievement like the *Billfish Royal Slam on the Fly* and stories around important conservation topics.

“We’re excited to fulfill our longstanding role as the angling world record keeper through the release of

our iconic annual publication,” said IGFA President Nehl Horton. “Angler recognition, game fish conservation and education are the cornerstones of our association. With the latest edition of *IGFA World Record Game Fishes*, we aim to inform, educate and inspire those who are interested in our sport.”

The 2018 edition is also available online as a digital magazine, providing IGFA members with access to the entire list of IGFA records and valuable content about freshwater and saltwater fishing techniques, personalities and conservation topics.

Since 1939, the [IGFA](#) has set international angling rules and maintained world records for saltwater game fish. In 1978, its global rules and record-keeping mandate expanded to include freshwater species and fly fishing records when *Field & Stream* magazine, the Salt Water Fly Rodders of America and the International Spin Fish Association turned over their

record-keeping responsibilities. In 1979, the IGFA first published freshwater, saltwater and fly-fishing records together in its annual book.

The [2018 world record book](#) also includes information on IGFA member clubs, captains, weigh stations and discount programs designed to help recreational anglers connect with each other and access a wealth of relevant and timely information.

As part of their membership, IGFA Lifetime and Corporate members will receive a printed copy of the annual *2018 IGFA World Record Game Fishes* as a valued keepsake and easy offline reference resource. The publication will be available for purchase through the [IGFA’s online store](#) and IGFA Premium members will be sent a promotional code for purchasing books at a discounted rate. To purchase the world record book go to: <https://store.igfa.org/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=2018WRB>. ✧

Carp Madness returns to Western Kentucky June 23-24

FRANKFORT, Ky. Commercial anglers netted 42 tons of invasive Asian carp from Kentucky and Barkley lakes during the inaugural Carp Madness tournament in 2013.

Carp Madness returns to the lakes in June with a new twist: it’s a tournament for bow anglers. The top prize is \$10,000 for the team on the winning boat in each division, with total prizes of \$23,000.

The Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency are partnering with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Kentucky State Parks and the Bowfishing Association of America for Carp Madness 2. The tournament is set for the night of June 23-24.

The tournament is another way to remove carp from the lake while building awareness of the invasive fish. “We anticipate that Carp Madness 2 will remove more than 100,000 lbs. of Asian carp in a single

night of bowfishing,” said Ron Brooks, fisheries director for Ky. Fish and Wildlife. “Proceeds beyond the cost of the tournament payouts and prizes will go to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which works with our department on fish and wildlife habitat, the Salato Wildlife Education Center and sponsoring the department’s summer conservation camps for kids.”

The entry fee is \$150 per boat. Contestants can pay an extra \$25 for entry into the big fish contest. Teams may consist of 2-4 anglers, but no passengers.

The top three weights harvested per boat from each division (lake or river) will win prize money. First place pays \$10,000 per boat, followed by \$1,000 for second and \$500 for third. The big fish payout will be combined for both divisions and depend on the number of entries.

Contestants who weigh in Asian carp will receive a commemorative

“Carp Madness 2” T-shirt. Contestants weighing in at least 250 pounds of fish will receive raffle tickets for chances at donated prizes. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation is providing support for raffles, t-shirts and donations to the tournament. The foundation will also sell “Carp-Madness 2” T-shirts to support Asian carp removal efforts.

The tournament begins at 7 p.m. (Central time) June 23 and continues until 7 a.m. the following morning. Launch is set for the Kentucky Dam Marina Boat Ramp, located at the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park near Gilbertsville, Ky. Bowfishing anglers may harvest any of the Asian carp, including the silver, bighead, grass and black carp.

Pre-registration is open on the Bowfishing Association of America website: baastore.bigcartel.com. Participants may also register at the event (cash only). ✧

Trout season opener will see additional 10-brook-trout bag limit streams in the UP

Five streams removed from list of 10-brook-trout bag limit streams

Anglers heading out for the trout season opener at the end of the month will have portions of nearly 40 Upper Peninsula trout streams where an additional five brook trout may be kept as part of the daily bag limit. The [new regulation approved last fall](#) added a suite of 36 streams, or portions of streams, where 10 trout is the daily possession limit. For streams not on the list, the daily bag limit remains at five.



During the 2016-17 fishing season, there were eight U.P. research area streams where a 10-trout bag limit was allowed.

