

**Thursday, September 28**

**Pre-Conference Field Trips**

**Pre-registration is required**

**Meet at Field trip location**

**Carpooling is encouraged**

**Shipwreck Paddle and Presque Isle Lighthouse Tour**

**8:30 am - 11:30 am**

**Group size – 15**

**Distance – 25 minutes north of Alpena**

**Fee: \$25**

Paddle over the wooden schooner *Portland*, one of the most accessible shipwrecks in Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, then take a tour and climb the towers of the new and old Presque Isle Lighthouses. Wrecked in 1877, the *Portland* lies in about 8-10 feet of clear Lake Huron water and is a paddlers' delight. After paddling, participants will tour the new Presque Isle Lighthouse (1870), the tallest Great Lakes lighthouse tower accessible to the public with panoramic views of Lake Huron. The old Presque Isle lighthouse (1840) is one of the oldest surviving lighthouses on the Great Lakes and is said to be quite haunted. Come immerse yourself in the maritime history of northeast Michigan! Led by Meag Schwartz. Basic kayaking experience is required.

**Hawkwatching the Straits of Mackinac**

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Group size – 20**

**Distance – 2 hours north of Alpena**

**Fee: \$0**

Watch migration in action as Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Merlins, Peregrine Falcons, and more stream across the Straits of Mackinac. Michigan has some of the best hawk watching and migration in the US. No experience is necessary to practice identifying these raptors alongside other MAEOE members and leaders, Josh and Kara Haas. As a bonus, learn about the new Michigan Raptor Migration Teaching Network and how this phenomenon can engage students using data science, physics, chemistry, math and more! Dress for the weather and bring binoculars or borrow a pair from us. We'll provide a picnic lunch from local sources. We will gather at the rest area to the right on I-75 immediately after crossing the Mackinac Bridge at 10am. The count site is minutes from our meeting spot and detailed directions will be provided for those that need to arrive later in the morning.

**USGS Hammond Bay Biological Station Tour**

**2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Group size – 15**

**Distance – 1 hour north of Alpena**

**Fee: \$0**

Come face-to-face with the vampire fish of the Great Lakes while touring the USGS Hammond Bay Biological Station, the premier sea lamprey research station in the Great Lakes region! At the Hammond Bay station, tour participants will have the opportunity to hold live, invasive sea lamprey, learn about cutting-edge research on Great Lakes fishes, observe historic U.S. Life-Saving Service and Coast Guard buildings, and catch great views of Lake Huron and local wildlife. See first-hand where researchers saved the future of the Great Lakes by developing control methods for sea lamprey and protecting our way of life in the Great Lakes region.

## Lake Huron Charter Fishing

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Group size – 5 people per charter boat (up to 3 boats available)

Distance – 13 minutes to downtown Alpena

Fee: \$125

Join an evening of adventure and fishing on Lake Huron with Trout Scout Charters and Captain Ed Retherford who boasts more than 50 years of fishing the waters of northern Lake Huron. Lake Huron offers a wide variety of fishing opportunities, reflecting more than half of angler catch on Michigan waters of the Great Lakes, and is known for the diversity of fish species that you might find in your catch! Near shore fisheries boast smallmouth bass and a booming walleye fishery, while open water fisheries of Lake Huron boast a similar diversity of species like Chinook, Coho, and Atlantic Salmon mixed with Steelhead, Brown Trout, and our native Lake Trout fishes. Enjoy an evening on the waters of Thunder Bay, a place where near shore and open water fisheries come together. Trip departs from the Alpena Marina, and a **fishing license will be required for this trip**. Arrangements can be made for purchasing day fishing passes (\$10 for 24 hour license) if needed.