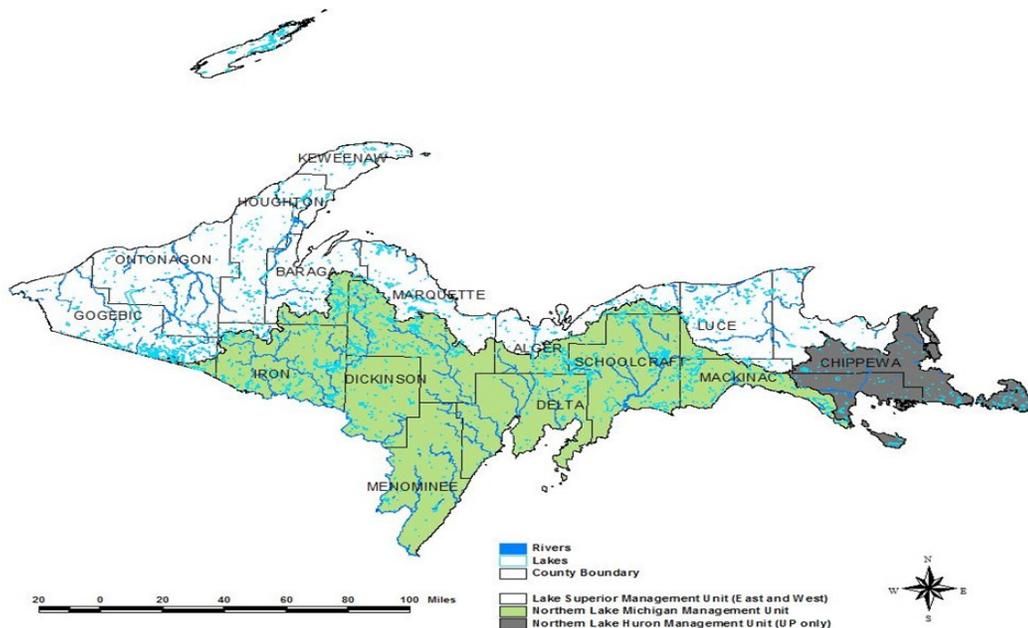




Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit

Fisheries Division 2014 Highlights



What is the NLMMU?

The Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit (NLMMU) - shown shaded in green- encompasses all of the waters that drain into the northern portion of Lake Michigan. Our work area includes all or portions of the following counties: Gogebic, Iron, Baraga, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, Delta, Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, and Mackinac. The NLMMU covers a diverse array of inland waters and nearshore Lake Michigan ports out of the Escanaba and Crystal Falls Field Offices.

The NLMMU also partners with other Fisheries Division staff (Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit, Western Lake Superior Management Unit, Marquette Fisheries Research Station, Marquette State Fish Hatchery and Thompson State Fish Hatchery) to complete priority projects across the Upper Peninsula.

Fisheries Division Mission

To protect and enhance Michigan's aquatic life and habitats for the benefit of current and future generations.

2014 Partnerships

DNR Fisheries Division & DEQ Water Resources Division

Team up for AIS Monitoring

Michigan's rivers and lakes are experiencing significant negative effects from aquatic invasive species (AIS) and are continually threatened by new invasions. The western Upper Peninsula is no exception- that is why the NLMMU partnered with the Department of Environmental Quality's Water Resources Division to monitor two lakes- Chicagon (Iron County) and Cisco (Gogebic County)- for AIS.

These monitoring efforts were part of an overarching effort to develop a comprehensive AIS monitoring strategy within the state. Sampling for invasive plants and invertebrates occurred on 15 lakes across the state June through August 2014. Chicagon and Cisco Lakes were sampled in August and monitoring techniques included:

- Visual surveys and vegetative rake tosses around the entire perimeter of the lake.
- Five target locations and all boat launches were closely examined by snorkeling and near-shore wading.
- Plankton and veliger tow samples sent to Michigan State University for analysis of spiny and fishhook waterflea and zebra mussel veliger presence.
- Watermilfoil tissue samples were sent to Grand Valley State University for genetic identification.
- eDNA samples were collected and sent to Michigan State University for analysis.

Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and banded mystery snails were observed in Chicagon Lake. Chinese mystery snails and curlyleaf pondweed (one floating dead specimen) was observed on Cisco Lake. No new AIS were reported during these surveys. These surveys highlight the importance of monitoring in AIS management. To have a chance of control and eradication, early detection of invasives is critical.



DEQ Water Resources staff surveying for AIS with rake tosses (left) and snorkeling (right).

2014 Walleye Rearing Pond Summary

In 2014, the NLMMU managed 3 rearing ponds (Grasshopper, Landfill, Warren) with unit staff and volunteers from the Copper Country Walleye Association (Warren). In addition through cooperative partnerships, spring walleye were raised in 2 additional ponds and stocked in Upper Peninsula waters by volunteers: the Indian Lake Rearing Pond was managed by the Indian Lake Property Owners Association and Peterson Pond was managed by the Bays de Noc Great Lakes Sport fishermen, Inc. We wish to thank these partners for all of the hard work and dedication to make walleye fishing better in the Upper Peninsula. Overall, the NLMMU and cooperators raised over 598,000 spring fingerling walleyes for stocking in priority waters in the NLMMU and Western Lake Superior Management Unit.