Five of those streams were removed from the final listing proposal and no longer have a 10-brook-trout bag limit. These five streams include portions of Bryan Creek (Marquette and Dickinson counties); East Branch Huron River (Baraga and Marquette counties); East Branch Tahquamenon River (Chippewa County); Presque Isle

River and tributaries (Gogebic County) and Rock River and tributaries (Alger County)

With the exception of Menominee County, 14 of the U.P.'s 15 counties have at least one stream included on the 10 Brook Trout Possession Limit Waters list.

“The intent of the regulation change is to diversify fishing opportunities across the whole U.P. landscape, while simultaneously being protective of brook trout populations,” said Jim Dexter, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division Chief.

Over the past six years, at the request of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, and with input from members of the Coldwater Regulations Steering Committee, DNR Fisheries Division staff investigated social and biological aspects of increasing anglers' brook trout possession limit from five to 10 on a subset of U.P. trout streams.

Public opinions were gathered using several methods, including more than two dozen public meetings, various surveys conducted via the Internet, postcards and creel clerks (384 responses received), consultations with sport clubs and other governing agencies, and from e-mails, letters and telephone calls.



Biological information was gathered on seven streams using electrofishing surveys, while creel clerks collected catch, effort and harvest data on four streams.

“Staff worked to select specific stream segments or sub-watersheds to be considered for the 10-brook trout possession limit, based on criteria proposed by the DNR Fisheries Division and accepted by the Natural Resources Commission,” Dexter said. “Staff also looked broadly across all fisheries unit boundaries.”

The opening day of inland trout season on Type 1 streams, which include the increased bag limit, was April 28.

For a [complete listing of the streams where a 10-trout bag limit is allowed](#), see the 2018 Michigan Fishing Guide available from DNR offices, where fishing licenses are sold online at mi.gov/fishing. ✧

DNR to hold confiscated hunting, fishing equipment auction

The Minnesota DNR has scheduled an auction of confiscated hunting and fishing equipment for Saturday, **Aug. 4**. The auction, which is open to the public, will include items from people who forfeited their equipment after committing serious game and fish violations. More than 200 firearms, over 40 bows, and a variety of other hunting and fishing-related equipment will be available.

The auction will be at Hiller

Auction Service in Zimmerman.

Public inspection of the items will be available in advance of the auction. All equipment will be sold as-is, including all defects or faults, known or unknown. Once they've been purchased, items cannot be returned. Background checks are required of anyone who purchases a firearm.

Revenue from confiscated equipment auctions goes into the

Game and Fish Fund, which is the DNR's primary fund for delivering fish, wildlife and law enforcement programs.

Details about the auction will be available as the date draws closer. For more info: mndnr.gov/enforcement/auctions/index.html. A list of equipment to be auctioned will be posted online approximately one month in advance at: www.hillerauction.com ✧

Commission Lauds Canada's Commitment to The Shared Great Lakes Fishery

Announcement promises more attention to fishery science and sea lamprey control

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission thanked the Government of Canada for increasing its financial contribution for the commission's work. The Commission, which implements the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, addresses the shared elements of the Great Lakes fishery, which include controlling the invasive, destructive sea lamprey; advancing basinwide fishery science; and maintaining working arrangements among the basin's management agencies. Today's announcement, made by MP Terry Sheehan on behalf of the government, indicates Canada's intent to step up its commitment to protect and improve fish stocks of common concern between Canada and the U.S. The two nations, together, fund the joint commission.

"I join my fellow commissioners in thanking the Government of Canada for providing additional funds to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission," said Commission vice-chair James McKane of Warton.

"Both Canada and the United States, in adhering to the highly successful Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, agree to fund the Commission's important work. Mr. Sheehan's announcement today is a positive re-affirmation of Canada's strong commitment to improving the Great Lakes and the fisheries they support."

McKane continued: "The Great Lakes Fishery Commission's program is essential to the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery. Hundreds of thousands of people, basinwide, depend on a healthy Great Lakes for their livelihoods; the fishery alone generates more than 75,000 jobs and is the backbone of many local communities. The Commission works hard every day with a sincere awareness that what we do is important to people now and to future generations. We very much appreciate Canada's renewed dedication to our efforts; without this support, we would have no fishery to speak of."

McKane continued: "The funding announced today will allow the Commission to deliver an aggressive sea lamprey control program and

devote more resources to the science necessary to ensure sound fishery management. The enhanced contribution also contains new funding for physical infrastructure, such as low-head barriers, to control sea lamprey. Since each sea lamprey will destroy up to 20 kilograms of fish during its parasitic phase, sea lamprey control is the single most important thing we can do to ensure the perpetuation of the \$7 billion fishery."

