

Sportsman's Pocket Guide to Climate Change in



Michigan

4 Iconic Species & Habitats at Risk

Economic Benefits

Climate change poses a serious threat to Michigan's bountiful fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. From warming trout streams that threaten the fishing economy of the state to reduced water levels and potentially increased dead zones in the Great Lakes, climate change impacts on natural resources threaten Michigan's already embattled economy.

Every year, more than 4 million people spend over \$5 billion on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in Michigan. The value of the Great Lakes to Michigan's economy goes well beyond recreation, providing shipping and transport and even the cultural identity that keep people and businesses in the state.



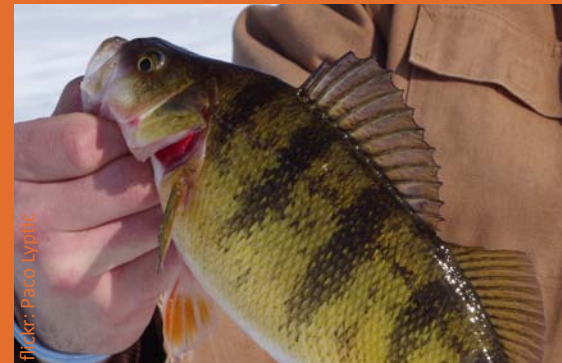
Great Lakes Region Potential impacts include reduced water levels, increased frequency of intense storm events, and warmer temperatures. Changes in internal water cycling with longer summer stratification could lead to larger dead zones.



Brook Trout Because brook trout are unable to tolerate waters above about 72oF, climate change is projected to dramatically reduce their habitat, as well as that of other trout species across much of North America.



Moose Moose become stressed by temperatures above 57oF in summer and above 23oF in winter. Temperature increases in recent decades have dropped the northwest moose population from some 4,000 animals to about 100 today.



Yellow Perch Climate change has already affected the winter ice fishing for yellow perch and other species. The mild 2006-2007 winter kept anglers on the shores waiting for safe ice. Fishing tournaments were cancelled and the sale of fishing licenses dropped.

Michigan's wildlife and natural resources are the backbone of Michigan's economy. In addition to providing essential services like safe drinking water and clean air, these resources sustain the state's booming hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation industry.

-Annual Participants in Wildlife Recreation:

4.2 million

-Consumer Spending:

\$5.1 million

-Jobs Created:

72,812

-Funding for MI Natural Resources in Clean Energy and Climate Legislation:

\$19.3 million avg. per year

Source: 2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey on Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation

Calling on Congress

The single most important action to protect species and wildlife at risk from climate change is for Congress to pass comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation. This legislation must cap and then reduce carbon pollution as well as safeguard America's natural resources. In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the US must reduce emissions by around 80% by mid-century, and as much as possible in the near term. Legislation moving through Congress now would achieve such goals.

State-Based Solutions:

The Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) is an organization working to reduce these threats while nurturing the economic vitality of northern Michigan. The CRA helps preserve high-value habitat, particularly the riparian corridors where most diversity occurs. CRA collaborates with private landowners to develop detailed project plans, arrange grant funding, encourage conservation easements and assist with implementation of habitat improvement projects including invasive species removal, streambank and wetland restoration, and sustainable timber harvesting.

Safeguarding Wildlife & Natural Resources

To address the impacts we are already seeing on wildlife and habitat and to confront the inevitable impacts of climate change on our natural resources, legislation must include funding to safeguard fish, wildlife and natural resources upon which we all rely. These funds should be provided through the revenue generated by clean energy and climate legislation and be dedicated to the federal, state and tribal agencies that manage natural resources. This funding will protect our natural resource based economy, and create tens of thousands of new "green" jobs – restoring wetlands and streams, removing invasive species, building and restoring wildlife corridors, and protecting habitat and natural watersheds.

Michiganders & Sportsmen Want Action

Dear Senator,
We urge you to work with your colleagues to ensure that the Senate passes comprehensive climate and energy legislation this year. In order to safeguard fish, wildlife and their habitats, we urge that legislation must include both reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and dedication of allowance value for natural resources adaptation programs.

*American Fisheries Society *American Fly Fishing Trade Association *American Sportfishing Association *Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies *Berkley Conservation Institute *Campfire Club *Dallas Safari Club *Ducks Unlimited *Houston Safari Club *Izaak Walton League of America *Mule Deer Foundation *National Trappers Association *National Wildlife Federation *Pheasants Forever *Quality Deer Management Association *The Wildlife Society *Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership *Trout Unlimited *Wildlife Forever *Wildlife Management Institute

Dear Senator,
On behalf of our organizations, we urge you to pass comprehensive climate and energy legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and dedicates 5% of the total allowance value for natural resources adaptation in order to safeguard fish and wildlife, and the natural resources on which we all rely.

Alliance for the Great Lakes * Dwight Lydell Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America * Fenton Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America * Freshwater Future * Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge * Great Lakes Committee, Izaak Walton League of America * Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers * Great Lakes Environmental Law Center * Huron River Watershed Council * Jackson Audubon Society * Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow * Lake Erie Region Conservancy * Mackinac Bands of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians * Michigan Audubon * Michigan Energy Alternatives Project * Michigan Environmental Council * North Country Trail Association * Organization for Bat Conservation * Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council * Voices for the Earth

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