



Obama proposal for oceans/Great Lakes ignores recreational fishing Outlines structure that could result in closures of sport fishing in salt/freshwater areas across America

This past June, President Obama created the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. The Task Force, led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), was charged with developing a national policy and implementation strategy for conserving and managing the United States ocean territory and the Great Lakes. The policy will govern ocean and Great Lakes resource management and coordinate efforts among countless federal, state and local agencies.

Without recreational angler input, decisions made under this national oceans policy could be used to unnecessarily close saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing areas. The Task Force was given 90 days to develop these basic recommendations, and 180 days to develop a comprehensive framework for coastal

and marine spatial planning. The Task Force released its [Interim Report](#) on September 17, 2009. There is a short 30-day public review and comment period.

Gov't Ignores \$125 Billion Sportfishing Industry in Mgmt policies

The single most obvious flaw in the report is the omission of responsibly regulated recreational fishing as a key activity for the oceans and the Great Lakes. In addition, as a national policy document governing the oceans and Great Lakes, the report is skewed toward a preservationist policy of locking up public waters instead of one that promotes sustainable uses such as recreational fishing.

The American Sportfishing

Association has taken issue with the Obama administration's sweeping oceans and Great Lakes management policy as having a significant negative impact on the sportfishing industry, America's saltwater anglers and the nation's coastal communities.

Dave Pfeiffer, President of Shimano Corp. explained, "In spite of extensive submissions from the recreational fishing community to the Task Force in person and in writing, they failed to include any mention of the over one million jobs or the 60 million anglers which may be affected by the new policies coast to coast. Input from the environmental groups who want to put us off the water was adopted into the report verbatim — the key points we submitted as an industry were ignored."

Obama proposal

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U.S. relinquishes control of the Internet ICANN ends agreement with the US government, Move will give other countries a prominent Internet role

After complaints about American dominance of the Internet and growing disquiet in some parts of the world, Washington said it will relinquish some control over the way the network is run and allow foreign governments more of a say in the future of the system.

ICANN, the official body that controlled the development and oversight of the Internet and web addresses such as .com, .net and .org, ended its agreement with the U.S. government.

The deal, part of a contract negotiated with the U.S. Department of Commerce, effectively pushes ICANN towards a new status as an international body with greater representation from companies and

governments around the globe. ICANN had previously been operating under the auspices of the American government, which had control of the net thanks to its role in developing the technologies used for connecting computers together.

The focus now will give other countries a more prominent role in determining what takes place online, and even the way in which it happens, opening the door for a virtual UN, where many officials gather to discuss changes to the Internet.

The new agreement went into effect immediately. It replaces the old version, which had been in place since 1998 and was scheduled to expire September 30. ✧

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week in Your State October 12-18, 2009

What's the most natural place to marvel at autumn's show? A National Wildlife Refuge is hard to beat — and you can see for yourself during National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 12-18, 2009.

Whether you prefer to admire the fall colors, thrill to a skyful of migratory birds, explore a mountain trail or learn about the cultural resources that are part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's conservation mission, you can find what you like at a National Wildlife Refuge. National Wildlife Refuge Week celebrates the richness of the 550 units that make up America's National Wildlife Refuge System. And it's a great opportunity to find an outdoor family event near where you live.

President Teddy Roosevelt established tiny Pelican Island in Florida in 1903 as the first National Wildlife Refuge. Roosevelt's mission was clear: protect Pelican Island's birds from poachers and plume hunters. And with that simple promise of wildlife protection, the National Wildlife Refuge System was born.

National Wildlife Refuges are dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. They also offer a wide range of wildlife-dependent recreation — from fishing, boating, hunting and hiking — to wildlife observation and photography, nature interpretation and environmental education. The Refuge System includes more than 2,500 miles of land and water trails. There is at least one National Wildlife Refuge in every state and one within an hour's drive of most major cities.

This long-distance aspect is being joined by amateur radio enthusiasts who are also supporting Refuge Week by operating special event stations on a number of refuges. They will be communicating with other stations operating from other refuges as well as stations across the United States promoting refuges. Amateur radio operators must obtain permission from the refuge manager to operate within

the boundaries of a national wildlife refuge. Interested licensed operators can find a registration form and more information at: <http://www.nwrweek-radio.info>.

Many events are planned in celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week. Here is a sample:

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, MN Saturday, September 26, Fall Festival: Enjoy educational programs and family activities. Photo contest winners will be displayed. 10 - 4 p.m. For more info: www.fws.gov/midwest/tamarac, or 218-847-2641.

For more National Wildlife Refuge Week events: www.fws.gov/refuges/SpecialEvents/FWS_SpecialEvents_Search.cfm. ✧

New MI record muskie

A new Michigan State record Great Lakes Spotted Strain (GLS) muskie was taken out of Torch Lake, near



Traverse City on Sunday, September 27. Kyle Anderson of Rapid City, MI caught this 50.8 lb. musky and the fish was

officially verified by DNR biologists at the Charlevoix Office. It has a length of 55"

One angler who saw the fish claims it had been trap netted earlier this spring and weighed in around 55 lbs. then. Tom Hamilton, our Michigan State Director and a former FWS biologist, says GLS eggs were harvested from Indian River (Torch Lake area) in 1993 to start up the Green Bay GLS program. Those fish are now well over 50". Anderson's fish beat the old record, set in 1984, by 2.5 lbs. ✧



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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

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Check your Bait

The fall salmon run is here, but anglers need to check their bait before heading to the river

Each year the Cheboygan River fills with salmon making their way from the Great Lakes to their spawning grounds, and each year anglers crowd the riverbanks in hopes of landing one of these trophies. To ensure an enjoyable experience, anglers need to be sure the bait they use is legal for the portion of river they fish.

“Generally speaking, if you don’t take any spawn out of the watershed it came from and you fish below the first upstream barrier from the lake, you are fine,” said DNR Fisheries Biologist Gary Whelan. “But remember, you can’t use that roe upstream from the first dam.”

