

# Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit



FISHERIES DIVISION

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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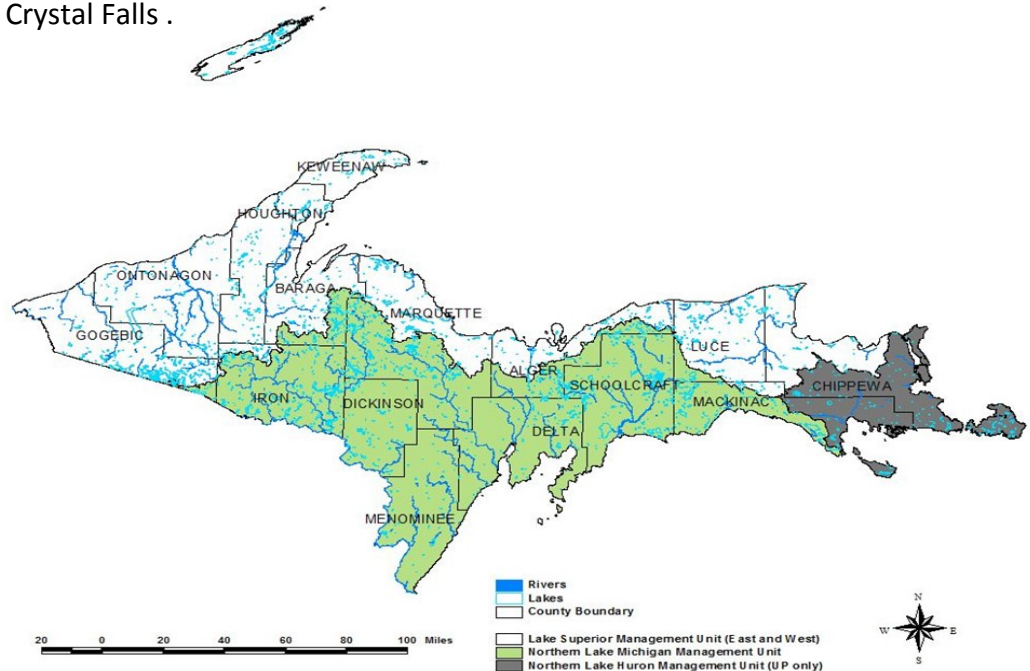
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## What is the NLMMU?

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 from field offices located in Escanaba and Crystal Falls .



## Fisheries Division

### Fisheries Division Mission Statement:

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

### Fisheries Division Vision Statement:

To provide world-class freshwater fishing opportunities, supported by healthy aquatic environments, which enhance the quality of life in Michigan.

# Staffing Updates

The NLMMU would like to welcome John Bauman as the new Fisheries Biologist in Escanaba. In 2005, John received a B.Sc. degree in Fisheries Management from Lake Superior State University. After graduating from LSSU, John began working as an Aquatic Research Biologist for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians conducting surveys on Walleye, Lake Sturgeon, and various trout species. In 2010, John left the Little River Band and began working for Michigan State University as the field and hatchery supervisor at the Black Lake Research Facility.

While at Michigan State University, John completed a M.Sc. Degree studying ecology, aquaculture and early development of fish, with an emphasis on Lake Sturgeon. In February 2016, John left Michigan State University and began working for Fisheries Division with the NLMMU. John has extensive fisheries experience working with Federal, State, Tribal, and University agencies in both a management and research setting. We are eager to apply John's extensive work experience and fisheries knowledge to managing Michigan's Upper Peninsula waters.



## Education and Outreach

In May 2016, NLMMU staff participated in a field trip with students from Iron Mountain Middle School as part of the school district's "Project Based Learning" module coordinated by Michigan State University Extension.

Approximately 30 seventh- and eighth grade students were involved in a watershed education program designed to create increased awareness, knowledge, appreciation and stewardship of Upper Peninsula water resources. Students also participated in field trips that enabled them to understand the connections between land and water within a watershed.

