



New Asian Carp Paper reflects extent of threat Noted Great Lakes Scientists dispute flawed assertions

"Hydrologic separation is the only option which closes the aquatic connection between the two basins (Great Lakes and Mississippi River) and does not require continuous operation and maintenance of various technologies that have some risk of failure," is the finding of a peer-reviewed science paper released last week.

Aquatic Invasive Species Risks to the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins is authored by Jerry Rasmussen, Henry Regier, Richard Sparks and William Taylor — all distinguished U.S. and Canadian researchers from the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins. The paper has been posted on the website of The Journal of Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) and will be published in an upcoming issue.

The four noted scientists assert, "electric barriers have not been fully effective on Asian carp and will not work on organisms or propagules (any structure capable of being propagated or acting as an agent of reproduction) that drift downstream; eDNA evidence suggests silver and bighead carp are in the Chicago waterways well upstream of the electric barriers."

The study recognizes the one-time "capital cost to separate the two basins is widely acknowledged to be high, and the outstanding question is whether the costs are justified given the significant risk of future ecological damages and long-term economic losses."

The study group challenges four existing assertions. Those assertions and their source(s) are:

1. Existing electric barriers (constructed in the Chicago Sanitary/Ship Canal to prevent migration of harmful aquatic species) have proven effective in blocking Asian carp; Asian carp recently captured on the Lake Michigan side of the barrier arrived by other means (Frede, 2010).

2. Asian carp have already found their way into the Great Lakes, or soon will, through various means such as the dumping of bait buckets by anglers or intentional transfers—therefore it is too late to prevent the invasion (Frede, 2010; McCloud, 2010; Stanek, 2010).

3. Asian carp will not thrive in the Great Lakes due to a lack of adequate food and spawning habitat (Fletcher, 2010; Golowenski, 2010).

Carp Paper *continued on page 9*

In this issue...

Meetings for N Lk Michigan walleye.....	2
GLSFC Web site highlights	2
\$16,500 in fines for illegal sale of fish	3
GL invasive species council proposed	3
Fish disease returns to Mich lake	3
Ind increases fall salmon opportunities.....	4
Walleye survey on Ford River.....	4
MI DNR auction for state-owned lands.....	5
IJC Public Meetings on GL Water levels.....	5
Wis bass tournaments can now start culling ..	6
Denies Milwaukee R fish passage	6
Rec'l boating fatalities hit record low.....	6
Boating stats show need for education ...	7
Laws to stop unwarranted closures.....	7
VanDam again named Angler of Year	7
Saltwater fishing registry.....	8
Farmer gets six yrs for boat bombings.....	8
Ballast Water Program proven effective ..	8
New Asian Carp Paper - <i>continued</i>	9
Fishing Tournaments popular	10
Web feature makes Wis easy to find	11
IJC GL Water Quality Biennial Mtg	11
Dan Ashe new USFWS director.....	11
PA wants boater life jacket rules.....	11
Women's salmon fishing opportunity	11
Tickets for IL Sportsman's Raffle.....	11

NY DEC revises baitfish regulations

Allows for transport on use of baitfish on a some waters

The New York State DEC announced changes to state regulations that formerly banned the overland transport of uncertified baitfish by anglers, including baitfish that were personally collected. The changes are contained in a Final Rule Making, which was filed with the Department of State on June 14, 2011 and became effective June 29, 2011.

The amended rules allow for the overland transport of personally-collected baitfish within three specified transportation corridors, provided the baitfish are used in the same water body from which they are collected.

The three transportation corridors include: the Lake Erie-Upper Niagara River; the Lower Niagara River-Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River; and the Hudson River from the Federal Dam

at Troy downstream to the Tappan Zee Bridge. While overland transport is allowed within these defined areas, the use of uncertified baitfish is restricted to the same water body from which it is collected. Only certified disease-free baitfish may be transported in motorized vehicles outside of the transportation corridors specified in the amended regulations.

New York's current fish health regulations were established shortly after Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) was first confirmed in New York waters in May 2006 in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. VHS is a disease that causes hemorrhaging of the fish's tissues, including internal organs. There is no known cure for VHS. In June 2007,

Revised baitfish regulations

Continued on page 10

DNR hosts meetings for Northern Lake Michigan walleye guidelines

The Michigan DNR will host two public meetings in July to gather input on proposed walleye management guidelines for the Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit.

The draft walleye management guidelines will help direct future management of walleye fisheries in northern Lake Michigan and the lakes and rivers contained within the Lake Michigan basin of the Upper Peninsula. Establishing management guidelines allows the DNR to coordinate the purpose and direction of walleye management activities throughout the unit.

The proposed walleye management guidelines build on a foundation of previous public input by citizen committees and angling groups, and incorporate the latest in sound science regarding walleye management.

Detailed information on the biology and management needs of walleye, as well as specific strategies and actions for future management of walleye populations and habitat can be found in the draft plan.

"Walleye management and stocking efforts underwent some major changes in the past few years, due to the discovery of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a fatal infectious fish disease, in the Great Lakes region," said Jessica Mistak, fisheries supervisor of the DNR's Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit.

"Walleye stocking in our inland lakes was put on hold until research on the disease and its potential impact on our hatcheries could be completed. We've recently been given the go-ahead to resume stocking walleye in our inland lakes, and these guidelines will play an important role in how we move forward with walleye management in the Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit."

Interested parties are encouraged to attend upcoming public input meetings to review the draft

guidelines and provide public comment.

► The first meeting will be held July 13 in Escanaba, 6 to 7:30 p.m. (EDT), DNR Pocket Park, 2401 12th Avenue N. The other meeting is:

► Wednesday, July 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m. (Central Time), Dickinson County Library, 401 Iron Mountain St., Iron Mountain

For Draft guidelines visit: www.michigan.gov/fishpublicinput.

Comments will be accepted through August 3, 2011, and may be submitted by email to DNR-NLMMU-Walleye@michigan.gov,

or regular mail to DNR Fisheries Div., 6833 US Highway 2, Gladstone, MI, 49837.

For more information contact Jessica Mistak at 906-786-2351, ext. 127. ✧

GLSFC Web site highlights

Check out the latest new product reviews on our web site. For new Coleman, Shakespeare, Pflueger, Quantum, Zebco, Shakespeare or Okuma fishing rods/reels, go to: <http://www.great-lakes.org/review.html>.

