

Burt Lake Watershed Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting 7/12/2017

Announcement: Addition was made to the Seven Springs Preserve at the south side of Burt Lake. This addition allows for trail system expansion.

Removal of the Lake Kathleen Dam by Conservation Resource Alliance – rivercare.org

CRA has been free spanning rivers for 15 years. Work will begin in 2018 to remove the Lake Kathleen Dam.

Brook Trout: The 2nd largest population of Brook Trout in Michigan is in the West Branch Maple River. There has been no stocking since the 1950's.

Sea Lamprey:

Sea Lamprey entered the Maple, Sturgeon, and Pigeon Rivers from Lake Huron in the 1940's and 50's. There are small populations in the Burt and Mullet Lakes. The Alverno Dam blocks them from the Black River (and Black Lake).

It appears the Cheboygan Dam does not allow more to get into the watershed. What is already present multiplies. The female can lay 60,000 eggs. A cofferdam will be a temporary solution to keep sea lamprey from going further after the Lake Kathleen Dam is removed.

April, May and June the sea lamprey goes to streams to spawn in sediment and die. Three to ten years later the fish grow. When they reach 5-6", they go through metamorphosis. During Fall high water, they push to rivers. They feed on steelhead, whitefish, salmon, sturgeon, and walleye.

Lampricide has been applied about every 4 years, costs \$400,000 and is 95% effective. Last treatment was August 2016 to the Maple and Sturgeon Rivers; September 2016 to the Pigeon River.

There are 2 types of lamprey. Silver lamprey (native and very small) and Sea Lamprey (invasive much larger). They have found tiny holes in healthy fish from the silver lamprey. The sea lamprey leaves a much larger wound in the fish and either kills or severely harms the fish.

Research Ecologist, Nicholas Johnson, USGS, Great Lake Science Center, says that they are trying the release of sterilized male sea lamprey in the Pigeon, Sturgeon, and Maple Rivers. The sterilized male mates with the female and they both die. This is a cheaper solution than Lampricide. The goal is to release 40,000 males. Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program is a key partner.

New Zealand Mud Snail: There are a lot in the Pere Marquette area; in the AuSable. Formula 409 has proven to kill larva on boots. Reminder: completely clean all boots, attire and equipment before and after being in the lake, river or stream.

~~ Holly Gedert