



No Asian Carp found during another five-day-long operation Multi-agency fish sampling operation complete on Little Calumet River

Chicago, IL – The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) wrapped up a successful sampling and data collection operation on the Little Calumet River in South Chicago on Tues., May 25.

Fisheries biologists from the Illinois DNR, USFWS and other supporting agencies collected just over 100,000 lbs. of fish during the weeklong operation. Over 40 species of fish were collected **though no Bighead or Silver Asian carps were found.**

A five-mile section of the Little Calumet River in South Chicago was closed to all traffic May 20-25 as sampling efforts for Asian carp got underway. The Waterway closure was necessary for personnel to safely and effectively apply rotenone to a more than two-mile stretch of the waterway

at T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam (South and West) as a part of ongoing Asian carp sampling efforts by the RCC.

The plan called for intensive electrofishing and netting; and in some cases the application of the fish toxicant rotenone. In order to accomplish the plan objectives, it was necessary to institute temporary closure of certain reaches of the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) to recreational and navigational use, beginning May 20.

The length and location of the application and fish removal area was chosen to maximize the opportunity to capture Asian carp by including a variety of habitats along a substantial length of river channel that has had a high frequency of positive eDNA detections. In addition to the rotenone action, simultaneous electrofishing

and commercial netting took place between the downstream block net and Acme Bend. Electrofishing and netting allows for an expansion of the area sampled and a comparison of conventional methods with rotenone sampling.

The waterway was treated in one day, and the fish recovery phase of the operation lasted for four days. During that time, the FWS, IDNR, and other participating agencies recovered as many fish in the application area as possible to determine the abundance and type of fish present in the treated area.

“We will now look at the entire body of evidence collected thus far, including eDNA sampling results and all of our conventional sampling with **No Asian Carp found**

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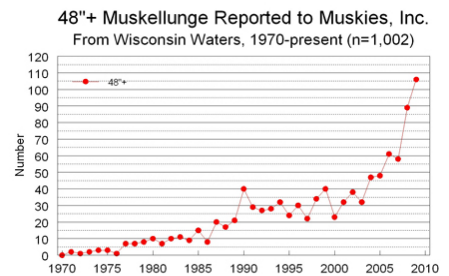
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WI Catch and release fishing yielding larger muskies

MADISON – Big muskies — really big muskies — await Wisconsin anglers this fishing season, based on what anglers reported catching and releasing last year.

“This tells you what is coming,” says Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist Tim Simonson, referring to a graph he prepared showing that Muskies Inc. members reported catching and releasing 105 muskies 48 inches and longer in Wisconsin in 2009. “The 48” plus fish have been increasing every year and in 2009 was the highest ever in their 40 years of record keeping,” says Simonson, co-leader of DNR’s musky management team.

This year, those fish are now a year older and about an inch longer, based on average growth rates among older muskies in Wisconsin.



Musky populations, heavily fished in Wisconsin in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s after four world record catches triggered a musky fishing frenzy, are now recovering and the young fish are allowed to grow bigger. (Learn more in the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine article [“Long Live the Kings.”](#))

Larger Muskies

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New 72-hour Michigan fishing license now available

The State of Michigan announced a new 72-hour Michigan fishing license is available to residents and non-residents alike.

The license, for sale at all license vendors or online, is consistent with a recommendation of the 2006 Hunting and Fishing License Package Work Group that studied the state's hunting and fishing license structure, explained DNRE fisheries biologist Todd Grischke. A bill creating the license was recently approved by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm.

"Previously, anglers could only choose between a one-day license and a season license," Grischke said. "We believe this will just make it a little easier for people who are planning a long weekend fishing trip or visiting from out of state." The 72-hour license costs \$21 (or \$9 for resident seniors) and is valid for all species.

For more info about fishing in Michigan:

www.michigan.gov/fishing. ✧

New WI firewood rule in effect

MADISON – Only firewood gathered or purchased from a vendor who cut it from within 25 miles of a state managed property, or state-certified wood, may be brought onto state-owned property. This change, effective June 1 was done to reduce the risk of bringing in destructive forest diseases and insects.

A previous law had allowed firewood cut or gathered up to 50 miles from a state property to be brought in but a newer study by forest health experts led to the adoption of the more protective 25-mile distance. The DNR has [Firewood – 25 Mile Radius Maps](#) on state parks and forests. ✧

MI stocks Lake Superior rivers with Chinooks

The Michigan DNRE delivered 350,000 Chinook salmon fingerlings to four rivers in the Lake Superior Watershed last week.

DNRE hatchery trucks delivered 100,000 fingerlings each to the Carp River and Dead River in Marquette County, 75,000 to the Big Iron River in Ontonagon County, and 75,000 to the Black River in Gogebic County.

All 100,000 fingerlings in the Dead River were placed in four net pens at the mouth of the river. A third of the fish in the Big Iron River went into a net pen.

"We had originally planned to put 25,000 Chinook fingerlings in a net pen in the Black River, too, but the weather's been so warm that the guys decided the fish should go directly into the river and I believe that's the right decision," said Western Upper Peninsula DNRE Fisheries Supervisor George Madison. "These salmon plants complete a successful spring stocking season. We appreciate the assistance of our sports clubs with all of our efforts." ✧

IL hunters bag 16,565 birds during Spring Turkey Season

Hunters in Illinois bagged a statewide total of 16,565 wild turkeys during the 2010 Spring Turkey Season. The 2010 total compares with the statewide turkey harvest of 15,490 in 2009. Hunters took a state-record 16,605 turkeys during the spring season in 2006.