Looking for new boots/shoes from Wolverine? How about some optics from Bushnell? For more reviews on Berkley Power baits, Gulp!, Mepps lures, Lindy walleye lures, Buck Knives, Rebel and Bomber lures, new Plano boxes, etc., click on

Product Review



Archives ✧

Need a fishing license? Click here: [Fishing licenses](#)

Looking for a charter captain? Click here: [Charter fishing](#) ✧



• Established 1972 •

President

Daniel N. Thomas, *Illinois*

Vice President

Robert Mitchell, *Michigan*

Secretary

Michael D. Sanger, *Wisconsin*

Treasurer

Thomas G. Couston, *Illinois*

DIRECTORS

Illinois – Robert Gaik

Indiana – Mike Schoonveld

Michigan – Tom Hamilton

Minnesota – Dave Koneczny

New York – Thomas Marks

Ohio – Rick Unger

Ontario – Darryl Choronzey

Pennsylvania – Ed Kissell

Wisconsin – Todd Pollesch

Position Statement

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

Inland Seas Angler

GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

Publisher

Dan Thomas, 630/941-1351

Editor

Jeanette Thomas

Webmaster

Robert James, 630/530-7760

© Copyright 2008 by Great Lakes Basin Publications, the INLAND SEAS ANGLERS-GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT is the newsletter of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council, a federally recognized not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of GLSFC, its officers or staff. Reproduction of any material by paid-up members is encouraged, but appropriate credit must be given. Reproduction by others without written permission is prohibited.

Address Change:

Send six weeks in advance with old mailing label to GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT, P.O. Box 297, Elmhurst, IL 60126, (630) 941-1351

\$16,500 in fines for illegal sale of fish

Two Windsor area residents were fined \$12,000 for illegally possessing over-limits of fish and selling the fish without a license.

Nicholas Obermok, 63, of Lasalle, and Carmen Rainone, of Windsor, were each fined \$6,000. In addition, two vehicles, a boat and trailer, an outboard motor, a fridge and freezer, as well as a large quantity of fishing gear were permanently forfeited to the Crown. Obermok and Rainone are prohibited from fishing in Ontario and cannot possess fishing equipment or sport fish, except at their residence, for the next five years.

The Court heard that conservation officers with the Lake Erie Enforcement Unit launched a 16-month investigation after receiving several complaints from the public regarding alleged illegal fishing activities. Between April 25, 2007, and May 9, 2008, conservation officers conducted surveillance of Obermok and Rainone. The pair were observed catching walleye and yellow perch in excess of the limits from the Detroit River and Lake Erie, and then processing the fish and selling them to a fish retail outlet and individuals on at least 16 occasions. On May 15, 2008, officers executed three simultaneous search warrants on two residences in Lasalle and a fish retail outlet in Windsor that led to charges.

In earlier convictions related to this investigation, the Coolwater Fish Ltd. retail outlet in Windsor and an employee of the retail outlet, Gerald Goldhar of Woodslee, were fined a total of \$4,500 after pleading guilty in a Windsor court on May 6, 2010. Justice of the Peace Robert Gay heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Windsor, on June 15, 2011, and Justice of the Peace Susan Hoffman heard the case on the earlier convictions in the Ontario Court of Justice, Windsor, on May 6, 2010.

In order to harvest and sell fish in Ontario, a license from the MNR is required. Fish retail outlets must purchase fish for resale from fish

Great Lakes invasive species council proposed

LANSING, MI (AP) – Michigan Republican senators detailed a proposal recently that would establish a Great Lakes regional council to help determine how to protect against aquatic invasive species. The arrangement would be similar to a compact on water withdrawals created by the region's eight states and two Canadian provinces in 2005, said Sen. Howard Walker of Traverse City.

The proposed bill would create an aquatic invasive species advisory council with a panel of experts aimed at protecting the Great Lakes basin. The panel would work on a plan to prevent and monitor aquatic invasive species throughout the region.

The council would work with state departments and agencies to update and implement Michigan's invasive species management plan. The council also would review state law to recommend strengthened protections. "We cannot continue to deal with threats as they present themselves," Walker said in a statement. "We need a long-term and a short-term plan in place now."

Supporters said aquatic invasive species already have affected tourism, fishing and related activities in Michigan. The potential threat that's been getting the most publicity lately is the Asian carp, but many invaders already are present in the Great Lakes basin including quagga mussels and sea lampreys. ✧

processing plants or holders of commercial fishing licenses. It is also illegal for anyone to purchase or sell angler-caught fish.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). ✧

Fish disease returns to Central Mich. Lake

The Michigan DNR has confirmed the reappearance of VHS in Budd Lake in central Michigan. The 175-acre lake in central Clare County experienced a die-off of largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegills, and pumpkinseed sunfish in late April and early May this year. A similar die-off involving bluegill, black crappie, largemouth bass and muskellunge occurred in the spring of 2007, and the VHS virus was identified in the lake from that mortality. Despite annual monitoring since 2007, the VHS virus was undetected through 2010.

Budd Lake is one of only two inland lakes in Michigan — Baseline Lake in Washtenaw County is the other — where the presence of the VHS virus has been confirmed. It was not known if the virus was still present in the lake in the four years since the last mortality.

"These test results confirm the continued presence of the virus in Budd Lake and reinforces the continued need for anglers and boaters to follow our regulations that are designed to prevent VHS virus from spreading," said acting-Lake Huron Basin Coordinator Todd Grischke. "It is important that anglers and boaters not move live fish between waters, empty live wells and bilges when leaving a body of water, and disinfect and clean their equipment to prevent the spread of VHS virus to other waters."

"New restrictions concerning movement of fish out of Budd Lake are unlikely at this time," said DNR Fish Production Manager Gary Whelan, who oversees fish disease management for the agency. "Regulations already in place since 2007 restrict the harvest and use of fish and baitfish from VHS-positive waters, and Budd Lake is included in that category. Boaters on Budd Lake are reminded to carefully dry and disinfect boats and trailers before launching in other waters to minimize the likelihood of spreading the virus." ✧

Indiana increases fall salmon opportunities for Hoosier anglers

A re-assignment of salmon stocking to the St. Joe & Little Calumet Rivers, and Salt Creek & Trail Creeks by the Indiana DNR will provide more diverse fishing opportunities for Hoosier anglers in the Great Lakes area, particularly during fall.

The DNR will stock 60,000 fall fingerling coho into the St. Joseph River and 30,000 coho into Salt Creek this fall. Trail Creek and the Little Calumet River will annually receive about 75,000 coho salmon.

Expanded coho production was made possible by eliminating Chinook salmon from the St. Joseph River stocking program. There will be no net change in coho salmon produced within Indiana hatcheries.

"With the declines in steelhead returns on the St. Joe and with improved access on Salt Creek, it makes sense to move these fish in order to provide balanced fall fishing opportunities," said Brian Breidert, DNR fisheries biologist. "We will continue to evaluate the lake

fishery as well as coho returns on the St. Joe River through the fish ladder passage program and creel surveys.

Breidert said the DNR hopes for returns similar to '97 when 6,400 fish returned from a single stocking of 75,000 coho in 1996. The DNR also plans to continue the spring coho fishery in Lake Michigan.

In 2002, Indiana DNR changed its Lake Michigan fish stocking program to better serve anglers. Anglers overwhelmingly supported a new stocking strategy that included an increase in coho salmon, a reduction in Chinook salmon, steady levels of steelhead and lake trout, and for the first time in 20 years, the addition of brown trout.