Whelan added, the only way anglers can be sure their bait is approved for use in all state waters is to buy certified Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia-disinfected spawn. This is the second year these bait regulations have been in place. After a smooth fall run last year, DNR officials aren’t expecting anything different this fall.

The regulations were implemented to help stop the spread of VHS, a fish disease that causes internal bleeding, and has killed several species of fish in Michigan.

The disease has been found in the Michigan waters of Lake Erie and Lake Huron. VHS has been found in Lake Michigan, but not in the Michigan waters. It has not been found in Lake Superior.

“There is no known treatment for VHS,” Whelan said. “Our best defense against it is trying to prevent its spread.” ✧

Ohio's Lake Milton gets additional structure

Seventy weighted wooden spoons were introduced along the western edge of Mahoning County, Ohio's Lake Milton, to serve as structure for fish. The work is part of a project to introduce 500 structures into the waters of northeastern Ohio annually. ✧

Ohio offers grants for boating programs

The Ohio DNR is accepting grant applications for community boating programs that contribute to the safety and enjoyment of boating throughout Ohio. Deadlines are drawing near.

The ODNR Division of Watercraft administers grants including the Clean Vessel Act Grant, Boating Safety Education Grant, Navigational Aids Grant Program and Marine Patrol grants. Grants encourage public use to Ohio waterways by providing financial assistance that enhances waterway quality, supports local boating education and ensures law enforcement for local marine patrols.

Proposals being accepted:

► Oct. 23, Boating Safety Education Grant – Applicants may apply to receive funding support of local boating safety education programs. ODNR provides a total of approximately \$365,000 yearly with individual grants ranging between \$1,000 and \$30,000. Among eligible applicants are political subdivisions at all levels of government, conservancy districts, nonprofits, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadrons.

► Nov. 1, Navigational Aids Grant Program – The Division of Watercraft provides nearly \$50,000 yearly to political subdivisions to mark Ohio waterways with navigational signage designed to assist recreational boaters.

► Dec. 31, Marine Patrol Grants – Local law enforcement agencies can now apply for a 2010 Marine Patrol Assistance Grant that will help support local marine patrol activities. The Division of Watercraft annually provides more than \$500,000 in total grant awards.

More than \$5 million in grant program funding is provided through the Waterways Safety Fund, which is comprised of a share of the state motor fuel tax, watercraft registration and titling fees, and funding through the U.S. Coast Guard. Additional information on the grant programs is available online at www.ohiodnr.com.

NY proposes fishing regs changes

New York's Department of Environmental Conservation has proposed several changes for 2010-12, including a statewide creel limit of 50 for perch and sunfish, with a November 2 deadline for public opinion on the regulation proposals. The proposed regulations are the result of careful assessment of the status of existing fish populations and the desires of anglers for enhanced fishing opportunities. The opportunity for public review follows discussions held with angling interest groups over the past year.

In order to receive input early in the process, changes under consideration for this proposal were available on the DEC website prior to today's announcement. The feedback received was integral to developing the regulation changes that are now being formally proposed.

Several of the regulations being considered are for the purposes of removing special regulations that are no longer warranted.

The following are highlights of the proposed changes:

► Eliminate catch and release only regulations in Hempstead Lake (Nassau County) as this warmwater fish community has rebuilt since the restriction was instituted in 2004.

► Eliminate the 15" minimum size limit for black bass at Fort Pond (Suffolk County) and at Lake Ronkonkoma (Suffolk County) as recent surveys have shown stable bass populations at these waters.

► Apply the statewide regulation for pickerel, eliminating the "no size" limit regulation, in: Essex, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington County waters. ✧

Recreational boating in Ohio helps support 26,000 jobs and generates a statewide economic impact estimated at \$3.5 billion annually, according to a 2007 Great Lakes Commission study. www.ohiodnr.com ✧

Sylvan Lake, IN restoration a success story

ROME CITY – Armed with backpack sprayers, pumps, boats, and even a commercial crop-dusting airplane, the Department of Natural Resources conducted one of its most successful fishing restoration projects 25 years ago this week at Sylvan Lake, a 669-acre impoundment in northern Noble County.

On September 19, 1984, fisheries biologists with the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife began applying 4,000 gallons of rotenone, a chemical fish toxicant, to Sylvan Lake, its inlet ditches, and several lakes upstream, including Barr, Beck, Hall and Wible.

The purpose of the project was to remove an excessive population of carp, a non-native invasive fish species that had roiled the lakebed, muddied the water, destroyed fish habitat, and displaced sport fish. Ironically, carp were first brought to Indiana 100 years earlier in 1884 to stock in ponds in hopes of boosting

meat production.

Once treated, Sylvan Lake was restocked with largemouth bass, bluegills, channel catfish, and walleyes.

Total cost of the Sylvan Lake project in 1984 dollars was about \$125,000 and was funded by fishing license sales and the federal Sport Fish Restoration program. Since then, the turnaround in water quality, fish habitat, fishing, and the overall economic value of the lake community has far exceeded that initial investment.

As a result, Sylvan Lake today is one of the most popular fishing lakes in northern Indiana. Anglers flock to the lake each year to catch bass and bluegills, progeny of those released back in 1984.

A 14" minimum size limit on bass, imposed at the time of the renovation, has helped protect small bass from overharvest. Walleyes are

still stocked in the lake each fall by the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife. As recently as 2007, estimates are that anglers fished nearly 60,000 hours and took home more than 46,000 bluegills.

“The Sylvan Lake Restoration Project is a true success story and a great example of what professional fisheries managers can accomplish,” said Bill James, Indiana’s Fish Chief. James credited the teamwork of his field biologists, hatchery managers, lake residents and town leaders for success of the project. Local residents coordinated a cleanup effort that sent over a million pounds of carp to a fertilizer plant.

“If anyone wants an example of what the DNR and Hoosier citizens can accomplish together, or how state investment in local communities and outdoor recreation opportunities can pay big dividends, I’ll mention Sylvan Lake every time,” he said. ✧

Video game takes kids outside

The USFWS launched a new online video game aimed to encourage kids to go outside and learn about the environment. Designed for children ages 8 to 11 years old, Neighborhood Explorers is accessed through the Service’s Let’s Go Outside! at www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/.

