
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Friday, May 1, 2026

1 message



Photo by Scott Brown

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Update for Friday, May 1, 2026



**MICHIGAN
WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE**

Michigan **W**aterfront **A**lliance

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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 proactive 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.



**A Diverse and Abundant Order of Highly Beneficial Freshwater
Mussels That Once Existed in Our Rivers and Lakes Now Face Extinction
Due to Loss of Aquatic Habitat Capable of Supporting Their Growth**

by Scott Brown

MWA e-Newsletter Editor

Snuffbox, pimpleback, white catspaw, elk toe, slipper shell, Wabash pig toe, fat mucket, deertoe, three ridge, maple leaf, and three horned warty back represents just a small sample of the hundreds of unique common names that humans have assigned over the course of the past two hundred fifty years to members of two indigenous families of freshwater mussels that inhabit North American waters. In spite of their amusing common names, aquatic ecologists that have observed the unique life cycles and “flamboyant” reproductive strategies of freshwater mussel species suggest that the venerable creatures of the substrate of many rivers, streams, and lakes represent one of our planet’s most fascinating and grossly under-appreciated animals.

The vast majority of the freshwater mussels that are indigenous to North American rivers, streams, and lakes are members of the diverse Order Unionoida, and includes two hundred eighty-six species within fifty-eight genera of the Family Unionidae, and five species representing two genera within the Family Margaritiferidae. Even though approximately one thousand freshwater mussel species within the Order Unionoida inhabit freshwater ecosystems distributed across the planet, North American rivers, streams, and lakes situated east of the Rocky Mountains continue to support at least one third of the species within the diverse Order, and therefore host the greatest diversity of freshwater mussels on earth. It is also important to note that freshwater ecosystems distributed throughout Canada and the United States, including many located within the Laurentian Great Lakes region, and especially Lake Michigan, also currently host massive infestations of two highly invasive non-native species of freshwater mussels within the *Dreissena* genera of the Family *Dreissenidae*: *Dreissena rostriformis bugensis* - quagga mussels; and *Dreissena polymorpha* - zebra mussels. Moreover, North American fresh and brackish water ecosystems also host two increasingly widespread exotic invasive mollusks within the *Corbicula* genera of the Family *Cyrenidae*: *Corbicula fluminea* - Asian clams; and *Corbicula largillierti* - freshwater clams.

Ranging in size from three to twenty-five centimeters (1.18 - 9.84 inches), native adult freshwater mussels within the Families Unionidae and Margaritiferidae possess calcareous exoskeletons that consist of two distinctive hinged shells that are referred to as valves that provide both structure and protection to an otherwise highly vulnerable gelatinous body. A highly variable set of characteristics that include size, shape, thickness, texture, color, and pattern forming special features such as ridges, rays, chevrons, bumps, and warts that often adorn the distinctive shells of freshwater mussels serve to enable the ability of aquatic ecologists to reliably identify each species in the field. Freshwater mollusks possess a delicate soft tissue body that consists of a mouth, a relatively large stomach, a kidney, an intestine, an in-current siphon, an ex-current siphon, large filamentous gills that enable the extraction of oxygen, a foot that allows the unique creature to slowly move short distances, and remain anchored to substrates even in the presence of strong currents, and ligaments that permit the organism to open and close its surrounding shells. Comprised of neurons and glial cells that are supported by a network of connective tissue, Unionid mussels also possess a rudimentary sensory system that allows the sightless creatures to sense motion induced by nearby fish or potential predators. Representing the longest living invertebrates on earth, freshwater mussels living in optimal habitat are capable of achieving lifespans that often exceed fifty years.

The very fact that at least small populations of approximately one thousand freshwater mussel species within the diverse Order Unionoida continue to be observed in rivers, streams, and inland lakes distributed across the planet serves as a de facto indication of the existence of aquatic habitat that is capable of supporting the ecologically sensitive creatures. The incredible size, abundance, and diversity of populations of native freshwater mussel that were often present well over a century ago in many North American rivers strongly suggests that optimal habit for members of the Family Unionidae and Family Margaritiferidae is primarily found in large northern temperate rivers whose sensitive aquatic ecosystems are protected from the negative influences of their surrounding watersheds by forests, marshes, wetlands, and densely vegetated riparian corridors.

The capacity of large northern temperate rivers to support abundant freshwater mussel communities is ultimately contingent upon the existence of relatively high quality aquatic ecosystems whose continuously flowing pollution and sediment free waters are capable of supporting much higher dissolved oxygen content in contrast to the still waters of inland lakes and ponds, for example, and healthy, moderately productive littoral zones that are capable of providing filter feeding mollusk communities with an abundance of the phytoplankton, diatoms, and other tiny organisms that they depend upon for sustenance. Moreover, due to their glacial origins, the waters of many large northern temperate rivers are also capable of providing the abundant calcium carbonate concentrations that freshwater animals such as mollusks and snails rely upon for the development of their protective shells. Northern temperate rivers that have maintained their capacity to support abundant freshwater mussel populations are also characterized by host fish friendly benthic habitat such as woody debris, boulders, and stones, as well as by natural shorelines, and near shore shallow areas featuring abundant emergent aquatic plants that provide optimal habitat for juvenile host fish. It is important to note, however, that certain members of the Family Unionidae and Family Margaritiferidae exist only in northern temperate inland lakes, streams, and small rivers characterized by slow moving or still waters. Given the fact that native mollusks are capable of living for periods of up to fifty years, the existence of abundant and diverse freshwater mussel communities accompanied by large quantities of the abandoned shells of previous generations serves as a reliable bio-indicator of the long-term existence of habit conditions that were ultimately capable of supporting the ecologically sensitive bell weather species.

