Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation formed over twenty years ago in order to effectively advocate for the creation or preservation of state laws, and/or policies designed to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainable and wise use of our state's immense treasure of high quality freshwater resources. Our primary mission will be accomplished by pro-active participation in Michigan's legislative process (lobbying), by participating in court cases whose outcomes may have significant statewide ramifications, and/or by direct involvement with natural resources management, or environment focused state agencies or departments.

facebook

Providing Important Up-to-Date Information Regarding Statewide Beach Water Quality, Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy's Beach Guard System Website A Must Visit Before Venturing Out To Your Favorite Michigan Beach

Michigan summers and beach days go hand-in-hand but not every seeming oasis is a safe place to dip your toes.

Before packing a cooler, towels, sand toys and an umbrella and heading to your local beach, check this list of 14 beaches that, as of Thursday afternoon, July 29, are closed or under contamination advisories for high bacteria levels.

The notifications are made as part of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy's Beach Guard system. Each beach's status is subject to change as new test results come in. To see an up-to-date map of the red-flagged beaches and details on the water quality tests.

The Beach Guard site gives the public information on beach water quality across the state. It includes water sampling results and daily updates on which beaches are under advisories or have been closed. The data covers 1,224 public beaches and 575 private ones.

Here are the 13 closures and advisories:

- **Handsome Lake, Crossroads For Youth, Oakland County – CLOSED since July 7 due to high bacteria levels from wildlife. The beach was also closed from June 29-July 6 and June 22 due to storm water runoff.**
- **Lake Superior, Ontonagon Lakeshore Park, Public Shoreline Beach, Ontonagon County – CONTAMINATION ADVISORY since July 21 due to high bacteria levels.**
- **Wixom Lake, Wixom Waters, Midland County – CLOSED since July 15 due to high bacteria levels from an unknown source.**
- **Pontiac Lake, Pontiac Recreation Area, Oakland County – CLOSED since July 21 due to high bacteria levels due to wildlife. The beach was also closed on July 8 and June 30 due to runoff.**
- **Lake St. Clair, St. Clair Shores Memorial Park Beach, Macomb County – CLOSED since July 22 due to high bacteria levels from an unknown source.**

The beach was closed for the same reason from July 13-14, June 29-July 7, and June 15 and 17-23. The beach was under contamination advisories for the same reason from July 15-21, July 8-12 and June 24-28.

- **Crooked Lake, Independence Oaks County Park, Oakland County – CLOSED since July 27 due to high bacteria levels from runoff. The beach was closed for the same reason from June 29 to July 14 and June 23-24.**
- **Lake Huron/Saginaw Bay, Singing Bridge Beach, Arenac County – CONTAMINATION ADVISORY since July 27 due to high bacteria levels from an unknown source. The beach was under an advisory for the same reason June 29-30.**
- **Lake Callis, Lake Callis beach, Genesee County – CLOSED since July 28 due to high bacteria levels from an unknown source.**
- **Ross Lake, Beaverton City Park, Gladwin County – CONTAMINATION ADVISORY since July 28 due to high bacteria levels from an unknown source. The beach was under advisories for the same reason from June 30 to July 20 and on June 16.**
- **Houghton Lake, Lakeview Park, Roscommon County – CONTAMINATION ADVISORY since July 27 due to high bacteria levels from an unknown source.**
- **Wolf Lake, Sunset Park, Muskegon County – CONTAMINATION ADVISORY since July 29 due to high bacteria levels from an unknown source.**
- **Lake Superior/Portage Canal, Sandy Bottom Beach/Dollar Bay, Houghton County – CLOSED since July 29 due to high bacteria levels from an unknown source. The beach was closed for a gasoline spill on June 24.**
- **Lake Huron, Kiwanis Beach, Mackinac County – CLOSED since July 29 due to high bacteria levels from an unknown source.**

To visit the MI EGLE Beach Guard System website, click here

Contact: Joanne Foreman, 517-284-5814

NotMISpecies webinars offer help for backyard invasive species problems and

more

Register now for upcoming sessions

New sessions in the NotMISpecies webinar series will offer an abundance of information, resources and field experiences to help identify and manage invasive species in Michigan.

