

FISH TALES

BLUEWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER

<https://bluewateranglers.com>

WINTER 2026

JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Point Edward Arena & Community Centre

210 Monk Street

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Meeting starts at 7:30 PM

AGENDA

Election of Directors for 2026- 2028 Term

2025 Treasurer's Report

Hatchery Update

Upcoming Club Events

- Ice Fishing Derby

- Hatchery Open House

Salmon Derby Update

Fishing Report

GUEST SPEAKER

Allen Curry

*The Weaving Waters Expedition
A Solo Great Loop to the East Coast*

*Honorary Research Professor of Recreational Fisheries,
University of New Brunswick*



In 2024, Allen completed a 14-month, 7,200 nautical mile, solo boat journey around eastern North America, the Weaving Waters Expedition. It was a Great Loop plus some East Coast Loop back to his then home in Fredericton, NB. Allen will tell his water stories of adventure and learning, weaving these together with his 30+ years as Professor of Recreational Fisheries, Biology, Forestry, and Environmental Management at UNB Fredericton.

Allen grew up in Muskoka fishing her lakes and streams, attended Waterloo, Trent, and Guelph, and along the way worked for OMNR in Peterborough, Bancroft, Algonquin Park, and Nipigon. He left 30 years ago to become the Fisheries Director, NB Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in Fredericton, NB. He was also a founding member of the Canadian Rivers Institute and then its Director for 9 years. Along the way, Allen has worked on Brook, Rainbow, and Brown trout, Atlantic salmon, Stiped bass, Atlantic and Shortnose sturgeon, Smallmouth bass, Smelt, and many more species. He has >200 peer-reviewed publications, reports, books, and book chapters in the fields of fish ecology, fisheries, freshwater/estuarine/reef ecology, ecohydrology, and various fields within hydrology from environmental flows to forest hydrology processes. His book works include co-authoring the Inland Fishes of New Brunswick and the upcoming Atlas of the Freshwater Fishes of Canada. Allen now lives in Hamilton, ON.

Thank You Moose Riders for your generous donation



ELECTION OF 2026 – 2028 CLUB DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and thank this year's retiring directors for their service and dedication. The retiring directors are Ralph Eves, Ron Allison, Ross Bishop, Al Dezort, Rob Mina, John Sipkens and Garry Willock.

One third of the Bluewater Anglers Board of Directors is elected to a 3-year term at the first General Membership Meeting of each year. At least Two (2) new directors are needed for the 2026 - 2028 term. Both shore and boat fishermen/fisherwomen are encouraged to get involved in helping run your club. New people bring new ideas and new perspectives that help our club grow and prosper. This is your chance to get involved in running your club. The Board of Directors meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the hatchery. Anybody interested in becoming a director or knows a club member who is interested, please contact Ralph Eves (r_gary_1217@outlook.com or 519-383-0873) before the January 6th General Membership meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the January 6th General Membership Meeting.



Donation on-line through web site

\$150 from

Bart Sybenga, Concrete Systems Ltd in Petrolia

We are sad to see Gerry Lanteigne retiring.

Gerry has been a dedicated hatchery operator from the early 2000.



Thank You Gerry



The Bluewater Anglers' fish hatchery will be open to the public on Saturday, March 14th and Sunday, March 15th between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM each day. The Bluewater Anglers' hatchery is located in the brown building just north of the Bluewater Bridges at the west end of Michigan Avenue. We invite all club members and the public to see how we raise Chinook Salmon, Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout for release into the upper St. Clair River and lower Lake Huron. This is the future fish stock for the local waters. Bring your family and friends. Come and visit us.



2026 Listing of Events

General Membership Meeting	January 6
Ice Derby (No Rain Date)	February 14
Hatchery Open House	March 14 - 15
General Membership Meeting	April 7
Club Spring Derby	April 25
Bluewater Anglers Salmon Derby	May 1 - 10
Bluewater Anglers Salmon Derby Awards Night	May 20
Kids Training Day <i>Registration Required</i>	May 30
Family Fun Fishing Derby	July 4
Walleye Derby	July 24 - 25
General Membership Meeting	September 8
Next Year's 1st General Membership Meeting	Jan 5, 2027

All events are open to the public.
Visit our website for details on all events.


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Bluewater Anglers Hatchery
 Pt. Edward Waterfront Park
 P.O. Box #174 | Sarnia | Ontario | N7T7H9
 519-344-9821 www.bluewateranglers.com

BLUEWATER ANGLERS ICE FISHING DERBY

Saturday, February 14, 2026

The Ice Fishing Derby is the first club event of 2026. Hopefully, Mother Nature will cooperate.

The outing is held on the first license-free weekend in Ontario, so no fishing license is needed. The Ice Fishing Derby is open to both club members and the public. Bring the family and some friends and enjoy a morning fishing on Sarnia Bay.