Pine Creek, Dickinson County, was utilized as a field trip location where NLMMU staff discussed a wide variety of topics related to streams including watershed size, landscape cover and use, wetland functions, and sediment transport and deposition. Students also learned how those variables influence fish and aquatic insect communities. A demonstration of a stream fisheries survey was also given using backpack electrofishing equipment.



# Partnership

The Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) is a cooperative invasive species partnership operating in northeast Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The partnership consists of a wide range of partners and members from local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, land managers, utility companies, civic organizations, businesses, and individuals, all interested in the education and management of invasive species in the five county WRISC area.

Non-native invasive species can have devastating ecological and economic impacts to communities. Industries such as forestry, agriculture, and outdoor recreation are all at risk, as are native fish and wildlife habitats. Invasive species are often widely dispersed across the landscape, and do not respect geopolitical boundaries. As such, this coalition strives to combine multi-agency resources and expertise to coordinate education and management of invasive species across borders, promoting best management practices that will help to slow the spread of these invaders.

Beginning in 2015, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division became a local partner with WRISC. Jennifer Johnson, DNR Fisheries Biologist, currently is a Board Member and participates with the Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring team. This unique partnership opens the door for effective communication and management of invasive species in our unit.

For more information on WRISC and the many invasive species projects they are leading, please visit [www.wrisc.org](http://www.wrisc.org). Even better is to plan to attend WRISC's annual meeting in Florence, WI on June 7, 2017. WRISC is always looking for volunteers!



# Professional Development

Each year NLMMU staff take part in education and training opportunities to continue professional development and gain knowledge about Michigan's unique aquatic communities. In turn this training supports future management actions needed for conservation and protection of these public trust resources.

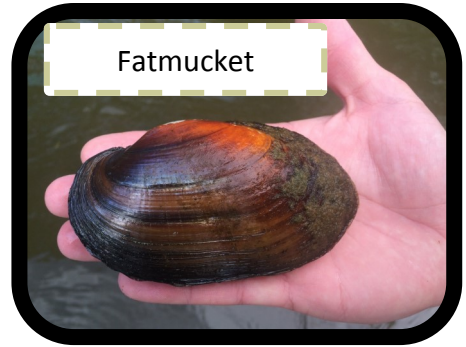
Freshwater mussels are an important component of Michigan's aquatic ecosystems. They are also valuable indicators of ecosystem integrity in lakes and streams. Nearly half of Michigan's native freshwater mussels are in decline and listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern. The Upper Peninsula hosts approximately 16 freshwater mussel species, some of which are listed as Endangered or Threatened. The primary reasons for decline of mussels include habitat loss as a result of construction (dams and roads), stream channelization, water quality degradation, siltation, alterations to natural streamflow, and the introduction of non-native species such as zebra mussels.

In August 2016, NLMMU staff participated in a Michigan Mussel Identification Workshop in Gwinn hosted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Topics covered during the classroom training included life history, conservation, habitat use and distribution, survey sampling protocols, and species identification. A trip to nearby Little Lake, Marquette County rounded out the training where staff and other attendees searched for mussels in the lake and practiced hands-on identification of collected specimens.

Given the importance of mussels to Michigan's aquatic ecosystems, NLMMU staff are increasingly called upon to provide technical assistance and field knowledge of mussel populations found in the unit. The education gained during the Michigan Mussel Identification Workshop will be utilized to protect and conserve mussel populations in the Upper Peninsula.



