

**Collection of Botulism Suspect Carcasses for Submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Disease Laboratory (WDL) for Examination**

1. Any bird collected for submission for necropsy and botulism testing must be freshly dead. Presence of a bad smell or maggots is evidence that the bird has been dead longer than 24 hours and is not acceptable for testing. Decomposed carcasses can cause false positive results.
  
2. Submission of birds for examination and testing needs to be limited to two individuals/species/county. Once the disease is confirmed in a species in a county no additional testing will be done on that species. Any birds found bearing a band should be reported using the contact information printed on the band. If a banded loon is found and is not needed for or suitable for botulism testing at the WDL, please contact Damon McCormick or Joe Kaplan listed below. They would like to obtain blood, feather and tissue samples from banded loons.
  
3. Individuals handling dead birds should wear rubber, plastic, or disposable gloves. Place the carcasses in a garbage bag and seal the bag. **Collected specimens need to be bagged individually or by species and a history provided. The history should include date collected, location (county, township, range, and section if possible), the numbers and species involved in the die-off, and a contact name and address.**
  
4. Citizens should contact one of the individuals on the Northern Lake Michigan Botulism contact list below. If unable to do this, the nearest [DNR Wildlife Office](#) should be contacted and arrangements made to deliver the specimens to the office. It may be possible for DNR personnel to pick up specimens, but it may be necessary to deliver them. DNR field personnel will forward the specimens to the DNR wildlife Disease Lab in Lansing for necropsy and botulism testing.

**NORTHERN LAKE MICHIGAN BOTULISM CONTACT LIST**

COUNTY COORDINATOR	COUNTIES	PHONE	EMAIL
Caroline Keson	Alpena Charlevoix Cheboygan Emmet Presque Isle	231-347-1181 x 109	<a href="mailto:Caroline@watershedcouncil.org">Caroline@watershedcouncil.org</a>
Vincent Cavalieri Erica Plesha	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	231-326-4751 231-326-4757	<a href="mailto:vincent_cavalieri@nps.gov">vincent_cavalieri@nps.gov</a> <a href="mailto:erica_plesha@partner.nps.gov">erica_plesha@partner.nps.gov</a>
Joe Kaplan	Delta Menominee	906-487-9060	<a href="mailto:commoncoast@gmail.com">commoncoast@gmail.com</a>

Damon McCormick	Benzie Leelanau Mackinac Schoolcraft	906-202-0602	<a href="mailto:d1m@commoncoast.org">d1m@commoncoast.org</a>
Heather Smith	Antrim Grand Traverse	231-935-1514 x 3	<a href="mailto:hsmith@gtbay.org">hsmith@gtbay.org</a>

[Wildlife Disease Manual: Botulism](#)