



## Minnesota approves sales tax increase amendment Will perpetuate funds for clean water, natural resources, parks and trails

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, Minnesota voters approved the dedicated funding constitutional amendment to preserve and protect the state's wildlife habitat, lakes and rivers, parks, and cultural heritage. Supporters of the amendment included a coalition of 350 environmental, sportsman, conservation and arts groups who have fought for over 10 years to see this dedicated funding approved.

The question that was on the 2008 General Election ballot stated: *"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to dedicate funding to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and*

*restore our lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009, by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034?"*

The three-eighths percent sales tax increase approved by the voters is estimated to capture about \$300 million a year. The current general sales and use tax rate is 6.5%. Sales tax revenue is deposited in the state General Fund. The amendment will increase the general sales and use tax rate by three-eighths of one percentage point (0.375%) to 6.875% and dedicate the additional proceeds as follows: 33% of the new money will go to clean water, a third to game, fish and wildlife habitat, 20% to arts and culture and the remaining to parks and trails.

These dollars will not go directly to the Minnesota DNR. The

Legislature will make final funding decisions based on the merits of any proposed projects. Projects can be proposed by the DNR as well as other organizations and agencies.

The funding dedicated to outdoor habitat projects will be managed by the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council. The council will be made up of 12 members – eight citizens and four legislators. State Sen. Satveer Chaudhary noted that with sportsmen on the council, not only will funding to restore, protect and enhance our wetlands, prairies and forests be spent wisely, but local sportsmen's clubs will see direct dedicated funding dollars spent in their communities through the local matching grant program.

### **MN sales tax increase amendment**

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## Waterway Watch program more relevant following Mumbai attacks

The public can help the Coast Guard keep America's waterways safe and secure. In light of the tragic terrorist attacks in Mumbai it is important to remember that all Americans play a vital role in homeland security. Whether you live, work or recreate near the waterways of the United States you can assist the Coast Guard by remaining vigilant and reporting suspicious activity.

With this in mind, the Coast Guard Auxiliary reminds the public of the America's Waterway Watch program. America's coasts, rivers, bridges, tunnels, ports, ships, military bases, and waterside industries may be the terrorists' next targets. Though waterway security has been increased

greatly in recent years, with more than 95,000 miles of shoreline, over 290,000 square miles of water, and approximately 70 million recreational boaters in the U.S, the Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies can not do the job alone.

The Waterway Watch program simply requests that we do our part and report:

- Unusual surveillance of vessel or waterside facility operations
- Unattended boats near bridges
- Unusual diving activities, or
- Unauthorized vessels operating in restricted areas, or other suspicious activities.

### **Waterway Watch**

*Continued on page 10*

## Michigan Regional Fishery Workshops

Full-day Michigan Regional Fishery Workshops will be hosted by Michigan Sea Grant College Program and Michigan State University Extension, in partnership with the DNR and other fishery organizations.

They will again be hosting six public information workshops offering current research and information related to the status of the Great Lakes fishery. Workshops are open to the public, and will provide valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals, and others interested in attending.

**Registration fees** – Fees for individual workshops vary from \$15 to \$25 based on location, lunch costs, etc. Call or email for details and costs related to individual workshops.

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**February 21** – St. Joseph Regional Fishery Workshop  
Berrien County MSUE Office, 1737 Hillandale Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022

**April 4** – Bad Axe Lake Huron Regional Fishery Workshop  
The Franklin Inn, 1070 E. Huron Ave (M-142), Bad Axe, MI

**April 18** – Alpena Lake Huron Regional Fishery Workshop  
F.O.E. Meeting Hall, 1960 M-32 West, Alpena, MI

**April 25** – Grand Haven Regional Fishery Workshop  
The American Legion, Charles Conklin Post # 28, 700 Harbor Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417

**May 2** – Straits Area Regional Fishery Workshop  
Location TBD, St. Ignace Regional Fishery Workshops ✧



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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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## Outdoors Card required to hunt & fish in Ontario Province adds non-residents to licensing system

Anglers/hunters from outside Ontario who want to hunt and fish in the province will need an Outdoors Card effective Jan. 1, 2009.

Non-resident anglers and hunters will be required to purchase the card in addition to an Ontario fishing or hunting licence, except for one-day fishing licenses. The new requirement is one more step in the effort to improve the hunting and fishing licensing system. The card is available wherever Ontario hunting and fishing licenses are sold.

By 2010, the government will be moving to a fully automated system that will allow all anglers and hunters to purchase licenses from home using the Internet or a toll-free automated phone service, in addition to over 1,800 license issuers across the province.

### Outdoors Card features include:

- A wallet-sized plastic card valid for 3 years. The cost is \$9.00 Canadian.
- The paper application that non-residents fill out at a license issuer serves as a temporary Outdoors Card until the permanent card is received in the mail.
- There are two types of Outdoors Card: the Fishing Outdoors Card which can only be used with fishing licenses, and the Hunting/Fishing Outdoors Card which is valid for hunting and fishing.
- The Outdoor Card has been required for Ontario residents for hunting and fishing licenses since 1993.

### LEARN MORE

Visit Ontario's [2008-2009 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary \(ontario.ca/fishing\)](#) and [2008 Hunting Regulations Summary \(ontario.ca/hunting\)](#). ✧

# January 8 Barrier Committee Meeting Update

## Barrier IIA to be turned on at low voltage, fish passage still at risk

Army Corps of Engineers Chicago Commander Col. Vince Quarles opened the meeting on January 8 by again reiterating the need to keep the barrier running 24/7. The issue of safety is a continuous and nagging problem and Quarles emphasized the barrier had to be run at low voltage pending further studies regarding various safety issues of Man Overboard and safety concerns towards commercial shipping.

Capt. Bruce Jones, Coast Guard Commander Lake Michigan, uncharacteristically finally acknowledged the Coast Guard does not have Congressional authority to prevent the barrier from operating, so they have now relinquished their position refusing to allow the Barrier II to operate. He admitted "the Congressional authorizing language included no authority for the Coast Guard to 'approve' the barrier's operation."

