



# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## *News Release*

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Add Month, Day, 20XX]

Contact: [Add name, email, phone number]

### **Sea Lamprey Control planned for the St. Marys River**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Fisheries and Oceans Canada personnel will apply lampricides to sections of the St. Marys River (Chippewa County) to kill sea lamprey larvae burrowed in the stream bottom. Applications will be conducted between XXXXX and XXXXX, 20XX, in accordance with State of Michigan permits. Application dates are tentative and may be changed based upon local weather or stream conditions near the time of treatment.

Sea lamprey larvae live in hundreds of Great Lakes tributaries and transform to parasites that migrate to the Great Lakes and kill fish by feeding on their blood and body fluids. Failure to kill sea lamprey larvae in streams will result in significant damage to the Great Lakes fishery. The St. Marys River is treated on a regular basis with lampricides to control sea lamprey populations.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency have reviewed human health and environmental safety data for lampricides, and in 2003 concluded that the lampricides (Lampricide and Bayluscide) pose no unreasonable risk to the general population and the environment when applied at concentrations necessary to control larval sea lampreys. However, as with any pesticide, the public is advised to use discretion and minimize unnecessary exposure. Lampricides are selectively toxic to sea lampreys, but a few fish, insect, and broadleaf plants are sensitive. Persons confining bait fish or other organisms in the St. Marys River are advised to use an alternate water source because lampricides may cause mortality among aquatic organisms stressed by crowding and handling. Agricultural irrigation must be suspended for 24 hours, during and following treatment.

Under the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission is responsible for developing and implementing sea lamprey control through the Great Lakes basin, which it does through contractual arrangements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and

Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Commission initiated chemical control of sea lampreys in 1958. Since that time, the highly successful program has contributed significantly to the maintenance of the \$7 billion Great Lakes sport and commercial fisheries.

For additional information in the U.S. call 1-800-472-9212 and in Canada call 1-800-553-9091. TTY users may reach the Marquette or Ludington Biological Stations through the Michigan State Relay Service at 1-800-649-3777.

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*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [fws.gov](https://www.fws.gov).*

*The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is an international organization established by the United States and Canada through the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The commission has the responsibility to promote measures that protect and improve the multi-billion-dollar Great Lakes fishery. Visit online at [www.glfc.org](http://www.glfc.org)*