

**MICHIGAN  
WILDLIFE  
COUNCIL**

**Fact Sheet – Fishing by the Numbers**

- Fishing contributes \$2.3 billion to Michigan's economy annually.
- Fishing supports over 35,422 Michigan jobs.
- Nearly 1.1 million people fish in Michigan each year.
  - In 2018, 1,157,237 fishing licenses were sold to 1,105,345 unique purchasers.
- Fishing and hunting licenses pay for the conservation of our wildlife and natural resources. During fiscal year 2018, revenue from fishing and hunting license sales totaled about \$61 million. Of this revenue, \$26.4 million came from fishing licenses.
- The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, otherwise known as the Dingell-Johnson Act, is a tax on fishing-related equipment, while the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Act, assesses a similar levy on sporting arms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment. Proceeds from each act are distributed among the states for outdoors conservation and management activities. In 2018, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources received \$10.7 million in Dingell-Johnson funding and \$24.3 million in Pittman-Robertson funds.
- In 2018, the top five counties for fishing license purchases were Wayne (6.5 percent), Oakland (5.9 percent), Macomb (4.9 percent), Kent (4.9 percent) and Genesee (3.2 percent).
- Of 2018 fishing license sales, 80 percent were sold to men.
- Out-of-state purchases of Michigan fishing licenses most frequently came from Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Florida. Out-of-state fishing license purchases accounted for 17 percent of sales.
- Wildlife management and license funding was key to the comeback of many game and non-game species, including sturgeon, elk, peregrine falcon, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, Kirtland's warbler and osprey.
- Eighty-seven percent of Michigan's adult population participates in outdoor recreation activities.
- Forty-one percent of the adults living in the state participate in fee-based outdoor recreation activities such as hunting, fishing and camping.