

An all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) – Serving Townships of Elk Rapids, Milton, Torch Lake, and West Banks

Summer 2026 Edition

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TODAY'S WEATHER:

www.wunderground.com/us/mi/kewadin

STORM CENTRAL

www.gtlakes.com/storm-central/



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

<https://www.weather.gov>

EASTB Watershed Protection Plan

Identifies seven perennial creeks flowing into East Grand Traverse Bay. One-half of the 22-mile Antrim shoreline (23 sq. miles) consists of public Preserves and Parks.

Countless seeps and ephemeral Creeks also exist. High water erodes beaches & bluffs, drowns bird and aquatic habitats, coastal ponds, guzzles, wetlands, sand spits, and islands. These have now re-surfaced with lower water.

Seven (7) Perennial Creeks (outflows)

#7. Whisky Creek.

Lake shore Dr
Norwood Twp.

#6. Antrim Creek.

Near Brant Road,
Banks Twp.

#5. Guyer Creek.

Timberlake Shore Rd
Banks Twp.

#4. Creswell Creek

Creswell Lane
Torchlake Twp.

#3. Mitchell Creek

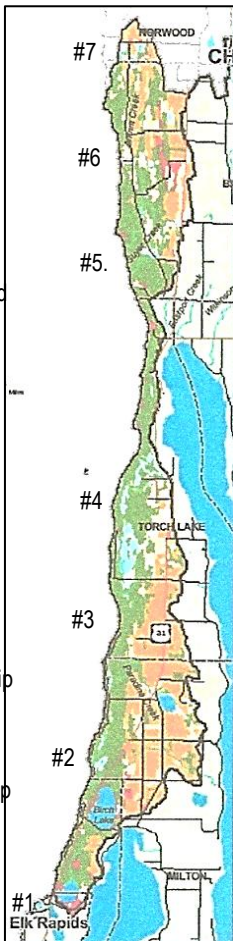
Joe Marks
Trail, Milton Township

#2. Paradine Creek

Winters Trail
Elk Rapids Township

#1 Birch Lake Creek

Inwood. Harbor
Williams Rd, ER



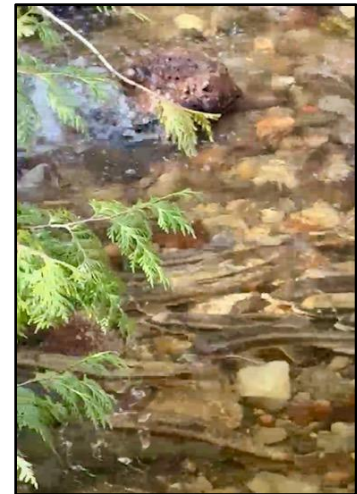
RESTORE THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAY FOOD WEB – ONE STREAM AT A TIME

FOCUS ON MITCHELL CREEK-KEWADIN - Suckers Return to Mitchell Creek

BY: Scott DeFrain

After years of limited sucker migrations into Mitchell Creek-Kewadin from East Grand Traverse Bay, a more substantial run was observed in late April 2026. Water flow in the Creek was improved by removing blockages, including beaver dams, by the TNN/ER-Rotary Creek restoration project, and abundant seasonal rainfall. Sucker runs are beneficial to small stream ecosystems when they leave behind eggs and waste as they migrate up the stream basin.

Photo: White Suckers staging in a gravelly area of Mitchell Creek-Kewadin. Photo By: Scott DeFrain



MITCHELL CREEK- KEWADIN IS FLOWING YEAR-ROUND

Water is flowing again through the main channel of the Creek to East Grand Traverse Bay (EASTB). Obstructions were removed upstream and at a tributary outflow. Additional water originates north of Erickson Rd. Spring 2026 rain overwhelmed Erickson Rd. but did not wash out this year as did happen along M-88. The 6 square mile watershed extends from Coleman Rd. south to Campbell Rd. and west from the high Torch Lake bluffs to East Bay.

MORE TO DO – WITH YOUR SUPPORT AS ANTRIM EASTB RESIDENTS

Open Creek's main channel by trout experts. Add 2nd stream to restore. Local TNN skills, science, and network began 20 years ago as neighbors corrected E coli pollution. Ended Land disposal of human waste on six of seven sites. Checked horizontal fracking. Created EASTB Watershed Protection Plan. Courts ruled public may walk "sandy sidewalk" near the Bayshore – 50% is public. With ROWI, TNN is helping to reduce L. Michigan-Huron and EAST Bay water level range from 6 feet to a natural 4 feet.

TNN - A Voice for Seasonal & Year-round Residents



WHAT'S NEXT: Fundraise in October to re-channel Mitchell Creek-Kewadin for trout; Restore a 2nd local trout stream with new volunteers.

TNN skills, knowledge, science, and connections serve local residents' interests, whether seasonal or year-round.



QUAGGA MUSSELS – LATEST RESEARCH

THERE IS HOPE AND A WAY FORWARD!