The top five counties for turkey harvest in the South Zone this spring were: Pope (397), Jefferson (396), Union (356), Marion (353), and Randolph (351). The top five counties for spring turkey harvest in the North Zone this year were: JoDaviess (628), Pike (527), Fulton (455), Adams (406), and Schuyler (348). ✧



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Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

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College Bass National Championship returns to North Little Rock

Atlanta, Georgia – College Bass, the nation's elite collegiate fishing tournament, will return to North Little Rock for the sixth annual College Bass National Championship July 8-10. The best collegiate anglers in the country will cast their lines in the Arkansas River for more than \$14,000 in scholarship monies and prizes and the coveted national title.

A true tournament of champions, only one two-person team per school can compete in the national tournament. Schools must participate in a College Bass-sanctioned tournament to qualify for the national championship making this the calendar's most esteemed collegiate bass fishing event.

Since its inception, the College Bass National Championship has been the only fishing tournament to air on ESPN. In its sixth season, College Bass will receive extended television coverage totaling nine hours of ESPN programming. For the first

time, the College Bass Super Regionals will be featured in the ESPN shows, which begin airing Thursday, July 29. ESPN reaches more than 71 million households across the United States.

Last year 56 teams contended for the national championship trophy with North Carolina State anglers Will



White and Chris Wood tipping the scales to claim the 2009 College Bass National Championship title on the Arkansas River in North Little Rock. Around 75 teams will be battling it out for bass-fishing supremacy in the challenging, but rewarding North Little Rock waters. Angler teams will fish for largemouth, spotted and

smallmouth bass 15 inches or longer, with a five-fish limit. Teams will fish a standard three-day format, with the field narrowed down to the top five teams on the final day. Weights will then be zeroed, and the team with the largest one-day total on Saturday's final day of competition will take the title.

The 2010 College Bass Tour consists of three Super Regional events and one national championship that kicked off April 10-11 in Montgomery, Alabama with the East Super Regional. The second tournament stop was April 24-25 in Tyler, Texas for the West Super Regional. Fort Madison, Iowa hosted this year's inaugural North Super Regional June 5-6.

Collegiate anglers can register to compete in the Super Regionals by contacting Rob Russow at [russow@groupcse.com](mailto: russow@groupcse.com) or 501-372-6544. For more information, please visit www.CollegeBass.com. ✧

Biologists map bass locations in Noble County, IN lake Shorelines with docks/boathouses contain 11.4 – 14.7 bass/1000 ft.

ALBION – Biologists who mapped more than 100 locations of legal-size largemouth bass in an 86-acre Noble County, IN lake last month were surprised by what they found. Contrary to conventional thinking, bass did not concentrate along natural sections of shoreline and avoid residential areas. Biologists found more bass near piers, beaches and areas where homes were present than along undisturbed shoreline areas with cattails and lily pads.

During electrofishing on three nights at Upper Long Lake southwest of Albion, biologists captured 10.9 legal-size bass per 1,000 feet of residential shoreline and 7.5 bass per 1,000 feet of natural shoreline.

The results, said Jed Pearson, biologist with the Indiana DNR, demonstrate the need to better understand bass biology and how various factors can affect bass behavior.

The lowest density of legal-size bass, 4.3 bass per 1,000' of shoreline, was noted in two manmade channels on the east side of the lake. Legal-size bass measure 14". Several bass up to 20" long were found in the lake.

"We sampled during the peak spawning season hoping to find out what areas provide better bass habitat," Pearson said. "We figured more bass would be along natural sections of shoreline with lily pads and other natural habitat features."

Some natural areas seemed nearly devoid of large bass. Few bass were found at the north end of the lake in a natural area of shallow water with aquatic plants. No bass were caught in a natural area along the east shore. In contrast, three sections of shoreline along the south end of lake where homes are present contained 11.4 to 14.7 bass per 1,000 feet.

Although Pearson said residential areas in general held more bass than

natural areas, the highest bass density was noted in a natural area along a prominent point on the west side of the lake. Density there exceeded 20 bass/1,000'. Specific bass locations around the point also were surprising. Both sides looked similar, but 14 bass were located on the north side; two bass were located on the south side.

"Weather, wind direction, depth and slope of the lake bottom, as well as various other features probably play a role in where bass are located," Pearson said. Although bass locations were similar from week to week, they can change from season to season and year to year.

"Back in 1995 when we did a similar project at the lake, we found lots of big bass in two channels on the east side. This year we caught only five," Pearson said. "Something in the channels has apparently changed but we don't know what." "We have a lot to learn," he added. ✧

Border incursions degrading natural resources

Wake up America, what price we pay for indifference

Recent photos from near the Arizona–Mexico border show acres of discarded debris scattered along



shallow arroyos from illegal incursions along our southern border. This garbage and pollution is having consequences on fragile ecosystems in the arid countryside and deserts of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and California.

In 2006 alone, more than 1.18 million pounds of trash was collected along the southern Arizona border.

Interestingly, "Seventeen states are now filing versions of Arizona's SB 1070, which is designed to help local police enforce America's

existing immigration laws," Americans for Legal Immigration PAC said in a report. The report said numerous national and local polls indicate 60 to 81% of Americans support local police enforcing immigration laws.