Indiana nearly doubled annual coho salmon stocking from 150,000 to 240,000 fish while brown trout were obtained through a cooperative agreement with Illinois DNR.

Annually, Indiana DNR stocks nearly 35,000 brown trout into

Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. The additional 90,000 coho were stocked into Trail Creek and the Little Calumet River. Those numbers showed increasing stocking levels within the small tributaries in Northwest Indiana has little impact on fall harvest and returns.

Editor's note from Michigan:

The coho to be stocked in Indiana are fall fingerling fish, not yearlings like those stocked in Michigan. Indiana's water source for their coho rearing facility is significantly warmer than Michigan's, and their fall fingerlings are much bigger than the Michigan DNR could ever get Michigan fish up to in the same amount of time.

Michigan's work with rearing various sizes of fish and the eventual fishery they have created has shown fall fingerling coho that come out of our hatcheries contribute very little to the overall fishery in most instances. Indiana's coho are likely twice the size that Michigan fish would be. ✧

DNR completes walleye survey on Delta County's Ford River

The Michigan DNR has completed its first walleye spawning survey on the Ford River in Delta County. The data gathered during the survey will aid in the future management of walleye populations in Bays de Noc and its tributaries by documenting walleye spawning migration patterns, age structure of spawners, presence of stocked versus naturally-reproduced walleyes, and the estimated size of the spawning population.

"This was our first survey of the Ford River, so it will set the benchmark for comparison with survey results from other rivers or future Ford River surveys," said DNR Fisheries Research Biologist Troy Zorn. "There has been concern among anglers on Bays de Noc that recent poaching activity severely impacted the spawning population of walleye in the bays. The good news, at least for the Ford River, is that we documented a number of large spawning walleyes

and many smaller walleyes in the river this spring.

Though rough estimates gained from the surveys can only provide a snapshot of the spawning run for a single year, and the size of the run can vary several fold from year to year, a general idea of the health of the fishery can be obtained once several years' data are compiled.

"Natural reproduction from walleye spawning in Green Bay tribs is key to sustaining the walleye fishery in Bays de Noc and other waters," Zorn said. "Maintaining healthy populations along the shoreline is a priority for us, anglers, and communities that rely on the economic boost fishing can provide."

One factor of key interest to DNR fisheries researchers is the presence of invasive zebra and quagga mussels in Bays de Noc, and determining current and potential future impacts the mussels may have on the local

walleye population. The mussels increase water clarity and can negatively impact forage fish populations, which in turn could significantly alter seasonal walleye movement and distribution patterns.

Zorn added that the information gathered through the Ford River survey—and other surveys completed on additional tributaries of Bays De Noc and Green Bay—will play an important role in guiding future river management, and in determining the influence of habitat characteristics, stocking, and other factors, on walleye spawning runs.

Similar spawning surveys have been performed for the first time in recent years on the Cedar, Menominee, Rapid, Tahquamenon, Escanaba, Whitefish, and Manistique rivers. The spawning surveys typically last from two to four weeks, with DNR crews able to survey, on average, one river each spring. ✧

MI DNR auction for state-owned lands

Some waterfront property available

The Michigan DNR announced that 45 parcels of state-owned land in six Michigan counties will be offered for sale by sealed-bid auction at www.michigan.gov/landforsale.

The parcels, located mainly in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Michigan including Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Gladwin, Mackinac and Schoolcraft counties, have been reviewed by the DNR and approved for sale as surplus land.

These properties range in size from less than an acre to 120 acres. They vary in character from riverside and lakeside parcels to forested properties to a parcel within the city of Sault Ste. Marie adjacent to a golf course. A parcel with an existing communications tower and a property with Lake Michigan frontage are also being offered.

“This annual auction is part of the Department of Natural Resources’ long-term approach to land management,” said DNR Director Rodney Stokes. “We work very hard to find the right balance between ensuring ample opportunity for public recreational access to state lands,

while also providing an easy way for individuals to buy land for their own personal use.”

Information on the auction and on other land available for purchase, including photos, property descriptions, terms and conditions and instructions to submit a bid, is available by clicking on Land Auction at www.michigan.gov/landforsale.

Sealed bids must be postmarked by midnight on August 8, and will be opened on August 17. There is a minimum bid for each parcel. Property information and bid forms are also available upon request to the Real Estate Services Section, P.O. Box 30448, Lansing, MI 48909-7948 or by calling 517-241-2742.

Stokes said the DNR’s Land Consolidation Initiative, an ongoing review of state-owned land, gives the department the chance to look at properties that are outside the boundaries of state parks, forests, game areas and recreation areas to determine if they are surplus to management needs. Proceeds from land sales are used to improve recreation opportunities for the public

and to enhance management capabilities on existing state land.

Any parcels not sold through the auction process are posted to the www.michigan.gov/landforsale website and offered for sale year-round. Currently, 140 properties, ranging in size from less than an acre to 200 acres, are available for purchase on the website on a first-come, first-served basis. The majority of these parcels are located in northern Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, but there are also several properties for sale in the southeast and southwest Lower Peninsula. A number of properties are not easily accessible by the general public.

The state reserves aboriginal antiquities and may reserve mineral rights on the parcels being sold. The DNR recommends all purchasers do their own research as to suitability of the parcel for the purpose intended, and conduct a personal inspection of the desired parcels whenever possible. The DNR makes no representation or claim as to fitness for purpose, access, condition or restrictions. ✧

IJC Public-Meetings on Great Lakes Water levels

Input important on the water level options listed by the study group

The International Upper Great Lakes Study is holding public meetings this summer to provide information regarding the status of the second and final phase of its work, examining Great Lakes water levels. At the meetings, the public will have an opportunity to hear from Study Board members and researchers about preliminary findings and potential regulation plans.

Your input is important on the water level options being presented at the public meetings.

Note: All meetings are 7-9 PM except Muskegon and Manitoulin, which are 10 AM-Noon

Meetings schedule by state:

Wisconsin:

Monday, July 18, 7-9 PM. (CDT)

Third Avenue Playhouse, 239 N.

Third Ave., Sturgeon Bay;

Tuesday, July 19, 7-9 PM. (CDT), U.

of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Great

Lakes WATER Institute, 600 E.

Greenfield Ave.;

Tuesday, Aug. 9, 7-9 PM. (CDT)

Yellowjacket Union, U of Wisconsin-

Superior, 1605 Catlin Ave, Superior

Michigan/Ohio:

(Lake Michigan, Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie)

Wednesday, July 27, 7-9 PM, Toledo,

OH (Lake Erie Center)

Thursday, July 28, 7-9 PM Grosse

Pointe Farms, MI (War Memorial)

Saturday, July 30, 10-Noon,

Muskegon, MI (AWRI)

Ontario:

(St. Clair River, Georgian Bay)

Tuesday, August 2, 7-9 PM, Sarnia,

ON (TBD)

Wednesday, August 3, 7-9 PM,

Collingwood, ON (Royal Canadian

Legion)

Thursday, August 4, 7-9 PM,

Midland, ON (Royal Canadian

Legion)

Saturday, August 6, 10-Noon,

Manitoulin Island, ON

(KagawongPark Center)

Minnesota, Ontario:

Dates and locations to be determined.