The journey through the game begins when you meet three children – Mia, Lucy and Steve – who gather in a tree house as the school year begins and talk about all the fun outdoor environmental activities they did over the summer. They form a Neighborhood Explorers Club, called the NX Club, and share info about planting gardens with native plants, backyard bird watching and urban wildlife. By exploring the tree house with your cursor, you can learn about endangered species, conservation heroes and threats to our natural world. Then you can play a fun jeopardy-style trivia game that

tests your newly acquired environmental information in an entertaining and interactive venue.

Other activities include recording nature sightings in your own back yard, and identifying birds in a variety of habitats. When you finish a game, you can receive a gold, silver, or bronze patch, depending on how many points you score. Every game is a fun challenge as well as a valuable educational experience. You can also receive patches for documenting environmental projects and local wildlife, thus reinforcing the connection between the virtual and natural worlds.

When you’ve earned all five patches, you can receive a free tree from the Arbor Day Foundation! (A free membership to the NX Club is required so a record of your earned patches can be saved). After earning all five patches, you will be directed to the Arbor Day Foundation web site,

where you provide personal info to get a free tree with directions for planting. There are only 450 trees available, so you should get started winning your patches right away!

The game provides an excellent educational opportunity for children and parents. By participating in this game, kids learn about nature and are encouraged to spend more time outside. Steve’s summer activity, for example, is simply exploring and observing nature. Children can also learn about problems that the environment is facing and discover ways to help solve these problems.

Unstructured play and discovery outside is an important part of childhood, and Neighborhood Explorers reinforces this through a medium that kids are familiar with: a video game. This is a great opportunity to show kids how caring about conservation and the environment can make a real-life difference in the world. ✧



Bass Pro Shops introduces revolutionary fishing game

New fishing game combines authentic game play with innovative fishing pole controller

Springfield, MO – Psyclone, XS Games, and the #1 outdoor retailer in America, Bass Pro Shops, has announced that Bass Pro Shops: The Strike is now available for the Microsoft Xbox 360 video game and entertainment system, the Nintendo Wii and PC platforms at retailers nationwide.

“We are very excited to deliver a revolutionary fishing

Strike combines authentic environments based on real lakes, engaging gameplay with accurate fish and lure behaviors, and a highly interactive fishing pole controller that allows players an immersive fishing adventure.”

Players can enjoy 3 different game-play modes including Quick Fish, Career, and Bass Pro Shops Invitational Tournament, or compete with friends in mini games like boat races and casting challenges. The lifelike fishing pole peripheral lets the player cast, jig, set the hook, and fight as if a real fish were on the other end of the line.

The game takes players to some of North America’s most famous fishing hot spots and features eleven types of game fish including Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Striped Bass as well as Northern Pike and Musky. In addition, realistic lake bottom topography, real-time time-of-day light effects, advanced graphics, and authentic fishing gear from the Bass Pro Shops stores, all combine to offer virtual anglers the most comprehensive fishing game experience to-date.

The Strike is now available at Target, Best Buy, Game Stop, Toys R Us, Wal-Mart and Bass Pro Shops. For a full listing of retailers or to experience videos, screenshots, player forum, and more: www.TheStrikeGame.com. ✧

**Rod and Reel controller with
Wii The Strike game**



experience to consumers with the release of The Strike,” said Chip Pedersen, Director of Gaming at Psyclone. “The

WI Caution areas added following wolf depredation on hunting dogs

MADISON – Wildlife authorities have identified three new bear hunting caution areas after confirming the killing of five hunting dogs and injury of a hunting dog by wolves since opening of the bear-hunting season.

The dogs killed were a 6-year-old male redbone/Plott mix on September 16 by the South Averill Creek pack in Lincoln County, a 3-year-old female Walker Hound killed by the Nebagamon pack in Douglas County on September 13, a 5-year-old female July Hound killed on September 10 and a 3-year-old male Redbone Hound on September 14 by the Shanagolden pack in Ashland County, and a 3-year-old female Redtick Hound was killed by the Log Creek Pack in Ashland County on September 10.

The Log Creek pack also injured a 9-year-old female Bluetick Hound on September 10.

Adrian Wydeven, DNR mammalian ecologist, said wolves still have pups in rendezvous sites at this

time of the year. It is probable the wolves were protecting their young.

“We advise all citizens to exercise caution in areas of recently confirmed wolf depredations on dogs. Hunters should be familiar with caution area maps on the DNR wolf web site,” Wydeven said. He further indicated that, “the locations of attack sites are shown as circles on the maps and these often represent rendezvous sites where attacks are most likely to occur. But once a pack starts attacking dogs, hunting hounds are probably at some risk anywhere in the pack territory shown in the caution areas.”

While the gray wolf population in Wisconsin has recovered, the animal remains a federally endangered species due to pending lawsuits. The Wisconsin DNR continues to work with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a federal rule to delist wolves and allow Wisconsin to address the issue of wolf depredation.

“Its clear wolves have recovered in Wisconsin and we need the flexibility to properly manage the population and address problem wolves preying on livestock and pets,” said DNR Secretary Matt Frank. “We will continue to work toward delisting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

The gray wolf currently is listed as a federal endangered species. This is despite efforts by Wisconsin and other upper Midwest states to demonstrate that the Western Great Lakes population segment of the gray wolf population has sufficiently recovered to be removed from the federal endangered list and that states be allowed to manage their wolf populations

As a federally endangered species persons convicted of killing a wolf are subject to possible jail time and fines. ✧

Journalist 'shield' law gains steam in Senate

A long-debated federal "shield" law to protect journalists who refuse to reveal their confidential sources is poised to move a little closer to passage this month. The Senate Judiciary Committee plans a mark-up session with the shield law at the top of the agenda.

"It is very significant that this is the first bill on the agenda. That tends to indicate that it is in a position of priority," the Senate aide said. A federal shield law would grant journalists the right to refuse to reveal information they have obtained during the news-gathering process in certain legal proceedings — and ultimately would protect the public's "right to know."