The dirty secret about our open borders is that of the 1.2 million illegal aliens that were apprehended in one year, 165,000 of those were from

countries other than Mexico. Approximately 650 were from "special interest countries," or nations the Border Patrol defines as "designated by the intelligence community as countries that could export individuals that could bring harm to our country in the way of terrorism."

The states where some form of immigration crackdown is under development include Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas and Utah.

Meanwhile, thousands of acres are being decimated by these incursions. ✧



Chemical in Fox River killed fish, wildlife

IL AG announces criminal indictments

Illinois Conservation Police investigating the alleged dumping of chemicals into the Fox River that left fish and wildlife dead gave evidence to authorities pointing to misdemeanor water pollution.

Witnesses called South Elgin police after seeing bubbles floating downstream and fish popping up from the water.

Police Sgt. Randy Edean says officers and fire officials followed the bubbles to their source. There, he says they found two people putting substances into the water. Edean

wouldn't say what the substance was. Police questioned the two people. Edean says workers have been cleaning the water, recovering dead fish and caring for affected wildlife.

On June 4, Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced criminal charges in connection with the chemical dumping. "As a result of the thorough investigative efforts of all of these law enforcement agencies, we were able today to obtain this indictment and will move swiftly to hold this company and these individuals accountable for violating the criminal

environmental laws," said Madigan.

A Kane County grand jury returned an indictment of D & Y Trade, Inc., a South Elgin recycling business, its chief executive officer, Yu Tan Zheng, and An Hong, an employee at the business, on one felony count each of water pollution and additional charges of misdemeanor water pollution. Felony Water Pollution is a Class 4 Felony punishable by up to three years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and a \$25,000 fine for each day of violation. ✧

IDNR offers Summer Urban Fishing Clinics

Clinics provide free instruction and fun for kids, “Access to Fishing” gear also available

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Learning how to fish is fun, easy and free for youngsters and families throughout Illinois this summer thanks to the Illinois DNR Urban Fishing Program. Free fishing clinics are planned at more than 30 locations throughout the state.

“Fishing is a great way for families to spend time together outdoors, and each summer our urban fishing clinics give thousands of children a chance to experience the fun of fishing,” said IDNR Director Marc Miller. “The clinic instructors provide basic instruction on how to fish, and with those lessons we expect a lot of kids will become hooked on fishing.”

The free Urban Fishing Program clinics are targeted toward children ages 16 and younger, but anyone interested in learning basic fishing techniques is welcome to attend.

“Parents and grandparents are urged to come along and attend any of our programs with their children,” said IDNR Central Illinois Urban Fishing Program Coordinator Herb Dreier. “Their experiences will

create excitement that will provide many memorable family discussions.”

Fishing clinic instructors present information on fish and other aquatic life, rules and regulations for fishing, as well as basic instruction on baiting a hook, tying a knot, casting, important tactics on how to catch fish and how to handle and return fish to the water. As part of each clinic, participants are provided with rods, reels, bait and tackle for 90 minutes of catch-and-release fishing.

Urban Fishing clinics are presented on weekdays during the late spring and summer months at 38 locations throughout the state. In addition to the scheduled clinics outlined below, fishing clinics can also be arranged for scouts, seniors, civic clubs and groups with special needs.

Science and physical education teachers interested in starting a fishing program in their schools can also contact the IDNR Urban Fishing coordinator in their area to get more information.

The Illinois Urban Fishing Program was introduced in Chicago in

1985 to teach individuals of all ages to fish, to provide better local fishing opportunities and to give participants an understanding of and a greater appreciation for natural resources. Urban Fishing Program coordinators also hold non-fishing conservation education programs and visit schools during the fall, winter and spring.

In addition to the fishing clinics, the IDNR provides fishing opportunities to anglers of all ages through the popular Access to Fishing initiative in which fishing gear can be borrowed at more than 155 locations statewide. The loan program provides the opportunity to borrow rods, reels and tackle packs. Participating loaner locations include many public libraries, park and forest preserve districts, bait shops, recreation departments and other locations. A list of sites offering access to fishing gear is available by checking the web site at www.ifishillinois.org or by phoning the IDNR Urban Fishing Program at 217/782-6424.

For more info: <http://dnr.state.il.us/pubaffairs/2010/June/fishing.html>.

MI reminds anglers about Bait Restrictions due to VHS

Now that most fishing seasons have opened, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment reminds anglers that the use of salmon eggs or minnows for bait is restricted in some waters as part of a strategy to slow the spread of VHS.

Anglers who purchase spawn or minnows for bait should make sure it is certified as VHS-free. Certified VHS-free bait is widely available and may be used anywhere in the state for 14 days. The use of bait that has not been certified as disease-free is restricted, depending on where the bait was collected, and anglers need to follow the regulations to use uncertified bait in the correct locations. Uncertified bait can only be used for three days after purchase. All

bait collected by anglers is considered to be uncertified bait.

VHS virus, a virus that causes fish to die from internal bleeding, has caused mortalities among a number of species of fish in Michigan. The disease has been found in Michigan’s waters of lakes Superior, Erie and Huron. In 2009, VHS was detected in fish collected from Lake Superior, including yellow perch in the Paradise area and lake herring in the Apostle Islands area of Wisconsin. The virus has been found in fish sampled in Lake Huron from Cheboygan and Thunder Bay in 2006 and in spottail shiners from Saginaw Bay in March 2010. Fish have been found to be positive from Lake Erie in Ohio’s waters each year since 2006.