That revelation did eliminate one thorny 'barrier' to protecting the nation's resources, but safety issues still continue to be addressed by the Corps of Engineers, so Barrier IIA will be turned on January 29 but will operate at a low voltage level.

Representatives from the Council of Great Lakes Governors emphasized

the need for a work plan and timeline to get the barrier running at a higher voltage level, questioning, "What will trigger an increased voltage level and which agency will be the decision maker and when and how is this implemented?"

Chuck Shea, Corps project manager, stated that a decision on the operating level will be made by the end of summer of '09. Shea also added that the US ACE and USCG will develop contingency plans for implementation of higher voltages. Shea added barrier voltage would be cranked up to a higher level at the point where carp or other invasives are seen approaching the barrier.

Subsequent speakers addressed this issue in their studies, research and reports emphasizing that once we see the fish at the barrier area, it's already too late — that they will have already passed through the barrier system. Neither the Coast Guard nor the Corps of Engineers addressed those thought provoking revelations.

Barrier I was rehabbed as of October last year and was upgraded to a permanent status from its original demonstration project status. Its electrodes have been replaced as have been electronic components and pulsars, as well as maintenance of the

transformer and backup generator. Testing has been completed at one volt.

New tests are required for field strength for voltage levels of 1 to 4 volts per inch and the COE has stated the canal closures will be required during the testing of increased voltages. Neither Barriers I nor IIA have ever run at 4 volts. Barrier I at the present time is operating at 110% of capacity to maintain one volt.

In addition to man overboard issues (i.e. acts of stupidity), major safety concerns also include hazardous cargo including petrol and petroleum products, crude petroleum, jet fuel and kerosene, distillates, residuals and other fuels, oils lubricants, etc. Concerns include possible sparking during higher voltage levels, which could create combustibility and injury, or worse, in the commercial shipping industry.

Barrier IIB final design is pending the outcome of higher voltage studies. Plans are to initiate a site prep during this summer and begin construction during fall of '09 with construction completion sometime in 2010. The Corps added it will activate Barrier IIB in late 2010 or 2011.

## 10 tips for staying safe while ice fishing

State conservation wardens caution that ice is never viewed as safe, but general guidelines suggest at least 4 inches of clear ice is necessary before someone walks on a frozen waterbody; at least 6 inches before driving a snowmobile across ice, and 8 to 10 inches before traveling in cars or light duty trucks. Those guidelines are only if the ice is solid and clear.

Other tips for staying safe:

- ▶ Contact local sport shops to ask about ice conditions on the lake or river you want to fish.
- ▶ Do not go out alone, carry a cell

phone, and let people know where you are going and when you'll return.

- ▶ Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a float coat to help you stay afloat and to help slow body heat loss.
- ▶ Take extra mittens or gloves so you always have a dry pair.
- ▶ Wear creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- ▶ Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas.
- ▶ Carry a couple of spikes and a length of light rope in an easily

accessible pocket to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.

- ▶ Do not travel in unfamiliar areas or at night.
- ▶ Know if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows that have current that can thin the ice.
- ▶ Look for clear ice. Clear ice is generally stronger than ice with air bubbles in it or with snow on it.
- ▶ Watch out for pressure ridges or ice heaves. These can be dangerous due to thin ice or may be an obstruction you may hit with a car, truck or snowmobile. ✧

## Antifouling paint study under way in San Diego Bay

SAN DIEGO – In an effort to pinpoint which environmentally friendly antifouling hull paints are most effective in real-life conditions, Knight and Carver Yacht Center has partnered with the Port of San Diego to test a wide variety of these coatings in local waters — and initial results are expected by the end of the year.

The San Diego Unified Port District's Alternative Hull Paint Project is examining various antifouling coatings and their effectiveness over a two-year period. Effectiveness will be evaluated, based on application efficiency, cleaning and maintenance needs, antifouling efficiency, cost and longevity.

The first phase of the project consisted of applying more than 200 different kinds of antifouling paint on fiberglass panels placed underwater at marinas and yacht clubs along San Diego's Shelter Island over the course of two months. The second phase will include testing of coatings on boat hulls.

The port launched the antifouling paint study after the area was cited for higher-than-acceptable levels of copper trace amounts in the marine sediment. Once the port discovered copper was causing water quality problems in many marina basins within San Diego Bay, the port formed a partnership with the Institute for Research and Technical Assistance (IRTA).

Copper dissipating from hull paint can cause levels of copper in marina basins to become elevated, which can be potentially toxic to marine organisms, researchers said. Much of the release of copper into San Diego Bay has been directly linked to copper-based antifouling paints, the port claims — although it is not yet clear how much paint residue came from recreational vessels, commercial ships or Navy vessels.

## Corps to turn on Barrier IIA good news

WASHINGTON, DC – Congresswoman Candice Miller, MI-10, received confirmation that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed safety testing and will activate the IIA electric dispersal barrier in the Chicago Ship Canal by the end of January 2009. This electric barrier will prevent dangerous species from entering the Great Lakes and disrupting its fragile ecosystem.

"The recent announcement by the Corps of Engineers is welcome news that will greatly assist in our efforts to preserve the fisheries and unique species found in the Great Lakes," says Rep. Miller. "Throughout my nearly three decades of public service protecting the Great Lakes has always been a principle advocacy of mine, and I'm pleased with the bipartisan efforts of my Great Lakes colleagues to ensure a quick and proper implementation of this barrier."

"I appreciate the thorough safety precautions which the U.S. Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers have taken to ensure the safety of this electric barrier and applaud their decision to activate the permanent barrier in January, in order to prevent these dangerous species from entering in to our precious Great Lakes," said Miller.

The electric dispersal barriers in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal are all that prevent these carp from entering in to the Great Lakes. The activation of the permanent electric barrier will assist the current demonstration barrier in deterring invasive species from entering in to the Great Lakes. ✧

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The port will receive \$190,000 in funding for the project through an EPA Pollution Prevention Grant, and is matching that amount. The project aims to reduce copper levels in San Diego Bay as boaters replace their existing copper-based hull paints with environmentally safer alternative products. ✧

## Overwhelming Parliament majority adopts European cormorant plan

One of the most important decisions in European angling history took place on December 4th, 2008 as the European Parliament decided to support a pan-European Cormorant Management Plan. As many as 558 MEPs voted in favor of the report and its resolutions. Only seven MEPs voted against it!