Native freshwater mussels are powerful ecosystem engineers that are capable of rendering highly beneficial ecological services that contribute to achieving and sustaining healthy, diverse aquatic ecosystems. First and foremost, freshwater mussels are highly efficient filter feeders that are perhaps best known for their extraordinary collective capacity to transform turbid, light deprived waters into relatively clear waters by removing algae, bacteria, suspended particulate, and organic matter, allowing life sustaining sunlight to penetrate deeper into the water column, and enabling highly beneficial submerged aquatic plants to colonize larger, deeper areas of the ecosystem. The propensity of freshwater

mussels to filter out and utilize suspended algae, inorganic particulate, and organic matter also enables the capacity of the unique substrate-borne creatures to effectively sequester phosphorus, nitrogen, and carbon that would otherwise be available to fuel exponential growth of light attenuating phytoplankton. Freshwater mussels also contribute to sustaining a host of other ecosystem-friendly creatures by converting filtered materials into important sources of food that would otherwise be unavailable for consumption by the diverse array of fish, crayfish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals that often forage within aquatic ecosystems. Diverse in size and shape, the durable abandoned shells of freshwater mussels that have completed their life cycles also provide protective physical spaces that serve as optimal benthic habitat for aquatic insects, and nesting sites for small fish.

It is also important to point out that once abundant freshwater mussel communities are also known to have made significant contributions to sustaining North America's indigenous tribes in centuries past, and in particular the mound-building tribes of the Midwest who placed a high value on the shells of the substrate-borne creatures that were efficiently utilized for making tools, jewelry, and pottery, and upon their meat that was considered an important source of protein rich food. In sharp contrast to the responsible and ultimately sustainable manner in which North American indigenous tribes utilized freshwater mussels to support their culture for many centuries, large scale commercial exploitation of the extraordinarily abundant populations of freshwater mussel that once existed in many of North America's large rivers, and particularly the Illinois, Columbia, and Ohio Rivers, did not begin until the late 19th century. Recognized by textile entrepreneurs of the time for the considerable economic value of their pearly, durable shells that were turned into the tens of millions of buttons of various sizes that were in demand by a flourishing garment industry, freshwater mussels were removed en masse from the ecologically sensitive substrates of rivers distributed across North America between 1890 and 1950 in order to support the two hundred button factories that were in operation during the period. Large scale, grossly unsustainable exploitation of freshwater mussel populations in North America lasted for well over half a century, and ended only in response to the advent of plastic that than

become a cheaper, and much more readily available source of durable material for manufacturing buttons in the early 1950's.

Coupled with the historically significant fact that extraordinarily diverse and abundant native freshwater mussel communities that inhabited many large North American rivers were being exploited for their valuable shells at an unsustainable rate, the rampant pace of industrialization that was also occurring on much of the continent within the late 19th and early 20th centuries was driving equally unsustainable rates of deforestation that ultimately caused the permanent loss, and/or severe degradation of freshwater habitat that was capable of supporting the ecologically sensitive creatures. Moreover, many large rivers in North America that were once capable of serving as optimal habitat for freshwater mussels witnessed the construction of hydroelectric dams over the course of the past century. Dam facilitated high volume impoundment of water acts to decrease water flow rates, increase suspended sediment related turbidity, decreases in dissolved oxygen levels, and often leads to the loss of freshwater mussel accommodating substrate comprised of coarse sand and gravel as high volumes of fine inorganic sediment that freshwater mussels are not capable of tolerating settle back to the bottom. Moreover, dams act to fragment, and degrade critical habitat for fish that are capable of serving as parasitic hosts for the reproductive propagules of freshwater mussels. The vast reduction in freshwater habitat that is capable of supporting ecologically sensitive species such as freshwater mussels has also been caused by the fact that many large rivers have been extensively dredged to allow their once relatively shallow channels to accommodate large commercial cargo vessels that are now deployed to transport coal, iron ore, and other heavy industrial commodities. Not surprisingly, large North American rivers such as the Ohio and Illinois are now widely recognized as the most extensively polluted rivers in the world.