Qualified Wis. bass tournaments can now start culling

Starting June 14, anglers fishing in permitted tournaments can cull, or sort, smallmouth or largemouth bass under a new law signed last month by Gov. Scott Walker.

The new law allows culling in Wisconsin but limits the practice to participants in a DNR-permitted bass tournament in which the bass are caught, held in a live well, and released to the water, according to Jon Hansen, the DNR fisheries biologist coordinating the [tournament permit system](#). In an earlier pilot study in 2005 and 2006, culling bass was allowed in seven tournaments on an experimental basis. The new law does not allow culling for any species other than bass.

Culling is the practice of releasing a live fish from an angler's possession and replacing it with another fish. The released fish does not count towards the angler's daily bag limit after it is released if the angler is participating in a permitted bass fishing tournament. The number of fish held by the tournament angler at any one time cannot exceed the daily bag limit authorized for that water, even if the fish are later released. Any released fish must be able to swim away under its own power. Anglers who are culling must have a functioning live well.

To minimize delayed mortality caused by stress of holding fish in live wells at warmer water temperatures, bass tournaments occurring between the first Saturday in July and the second Sunday in August will generally still have a three-fish daily bag limit, unless the DNR has data that shows the water temperatures will be below 80°F.

Only DNR authorized fishing tournaments can cull, so small tournaments that do not now have a permit but want to be able to cull bass must seek a permit to gain that privilege, Hansen says.

A tournament permit is needed if any of the following apply: the tour-

WDNR denies Milwaukee River fish passage for Great Lakes fish

During 2009 and 2010, the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department was awarded federal funding to develop, refine, and implement a "Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Program." The Program reconnects existing, high quality habitat in Milwaukee River tributaries to Lake Michigan, the Milwaukee Estuary, and lower reaches of the mainstem Milwaukee River. It also forges new connections between Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and other counties, municipalities, businesses, schools, non-profit organizations, citizens, volunteers, and state and federal agencies. To date, the Program has removed or remediated over 120 impediments to fish and aquatic life movement.

Construction of the fishway would allow Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan game and non-game fish species (northern pike, walleye, lake sturgeon, salmon, trout, etc.) access to requisite, high quality habitat upstream of the dam. The fishway design includes specific features to prevent upstream movement of aquatic invasive species.

WDNR has issued a tentative permit denial for the Bridge Street Fishway. A public meeting was held by the DNR on June 27 in Grafton. The results are pending. ✧

ment involves 20 or more boats, or 100 or more participants; targets any trout species on waters classified as trout streams; is a catch-hold-release tournament with an off-site weigh-in; or has a total prize value of \$10,000 or more, or the participants will be culling largemouth or smallmouth bass during the tournament.

In 2010, there were 211 permitted bass tournaments in Wisconsin; so far there are 207 permits for bass tournaments in 2011. ✧

Recreational boating fatalities hit record low

The U.S. Coast Guard released its 2010 Recreational Boating Statistics, which show total fatalities fell to 672, the lowest number on record.

Coast Guard officials said that while they are heartened by the drop, they believe this number remains unacceptably high. They noted that the 2010 total is only slightly lower than the 676 deaths in 2004, the previous record low, but it is 26 deaths lower than the average number of fatalities for the last 10 years.

Total reported accidents were 4,604 in 2010, down from 4,730 in 2009, while injuries totaled 3,153, down from 3,358. Property damage was estimated at \$35 million.

"We're glad to see the numbers decline," Rear Admiral Kevin Cook, Director of Prevention Policy for the U. S. Coast Guard, said in a statement, "but the real tragedy is that so many of these deaths are needless and could have been prevented had boaters taken some simple steps. I am optimistic that the number of deaths and injuries can continue to be reduced further because of the strong commitment to safe boating from our partners in the States, non-government advocacy groups, and the boating industry."

Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol use rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents. Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as the leading factor in 19 percent of the deaths.

Cook emphasized the importance of boating education saying, "There is a clear link between safety and boating education. Statistics indicate that boaters who have taken a boating safety course are less likely to be involved in an accident. In addition, almost three-quarters of all fatal boating accident victims drowned; and of those, roughly 90 percent were not reported as wearing a life jacket. ✧

Boating stats show need for education

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators release new statistics

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) applauded the recent release of the U.S. Coast Guard's 2010 Recreational Boating Statistics, which illustrate record achievements by the states and federal government in educating boaters and preventing tragic loss of life in recreational boating.

According to the report, total fatalities in 2010 dropped to 672, the lowest number on record. The study also found that almost three-fourths of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, 88 percent were not wearing a life jacket. Alcohol remained the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as the leading factor in 19 percent of the deaths. Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol use rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

In addition, the statistics show that there were 3,153 injuries and approximately \$35.5 million dollars in property damage as a result of recreational boating accidents in 2010. Compared to 2009, the number of accidents decreased by 2.66 percent, the number of deaths decreased 8.7 percent and the number of injuries decreased 6.1 percent.

NASBLA believes that while these statistics show an improvement from 2009, they also further confirm the importance of state-level education and public awareness campaigns. In 2010, for recreational boating fatalities where the operator's instruction was known and reported, only nine percent occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety instruction, and only six percent occurred on vessels where the operator had received boating safety instruction from a NASBLA-approved course provider. ✧

Legislation introduced to stop unwarranted fisheries closures

Fisheries Science Improvement Act will help ensure science is primary driver of federal fisheries decisions

<http://keepamericafishing.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=bzq9xhq2LRg%2FY3W2oNvQ6sNJb6DwTor7>

The Fisheries Science Improvement Act (H.R. 2034), introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA) on June 23, 2011, with the support of a bi-partisan group of 18 other Members of Congress, seeks to ensure that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is required to set catch limits based on data, not on guesstimates.

This legislation will guide federal fisheries management towards a more science-based approach and prevent NOAA Fisheries from setting arbitrary and overly restrictive catch levels on numerous important recreational fisheries. H.R. 2304 provides a timely path for NOAA Fisheries to manage all of America's marine fish stocks based on sound scientific data.

[View the Fishery Science Improvement Act Fact Sheet.](#) As amended in 2006, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires Regional Fishery Management Councils to put in place annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for every fishery by December 31, 2011. The requirements were intended to end overfishing by 2011 but were predicated on two critical assumptions:

- ▶ NOAA Fisheries would make decisions based on up-to-date and accurate stock assessments,
 - ▶ NOAA Fisheries would improve catch data to better anticipate potential problems in a given fishery.
- Neither of these obligations has been met.

TAKE ACTION NOW

VanDam again named Angler of the Year

FOND DU LAC, Wis. – Kevin VanDam has won the 2011 B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year title — his seventh such honor. VanDam secured the title Sunday at the conclusion of the regular season finale held on Wheeler Lake in Decatur, Ala.

