



# Les Cheneaux WATERSHED NEWS

.....promoting the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainability of our water-based resources.

SPRING 2025

LES CHENEAUX WATERSHED COUNCIL

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1

## 2025 News and Plans

### Highlighted in this issue:

- ◆ PFOS in Water & Fish
- ◆ High Water Quality
- ◆ Plastic Contamination
- ◆ Lake Level
- ◆ Activities
- ◆ July 4th Parade
- ◆ Government Island Trails Maintenance
- ◆ Phragmites
- ◆ Inland Seas Sail
- ◆ Local Bats

For details on most topics, see our website:  
[www.lescheneauxwatershed.org](http://www.lescheneauxwatershed.org)

## 2025 LCWC Activities

- ◆ FrogFest: July 12th
- ◆ Annual Meeting: July 17th
- ◆ ISEA Sail: August 1st & 2nd



**A sincere THANK YOU to all who support our projects!**

Find Us on Facebook:  
**Les Cheneaux Watershed Council**

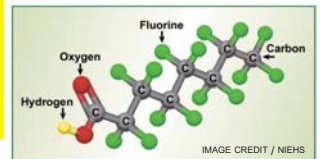


## PFOS IN WATER & FISH

PFAS and PFOS chemical levels in local waters and fish are extremely low. A recent study by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) showed that fish in Les Cheneaux waters have the lowest concentrations measured for Michigan water bodies and in Lake Michigan-Huron.

**The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MIDNR) and EGLE consider PFOS levels in fish from Les Cheneaux waters to be the "clean" reference standard for all other Michigan waters.**

*Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a perfluoroalkyl substance.*



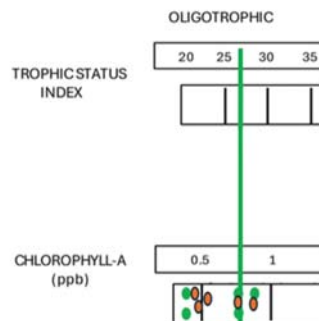
*PFOA & PFOS are similar fluorinated compounds.*

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, is a family of fluorinated compounds widely used for fire-fighting foam, water-repellant clothing (GoreTex), non-stick surfaces (Teflon) and in electronics, plastics, paint and polishes.

For more information on PFOS in locally caught fish across the USA see: Barbo, et al. 2023. Environ Res 220: 115165

## HIGH WATER QUALITY

CHL-a LEVELS USING MODIFIED SAMPLING PROTOCOL IN 2024



● GREEN DOTS = Chl-a from 2024  
● ORANGE DOTS = Chl-a HISTORIC MEAN

**Continued high water quality since monitoring began.**

The recreational quality of Les Cheneaux has been consistently highly desirable during the past 23 years of monitoring.

The vertical bar in this visual shows the average seasonal nutrient ratings from 10 sampling sites throughout.

Green dots indicate algae concentrations (chlorophyll-a) in 2024 and orange dots reflect the average algae values recorded during the 23 year study.

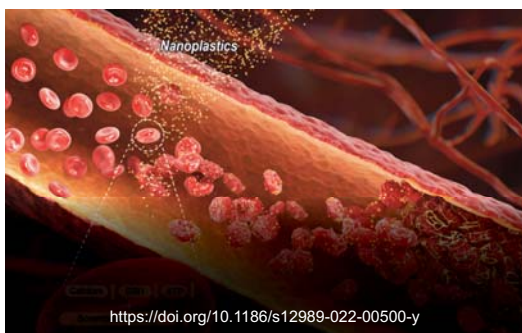
# PERVASIVE PLASTICS



FROM THIS



TO THIS



TO THIS

OR THIS



Plastics are used in an endless variety of products and packaging, posing a significant environmental issue due to their long-lasting nature and the large volume of waste generated around the world. Over time, plastics break down into microscopic particles, nanometers in size, contaminating air, soil and water. These particles are found in land, aquatic and marine organisms as well as in humans. Microplastics found in humans concentrate in organs and are associated with multiple human health issues. Multiple alternatives to single-use-plastics are presently available in limited markets.

In our March 2025 report, *Pervasive Plastics: An Overview of Plastic Wastes and Their Impact On Our Environment*, we discuss the not only the impacts of plastic waste, but also alternatives to petroleum-based plastics. An excerpt from the report introduction follows below:

*Plastics are widely used in various commodities, but they pose a significant environmental problem due to their long-lasting nature and the large volume of over 400 million tons of plastic waste generated annually around the globe. Microscopic plastic breakdown particles, nanometers in size, contaminate air, soil, and water, and have been found in human organs, potentially causing health issues. Single-use plastics make up about 45% of all plastic waste. Measures that can be taken by individuals and communities to limit exposure to single-use plastics include reducing purchase of pre-packaged foods, using water filters and improving municipal water and wastewater treatment facilities. Developing alternatives to petroleum-based plastics using packaging materials from natural ingredients such as seaweed and polysaccharides can help reduce environmental plastic contamination and offer cost-competitive solutions.*



Read the entire report by visiting the link below.