The extent of the loss of freshwater habitat that was once capable of sustaining abundant and diverse freshwater mussel communities in North America is best measured by the fact that up until the early decades of the 20th century the substrates of many large rivers such as the Ohio, Columbia, Illinois, and the Wabash “were paved with mussels.” Loss of freshwater habitat that is capable of supporting abundant freshwater mussel populations

has unfortunately continued at a relatively steady pace for well over one hundred years. For this reason, readers should not be surprised to learn that nearly three-quarters of North America's once extraordinarily abundant native freshwater mussel species are now classified as endangered, threatened, species of special concern, or, as in the case of as many as thirty-eight ecologically sensitive species, have now passed into extinction.

**Legislation to Renew the Sale of Great Lakes Protection Watercraft Decals
Passes the MI House of Representatives with Pro-Active Support from MWA**

Introduced in early December of 2025 by Representative Ken Borton and eleven bi-partisan co-sponsors with pro-active support from Michigan Waterfront Alliance, House Bill 5308 of 2025 was passed by a near unanimous vote of the MI House of Representatives on April 29th. If passed by the MI Senate and signed into law by Governor Whitmer, House Bill 5308 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to remove a provision that currently ends authorization for the sale of Great Lakes Protection Specialty Watercraft decals if fewer than 500 decals sell in a fiscal year. Supporters of the legislation indicate that the primary goal of the bill is to increase the revenue available to the MI Department of Natural Resources by restoring the sale of Great Lakes Protection Specialty Watercraft decals which would generate \$25 for each decal sold. If passed into law, the bill would result in a nominal increase in revenue to the Department of State from receiving \$10 from the sale of each \$35 decal. The fee would cover the cost to the Department of State for creating and administering distribution of the decal.



Please Consider Donating, and/or Becoming a Dues Paying Member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance Today

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 is 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.

TO BECOME AN MWA MI HEALTHY LAKES CHAMPION

[CLICK HERE](#)



What is didymo?

(Didymosphenia geminata)

Didymo (also known as "rock snot") is a microscopic algae (diatom) that produces stalks that form thick mats on hard surfaces like rocks in stream beds. It looks and feels like white or tan/brown wet wool. It ranges from small cotton ball-sized patches to thick blankets and long ropy strings that flow in currents. Although it is often referred to as "rock snot," didymo is not slimy.

Identify

What to look for

- Looks and feels like white or brown wet wool.
- Ranges from small, cotton ball-sized patches to thick blankets and long, rope-like strings that flow in currents.
- Although often referred to as “rock snot,” didymo is not slimy.



Species info

Habitat

Didymo thrives in low-nutrient cold water rivers and streams. Unlike blue-green algae, didymo’s presence does not indicate a decline in water quality. Researchers are still working to determine what triggers didymo’s nuisance blooms.

Range

Native: Far northern regions of Europe, Asia and North America. Didymo is likely native to Lake Superior and parts of Canada.

U.S. distribution: Scattered populations exist throughout the United States, including New England, the Mid-Atlantic Region, and the Western U.S.

In Michigan: Didymo cells have been documented in the Great Lakes Basin and Michigan waters in low abundance. Nuisance blooms have been documented in Michigan in the

Boardman, Upper Manistee and St. Marys rivers. Didymo may be present but undetected in other rivers or streams. Follow the Clean, Drain, Dry instructions below after every visit to a water resource..

Local concern

Under the right conditions, prolific growth patterns result in thick mats that can cover river and stream bottoms. Didymo mats alter habitat and food sources for fish and can make recreation difficult or unpleasant. Mats can also foul water intakes and fishing gear as well as impact fishing access and wading.

How it spreads

Didymo cells can be transported on boats, anchors and fishing gear such as waders, felt-soled boots and nets.

Control

Currently, there is no effective method to eradicate didymo from the environment.

What you can do:

Always Clean, Drain, and Dry your waders, boots, boats and other gear between trips or before moving to a new body of water. Take extra precaution in areas with known or suspected didymo or New Zealand mudsnail infestations. In addition to removing debris and mud, the State of Michigan recommends using a chemical disinfectant to achieve maximum decontamination for didymo and New Zealand mudsnail. Possible disinfectants with documented effectiveness for these species include:

- Products such as Formula 409® Antibacterial All-Purpose Cleaner applied to waders and gear.
- Bleach: Apply a solution of ½ cup (4 fluid ounces) bleach to 5 gallons of water and let stand for 20 minutes.
- Virkon Aquatic: Apply a solution of 20 grams per liter of water and let stand for 20 minutes (see manufacturer's label for additional guidance).

Any chemical disinfectants should be applied to waders and gear on land, at a reasonable distance from the water, to avoid accidental discharge into surface waters.

These methods work for didymo, New Zealand mudsnails and most other aquatic invasive species.

Helpful Tips:

- Avoid visiting multiple rivers in a single day.
- Plan time to decontaminate between trips.
- Designate specific gear, especially porous items like felt soled waders, for use only in infested waters.

