



**MICHIGAN
WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE**

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.



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FROM THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF
THE MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY !!!



Canada Imposes Strict Ballast Water Management Regulations on Maritime and Great Lakes Shipping Industry In Order to Reduce Exotic Aquatic Invasive Species Introductions

by Scott Brown

MWA E- Newsletter Editor & Board Director

Representing a precedent setting action that will likely result in a dramatic reduction in the number of inadvertent introductions of exotic aquatic animal, plant, and algae species that occur in North America over the course of the next decade, the Canadian Ministry of Transport recently announced new ballast water regulations that will apply to vessels navigating the waters of Canada as well as to Canadian vessels operating anywhere in the world. Canada's newly promulgated ballast water regulations include "lakers" – vessels that navigate only from port-to-port within the Laurentian Great Lakes.

Observing that "coasts and waterways are vital to our environment, livelihoods, and economy, and must be protected", Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra stated that new ballast water regulations would require companies that own and operate vessels on Canadian waters to take action to significantly reduce the number of new exotic aquatic invasive species introductions by installing updated ballast water management systems, by increasing the frequency of ballast water management system inspections, and by enhancing the requirement to create and

maintain records pertaining to ballast water system inspections, maintenance, surveys, and system certifications.

In announcing implementation of what the maritime and Great Lakes shipping industry views as strict, and expensive to implement ballast water regulations, the Canadian Ministry of Transport revealed that the decision to require the installation of modern ballast water system technology is supported by studies that indicate the action will result in reducing the number of exotic aquatic species that are introduced to Canadian maritime and Great Lakes ports by as much as 82%. It is important to point out that ballast water that is not treated before it is taken on-board in order to help keep vessels stable in turbulent waters can accidentally lead to the introduction and spread of exotic aquatic invasive species. Well known examples of ballast water enabled introductions of exotic species within the Laurentian Great Lakes region include now widespread species such as Eurasian water milfoil, quagga and zebra mussels, spiny water flea, and starry stonewort. The introduction and spread of exotic aquatic plant, animal, and algae species are now well known to be capable of rendering severe, long term negative impacts on native freshwater ecosystems, local fisheries, beaches, and critical infrastructure such as hydro-electric dams.

While conservation focused organizations such as the Chicago-based Alliance for the Great Lakes are “excited to see Canada decide to regulate lakers which can move aquatic invasive species from lake-to-lake”, United States-based Great Lakes shipping firms as represented by the Lake Carriers Association have suggested that the new Canadian regulations regarding the use and release of ballast water are “unfair, excessively expensive, and designed to undermine competition in the business of ferrying goods across the world’s largest collection of freshwater lakes.” In response to Lake Carriers Association concerns, the United State Federal Maritime Commission recently launched a formal investigation into Canada’s intent to change the rules that govern an important aspect of shipping on the Great Lakes. The complexity of the issue is compounded by the fact that United States Environmental Protection Agency regulations effectively exempt “lakers” from the need to treat ballast water, only requiring ocean-going vessels to manage ballast water.

Bills Seeking to Deprive Local Units of Government of the Authority to Issue Permits for Gravel Mines, and Short-Term Rentals Pending in the MI State Legislature

Readers of this newsletter still have an opportunity to contact their respective State Representatives and Senators in order to express their opposition or support for controversial legislation that is pending further action in Michigan's state legislature.

Legislation introduced in both the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives would act to effectively strip local units of governments of the ability to regulate short-term rentals within their respective communities. Introduced by Representative Sarah Lightner, R-Springport, and Senator Aric Nesbitt, R-Lawton, [House Bill 4722](#) and [Senate Bill 446](#) would act to amend the [Michigan Zoning Enabling Act](#) to allow short-term rentals to be zoned as residential-use without the need to obtain a special-use permit from the local planning and zoning commission. The legislation would, however, allow local units of governments to maintain their capacity to regulate short-term rentals in regards, for example, to establishing the maximum number of occupants that would be permitted within a particular residence.

Sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint, if passed into law, this legislation would effectively end the ability of local units of government to approve or disapprove permits for gravel and sand mining operations within their jurisdictions. Passed in the Senate by a narrow margin in early June, Senate Bills [429](#), [430](#), and [431](#) would act in unison to transfer the sole authority to issue permits for sand and gravel mining operations to the [Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy](#). Comparable legislation introduced in the Michigan House of Representative as [House Bill 5979](#) has not yet received a vote.

To find your Michigan Representative, [click here](#)

To find your State Senator, [click here](#)





June 29, 2021

Contact: [Vicki McGhee](#), 517-388-5341

DNR approves nearly \$4 million in grants for recreational boating improvements and development

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced that more than \$4 million in grant funding will be awarded to 23 communities throughout the state to boost recreational boating.

The funding is made possible through the DNR Parks and Recreation Division's waterways grant program, which began in 1949 with the goal of expanding the harbor system along the Great Lakes and boating access sites throughout the state. Today, the system includes more than 1,300 state-sponsored boating access sites, 19 state-managed harbors and 63 local state-sponsored harbors of refuge along the Great Lakes.

"Water and boating are at the heart of Michigan," said Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation Division chief. "We have residents who live on the water, those who travel all over the state to boat and visitors who come here from around the world because it's the Great Lakes State. Michigan offers outdoor recreational

opportunities and picturesque views not found anywhere else, and so it's of utmost importance that the DNR helps invest and fund Michigan's harbors and boating access sites for the benefit of all."

Local units of government and state colleges and universities are eligible to apply for grant assistance for recreational boating improvements and development at grant-in-aid harbors and public boating access sites. The grant-in-aid program provides matching funding to help support quality recreational boating infrastructure. Communities are asked to match 50% of required funds.

