Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions

Sarah Mullkoff
Energy and Climate Policy Coordinator
National Wildlife Federation
mullkoffs@nwf.org

Lake Superior, August 2011. Photo credit: Nikki Shippel

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Michigan Energy Plan- Goals

- Control Costs
- Minimize Risk
- Fair Rates for Customers
- Promote Economic Development
- Protect Public Health and Natural Resources
- Preserve Excellent Reliability

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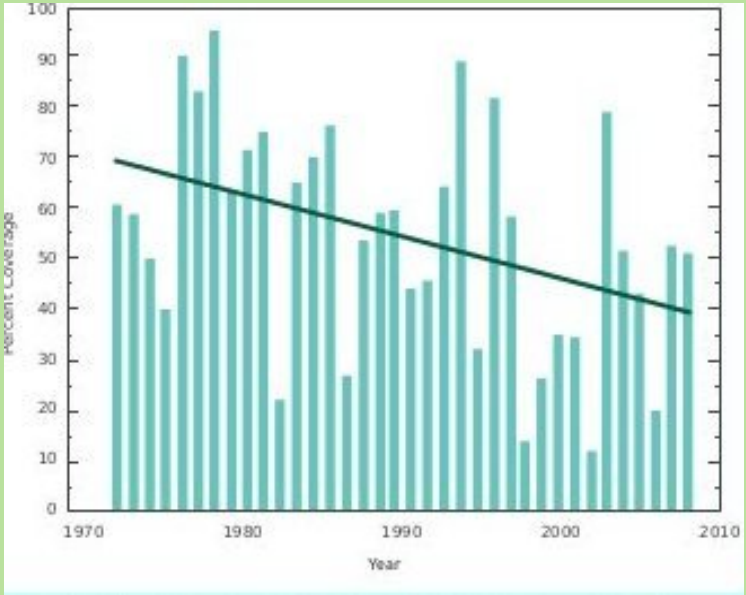
Wildlife Impacts from a Warming Climate



Great Lakes ice coverage has declined significantly since the 1970s. With more open water comes more evaporation, causing lake levels to drop more rapidly, providing more moisture for extreme lake-effect snow events, and leaving coasts more vulnerable to erosion. Source: USGCRP (2009).[1]

- Lake Superior is one of the fastest warming lakes in the world

- Great Lakes Region is expected to increase 5.4 (+/- 1.8) degrees Fahrenheit with summer temperatures increasing more than winter

- As Great Lakes temperatures increase, Great Lakes will be suitable for warm-water fish such as smallmouth bass and bluegill, and less suitable for cool-water and cold-water species such as northern pike and whitefish, respectively

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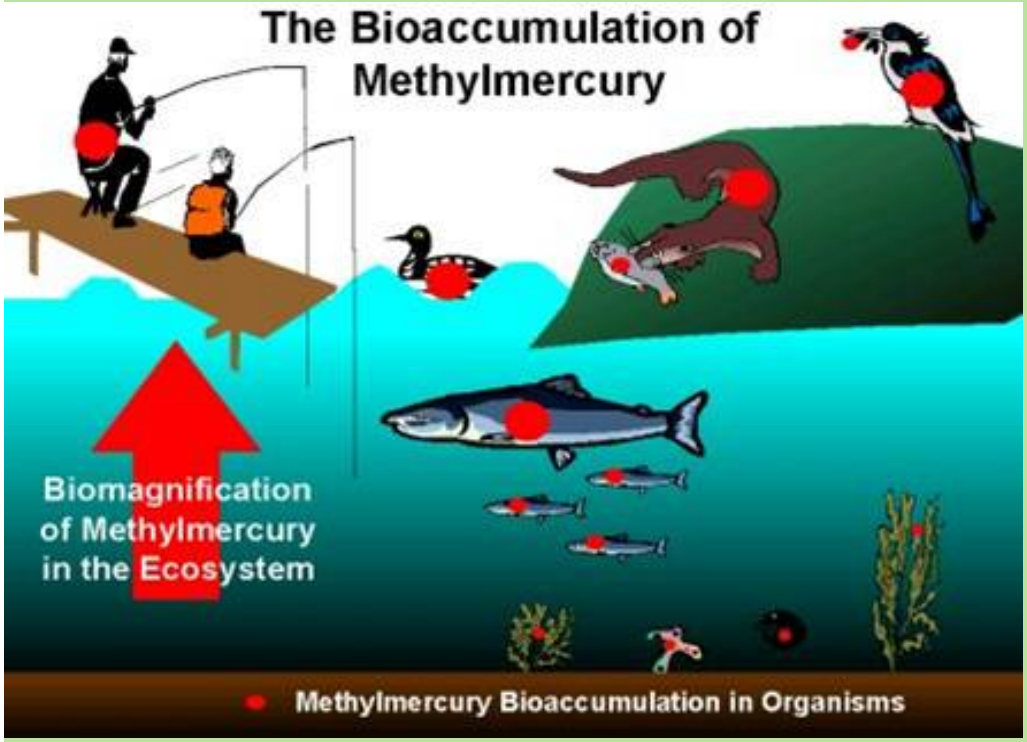
Protect Public Health and Natural Resources