—Currently, 49 states have some form of common-law, statutory or rule-based protections for journalists, but there is no definitive federal legislation in place for those who choose not to reveal their sources in court. The House passed its version of the "Free Flow of Information Act" in March, but Senate action is needed for the bill to become law.

The protections in the bill would be "similar to those afforded to lawyers and their clients, clergy and their penitents, and psychotherapists and their patients," according to the Society of Professional Journalists, which has raised \$30,000 in the past year to build support for the law.

The bill has been slow in coming, with legislation stalling in Congress. ✧

Reiter to lead IN DNR Fish & Wildlife division

Mark Reiter, who spent most of the last 32 years in various jobs with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, has been named director of the agency's Division of Fish and Wildlife. He succeeds previous division director Glen Salmon, who took a position with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in June. ✧

WI test results show VHS fish disease hasn't spread

Disease found in Green Bay in 2009 but no new waters

MADISON — Results are in from several dozen waters tested in 2009 for VHS fish disease and the news is good. No new waters have been found this year with the deadly fish virus. VHS has also been ruled out as the cause of a large fish kill of carp in June on Chequamegon Bay on Lake Superior. The fish disease was detected in smallmouth bass from Green Bay, but the virus had previously been identified as being at that location.

None of the fish or water supplies tested as part of these surveillance or hatchery programs were found to have VHS, according to Mike Staggs, DNR fisheries management director. "All clear," he says. The only positive VHS results in 2009 were in three smallmouth bass from Green Bay that were tested after anglers and DNR staff observed and reported skin lesions, one symptom of VHS.

The waters tested are popular and highly trafficked waters by anglers and boaters, increasing the chances of VHS being spread by the movement of water and live fish, Staggs says. Mendota Lake in Dane County, Geneva Lake in Walworth County, Castle Rock Lake in Juneau and Adams counties, and Butternut Lake in Price County were among those tested.

While fisheries officials are relieved no new waters tested positive for VHS, they say the results showed that the virus is still active in Wisconsin and that anglers need to remain vigilant in following rules to prevent the spread of VHS fish disease and other aquatic invasive species. "VHS remains a serious fish health threat and there are other invasive species and fish diseases already in the Great Lakes that we want to keep out of Wisconsin and our inland lakes," Staggs says. ✧

UK Scouts ban penknives knives

It's a sad day for Scouts in Britain as all knives are officially banned in virtually all circumstances: "neither Scouts nor their parents should bring penknives to camp except in 'specific' situations." A Scouts spokesman defended its policy, saying: "The Scout Association plays a key role in helping young people develop the confidence, maturity and self-esteem they need to play active and responsible roles in their communities, and to resist the peer pressure that may attract them into local gang culture."

This action is a reflection of the intense anti-knife culture that has developed in the U.K. in the past few years. There are numerous causes, not the least of which is a media all too happy to feed the flames and politicians who would rather attack the tool rather than the root causes. In any case, it should serve as a warning to America's knife owners.

The anti-knife hysteria in the U.K., Europe and elsewhere was one of the reasons why Knife Rights was founded just under three years ago, to give knife owners an effective voice against those who would take away our knives if we don't oppose them.

If there were ever a reason to support www.KnifeRights.org and the efforts to keep these sorts of dopey laws from being pushed through, this one should be the tipping point. ✧

Trout headed for Ohio waterways

Some 25,000 10-13" long, rainbow trout, will be released into 25 Ohio waterways this month, according to the Ohio DNR. The trout stocking program targets small inland waters, including state and community park lakes, as well as other easy-access lakes throughout the state. Additional information about fall trout releases is available from Division of Wildlife district offices in Akron, Athens, Columbus, Findlay, and Xenia; or by calling toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE. ✧

New tool helps identify Wis musky spawning habitat

Protecting spawning habitat is critical to Wisconsin's musky populations and biologists now have a new, less expensive, less labor intensive way to identify where the elusive fish spawn.

Results from a [two-year study that analyzed spawning habitat on 24 lakes in northern Wisconsin](#) have been used to create a computer model that will help biologists identify where musky spawn on 500 more state lakes, says Paul Cunningham, DNR fisheries policy ecologist.

"Once we've identified the spawning grounds on each lake, we'll be able to uncover which areas are in pristine condition and needing vigilant protection versus other areas that are in need of rehabilitation," he says.

To build the model, research teams comprised of U. of Michigan researchers, volunteer anglers, and Wisconsin DNR fish crews used handheld spotlights to search the

entire shoreline of each lake for mating muskies. Each time a musky was seen, the location was marked and recorded using digital mapping software. Researchers then collected data and described the ecological conditions they found at those spots, then returned to the site the next day to verify that spawning occurred.

"We took the preferred spawning habitat characteristics, such as rushes, under-water vegetation, groundwater flow, woody habitat, and moderate slopes, and created a Geographic Information System (GIS) model that, when applied to other lakes in Wisconsin, can predict the most likely spawning habitat," says Joe Nohner, the U. of Michigan lead researcher.

"Before, there were no efficient ways to determine where musky actually spawn," says Nohner. "Using the GIS model, DNR will be able to quickly identify these locations

without performing costly and time-intensive surveys on each lake."

Previous research showed lakes with self-sustaining musky populations are mostly surrounded by forest, whereas lakes that require stocking often have less natural shoreline and more human development.

"Stocking cannot fully offset losses in natural reproduction, and it's very expensive," explains Cunningham. "The most effective long-term approach for musky is to preserve natural reproduction by protecting spawning and nursery habitat – it's our state's largest fish hatchery!"

The 2007-2008 study that served as the foundation for this model was funded by the Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin, University of Michigan and the DNR. Visit the [musky](#) page of the DNR web site for more information on musky management. ✦

Invasive plant battle appears won at one Indiana lake

The invasive Brazilian elodea, a plant commonly used in home aquariums, appears to have been eradicated from Griffy Lake, a 109-acre impoundment near Bloomington, after a multi-year battle by the DNR, pointing to chance for success elsewhere in the state.

