



Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen Manitowoc - Two Rivers, Wisconsin

WHO ARE WE?

When other organizations such as ours struggle to keep members, Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen ([NEWGLSF](http://www.newglsf.org)) continues to grow. **In 2007, NEWGLSF had 827 members and 119 business sponsors, which included 140 new members and 19 new business sponsors.** Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen ([NEWGLSF](http://www.newglsf.org)) was created in 1974 to provide a civilian agency to work with the public and it's elected officials, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, and all Federations or Councils to protect and enhance our Great Lakes Sport Fishery.

Northeast is governed by a **Full Slate of Officers and 24 Elected Board of Directors**, besides an appointed legislative committee. While NEWGLSF was originally formed to deal mainly with the various legislative matters concerning both the sport and commercial fishery, our organization has evolved to include more than just legislative items.

NEWGLSF presently operates one of the **Best Cold-Water Trout and Salmon Rearing Facilities along Wisconsin's East Coast at the Lincoln Park Zoo here in Manitowoc.** The organization has raised and released over 5,000,000 trout and salmon for all Lake Michigan sport fishermen, as well as our own members fishing the waters of the Manitowoc / Two Rivers area. At the present we have 16,000 Brown Trout in our rearing facility, which we will be released some time in March. We will then get approximately 100,000 Chinook Salmon fry to raise for several months.

In 2007, NEWGLSF presented the City of Manitowoc a check for over \$15,000 for the purchase of an industrial strength fish grinder for the Fish Cleaning Facility at the Manitowoc Marina. Presently, we are working with the City of Two Rivers to help them upgrade their fish cleaning facility at the Vets Park.

In July of 2008, NEWGLSF will host the 34th Annual Northeastern Wisconsin Salmon Derby with it's headquarters at the Manitowoc Marina. Over the years, NEWGLSF has had a great working relationship with the City of Manitowoc and the Management of the Manitowoc Marina on this annual event, which draws in fishermen and money from all over the country. This years derby dates are already set Friday July 4th – Sunday July 6th 2008.

On March 8th 2008, NEWGLSF will host the 34th Annual Spring Banquet, which is the clubs main fund-raiser. The event is held at the Club Bil-Mar with almost 500 in attendance and is one of the largest Banquets in the area.

Approximately 9 years ago, Northeast, started a Year Long Club Fishing Tournament sponsored by the club and approximately 25 Lure and Fishing Tackle Manufacturers from around the county. This tournament is FREE to all members of Northeast and the organization awards over 75 prizes packages of lures with a retail value of over \$4,000 to the winners.

NEWGLSF also has Monthly Meetings at the Club Bil-Mar, with the average attendance around 100 individuals. The high light of these meetings are the guest speakers from all over the Great Lakes States, who provide fishing tips and new products for our local fishermen. Our Christmas Party for the kids was held on Thursday December 20th 2007.

NEWGLSF also produces a Monthly Newsletter with a circulation of approximately 1100 to keep our club members and fishermen participating in our events up to date on items important to our fishery. Newsletters are sent out by mail and by email.

NEWGLSF also host a Great Lakes Annual Fish Derby for children enrolled in the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program. This will be the 29th time we have supported this worthy event and group.

In 2007, NEWGLSF also joined the Manitowoc Chamber of Commerce.

Acting in accordance with our goals, the following objectives listed below are found in our By-Laws.

- 1. Control of detrimental species, in order to improve the quality of sport fishing.**

In the early years, we only worried about the sea lamprey. Isn't it ironic, that 30 years later we still are worried about the sea lamprey? In those early years we never thought about or heard of diopria, zebra mussels ruffe, gobies or think that low alewife and smelt populations could affect our salmon fishery. Now we are working with other agencies to control Ballast Water from international ships, which is the main carrier of these detrimental species and lowering trout and salmon stocking numbers to keep our forage base healthy.
- 2. Create public awareness of the economic benefits generated by sport fishing.**

Members of Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen along with the Leede Research Group developed the Economic Impact Study of the Great Lakes Sport Fishery back in 1994 after the 1989 PCB scare seriously damaged our sport fishery's tourism base. Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen along with the Coalition on the Advancement of Sport Fishing and Tourism was responsible in the production of 7 video's highlighting the various ports on Wisconsin's East Coast and the airing of these video's on the TV program Discover Wisconsin to promote sport fishing and tourism.
- 3. Assure sufficient plants of trout and salmon as to maintain conditions favorable to sport fishing.**

