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## Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Thursday, June 1, 2023

1 message

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Photo by Scott Brown

**Pumpkinseed sunfish**  
(Scientific Name: *Lepomis gibbosus*)

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**Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance**  
**Update for Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**



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**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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Photo: M-Live

**Bills Introduced in the MI State House of Representatives Would**

# Prevent Local Governments from Regulating Sand and Gravel Mining

by Scott Brown

Board Director & MWA Newsletter Editor

Sponsored by six Democrats and seven Republicans, a bi-partisan group of Michigan lawmakers recently introduced legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives that if passed into law would effectively transfer permitting and oversight of sand and gravel mines from local governments to the State of Michigan.

Introduced on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, House Bills [4526](#), [4527](#) and [4528](#) represent a bi-partisan package of legislation that supporters believe will help to fix Michigan's road construction supply chain they say is being hamstrung by community activists opposing aggregate mine projects around the state. Proponents of the legislation argue that eliminating the authority of local units of government to limit sand and gravel mining within their jurisdictions will help increase the number of active mines and therefore help reduce the cost of the significant quantity of aggregate that highway construction projects are heavily dependent upon. Under the proposed legislation, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) would assume permitting authority over aggregate mines, where supporters of the bills recently introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives believe it belongs alongside the agency's existing authority to oversee oil, gas, and minerals mining.

Under the 2006 Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, local units of government may consider a host of factors in deciding whether or not to allow new aggregate mines, including how the land is currently zoned, potential impacts on nearby property values, potential affect on local water resources, and road safety. The current MI Zoning Enabling Act also empowers local units of government to regulate a mine's operating hours, and enforce strict limits on noise, dust, and traffic.

Environmental groups say the bills, as written, would lead to degraded wetlands and water quality.

To view House Bill 4526 [click here](#)

To view House Bill 4527 [click here](#)

To view House Bill 4528 [click here](#)

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

CARING FOR MICHIGAN'S OUTDOOR PLACES AND STORIES SINCE 1921



## Double red flags mean don't go in the water

If you see double red flags at a state-designated swim beach at a state park along the Great Lakes, you are not allowed to enter the water.

To boost awareness of changing conditions and save lives, there's been a change to the Great Lakes beach flag warning system. A [DNR land order](#) makes it illegal to enter the water when there is risk to human health and safety. Risks can include hazardous waves and/or dangerous water conditions, active rescue or recovery efforts, and environmental hazards. This does not apply to surfers using wind-powered or self-propelled wave-riding boards.

*If your summer plans include Great Lakes beach time at state parks, take time to learn about the beach flag warning system, safety features at state-designated swim beaches, Great Lakes currents (and how to escape them) and more.*

See beach safety info ►

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# Grand Traverse Conservation District

## Boardman River Nature Center

### POLS: Shoreland Ecology & Sustainable Management

Date: Saturday, June 10

Time: 1:00pm -2:30pm

Boardman River Nature Center  
1450 Cass Rd  
Traverse City MI 49685

Join us for the next installation of GTCD's Protect Our Lakes series! This event is being offered both in-person at the Boardman River Nature Center and by Zoom for those who are unable to attend. Conservation District Forester Ellie Johnson will present why trees are a critical component of any healthy waterfront. Trees provide many functions including bank stabilization, reduced erosion, carbon sequestration, soil structure, food source for many land based and aquatic organisms and more.

**Registration: Required. Please [click here](#) to register.**

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Photo by Scott Brown

## Common Snapping Turtle

Scientific Name: *Chelydra serpentina*

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 18, 2023**

Jeff Johnston, EGLE Public Information Officer, [JohnstonJ14@Michigan.gov](mailto:JohnstonJ14@Michigan.gov), 517-231-9304

**Sixteen Michigan dams get safety upgrade  
funding through \$15.3M risk reduction program**



Sixteen Michigan dams will receive grant funding to help reduce risks and protect residents. The funding is through the Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program (DRRGP) authorized by the Michigan Legislature last year.