The European Fishing Tackle Trade Association informed the GLSFC that EFTTA and the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) are extremely happy with the positive outcome of the plenary voting on MEP Dr. Heinz Kindermann's report "on the adoption of a European Cormorant Management Plan to minimize the increasing impact of cormorants on fish stocks, fishing and aquaculture."

This exceptionally strong backing from the European Parliament puts heavy pressure on the European Commission and the Council of Ministers to put forward the request for a pan-European management plan and all the basic elements needed for the smooth and effective implementation of such a plan. These elements include more and better data, improved co-ordination between Member States, greater involvement of stakeholders and clarification of some of the legal terms and the terminology in use.

With cormorants causing widespread devastation to European fish stocks — and thereby affecting the quality of recreational angling available to anglers in Europe — The 'Kindermann Report' has been supported at every stage by EFTTA. EFTTA Chief Executive Officer, Jean-Claude Bel, said: "After the Committee on Fisheries gave such an overwhelming vote in favor of the Kindermann Report, we are delighted that the European Parliament understood just how important it is to have a workable management plan for these birds." ✧

# Vessel discharges will now require federal permit

## EPA sets rules on permit requirements to exchange ballast water Order won't be enough to block invasive species, critics contend

Commercial ships must dump ballast water at sea or rinse their tanks if empty under a new federal policy designed to prevent invasive foreign species from entering the Great Lakes and other U.S. waters. The EPA included the requirement in a general permit issued late last month under a court order requiring it to regulate water discharges from ships to protect native ecosystems.

The permit had been scheduled to take effect December 5<sup>th</sup>, but a federal judge in California postponed the date until February 6, giving states more time to impose additional requirements for vessels operating in their waters. EPA previously exempted ballast and most other vessel discharges from regulation under the Clean Water Act. Environmental groups and a half-dozen states sued the agency over that policy because many invasive species are ferried to U.S. waters in ballast that oceangoing freighters release in domestic ports.

"This is a significant event in the history of the Clean Water Act," said Benjamin Grumbles, EPA's assistant administrator for water. "The agency has 'delivered a protective and practical permit to protect the nation's waterways from shipborne pollution and to avoid an environmental and economic shipwreck,'" he said.

Environmentalists complained the agency had done little more than adopt a Coast Guard policy considered insufficient. It requires transoceanic vessels to dump ballast water at least 200 miles from shore. Those carrying no ballast must rinse their tanks with salt water, a process known as 'swish and spit,' to kill organisms lurking in residual puddles or mud. Those are good first steps but don't prevent some invaders from slipping through, critics said.

Grumbles said the permit imposes a number of new requirements that would reduce

discharges of pollution and live organisms. Among them: mandatory ballast exchange and saltwater tank flushing for some vessels on nearshore Pacific voyages.

But EPA does not force ships to install onboard systems for sterilizing ballast tanks to kill aquatic creatures, agreeing with the maritime industry that effective technology remains unavailable.

Several cleansing methods have been devised and won approval from other nations, but the U.S. has yet to certify them and has no structure in place to do so, said Steve Fisher, executive director of the American Great Lakes Ports Association. The permit also establishes no nationwide standard for ballast cleanliness, as environmentalists wanted. Legislation to set a federal policy stalled in Congress this fall. The Coast Guard has been drafting regulations for years.

However, many states are using their authority under the Clean Water Act to make requirements exceeding those in the EPA permit for waters under their jurisdiction. In the Great Lakes region, five states — Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois — are adopting an International Maritime Organization standard limiting the number of live organisms in discharged water.

Michigan has its own regulation that requires ships to keep their ballast on board or treat it with approved methods. New York has ordered ships to reach a cleanliness level 100 times stricter than the IMO standard. California also goes well beyond the international standard.

Wisconsin dropped its effort to tack on further requirements after failing to meet the EPA's deadline. But with the 48-day extension for EPA's permit granted by the U.S. District Court in San Francisco, Wisconsin will resume crafting its

version, said Adam Collins, spokesman for the state DNR.

The differing state rules could pose challenges for shippers. For example, some are demanding compliance by 2016, while New York wants its standard met by 2012. 'We're a little anxious as an industry that states are imposing these requirements while technology to meet them isn't.'  
✧

## So is fish safe to eat or not?

The current official advice from the Food and Drug Administration and the EPA is that pregnant and nursing women and young children can safely eat up to 12 ounces — roughly two servings — of most fish a week, but should limit their intake of albacore tuna to 6 ounces a week and avoid entirely four species of fish containing high levels of mercury.

But the two agencies are at loggerheads over the two-serving limit. The FDA has circulated a draft report suggesting that the vast majority of fetuses and infants would actually benefit if their mothers ate more than two servings of fish a week because fish contain highly beneficial nutrients that aid in brain development. The FDA's scientists argue that those benefits outweigh any potential harm.

Have mercury warnings gone too far in driving women away from a potentially beneficial food source? Meanwhile, experts caution that consumers should choose from fish that are low in mercury, such as shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, pollock and catfish. ✧

### *Memorable Quote ...*

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

*Thomas Jefferson*

## MI State parks offer winter camping

The Michigan DNR is reminding winter outdoor enthusiasts that there are state parks and recreation areas that remain open to offer camping opportunities throughout the winter season.

“For your winter camping adventures, there are state parks or recreation areas that remain open for camping and other outdoor recreation year-round. Some offer rustic camping with no amenities, while others offer semi-modern campsites with electricity,” said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division. “Some parks also have cabins, mini-cabins, lodges or yurts available to rent all year, and all are heated with wood or propane stoves. So GO — Get Outdoors — and enjoy the winter season.”