GREATEST FRESHWATER ECO SYSTEM WAS DESTROYED BY INVASIVE QUAGGA MUSSELS

Quagga are massive filter feeders that blanket lakebeds in quadrillions. Re-engineer eco-systems by stripping water of nutrients and plankton & causing an environmental shift on a scale of the glaciers. [1, 2, 3].

Mussels have been sucking the life out of the Great Lakes. They are trapping nutrients, the basic building blocks of life, on the lake bottom. Without nutrients, organisms of all kinds – from the tiniest plankton to the largest fish – have vanished. In Lakes Huron, Michigan, and Ontario, vast offshore areas have become “biological deserts,” heralding one of the biggest changes to the Earth’s freshwaters in 10,000 years.

The cause: invasive Quagga mussels from the Black Sea region in eastern Europe which invaded in discharged bilge water from ocean going freighters. (In eastern European waters, quagga mussels are kept in check by a balance of co-evolved natural predators, competitors, and long-term ecosystem adaptation.) Local fish, diving ducks, and native invertebrates have had thousands of years to adapt to feeding on mussels, preventing the unchecked explosions in newly invade regions (NOAA)

Our planet's greatest freshwater ecosystem, the North American Great Lakes, has been fundamentally altered by quadrillions of tiny invasive quagga. This massive biological shift is the focus of the documentary project [All Too Clear](#). [1, 2]

Efforts to control mussels in the Great Lakes reveal hope but not yet large-scale solutions in open water. There is hope of doing so in rivers

TNN IS COMMITTED TO RESTORE FOOD WEB - ONE STREAM AT A TIME.

The focus has been on restoring trout, smelt, and steelhead commonly seen in Mitchell Creek-Kewadin 50 years ago (see Front Page story). Every species – trout, cisco, steelhead and even salmon migrated into Mitchell Creek-Kewadin in the editor’s memory and the memory of people who grew up locally. The removal of blockages a year ago has seen suckers re-enter the stream several hundred feet from East Bay.

Prior editions of TNN News also reported on a successful joint USDA – DNR initiative to bring back lunker trout in Lake Huron streams.

TNN Film Review: All Too Clear: Beneath the Surface of the Great Lakes

BY: Husband & wife filmmaking team Zach Melnick and Yvonne Drebert.

Film focus is on whitefish. Adikameg, in Ojibwa, sustained the people for millennia - also commercial fishery. TNN will add whitefish as a stream migrating species.

EXCELLENT WORK! SEE FOR YOURSELF. <https://inspiredplanet.ca/alltooclear/>

WHITE FISH – ADIKAMEG - KEY SPECIES IN CULTURE - ECOLOGY - COMMERCE



Whitefish can live for 30 years and grow up to 4 lbs. White fish population once totaled 100 million – now down to a tiny fraction. Fisheries indigenous and commercial are nearly gone. Experts conclude that the cause is not over-harvesting but under-reproduction and under-feeding. Food (zooplankton) concentrations have dropped 99%. Baby whitefish growth is down 50%. Baby fish are quite literally starving.

Whitefish food, Zooplankton, is gone because of invasive Quagga mussels. Invasive round gobies eat small mussels but only after large mussels have been eliminated. Experiments to eliminate Quagga mussels have so far not proved scalable to open waters of the Great Lakes. While the large-scale removal of Quagga from Great Lakes remains elusive, there is hope! It is possible to restore fish populations in rivers and streams. The tribes have developed whitefish hatcheries and are stocking streams.

Per the film, long ago there were river whitefish and lake whitefish. River whitefish disappeared due to logging practices. But nutrients remain which can be planted with nursery fish eggs to become fingerlings. In Green Bay WI, whitefish have returned naturally to rivers despite Quagga being present. Mid L. Michigan spawning reefs are a virtual desert. But schools of large plump whitefish have been observed. Perhaps there is an oasis effect in the desert due to prevailing currents. Returned and replanted whitefish populations in rivers and streams is scalable – the Great lakes are not yet!

WE WANT ADIKAMEG (WHITEFISH) BACK IN OUR STREAMS!

The film closes with an emotional tribal spokesman, “My 25-year vision, I want these fish back in these rivers for thousands of reasons. I want fishers to catch them. But really, I just want them back where they belong!”

LOCAL SPORT FISHING EXPERIENCE – King Salmon, Coho, Smallmouth Bass

Local fishermen are catching large King Salmon near Elk Rapids Harbor with round gobies in their stomachs. Others report smallmouth bass, coho, lake trout and walleye also eating gobies. One report features a King Salmon with 12 gobies in its stomach. Smallmouth bass typically prefer crayfish but are eating gobies. Huge bass are being caught. Lures which mimic crayfish are best for smallmouth bass fishing. Observers note that Grand Traverse Bay goby population is greater because of rocky bottom – goby density is lower on soft bottoms. Gobies hold on to the top of rocks yet hide in crevices to reproduce.