This grant program aims to provide private owners with resources for proper management of existing dams and reduce the overall risk of dam failure in Michigan. Some \$15.3 million is authorized for work ranging from dam removals to critical maintenance.

Additional funding opportunities will be made available for dam risk reduction and will be announced publicly when they are ready for applicants.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) [Dam Safety Unit](#) announced the following grant awards for the fiscal year/grant funding cycle:

- Albion, \$1,000,000. To the City of Albion for removal design of the significant-hazard, poor-condition Albion Dam as well as four other unregulated dam structures. The city's primary goals for this project include reduction of public safety hazards, softening the shoreline while improving floodplain connectivity and conveyance, maintaining and improving recreational amenities and opportunities, and restoring aquatic animal habitat passage.
- Alger, \$2,320,497. To the Forest Lake Property Owners Association for the rehabilitation of the now failed Forrest Lake Dam due to the May 2020 flooding disaster. These funds are appropriated out of Section 309 of [2022 PA 53](#) for communities directly impacted by the flooding. These funds will be used to rehabilitate the structure and bring the dam back into regulation with Part 315 provisions.
- Baldwin, \$115,000. To the Conservation Resource Alliance for the final design and permitting for the removal of the significant-hazard, unsatisfactory Baldwin Fish Hatchery Dam. Dam removal will restore the river's hydrologic functions, reconnect floodplains, return natural stream morphology, remove impounded sediment, and provide instream habitat in the form of established pools, runs, riffles, and installed woody debris.
- Brooklyn, \$2,532,850. To the River Raisin Watershed Council for the removal of the high-hazard Brooklyn Hydroelectric Dam. The dam will be removed and the headwaters of the River Raisin reconnected through natural channel redevelopment.
- Clarkston, \$106,000. To the Village of Clarkston for planning and design of a replacement structure for the high-hazard Clarkston Mill Pond Dam. The project will consist of a lake level study to determine the most effective solution and design of a replacement dam structure, a new water control structure, and a new discharge pipe based on the results of the study and in accordance with modern dam safety engineering practices.
- Flint, \$1,500,000. To Genesee County Parks and Recreation to complete removal activities of the high-hazard, poor-condition Hamilton Dam. This project aims to complete the full scope of work and remove the dam and restore the stream channel to allow for more seamless fish passage and overall river connectivity.
- Holly, \$530,000. To the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division for repair activities to the high-hazard Heron Dam. The purpose of this

project is to design and perform repairs and/or replacement of the outlet, inlet, and gate structures as needed to provide a safe and properly functioning dam. This project addresses seepage and embankment stability concerns that have been present for several years.

- **Manchester, \$71,060.** To the Village of Manchester for funds to complete a structural evaluation report, an operation and maintenance plan, and a dam disposition study for the high-hazard Ford Manchester Dam. These items will help equip the village to make proper decisions on the future management of the dam.
- **Marquette, \$473,724.** To A. Lindberg & Sons, Inc. for a partial removal of the high-hazard Carp River Intake Dam. The upper portion of the spillway will be removed, lowering the reservoir an additional 10 feet, greatly reducing the risk to health and habitat and potentially lowering the overall hazard classification of the dam.
- **Republic, \$750,000.** To the Michigamme River Basin Authority for the removal and subsequent construction of a rock arch rapids at the significant-hazard, poor-condition Republic Dam. The new structure is designed to handle flooding events but also allow for river connectivity with a series of step pools in the rock arch rapids.
- **Rose City, \$300,000.** To Huron Pines for the engineering, design, and permitting phase of the removal of the significant-hazard, unsatisfactory-condition Sanback Dam. This phase will allow for progress toward stream restoration along with demolition to ensure the drawdown and succession to natural channel protects the human and ecological factors of the site.
- **Saline, \$192,000.** To the City of Saline to complete a dam removal feasibility study for the significant-hazard Saline River Dam. The final deliverable will be a report outlining the benefits, risks, costs, and steps required to remove the Saline River Dam, as well as a conceptual design. The report will be used as the basis for subsequent design and permitting.
- **Tecumseh, \$425,000.** To the City of Tecumseh for the repair of the significant-hazard, unsatisfactory-condition Standish Dam. The primary objective of this project is to remove the historic Raceway Spillway since it no longer serves a functional purpose and only poses a failure liability. This action has been identified by Dam Safety Unit staff as an immediate or emergency action item.
- **White Cloud, \$222,712.** To the City of White Cloud for repairs to the high-hazard, poor-condition White Cloud Dam. The city proposes to complete concrete and metal work that addresses inadequate spillway capacity issues. The city will also complete a dam disposition feasibility study to inform the city on the potential future of the dam.
- **Ypsilanti, \$1,000,000.** To the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner for removal activities to Tyler and Beyer dams located on Willow Run Creek. Due to their advanced deterioration, both dams are drawn down. Removal of the dams will reduce risk by increasing public safety, replacing the deteriorating Tyler Road crossing to Willow Run Airport, improving species passage, stabilizing the sediments and stream channel in place, reducing erosion, improving water quality, and improving flood conveyance and function of the county drain.