What's being done

- Since 2015, the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program has supported researchers at Lake Superior State University's Center for Freshwater Research and Education in an extensive study of occurrences of didymo in the St. Marys River and Upper Peninsula waters, the risk of spread and why nuisance blooms are increasing - a phenomenon being observed worldwide.
- In spring 2022, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy conducted targeted samplings high-use access sites on the Manistee, Little Manistee, Au Sable (main, north, south, and east branches), Pine, Betsie, Platte, Boardman, Muskegon, Black, Pigeon, Pere Marquette, Baldwin and Rogue rivers and found no additional infested areas.
- New signs are being installed at access sites on trout streams across northern Michigan. If you see an access site in this region without a sign, contact EGLE-WRD-AIP@Michigan.gov and provide the location.
- A recording of the June 9, 2022 [NotMISpecies webinar, *Didymo: What you need to know*](#), is available.

EGLE



Michigan Department of
AGRICULTURE
& Rural Development



Photo by Scott Brown

YELLOW PERCH

Scientific Name: *Perca flavescens*



April 28, 2026

Fisheries, parks, timber and trails on the agenda for May 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 and cultural resource management.

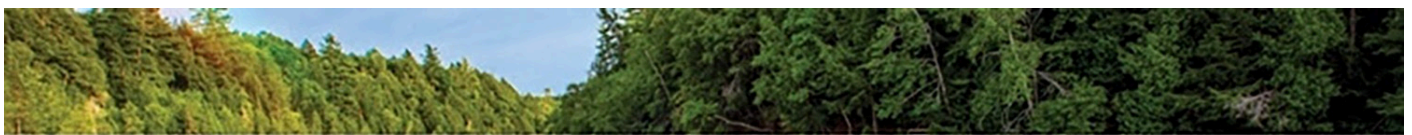
Frequently check the [DNR boards, commissions, committees and councils webpage](#) for updates.

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

May meetings

- [Accessibility Advisory Council](#) – Tuesday, May 12, 9 a.m. (Contact: [Brenda Henige](#), 517-897-6311).
- [Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee](#) – Thursday, May 21, 6 to 8 p.m. **evening meeting* (Contact: [Sara Claybaugh](#), 517-242-2469).
- [Equine Trails Subcommittee](#) – Wednesday, May 27, 1 p.m. (Contact: [Anna Centofanti](#), 517-331-6219).

- [Michigan Freedom Trail Commission](#) – Friday, May 8, 11 a.m. (Contact: [Sheri Giffin](#), 517-231-1299).
- [Michigan Natural Resources Commission](#) – Wednesday, May 13, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Coffee with the Commissioners; 9:30 a.m., regular meeting (Contact: NRC@Michigan.gov).
- [Michigan Wildlife Council](#) – Wednesday, May 6, 10 a.m. (Contact: [Rose Campbell-Gill](#), 517-420-9281).
- [Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup](#) – Thursday, May 14, 1 p.m. (Contact: [Jessica Roehrs](#), 517-331-3790).
- [Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council](#) – Friday, May 22, 8:30 a.m. (Contact: [Kimberley Korbecki](#), 517-582-3220).
- [Upper Au Sable River Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee](#) – Tuesday, May 5, 9 a.m. (Contact: [Matt Klungle](#), 989-889-4832).
- [Warmwater Resources Steering Committee](#) – Monday, May 11, 10 a.m. (Contact: Lucas Nathan, NathanL@Michigan.gov).
- [Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council](#) – Thursday, May 21, 5 p.m. CDT / 6 p.m. EDT (Contact: [Stacy Welling Haughey](#), 906-226-1331).



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



Growing the Great
Lakes maritime
economy



Great Lakes office finalizes Michigan Maritime Strategy

April 27, 2026

**Ten-year plan prioritizes economic growth, regional
leadership, environmental stewardship**

LANSING, Michigan – The Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has finalized the [Michigan Maritime Strategy](#), a first-of-its-kind, 10-year-plan designed to unlock economic growth and create good-paying jobs across Michigan’s multibillion-dollar maritime industry.

The strategy was developed through a “whole government” approach involving EGLE and the Michigan Departments of Transportation, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Natural Resources, along with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and its Office of Future Mobility and Electrification –aligning priorities to support economic development, infrastructure modernization, marine manufacturing, clean energy, innovation, workforce development, and sustainability.

A year-long, collaborative, stakeholder-driven process facilitated by the University of Michigan’s Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering engaged more

than 200 participants from government, industry, business, communities, and academia through interviews, site visits, and workshops.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer first announced the strategy in January, when a draft version was released for public comment. The finalized strategy reflects additional input from the public comment period.

Emily Finnell, Great Lakes senior advisor and strategist and head of the OGL, said the strategy provides a roadmap to modernize infrastructure, accelerate clean energy, and grow a resilient maritime economy; aligns state policy and investments with the [Michigan Mobility 2045 Plan](#), [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#), and clean energy laws and workforce development efforts; and leverages Michigan's advanced manufacturing strength and Great Lakes assets.

The strategy also prioritizes upgrading ports and connectivity, innovation, and workforce development.

It positions Michigan to lead the nation in sustainable maritime innovation – modernizing infrastructure, accelerating clean energy, and strengthening the Great Lakes economy.