Fatmucket



Giant Floater



Eastern Elliptio



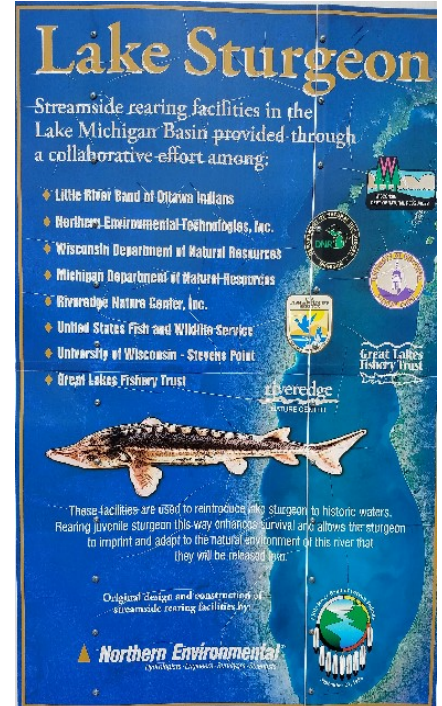
# Lake Sturgeon Management and Update

The Lake Sturgeon, *Acipenser fulvescens*, is the largest freshwater fish native to Michigan and was once abundant throughout the Great Lakes ecosystem. However, abundance and distribution declined from 1885 to 1930 during a period of over harvest, logging, dam building, and habitat loss. Since this initial decline, Lake Sturgeon have had a long history of low levels of abundance within their historic range, and their role as a key benthivore species and indicator of Great Lakes ecosystem health has greatly diminished as a result. Due to their current status as a threatened species in Michigan, the Lake Sturgeon is targeted for rehabilitation in several of Michigan's rivers including the Cedar (Menominee County) and Whitefish (Delta County).

Stocking Lake Sturgeon into the Cedar and Whitefish rivers has been occurring for the past ten years, and will continue until 2026. Since 2007, more than five thousand Lake Sturgeon have been released into the Cedar River (2016; 995 released). Additionally since 2006, more than eight thousand Lake Sturgeon have been released into the Whitefish River (2016; 1,325 released).

Lake Sturgeon are long-lived (over 100 years old) and take many years to reach sexual maturity (e.g., 7 to 15 years for males, 15 to 30 years for females) as compared to other Great Lakes species. Lake Sturgeon are also migrate great distances to return to the rivers they were born in to spawn. While the ultimate success of the Lake Sturgeon stocking program is unknown at this time, it is an encouraging sign that increasing numbers of juvenile Lake Sturgeon have been captured during recent fisheries surveys completed in the bays de Noc by the Marquette Fisheries Research Station and the NLMMU.

Benefits to rehabilitated Lake Sturgeon populations include restored nutrient transport from the Great Lakes and bays de Noc tributaries as well as increased angling opportunities for future generations.



# 2016 Walleye Rearing and Stocking

The NLMMU managed 4 rearing ponds with staff to raise spring fingerling walleye. In addition through cooperative rearing partnerships, walleye were raised by volunteers in 3 ponds: the Indian Lake Rearing Pond was managed by the Indian Lake Property Owners Association, and Oil Tank and Peterson ponds were managed by the Bays de Noc Great Lakes Sportfishermen, Inc. These organizations contributed both labor and financial assistance, and we wish to thank them for all of the hard work and dedication. Overall, the NLMMU and cooperators raised approximately 653,600 spring fingerling walleyes for stocking in waters across the Upper Peninsula.

## 2016 NLMMU Walleye Pond Production

<i>Rearing Pond Name</i>	<i>Number of Spring Fingerlings Harvested</i>
Grasshopper Gulch Pond	86,984
Indian Lake Rearing Pond	11,600
Landfill Pond	1,000
Oil Tank Pond	45,958
Moss Lake Pond	112,198
Peterson Pond	157,455
Warren Pond	238,441



Spring Fingerling Walleye

## 2016 NLMMU Waters Stocked With Spring Fingerling Walleye

<i>Water</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Number Stocked</i>
Camp 7 Lake	Delta	1,500
Carney Lake	Dickinson	3,510
Chicagon Lake	Iron	30,000
Crystal Falls Impoundment	Iron	7,000
Fish Lake	Marquette	5,100
Goose Lake	Marquette	26,000
Indian Lake	Schoolcraft	22,988
Little Bay De Noc	Delta	318,877
Mehl Lake	Marquette	2,730
Round Lake	Delta	19,000



Harvesting Walleye From a Drainable Pond

# 2016 Fisheries Surveys

During the spring, summer and fall, NLMMU and Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit staff completed fisheries surveys on 21 waters across the unit. 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.

