Great Lakes fishery heritage – past, present and future – explores the life of the lakes in a new way. Ecologically, economically, and recreationally viable through time, people and communities continue to interact with these amazing fisheries today.

The Great Lakes fishery is a story of people, fish, and fishing. It demonstrates how we relate to aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity, water quality, and environmental change. The fishery is the thread running through all these, serving as a gauge of resource sustainability and quality of life.

Great Lakes fisheries heritage sites throughout Michigan offer residents and visitors a unique opportunity to explore and experience the dynamic social, technological, and environmental changes that have shaped today’s fishery.

Visit www.miseagrant.umich.edu/fisheries-trail for an interactive Google map.
The Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Consortium reflects the work of a statewide network of organizations collaborating beyond restoration and preservation of fisheries heritage artifacts to envision and implement strategies for how these assets can be more ambitiously leveraged in advancing coastal tourism, community development, and Great Lakes literacy and stewardship through education and interpretation.

LEADERSHIP FOR THE GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE CONSORTIUM IN MICHIGAN PROVIDED BY:

MICHIGAN SEA GRANT. A cooperative program of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, is part of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program. Sea Grant research, outreach, and education programs promote better understanding, conservation and use of Michigan’s coastal resources.
www.miseagrant.umich.edu

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM. MSU's science and culture museum, has wide ranging collections for the serious scholar that include an AuSable River boat and field research reports and notes including fly tying and fishing, maritime knots, oral histories around Coast Guard life and the famous Thumb area whitefish sandwiches.
http://museum.msu.edu

MSU COMMUNITY OF SUSTAINABILITY. This MSU Department serves to engages with colleagues, students, stakeholders and communities to address social choices within specific environmental, economic and cultural contexts that advance or conflict with sustainability goals.
http://www.csus.msu.edu

WEST SHORE FISHING MUSEUM. The Museum is the restored home and fishery of Charles Bailey, who operated one of the area’s largest commercial fishing operations on this site from 1893 – 1950. Displays include the home, two exhibit buildings tracing fishing from prehistoric to modern times, and five commercial fishing boats including the completely restored gill net tug, Kate A.
www.MenomineeCounty.com/BaileyPark

MICHIGAN MARITIME MUSEUM. Learn about the life of commercial fisherman aboard the 1939 wooden gill-net fish tug, Evelyn S. Witness the preservation of this historic lady now underway and then get out on the Black River and Lake Michigan where she once worked. The Museum is home port to the tall ship Friends Good Will, river launch Lindy Lou, and the 1921 R-Boat Bermda.
www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org

FISHTOWN PRESERVATION. Fishtown is a collection of weathered fishing shanties, smokehouses, overhanging docks, fish tugs and charter boats along the Leland River in Leland, Michigan. The heart of a commercial fishing village, Fishtown is where we can still see and feel a connection to the long tradition of Great Lakes maritime culture.
www.fishtownmi.org

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKE SHORE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. Enjoy the dunes and scenic shoreline, while exploring fisheries commercial fishing history interpreted with the vessel Aloha.
www.sleepingbeardunes.com

BESSER MUSEUM FOR NORTHEAST MICHIGAN. Visit the commercial gill net tug Katherine V operating in northern Lake Huron in early 1900s and artifacts of more recent sportfish past. The Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan is an educational institution dedicated to sharing art, history and science of Northeast Michigan.
www.bessermuseum.org

NOAA THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY. Located in northwestern Lake Huron, Thunder Bay is adjacent to one of the most treacherous stretches of water within the Great Lakes system, earning the area the name of “Shipwreck Alley.” Today, the Sanctuary protects one of America’s best-preserved and nationally-significant collections of shipwrecks. Visit the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Visitor Center to explore more.
http://thunderbay.noaa.gov

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES. Michigan DNR is home to the Michigan Historical Center; as well, as Fisheries Division serving in lead agency role to protect and manage fisheries within Michigan waters of the Great Lakes, including licensing of state and commercial fisheries and educational heritage interpretive efforts at Oden Hatchery Visitor Center.
http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52259-316019--,00.html

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

The Life of the Lakes: A Guide to the Great Lakes Fishery
A book is written for anglers, educators, natural resource managers, and anyone interested in Great Lakes issues.
Now in its third edition, The Life of the Lakes continues to provide up-to-date information, focusing on the people, the resources and the fish that all play a part in the story.

Wild Caught and Close to Home Whitefish Cookbook
Celebrates the Great Lakes whitefish with recipes, cooking techniques and chef insights.
Available at: www.miseagrant.com

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