Mitchell, Rifle River, and Traverse City offer site electricity and heated restrooms in the winter. Other campgrounds that are open all winter and offer site electricity are Algonac, Bay City, Fort Custer, Ludington, North Higgins Lake, Tahquamenon Falls, and the Waterloo Recreation Area-Portage Lake Campground.

Many of the camper cabins and mini-cabins have reduced pricing for the winter months. The following parks have facilities located on lakes or nestled in the woods, and offer one or more of these winter lodging opportunities with a wide variety of amenities for the winter season:

### Upper Peninsula

Fort Wilkins, McLain, Porcupine Mountains, and Wells

### Northern Lower Peninsula

Hartwick Pines, Hoefl, Interlochen, Ludington, Mitchell, Rifle River, South Higgins Lake, Tawas Point, Traverse City, and Wilderness

### Southern Lower Peninsula

Bald Mountain, Brighton, Fort Custer, Highland, Holland, Holly, Island Lake, Ortonville, Pinckney, Port Crescent, and Waterloo

Reservations can be made on-line at [www.midnrreservations.com](http://www.midnrreservations.com) or by calling 800-447-2757. ✧

## MI - Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center offers winter programs

The Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center, located next to Mitchell State Park in Cadillac, has announced its winter programs. Admission to the center and the programs is free.

### January programs include:

► Dog Sled Demonstrations and Rides, Saturday, Jan. 24, from noon to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be available, and the laser shot program inside the center will also be available.

► Understanding Michigan's Black Bear, Saturday, Jan. 31, noon to 2 p.m.

### February programs include:

► North American Snowmobile Festival Weekend, Saturday, Feb. 7. Call for more info: 231-779-1321.

► Michigan Winter Free Fishing Weekend event, Saturday, Feb. 14. Free ice fishing tackle and bait will be provided all weekend by the visitor center. There will be moonlight cross-country skiing on Feb. 14 too, from 6 to 9 p.m., and a movie will be shown following the skiing.

► Winter Ice Fishing, Saturday, Feb. 21, from noon to 3 p.m. Meet at the visitor center. Free tackle will be provided.

► Dog Sled Demonstrations and Rides, Saturday, Feb. 28, 12 - 3 p.m.

### Programs in March include:

► Understanding Michigan's Black Bear, Saturday, March 7, noon to 2 p.m.

► Moonlight Cross-Country Skiing, Saturday, March 14, 6 to 9 p.m. Refreshments and a movie will follow.

► Wetland Trail Snowshoeing, Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some snowshoes available, or participants can use their own.

► Dog Sled Demonstrations and Rides, Saturday, March 28, noon to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

For more info: 231-779-1321. ✧

## Trout fishing opportunities at Castalia Hatchery

COLUMBUS, OH – Controlled trout-fishing opportunities on Cold Creek, one of Ohio's most unique streams, again await fishing enthusiasts who enter a special lottery conducted by the Ohio DNR.

A half-mile section of the creek, located at the Castalia State Fish Hatchery in Erie County, will again be open to a limited number of anglers on selected dates between March 30 and October 30, 2009. Anglers interested in fishing the stream must submit an application form and a non-refundable \$5 application fee between December 1, 2008 and January 31, 2009 in order to be eligible for the random drawing. Application forms can be obtained by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE. Save money by applying online at [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com) for only \$3 per application.

One application is allowed per person. Application information can be obtained from the ODNR Division of Wildlife Web site [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com) or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE.

There will be two seasons: one for adults (March 30 through June 4 and August 24 through October 30), and one for youths age 16 and under (June 8 through August 21). Approximately 90 adult and 50 youth permits will be issued. Individuals selected to participate will be allowed to bring two adults and three youths under the age of 16 (no more than six people total). Participation is determined by a computer-generated random drawing, which is held in early March. Successful applicants will be notified by mail of their fishing dates. Applicants not chosen will not be notified.

Special fishing rules will be in effect for the event to ensure that a quality fishing experience is maintained throughout the season. One of the special rules prohibits catch-and-release fishing, with wildlife officials requiring that anglers keep all fish they catch. The daily bag limit will be five trout per angler. ✧

## Lawsuit to block tribal takeover of National Wildlife Refuge Bison Range deal cedes “Inherently Federal” functions and bars public oversight

A Bush administration deal giving operational control over the National Bison Range to a Montana tribe for the next three years is illegal, according to a federal lawsuit filed last month by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). This precedent-setting arrangement has national repercussions, as another 18 refuges in 8 states, constituting 80% of the entire National Wildlife Refuge System, are eligible for similar tribal agreements. So are 57 National Parks in 19 states, including parks such as Redwood, Glacier, Voyageurs, Olympic and the Cape Cod National Seashore.

Plaintiffs bringing the suit feature four former Bison Range refuge managers whose tenures span 40 years, a former Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System and Nathaniel Reed, former Assistant Interior Secretary during the Nixon and Ford administrations, as well as a current Bison Range employee whose

job is being displaced. The suit cites violations of federal laws which:

- ▶ Forbid outsourcing “inherently federal functions” as well as require that operational control of all refuges remain with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service;

- ▶ Ensure public access to financial and other records maintained by federal contractors and mandate a full and open review of environmental impacts of major federal actions; and

- ▶ Shield federal employees from job loss at the direction of groups outside the federal government and guarantee return rights once the agreement ends.

“The National Bison Range agreement improperly contracts out operation of a major federal facility without adequate oversight to protect taxpayers,” stated PEER senior counsel Paula Dinerstein, who filed the action today in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. “Ceding substantial control over a national refuge requires an act of Congress and cannot legally be given away in a

closed-door deal.”

Negotiated with top U.S. Interior Department officials, the Bison Range agreement transfers all jobs, except for a Refuge Manager and deputy, to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). This agreement, which takes full effect in January, is a successor to a more limited FY 2005 agreement that the Fish & Wildlife Service summarily rescinded in December 2006 citing a host of performance-related issues on the part of the Tribe, as well as reported mistreatment of FWS employees by the CSKT.