VanDam of Kalamazoo, Mich., continued his Elite Trail domination by winning a record-setting fourth consecutive Bassmaster Angler of the Year title — surpassing legendary angler Roland Martin's previous best — three consecutive Angler of the Year titles. VanDam also became the first angler to take both the Angler of the Year and Bassmaster Classic titles in two consecutive years.

VanDam finished with 2,026 points in the Angler of the Year standings — 153 ahead of runner up Edwin Evers, who finished with 1,873. Evers, also sponsored by Mercury, has finished second to VanDam the last two seasons. He owns seven Angler of the Year titles to accompany his four Bassmaster Classic championships. He's qualified for 22 consecutive Bassmaster Classic titles — including 2012 — and has 94 top 10 B.A.S.S. finishes.

Mercury's Ott DeFoe topped Rookie of the Year standings. ✧

Scientific management should be the cornerstone of fisheries management at NOAA. However, the agency has felt compelled by statutory deadlines to make major fishery management decisions using inadequate data and incomplete analysis. NOAA Fisheries is simply making guesses in many cases when setting catch limits and in determining other management parameters, and guesswork should have no place in federal fisheries management.

How You Can Help

Click here to: **Send a message to your Member of Congress** in support of the Fishery Science Improvement Act. ✧

DEC announces saltwater fishing registry Future harvest quotas based on number of registrants

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced all saltwater anglers are required to register in the state's new, no-fee saltwater fishing registry. DEC developed the registry in compliance with recent legislation that suspended the fee associated with the state's marine recreational fishing license for two years. The no-fee registration system will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service and interstate fisheries regulators to set harvest quotas for marine species.

The new registration system fulfills a federal mandate to develop a database of New York marine recreational anglers to improve federal recreational fishing surveys about the number and size of their catch. This information is vital since it is used to set quotas, size and bag limits, and fishing seasons in subsequent years. DEC anticipates this new data will provide accurate information for future management of the coastal fishery and better integration into federal reporting systems.

DEC reminds anglers that registration in the New York registry is required even if they are already registered with the federal National Saltwater Angler Registry. DEC will automatically enroll all lifetime license purchasers, charter/party boat operators and individuals who purchased a Recreational Marine Fishing License in 2011 in the no-fee registry. Therefore, those license holders do not need to register this year. However, all saltwater anglers will be required to register annually beginning in 2012.

Marine anglers can register by using DECALS, the DEC's automated sporting licenses system. Effective immediately, all anglers 16 years of age and older who take fish from the waters of the marine district, or who take anadromous fish from any waters of the state, are required to register. This requirement is the same as the

recently repealed Recreational Marine Fishing License, but is now free of charge. Those fishing from a for-hire party or charter fishing vessel licensed by DEC are not required to obtain an individual registration.

To register, go to the usual outlets for sporting licenses, or register online: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html. Anglers can also register by phone by calling 1-86-NY-DECALS (1-866-933-2257). ✧

WI Farmer gets six years for boat bombings

A Wisconsin farmer was sentenced to six years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for blowing up several charter fishing boats in a Kewaunee, Wis., marina.

Joseph Sloma, 47, of Denmark, endangered firefighters, risked killing anyone who might have been asleep onboard one of the boats and destroyed the livelihood of several people, all for no apparent reason, U.S. District Judge William Griesbach said. Sloma, a former charter boat captain, pleaded guilty to one count of committing arson to property used in interstate commerce — four charter fishing boats used on Lake Michigan, the Green Bay Press-Gazette reported.

He admitted to setting off a pipe bomb on September 27, 2009 that destroyed the four boats moored at Salmon Harbor Marina. As part of his plea agreement, Sloma admitted to having bombed and destroyed another charter boat about four months earlier at the same marina.

Sloma came to court with a check for \$320,000 to pay required restitution, defense lawyer Chris Froelich told the court. Sloma sold his own 38-foot fishing boat just before he was charged and saved the money to help make restitution, Froelich said. ✧

Canada-U.S. Ballast Water Program proven effective, says study

Burlington, Ontario – A new study completed by researchers at Fisheries and Oceans Canada has determined that current ballast water policies for the Great Lakes are highly effective in protecting ecosystems from aquatic invasive species. The report was recently published in the *Journal of Environmental Science and Technology*, and provides strong support for Canadian policies to be adopted around the world.

Ballast water, required for the safe navigation of ships, can inadvertently transport non-indigenous species into new areas. In 2006, Canada and the U.S. implemented the Great Lakes Ballast Water Program to help prevent new invasions. This program verifies that each and every vessel crossing the ocean exchanges its ballast water, or flushes its tanks, with mid-oceanic saltwater before entering the Great Lakes. Before this study, the effectiveness of the program was largely untested.

Between 1959 and 2006, an estimated 56 aquatic non-indigenous species were reported in the Great Lakes, of which 55-to-70 percent were attributed to transoceanic shipping. Since 2006, when the program was implemented, no new invasive species attributed to ballast water have been recorded.

The study demonstrated the effectiveness of the program, both in the laboratory and onboard transatlantic ships. It concludes that similar programs could protect fresh water ecosystems around the world from invasive species transported by ballast water.

The Canadian Aquatic Invasive Species Network is a national network consisting of some of the world's leading researchers, explorers and innovators in the field of aquatic invasive species.

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/publications/article/2011/06-13-11-eng.html ✧

New Asian Carp Paper

Continued from page 1

4. Asian carp are not likely to cause serious damage to the Great Lakes ecosystem (Smith and Vandermeer, 2010).

Despite claims to the contrary, the scientists claim it's not too late to keep the carp out of the lakes. Those who believe that too much is being made of an Asian carp invasion of the Great Lakes downplay the risk, claiming Asian carp will simply join the many species that are now accommodated by the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The authors note the existing electric barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal are designed to repel, not kill fish, and they say most experts agree that permanent solutions to block Asian carp and other harmful aquatic species from invading the Great Lakes must look beyond electrical barrier systems. One of the greatest deficiencies of electrical barriers that allow the free flow of water and boats is their inability to block downstream movements. Electric fields cannot prevent downstream migration and drifting of invertebrates, fish eggs and larvae, and potentially harmful plants, parasites and disease organisms.

While acknowledging that to date, there is no evidence of reproducing populations of Asian carp in the canals upstream of the electric barriers or in Lake Michigan, but given enough time, even low probability events will ultimately occur. Food sources and spawning areas in the Great Lakes and tributary rivers are available to support bighead and silver carp, despite assertions to the contrary that were based on misrepresentation of one paper (Cooke and Hill, 2010).

The authors also reminded us food availability was one of many factors considered in a Canadian government risk assessment that concluded it is reasonably certain that bighead and silver carp will reproduce and spread in the Great Lakes if they are provided access (Mandrak and Cudmore, 2004).