TNN Serves the EASTB Watershed

For residents-in townships of Elk Rapids, Milton, Torch Lake & west Banks. The Antrim County coast lies between ERCOL and East Grand Traverse Bay from Elk Rapids to Norwood aka "Antrim Island." TNN is supported totally by volunteers and donations. TNN has partnered with ER Rotary to restore flow to Mitchell Creek-Kewadin.



SCAN ME



US Army Corps of Engineers

WATER LEVEL FORECAST

JULY 2026 L. MICHIGAN-HURON

Water level increased 2 inches from May to 579.40 feet. This level is 1 inch above its Long Term Average for June. Seven inches above last year's June level, 33 inches above its June record low level, and 33 inches below June1986 record high water level.

Average precipitation contributed to average water supplies. Six-month forecast projects seasonal rise will continue into July

Round Goby



King Salmon



Sport Fishing (Cont'd) Over-abundance of gobies in the Bay leads to them being eaten – game fish get larger and fatter. King salmon 3 feet long and 35 pounds are featured in charter captain websites. This abundance has not been seen since the alewives die off decades ago led to the introduction of salmon and bountiful fishing.

ARE GOBIES THE BEST ACCIDENT TO EVER HAPPEN IN GREAT LAKES FISHERIES?

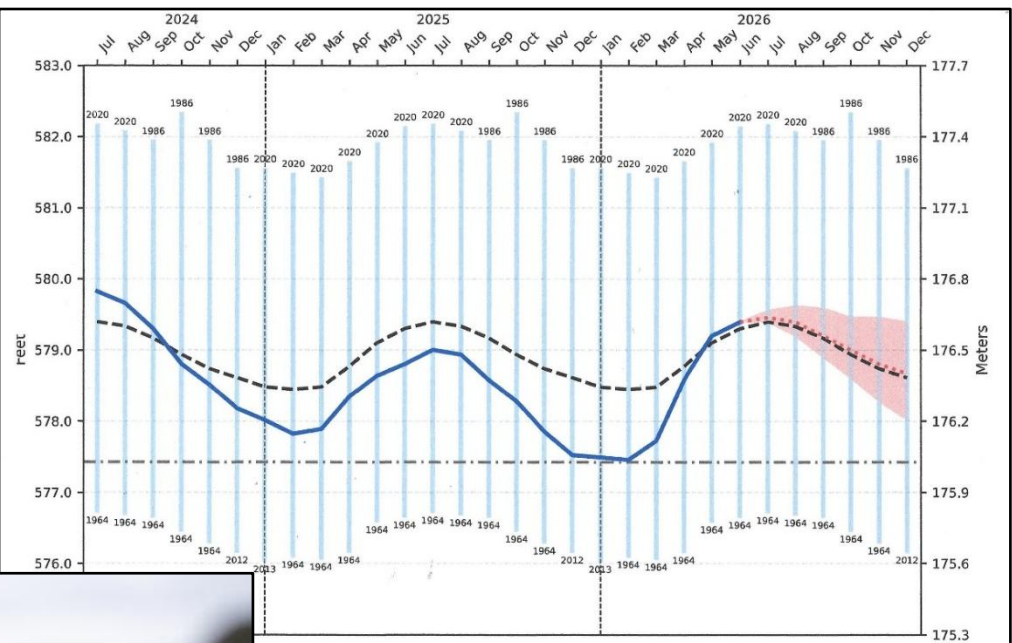
OPINON BY: Wired2fish - Nick Petrou - June 24, 2026

EXCERPT: Please read the entire article - <https://www.wired2fish.com/opinions-philosophies/are-gobies-the-best-accident-to-ever-happen-in-great-lakes-fisheries>

No fisheries manager would intentionally introduce an invasive species, let alone support the introduction of one. The arrival of round gobies was accidental and initially alarming. Yet more than three decades later, their impact has become one of the most fascinating ecological stories in North America.

Gobies turned invasive mussels into usable forage, provided an abundant food source for predators, and helped create some of the finest fishing on the planet. Gobies contribute to healthier populations of walleyes, lake trout, bass, and other species.

Ask most fisheries biologists about invasives and you will usually hear a long laundry list of distinct species. But every once in a while, an invasive species creates an unexpected silver lining. It is something that actually enhances the fishery instead of making things worse. In the Great Lakes, that species is the round goby.



It is hard to argue against the impact gobies have made on sport & commercial fisheries. From giant smallmouth bass to trophy walleyes and massive lake trout, countless predators have benefited from the arrival of this little bottom-dwelling fish. In a strange twist of ecological fate, as gobies consume large numbers of quagga mussels, they convert biomass into food that larger predators can use.

Great Lakes anglers know the truth about these little fish. Goby (is) one of the most important forage species in the region. Sometimes the best things in fishing happen by accident. In the Great Lakes, that accident was the round goby.