“This arrangement seems designed to settle a political debt rather than enhance the refuge mission,” Dinerstein added. “In fact, the agreement itself concedes that wildlife-related services will likely suffer.” Called the crown jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Bison Range is one of the nation’s oldest refuges and celebrated its centennial this past May. ✧

## Tiny waterfleas may have big consequences

Standing aboard the research vessel *Neekay* in Lake Michigan, UW–Milwaukee Associate Professor Craig Sandgren oversees an oceanographic-sized net being pulled up from 100 meters. Considering the enormous size of the net and the large volume of water that is being collected, it’s surprising that what he and fellow biology professor John Berges are anxiously looking for are tiny water fleas barely visible to the naked eye. What’s more, these tiny species have the capability of significantly changing the existing food web.

The critters are the carnivorous *Bythotrephes cederstroemi* (spiny water flea) and *Cercopagis pengoi* (fishhook water flea). Like the zebra and quagga mussels, both are invaders from Eastern Europe that have hitched their way into the Great Lakes through ballast water on ships.

What concerns these scientists is the fact that the two invasive species occupy the same critical spot in the middle of the food web. While two similar species might compete against each other, these tiny fleas may in fact divide and conquer, each devouring separate types of zooplankton. That would leave less food for fish to eat during their critical initial growth periods. Additionally, if they eat zooplankton that normally consume algae, prolific algae blooms may increase in frequency.

“Adding invasives changes the dynamics of the food web in very unpredictable ways,” John Berges said. “The more invasive species there are, the greater the problems become.”

The scientists are able to make comparisons with the data Sandgren collected in the 1990s when only the

spiny water flea was on the scene, but before the fishhook water flea and zebra and quagga mussels were introduced to Lake Michigan, further complicating the system. Sandgren and Berges are also conducting hundreds of experiments in their labs under controlled conditions. The two can manipulate light, temperature, and nutrients to see how the primary producers, zooplankton grazers, and invasive species respond.

“If you imagine the tiny animal they eat is a can of soup, they squeeze out the soup and leave the can behind,” explained Sandgren. “We’re trying to read the label without having the can.” Berges reports that thus far they have developed specific antibodies for six prey -species that will allow them to identify those species in the “soupy” gut contents of the invasive water fleas. ✧

## NOAA 2010 Saltwater Angler Registry

On December 23, 2008, NOAA Fisheries released a final rule giving anglers who fish recreationally in federal ocean waters until January 1, 2010 to be registered in the saltwater angler registry, a new tool to help the nation better manage and rebuild valuable fish stocks.

The final rule outlines the process NOAA Fisheries will use for registering saltwater recreational anglers. It also addresses the qualifications and procedures for exempting states and their anglers from the federal registration requirement.

The Registry is one part of an overall program to better capture the total picture of U.S. recreational fishing. The registry team is working with management partners to develop a phone book of the nation's saltwater recreational anglers. This registry will enable more efficient data collection and help the nation better protect our shared marine resources. Information from all saltwater fishermen — recreational and commercial — is essential to achieving the goal of ending overfishing. The registry is a the product of a major recommendation to NOAA in a 2006 independent scientific review by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences and was also among the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization. ✧

## Snowshoe Hikes at Hoffmaster State Park, MI Jan 24, Feb 14

Hoffmaster State Park is hosting family snowshoe outings at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, and at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. These hikes are suitable for children seven and up accompanied by an adult. Snowshoes are provided by GNA for a small fee.

Pre-registration is required. Those interested can call 231-798-3573. Participants should arrive 15-30 minutes before the program begins for proper snowshoe fitting. ✧

## Six protected gray wolves found dead during Wis. gun deer season

### Remains found in six counties involve multiple hunters

MADISON – State and federal officials are investigating the deaths of six federally endangered gray wolves whose remains were found the day before and during the recently completed gun deer season. The remains of all of the animals have been or are being transported to the DNR Wildlife Health Lab in Madison for necropsy. Gunshot wounds were obvious in several of the animals.

The first wolf, found one day prior to the opening of the gun deer season, was an adult male, and was located by a DNR pilot homing in on a mortality signal being emitted from the wolf's radio collar. The transmitter is programmed to switch to a mortality signal if the animal doesn't move for a programmed period of time.

Additional carcasses found during the deer season were an adult female in Monroe County; an adult female in Vilas County; an adult male in Rusk County, also wearing a radio collar; an adult female in Juneau County; and an adult male in Adams County. The multiple killings evidently involved multiple hunters showing their displeasure with the controversial program. ✧

## Free online safety course for ORV riders

Indiana is offering a free online safety course called "Today's ORV Rider." It is designed so the student can work at his or her own pace at a convenient time. The online course presents the basics for ORV riding, including safe usage, responsibilities the ORV rider has to others and the environment, and how to be prepared for the unexpected. Those wishing to test their knowledge can take a \$30 Indiana certification exam.

<http://www.offroad-ed.com/IN/> ✧

## MI DNR encourages hunters to report hunting activity online

The Michigan DNR is reminding deer hunters they can report the results of their hunts online. Information gathered from hunters who voluntarily report their results will be used along with information collected through the DNR's annual mail survey to help provide the best information available for making management decisions.

All deer hunters are invited to complete the online survey before April 1, 2009. The survey is available on the DNR Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr), under the Hunting and Deer sections. ✧

## Enbridge settles suit over environmental violations, \$1,100,000

MADISON, WI – Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership has agreed to pay \$1,100,000 to settle state claims under Wisconsin's waterway and wetland protection and storm water control laws. The laws applied to Enbridge Energy's pipeline construction across the state in 2007 and 2008, and the judgment resolves charges that Enbridge Energy failed to comply with certain requirements under those laws.

Under Wisconsin law, Enbridge Energy was required to obtain and follow permits that governed its construction of two parallel pipelines through 14 counties in Wisconsin in 2007 and 2008. The complaint charges that Enbridge Energy performed work in and around wetlands and navigable waterways that resulted in violations of its permits, and which impacted wetlands and navigable waterways and public interests in the preservation of and protection of quality water resources. The violations involved activities relating to wetlands, streambeds, bridges, land disturbance and erosion control near navigable waters and wetlands. ✧

## FDA draft report urges consumption of fish, despite mercury contamination

The *Washington Post* in their December 12 issue reports the Food and Drug Administration is urging the government to amend its advisory that women and children should limit how much fish they eat, saying that the benefits of seafood outweigh the health risks and that most people should eat more fish, even if it contains mercury.