- Ypsilanti, \$3,781,654. To the City of Ypsilanti for the removal of the high-hazard, poor-condition Peninsular Paper Dam. Removal will restore this section of the Huron River to a free-flowing waterway and remove the threat to human and environmental health due to flooding.

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Photo by Scott Brown

**Pondering the Incredible Blue of the Waters  
Under the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron**

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## Reflections

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For immediate release: May 22, 2023

Program contact: [Tim Lyons](#), 517-719-1696

Media contact: [Jennifer Holton](#), 517-284-5724



# MDARD Advises Homeowners, Businesses to Use Phosphorus Free Fertilizer to Protect Michigan's Waterways

LANSING – As Michiganders head outside to begin their summer lawncare routine, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is reminding homeowners and businesses to use phosphorus free fertilizer.

[Michigan's Fertilizer Law](#) restricts the use of phosphorus fertilizers on residential and commercial lawns, including athletic fields cemeteries, parks, and golf courses statewide. Both homeowners and commercial applicators must follow the phosphorus application restrictions.

“When excess phosphorus is applied on land, it may run into nearby lakes, rivers, and streams,” said Mike Philip, MDARD’s Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division Director. “Phosphorus run-off can lead to increased algae and aquatic plant growth which could have negative effects on water quality, fisheries, and recreation.”

In general, most established lawns and plants do not require additional phosphorus for healthy growth. When purchasing lawncare products, consumers should review the product’s label and ensure the product is phosphorus free.

“Although phosphorus can be used to help establish new lawns and plants, consumers must always carefully follow label directions to avoid run-off,” added Philip. “By limiting unnecessary phosphorus applications, we can help maintain and protect our vast water resources.”

Other steps you can take to protect water quality include:

- Follow Michigan’s phosphorus-free requirements.
- Do not leave fertilizer material on an impervious surface (driveways, sidewalks, patios, etc.) following an application. Sweep the fertilizer back onto the lawn or turf to be utilized rather than potentially running off into a storm drain.
- Keep leaves and lawn clippings out of your gutters, streets, and ditches.
- Never wash or blow soil or grass clippings into the street.
- Pick up pet waste promptly. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients that cause excess algae and weed growth in lakes and rivers.
- Help control soil erosion. When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain, carrying phosphorus with it. Soil erosion can be prevented by keeping soil covered with vegetation or mulch.

Learn more about MDARD’s Pesticide and Pest Management Division at [www.Michigan.gov/mdard/plant-pest](http://www.Michigan.gov/mdard/plant-pest).

# ABC BRAND

**50lb. Net Weight**

## Guaranteed Analysis

Nitrogen.....	8%
Phosphate.....	0%
Potassium.....	24%



## Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society

The purpose of McNALMS is to promote understanding and comprehensive management of Michigan's inland lake ecosystems

### ***Join McNALMS***

If you share an interest in protecting and restoring Michigan lakes, we invite you to join the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) and add your voice to our growing and active effort. With



membership, you receive our informative newsletter; access to our parent organization's newsletter (national NALMS); reduced registration to our biennial Lunch and Learn meeting; eligibility to apply to our Student Grants and other financial assistance programs; information on other grants, courses, fact sheets, and announcements; and becoming a part of a network of individuals and corporations interested in lake conservation.