Source: www.Mercury.Utah.gov [2]

- Wildlife are at increased risk from elevated mercury levels in the Great Lakes, including Lake Superior

- In a recent synthesis of data for loons and yellow perch (their preferred prey), researcher s identified seven mercury "hot spots" in the region, including one in the Upper Peninsula, and other areas in the UP with elevated mercury levels that threaten the reproductive success of loons[2]
  - Specifically from Marquette to L'Anse

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Specific Wildlife Impacts in the Great Lakes

From Elevated Mercury Exposure:

• **Common loons** serve as monitors of mercury contamination in ecosystems, though other birds are actually more sensitive to mercury exposure

- including those with "moderate sensitivity" (e.g. Canadian goose, ring-necked pheasant, and royal tern)
- and those with "high sensitivity" (e.g. **American kestrel**, snowy egret, and osprey)

Source: flickr.com/creativecommons

Climate Change Threats to Michigan Wildlife:

• **Moose**- higher temps leading to increased tick populations, decimating populations

• Small Mammals like **mink**

• Migratory birds like **the ruffed grouse**

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Public Health Impacts
Hidden cost of coal results in $2 Billion/year

HEALTH IMPACT	NUMBER OF CASES
Premature mortality	660
Cardiovascular hospital admissions	150
Respiratory hospital admissions	210
Chronic bronchitis	280
Asthma emergency room visits	450
Asthma exacerbations	250,000
Minor Restricted Activity Days	260,000

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Siting Can be Done Safely
Wildlife Friendly Clean Energy Policy

Altamont Pass Wind Farm, California Source: flickr.com/creativecommons

Ways to avoid impacting wildlife populations include:

1. Minimizing development in biologically sensitive areas
2. Establish comprehensive monitoring programs prior to, during, and after development
3. Ensure that funds are available to address unavoidable impacts on fish and wildlife, including cumulative impacts
4. Gather information on cumulative impacts
5. Ensure a meaningful opportunity for stakeholders to comment and shape proposals