The Great Lakes and tributary rivers are neither too cold nor too stagnant to support Asian carp spawning. In Asia, bighead carp thrive in rivers as far north as 47° latitude, which equates in North America to the latitude of Lake Superior, or about 100 miles north of Lake Huron and almost 300 miles north of Lake Ontario. The native range of silver carp extends to 54° north, which cuts across the southern basin of Hudson Bay.

Twenty-two tributaries on the U.S. side of four Great Lakes are at least 100 km long and may have sufficient current velocity to keep Asian carp eggs in suspension long enough to hatch (Kolar et al., 2010).

The Study also notes:

► Silver carp have recently been reported to consume *Cladophora*, a genus of alga comprising several species that are found in abundance around the the Great Lakes.

► Reports exist of bighead and silver carp spawning in stagnant backwater environs, and fry being found in 50–55°F (10–12°C) water.

► Successful Asian carp reproduction may be possible in many smaller, shorter tributaries to the Great Lakes where oxygenated sand and gravel substrates occur.

The authors are urging Congress to approve legislation ordering the Army Corps of Engineers to quicken a study, now due for completion in 2015, of whether to divide the two freshwater basins. Legislation from Congress in 2007 (Water Resources Development Act) authorized the U.S. Army Corps to conduct "a feasibility study of the range of options and technologies to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other aquatic pathways." However, more than three years passed before the USACE issued the study's first Draft Project Management Plan, and the completion date for the study has been delayed to 2015.

The paper concludes and recommends:

► The electric barriers have not been

fully effective on Asian carp and will not work on organisms or propagules (any structure capable of being propagated or acting as an agent of reproduction) that drift downstream, and eDNA evidence suggests silver and bighead carp are in the Chicago waterways well upstream of the electric barriers.

► Based on our current understanding of Asian carp dietary and habitat requirements it is unlikely they would be limited by food or habitat in the entire Great Lakes basin. The addition of two more species of plankton feeders to the Great Lakes would adversely affect an already stressed food base. There are more invasive species besides the Asian carp that could cause species extinctions, declines of valuable fisheries, and other economic losses if they pass between the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins via the Chicago connection. It is imperative to stop the exchange of invasive species as quickly as possible.

► The pending legislation needs to be passed, so the public and their elected officials can evaluate the costs and relative risks based upon the best scientific information and engineering technology available.

About the authors:

Jerry Rasmussen is a retired USFWS biologist who first warned of the Asian carp threat more than a decade ago; he was almost fired by President Bill Clinton's then USFWS director for rocking the boat about fish farmers in Arkansas using invasive Asian carp for environmental purposes; Henry Regier is a Great Lakes researcher at the University of Toronto; Richard Sparks, with the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center in Godfrey, IL is a longtime member of the Electronic Waterway Advisory committee; and William Taylor, Distinguished Professor, Michigan State University, is a commissioner of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

To view the full study: <http://news.msu.edu/media/documents/2011/06/12af5b94-962e-494d-bd56-ec1243212057.pdf>. ✧

Fishing tournaments popular among anglers

Survey shows 9 recreational anglers compete in derbies compared to one competing pro angler

FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla. – When anglers were asked in a recent survey if they participated in fishing tournaments, it was discovered that for every one competing professional angler there are roughly nine fishermen who compete at least occasionally in amateur tournaments. The Angler Survey results indicate tournament fishing is a popular activity among some sportsmen.

Among those anglers who reported competing in tournaments in the past year, for every full or part-time angler that competes at the professional level, there are approximately three anglers who compete regularly in amateur tournaments and just over six who do it at least occasionally. Local contests are the most participated in, probably because they are easier for more anglers to access, with 72.7% of tournament anglers citing their involvement in them. Thirty-five

percent of all pro and amateur tournament competitors participated in regional (within state) events, 17.5% in state events, 14.5% at regional (multi-state) tournaments and only 10.1% in national events.

"Fishing tournaments are a great way for anglers at every skill level to compete and have a lot of fun. Looking at some of the more storied tournaments held around the country, purse winnings can be quite large for some of these events, which I am sure is a big draw for many anglers," said Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates, which designs and conducts the surveys at HunterSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com and AnglerSurvey.com.

To help continually improve, protect and advance this treasured way of life, all anglers are encouraged to participate in the surveys at HunterSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com and AnglerSurvey.com. Each month,

participants who complete the survey are entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 gift certificates to the sporting goods retailer of their choice.

Launched in 2006, AnglerSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com and HunterSurvey.com help the outdoor equipment industry, government fisheries and wildlife officials and conservation organizations track consumer activities and expenditure trends. The information above represents only a small sample of the vast amount of data collected from the complete survey results and available to government agencies, businesses, the media and other interested parties. Results are scientifically analyzed to reflect the attitudes and habits of anglers and hunters across the United States. Find them on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/huntersurvey> and <http://facebook.com/anglersurvey>. ✧

Revised baitfish regulations

Continued from page 1

DEC finalized regulations to help prevent the spread of VHS and other fish diseases into New York's inland waters.

The introduction of infected fish, including baitfish, is a common pathway for the spread of fish pathogens. In 2007, a strict prohibition on overland (motorized) transport of uncertified baitfish was implemented to ensure that the use of uncertified baitfish was limited to the same body of water from which it was collected. Allowing transport within these defined corridors will still contain the movement of baitfish, including retaining the requirement that uncertified baitfish only be used in the same water body from which it has been collected.

With strict compliance, the risk of spreading VHS and other fish pathogens into uninfected water bodies should not be increased. DEC's regulations will:

- Allow the overland motorized transport of uncertified baitfish that are collected for personal use within the identified transportation corridor. Such baitfish may only be used in the water body from which they were collected.
- Allow the overland motorized transport of uncertified baitfish by anglers purchasing the baitfish from licensed bait dealers located within one of the transportation corridors (provided the seller has obtained a permit from DEC to sell uncertified baitfish). The seller must provide the purchaser with a receipt that identifies the water body from which the bait was collected and can be used. That water body is the only place where the baitfish may be used.
- Impose no restrictions on the number of uncertified baitfish that may be collected or purchased for personal use in the water bodies associated with the transportation corridors. Also, such fish may be retained or preserved in any manner

within the boundaries of the corridors. They may not be transported outside of the transportation corridors.

- Continue to subject commercial sale of uncertified baitfish involving overland transport to a permit issued by the Department.

Anglers should be aware that a prohibition on transport of baitfish remains in effect outside the designated transportation corridors. The Department will monitor and evaluate the impact of the modifications to the regulations to ensure that the proposed transportation corridors do not compromise efforts to guard against the movement of uncertified baitfish beyond the water from which the baitfish were collected. Future regulatory amendments may be necessary based on those evaluations.

Details: www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/propregulations.html. Maps of the transportation corridors: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/47282.html. ✧

Web feature makes it easy to find Wis. lake maps, amenities

A new "[Find a Lake](#)" feature on the WI DNR website gives boaters and anglers an easy way to find new waters to try out. Users can search for lakes by region, ABC by lake name, or by features like boat ramps, beaches and parks. Get maps, detailed lake info, and learn about boat access, local boating ordinances, etc.