Pond Name	Number of Spring Fingerlings Harvested
Grasshopper Gulch Pond	91,200
Indian Lake Rearing Pond	30,000
Landfill Pond	156,669
Peterson Pond	190,567
Warren Pond	130,127



2014 Walleye Spring Fingerling Stocking

Water	County	Number Stocked
Camp Seven Lake	Delta	1,500
Little Bay de Noc	Delta	542,042
Round Lake	Delta	20,000
Lake Antoine	Dickinson	37,570
Carney Lake	Dickinson	4,900
Duck Lake	Gogebic	7,056
Portage Lake	Houghton	110,705
Prickett Dam Backwater	Houghton	10,750
Crystal Falls Impoundment	Iron	7,700
Lac La Belle	Keweenaw	27,636
Lake Fanny Hooe	Keweenaw	2,102
Brevoort Lake	Mackinac	10,000
Fish Lake	Marquette	4,700
Hoist Basin	Marquette	7,816
Mehl Lake	Marquette	2,400
Victoria Reservoir	Ontonagon	10,750
Indian Lake	Schoolcraft	30,000

Fisheries Division Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit and the Inter Tribal Fisheries Assessment Program (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) also provided spring fingerlings to stock Little Bay de Noc (92,000 and 155,000, respectively). The NLMMU also operated a fall fingerling walleye program and stocked 2,463 walleyes in Lake Mary (Iron County).



2014 Lake, River and Stream Surveys

Waters surveyed included:

Water	County
Jug Lake	Alger
Scotts Creek	Alger
Escanaba River	Delta
Gooseneck Lake	Delta
Little Bay de Noc	Delta
Ready Lake	Delta
Carney Lake	Dickinson
East Branch Sturgeon River	Dickinson
Gene's Pond	Dickinson
Lake Antoine	Dickinson
Two Mile Creek	Gogebic
Elm River	Houghton
North Branch Otter River	Houghton
Sturgeon River	Houghton
Brule River	Iron
Chicagon Lake	Iron
Crystal Falls Impoundment	Iron
Deer Lake	Iron
Lake Emily	Iron
Sunset Lake	Iron
Lake Independence	Marquette
Cedar River	Menominee
Elwood Creek	Menominee
Little Cedar River	Menominee
Dodge Lake	Schoolcraft
Island Lake	Schoolcraft



During the spring, summer and fall of 2014, NLMMU staff completed 28 surveys on 15 lakes and 11 rivers (some waters were surveyed more than once). Data collected from fisheries surveys are used to describe the status of the fish community and its component populations or evaluate specific management programs such as fish stocking or fishing regulations.

Staffing Updates

Starting January 19, 2015, **Jessica Mistak** will be the Supervisor of Fisheries Division's Habitat Management Unit. This statewide unit is responsible for protecting, rehabilitating, mitigating and enhancing public trust aquatic habitat. The HMU administers the Natural Rivers program and the DNR's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission program for hydropower licensing and other energy production proceedings, provides Division support for Department land acquisition efforts which directly protect aquatic habitat, and negotiates and implements legal settlements involving aquatic habitat mitigation. Jessica will serve as the point person for development of and/or reviews of Division, Department, or State policies concerning aquatic habitat and the effects of development projects on aquatic habitat. Jessica will remain in the DNR's Escanaba Office and can be reached at mistakj@michigan.gov or 906-786-2351.



Efforts are underway to fill the Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit Supervisor vacancy. In the interim, questions should be directed to Darren Kramer at kramerd@michigan.gov or 906-786-2351.

The NLMMU would like to welcome **Jennifer Johnson** as the new biologist at Crystal Falls in January 2015. Jennifer received her B.S. in Fisheries Management from Lake Superior State University and her M.S. in Forest Resources (Fisheries Concentration) from University of Georgia. In addition to research and work experience involving freshwater mussels and invasive species, Jennifer owned her own consulting business and was previously employed as a DEQ Aquatic Biologist. Jennifer brings a proven record of building partnerships with stakeholders and conducting outreach and education activities. We are excited to match her unique skill sets with Fisheries Division priority growth areas.



Creel Surveys

Angling effort, catch, and harvest information collected from Fisheries Assistants (i.e. creel clerks) helps the NLMMU make informed fisheries management decisions, including those related to sportfishing regulations and stocking programs. In 2014, Fisheries Assistants conducted summer and winter surveys throughout the management unit for both inland and Great Lakes waters.

The summer surveys focused on data collection from northern Lake Michigan fisheries, which included Big and Little Bays de Noc (Delta County). Creel surveys were also completed on two high-priority inland waters: Brevoort Lake (Mackinac County) and Lake Antoine (Dickinson County). In addition to these surveys, the second year of a special creel survey was completed on Two Mile (Dickinson County) and Bryan's creeks (Marquette/Dickinson counties). This summer survey was conducted to provide supplemental data for the evaluation of brook trout bag limits on Upper Peninsula streams.



Where Do We Stock Fish?

In addition to walleye, the NLMMU works with all Fisheries Division hatcheries to stock many different species of fish including trout, salmon and muskellunge.

To find out where we stock fish and the fish stocking history for the nearshore waters of northern Lake Michigan and inland Upper Peninsula lakes and streams, go to <http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock/> to use our online Fish Stocking Database.



Interested in Learning More About What Fisheries Division Accomplished In Fiscal Year 2014 (Oct. 1, 2013-Sept. 30, 2014)? Go to http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52259-345704--,00.html to view the 2014 Fisheries Division Annual Report!

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors



Have Any Questions? Please Contact Us!

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