The strategy prioritizes achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 – the MI Healthy Climate Plan's overall aim – by expanding clean fuel adoption, vessel electrification, and other clean energy alternatives. It also supports investments in environmental stewardship, with pollution prevention and emission reductions to support sustainable Great Lakes tourism and recreational boating.

The strategy balances Great Lakes protection while driving economic resilience, ensuring environmental stewardship and sustainable waterfront development.

Michigan's maritime sector supports 17,000 jobs and contributes \$4.7 billion a year to the state's economy, while water-based tourism supports 45,000 jobs and generates nearly \$12 billion a year.

The state's central location within the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway system as well as the Soo Locks positions it as crucial to the movement of freight in North America. Modernizing ports and expanding containerization will strengthen Michigan's role in the \$9.3 trillion Great Lakes-St. Lawrence regional economy.

Several states and Canadian provinces around the Great Lakes have recently developed comprehensive maritime strategies, creating a powerful opportunity for regional collaboration around shared priorities. Michigan can be a leader and strong partner in this effort.

View the Michigan Maritime Strategy at Michigan.gov/Maritime.

Media Contact:

Jeff Johnston

EGLE Public Information Officer

JohnstonJ14@Michigan.gov





It is fish stocking season! DNR trucks are heading to locations across the state

April 27, 2026

Fish stocking trucks are hitting the road! It's a busy season: This time of year, Michigan Department of Natural Resources fish stocking trucks are releasing their prized cargo — trout, salmon, muskie and walleye — at hundreds of lakes and streams statewide.

The DNR accomplishes this work by rearing fish at its [six fish production facilities](#) located throughout the state, along with other cooperative rearing facilities, and by maintaining a fleet of 18 specialized fish stocking vehicles.

More than 20 million fish (weighing more than 350 tons) are stocked by the DNR annually. Species stocked include steelhead; Atlantic, Chinook and coho salmon; splake (a hybrid of brook and lake trout) and brown, brook, lake and rainbow trout; muskellunge and walleye.

Beginning in mid-March and ending in early June, the DNR fish stocking trucks will travel well over 100,000 miles to stock more than a thousand locations.

Some of the many fish stocked will be salmon that have been implanted with a [coded-wire tag](#) or are otherwise marked or tagged. These tags provide useful information on the fishery to fisheries managers. To learn more or report a marked or tagged fish, visit Michigan.gov/TaggedFish.

Why does the DNR stock fish?

Fish stocking is a valuable tool for fisheries managers. It can be used to provide a range of fishing opportunities, restore ecosystem balance, rehabilitate fish populations in decline, and even reintroduce extirpated (locally extinct) native species. Those goals, in addition to many other factors, such as the current habitat, forage (food), predators and competitors in the waterbody, determine where and why fish are stocked.

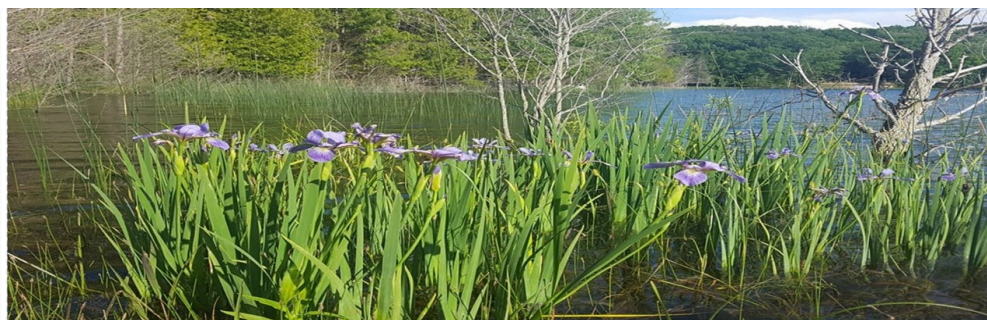
According to Jeremiah Blaauw, DNR fish marking and stocking biologist, stocking isn't the only way the DNR manages Michigan's extensive fisheries resources.

"In some cases, stocking would be unnecessary or even detrimental to a lake or stream or to fish populations," Blaauw said. "If a fish population is producing well naturally and in alignment with angling demand and management goals for that species, we don't stock on top of those wild populations."

Naturally reproducing fish are adapted to their environment, which can allow them to thrive without supplemental stocking. However, there are instances where the combination of angling pressure and habitat limitations do not allow wild fish to maintain the desired population level on their own. When that occurs, hatchery fish are stocked to supplement natural reproduction.

Visit the [DNR's fish stocking dashboard](#) for information on local fish stocking locations. The dashboard has recently been updated and has a new, more user-friendly interface.

Wondering why a certain waterbody isn't stocked? [Learn more about stocking decisions here](#) or [reach out to your local fisheries biologist](#).



Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership

Events Listing

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

May 5, 11:00 AM: [Controlling dreissenids with copper](#) (zebra and quagga mussels).

Presented by Austin Baldwin, US Geological Survey; Tawni Firestone, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Olivia Nyffeler, University of Minnesota; and Robert Walters, Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Host: Invasive Mussel Collaborative.