Robert Lambe, the Commission's executive secretary, added: "It is fitting Mr. Sheehan, MP, of Sault Ste. Marie is making this announcement on behalf of the Government of Canada, as the Sea Lamprey Control Centre has been a part of the Soo community for more than fifty years. It is no exaggeration to say that the men and women who deliver sea lamprey control have saved the Great Lakes fishery. They could not do their jobs without the appreciation we all have for binational cooperation and without the commitment from the Government of Canada to fund this essential work." ✧

DEC Completes \$160,000 Thompsons Lake Boat Launch Upgrade

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced completion of \$160,000 in improvements to the Thompsons Lake boat launch in the town of Berne, Albany County. The improvements are part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Adventure NY initiative to connect more New Yorkers with nature.

Improvements to the launch site include widening and repaving of the launch area, installation of a new retaining wall, a new informational kiosk, a new entrance sign, new parking space striping, and the

installation of landscape plantings for erosion control and visual screening.

Thompsons Lake boat launch is owned by the town Berne and managed by DEC through a cooperative management agreement with the town. "We would like to thank the town of Berne and former Supervisor Kevin Crosier for their assistance with this project," said DEC Regional Director Keith Goertz. "Without the town's support, this project would not have been possible."

Under Governor Cuomo's Adventure NY initiative, DEC is

making strategic investments to expand access to healthy, active outdoor recreation, connect more New Yorkers and visitors to nature and the outdoors, protect natural resources, and boost local economies. This initiative will support the completion of more than 75 projects over the next three years, ranging from improvements to youth camps and environmental education centers to new boat launches, duck blinds, and hiking trails. Read more about the [Adventure NY initiative](#). ✧

Cisco on rebound

Continued from page 1

reason our recovering Lake Michigan cisco population is different.

This has sparked an active debate among biologists and fishery managers over the past several years, and Great Lakes anglers and conservationists are now beginning to consider the issue as well. At the recent Ludington Regional Fisheries Workshop hosted by [Michigan Sea Grant](#), Chuck Bronte of the [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) gave an overview of the issue and management options that are now being considered. Possible options included stocking cisco in Lake Michigan using spawners from Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, or multiple sources.

The future for cisco in Lake Michigan is looking much brighter than it did a decade ago. Remnant fish are successfully reproducing, researchers are devoting time and energy to enhance our understanding, and managers are carefully weighing whether to take a more active role in restoration. Great Lakes stakeholders are also learning more about how important this fish once was to Lake Michigan's ecology and fisheries.

The cisco is an amazingly adaptable, and useful, fish. It can feed on zooplankton, bottom-dwelling invertebrates, emerging insects, or small fish. It can be an excellent food source for a variety of predatory gamefish and also grows large enough to interest recreational anglers and commercial fishers. Cisco can be caught by ice fishing, fly casting, jigging, or trolling. Fresh cisco makes a memorable meal when baked, grilled, or sautéed. Commercial fishers often market smoked cisco, and Lake Superior cisco eggs (roe) are exported to Scandinavian countries where they are considered a delicacy.

Above all, the cisco is versatile. It can be many different things in many different circumstances. Attend the workshop on April 19 to learn more about the complex history and ecology of this unique fish.

[Michigan Sea Grant](#) helps to foster economic growth and protect

IDNR releases Carp final report and Action Plan

The pernicious invasion of Asian carp has presented a problem for mid-western states for decades with spread of these fish seemingly impossible to stop. While numerous government efforts have affected the most critical areas, it is apparent that greater resources must be devoted to controlling the proliferation of this invasive species. Novel, broad-thinking approaches are needed to effect marked change. To this end, Illinois DNR is sharing a Business Process Analysis and Action Plan as a guide to bolster current removal activities and further reduce the spread of Asian carp in the Illinois Waterway, as well as protect native Illinois species. [Read more here.](#) ✧

NMFS announces ESA status review of Atlantic Sturgeon DPS's

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service recently [announced](#) that it is seeking comments by **May 15** on its initiation of a 5-year Endangered Species Act status review of the endangered New York Bight, Chesapeake Bay, Carolina, and South Atlantic Distinct Population Segments of the Atlantic Sturgeon and the threatened Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of the Atlantic Sturgeon, requesting any new information on the species that has become available since the last review of the species. ✧

Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research and outreach. A collaborative effort of the [University of Michigan](#) and [Michigan State University](#) and its [MSU Extension](#), Michigan Sea Grant is part of the [NOAA-National Sea Grant](#) network of 33 university-based programs. ✧

Registration opens for summer 'BOW' program in the U.P.

