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**Sea Grant’s CoastWatch celebrates two decades of reporting lake temperatures and helping anglers find fish**

For 20 years, Sea Grant’s [CoastWatch](http://www.coastwatch.msu.edu) program has been helping anglers predict where fish are likely to be found in the Great Lakes by providing up-to-date lake water temperatures.

September is a great month for salmon fishing and seeking out the cooler waters in the Lake Michigan can help make for a successful day of fishing. Anglers should watch for areas where cold water “upwellings” meet the shoreline near major rivers in early September. This is a good indicator that salmon will be gathering at the pier heads to run upriver.

[Michigan Sea Grant](michiganseagrant.org) and [Michigan State University Extension](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/) developed CoastWatch in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory](http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/), [Michigan State University's Agriculture and Natural Resources](http://www.canr.msu.edu/) Computer Services and [Institute of Water Research](http://www.iwr.msu.edu/), and with the support and assistance of user groups such as the [Michigan Charter Boat Association](http://www.michigancharterboats.com/). Michigan Sea Grant and [MSU Remote Sensing & GIS Research and Outreach Services](http://www.rsgis.msu.edu/) maintain the site.

Originally transmitted by fax, the program moved online in 1996 and the website now captures temperatures of all the Great Lakes through daily NOAA satellite transmissions and presents the most current information as contour lines called isotherms. The site includes frequently asked questions, fishery information and map terminology, a Sea Grant Extension office locator map, plus links to several other Great Lakes Web sites. Check it out at [www.coastwatch.msu.edu](http://www.coastwatch.msu.edu).

Extension educator Dan O’Keefe offers tips on using the CoastWatch website to improve your fishing spot selection in his article, “Pier and river anglers find salmon with CoastWatch.”

Michigan Sea Grant helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan’s coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research and outreach. A collaborative effort of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, Michigan Sea Grant is part of the NOAA-National Sea Grant network of 33 university-based programs.