Supported by Michigan's Invasive Species Program, the regular, hourlong webinars are designed to keep participants informed of available programs, current research and emerging issues in the state and the Great Lakes region. Question and answer sessions and links to resources help attendees get the most out of each presentation.

To register for these upcoming events, click on the title of each session below to go to the registration page.

"Fowl play" (9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15) explores the work of protecting Michigan's managed waterfowl hunt areas from the threat of invasive species. DNR wildlife biologists Jeremiah Heise from Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area and Zach Cooley from Pointe Mouillee State Game Area share their experiences and techniques for managing and restoring Michigan's Wetland Wonders to provide prime habitat for waterfowl viewing and hunting.

Thursday, Oct. 21, at 9 a.m., "Just do it!" offers an invitation to learn about invasive species management by volunteering for a state park stewardship workday. DNR natural resource stewards Kelsey Dillon and Emily Leslie will share information about the program and its focus on special habitat areas in need of protection. Learn how you can get involved in preserving your favorite places for future generations.

If you are new to the series, it's easy to catch up on topics including collaborative efforts in invasive carp management, early detection and response for aquatic invasive species, and the threat posed by spotted lanternfly. Recorded versions of all previous NotMISpecies webinars are available at Michigan.gov/EGLEEvents under "Featured Webinar Series."

Michigan's Invasive Species Program, a collaborative effort of the departments of Natural Resources; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Agriculture and Rural Development, coordinates and supports invasive species initiatives across the state and provides support through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program.

An Enduring Popular Target of the Sport Fishing Community,
Scrappy Bluegill Continue to Thrive in Most of Michigan's Inland Lakes

Story and photo by Scott Brown, MWA Board member,
and Newsletter Editor

For those of us who were lucky enough to spend our childhood living on or near one of Michigan's thousands of wonderful inland lakes, the bluegill, also sometimes referred to as bream or sun perch, was often the first fish that many of us ever caught while dangling a hook, worm, sinker, and bobber from the flimsy end of a cane pole. Although cane poles may not be as "in-demand" by Michigan's large fishing community as they once were, year around hot pursuit of the scrappy, ever present, good eating panfish is as popular as ever!

Native to the eastern half of the United States, due to the fact that the rapidly reproducing member of the sunfish family gradually became one of North America's most popular sport fish, and have therefore been intentionally introduced to many regions where they are not indigenous, bluegill now commonly inhabit the waters of lakes, lagoons, reservoirs, ponds, quarries, and rivers extending from Canada to northern Mexico.

Capable of growing to 9½ inches (.24 meter) in length, and achieving a weight of up to 12 ounces (340 grams), bluegill (scientific name: *Lepomis macrochirus*) may be differentiated from other commonly occurring members of the sunfish family by the six to eight dark vertical bars that adorns both sides of their compressed body, a namesake pale blue spot on the upper most lobe of their gill cover, a relatively

small head and mouth, a dorsal fin that features nine to eleven spines, and by an anal fin defined by three spines. Bluegill possess an upper body that is dark olive-green in color that gradually blends to colors ranging from lavender, brown, copper, or orange on the sides, and a reddish-orange or yellow belly. It is interesting to note that adult male bluegills may be distinguished from the females of the species by the presence of brighter, more tense coloration patterns.
Preferring quiet waters found in small to mid-sized inland lakes or ponds, bluegills are most often observed in large numbers within habitats ranging from dense submerged aquatic plant stands located near the drop-off in water depths of up to ten feet to areas hosting shade induced cooler waters located under docks, swimming rafts, or overhanging tree branches. In addition to habitats defined by complex vegetative or woody structure that provide protection from predation, bluegills prefer habitats that are capable of supporting their voracious, non-stop foraging upon insects, insect larvae, small crustaceans, and worms.