"The last Brazilian elodea observed at the lake was during the 2007 treatment season," said Doug Keller, aquatic invasive species coordinator with the DNR. "We've performed searches on numerous occasions each year since the plant was last seen, and we have not been able to locate any sign of it again. "With all the work and money put into this project to eradicate an invasive plant species new to Indiana, it is exciting to be able to claim a victory."

The suspected source of Brazilian elodea establishment in Griffy Lake was an aquarium dump likely done in the early 2000s. Cost of the project was \$150,000 (\$1,400 per acre), including herbicide, application, and intensive monitoring and surveys.

The DNR applied whole-lake

herbicide treatments in 2006 and 2007, an aggressive plan that initially depressed the entire lake plant community, that some feared might cause permanent damage to both native plant life and the fishery. Signs are that plant and fish communities are now as healthy as before the invasive plant's proliferation.

Water clarity has also improved from 8' of visibility before the eradication to 13' this year. Reducing aquatic vegetation, often using herbicides, is a fisheries management tool commonly employed to improve growth of panfish as a result of increased predation by bass. Dave Kittaka, DNR fisheries biologist, recently surveyed the fish community at the lake and found positive signs.

"Bluegill and redear sunfish growth and size structure increased dramatically compared to an earlier survey performed in 2004," Kittaka said. "The likely reason for the improvement was the reduction in vegetation coverage in 2006 and 2007."

"There remain a few bodies of water with Brazilian elodea we have yet to tackle but fortunately we have found tools that appear to successfully put an end to this very aggressive plant," Keller said. The plant remains a popular species for indoor aquarium use, and that's where it needs to stay in order to prevent future costly eradication projects.

"Aquarium owners must realize the damage they can cause as a result of a seemingly innocent act such as releasing plants and fish that they have nurtured for so long," Keller said. "When no longer wanted, aquarium plants should be disposed of in household trash and unwanted fish should either be given to others who have the ability to care for them or else euthanized.

"They should never be dumped in any body of water." Otherwise, an apparently successful, but long and expensive process may have to be redone at Griffy Lake or started at another body of water. ✦

New Quantum Fishing website goes live

TULSA – The redesigned Quantum web site, www.QuantumFishing.com, has gone live with a new look and many expanded features and functions for the ultimate interactive experience relating to Quantum, customer service, technical support and a wide range of fishing topics and know-how.

The new site incorporates the latest in new, user friendly media technology, general info such as FAQs, trophy board and media room, a greatly expanded library of product schematics covering many of years, as well as the most intricate details about PT products, including gear ratios, inches per turn, weight, drag strength, etc. and many video options.

There are also fishing tips videos by Quantum's pro staffers, including Kevin VanDam, Shaw Grigsby, Dean Rojas, Greg Hackney, etc, covering fresh and saltwater. For customers wanting to communicate directly with the company's engineers and product managers, there's the Quantum Blog. The monitored blog will provide useful communication on most any fishing topic, and expect to find frequent postings by Quantum's pro staffers adding to the exchanges.

Certain items, such as Quantum Signature Series PT rods and a variety of promotional clothing, can be purchased through the site's "buy online" areas. The Custom Shop houses all of the information about the rods. ✧

Judge considers RMEF wolf hunting support

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy recently granted a motion allowing the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to enter an amicus curiae brief supporting state-regulated wolf hunting in Idaho and Montana. A hearing on an emergency injunction filed by 13 environmental groups asking the judge to stop the hunt and return gray wolves to the endangered list is scheduled for later. Molloy's ruling could follow soon afterward. ✧

Evinrude fall retail sales promotion

Sturtevant, WI – Consumers who purchase an eligible Evinrude E-TEC outboard, 40-hp and above, will have the opportunity to take advantage of the "Best Deal on the Water" retail promotion launched Sept. 15. The E-TEC promotion delivers the added peace of mind from a BRP Backed Limited Warranty when purchasing a new boat and motor package or repowering with a new Evinrude.

The sales promotion, which runs throughout the fall season, ending December 22, 2009, offers the consumer a 5-year BRP factory-backed limited warranty (3-year factory warranty PLUS an additional 2-year B.E.S.T. coverage). Consumers must purchase and take delivery of an eligible Evinrude E-TEC engine from a participating Evinrude dealer during the promotion period to qualify.

BRP's Evinrude E-TEC engine line-up now includes 110 engine models from 25- to 300- horsepower. All engines are available at Evinrude dealerships worldwide. Visit www.evinrude.com or www.repowerwithevinrude.com for more information. www.brp.com. ✧

Buck to produce more knives locally

Will reduce offshore production and work

Buck has implemented what it calls an "American Commitment" program aimed at making more of its knives in Post Falls, ID and reducing offshore products and work. The company says 95% of their new knives for 2009 and 2010 will be produced domestically. All of the company's hunting knives are currently U.S. made, but about 30% of their overall products were produced offshore prior to their American Commitment program.

Buck Knives began more than 100 years ago after company founder Hoyt Buck sold his first knife using worn-out file blades to get a tempered steel that would hold a better edge. ✧

Don't dump aquariums into local waters

Aquarium owners who are moving and can't take their aquarium's contents with them should avoid dumping the contents in local waters. Most of the fish won't survive the winter, and the plants can thrive and cause serious environmental damage. Dumping aquarium fish into public waters carries a fine up to \$500 and 30 days in jail, plus court costs.

If an aquarium owner cannot find someone who will take the fish, the DNR recommends sealing the fish in a plastic bag, putting them in a freezer, and then disposing of them in the trash. They should never be flushed down a toilet or dumped into local lakes, ponds, streams or rivers.

The plastic-bag technique also is the best option for getting rid of unwanted aquarium plants. Many aquarium plants thrive in local waters, crowding out native plants, affecting fishing and boating; and can cost thousands to eradicate. ✧

Student apps being accepted for Fenske Memorial Award

Up to 25 outstanding students majoring in fisheries or wildlife management will be selected, formally recognized for their achievements, and invited to attend an exclusive breakfast held during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Springfield, Illinois on December 7, 2009. The application deadline is October 30.