VHS virus has been found in fish in Lake Michigan, but not in Michigan’s waters. And it has been found in at least two inland lakes, Budd Lake in Clare County in 2007 and Baseline Lake in Washtenaw County in 2009.

“There is no known treatment for VHS,” said DNRE Fish Production Manager Gary Whelan. “Our best defense against it is trying to prevent its spread. It is important to anglers to realize that the virus is not yet widely distributed in Michigan, thus anglers have the opportunity to help slow its spread by using baitfish properly.”

For more information about VHS and fishing in Michigan, go to www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing. ✧

Wis. bass season opens June 19

Bass populations, catch rates at all-time highs

SPOONER – The northern zone bass harvest season opens June 19 with state fisheries biologists saying the bass fishing opportunities arguably have never been better.

Largemouth and smallmouth bass populations are booming in northern Wisconsin, particularly in northwest Wisconsin, and anglers can expect fast and furious action this summer, fish biologists say. “The densities are extremely high right now,” says Jamison Wendel, fisheries biologist in Spooner. “There are lots of smaller fish, so there’s all kinds of action.”

Surveys of northern Wisconsin anglers who target bass show that anglers are reeling in the bass faster than ever. Wendel says the fact that catch rates have increased quite dramatically in the last 20 years while harvest rates have been stayed flat or decreased is not typical. “It’s kind of an indication of a few things: changes in regulation as well as smaller fish being caught that anglers are not as interested in keeping, as well as more anglers practicing catch and release.”

Whether it’s the low water levels experienced in northern Wisconsin, which favor bass, warmer water temperatures, or a number of other factors, bass populations and catch rates in many waters are at all-time highs.

====Learn more about some of the reasons why bass populations, particularly populations of largemouths, are on the rise in “Sustaining a fishery or fighting natural change?” in the June 2010 Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine, available now on news stands, and online.

The [northern bass zone](#) harvest season runs from June 19, 2010 through March 6, 2011. The daily limit is five bass in total, with a minimum length of 14 inches. Check the “Guide to [Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations 2010-2011](#)” for special regulations on some waters. ✧

WI AG demands additional action to stop Asian Carp threat

MADISON – Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced last week that his office has sent a letter to Major General John Peabody of the United States Army Corp of Engineers demanding that the Army Corp take certain specific actions regarding the imminent Asian Carp crisis in the Great Lakes.

“Asian Carp pose an enormous economic and environmental threat to the Great Lakes and Wisconsin specifically,” said Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen. “The Asian Carp invasion must be stopped.” The letter is signed by the Attorneys General of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and other Great Lakes states. A copy of the letter is available at: http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/Peabody_Ltr5.pdf.

A list of the documents requested from the Department of the Army and USFWS is available at: www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/Peabody_Ltr5-Docs_Reqd.pdf.

The letter demands five things. First, the Army Corp take more comprehensive action more quickly, commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the threat; second, the Army Corp provide specific information about what is and is not being done and why; third, the Army Corp include the knowledgeable natural resource experts in the Great Lakes states in the regional coordinating committee; fourth, the Army Corp produce certain documents essential to a comprehensive understanding of the process; and fifth, planning for a permanent solution be accelerated for physically separating the Chicago area water system that is infested with Asian carp from Lake Michigan.

The letter acknowledges that the federal government has broad legal authority to take emergency action ranging from closure of locks to killing fish in order to prevent the migration of Asian carp through the Chicago Area Waterway System into the Great Lakes. The states are demanding that the Army Corp move quickly to take this action and use its

legal authority to take immediate measures to prevent the movement of Asian Carp into the Great Lakes. The states note that eDNA evidence shows that the Asian Carp have already moved lakeward of the electric barrier system in the Chicago area waterway system. The states demand that additional physical barriers be put in place to deter adult fish passage such as fine mesh screens inline with the gates at the Chicago and O'Brien Locks and changes in lock, gate, and pumping operations.

Finally, the states demand some necessary short-term actions including applying rotenone, a poison, at all locations where eDNA tests have indicated the presence of Asian carp, including the Grant Calumet River in Calumet Harbor and the north branch of the Chicago River. The states continue to demand closing the O'Brien and Chicago Locks except as needed to protect public health and safety, and closing the gates in the lock and dam system except as needed to protect public health and safety. The states continue to demand that planning for a more comprehensive and permanent solution be accelerated and that at this stage no delays can be justified.

Great Lakes states, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, joined earlier this year in requesting that the U.S. Supreme Court order the Army Corp of Engineers and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Authority to close the locks and gates in order to prevent the migration of Asian Carp into the Great Lakes. The request was made as an immediate emergency fix while the agencies and the states could cooperatively come up with a permanent, long-term solution.

