



The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources

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For the past two decades, BLPA has been part of a very important group: The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources, or CPMR for short. This group is an advocate for the rights of sports fishermen all over Michigan. Some of our members include MUCC, Michigan Steel Headers Association, Hammond Bay Anglers, Great Lakes Sports Fisherman's Association, Trout Unlimited, and many more associations – including BLPA. The treaty of 1836 stipulated for tribal fishing and hunting rights. The agreement was not clearly specified. In 1973 Judge Noel Fox ruled that the tribes have rights in great lakes waters. Every 20 years a

revised consent decree is negotiated that identifies further the rights of the tribes and the sports fishermen. Fish populations, sustainability, harvest limits, and territories are just a few of the specific discussion points.

The most recent iteration of the consent decree was just determined this summer. It is less favorable to sport fishermen than previous agreements. The State was less consistent this time, not protecting the public resources as we would prefer. While most of the discussion centers on the Great Lakes, there are important implications for the inland lakes. BLPA will continue to represent our members in these discussions, and we will share developments as they happen. Some specific details may be unavailable due to confidentiality agreements. We will share what we are permitted to share.

BLPA Update on the Burt Lake Watershed Implementation Grant

By Noah Jansen, Restoration Manager, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

In the last issue of A Look at the Lake, my coworker Anna Watson shared the results of the Burt Lake shoreline survey conducted by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in 2022. To read our full report or find your personal shoreline results, visit our website (<https://watershedcouncil.org/waterbody/burt/>).

The shoreline survey was one part of a larger project aimed at protecting water quality in Burt Lake and the

larger watershed. This project has been funded in large part by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE's) Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. I would like to share with you some of the other work that is currently being done. First, I am happy to report that the shoreline restoration work done at Camp Pet-o-sega on Pickerel Lake last October held up well over the winter. The native plants installed to stabilize the shoreline have had high survival rates and are looking great! Because bioengineering methods were used, this stretch of shoreline will become more stable over time, as the roots systems of the native plants continue to expand and anchor more of the soil in place.

Another part of this project has been working to stabilize the shorelines of private landowners through greenbelts – bands of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers that grow naturally or are planted along the shoreline. A Greenbelt Workshop for homeowners was held on June 22, also at Camp Pet-o-sega. The participants learned all about how to create their own shoreline greenbelt and about the many benefits they provide, including filtering pollutants from runoff before they reach the lake, preventing shoreline erosion, beautifying your lakefront, and providing habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Participants also learned about our greenbelt cost share program which provides funding assistance (also through the aforementioned grant from EGLE) for homeowners who want to install a greenbelt. We have had 20 applicants so far, and have been busy doing site visits with homeowners throughout September to evaluate each site and prioritize applicants for funding. While we are not currently taking applications, stay tuned because there may be another opportunity to apply next spring.