This award is made possible through collaborative efforts of the North Central Division and Illinois and Michigan chapters of the American Fisheries Society; the North Central Section and Illinois and Michigan chapters of The Wildlife Society; and the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Steering Committee.

For more info: Jessica Mistak, Sr. Fisheries Biologist DNR Marquette Fisheries Station, 906-249-1611 ext. 308, mistakj@michigan.gov. ✧

IGFA receives more info on pending record bass

Documentation on the much heralded 22 lb. 4 oz. largemouth bass caught in Japan this past July arrived at IGFA headquarters in Dania Beach, FL for a pending world record recognition. Caught July 2, by Manabu Kurita, 32, of Aichi, Japan, Kurita's fish would tie the current record held for over 77 years by George Perry, long considered the "Holy Grail" of bass fishing — caught on Georgia's Montgomery Lake, June 2, 1932, near Jacksonville, Georgia.



Kurita was using a blue gill as live bait trolling through a canal. A decision by the IGFA of whether Kurita's fish will tie Perry's record may take up to a month. ✧

Kincaid Hatchery renovation under way

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Renovation at the Kincaid State Fish Hatchery is underway, according to the Ohio DNR. Kincaid Hatchery has the responsibility for raising muskie, hybrid striped bass and rainbow trout that are stocked in public lakes across Ohio.

The building improvements will allow for egg hatching capabilities and will include fry and fingerling troughs. This will allow staff at Kincaid to hatch more than 100,000 muskellunge eggs and raise 25,000 fry until they reach the four-inch fingerling stage. Additionally, 27,000 catchable rainbow trout will be grown out in the new facility annually. ✧

Memorable quote

Nearly fifty years ago, Walter Lippmann, then the dean of political columnists, warned, "Presidents don't merely appoint whom they want; they appoint what they are." ✧

USFWS makes key career picks

USFWS Director Sam D. Hamilton announced the selection of Dan Ashe and Rowan Gould to serve as deputy directors for the agency.

Gould, who has served as acting director since January 2009, will be deputy director for operations. Gould will oversee regional directors, ensuring agency performance and accountability, consistent application of all Service resource management policies, and will be responsible for the day-to-day Service operations.

Ashe, who has served as science advisor to the director since 2003, will be deputy director for policy. He will oversee assistant directors in the Washington, D.C. office, providing strategic program direction, and will be responsible for developing policy and guidance to support and promote program development and fulfill the Service mission. ✧

Zebra mussels mean trouble in Indiana

In what officials say could mean big trouble for waters throughout the area, a lone zebra mussel was found attached to a rock in the St. Joseph River in Fort Wayne last month during routine sampling led by Saint Francis University assistant professor Warren Pryor. That could signal big trouble for waters in that area, much as the mussel's presence has affected others.

Though found in more than 75 bodies of water in 43 counties throughout Indiana, this discovery marks the first time the mussel has been found in Allen County. Zebra mussels were also discovered earlier in the year in Sylvan Lake, the first find in Noble County. ✧

Tribes retrieve lost nets from Lake Superior

Houghton, MI – Tribal wardens retrieved about 3,000' of gill net aboard the enforcement vessel Mizhakwad in June from Lake Superior in the Houghton area. The nets, of unknown origin, appeared to have been in the lake for a period of years. Most nets were "extremely deteriorated," the contents rotten, and no ID tags were found.

An angler reported the nets and provided GPS coordinates for their locations. Following up on another complaint about possible "ghost" nets, with GPS coordinates provided, GLIFWC wardens along with MI DNR staff, searched for nets in the Marquette area this summer, but no nets were found. ✧

New NY PFD law

A new boating law has gone into effect in the state of New York.

No owner or operator of a pleasure vessel less than twenty-one feet, including rowboats, canoes, and kayaks shall permit its operation, between November first and May first, unless each person on board such vessel is wearing a securely fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device of an appropriate size when such vessel is underway.

"Under way" shall mean that the vessel is not at anchor, or made fast to the shore, or aground. This means that a drifting boat, moving or not, is under way, and a pfd is required. ✧

England's 64 lb carp is dead

TANSOR, England – Benson the giant carp is dead. Caught and released more than 60 times, the body of the 64 lb., 2 oz. carp was found on the bank of its home lake in Cambridgeshire. She was about 25 years old. In 2005 readers of Angler's Mail voted her "Britain's Favourite Carp." ✧

Will a warmer lake doom invasive fish?

Smelt, an invasive fish that threatens native species such as walleye/perch, may soon be feeling the heat — literally.

In an experiment that could show the way to evicting the unwanted fish from Wisconsin lakes, UW-Madison scientists and engineers hope to experimentally warm Crystal Lake in Vilas County in an effort to selectively wipe out the smelt. Using a device known as a GELI, an apparatus that looks like a submerged trampoline, researchers will mix the waters of the 83-acre lake to warm the cool, deeper waters where the rainbow smelt thrive.

"As far as I know, this is a completely new idea," according to UW-Madison researcher Steve Carpenter, a world authority on lakes and a leader of the new study along with civil and environmental engineering Professor Chin Wu. "For it to work, one needs rather special circumstances," Carpenter explains. "The species you want to eliminate must be intolerant of warm water, and the warm water must not harm the native species that you wish to keep. That is the case in Crystal Lake and perhaps some other lakes in northern Wisconsin that have been invaded by smelt."

The idea, according to engineering graduate student Jordan Read, is to use the GELI — which is propelled up and down in the water column using compressed air and pushes water much like the bell of a jellyfish — to warm the deeper waters of the lake by a few degrees to a temperature the invasive fish is unable to tolerate. "The main goal of the project is to mix the water column to the point where the deeper cold water habitat refuge for smelt is gone," says Read.

Using the device, the Wisconsin researchers will warm Crystal Lake by about 6 degrees Fahrenheit, bringing the average July temperature of the lake to nearly 66 degrees Fahrenheit, a temperature intended to make things uncomfortable for the invasive fish.