On April 26, 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the request. The attorneys general of the impacted Great Lakes states continue to work together and are considering both negotiations and litigation as next steps to prevent the invasion. ✧

Judge finds sellers of Scent-Lok clothing use false advertising

On May 13, 2010, United States Federal District Judge Kyle found that ALS, the manufacturer and seller of Scent-Lok clothing, and Cabela's and Gander Mountain, both of which sell Scent-Lok and their own private-label clothing using Scent-Lok technology, falsely advertised the ability of their Scent-Lok clothing to eliminate odor. The Court found that "Defendants have published countless advertisements" almost all of which "utilize the slogans 'odor-eliminating technology' or 'odor-eliminating clothing.'" The Court further found that the experts agreed that the Scent-Lok clothing "cannot eliminate odor, even when new." The Court held that all advertisements that used the words "odor-eliminating technology," "odor-eliminating clothing," "eliminates all types of odor," "odor elimination," "remove all odor,"

"complete scent elimination," "scent-free," "works on 100% of your scent 100% of the time," "all human scent," "odor is eradicated," and graphics demonstrating that human odor cannot escape the carbon-embedded fabric are all false statements as a matter of law. In addition, the Court found claims that the Scent-Lok clothing could be "reactivated" to "like new"



Scent-Lok's advertising—at least in part—fails a Federal District Judge's smell test for odor elimination.

or "pristine" condition to be false as a matter of law.

The Court will issue an injunction to prevent Defendants from further false advertising.

The Minnesota case is now ready for trial. The remaining issues in the Minnesota case are the amount of damages to be paid to each plaintiff and the award of attorneys' fees and costs to plaintiffs' attorneys.

Because the Court earlier denied Plaintiffs' motion for class certification, Plaintiffs in the Minnesota case are only able to recover damages for their own purchases. However, the injunction against false advertising will benefit all future consumers of Scent-Lok products in Minnesota. **Download: [Scent Lok Summary Judgment Order](#).** ✧

Scent-Lok officials respond to Minnesota District Court ruling

Last week, the United States District Court in Minnesota issued an opinion in a lawsuit brought in September 2007 by five Minnesota hunters against ALS Enterprises, the manufacturer of Scent-Lok products, and some of its retail partners. The court ruled in ALS's favor on some issues, and against ALS on others. On a narrow legal issue, the court determined that the word "eliminate" in some of Scent-Lok's advertisements could only mean eliminate 100% of odor, and therefore some of these advertisements were false.

ALS respectfully disagrees with the court's ruling that "odor eliminate" can only mean 100% elimination. There are many products on the market advertised as "eliminating" some condition and people understand that they do not eliminate the condition 100%. A search of the term "eliminate odor" produced over 1.9 million references to the term. A search of "odor eliminator" produced 281,000 results.

Of note, the court's ruling does not relate to the efficacy of Scent-Lok products to perform in the field. Scent-Lok products work, and work well. Laboratory tests, including tests conducted in the lawsuit show that Scent-Lok carbon-containing clothing dramatically outperforms no-carbon clothing at adsorbing odors.

In a survey of Minnesota hunters conducted as part of the litigation, almost 80% of hunters who purchased activated-carbon clothing reported that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the performance of their odor control hunting clothing. Survey experts noted that this score was very high for this type of survey.

Scent-Lok Technologies stands by its products and their ability to dramatically reduce human odor levels in the field to help hunters get close to game. Our extremely low return rate for odor issues suggest that our engineering is sound and our tests provide correlation to field success. That is why Scent-Lok offers an unconditional satisfaction guarantee.

ALS intends to appeal the court's ruling and to continue to actively defend against this lawsuit. ✧

☯ ☯ ☯ ☯ ☯ ☯

Golden Rules For Living

If you open it – close it
 If you unlock it – lock it up
 If you said it – admit it
 If you can't fix it –
 call someone who can
 If you borrow it – return it
 If you make a mess – clean it up
 If you move it – put it back
 If you value it – take care of it
 If it ain't broke – don't fix it
 If you don't know how to operate it –
 leave it alone
 If it's none of your business –
 don't ask questions
 If it will brighten someone's day –
 say it
 If it will tarnish someone's reputation –
 keep it to yourself

Author Unknown

☯ ☯ ☯ ☯ ☯ ☯

Slimy lawyer fish complicates lake trout restoration in Great Lakes

Great Lakes Echo

Burbot, a native Great Lakes fish species, are slimy, big-mouthed bottom feeders. “That’s why they call them lawyers,” said Martin Stapanian, a research ecologist for the U.S. Geological Survey’s Lake Erie Biological Station. They’re also called threatened in many parts of the world, according to [a report co-authored by Stapanian](#) and published in the March issue of the journal *Fish and Fisheries*.

That makes the story of the species’ Great Lakes collapse and recovery even sweeter.

But new research shows that the burbot revival could also hamper the multi-million dollar effort to restore lake trout, another Great Lakes native. In the 1950s, commercial fishing and invasive sea lamprey wiped out Lake Michigan’s lake trout. Burbot populations dropped drastically, too, but the species hung on in small numbers. Biologists think that’s at least partly because burbot were never a popular target for commercial fishers.

They’re not kidding.

From 1929 to 1950, commercial fishers reported a Lake Michigan burbot harvest of around 1.2 million pounds, according to records maintained by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. That’s around 50,000 pounds per year. If that sounds like a lot of fish, the commercial lake trout harvest over the same period was reported at 104 million pounds, or 4.75 million pounds per year.

That means that for every pound of burbot caught and reported, commercial fishers pulled in another 90 pounds of lake trout.

The small commercial burbot harvest doesn’t mean that the burbot weren’t in the lake.

“There were a lot more burbot than that in the lake,” said Randy Eshenroder, a science adviser with the Fishery Commission. The lack of commercial interest may have helped Great Lakes burbot through tough times, but it’s also gotten the fish in

trouble around the world. “The overall lack of commercial and sport interest in burbot has undoubtedly contributed to its being ignored or regarded as a ‘trash’ fish by some management agencies,” according to the Fish and Fisheries article.