An entry fee of \$5.00 per person must accompany the entry form. Entry forms and complete Ice Fishing Derby information will be available at the January 6th General Membership Meeting. **The Outdoorsman** will have application forms until 4:30 PM on Friday, February 13. Tickets will be available at the Sarnia Bay Marina

parking lot on Saturday morning February 14 between 7:30 AM -9:00 AM. You must buy your Ice Fishing Derby ticket before you start fishing.

The Ice Fishing Derby starts at 6:00 AM on Saturday, February 14.

Participants can bring their catch to the weigh-in station located at the Sarnia Bay Marina boat ramp anytime during the morning. All fish must be weighed in by 11:00 AM.

Prizes will be based on 90% of the ticket sales. 10% will go to the Bluewater Anglers Hatchery. Cash prizes will be awarded based on weight in each of the three fish categories ... **Panfish** (including perch, crappie, sunfish, rock bass), **Pike**, and **Trout** (Rainbow and Brown Trout). All fish entered must be caught through the ice in Sarnia or Point Edward, and all provincial fishing regulations must be obeyed. You may enter only one fish per category. If no fish are entered in a category, the prizes for that category will be added to the Panfish category. Prizes will be awarded immediately after the weigh-in closes at 11:00 AM.

Timbits and Hot Chocolate will be served as well. Draw prizes will be made from entrants 16 and under.

Draw Prize winners must be present for the draws made at the close of the weigh-in.



STATUS OF SEA LAMPREY ABUNDANCES IN THE GREAT LAKES

Abundances return to pre-pandemic levels after resumption of regularly scheduled treatments

ANN ARBOR, MI—The annual Status of Sea Lamprey Control report for 2025 has recently been released by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission). The report highlights that adult sea lamprey abundances increased in Lake Superior but decreased in Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario.

According to the report, adult indices in 2025 appear to have returned to levels seen before the COVID-19 pandemic, when lampricide treatments were limited during 2020 and 2021. The number of adult sea lampreys captured during 2025 was 37,800 adults, which is just below the 3-year pre-COVID average of 38,167 (2017-2019). Although some indices remain affected by elevated populations resulting from limited treatments during COVID, the resumption of treatment efforts indicates an encouraging shift in abundances, as the decreases observed in the 2024 adult indices for Lakes Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Ontario have continued into 2025.

The report highlights the necessity of continued sea lamprey control and research into innovative control measures. Sea lampreys—native to the Atlantic Ocean—are an invasive species that have posed a constant, significant threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem. Feeding on the blood and bodily fluids of fish, attaching to prey with a tooth-filled suction cup mouth, a sea lamprey can consume up to 40 lbs (18 kg) of Great Lakes fish. Control efforts are critical to the protection, preservation, conservation, and management efforts around the basin, and the 2025

report further elucidates that lampricide treatments are highly effective in controlling sea lamprey populations.

“If we are unable to control sea lamprey populations, our native fish populations would suffer immensely,” said Earl Provost, vice chair of the Commission. “As we saw in 2022 and 2023, sea lamprey populations can easily skyrocket if control efforts cease. We are just now getting back to a semblance of what it was like before the COVID-19 pandemic, and there is still much work to do.”

Ethan Baker, chair of the Commission, added, “The Great Lakes mean a great deal to the millions of people living, working, and recreating in the basin. This \$5.1 billion industry could crash if sea lamprey populations get out of control again. No one wants to have a repeat of the early days when it was hard to find a fish without a sea lamprey wound. So, we are going to continue working hard—working with federal, state, and Tribal partners—to make sure lampricide treatments can continue without pause.”

REPORT DETAILS, BY LAKE:

LAKE SUPERIOR: Though the adult sea lamprey abundance decreased for 2025, the 3-year average shows the abundance remains above target for Lake Superior. Stream-specific estimates showed the Bad and Tahquamenon rivers contributed the most to the lake-wide index estimate in 2025 (46% and 40%, respectively). Notably, the adult sea lamprey catch in the Tahquamenon River was the second highest on record, with a catch of 2,156 adult lampreys. In addition, the Brule and Middle Rivers had below-average spawning runs in 2025, likely due to lampricide applications on both streams in 2024.

LAKE MICHIGAN: The 3-year average of adult sea lamprey abundance decreased in 2025, but remains

above target for Lake Michigan. However, the index of abundance has remained relatively stable around the target level for the past 10 years. Stream-specific estimates showed that the Manistique and Big Manistee Rivers contributed most to the lake-wide index estimate in 2025 (37% and 22%, respectively).

LAKE HURON: The 3-year average of adult sea lamprey abundance decreased in 2025, but remains above the target for Lake Huron. Stream-specific estimates showed that the Echo and Cheboygan Rivers contributed most to the lake-wide index estimate (28% and 26%, respectively).