Reaching sexual maturity within their first two years of life, bluegills are capable of achieving and sustaining prolific rates of reproduction. Responding to the arrival of late spring or early summer, bluegill begin their annual reproductive cycle as water temperatures reach 70° F (21° C). The process begins as male bluegills use their tail to create a sediment free dish shaped nest lined with gravel and stone in water depths ranging from 1.5 to 4 feet (.45 – 1.21 meter). Given the fact that bluegills are colonial nesters, areas of inland lakes characterized by ideal breeding habitat comprised of flat or gradually sloping areas of shallow water interspersed with dense aquatic plant growth, and/or woody debris will often host hundreds of the saucer shaped nests. Depositing their eggs within the stone and gravel lined areas of several adjacent nests, mature female bluegills are capable of producing up to 80,000 eggs per year.

The survival of each nest's offspring is promoted by the fact that both females and males make genetic contributions to multiple nests. Following the creation of nests, and the deposition and fertilization of eggs, male bluegills aggressively guard their respective nests from predators, and help promote the viability of the fertilized eggs by preventing sediment from accumulating within the nest. Following a brief incubation period the eggs hatch, and the male of the species guards the hatchlings until they are mature enough to venture out of the confines of the nest, and into open water.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CARING FOR MICHIGAN'S OUTDOOR PLACES AND STORIES SINCE 1921

DNR News

July 21, 2021

Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to providing Michigan residents the opportunity to share input and ideas on policy decisions, programs and other aspects of natural resource management and outdoor recreation opportunities.

One important avenue for this input is at meetings of the public bodies that advise the DNR and, in some cases, also set policies for natural resource management. Frequently check the DNR boards, commissions, committees and councils webpage for updates.

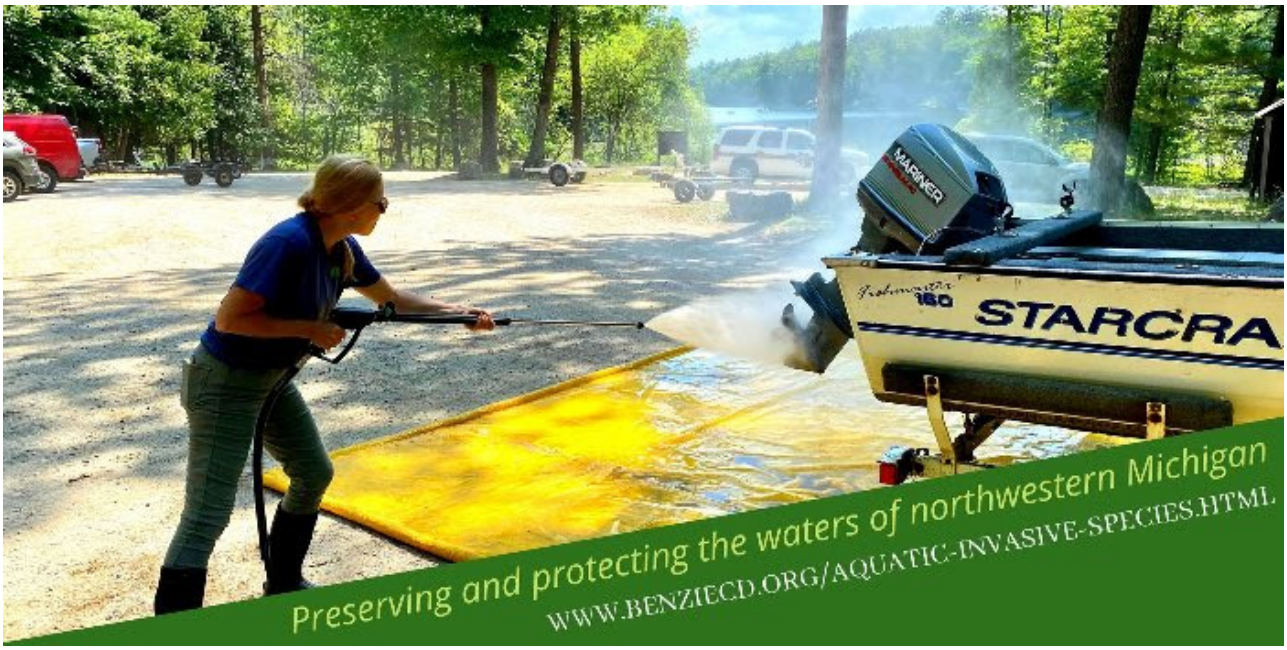
The links below will take you to the webpage for each group, where you'll find meeting details such as location and agenda (when finalized). Please check these pages frequently, as meeting details may change and sometimes meetings are canceled.