Burbot populations were listed as “secure” in only four of the 24 Eurasian countries surveyed in the report, and 10 of the 25 U.S. states. In the Great Lakes, management apathy toward burbot has played out much differently.

The lakes’ burbot couldn’t have rebounded without the massive sea lamprey control program coordinated by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Stapanian said. The drop in invasive alewives, which feed on burbot larvae, was also essential. But burbot have recovered in all of the lakes except Ontario (where alewives are still too plentiful) without the help of a stocking program, Stapanian said.

That’s not the case for other Great Lakes natives.

Since 1965, managers have stocked Lake Michigan with an average of 2.7 million lake trout per year in an effort to reestablish a naturally reproducing population. Since 1986, many of those fish have been stocked in the lake’s two lake trout refuges where fishing is off limits.

The refuges are relatively shallow and have rocky bottoms that were historically fruitful lake trout spawning sites. Biologists hope that the fish will return to the refuges once they are fully grown and lay eggs. So far, it hasn’t worked very well. Biologists aren’t exactly sure why, but they often point to invasive species like sea lamprey and alewives. But a new study to be published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research* shows that the resurging burbot may have something to do with it.

One of the lake trout refuges sits between Michigan’s Leelanau Peninsula and Beaver Island. People are particularly interested in getting

lake trout to spawn there, said Greg Jacobs, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey’s Great Lakes Science Center. “So we wanted to get a good idea on whether burbot might have an effect on that,” he said.

To do that, Jacobs and his colleagues checked the stomachs of 95 burbot caught in northern Lake Michigan from 2006 to 2008. When they checked burbot caught near lake trout stocking sites, they found the effect they were looking for: Burbot eat small lake trout. It’s not yet clear how big of a drain burbot are on lake trout stocking, Jacobs said. That’s because no one is sure how many burbot are hanging out around the lake trout refuge.

But there have been a few studies on burbot densities in other lakes and even other sections of Lake Michigan. Those studies give scientists a range of how many burbot might live in a given area.

If northern Lake Michigan burbot are on the high end of that range, it could be lights out for the refuge’s lake trout.

“It could be entirely possible that they could eat all of the lake trout that are stocked out there within 30 days,” Jacobs said. “Which is about the time it would take for a lake trout to grow large enough to be able to escape those burbot.”

Any stocked fish are an easy target for predators already in the lake, Eshenroder said. “They’re coming out of hatcheries, they’re naive, kind of bewildered, you might say,” he said. “They’re disoriented.” It’s also possible that there aren’t enough burbot to eat all the lake trout. But even if there are only enough to take out a quarter of the stocked fish that would still put a dent in lake trout restoration, Jacobs said.

Biologists need more research on burbot density and behavior before they can be sure how big that dent is. “Until recently, there hasn’t been a lot of real good burbot research,” he said. “Mostly because nobody’s really interested in catching them. ✧

Tagged muskie shows up in Oswego Lake, IN

NORTH WEBSTER – A 46", 12-year-old muskie tagged in Lake Webster in 2005 was caught May 11 by an angler in Oswego Lake, an 83-acre basin at the west end of Lake Tippecanoe in Kosciusko County. The fish spent its first seven years of life nearly six miles upstream in Lake Webster before apparently swimming out of the lake sometime over the last five years.

According to the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, fisheries biologists captured the muskie in a trap net on March 31, 2005, in a bay at the southwest corner of Lake Webster near the lake's outlet. At that time, the fish was 38.5" long and estimated to be seven years old, based on examination of annual growth rings noted on bone samples taken from the fish's fin.

"We put a small electronic tag in all of the muskies we caught in Lake Webster back in 2005 in order to keep tabs on the survival, growth and

movement," said Jed Pearson, DFW biologist. "Nearly all of the tagged muskies recaptured since then have been caught in Webster, but several have made their way downstream to the Tippecanoe Lake chain," he said.

The tags, measuring about a half-inch long with the diameter of pencil lead, were inserted into muscle tissue of the muskies near the dorsal fin. They are similar to tags typically placed in cats and dogs for owner identification and have no effect on the fish. The tags, however, are not visible to anglers.

So how did the fisherman who caught the wandering Oswego muskie know he had a tagged fish?

Chae Dolsen, local muskie guide in the area, takes with him on fishing trips with clients a battery-operated meter that allows him to read the tag numbers. "Chae scans the fish he and his clients catch to see if they have tags. Then he reports the numbers and sizes of fish back to us," Pearson said.

The tags and the tag reader were purchased by the Hoosier Chapter of Muskies, Incorporated, to enable biologists to gather more information on muskie populations in the area. "We've learned a lot about muskie biology through the tagging project," Pearson said.

"The 46-incher we caught in Oswego was only the second tagged one we've caught in Tippy or Oswego," Dolsen said. "We've caught a few tagged ones in James (Little Tippy)."

James Lake is the furthest eastern basin in the Tippy Chain and the first lake downstream from Webster.

"I'm not surprised to see tagged muskies showing up downstream," Pearson said. "Anglers were catching muskies in Tippy before the mid-1990s when we first started stocking them directly into the lake. Given the amount of food and space, I'm also not surprised to see that some of them are huge." ♦

IN DNR biologists studying changes in fish populations

COLUMBIA CITY, IN – To better understand how fish populations and fishing conditions change from year to year, the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) has begun a series of surveys at five natural lakes in northern Indiana. The surveys are designed to track annual changes in number, size, weight, and growth of various fish species in each lake over the next five years.