LAKE ERIE: The 3-year average of the adult sea lamprey index decreased in 2025 and is below the target for Lake Erie. Population estimates were generated using mark-recapture data for three of five index streams. The population estimates for Cattaraugus and Youngs Creeks were modeled due to insufficient recaptures of marked sea lampreys. Stream-specific estimates showed the Cattaraugus (modeled) and Big Creeks contributed most to the lake-wide index estimate (36% and 26%, respectively). Notably, larval assessment agents are having difficulties finding sea lampreys in Lake Erie tributaries, which corroborates the low adult abundances observed in recent years.

LAKE ONTARIO: The 3-year average of the adult sea lamprey index decreased in 2025, but remains above the target for Lake Ontario. However, it is worth noting that adult sea lamprey abundance from 2023 to 2025 significantly reduced from 56,000 to 11,584. Population estimates were generated using mark-recapture data for four of five index streams. The population estimate for Sterling Creek was modeled due to insufficient recaptures of marked sea lampreys. Stream-specific estimates showed the Humber and Black rivers contributed most to the lake-wide index estimate (37% and 31%, respectively). Due to lampricide applications

in 2024, spawning runs were likely diminished in four of the five index streams.

For more information on status, visit www.glf.org/status.php

As a response to the cataclysmic damage to the Great Lakes fishery caused by sea lampreys, the governments of Canada and the United States established the Commission in 1955. Through the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, the Commission is charged with sea lamprey control and research, fisheries research, and fisheries management coordination. Sea lamprey control and research are conducted in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Geological Survey. Sea lamprey control primarily consists of the use of lampricides and barriers, with trapping sea lampreys as a means to measure abundance. Additionally, the Commission is evaluating the use of chemosensory cues as a means to influence migratory and spawning behaviors. For more information, visit www.glf.org/sea-lamprey.php.

THE WEAVING WATERS EXPEDITION

The Bluewater Anglers Present:
Allen Curry's Solo Great Loop to the East Coast

In 2024, Allen completed a 14-month, 7,200 nautical mile, solo boat journey around eastern North America, The Weaving Waters Expedition. It was a Great Loop plus some East Coast Loop back to his then home in Fredericton, NB. Allen will tell his water stories of adventure and learning, weaving these together with his 30+ years as Professor of Recreational Fisheries, Biology, Forestry, and Environmental Management at UNB Fredericton.

JANUARY 6
210 Monk St, Point Edward

DRAW PRIZES BY:

Li Time **CABIN CREEK SUPPLY**

MORE INFO:
Doors open at 7:00 pm - Event starts at 7:30 pm
Licensed bar, draw prizes, and Bluewater Anglers memberships available for purchase.
Derby and hatchery updates will be provided.

BLUEWATER ANGLERS AND OFAH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The **Bluewater Anglers** are an affiliated club of the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)**. Membership in the Bluewater Anglers includes membership in the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** since all members of an affiliated club must also be members of OFAH (www.ofah.org). Members can choose between an OFAH membership which includes the \$5 million personal insurance and OFAH benefits with or without the **Ontario OUT OF DOORS (OOD)** magazine. If you have a current **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** membership through another club or organization, then you only need to pay for your regular Bluewater Anglers membership.

Complete the form below to become a Bluewater Anglers member or to renew your current membership. More information about membership benefits can be found at <https://www.bluewateranglers.com/memberships> and www.ofah.org. Contact Rob Mina (519-328-6918 or rob_esso@hotmail.com) for more information.

BLUEWATER ANGLERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2025

Date (YYYY/MM/DD): ____/____/____ Membership: New ____ Renewal ____

Step 1: Bluewater Anglers Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior: \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single: \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$30.00
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Step 2: Do you have a current OFAH Membership from OFAH or another club. If YES complete Step 3. If NO complete step 4.	Step 3: OFAH Membership # _____	Step 3: OFAH Expiry Date ____/____/____ (YYYY/MM/DD)
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Step 4: OFAH Membership	OFAH Membership Type	Ontario Out of Doors magazine	OFAH Membership Benefits
Junior (under 18 yr. of age)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	No	Full (except voting)
Basic Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00	No	Basic (no family additions)
Full Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	Yes	Full
If a Full Adult AND a Family Membership	(Select all that apply)		
Spouse / Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	Yes	Full
Number of Adult Children (age 18 - 25)	<input type="checkbox"/> X \$15.00 / child	Yes	Full
Number of Teen Children (age 13 - 17)	<input type="checkbox"/> X \$5.00 / child	Yes	Full
Number of Children (age - under 13)	<input type="checkbox"/> No fee / child	Yes	Full

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ City _____
Province/State _____ Country _____ Postal/Zip Code _____
Email Address _____

NOTE: The names & birth dates of ALL family members are needed to ensure that each person is covered by the personal insurance and OFAH benefits.

Name	Date of Birth	Name	Date of Birth
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Make the membership cheque payable to the **BLUEWATER ANGLERS** and send the completed membership form to **Bluewater Anglers, c/o Membership Coordinator, P.O. Box 174, Sarnia Ontario N7T 7H9.**