Wisconsin Lakes Fast Facts

- ▶ Wis. has 15,081 documented lakes; about 40% have been named and most lakes are smaller than 10 acres,
- ▶ Vilas County has the most lakes, 1,318, followed by Oneida County with more than 1,100,
- ▶ Lake Winnebago: largest inland lake surface area, 137,708 acres, & largest volume, 696 billion gallons,
- ▶ Mud Lake is by far the most common lake name, (116), followed by Bass Lake (82) & Long Lake (59),
- ▶ Wis. ranks in the top 10 states for boating, based on boating sales. It ranks tenth with \$292 million in sales,
- ▶ [Wis Lakes Book](#), 2009 revision. ✧

IJC GL Water Quality Biennial Mtg Oct 12-14

The International Joint Commission's [2011 Great Lakes Water Quality Biennial Meeting](#) will be held October 12-14 on the campus of Wayne State U. in Detroit. The theme of the meeting is "H2O NOW," emphasizing the pressing need for the public, industry, environmental groups and governments to take action and work together to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

To register, [please click here.](#)

"At the [Biennial Meeting in Detroit](#), the public can learn firsthand about the health of the Great Lakes and how to press for action," said the Hon. Lana Pollack, U.S. Co-Chair of the IJC. "H2O NOW is a reflection of the urgent need for action, not just by governments, but by everyone who uses the lakes to swim, fish and drink the water." ✧

Dan Ashe New Director of USFWS

Dan Ashe, who has served as the service's deputy director for policy since 2009, has been appointed to be the agency's director.

Ashe was born and spent his childhood in Atlanta, where his father began his 37-year career with the service. Much of Ashe's childhood was spent on nat'l wildlife refuges, where he learned to band birds, fish, hunt and enjoy the outdoors.

He earned a graduate degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington, where he studied under a fellowship from the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation. He is very active in local civic affairs in Montgomery County, Maryland, where he and his family reside. He is an avid waterfowl hunter, angler and tennis player. ✧

PA wants boater life jacket rules

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has proposed a rule requiring all people aboard boats less than 16 feet, or any canoe or kayak, to wear life jackets between November 1 and April 30.

Submit written comments about the proposed rulemaking to the Executive Director, PFBC, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106, within 60 days after publication of this notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. No comments accepted by fax.

Comments also may be submitted electronically by completing the form at www.fishandboat.com/regcomments. If an acknowledgment of electronic comments is not received by the sender within 2 working days, the comments should be retransmitted to ensure receipt. Electronic comments submitted in any other manner will not be accepted.

Submit comments by August 10.

Read the full proposal at: <http://fishandboat.com/rulemakings/228nprp.pdf>

Pennsylvania Bulletin:
www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol41/41-24/968.html ✧

Women's salmon fishing opportunity in U.P. Aug 12-14

Women interested in learning more about the sport of salmon fishing can now register for a Becoming an Outdoors-Woman salmon fishing workshop, held on Lake Michigan in the Upper Peninsula August 12-14.

Participants in this advanced-level "Beyond BOW" salmon fishing workshop will leave from the Fairport Marina, located at the tip of the Garden Peninsula in Delta County, and will experience trolling for salmon in the waters of northern Lake Michigan. Several experienced salmon anglers will provide guidance.

The workshop will include multiple fishing trips on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday morning. All fishing and safety equipment will be provided. However, all anglers will need a valid Michigan All-Species fishing license and should bring clothing and outerwear for a variety of weather conditions, including non-slip footwear. The \$200 registration fee also includes two nights lodging and Saturday evening dinner.

Enrollment limited to eight participants and registration deadline is July 29. All info and registration are online: www.michigan.gov/bow or call Sharon Pitz, 906-228-6561. ✧

Tickets available for Ill Sportsman's Raffle

Tickets are now available for the Ill. Conservation Fdn. Sportsman's Raffle with a \$100,000 first-place prize. Raffle tickets are \$100 each. The grand prize of \$100,000 will be presented at a drawing on December 1, 2011. Additional "early bird" prizes will be awarded for tickets drawn on August 4, September 1, October 6 and November 3, 2011.

Raffle prizes awarded on, Dec 1:
\$100,000, 2nd Prize – \$10,000, 3rd Prize – \$3,500, 4th – 18th Prizes – \$1,000, 19th – 27th Prizes – \$500

Raffle tickets are \$100 each and are available online at www.ilcf.org

Illinois once again comes in last place on public safety But comes in first place when it comes to politics

With Gov. Walker's signature, Wisconsin's concealed carry bill now means law-abiding citizens of Wisconsin are now able to lawfully protect themselves and their families.

This good fortune enjoyed by the citizens of Wisconsin underscores the ongoing plight of their neighbors to the south. Illinois is now the only state in the nation that prohibits its citizens from protecting themselves with the most effective tool available — the defensive firearm. As recently as May, the Illinois House had the opportunity to pass concealed carry legislation. Unfortunately, a small but powerful contingent of Chicago

lawmakers sabotaged the legislation, thus causing the bill to fall a half-dozen votes short of passage.

"A few members of the Illinois General Assembly have taken it upon themselves to decide who is worth defending and who is not," commented ISRA Executive Director, Richard Pearson. "By voting concealed carry down, they are clearly siding with the bad guys while letting the good people of Illinois take it on the chin from murderers, robbers, rapists and the increasingly-popular flash-mobs."

"This small band of legislative hold-outs believes that they can act

with impunity," continued Pearson. "But, we have news for them. There are a pair of federal lawsuits in the courts that address Illinois' persistent denial of the law-abiding citizen's right to self defense. We expect a favorable outcome in the courts. Our determination on this matter is single-minded. We will fight until we win, no matter how long it takes."

"By now, Illinois is used to coming in last place in nearly every form of endeavor," said Pearson. "But one thing is for certain, Illinois comes in first place when it comes to placing politics before public safety." ✧

Proposed UN Treaty would restrict gun rights in America U.N. maneuver would create "Global Gun Control"

In October 2009 the Obama administration participated in helping to write a United Nations International Treaty that will restrict your gun rights in America.

The Bush administration voted against the creation of this proposed Arms Trade Treaty, believing that such oversight would be more productive on a national level. But on October 30th, 2009, Obama reversed course, quite possibly turning over the sovereignty of the United States, its Constitution and the rights of its citizens to United Nations and the member states.

Specifically, the UN treaty would restrict and regulate small arms trade worldwide. The U.S. delegate to the United Nations voted yes on a UN resolution to continue with the treaty negotiations. The UN wants to put this treaty in force by 2012. This was the first time a U.S. delegate voted yes on such a proposal.

In a recent column on the Forbes website, contributor Larry Bell wrote about the danger posed to the 2nd Amendment by the treaty proposed by the United Nations. According to the U. of Houston professor, if the Small Arms Treaty is passed by the UN

body and ratified by the U.S. Senate, rights of gun owners would be harmed in a number of ways.