The Michigan DNR announced registration is open for this summer's "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" (BOW) program, which is set for June 1-3 in Marquette County. This 21st annual summer BOW gathering is for women 18 and older who are seeking an opportunity to improve their outdoor skills in a relaxed, noncompetitive atmosphere. The summer BOW program is sponsored by the DNR and offers instruction in more than two dozen different types of activities, including kayaking, wilderness first aid and survival, lake and fly fishing, field birding, geocaching, shooting sports, boating and introduction to bird hunting with dogs. BOW participants stay and take their classes at the Bay Cliff Health Camp, a universally accessible facility overlooking Lake Superior, which is situated about 30 miles north of Marquette near Big Bay. ✧

Protect the lands & waters when you camp this summer

[New York has plenty to offer](#) from mountain views to miles of coastline. Before you leave, plan ahead and learn about the area that you will be traveling to. Check out the [trail conditions](#) first. Understand the principles of [Leave No Trace](#) to protect yourself and the environment:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

[Learn more about how to be safe while having fun.](#) ✧

Counting American eels

Staff and volunteers counted the first 'glass eels' of the season in the Saw Mill River and Furnace Brook in Westchester County, NY during February. Since then, eels have been showing up at sampling sites farther north. The American eel, a migratory fish, is hatched in the Sargasso Sea and enters North American estuaries, including the Hudson River, as tiny, see-through 'glass eels' each spring. The name 'glass eel' describes the fishes' lack of pigment and near transparency. The juvenile fish are counted one-by-one, weighed in groups, and released. Water temperature and water-quality data are recorded. Volunteers are needed to help monitor these juvenile glass eels. For more info: [American Eel Research webpage](#) or contact: grace.ballou@dec.ny.gov or aidan.mabey@dec.ny.gov at the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. ✧

"Spring into Fishing Giveaway"

Continued from page 1

April 13 through May 18, or by entering in person at the PFBC table at the Penn State Blue White football game, taking place at Beaver Stadium in University Park on April 21.

"This is an opportunity for us to partner with a host of diverse groups to promote fishing and boating opportunities to outdoor enthusiasts," said PFBC Bureau of Outreach, Education and Marketing Director Steve Kralik. "We particularly want to thank the sponsors for donating the prizes. Three lucky individuals are going to win some really fun prizes that showcase some of the best entertainment the state has to offer."

The winners will be notified after June 6. A date, time and location for the winner to pick up the kayak will be determined in the weeks after the winner is notified, and the other prizes will be mailed after they've been awarded. No purchase is required and only one entry per qualifying adult will be accepted. ✧

NY BOW programs

[Becoming an Outdoors-Woman](#) (BOW) instructors and licensed outdoor guides, Sheila and Sonny Young, are offering upcoming workshops in the Saranac Lake region of the Adirondacks.

➤ *Stalking the Adirondack Ostrich* (fern) – An adventure learning about Adirondack plants: **May 18** | \$75

➤ *Wilderness First Aid*, 9-hour certification program: **May 26** | \$120

➤ *Become Skilled with Map & Compass*: **June 8** | \$85* (Also available with GPS and Garmin BaseCamp mapping program packages for an additional fee)

For more information, or to register, contact Sheila and Sonny at 518-359-8194 or adkfoothillsgs@gmail.com.

For questions or comments:

Kelly Stang, NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4754
518-402-8862
Kelly.stang@dec.ny.gov

✧

A Brief History of Memorial Day:

On May 5, 1868, Major General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization made up of Union Veterans) set aside May 30th as Decoration Day to commemorate fallen soldiers by adorning their graves with flowers. General Logan's order declared: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance....Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

That year, 5,000 gathered at Arlington National Cemetery to attend commemoration ceremonies presided over by General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant. This was the nation's first major tribute to those who fell in the Civil War, and at that time small American flags were placed on each grave (a tradition that continues today).

However, the decoration of graves actually began before General Logan's official order, and some two dozen locations claim to be the site of the first Memorial Day observance. The majority of these sites are in the South, where most of the casualties of the Civil War are buried.