[Click here](#) to join McNALMS

[Click here](#) to download and read the Spring 2023 McNALMS Newsletter

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## NotMISpecies Webinar Series

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](#) explores 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. Recorded versions of all previous [NotMISpecies webinars](#) are available at [Michigan.gov/EGLE/Outreach](https://Michigan.gov/EGLE/Outreach) under "Featured Webinar Series."

### Upcoming webinars in the series

Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

### [Life's a beech! Another disease is threatening Michigan's majestic giants](#)

Beech leaf disease was first detected in Michigan in 2022, raising concern about the future of the state's 37 million beech trees, already decimated by beech bark disease. Join Simeon Wright, DNR forest health specialist, to learn about the potential impacts this new disease might have on Michigan's forests, what's being done to address it, and how to spot the symptoms of beech leaf disease on your trees.

Thursday, July 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

### [Can this moth help save monarchs? Swallow-wort biological control efforts in Michigan](#)

Invasive swallow-wort vines, kin to native milkweed plants, are disrupting the life cycle of monarch butterflies. *Hypena opulenta*, a defoliating moth that can only develop on invasive swallow-worts, was discovered in Ukraine and is now approved for field releases in North America. Marianna Szucs from the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University will describe research efforts to establish this moth in Michigan, and the importance of climate match and genetic diversity of the biocontrol agent.

## Recorded webinars in this series:

[Lobster mobsters: An update on Michigan's red swamp crayfish response](#) (recorded 2/07/23, 60 min)

Though sometimes called "mini-lobsters," invasive red swamp crayfish are anything but sweet. Once they show up in an ecosystem, they quickly take over, leaving little or nothing for the locals. Dr. Lucas Nathan, aquatic invasive species coordinator for the Michigan DNR, is intent on turning the tide of infestation in southeast Michigan. Join him to hear about recent advances in research and management of this combative crustacean.

[If you can't beat 'em, find something that will eat 'em: Biological control for invasive knotweeds](#) (recorded 1/18/23, 61 min)

When infestations of invasive species become too large to control chemically and mechanically, biological control can be a cost-effective alternative. Marianna Szucs from the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University will provide a brief background on the practice of classical biological control and share her lab's efforts to establish two host races of the knotweed psyllid (jumping plant lice) that are adapted to different knotweed species.



# NATURAL SHORELINES for Inland Lakes



The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP), a collaboration of state agencies, academia, nonprofit organizations and private industry, was formed in 2008 with the belief that a change was necessary in shoreline development practices in Michigan from high impacting methods that change the natural riparian condition to healthier and sustainable erosion control practices that:

1. *Restore/Preserve the ecological function of the shoreline.*
2. *Effectively stabilize shoreline erosion.*
3. *Are attractive options to lakefront property owners.*

**Partnership Objectives:**



1. *Train contractors and landscape professionals about shoreline technologies and bioengineered erosion control.*
2. *Educate property owners about natural shorelines and technologies that benefit lake ecosystems.*
3. *Research, demonstrate, and develop natural shoreline technologies that benefit lake ecosystems.*
4. *Encourage local and state policies that promote natural shoreline management.*

**MISSION:**

Protecting Michigan lakes through conservation and restoration of natural shorelines.

<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/>

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If not **you**, then **who?**

We need **you!**

Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is the only all-volunteer non-profit organization in Michigan that is completely dedicated to reaching out on a daily, pro-active basis to our state representatives and senators in regards to their on-going need to act now to protect our precious inland lakes, wetlands, rivers, and streams.

Please do not expect other lake associations, other individuals, and other corporations to fund MWA's efforts in Lansing.

If **you** want your voice to be heard in Lansing **you** need to be the other lake association, the other individual, and the other **corporation** to make a generous contribution to helping fund our on-going efforts in Lansing.