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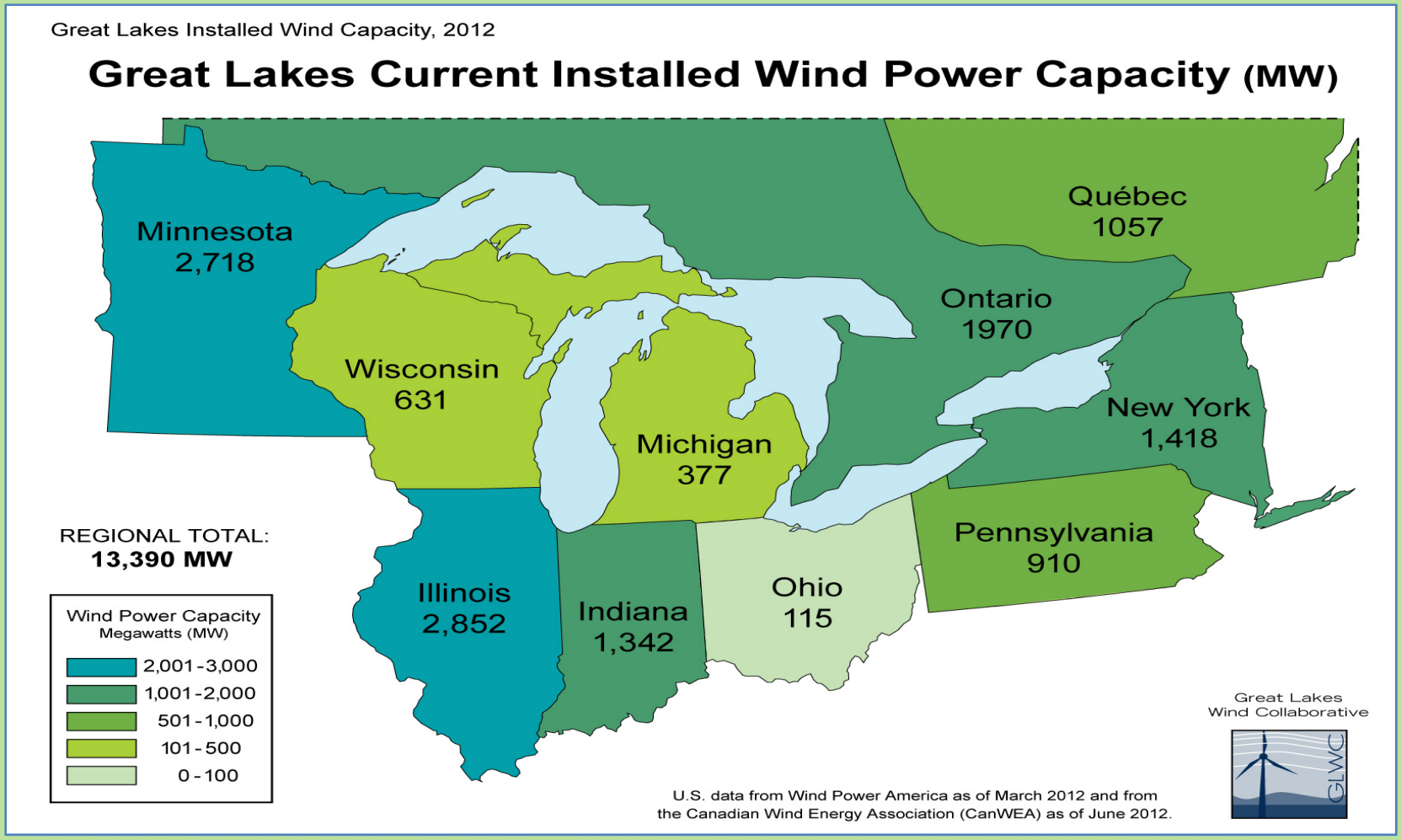
Michigan is Falling Behind on the Clean Energy Race



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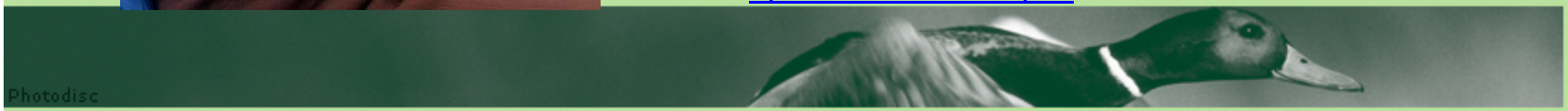
Sportsmen Support Clean Energy