Northeaster Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen has a rearing pond facility in the Manitowoc Lincoln Park, which is located in the city limits of Manitowoc. The organization works very closely with the city regarding this facility and since its construction back in 1975, Northeast has raised over 4,200,000 trout and salmon for our Lake Michigan Sport Fishermen.
- 4. To develop a higher degree of game fishing techniques, through the exchange of ideas, information and incidents of practical experience among the members.**

Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen has been sending out 1,000's of newsletters each and every year informing our fishermen what is going on, regarding their resource and providing new ideas. In addition to the newsletters and speakers at our General Membership Meetings, we also conduct a Club's Fishing Contest and provide new lures to monthly winners. We also have an Annual Salmon Derby to provide fishermen the opportunity to compete against fellow fishermen for prizes and cash.

- 5. To represent and act for members before divisions of the government and before public and private organizations whose activities affect sport fishing in Lake Michigan and its tributary waters, with the purpose of protecting these waters against pollution and exploitation.**

Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen's Legislative team has lead the fight against exploitation of the resource by the commercial fishery for many years weather it was to protect a dwindling smelt population in Green Bay and Lake Michigan, or protect the alewife or perch populations with lower commercial harvest levels or the fight to keep our sport fishermen safe from whitefish trap nets in summer. Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen has never been afraid to fight for our sport fishery.

- 6. To provide local governments with information and/or plans to promote the general welfare of sport fishing industry in Lake Michigan and its tributary waters.**

Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen has a good working relationship with the City of Manitowoc and the city owned Manitowoc Marina. Northeast is presently funding a new grinder/disposal unit at the Manitowoc Marina and has a team working with the City of Two Rivers on possible projects, which would benefit our Great Lakes Sport-Fishermen in that community. Northeast also lead the way regarding information about the extension of the Summer Whitefish Season in 2004 and 2005. Several years ago we also worked with the city when the Air National Guard wanted to shut down all boat traffic south of Manitowoc.

- 7. To encourage good citizenship in its members and in the general public, by fostering a high degree of obedience to, and awareness of, fishing regulations and sound conservation practices which apply to Wisconsin waters.**

We promote a good sound working relationship with our present WDNR Marine Wardens and request that they provide monthly reports at our General Membership Meetings. Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen has also provided the WDNR with a nighttime vision scope and signage to help to reduce illegal fishing in the area. We have been instrumental in the development and the passage of the Wisconsin Commercial Fisheries Rewrite by having members on the Task Force for its entire duration.

- 8. To develop public awareness of the environmental issues affecting the Great Lakes and their tributaries**

Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen has been involved with the WDNR and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federations regarding PCB reports in 1989 and demanded better monitoring and better testing to remove problems affecting our resource. Our members have also contacted the WDNR regarding manure spills or the illegal dumping of materials into our waterways in order to protect our resource for the next generation.

- 9. To encourage constant adherence to boating safety, by conforming to all safety precautions advised by the US Coast Guard.**

Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen has members on the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and provide the boating public with boat inspections. We also have representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard station in Two Rivers speak at our general membership meeting each spring.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHERY

Below is a series of facts related to sport fishing in Wisconsin. The information below came from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

1. Wisconsin hosts 1.4 million licensed sport-fishing anglers yearly, with about 20% of these sport fishers fishing the big waters of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior.
2. Wisconsin Sport Anglers fish a total of about 22 million annual fishing days.
3. Wisconsin is the #2 ranked sport-fishing destination in the Nation.
4. There are roughly 69 million sport fish caught in Wisconsin per year, and nearly one half of those fish caught are released alive to fight another day.
5. About 11 million fingerling and yearling sport fish are stocked in Wisconsin annually.
6. 76 different fish species, strains, and sizes of sport fish are stocked in Wisconsin annually.
7. Wisconsin sport fishing generates \$1.2 billion dollars in retail sales every year.
8. Approximately \$2.3 billion in economic activity is generated each year by Wisconsin sport fishing.
9. Wisconsin collects over \$90 million annually in state tax revenue generated by sport fishing.
10. There are over 26,000 jobs in Wisconsin that are generated by sport fishing.

Special Note: While only 20% of Wisconsin anglers fish the big waters of Michigan and Superior, the total economic contribution of these fishers will be greater than 20% of the total economic annual value of the sport fishery, due to the increased costs of fishing activity and equipment as these costs relate to fishing the big waters.