August meetings

- **Accessibility Advisory Council – Tuesday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m. (Contact: Mike Holsinger, 517-284-5946).**
- **Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee – Thursday, Aug. 19, 6 p.m. (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517-284-6135).**
- **Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council – Tuesday, Aug. 10, 6 p.m. (Contact: Stacy Welling Haughey, 906-226-1331).**
- **Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee – Wednesday, Aug. 11, 10 a.m. (Contact: Randy Claramunt, 231-622-3820).**
- **Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board – Tuesday, Aug. 17, 3 p.m. (Contact: Barry James, 906-475-7857).**
- **Michigan Natural Resources Commission – Thursday, Aug. 12, 9 a.m. (Contact: Victoria Lischalk, 517-599-1067).**

- **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board – Wednesday, Aug. 18, 9 a.m. (Contact: Jon Mayes, 517-284-5954).**
- **Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee – Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2 p.m. (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517-284-6135).**
- **Michigan State Waterways Commission – Wednesday, Aug. 25, 9 a.m. (Contact: Michelle Wieber, 517-285-0747).**
- **Michigan Wildlife Council – Friday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m. (Contact: Pam Vance, 517-284-6056).**
- **Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup – Thursday, Aug. 5, 10 a.m. (Contact: Annalisa Centofanti, 517-331-6219).**
- **Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup – Wednesday, Aug. 18, 5 p.m. (Contact: Jessica Holley, 517-331-3790).**
- **Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council – Friday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. (Contact: Kimberley Korbecki, 517-284-5876).**
- **Wolf Management Advisory Council – Wednesday, Aug. 4, 8:30 a.m. (Contact: Victoria Lischalk, 517-599-1067).**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to Michigan.gov/DNR.Michigan.gov/DNR.



AIS Pathways Program

Formed by the Benzie Conservation District in northern Michigan, this program serves four counties through boat wash events & educating public about AIS.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Pathways Program was funded in part with funds from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program through the Departments of Natural Resources; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Agriculture and Rural Development. Also, grants from the Huron-Manistee National Forest as well as Benzie County township contributions: Almira, Blaine, Benzonia, Crystal Lake, Homestead, and Lake have made aspects of this program possible.

Harmful Algal Blooms

Contact: Gary Kohlhepp 517-230-7548

EGLE staff discover or receive reports from lake associations, and the broader public each year about nuisance algal conditions. The number of such reports, particularly the occurrence of cyanobacteria or blue-green algae blooms and concern over the possible presence of algal toxins such as microcystin, appear to

have increased in recent years. In particular, severe blooms were observed in the western basin of Lake Erie in August 2014, and access to drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people was temporarily interrupted due to elevated levels of an algal toxin associated with the bloom. This event caused EGLE to re-examine and expedite our efforts related to blue-green algae blooms, including what constitutes a harmful algal bloom (HAB); our monitoring approach; sampling protocols; analytical capabilities and costs; information gaps; and communication with other agencies, stakeholders, and the public on this issue.

Summer is peak season for the formation of harmful algal blooms (HABs) that can present health hazards to people and pets. In Michigan, algal blooms typically occur during periods of warm temperatures, lots of sun, and high nutrient levels.

It is not possible to determine whether algal blooms contain harmful toxins by looking at them, so it is best to avoid contact with any body of water that is covered with algal mats or significant rafts of algae on the surface.

The Michigan Departments of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Health and Human Services (DHHS) sample for HABs on a limited basis and work with local health departments to protect the public when toxins are discovered; however, some areas affected by HABs may go undetected. Suspicious-looking algae can be reported to EGLE by calling the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or sending an e-mail to AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov.

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

>> We Need Your Help!!! <<

Why You Should Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance?