For example, both Macon and Columbus, Georgia, as well as Richmond, Virginia, each claim to have begun Memorial Day in 1866; and Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, claims that it held the first observance in 1864. However, one of the first documented sites to hold a tribute to the Civil War dead took place in Columbus, Mississippi on April 25, 1866. A group of women who were placing flowers on the graves of Confederate soldiers (casualties of the battle at Shiloh) noticed the destitute graves of the Union soldiers and also decorated their graves with flowers. The first community-wide observance occurred in Waterloo, New York, on May 5, 1866, with a ceremony to

honor local Civil War veterans. (A century later in 1966, President Lyndon Baines Johnson and Congress declared Waterloo to be the "birthplace" of Memorial Day because of that earlier observance.)

By the end of the 19th century, the observance of May 30th as a day to honor the Civil War dead had become a widespread practice across the nation, but after World War I, the tribute was expanded to include all American military men and women who had died in any war. Memorial Day has been acknowledged as a national holiday since 1971, when an Act of Congress established its observance on the last Monday in May.

In 2000, Congress passed the "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," asking all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence in remembrance of all those who have died in military service to America. ☘

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

No red herring: First batch of cisco going strong at Jordan River hatchery

As part of a 10-year plan to bring back Lake Huron's once-abundant cisco — also called lake herring — and restore another slice of the lake's native fishery, the Michigan Jordan River National Fish Hatchery began rearing ciscoes from 1.4 million eggs brought into the hatchery last November, with plans to deliver the first batch of 750,000 fish to outer Saginaw Bay this fall.

Public comment will be part of the decision on whether Lake Erie is impaired

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is asking for broad public input on its plan to have the open waters of western Lake Erie declared impaired under the federal Clean Water Act

Senate rejects bill stripping protections against zebra mussels, other Great Lakes invaders

A proposal to weaken protections against aquatic invaders in the Great Lakes, and across the country, failed in a procedural vote in the Senate as most Great Lakes senators stood firm against allowing the bill to even be considered, despite pressure from shipping

Hello beetles, goodbye purple loosestrife: Commission OKs beetle release to control invasive plants

The Boyne City, Michigan City Commission approved a request last week from an area leadership program to release beetles on city property with a goal to help control purple loosestrife, an invasive plant species.

People can once again kill cormorants

Culling season is coming quickly for the double-crested cormorant after it received a one-year reprieve. Almost all culling was suspended last year after a federal judge ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had failed to adequately assess its impact.

EPA grants \$1 million to rebuild long-gone Saginaw Bay reefs

Michigan has been granted nearly \$1 million by the U.S. EPA to build two rock reef formations in the Saginaw Bay. Rock reefs provide protective spawning grounds and nursery habitats key to walleye and whitefish, and are expected to bolster those populations.

The legend of the 'Lake Michigan Triangle'

From Manitowoc, Wisconsin, across to Ludington, Michigan, down to Benton Harbor, Michigan, and back to Manitowoc is an area that people believe to be the Lake Michigan triangle. [Read the full story by WGBA-TV – Manitowoc, WI](#)

COMMENTARY: Why Ontarians should care about Wisconsin's water

It may be far away and in a different country, but the water Foxconn is asking for is the same water that much of Ontario relies on. Lake Michigan and Lake Huron are intimately connected — so much so that, hydrologically, they're considered a single body of water

Journalist Dan Egan annotates a page of 'The Death and Life of the Great Lakes'

The April pick for the PBS NewsHour-New York Times book club is Dan Egan's "The Death and Life of the Great Lakes." In annotations to a portion of his book explaining the devastation wreaked by the quagga mussel, Egan describes the challenge of

Credit the Coho with starting Lake Ontario's salmon craze

It was 50 years ago that the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's Bill Pearce had a vision to stock salmon and trout in Lake Ontario, following a lead that was started by Lake Michigan.

Keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes is a priority for the tourism industry

Michigan tourism officials are applauding a recent federal spending bill that provides \$300 million to improve the Great Lakes, which includes efforts to keep Asian carp at bay.

500 gallons of coolant leaks into Straits of Mackinac

Officials say hundreds of gallons of potentially toxic coolant fluid have leaked from two electric power cables in the waterway that links Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.

Federal funds expected to help construct sea lamprey barrier

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission expects a \$7 million increase in federal funding to its annual budget that would help pay for the construction of a proposed barrier on the Grand River aimed at controlling sea lamprey access into western Michigan.

East Chicago completing makeover of Lake Michigan waterfront

In Indiana, East Chicago's marina and lakefront have been undergoing a \$15.5 million transformation that includes a permanent stage on the beach, a new harbor walk and 25-foot-tall beach ball and umbrella sculptures

End