May 6, 2:00 PM: [Genetic options for controlling invasive carp species](#). Presented by Michael Smanski, University of Minnesota. Host: University of Minnesota AIS Detectors.

May 13, 10:00 AM: [Finding beach water quality information: Part of the MiEnviro Portal for Everyone webinar series](#). Host: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

June 17, 2:00 PM: [Starry Trek: Mobilizing volunteers for early detection of aquatic invasive species](#). Presented by Megan Weber, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center/University of Minnesota Extension. Host: North American Invasive Species Management Association.

July 8, 2:00 PM: [Genomic surveillance of zebra mussel populations using genotyping by sequencing.](#) Presented by Daryl Gohl, University of Minnesota. Host: University of Minnesota AIS Detectors.

September 1, 2:00 PM: [MGLP Lake Conservation Grant.](#) Presented by Joe Nohner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

September 9, 2:00 PM: [Restoring our underwater forests: Can native revegetation enhance invasive resistance in lakes?](#) Presented by Abha Panda, University of Minnesota. Host: University of Minnesota AIS Detectors.

October 13, 2:00 PM: [Disentangling the historical impacts of warming and fishing on exploited freshwater fish populations.](#) Presented by Luoliang Xu, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

October 20, 2:00 PM: [Lake weeds or plant communities? Some thoughts on Eurasian watermilfoil management, control prioritization, and new work to nurture care and appreciation.](#) Presented by Alison Mikulyuk and Katie Hein, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

October 27, 2:00 PM: [Protecting land for water quality: Watershed-based land conservation strategies.](#) Presented by Steve Epting, US Environmental Protection Agency. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

November 17, 2:00 PM: [Walleye stocking success in the Midwestern USA.](#) Presented by Robert Davis, Young Harris College; and Daniel Isermann, US Geological Survey/University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

You may also wish to explore these websites for additional events, recordings of past events, and more:

[Michigan Inland Lakes Convention presentation recordings](#)

[Michigan Lakes and Streams Association](#)

[Michigan State University Extension Center for Lakes and Streams](#)

[Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership](#)

North American Lake Management Society

To have your live webinar or virtual event included here, **contact us**.



**PASSING MUCH NEEDED WAKE BOAT AND SEPTIC CODE RELATED
LEGISLATION WILL REQUIRE YOU TO WEIGH IN WITH YOUR STATE
LEGISLATORS**

The passage of **Senate Bill 771** which would establish Michigan's first-ever comprehensive framework for the oversight and on-going maintenance of septic systems (on-site wastewater treatment systems); and **Senate Bill 812** which would prohibit the operation of vessels operating in "wake sport mode" in waters

of this state where the water depth is less than 20 feet and to a distance of not less than 500 feet from the shoreline or a dock, a raft, a buoyed or occupied bathing area, or a vessel moored or at anchor are well written, reasonable pieces of legislation that, if enacted, will make important contributions to helping preserve and protect Michigan's wealth of inland lakes, rivers, and streams.

It is important to note, however, that Senate Bill 812 and Senate Bill 771 represent only the most recent attempts to enact common sense state law - past attempts to rein in out-of-control wake boat operators and at least begin to repair the 330,000 failing residential septic systems that pour billions of gallons of raw, e-coli inundated sewage into our lakes, rivers, and stream each year have failed in the past due to the well-funded efforts of professional lobbyists that seem to lurk around in every corner of our state capitol. We also know that the well-funded efforts of state lobbyists in preventing the passage of legislation that does not meet the needs of their profit driven employers is made much easier due to the fact that only a tiny fraction of Michigan voters ever attempts to communicate with their respective state senators or representatives.

The readers of this newsletter need to know that the latest straight forward, scientific evidence-based attempts to rein in out of control wake boat operators (Senate Bill 812); and establish a first ever statewide septic code (Senate Bill 771) will again each meet with failure in the next few months if those of us concerned about preserving the quality of our incredibly valuable inland lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater do not devote the relatively small amount of time and effort that is necessary to write, call, message, or e-mail their state senators and representatives in the very near future.

To identify your MI State Senator and their contact information

[click here](#)

To identify your MI Representatives and their contact information

[click here](#)

Michigan Invasive
Species Program





Photo by Scott Brown

**MI Landowner's Guide to Aquatic
Invasive Species Management Available
for Download Here**

An Introduction to this Guide

This guide is designed to help Michigan property owners and managers identify, report, prevent and control aquatic invasive

species (AIS). For the most up to date information about invasive species in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/invasives.