Please don't count on others to support the only organization in Michigan that is completely dedicated to voicing your legitimate concerns to our state legislators in Lansing.

We hire professional lobbyists - **Karoub Associates** - who understand the intricacies of dealing with state government - to reach out to our legislators. As you might imagine, the cost of hiring a professional, highly respected Lansing-based lobbying firm whose downtown Lansing office's are located within a literal stone's throw of Michigan's state capitol building is expensive - we believe, however, that to have someone in constant contact with our state senators and representatives it is more than worth the significant on-going expense.

To put it in blunt "no ifs, ands, or buts" terms, without **your** generous support we will be unable to continue our erstwhile efforts in Lansing.

Please also remember that with the exception of a few relatively minor expenses related to keeping our website updated, and on-line, and a few relatively minor costs associated with distributing our e-newsletter, **all** of our membership and donation derived income goes to paying our downtown Lansing-based lobbying

firm, and our attorneys. No exorbitant employee salaries or fringe benefit packages to pay!!!!!!!!!!

It is also important to note that last year **Michigan Waterfront Alliance** lawyers took a case all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court in order to get the State of Michigan to do it's job in protecting our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

**Thank you** for reading and considering this hopefully convincing appeal for donations - **no amount is considered too small** - all donations of money are happily received and acknowledged within the context of the generous spirit that prompted them!!!!!!!!!!

**Click here** to become a dues paying member of MWA

**Click here** to make a generous donation to MWA

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## Events Listing

*All times Eastern. "\$" indicates there may be a cost to participate.*

June 30, 11:30 AM: Making lake life great (*how individuals and governments can keep our inland lakes well loved and well protected*). Presented by Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. Host: Michigan Environmental Council. [More details.](#)



August 20-24: 153rd American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids, Michigan (*hybrid event: virtual and in-person options*). Host: American Fisheries Society. [More details](#). \$

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**>>> We Need Your Help!!! <<<**

**Why You Should Join  
Michigan Waterfront Alliance today?**

**Do you care about your favorite lake, river, or stream?**

**Do you care enough to contact your state senator or  
representative about issues that may affect the quality of  
your waterbody?**

**Do you keep track of the bills that are important to your lake, river, or stream that may have been introduced in the Michigan House or Senate?**

**The good news is that Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is doing this for you.**

**And while we're at it - we will remind you that the activities and efforts of the Michigan Waterfront Alliance are conducted entirely by passionate volunteers who donate their own time and personal resources to helping preserve and protect Michigan's extraordinary freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, stream and wetlands.**

**Did you know that not a single person who works directly on behalf of our non-profit organization receives compensation of any sort - financial or otherwise?**

**Did you know that with the exception of paying our attorneys to represent your interests, and the best interests of preserving our freshwater resources in court, that the majority of the relatively modest amount of revenue we generate from memberships is entirely dedicated to paying our Lansing-based lobbyist to work on your behalf and on behalf of protecting Michigan's water resources in our state capitol??**

**Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a pro-active member of the collaborative lake conservation focused organization known as the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership???**



**Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance was a 'platinum' level sponsor of the 2022 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention??**

**Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a founding member of the Michigan Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, a collaborative effort that is comprised of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and several statewide non-profit organizations that is dedicated to stopping the introduction and spread of exotic aquatic invasive plants and animals??**

**Did you know that our volunteers often reach out to elected members of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and to the United States Environmental Protection Agency in regards to resolving federal government level issues that pertain to protecting Michigan's freshwater resources??**

**Why not become a pro-active part of our efforts to help preserve and protect Michigan's incredible freshwater resources for future generations by becoming a member today??**

**Please remember that we rely entirely upon 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!!!**

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## **ATTENTION READERS!!!**

**In order to add your friends, neighbors, and/or fellow lake or watershed conservation focused association member e-mails to our growing list of water resource conservation minded people who would like to receive this Michigan freshwater resources focused twice monthly newsletter, contact Editor Scott Brown at [scottb1952@gmail.com](mailto:scottb1952@gmail.com)**

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## 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](#)

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[Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)