If approved by the White House, the FDA's position would reverse the government's current policy that certain groups — women of childbearing years, pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants and children — can be harmed by the mercury in fish and should limit their consumption.

The FDA's recommendations have alarmed scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency, who in internal memos criticized them as "scientifically flawed and inadequate" and said they fell short of the "scientific rigor routinely demonstrated by EPA."

The FDA sent its draft report to the White House Office of Management and Budget as part of the FDA's effort to update the

existing health advisory. The report argued that nutrients in fish, including omega-3 fatty acids, selenium and other minerals could boost a child's IQ by three points.

The greatest benefits, the FDA report said, would come from eating more than 12 ounces of fish a week, which is the current limit advised for pregnant women, women of childbearing age, nursing mothers and young children.

Benjamin H. Grumbles, the EPA's assistant administrator for water, said, "EPA is working closely with other agencies in the scientific review of this report to better understand the risks and benefits of fish consumption."

The FDA and the EPA both play a role in protecting the public from mercury contamination. The EPA investigates and regulates mercury and other contaminants in recreationally caught fish, while the FDA regulates mercury in seafood sold in markets and restaurants. States rely on the federal agencies in issuing their own advisories.

In 2004, the two agencies issued their first joint advisory, suggesting

that women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants and children stop eating four species of fish considered especially high in mercury: swordfish, shark, tilefish and king mackerel. At the same time, the government advised limiting consumption of other mercury-contaminated fish.

Mercury can damage the neurological development of fetuses and infants. Recent studies have suggested that mercury may also pose a health risk for adults, including an increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

The two agencies are supposed to work together to regularly review the advisory, but EPA sources said the FDA went ahead with its own proposal earlier this year, not consulting the EPA until the document was nearly finished.

Gavin Gibbons, a spokesman for the National Fisheries Institute, applauded the FDA's efforts. "This is a science-based approach," he said. "And you start to see a picture emerge that shows the clear benefits of eating seafood outweigh the risks of a trace amount of mercury in fish." ✧

## Biologists discover new fish species in North Carolina

RALEIGH, N.C. — A federally endangered fish thought to live only in two river basins in Virginia was recently discovered in North Carolina.

The Roanoke logperch, one of the largest darters in the perch family, was thought to live only in portions of the Roanoke and Chowan River basins of Virginia. However, biologists with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, the Division of Water Quality and the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences found two populations of the fish in the Mayo and Smith rivers earlier this summer — discoveries that have sent ripples of excitement through biologists who are more likely to see fish disappear, than re-appear, in a river basin.

The search for the Roanoke

logperch started by accident in 2007 after Duke Power biologists happened upon a lone specimen while sampling the Dan River, just downstream of the Smith River, near Eden. Another sampling effort later in 2007 produced only one more specimen leading biologists to hypothesize that both fish were either washed downstream from Virginia's Smith River population during a previous high-flow event or that drought conditions may have caused the two fish to move downstream.

"The discoveries left us with two unanswered questions: Where did these two fish come from? And could there actually be a reproducing population of the Roanoke logperch in North Carolina," Wood said. "Further surveys were needed to

scratch that scientific itch."

That itch was scratched in the most exciting way possible in early July when biologists found not one — but two — populations of Roanoke logperches. On July 8, they captured three logperches while surveying a short reach in the Mayo River, a large tributary of the Dan River in Rockingham County. The three fish were exciting finds because no records existed of the fish in either the Virginia or North Carolina portions of the Mayo River.

A few weeks later, biologists found 10 Roanoke logperches in the Smith River in Rockingham County, ranging in size from 2.5 to 7 inches.

Info: [www.ncwildlife.org/give](http://www.ncwildlife.org/give) or call the Division of Inland Fisheries, (919)-707-0220. ✧

# Congress passes bill to reform NICS System

## Will stop mentally ill from getting guns

Congress last month approved legislation that would help states more quickly and accurately identify potential firearms buyers with mental health problems that disqualify them from gun ownership under federal law, and to allow for persons to petition to have their rights restored.

The resulting bill — based on legislation that had languished for years — drew overwhelming bipartisan support, and the backing of both the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the National Rifle Association.

The bill more clearly defines which mental health records must be reported by states and federal agencies to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The NICS is used by gun dealers to determine whether potential firearms buyers are legally qualified to buy a gun.

The NICS Improvement Act does the following to benefit gun owners:

- ▶ Permanently prohibits the FBI from charging a “user fee” for NICS checks.
- ▶ Requires all federal agencies that impose mental health adjudications or commitments to provide a process for “relief from disabilities.” Extreme anti-gun groups like the Violence Policy Center and Coalition to Stop Gun Violence have expressed “strong concerns” over this aspect of the bill—surely a sign that it represents progress for gun ownership rights.
- ▶ Prevents reporting of mental adjudications or commitments by federal agencies when those adjudications or commitments have been removed.
- ▶ Requires removal of expired, incorrect or otherwise irrelevant records. Today, totally innocent people (e.g., individuals with arrest records, who were never convicted of the crime charged) are sometimes subject to delayed or denied firearm purchases because of incomplete records in the system.

- ▶ Provides a process of error correction if a person is inappropriately committed or declared incompetent by a federal agency. The individual would have an opportunity to correct the error—either through the agency or in court.

- ▶ Prevents use of federal “adjudications” that consist only of medical diagnoses without findings that the people involved are dangerous or mentally incompetent. This would ensure that purely medical records are never used in NICS. Gun ownership rights would only be lost as a result of a finding that the person is a danger to themselves or others, or lacks the capacity to manage his own affairs.