Do you care for your lake, river, or stream? Do you care enough to contact your state senator or representative about issues that affect your waterbody? Do you keep track of the bills that are important to your lake, river, or stream? The good news is that Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is doing this for you. MWA hires a lobbying firm to keep track of issues and bills which may affect Michigan's waterfronts, and remain in constant contact with senators and representatives. These lobbyists have relationships with those serving in our state legislature, willing to present bills that MWA would support to help protect Michigan's inland waterways, and help to defeat bills that may be detrimental to our waterways. There is an old saying that "you can't fight city hall." This may be true if you do not know how, but with the help of MWA's attorneys, MWA has the experts that know how to deal with legal issues. There have been laws interpreted incorrectly when it comes to our lakes, rivers, and streams. MWA, with its attorneys, has argued these cases when we believe the law has been misinterpreted.

While the MWA Board of Directors is made up of volunteers, it is expensive to hire lobbyists and attorneys. The Michigan Waterfront Alliance membership is made up of individuals, lake associations, and corporations who care about Michigan's lakes, rivers, and streams. Would you like to be more involved? You can by becoming a member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance and by becoming an active partner in MWA. Membership in MWA is inexpensive:

We rely entirely on membership dues to fund the operating costs of our organization...

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE VISIT OUR

>>>>>> MEMBERSHIP PAGE <<<<<<

Annual Dues are:

$50 for an individual;

$100 for a lake association; and

$200 for a corporation

With support from individuals like you, lake associations, and corporations, we can continue to work together as a unified voice choosing to protect Michigan's water resources for future generations. Thank you for your consideration!!!

Starry Stonewort COLLABORATIVE

Webinar – Keith Gray, Integrated Lake Management

August 17, 2021, 10:00 AM ET - Keith Gray, Integrated Lake Management (ILM) Topic – Keith will share his research and new technologies in the world of Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) as a tool to combat starry stonewort and other aquatic invasive species infestations. Please register in advance for this meeting:

https://hws.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrfuqvqj8iGtQwKtvGHe33K8QYVM6t79Xs3Y

Find out more »

Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a proud member of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership

A Collaborative Partnership Dedicated to Protecting Michigan's Vast Heritage of High Quality Inland Lakes

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (MILP) is made up of a broad range of organizations and agencies that have a common interest - protecting inland lakes. Explore this site to learn more about Michigan's lakes, the organizations involved with the Partnership, and how you can be a part of the effort. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Michigan has more than 11,000 inland lakes. Most are high quality resources highly valued by society for recreation and as places to live. These cultural demands place significant stresses upon these ecosystems, often resulting in undesirable

changes. How can these lakes be strategically managed to minimize undesirable changes and protect them for this and future generations?

The purpose of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (Partnership) is to engage state and local agencies, Native American Nations, outreach institutions (universities and other educational institutions), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, industries and citizens in a collaborative effort to ensure the quality, sustainability and ecological diversity of lakes, while considering society's needs. The Partnership will promote communication and cooperation between partners, communities and citizens interested in the management of Michigan's inland lakes, educating leaders, and strengthening stewardship efforts.

The MILP Coordinating Council is the decision-making body of the Partnership. The Council sets the goals of the Partnership, and all Council Partners have a vote in the activities and policies of the Partnership. The Council currently meets four times per year. Coordinating Council member organizations are listed alphabetically below. Clicking on an organization name will take you to that organization's website.

To learn more about the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, and its ensemble of inland lake protection focused collaborative organizations, click here

---

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

- **Are you tired of funding the management of aquatic invasive species on your lake that were introduced by recreational boaters using the local MI Department of Natural Resources public boating access site?**
- **Are you just a bit angry that recreational boaters using your lake are not being asked to contribute their fair share to combat the negative influences of aquatic invasive species?**
- **Are you worried about the fact that your lakefront residential property values are being negatively influenced by the steadily increasing presence of aquatic invasive species?**
- **Are you concerned about the fact that it is nearly impossible to find an inland lake in Michigan that does not currently host one or more potentially harmful aquatic invasive species?**
- **Are you aware of the fact that inland lakes are Michigan's most valuable natural resource, and that our state legislature has thus far appropriated almost nothing in the way of budget resources to help ensure they remain healthy and viable?**

If your answer is yes to any of these important questions, please help ensure that your voice is heard in Lansing by

joining Michigan Waterfront Alliance today.

Click here to Join MWA

Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here

William Brown
Michigan Waterfont Alliance, Inc
5989 Sibley Road
Chelsea, MI 48118-1261

- -