In 2020, when lake levels were at record highs, many facilities had emergency needs. As a result, the waterways grant program was strongly focused on assisting communities that had emergency infrastructure needs. Fortunately, this year with lake levels receding, the grants have been able to focus on more typical infrastructure improvements, such as engineering studies, design and infrastructure improvements.

This year, projects in Alger, Alpena, Baraga, Berrien, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Dickinson, Emmet, Houghton, Huron, Leelanau, Manistee, Marquette, Mason and Wayne counties were approved for projects that include emergency seawall replacement, skid pier replacement and overall marina improvements.

[View a full list and descriptions of this year's Waterways Program Grant awards.](#)

The grants are funded through the Michigan State Waterways Fund, a restricted fund derived primarily from boat registration fees and a portion of Michigan's gas tax that supports the construction, operation and maintenance of public recreational boating facilities.

The application period for the next round of Waterways grant funding are due Friday, April 1, 2022.

Learn more about the grant program and application materials at Michigan.gov/DNRGrants.



June 22, 2021

Contact: [Joanne Foreman](#) (DNR), 517-284-5814; or [Erica Clites](#) (Oakland County Cisma), 248-660-0716

Invasive European frog-bit found in Novi ponds

Oakland County Cisma offers free invasive species surveys in ponds and wetlands

European frog-bit, an invasive aquatic plant, has been found in 17 storm water ponds, wetlands and drains in the Novi area. While the plant is established along Michigan's east coast, it has only been found in a small number of inland bodies of water, making this Oakland County detection a significant discovery.





Free surveys offered in Novi area

The Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area is leading European frog-bit management efforts in the Novi area and is seeking permission from people to survey waters on their properties.

“We are hoping to reach homeowner associations, businesses and individual residents with ponds, detention basins or wetlands on their properties,” said Erica Clites, Oakland County CISMA director. “The survey focuses on the plants in the water and usually takes about 15 to 45 minutes.”

Through support from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, these surveys are free to landowners in the project area, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Lyon Township, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom, Wolverine Lake, and parts of Commerce, Milford and West Bloomfield townships.

Anyone interested in arranging a survey can contact Emily Messick at EMessick@sixriversrlc.org or 248-660-0240. Teams from Friends of the Rouge and the Huron River Watershed Council will conduct the surveys.

What if European frog-bit is found on my property?

If survey teams find European frog-bit, property owners will not be required to take any additional steps; however, funds may be available for treatment through the Oakland County CISMA.

“If there are just a few plants, crews can remove them by hand, but if there is a large infestation, chemical weed treatment may be suggested,” said Clites. “No matter which treatment is recommended, annual follow-up is needed to check for regrowth.”

What is European frog-bit?

A native of Europe and parts of Africa and Asia, European frog-bit is an aquatic plant with small (half-inch to 2.5-inch), heart-shaped leaves that look like miniature water lilies. Unlike similar aquatic plants, European frog-bit does not anchor its roots in the lake or stream bed and is free-floating. Three-petaled white flowers with yellow centers appear briefly between June and July.

Why is it a problem?

The plant quickly forms dense colonies or mats in shallow, slow-moving waters. These mats can alter food and habitat for ducks and fish and cause problems for boaters, anglers and swimmers.

Virtual public meeting scheduled

The Oakland County CISMA has scheduled a public meeting on Zoom at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, to discuss its European frog-bit program and answer questions. Those interested in attending should register using the link at OaklandInvasiveSpecies.org/Frogbit-Project or visit the [Oakland County CISMA's Facebook event page](#).

To find out more about European frog-bit, visit Michigan.gov/Invasives or OaklandInvasiveSpecies.org.

Michigan's Invasive Species Program is cooperatively implemented by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.





>> 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!!!



Practical Resilience and Systems Thinking Workshop

Lake organization members and partners are invited to a free, 3-hour, virtual workshop where you will:

- Learn key resilience and systems thinking concepts
- Build a tool box of practical skills for lake management
- Develop a network of peers within your state

Lake organization members and partners in Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin are welcome.

Register for the [July 13](#), or [July 14](#) workshop by clicking on the registration link associated dates.

Participants will be asked to complete a survey, and watch four short videos before the workshop which will include a concept review, tool introduction, and small group discussion during the workshop, and a follow-up survey after the workshop.

The workshop is facilitated by Chelsey Nieman, a fisheries ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, and Dane Whittaker, a PhD student in Sustainability at Arizona State University.

If you are interested in participating, please e-mail Chelsey Nieman at niemanc@caryinstitute.org, and please share this flyer with your networks.



Invasive species pose a threat to Michigan's environment, economy, and sometimes even human health. What is at stake? What is being done? This webinar series will explore how agencies, universities and locally led organizations are working together to protect Michigan's natural resources through the [Michigan Invasive Species Program](#). If you are concerned about the impacts of invasive species or interested in the techniques used to control them, join us as we examine

species-specific actions, innovations in research and technology, and programs designed to help communities prevent and manage harmful invasive species. A question and answer period will follow each presentation.

Upcoming Webinars in the Series

July 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

[Hey! What's that in your backyard? An introduction to Michigan's Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas](#)

Wouldn't it be great if there were a local resource you could go to for help with invasive species on your property? Spoiler alert: there is! Michigan is home to 22 Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas, or CISMAs, that are on the front line for prevention, detection, and control of invasive infestations. Katie Grzesiak, Nick Cassel, and Fallon Chabala, representatives from the Michigan Invasive Species Coalition, will discuss what a CISMA is, how they can help with management of invasives on your property, and the benefits of partnering with your local CISMA.



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](#)



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

Unsubscribe

This message was sent to roberttfrye@gmail.com from scottb1952@gmail.com

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