Lakes selected include 308-acre Adams Lake in LaGrange County, 206-acre Crooked Lake in Whitley County, 32-acre McClure Lake in southern Kosciusko County, 22-acre Mud Lake in Fulton County, and 187-acre Waubee Lake in northern Kosciusko County. The lakes were chosen because they represent a variety of lake sizes, habitat conditions, and fish communities.

"We know fishing fluctuates from year to year, but we don't know the magnitude of the changes or

reasons for the changes," said Steve Donabauer, DFW assistant fisheries biologist and coordinator of the project. "We also don't know how lakes change through time and how factors such as habitat damage, watershed management practices, and climate may affect fishing," Donabauer said. Donabauer labeled the five lakes as "fixed sites" because they will be monitored annually. However, DFW biologists will also sample 11 other natural lakes that will be chosen randomly each year. A variety of information will be gathered at each. "We will use shocker boats, gill nets, and traps to sample fish communities in each lake during June. We will also monitor basic habitat features, such as depth, water clarity, oxygen content, aquatic plants, and microscopic zooplankton," Donabauer said.

Dubbed the "Status and Trends Project," the five-year study will

enable biologists to predict how fish populations in all of Indiana's 450 natural lakes are changing based on what they find at the study lakes. This project will help track what is happening throughout the natural lakes region and form the basis of any region-wide approaches we take to protect and manage fish populations.

All data obtained from the project will be compiled annually and then electronically stored, analyzed, and made available to anglers, lake associations, government agencies, universities and the general public.

In addition to the fixed sites, other lakes to be surveyed this year include Everett in Allen County, Banning and Fish in Kosciusko County, Emma and Mateer in LaGrange County, Clear in LaPorte County, Thomas and Koontz in Marshall County, Big and Upper Long in Noble County, and Henry in Steuben County. ♦

Ontario lake surveys will help manage fisheries

Provincial fisheries crews will be out on Ontario's lakes this summer, monitoring lake health and fish populations, and checking for invasive species. If you're on a lake that is being monitored and see MNR buoys, please don't lift the nets or buoys, and avoid recreational activities between and around the buoys. All nets will be clearly marked.

Information gathered through the surveys will be used to help make decisions about managing fisheries, including setting seasons and size limits for anglers.

These lake surveys are part of a five-year cycle to collect information for fisheries management. Over five years, the ministry will monitor approximately 1,000 lakes across Ontario. Crews will conduct netting surveys in 132 lakes in Fisheries Management Zone 5 near Fort Frances, Kenora and Dryden. Crews will conduct netting surveys in 24 lakes in Fisheries Management Zone 8 (around Cochrane and Timmins) and 38 lakes in Zone 10 (near Chapleau, Sudbury, Blind River, and Wawa). Crews will conduct netting surveys on 32 lakes in central and eastern Ontario. ✧

Measure fish properly

When Max Amstutz of Spencerville, IN caught several walleyes from an Indiana lake recently, he did the right thing; he let them go. Legally, though it wasn't necessary.

Each of the walleyes measured exactly 14 1/8" long from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail—that is, with the tip of the tail stretched out to its maximum length. The walleyes were at least 14" long, Indiana's minimum size for walleye. Trouble is, and what bothered Amstutz, was the fact that the walleyes were 13 3/4" long when the tail was unfolded and measured in its normal position. Not wanting to risk arrest for keeping fish that were too small, he let them go.

Then he contacted the DNR to find out how fish are supposed to be measured in order to comply with size limit requirements. "I didn't want to bring them to the boat ramp and have a game warden check them and find them short," he said.

According to the rules, Amstutz could have kept the fish. "Fish are measured for their length from the tip of the jaw to the tip of the compressed tail fin," said Jed Pearson, DFW biologist. "His walleyes were legal size, although barely." "Max could have kept his walleyes but we're glad he let them go," said Pearson. "The next time someone else catches them, they will be bigger." ✧

MI approves limited sharp-tailed grouse season in eastern UP

The Natural Resources Commission has approved a limited hunting season for sharp-tailed grouse in the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula, the first for the upland birds since 1996.

Sharp-tailed grouse are found in mixed grass and shrub lands. The season was closed after surveys of known breeding grounds indicated a declining population. Research by university and DNRE personnel, however, indicates that sharptails are less faithful to their traditional lands than once thought and populations are likely much larger than thought.

The season runs from October 10-31 with a daily bag limit of two, a possession limit of four and a season limit of six. The area open to hunting will be roughly east of M-129 south of M-48, and east of I-75 north of M-48. Go to the DNRE website at www.michigan.gov/dnrhunting for specific boundaries.

Hunters who pursue sharptails grouse will be required to obtain a free sharp-tailed grouse stamp from any license vendor or on-line.

DNRE personnel will conduct annual surveys in the sharp-tailed grouse range in the area open to hunting as well as west of the open area to monitor population trends. ✧

MI DNRE initiates lake trout hooking-mortality study Offers Rewards for Tag Returns

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment reminds all Great Lakes anglers to report any tags they find on the fish they catch.