## *Waters surveyed in 2016:*

Water	County
Big Bay de Noc	Delta
Brocky Lake	Marquette
Camp 41 Lake	Delta
Carney Lake	Dickinson
Chicagon Lake	Iron
Deer Lake	Iron
East Branch Fox River	Schoolcraft
Escanaba River	Marquette
Grassy Lake	Alger
Hamilton Lake	Dickinson
Hermansville Impoundment	Menominee
Iron River	Iron
Lake Ellen	Iron
Lake Michigamme	Marquette
Little Bay de Noc	Delta
McKeever Lake	Alger
Milakokia Lake	Mackinac
Section 13 Lake	Marquette
South Kidney Lake	Marquette
Sunset Lake	Iron
Swanzy Lake	Marquette



# 2017 Fisheries Surveys



We have another busy survey year scheduled for many waters across the NLMMU. These are the lakes, rivers, and streams that are planned for surveys in 2017:

Water	County
Big Bay de Noc	Delta
Big Island Lake	Schoolcraft
Big Manistique Lake	Luce/Mackinac
Bob's Creek	Marquette
Bryan Creek	Marquette
Brule River	Iron
Cooks Run	Iron
Dana Lake	Delta
Davenport Creek	Mackinac
Escanaba River	Marquette
Fish Lake	Marquette
Iron River	Iron
Koops Creek	Marquette
Lake Mary	Iron
Lake Michigamme	Marquette
Little Bay de Noc	Delta
Michigamme Falls Reservoir	Iron
Milakokia Lake	Mackinac
Norway Lake	Iron
Paint Lake	Iron
Shakey Lakes	Menominee
South Branch Paint River	Iron
Worcester	Schoolcraft





# Other Fisheries Related Items

## Fish Stocking

To obtain information on where we stock fish, visit the DNR Fisheries website at <http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock/>

## Tagged Walleye in the NLMMU

If you catch a fish with a jaw tag, please report the following information: species, length, weight (if known), tag location (where tag was attached), identification number (the larger of the two sets of numbers), tag return address (for example MICH DNR MM-1), capture date, and capture location by using the tag return form found at:

<http://www.michigandnr.com/taggedfish/tags>

## 2017 Free Fishing Weekends

Two days twice a year, families and friends can enjoy one of Michigan's premier outdoor activities, fishing for FREE! The 2017 Free Fishing Weekends are scheduled for this winter: February 18 & 19 and this summer: June 10 & 11.

Go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr), Click on Fishing, then Fishing In Michigan, and find Free Fishing weekends under Tools for Going Fishing in Michigan section.



## Family Friendly Fishing Waters

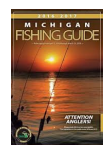
Are you looking for a great place to go fishing that is easy to access, has a high likelihood of catching fish, has various amenities, and is all around family-friendly? Then the Family Friendly Fishing Waters project can help! For more information on Family Friendly Fishing Waters.

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-299046--,00.html>



## 2016 - 2017 Fishing Guide

Attention Anglers! Please note the fishing guide published for April 1, 2016 is a two-year guide. The regulations cover 2016 - 2017 and go through March 31, 2018. Pick up a 2016—2017 fishing guide at a DNR Customer Service Center, Field Office, or your local retail sales outlet or download a PDF at: <http://www.eregulations.com/michigan/fishing/>



# Trout Trails

Michigan is nationally known as a trout fishing destination with nearly 20,000 miles of cold, quality trout streams and hundreds of trout lakes accessible to anglers. With all these sites to visit, how does an angler decide where to go?

Check out Michigan's Trout Trails which are biologist-verified great trout waters that are often lesser known. This website includes detailed descriptions and photos for each site, as well as information for area lodging, restaurants and guide services to assist with your trip planning needs. In addition, site-specific information such as the trout species available, regulations, stocked or natural reproduction and other noteworthy tidbits are all at your fingertips!

The first and second phases of Trout Trails features nearly 200 sites spread out over multiple areas of Michigan: western and central Upper Peninsula, northern Lower Peninsula and south-western and southeastern Lower Peninsula. Additional locations will be added over time to eventually provide statewide trails for anglers to pursue.



Go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr), Click on Fishing, then Fishing In Michigan, and find Trout Trails under Maps section.



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## Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