Contents:

- **AIS in Michigan**
- **Michigan's Invasive Species Watch List (Page 2)**
- **Prohibited and Restricted Species (Page 2)**
- **Reporting and Identification Resources (Page 2)**
- **Prevention: Information and resources to help stop AIS from spreading (Page 2)**
- **Monitoring: Why and how to monitor for AIS (Page 3)**
- **Management and Control: General strategies and resources useful for successful AIS management and control (Page 4)**
- **Disposal of AIS Plant Materials (Page 5)**
- **Permitting: An overview of AIS related permits, including when permits are required (Page 8)**
- **Local AIS Resources and Expertise: AIS topic experts, online resources and local resources for AIS issues (Page 12)**
- **Related Programs: Contact information and ways to get involved with helpful programs for AIS issues (Page 13)**

To download a free copy of MI Landowners Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species Management, [click here](#)

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WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE**

To download a copy of the MWA
2026 Winter Newsletter,
[click here](#)



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 and cultural 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 will find meeting details such as location and agenda (when finalized).

NOTE: Please check these pages often, as meeting details may change and sometimes meetings are canceled.

To visit the MI DNR web page dedicated to Boards,
Commissions, Committees and Councils, [click here](#)



Michigan Invasive Species Program

Michigan's Invasive Species Watch List

Invasive species on the watch list have been identified as posing an immediate or potential threat to Michigan's economy, environment or human health. These species either have never been confirmed in the wild in Michigan or have a limited known distribution.

If you think you have found any of these species in Michigan, please report the occurrence via the methods given below by clicking on an individual species name.

View the watch list as a printable PDF - [InvasiveSpecies-WatchList](#)

Invasive Species Watch List Viewer

Use this mapping tool to find out where watch list invasive species have been confirmed in Michigan and where they have been successfully eradicated.

[Invasive Species Watch List Viewer](#)

EGLE
EGLE



Michigan Department of
AGRICULTURE
& Rural Development



Our long-term vision is to address Michigan's most pressing lake, stream, and watershed conservation and stewardship challenges and provide research-based, timely support to clientele and partners.

The Michigan State University Extension Center for Lakes and Streams stream lines lake and stream research, engagement, and education activities at the university and highlights the many programs MSU Extension and its partners offer throughout the state. The MSU Extension Center for Lakes and Streams is not a physical center with a brick-and-mortar headquarters. It is a team of Extension educators and outreach faculty based throughout Michigan with a shared mission of advancing the conservation and stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes and streams.

To achieve this vision, the Center will welcome affiliated faculty from various departments at MSU and will invite external stakeholder input. Affiliates and stakeholders will support the work of the Center by identifying emerging issues and assisting with the prioritization of research and education activities. The Center will welcome stakeholder input from diverse perspectives, including state agencies, tribal partners, other Michigan universities, local and regional decision makers, agricultural producers, and nonprofit, community and riparian organizations.

Want to learn more?

Reach out to the Center for Lakes and Streams Director

Dr. Jo Latimore at latimor1@msu.edu.



What We Would Like Readers of this Newsletter to Know about Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Our Mission:

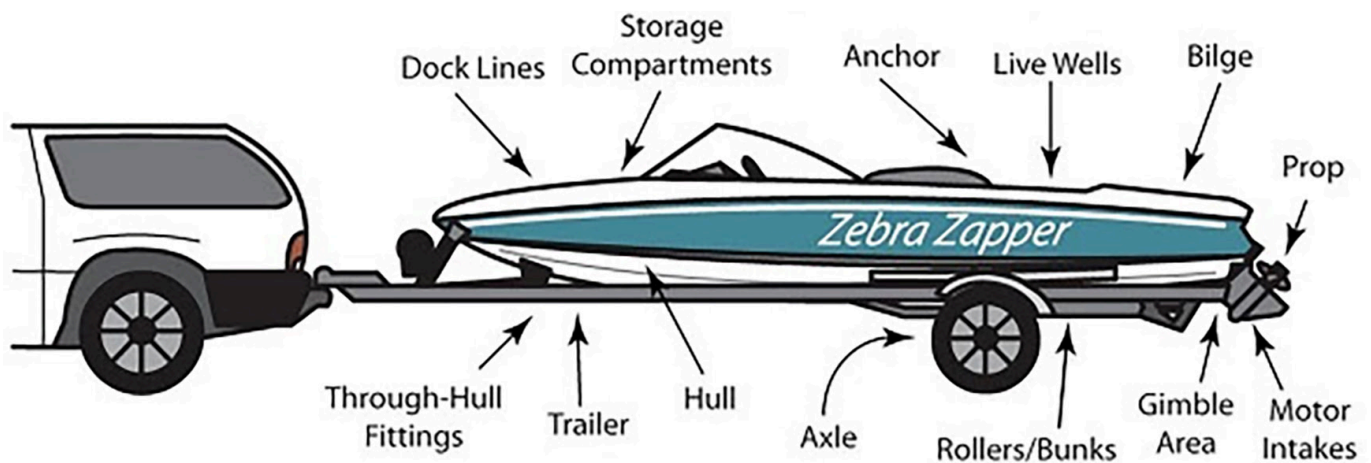
Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c)4 non-profit corporation formed to protect, preserve, and promote wise use of the inland waters of the State of Michigan. Our mission will be accomplished by active participation in the legislative process, court cases, and/or direct involvement with related state agencies or departments. This membership-enabled corporation maintains the ability to influence legislation through lobbying, an action that is not permitted by 501(c)3 non-profit organizations.