DNRE fisheries biologists from the Marquette and Alpena Fisheries Research Stations are beginning a new hooking-mortality study on lake trout in Lake Huron and Lake Superior. Biologists have reached an agreement with a number of veteran Lake Superior anglers from Marquette, and Lake Huron anglers from Alpena to Harrisville, to tag all lake trout they release.

The five-year study will attempt to determine hooking-mortality rates of lake trout to help evaluate whether certain size limits are having the desired management outcome.

The lake trout will be tagged with green spaghetti tags near the dorsal fins. Anglers who turn in tags from fish they catch will receive a \$10 reward from the DNRE. Anglers who release the fish should remove the tag to claim the reward and find out where and when the fish was tagged.

"We're trying to find out if our management strategies have us going

in the right direction," said DNRE fisheries biologist Shawn Sitar from Marquette. "Obviously, we need the anglers to help collect data." Although the fish in the study are being released in specific areas, lake trout can roam and could turn up anywhere in the Great Lakes.

Information on the tag includes a phone number to call to report the tag. Anglers can also report tags at any DNRE service center. For more information on tagged fish, visit the DNRE website at www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing. ✧

No Asian Carp found

Continued from page 1

nets and electrofishing gear to see if we can draw any further conclusions about the risk of invasion and establishment of Asian carp in Lake Michigan through the Chicago Area Waterway System," said RCC co-chair John Rogner.

"This operation could not have succeeded without the support, patience and cooperation of the waterway operators, marina owners, recreational boaters and other boating and transportation representatives that use this waterway," said Charlie Wooley, Deputy Regional Director of the USFWS Midwest Region. "I would like to thank all of these industry members for working with us in our mission to protect the Great Lakes."

The safety zone restrictions established on the Calumet River and Little Calumet River between mile marker 321.5 and 326.5 have been lifted by the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port. Environmental consulting company SET Inc. will remain in the area for the next few days to remove any fish that surface. While the public can now access the river for fishing and other recreational purposes, dead fish should NOT be consumed in any circumstance.

The Illinois DNR removed a number of sport fish before this week's rotenone treatment and relocated them outside the treatment zone. IDNR fisheries will restock the area with a variety of sport fish species in the future.

Rotenone, a fish toxicant commonly used in fisheries management, was previously used on a six-mile stretch of the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal in December of 2009 while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shut down the Electric Barrier System for routine maintenance. That effort yielded one Bighead carp caught just above the Lockport Lock and Powerhouse approximately six miles downstream of the electric barrier. No Asian carp have been found above the

electric barrier to date. Knowledge of the population size and location of possible Asian carp in CAWS is important data that will inform biologists and decision makers on selecting and prioritizing appropriate future actions to keep Asian carp from moving into Lake Michigan.

Over 250 people from more than 20 local, state and federal agencies contributed to the sampling and data collection efforts. The RCC would like to thank the Forrest Preserve District of Cook County, Sunset Bay Marina and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for allowing access to their respective properties during the operation.

For more info on the Asian Carp RCC and Asian carp control efforts: <http://www.asiancarp.org>. ✧

Larger Muskies

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"What we're seeing is a combination of higher size limits and increased voluntary release of legal size fish over the years," Simonson says. "The growth rate of muskies is slow so it's taken a long time to produce 48-inch and larger fish."

Wisconsin records suggest that it takes 18 years on average for a musky to reach 50 inches, with the fish growing faster when they're young and slower later in life, Simonson says. Before age 10, they grow about 4 inches a year. After about age nine or 10, they grow about 1 inch per year.

The growing popularity of catch-and-release has given Wisconsin muskies time to grow. Wisconsin anglers reported releasing 96 percent of the 223,101 muskies they caught during the 2006-07-license year, according to the most recent statewide mail survey of anglers. This catch-and-release ethic also has helped to make this fabled "fish of 10,000 casts," more like the fish of 3,000 casts, Simonson says.

"Our goal is to maintain catch rates of one musky every 25 hours," he says. "That means that two anglers in a boat would spend about 12 hours to boat a fish." ✧

WI - Walleye bag limits to increase on 369 northern lakes

MADISON – Daily walleye bag limits increased May 21 on 369 lakes in the Wisconsin Ceded Territory to reflect spring spearing harvest by six Wisconsin bands of Chippewa Indians.

A daily bag limit of two walleye will increase to three walleye per day on 83 lakes. In addition, 286 lakes will go from an initial bag limit of two or three walleyes per day to the state daily bag limit of five, according to Joe Hennessy, who coordinates the treaty fisheries management program for the Department of Natural Resources.

Anglers should consult the 2010-11 "Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations," signs at boat landings, and the 2010-2011 Revised Ceded Territory Walleye Bag Limits pamphlet for lake-specific information.

As part of a 1983 Federal Appellate Court decision affirming Chippewa off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, the six bands of Wisconsin Chippewa set annual harvest quotas for off-reservation lakes in the Wisconsin Ceded Territory. To assure the combined tribal and recreational angler harvest does not exceed a sustainable level, the state sets recreational bag limits in lakes declared for harvest by the Chippewa bands.

An administrative rule passed by the state Natural Resources Board in 1998 allows the department to adjust initial bag limits annually to reflect actual spring spearing harvests and projected summer harvests.

Of the 243 lakes with bag limits less than five, 83 lakes will have a bag limit of two walleye per day, and 160 lakes will have a daily bag of three walleye per day. The six Chippewa tribes together harvested 34,157 as of May 15, 2010. ✧