- ▶ Improves the accuracy and completeness of NICS by requiring federal agencies and participating states to provide relevant records to the FBI. For instance, it would give states an incentive to report those who were adjudicated by a court to be “mentally defective,” a danger to themselves, a danger to others or suicidal.

- ▶ Requires a Government Accountability Office audit of past NICS improvement spending.

The bill includes significant changes from the version that previously passed the House, including:

- ▶ Requires incorrect or outdated records to be purged from the system within 30 days after the Attorney General learns of the need for correction.

- ▶ Requires agencies to create “relief from disabilities” programs within 120 days, to prevent bureaucratic foot-dragging.

- ▶ Provides that if a person applies for relief from disabilities and the agency fails to act on the application within a year—for any reason, including lack of funds—the applicant can seek immediate review of his application in federal court.

- ▶ Allows awards of attorney’s fees to applicants who successfully challenge

a federal agency’s denial of relief in court.

- ▶ Requires that federal agencies notify all people being subjected to a mental health “adjudication” or commitment process about the consequences to their firearm ownership rights, and the availability of future relief.

- ▶ Earmarks 3-10% of federal implementation grants for use in operating state “relief from disabilities” programs.

- ▶ Elimination of all references to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives regulations defining adjudications, commitments, or determinations related to Americans’ mental health. Instead, the bill uses terms previously adopted by the Congress. ✧

### MN sales tax increase amendment

*Continued from page 1*

The constitutional amendment states that funds can only be used for projects that meet the criteria established by law. That is, they must restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for game, fish, and wildlife; protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater; and support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

To view the DNR’s “Long Range Conservation Plans and Strategies” go to: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/strategies/index.html> ✧

### Waterway Watch

*Continued from page 1*

Call the National Response Center at 1-877-24WATCH or radio the Coast Guard on marine channel 16. Call 911 or marine channel 16 to report immediate danger to life or property. For your safety, do not approach or engage anyone acting in a suspicious manner – call for help. For info: [www.americaswaterwaywatch.org](http://www.americaswaterwaywatch.org). ✧

## 2008 was the year man-made global warming was disproved

By Christopher Booker, 31 Dec 2008

Two recent items from *The Daily Telegraph* neatly encapsulated man-made global warming was disproved. The first, on May 21, headlined "Climate change threat to Alpine ski resorts," reported that the entire Alpine "winter sports industry" could soon "grind to a halt for lack of snow." The second, on December 19, headed "The Alps have best snow conditions in a generation," reported that this winter's Alpine snowfalls "look set to beat all records by New Year's Day."

Easily one of the most important stories of 2008 has been all the evidence suggesting that this may be looked back on as the year when there was a turning point in the great worldwide panic over man-made global warming. Just when politicians in Europe and America have been adopting the most costly and damaging measures politicians have ever proposed to combat this supposed menace, the tide has turned in three significant respects.

First, all over the world, temperatures have been dropping in a way wholly unpredicted by all those computer models that have been used as the main drivers of the scare. Last winter, as temperatures plummeted, many parts of the world had snowfalls on a scale not seen for decades. This winter, with the whole of Canada and half the U.S. under snow, looks likely to be even worse. After several years flatlining, global temperatures have dropped sharply enough to cancel out much of their net rise in the 20th century.

Ever shriller and more frantic has become the insistence of the warmists, cheered on by their army of media groupies such as the BBC, that the last 10 years have been the "hottest in history" and that the North Pole would soon be ice-free – as the poles remain defiantly icebound and those polar bears fail to drown. All those hysterical predictions that we are seeing more droughts and hurricanes

than ever before have infuriatingly failed to materialize.

Even the more cautious scientific acolytes of the official orthodoxy now admit that, thanks to "natural factors" such as ocean currents, temperatures have failed to rise as predicted (although they plaintively assure us that this cooling effect is merely "masking the underlying warming trend," and that the temperature rise will resume worse than ever by the middle of the next decade).

Secondly, 2008 was the year when any pretence that there was a "scientific consensus" in favor of man-made global warming collapsed. At long last, as in the Manhattan Declaration last March, hundreds of proper scientists, including many of the world's most eminent climate experts, have been rallying to pour scorn on that "consensus" which was only a politically engineered artifact, based on ever more blatantly manipulated data and computer models programmed to produce no more than convenient fictions.

Thirdly, as banks collapsed and the global economy plunged into its worst recession for decades, harsh reality at last began to break in on those self-deluding dreams which have for so long possessed almost every politician in the western world. As we saw in this month's Poznan conference, when 10,000 politicians, officials and "environmentalists" gathered to plan next year's "son of Kyoto" treaty in Copenhagen, panicking politicians are waking up to the fact that the world can no longer afford all those quixotic schemes for "combating climate change" with which they were so happy to indulge themselves in more comfortable times.

Suddenly it has become rather less appealing that we should divert trillions of dollars, pounds and euros into the fantasy that we could reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 80%. All those grandiose projects for "emissions trading," "carbon capture,"

building tens of thousands more useless wind turbines, switching vast areas of farmland from producing food to "biofuels," are being exposed as no more than enormously damaging and futile gestures, costing astronomic sums we no longer possess.

As 2009 dawns, it is time we in Britain faced up to the genuine crisis now fast approaching from the fact that – unless we get on very soon with building enough proper power stations to fill our looming "energy gap" – within a few years our lights will go out and what remains of our economy will judder to a halt. After years of infantile displacement activity, it is high time our politicians – along with those of the EU and President Obama's U.S. – were brought back with a mighty jolt into contact with the real world. ✧

### Hydrilla found in NY

New York State DEC staff have confirmed the presence of the aquatic invasive plant species Hydrilla in New York. The plant was found in Creamery Pond in Orange County, and the identification was confirmed by several aquatic plant experts from around the country. A second infestation was recently found in Suffolk County. Hydrilla is considered to be the most problematic aquatic plant in the US. ✧

### Coast Guard Humor

Spotted on T-shirts for sale in the Ponce de Leon Coast Guard Exchange: "Support Your Local Coast Guard ... Get Lost."

