

# Lake Lansing Newsletter

## Fisheries Survey

This past April MDNR Fisheries Division's Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit conducted a fisheries survey on Lake Lansing, gathering data on fish populations, health, and invasive species. Data from the Lake Lansing survey will be analyzed over Winter 2025-2026 and a full report can be expected in 2027. MDNR conducts hundreds of lake and stream fisheries surveys every year.<sup>1</sup> The last Lake Lansing fisheries report was released in 1941, while a creel survey, which interviews local anglers on-site, was conducted in 1987.

## Waterfowl News

Efforts to control nuisance Canada goose populations on Lake Lansing resulted in the removal of 79 eggs and the destruction of 18 nests this year. An article on the complex history of Canada geese, which were driven to near-extinction in the twentieth century, can be found in the latest edition of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine. Open turf lawns along the shoreline are favored habitat for geese. These landscapes offer plenty of food while also providing long sightlines to watch for predators. Natural shorelines, which feature long grasses, rushes, cattails, and shrubs, can ward geese away from property in addition to numerous ecological and erosion-halting benefits.

Additionally, this past spring Lake Lansing hosted a number of pelicans. Penelope ART Photography captured impressive photos of these visitors, as seen below. Pelican sightings in Michigan are historically rare but have been increasing in recent years. Traditionally, pelicans migrate along a path further west, however as of the mid-2010s they have been spotted along Western Lake Erie as well as the St. Clair and Detroit River basins.<sup>2</sup> The reason for this shift and the potential ecological implications are unknown at this time. That said, pelicans tend to hunt rougher fish such as carp and suckers, so anglers should not be overly concerned.



Pelicans skim the surface of Lake Lansing. Photo by Penelope ART Photography

## References

- 1 Wardell, M. (2024). *DNR inland lake and stream surveys are critical to managing Michigan fisheries*. Michigan Lakes & Streams Association.
- 2 Fox2 Detroit. (2024). *Pelicans increasingly migrating to Michigan, stumping aviary enthusiasts*. Fox2 Detroit.

# Summer

# 2025

## Lake Lansing SAD Advisory Committee

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## Navigating Shallow Shoals

Last year a map was developed to outline recommended wake boat operation areas based on guidance from MDNR (blue areas on map). Limiting wake boating to these sufficiently deep (at least 15 feet deep) and far from shore (at least 500 feet from shore) areas minimizes lakeshore and lake bottom disturbance. These recommendations are not rule or law, but are meant to educate wake boat owners on how to most responsibly operate wake boats on Lake Lansing. This year the map has been updated to include shallow shoals, highlighted in red. These areas are difficult to navigate and may cause prop damage if not treated with caution. If you find yourself in one of these shallow shoal areas, follow these steps to ensure the safety of you and your boat:

### 1. Reduce Speed Immediately

Slow your speed to an idle. Higher speeds can damage your boat's hull or motor and increase the risk of running aground.

### 2. Trim the Motor Up

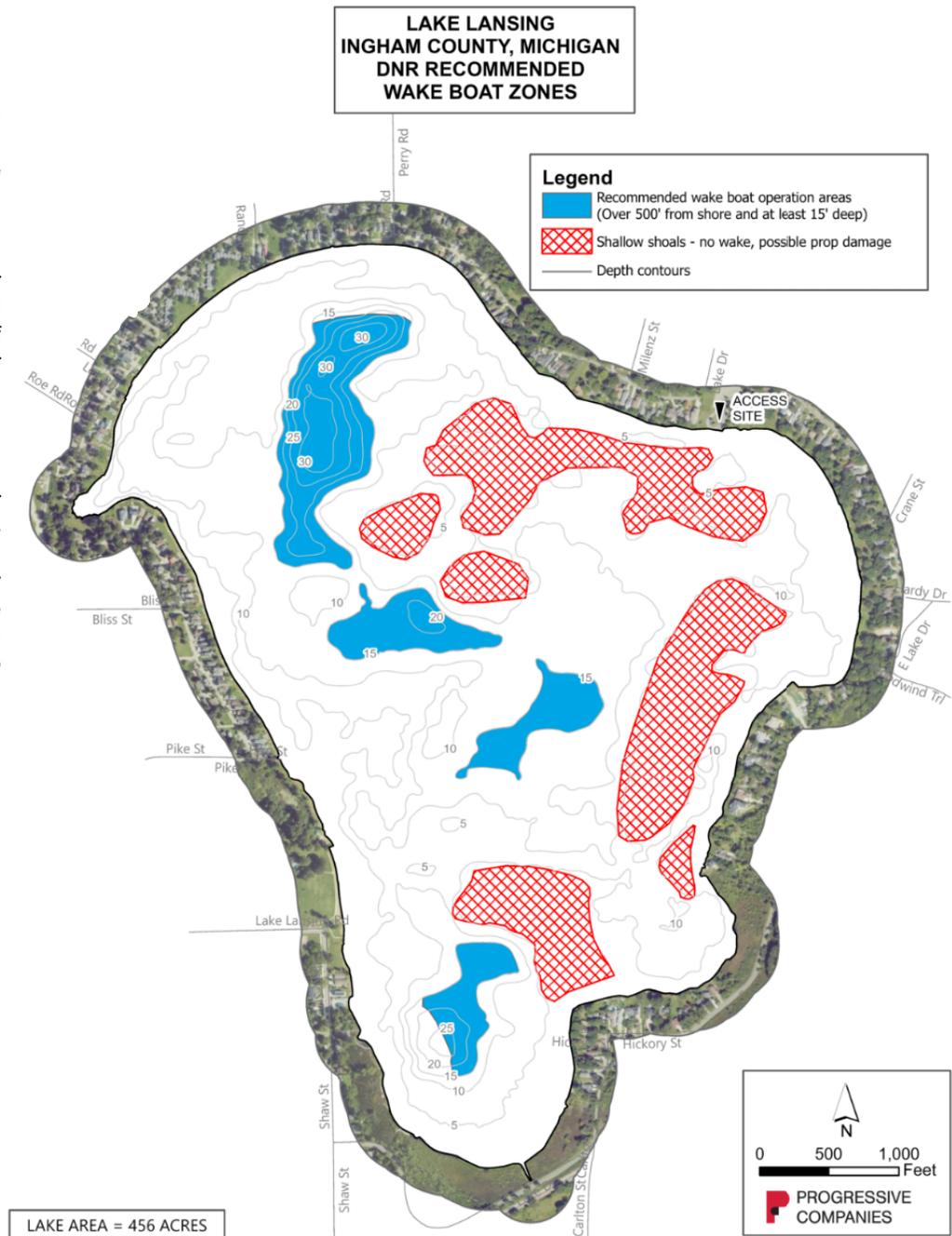
Raise (trim up) your motor to reduce draft and minimize the chance of hitting underwater obstacles.

### 3. Avoid Sudden Maneuvers

Quick maneuvers or abrupt throttle changes can destabilize your boat, especially in shallow waters. Stick to gentle movements to avoid further grounding or prop damage.

### Plant Control Update

On May 19, approximately 90 acres of a mixture of non-native milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed (both invasive exotics) were treated. A much smaller follow-up treatment will be conducted in July to address select areas of non-native milfoil and mechanical harvesting will be conducted in late August.



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