It would become tougher for American citizens to obtain gun licenses, giving law-abiding people even more hoops to jump through to exercise their Constitutional right to bear arms. In addition, the treaty would seek to ban the sale and ownership of all semi-automatic weapons that have magazines.

The U.N. says that the treaty is designed to combat terrorism, but a number of prominent figures are cautioning that the rights of Americans could be severely restricted by the agreement. While the terms have yet to be made public, if passed by the U.N. and ratified by our Senate, it will almost certainly force the U.S. to:

- ▶ Enact tougher licensing requirements, creating additional bureaucratic red tape for legal firearms ownership
- ▶ Confiscate and destroy all "unauthorized" civilian firearms (exempting those owned by government).
- ▶ Ban the trade, sale and private ownership of all semi-automatic

weapons

▶ Create an international gun registry, clearly setting the stage for full-scale gun confiscation

In short, this treaty would override our national sovereignty, and in the process, provide license for the federal government to assert preemptive powers over state regulatory powers guaranteed by the Tenth Amendment in addition to our Second Amendment rights.

Have no doubt that this plan is very real, with strong Obama administration support. In January 2010 the U.S. joined 152 other countries in endorsing a U.N. Arms Treaty Resolution that will establish a 2012 conference to draft a blueprint for enactment. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has pledged to push for Senate ratification.

Former U.N. ambassador John Bolton has cautioned gun owners to take this initiative seriously, stating that the U.N. "is trying to act as though this is really just a treaty about international arms trade between nation states, but there is no doubt that the real agenda here is domestic firearms control." ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Scientists favor divide for Great Lakes, Mississippi](#)

No additional study is necessary to prove that separating the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River systems is the only way to prevent invasive species such as Asian carp from migrating between them and doing serious ecological and economic harm, a team of scientists said Thursday.

[Asian carp: Low-oxygen zone proposed to hold fish back](#)

A short-term solution to the problem of Asian carp migrating through Chicago waterways into the Great Lakes would be to create a low-oxygen zone of about 2 miles in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, killing all the fish, several scientists said Thursday.

[Illinois likely to see fierce battle over gun control](#)

As state after state voted to let residents carry concealed guns, Illinois has held out, for a long list of reasons: A strong gun control movement; a dynasty of powerful Chicago mayors; a line-up of state leaders who oppose expanding access to guns. With Wisconsin now on the verge of

[St. Clair Fisherman catches Czech man trying to swim into U.S.](#)

A St. Clair County fisherman reeled in a man from the Czech Republic who investigators say was trying to illegally swim from Canada into the United States. "I've caught some big things on this river but never anything this big," Brad Pederson of Algonac said in a news release

[Time to let science drive policy on Asian carp, experts say](#)

It's time, a Michigan State U fisheries expert says, to let science drive policy and put knowledge into action. "You know it's big when academics and the management community say we don't need five more years of study," said Bill Taylor, University professor in global

[Scientists say low-oxygen zone could be short-term solution to Asian Carp migration](#)

Scientists say a short-term solution to Asian carp migrating through Chicago waterways into the Great Lakes would be to create a low-oxygen zone of about two miles in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, killing all the fish; it was a viable option until the Great Lakes and

[Great Lakes round gobies a mixed blessing](#)

For all the trouble they bring, it turns out the invasive round goby might also be doing the Great Lakes a small service. In addition to being a valuable food source for numerous sport fish, the small bottom feeder also has an appetite for another, more notorious Great Lakes invader — the zebra mussel.

[Lake Superior rising faster than normal](#)

Lake Superior now sits an inch higher than the July 1 level in 2010 but 11 inches below the long-term normal for this time of year.

[EDITORIAL: Lake Erie water-use bill deserves a veto](#)

Last December, Ohio Governor-elect John Kasich promised to protect Lake Erie. He can live up to that pledge by rejecting a flawed bill that would open the spigot for private withdrawals of large quantities of Lake Erie water, potentially collapsing the international Great Lakes Compact.

[Protecting shorelines: Whose job is it anyway?](#)

Waterfront property owners are increasingly recognized as having unique opportunities to protect and enhance shorelines. Now the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership is giving them help.

[Sea lamprey surveys will soon be underway](#)

The continuing battle against sea lampreys soon will come to locations in Wisconsin. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assessment crew will conduct surveys off the mouths of the Sand (Bayfield Co.) and Brule (Douglas Co.) rivers to determine the need for sea lamprey control.

[Great Lakes czar touts restoration](#)

Cameron Davis, senior adviser to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, touts the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative created by Obama that includes priority projects of mitigating toxic hot spots, invasive species, beaches, habitat and accountability.

[International St. Lawrence River Control Board lowers water levels...but how low will they go?](#)

This spring's rain has left water levels on Lake Ontario well above normal — higher than the International St Lawrence River Board of Control is comfortable with. To fix the problem, the board earlier this month started letting more water out at the Moses-Saunders dam in Massena.

[Great Lakes projects get federal money](#)

Several Michigan projects have won funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, money that Congress is putting into restoring the Great Lakes.

[Erie's fishery: the power plant threat](#)

While Lake Erie water quality has been, and should continue to be, the focus of cleanups, pollution isn't the only threat to the lake's ecosystem. So are power plants on the U.S. shore and they are killing hundreds of millions of fish each year.

[Taft testifies against Lake Erie water plan](#)

Former Ohio Governor Bob Taft today joined Democrats and environmentalists in opposing a plan by his fellow Republicans to allow large amounts of water to be drained from Lake Erie without a permit.

[Public hearings set on commercial trap fishing nets](#)

A requirement that anglers trolling with downriggers on the Great Lakes carry wire cutters on board — along with changes that commercial fishers must make — are the topic of public hearings June 27 in Cleveland and Bayfield.

[Owens protests boating policy](#)

Forcing boaters to report to Canadian customs every time they venture into Canadian waters could cripple tourism on the St. Lawrence River, Rep. William L. Owens told the Canadian government Monday

[Senators offer plan for invasive species compact](#)

Three Michigan senators planned to introduce a package of bills Tuesday to create a council to prevent the spread of invasive species in the Great Lakes.

[Co-op helps improve fishing: research facility housed in hydroelectric plant](#)

A Michigan co-op is helping to improve sport fishing throughout the Great Lakes through an aquatic research facility housed in an historic hydroelectric plant that it owns.

[Coats introduces carp legislation](#)

Sen. Dan Coats, R-IN, has introduced legislation requiring an economic impact statement ahead of federal actions to eradicate Asian carp in Chicago-area waterways

[Lake trout on life support](#)

For twenty years now the federal government has been trying to restore wild lake trout in Lake Michigan. Lake trout are native to the Great Lakes and were once the big game fish in all the lakes.

[Millions of Great Lakes fish killed in power plant intakes](#)

Despite decades of efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes, dozens of old power plants still are allowed to kill hundreds of millions of fish each year by sucking in massive amounts of water to cool their equipment.

End