Grayce Barck, Readers Digest

### *Thought to Ponder...*

*The government cannot give to anyone anything that it does not first take from someone else.*

**Other Breaking News Items:**

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Sea Ice Ends Year at Same Level as 1979](#)

[Wisconsin retreats on ballast treatment, for now](#)

[Michigan NRC revises order to prevent spread of fish disease](#)

[Coast Guard OKs barrier to keep Asian carp from Great Lakes](#)

[Maritime groups want new Soo lock](#)

[Lower-voltage carp barrier gets Coast Guard's blessing](#)

[Controversy over cormorant cull about to re-ignite](#)

[Wisconsin's shipping season will continue, settlement reached](#)

[Politics' influence on wildlife policies grows](#)

[Frankenmuth and Chesaning on board for migratory fish ladders; now need the cash](#)

[Michigan AG: Remote-control fishing is illegal](#)

[New tapeworm found in Great Lakes fish](#)

[Updated: EPA permit requires ballast water exchange](#)

[Hitchhiking zebra mussels = bad news for lakes](#)

[Yup, those were crawdad claws on Chicago beaches](#)

[Expansion of Seaway is unlikely, Corps says](#)

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[Sea Ice Ends Year at Same Level as 1979](#)

Rapid growth spurt leaves amount of ice at levels seen 29 years ago. Thanks to a rapid rebound in recent months, global sea ice levels now equal those seen 29 years ago, when the year 1979 also drew to a close. Ice levels had been tracking lower throughout much of 2008, but rapidly recovered in the last quarter. In fact, the rate of increase from September onward is the fastest rate of change on record, either upwards or downwards. The data is being reported by the University of Illinois' Arctic Climate Research Center...

[Wisconsin retreats on ballast treatment, for now](#)

The Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources and U.S. EPA were at odds over the EPA's proposed ship water pollution permit, with state officials saying the EPA rules didn't go far enough to protect Wisconsin waters from foreign species carried in ships' ballast.

[Michigan NRC revises order to prevent spread of fish disease](#)

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has approved updates to a fish disease control order aimed at preventing the spread of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and other diseases in Michigan's inland lakes fisheries.

[Coast Guard OKs barrier to keep Asian carp from Great Lakes](#)

Less than a week after a group of 29 U.S. senators and representatives wrote a letter demanding answers as to why an electric Asian carp barrier built in 2006 to keep the monstrous fish from invading the Great Lakes hadn't been turned on, the Coast Guard has given it the green light.

[Maritime groups want new Soo lock](#)

The Great Lakes maritime community is making a renewed push for building a new lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to ensure the free flow of large ships between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes. This time around, they're touting not only the need for another Soo lock, but the jobs it would create.

[Lower-voltage carp barrier gets Coast Guard's blessing](#)

Less than a week after a group of 29 U.S. senators and representatives wrote a letter demanding answers as to why an electric Asian carp barrier built in 2006 to keep the monstrous fish from invading the Great Lakes had not been turned on, the Coast Guard has given it the green light. But the agency wants the barrier to operate at only one volt per inch, or one-quarter its capacity, which biologists say is not strong enough to repel all sizes of fish.

[Controversy over cormorant cull about to re-ignite](#)

The possible return of a cormorant cull at Presqu'ile Provincial Park has once again aroused strong emotions on both sides of the issue. Dec. 29 was the deadline to respond to a proposed project to manage cormorant populations on Gull and High Bluff Islands.

### **Wisconsin's shipping season will continue, settlement reached**

The dispute over certifying Wisconsin's Clean Water Act plan with the U.S. EPA threatened to shut down shipping four weeks early during a critical time that would have stopped cargo such as coal and iron ore from getting to customers before the three month winter lay-off

### **Politics' influence on wildlife policies grows**

Hunters and anglers often say they want less politics in crafting Wisconsin's fish and wildlife policies, but recent committee assignments in the Legislature suggest we'll see more politics than ever in the Capitol. When the 2009-2010 Legislature was sworn in January 5, the Assembly had its first Fish and Wildlife Committee.

### **Frankenmuth and Chesaning on board for migratory fish ladders; now need the cash**

Plans are in the works to open space for migratory fish at dams in Frankenmuth and Chesaning, MI with eco-tourism following closely behind.

### **Michigan AG: Remote-control fishing is illegal**

LANSING – Michigan's attorney general says it's illegal to use a remote-controlled boat and rod to catch fish in state waters. Battery-powered miniature boats measuring 4 to 7' long can be used to cast a line, catch a fish and reel it in. Web ads say a radio-controlled boat can be maneuvered to reach remote areas from a boat or onshore location, eliminating the need for casting. Attorney General Mike Cox ruled the practice isn't authorized...

### **New tapeworm found in Great Lakes fish**

An outbreak of tapeworms in Lake Huron walleye has Michigan officials urging people to avoid eating sushi made with freshwater fish caught in the Great Lakes region. The warning came as a Canadian researcher reported the first documented case of Asian fish tapeworms in Great Lakes fish.

### **Updated: EPA permit requires ballast water exchange**

Under a new federal policy designed to prevent invasive foreign species from entering the Great Lakes and other U.S. waters, commercial ships must dump ballast water at sea, or rinse their tanks if empty.

### **Hitchhiking zebra mussels = bad news for lakes**

Earlier this year, experts confirmed the presence of the zebra mussel inside a pipe connecting a hydroelectric plant to a lake on the Pennsylvania-Maryland border. The finding was the first for the invasive species in the lower Susquehanna River Basin and a warning to the eastern half of Pennsylvania.

### **Yup, those were crawdad claws on Chicago beaches**

Anybody walking along the lake near the Montrose Dog Beach a week ago could easily have seen dozens if not hundreds of crab claws in the sand. "I believe those are from a rusty crayfish, what has been an invasive species in the Great Lakes region," says George Parsons, director of fishes at the Shedd Aquarium.

### **Expansion of Seaway is unlikely, Corps says**

A highly ambitious and costly plan to widen and deepen the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway likely will be shelved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers this spring. That's according to Dave Wright, the project manager for a financial supplement to a federal Corps study that has been evolving since 1999.

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