The rainbow smelt is a native of the northeast coast of the United States and was brought to the American Midwest in the 1920s as a potential food source for walleyes, one of Wisconsin's most prized game fish. But the smelt spread to Lakes Michigan and Superior and is now finding its way to many of Wisconsin's smaller inland lakes.

"Rainbow smelt are delicious, and many people know them as fried smelt," says Carpenter. "They are also voracious predators that gobble up juveniles of many fish species. They are particularly effective at eating walleye juveniles, and walleyes are often eliminated from inland lakes that are invaded by rainbow smelt."

The idea behind the Crystal Lake experiment, says Read, the graduate student directing the fieldwork, is to determine if artificially mixing the lake and warming its deeper waters will cause thermal stress for the smelt. The hypothesis, he explains, is that increased temperature will either kill the smelt outright or stress them to the point that survival and reproduction rates are greatly reduced. "The goal is to alter the thermal habitat the fish needs to survive," he notes of the experiment.

"Fish and most other aquatic invaders take on the temperature of their environment," says Carpenter, who explains that the rise in temperature should not harm native species such as walleye and bass. "If you warm the lake above the upper lethal temperature that the invaders will tolerate, they will die off."

The GELI is a radical departure from traditional methods of mixing lakes, says Read. Ordinarily, to alter the water temperature of a body of water the technique of choice is aeration, where compressed air is circulated through the water. The GELI technology could also potentially be used to restore oxygen to small areas of oxygen-depleted water.

"Preliminary measurements found the GELI technology to be much more

efficient in comparison with traditional aeration techniques," says Read, of the 8-meter diameter membrane fitted with a hose-like collar which is alternately filled and emptied of air to raise and lower it in the water column. What's more, the GELI technology is more environmentally friendly as, unlike aeration, it does not stir up sediments.

Jordan Read, a doctoral candidate in civil and environmental engineering, explained the mechanics of a water-mixing experiment as equipment was tested near the Limnology pier on Lake Mendota on July 9, 2009. The experiment, which involves a device that resembles a parachute with an inflatable ring, brings water from the bottom of a lake to the surface and raises the temperature of the deeper water. The experiment has implications for studying the effects of global warming as well as the effects of water temperature change on invasive species in lakes.²

DNR steps up patrols on AuSable River

A spike in complaints about marine safety, resource damage, littering, drug and alcohol use and disorderly conduct on Michigan's AuSable River resulted in increased law enforcement patrols of the river for the remainder of the summer, the DNR said.

DNR conservation officers are partnering with local law enforcement agencies to increase patrols to address violations on the AuSable. The AuSable, famed for its blue ribbon trout fishery, also attracts many canoers, kayakers, tubing enthusiasts and boaters in the summer months. ✧

☞ ONE LAST THOUGHT ☞

"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have."

Thomas Jefferson

Pythons netted in undercover investigation

Twelve pythons, destined for illegal sale on Craig's List, never made it out the door of a New Port Richey, Florida home. A tip to officials led to the seizure of two adult Burmese, four adult reticulated, and six albino Burmese pythons. An anonymous tip sent investigators to a Lakeland, Florida residence in search of two illegally kept Burmese pythons. What they found last week was an 11' long male Burmese python, dwarfed by its female companion, a 17' behemoth of the same species that weighed more than 150 lbs. ✧

Obama proposal

Continued from page 1

Pfeiffer added, "Recreational fishing generates a \$125 billion annual economy in the United States and supports jobs in every state according to government figures. Through the Sport Fish Restoration program, anglers have provided more than \$5 billion through excise taxes on fishing tackle to fishery conservation and education for decades." "In addition to the economic aspects, anglers lead the nation in volunteer conservation efforts on behalf of improving fish habitat, water quality and related environmental areas."

"There was no mention of the fishery conservation efforts which anglers have led for over 50 years in every state — an environmental success story that has no equal in the world," said Phil Morlock, Director, Environmental Affairs for Shimano. "The Task Force did not make any distinction between the dramatic differences between harmful commercial fishing harvest methods and recreational fishing, even though we spelled it out for them in detail."

The report claims to be the result of a public consultation process and states: "Having considered a broad range of public comments, this report reflects the requests and concerns of all interested parties."

The original White House memo and not surprisingly the Task Force report contains multiple references to developing a national policy where Great Lakes and coastal regions are managed, "consistent with international law, including customary international law as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea" — a 300-page treaty the U.S. has never ratified.

"We question what implications there will be for state authority and jurisdiction in the Great Lakes and coastal regions if the U.S. adopts the U.N. Treaty," said Pfeiffer.

The report makes it clear that future authority for implementing the policy for coastal and inland waters will fall under White House jurisdiction with a new National Ocean Council comprised of over 20 federal agencies at Cabinet Secretary or Deputy Secretary level. No reference to Congressional jurisdiction is indicated.

"This significant change in U.S. policy direction is the result of a 90-day fire drill process as ordered by the President that, not surprisingly, lacks balance, clarity and quality in the end product," said Morlock. "People who simply want to take their kids fishing on public waters deserve better from their government," he added.

Over the past 10 years we've seen a dramatic increase in efforts to restrict or ban recreational fishing as a means to address a variety of issues.

This concerns 60 million anglers, whose conservation and economic contributions should be recognized as a key component of the policy.

Time is short: [Submit your comments here and read what others are saying also](#)

Or send a letter to the White House Council on Environmental Quality urging the Task Force to include recreational fishing and boating in the national policy: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/interimreport/>. Make sure your voice is heard so that anglers' contributions are recognized as a key component of the policy. ✧

Forrest, Nina Wood enshrined in Fishing Hall of Fame

Forrest and Nina Wood, founders of Ranger Boats, have long been an integral part of the fishing and boating community — both in the Natural State and beyond. In recognition of their achievements and contributions, they have been enshrined in the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. ✧

USGS Great Lakes Diet Study update

USGS scientist Ed Roseman says his team is traveling across Michigan often the next several weeks and would like to pick up more stomach samples. Let them know when and where someone from the GLSC can pick them up. If possible, get them to either the Bay City or Alpena DNR office and USGS folks can grab them from there. Please keep them frozen.