- **Michigan Waterfront Alliance is one of just a few non-profit organizations that is permitted by law to influence our state's legislative process in regards to the**

enactment of state laws, regulations, or policies whose implementation and enforcement ultimately have a direct impact on Michigan's vast natural legacy of high quality freshwater resources by lobbying. Lobbying is defined as the act of attempting to influence decisions made by government officials. Enabled through direct communication and pro-active advocacy, lobbying involves various activities aimed at persuading policymakers, especially state legislators, to support or oppose specific legislation, regulations, and/or other government actions.

- The vast majority of the revenue derived through membership or by donations to Michigan Waterfront Alliance is utilized to compensate our Lansing-based lobbyist - Michigan's longest serving multi-client lobbying firm, Karoub Associates.
- Not a single person who works for Michigan Waterfront Alliance, including the Officers and Directors of our Board of Directors, receive any form of monetary compensation.
- Those who work to enable the day-to-day operation of Michigan Waterfront Alliance are motivated by the desire to contribute in some modest way to the conservation of Michigan's extraordinary valuable natural legacy of high quality inland lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.
- It is important for our readers to understand that most of the revenue we receive through the payment of individual, association, or corporate dues as well as donations to Michigan Waterfront Alliance go directly to support our Karoub Associates enabled Lansing-based lobbying efforts that occur on behalf of our freshwater resources, associations, and lakefront property owners (riparians). A small percentage (about 10%) of our total revenue goes to fund the payment of non-discretionary administrative expenses.
- The fact is, only a small fraction of the thousands of readers of this newsletter have thus far chosen to become individual, association, or corporate members, and/or to donate to Michigan Waterfront Alliance.
- In order for Michigan Waterfront Alliance to sustain our commitment to working on behalf of the preservation of our precious inland lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands, and the protection of the riparian rights of lakefront property owners, we desperately need many more of our readers to make the

wise decision to become Individual, Association, or Corporate members, and/ or to make a generous donation to our efforts by becoming a Bronze, Silver, or Gold MI Healthy Lakes Champion today!!!



Bringing a boat

When a watercraft is part of your fishing routine, remember to “Clean, Drain and Dry” boats, trailers and all equipment and gear after each use on any lake, river or stream. State law requires:

- Making sure watercraft and trailers are free of all aquatic organisms and plants before transporting or launching.
- Removing drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks and live wells before transporting watercraft over land.

Drying boats, trailers and gear is an important step to ensure live organisms, like hard-to-see zebra mussel larvae, plant fragments and didymo cells, don't travel to the next fishing spot. Between sites, do one of the following:

- When possible, dry boats, trailers and gear in the sun for five to seven days.
- Wash boats and trailers with a pressure washer.
- Apply a chemical disinfectant like those listed above.
- Dry surfaces with a towel.

Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is the responsibility of everyone who uses Michigan's valuable fresh-water resources. For more information on invasive species and prevention methods, visit Michigan.gov/Invasives.

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





Please join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

We Need the Support of People Like You Who Care about Preserving and Protecting our Extraordinarily Valuable Freshwater Resources for Future Generations Now!!!

- 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 owned and operated 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 Michigan Waterfront Alliance today !!!



---The Problem is Real---

***The loss of natural shorelines is the biggest threat
to the overall health of Michigan lakes***

National Lakes Assessment

Shoreland development is impacting Michigan's lakes causing issues such as poor water quality, erosion, and loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Taking action on your property now can help reverse these effects and protect the health of your lake.

To learn more about the mission, goals, and unique educational opportunities provided by the

Michigan **N**atural **S**horeline **P**artnership

[Click here](#)



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

BRONZE

MI Healthy Lakes
Champion

\$250

Donate

SILVER

MI Healthy Lakes
Champion

\$500

Donate

GOLD

MI Healthy Lakes
Champion

\$1000

Donate

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MICHIGAN WATERFRONT

ALLIANCE MI HEALTHY LAKES CHAMPION TODAY!!!

**YOUR GENEROUS DONATION OF \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 WILL
AMPLIFY OUR CAPACITY TO LOBBY FOR THE PASSAGE
OF COMMON SENSE LEGISLATION THAT IS PENDING IN
LANSING IN REGARDS TO REGULATING WAKE BOATS AND
SEPTIC TANKS!!! AS OUR READERS ARE WELL AWARE,
OUT
OF CONTROL WAKE BOATS ARE DAMAGING OUR LAKES,
AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DYSFUNCTIONAL SEPTIC
SYSTEMS ARE DEGRADING OUR LAKES, RIVERS,
STREAMS,
AND GROUNDWATER!!!**

TO BECOME AN MWA MI HEALTHY LAKES CHAMPION

[CLICK HERE](#)



Please Consider Donating, and/or Becoming a Dues Paying Member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance Today

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 is

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.



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

We need **you!**

Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is the only all-volunteer non-profit organization in Michigan that is dedicated to reaching out on a daily, pro-active basis to our state representatives and senators about 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 is 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