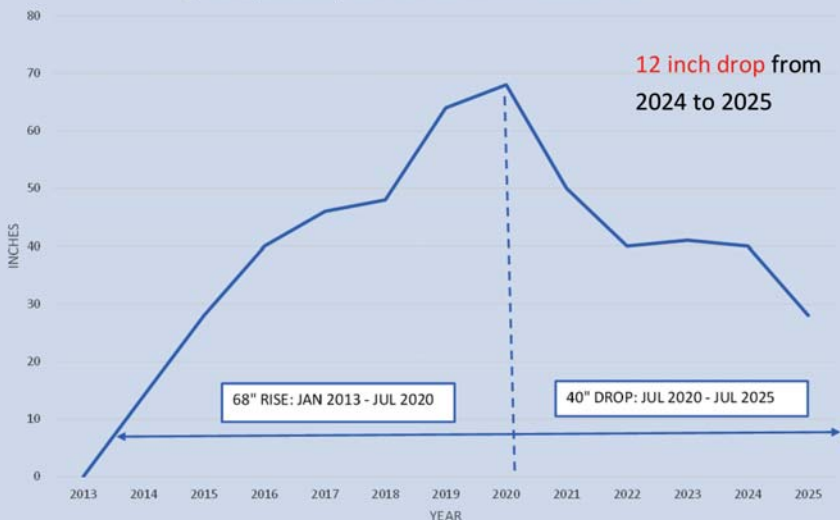
Nanoplastics coated in cholesterol plus red blood cells inside a blood vessel. (REF 41 LCWC)

Nanoplastic particles are found in several bottled water brands.

Link to full report in LCWC website: <https://lescheneauxwatershed.org/library/microplastics/347-wq16-pervasive-plastics-overview/file>

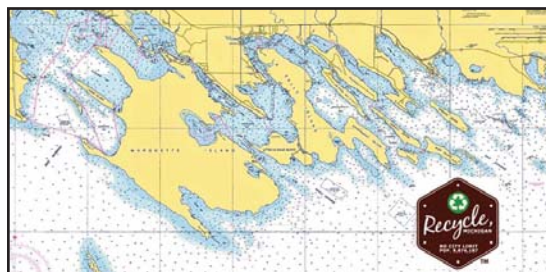
LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON LEVEL CHANGE BETWEEN JAN 2013 AND JUL 2025

[USACE predicted] <LAKE LEVEL SHIFT 2013-2024 MAR 2024 BA184>



## LAKE LEVELS FORECASTED TO BE LOWER THAN 2024

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) forecasts Lakes Huron and Michigan level to be about 12 inches lower in July 2025 than it was in July 2024.





Clockwise from upper left: Remote stream monitoring with Cedarville High School students; invasive phragmites stand; phragmite monitoring expedition; July 4th Parade; FrogFest Student Dragonfly Exhibit; FrogFest Participants; Government Island Trail maintenance crew.

**FOUR WAYS to provide continued financial support to LCWC with 501(c)3 status:**

- ◆ A check sent to our address
- ◆ PayPal through our website, [lescheneauxwatershed.org](http://lescheneauxwatershed.org)
- ◆ Through the **LC Community Foundation** directed to either our LCWC endowed or unendowed account.
- ◆ **Funds transferred directly from an IRA to LCWC.** This avenue is approved under the new tax code. For details, refer your tax advisor to the article, "How to Donate Your Required Minimum Distribution to Charity" from *U.S. News & World Report*.

<https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/iras/articles/2017-12-04/how-to-donate-your-required-minimum-distribution-to-charity>

**Re-new your membership with the LCWC today!**  
*We need your support to preserve the health of our waters!*

Basic Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15	Leopard Frog	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
Spring Peeper	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25	Blue Heron	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500
Green Frog	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	Wetland	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,000
Tree Frog	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$75	Water Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Send check to: LCWC • PO Box 578 • Cedarville, MI 49719**



**LES CHENEUX WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**P.O. BOX 578**  
**CEDARVILLE, MI 49719**



**Les Cheneaux fish have the lowest PFOS levels in Michigan as rated by MIDNR & EGLE.**

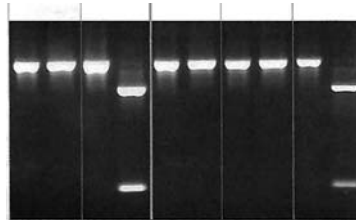
**Details inside.**

**LES CHENEUX WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2025**



**Non-native Phragmites** infestations in LCI are down significantly thanks to help from CISMA (Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area of Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce Counties). CISMA has assisted LCWC in managing our non-native phragmites outgrowths for each of the past fourteen years.



Thanks to CISMA, LCI is on a maintenance program whereby they help manage new patches that appear annually. CISMA staff are shown here cutting phragmites stems. In collaboration with Oakland University, CISMA has determined that some LCI phragmites stands which exhibit mixed visual properties between native and non-native species are genetically non-native as depicted in the above black & white DNA gel image. Non-native genes can impart more aggressive growth characteristics that results in reduced native plant diversity.

**Inland Seas Education Association (ISEA)** will once again be sailing our waters this summer for the 9th consecutive year. ISEA is scheduled to conduct their LCI training sessions from Hessel August 1 & 2.



The **Inland Seas** will sail twice a day while providing a unique, educational and fun experience for children and adults. The ship's crew provides a hands-on experience in water research as well as have participants take part in ship handling skills.

The event is sponsored by our Watershed Council and is an activity of the Inland Seas Education Association (ISEA). Learn more about ISEA at [www.schoolship.org](http://www.schoolship.org) – **Ticket sales will begin in May.**

**Between 2019 and 2023,** acoustic recorders were used to monitor bat echolocation signals in six locations within the Les Cheneaux Islands, showing a two-fold increase in bat activity.



In 2024, monitoring revealed the presence of Hoary and Eastern Red bats in mid-April and early May, respectively. Big Brown bats were detected in April, likely due to seasonal buildings serving as hibernacula.

Additional monitoring is planned for 2025 to assess seasonal stability of bat activity.