So far USGS has processed over 1800 fish stomachs thanks to the high level of anglers' commitment.

Remember, the two or three stomachs you save for us from that last trip of the season may be the only ones we get from that place at that time. This study has exceeded our greatest expectation.

What's next? Well, we want to analyze the data this fall so that results are ready to present at the winter agency meetings and spring workshops.

And I already got the question: are we going to try and do this again next year? At this point, I think we should get through this season. Then we need to analyze the data we have and get though our fall surveys to see what is going on with the prey fish community. We can then decide. Since we pulled the 2009 effort together in three weeks, I think we have adequate time for planning and we want to involve you in that discussion next spring as we get ready for the fishing season.

Edward F. Roseman, Ph.D.
Research Fishery Biologist ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

Experts fear Asian carp could ride floodwaters into Lake Michigan's ecosystem

This is how desperate the fight to keep Asian carp from invading Lake Michigan has become: Biologists are talking about turning to sandbags. The problem is the carp also have recently migrated up the adjacent Des Plaines River, and that river has a history of flooding its banks and spilling into the sanitary and ship canal. The distance between the two waterways is, in places, only a matter of yards.

1,200 invasive crayfish captured in Germantown pond

A month ago, an invasive Gulf Coast crayfish became the latest threat to the Wisconsin environment when it was found in a 6-acre pond in Germantown. Since then, more than 1,200 of the crayfish have been captured by DNR and...

Physical barrier, rapid response to fight Great Lakes invasive species may be years away

Two approaches to keep ravenous carp and other invasive species out of Lake Michigan are gaining ground, but both could be years from completion. The roots of the problem go back to 1900 when the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds were connected by the canal. Water flow was reversed on the Chicago River, preventing waste from flushing into Lake Michigan, a source of drinking water for Chicago.

House votes to expand national marine sanctuary

The U.S. House has passed legislation expanding the boundary of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron. It expands the area covered by the sanctuary to 3,722 square miles of water and 226 miles of shoreline, up from 448 square miles of water and 115 miles of shoreline. The expansion also adds 180 shipwrecks to the sanctuary, a federal-state partnership focused on preserving shipwrecks spanning more than 200 years of Great Lakes shipping history.

Ship canal barrier stopping vessels, too

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council reports that the electric barrier that has been installed on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal may stop the passing of more than just unwanted species.

Gun ownership showdown

By agreeing to hear a challenge to Chicago's sweeping ban on handguns, the Supreme Court has set the stage for a historic ruling.

UM Research Team Begins First Mapping To Forecast Future Of Great Lakes

A University of Michigan-led research team is creating a comprehensive analysis and mapping of threats to the Great Lakes. It will guide decision-making in the U.S. and Canada for years to come. The project will produce the first regional synthesis of human impacts on the Great Lakes, helping regional planners and conservation groups to prioritize their activities. The Erb Family Foundation is funding the \$500,000, two-year project ...

USGS upgrades P.M. River flow monitor

The river flow gauge along the Pere Marquette River is getting a makeover. The gauge at the South Scottville Road Bridge samples how fast the river is flowing and at what height. It is being replaced by a newer model that samples the river four times as often.

Anglers Spend \$100M at Lake Ontario

Lake Ontario is New York's largest sport fishery, in terms of both angler days and expenditures. At the peak of the lake's fisheries' growth, at least \$100 million in angler expenditures accrued to communities on or near Lake Ontario, say researchers Tommy L. Brown and Nancy A. Connelly of Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources. Their new report "*Lake Ontario Sportfishing: Trends...*"

Zebra mussels make it to Isle Royale

Zebra mussels have invaded Isle Royale National Park, with Park Service officials confirming the finding for the first time. Park officials are concerned because Isle Royale holds one of the region's largest remaining populations of native mussels on small lakes on the island.

Hooked on steelhead

The 5-year-old Lake Erie permit program has generated revenue for a use-restricted account that has helped the PA Fish and Boat Commission buy land or easements for public use. Roughly \$1 million has been spent to gain access along Elk Creek, Walnut Creek, Trout Run, Twenty Mile Creek and other tributaries, with an eye lately toward piecing parcels together.

Anglers spend \$100 million around Lake Ontario

Lake Ontario is New York's largest sport fishery, in terms of both angler days and expenditures. At the peak of the lake's fisheries' growth, at least \$100 million in angler expenditures accrued to communities on or near Lake Ontario.

Patrol vessels make waves with high-tech equipment

The latest weapon in border protection was ripping up and down the Detroit River, showing off its state-of-the-art interception and surveillance technology to local marine law enforcement and the media. The sleek, 43' boat with a quartet of 350 HP engines is called the Advanced Concept Demonstrator Vessel, a \$900,000 prototype that U.S. Customs and Border Protection is testing as possibly their next generation of boat.

Report on St. Clair River erosion delayed

TRAVERSE CITY – A team studying upper Great Lakes levels has postponed a report on whether they have lost excessive amounts of water through an enlarged river channel. The Study Group said the document would be released Dec. 1, instead of Oct. 1 as previously scheduled.

Increase in Lake Erie algae worries scientists; system will help sound warning

Scientists said last week that they've been testing the first-ever algae warning program on the Great Lakes this summer — the worst in memory for the green growth. They'll give details on this year's algal blooms to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission in Toledo.

DEC destroys nests to manage cormorants

The state has destroyed more than 1,300 cormorants' nests on the St. Lawrence River and the eastern basin of Lake Ontario as part of its management program. In an attempt by DEC to control the cormorant population on the river and eastern basin of Lake Ontario, the agency received permission from landowners to remove nests and to destroy any eggs found on islands located on the American sections of...

Pinks attract anglers in one of world's best salmon fisheries

SAULT STE. MARIE, ON – They're a bit late, but the salmon pouring into Michigan rivers from the St. Jo to the St. Marys will offer some of the finest fishing in the world over the next month at bargain-basement prices. Michigan's Pacific salmon runs rival many in Alaska and are better than most rivers in Lower 48 Pacific streams from whence the ancestors of our fish came. In addition, anglers who come to the St. Marys River rapids on the border between