Polling results from Chesapeake Bay Consulting Survey 2012

This national public opinion poll conducted among 800 self-identified hunters and anglers was conducted by Chesapeake Beach Consulting from August 27 through September 1, 2012 for the National Wildlife Federation. The sample for this survey was randomly drawn from a list of self-identified hunters and anglers. To qualify, a respondent must have indicated they were a hunter, an angler or both as well as a registered voter. All interviews were conducted by telephone, including 15 percent of the interviews by cell phone. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus 3.2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

Photo credit: Jane Mullkoff

- Two in three sportsmen polled (66 percent) believe we have a moral responsibility to confront global warming to protect our children's future. Additionally, **69 percent agree the U.S. should reduce its carbon emissions** that contribute to global warming and threaten fish and wildlife habitat.
- 49% believe protecting public lands should be given priority, even at the risk of **limiting the amount of energy supplies such as oil, gas and coal** the United States produces [4]
- Read full report: http://www.nwf.org/~/media/PDFs/Wildlife/Sportsmen/2012PollSlides.pdf



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No-regrets for Our Wildlife & Habitat

The expense of Pollution Controls

- DTE and Consumers Energy testified in front of the Michigan Senate in 2012 that they will need to spend between$4 billion and $5.5 billion to meet the new requirements.

Integrated Resource Planning

- Designed to review major utility investments – more than $500,000,000

- Exempts expenditures for environmental upgrades – (i.e. additional pollution control on older coal-fired power plants)

- Added in 2008 as a cost containment measure

Regulatory Reform

-Process should remove the exemption for environmental upgrades

- Impacts on public health and natural resources should be considered

- Answers the question: What investments are “most reasonable and prudent” from the perspective of ratepayers.

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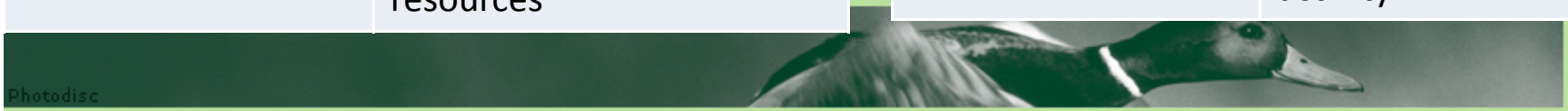
Benefits: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Goals	Renewable Energy
Control Cost	Cost at or below existing non- renewable resources
Minimize Risk	Long-term stable price contracts available
Fair Rates for Customers	Current surcharge inequitable
Promote Economic Development	Uses more Michigan made goods and workers
Protect Public Health	Reduces public health impacts of electricity production
Provide Reliability	No impacts when mixed with complimentary resources

Goals	Energy Efficiency
Control Costs	Least cost method to meet future demand
Minimize Risk	Avoid risks related to fuel and capital costs
Fair Rates for Customers	Arbitrary cap results in higher energy costs
Promote Economic Development	Uses local workers and increases efficiency of Michigan businesses
Protect Public Health	Reduces impacts by avoiding generation
Provide Reliability	Can improve reliability through reducing peak activity



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Thank you!

Visit for more information on
Wildlife –friendly clean
energy policy:
http://www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Energy-and-Climate/Renewable-Energy.aspx

Sarah Mullkoff
mullkoffs@nwf.org
(734) 887-7105

Citations:
1. Staudt, A., Shott, C., Inkley, D., Rickter, I. 2013 Wildlife in a Warming World., 28-30.
2. WWW.MERCURY.UTAH.GOV
3. Evers, D.C., Williams, K.A., Meyer, M.W., Scheuhammer, A.M., Schoch, N., Gilbert, A.T., Siegel, L., Taylor, R.T., Poppenga, R., Perkins, C.R., 2011. Spatial gradients of methylmercury for breeding common loons in the Laurentian Great Lakes region, Ecotoxicology, 20:1609–1625.
4. Chesapeake Beach Consulting , 9-25-2012. National Survey of Hunters and Anglers.

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