

## **A Message from Senator Duey Stroebel's Office**

Hi All,

Below is an op-ed drafted from Senator Stroebel relating to today's recommendation of shrinking Chinook Salmon stocking in Lake Michigan. Our hope is that you can run it in your paper this week.

At this time, Senator Stroebel is asking as many interested stakeholders, members of the public, elected officials, etc, to either attend the upcoming listening sessions or contact our office. This is a huge decision for the state of Wisconsin that could have a huge impact on the city of Port Washington in the 20th Senate District and all ports along the lake. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Kind Regards,  
Ethan  
Ethan J. Hollenberger,  
Office of Senator Duey Stroebel  
Communications Director  
(608) 266-7513

### **Public Input Essential for Chinook Salmon Stocking Decision**

On Monday, June 13, 2016, the Lake Michigan Committee recommended the reduction of stocking Chinook Salmon in Lake Michigan by over 60% beginning in the spring of 2017. For anglers, this could upset the Chinook population in future years. Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana all contribute to the salmon stocking. Under the recommended plan, the total lake quota would be lower than what Wisconsin stocks today.

The purpose of the reduction is part of an effort to help stabilize the alewife population. The alewife has suffered from invasive species like the round goby and a high predator-prey ratio. In addition to the Chinook Salmon, many fish species caught also rely on the alewife for food. In the 20th Senate District, particularly in Port Washington, we enjoy a robust fishing industry. Commercial fishermen, charter excursions, and everyday sporting fishermen troll the shores of our district looking for many different species of fish.

The recommendation passed today by the Lake Michigan Committee will have an impact on all fishing boats leaving the ports of Wisconsin. This is not a decision to be taken lightly. Over a decade ago, the shores of Lake Huron lost over \$100 million due to economic sufferings caused by a collapse in the salmon fishery.

It is important to note that no final decision has yet to be made. Following the public hearings, the final DNR course of action will be determined before October 1. I will continue to monitor this situation by receiving updates from members of the DNR staff.

It is essential that any changes to the fishing culture of our area occur after the public have had the ability to express concerns. The Wisconsin DNR will be seeking public input at three upcoming public hearings. Additionally, constituents may contact my office at (608) 266-7513 or [sen.stroebel@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sen.stroebel@legis.wisconsin.gov). As a policymaker, it is critical I hear from my constituents so that I advocate on your behalf.

The three meetings are as follows:

- Monday, June 27, 6:00 p.m., Lakeshore Technical College, Centennial Hall West, 1290 North Ave., Cleveland, WI 53015
- Wednesday, June 29, 6:00 p.m., Brown County Library, Auditorium, 515 Pine St. , Green Bay, WI 54301
- Thursday, June 30, 6:00 p.m., UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences, Ballroom, 600 E. Greenfield Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53204