

The

Tackle Box



Team Iron Transmasc members stand arm and arm celebrating their third place in an Ironman competition.

Transmasc Trio Triumphs to Take Third

Together, champion trans swimmer Schuyler Bailar, deaf nonbinary cyclist Chella Man, and trans nonbinary marathoner Cal Calamia make up Team Iron Transmasc. On Saturday, March 28, they competed in the 2026 Athletic Brewing Ironman 70.3 Oceanside. Although the competition was steep, they secured third place out of over 80 relay teams in the men's 25–29 age division. Each team member put in a tremendous effort, including Calamia, who passed another relay runner in the final 10 meters to secure their position on the podium.

In their celebratory [Instagram post](#) they wrote about how this win “showcase[s] trans excellence, trans collaboration, and trans joy.” In an interview with [Out](#), Man also spoke of the joy of simply celebrating victory with friends and not having it be “...alchemized into a greater thing...”. Wouldn't it be wonderful to live

Awareness Month & Days

- [ALS Awareness Month](#)
- [Lupus Awareness Month](#)
- [National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month](#)
- [National Speech-Language-Hearing Month](#)
- [Mental Health Awareness Month](#)
- [Asian American and Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander \(AANHPI\) Heritage Month](#)
- [Jewish American Heritage Month](#)
- [Haitian American Heritage Month](#)
- May 3 - [Global Accessibility Awareness](#)
- May 3 - [International Family Equality Day](#)
- May 5 - [National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls](#)
- May 10 - [Mother's Day](#)
- May 17 - [International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia](#)
- May 19 - [Malcolm X's Birthday](#)
- May 21 - [World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#)
- May 24 - [Michigan Arbor Day Events](#)
- May 25 - [Memorial Day](#)

in a world where individual and team triumphs were celebrated simply as victories? A world where a victory was never met with skepticism or hostility. A world where athletes can compete as their true selves and express their identities freely.

Unfortunately, we do not. This is why the open participation of Team Iron Transmasc is so important. This can be best summarized by their own Instagram post: “we swam, cycled, and ran for something so much greater than each of us alone—for every person disenfranchised by transphobia, white supremacy, ableism, colonialism... For every human’s right to exist exactly as we are, everywhere we are.” Their victory echoed even louder as it occurred on the same day as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced a ban on trans women from women’s events in the Olympics.

Sport is often touted as the great equalizer, where personal grit and determination drive success. In reality, it is far less fair, with the infrastructure around sport shaped by sexism, racism, and classism. Rather than progressing toward greater

greater equity, some recent decisions signal a willingness to give way to fearmongering and discrimination. The total exclusion of trans women not only violates the Olympic charter that states that sport is a human right but adds support to building global transphobic sentiment. Furthermore, mandatory genetic testing now required by the IOC for all female athletes empowers naysayers to question any woman’s eligibility. This forces women to justify their bodies, stripping them of individual dignity and privacy.

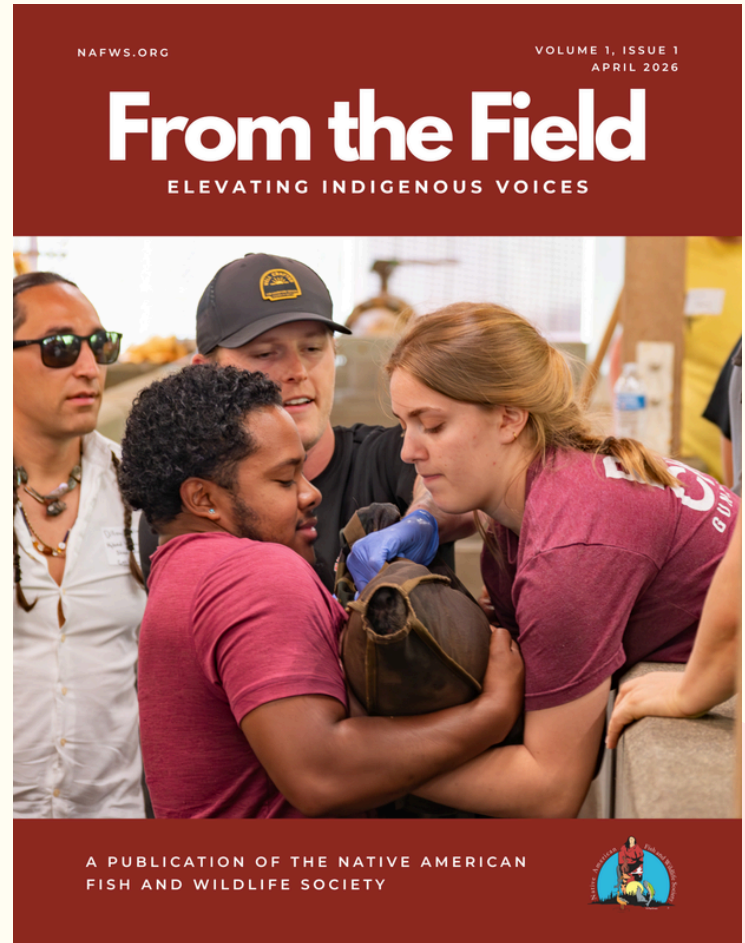
In these conflicted times, Team Iron Transmasc’s triumphant finish stands as a declaration that trans people belong in sports and that their identities are valid. As we approach May 17, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, it is an opportunity to reaffirm that everyone deserves to participate in sport—and in society—as their full, authentic selves. The physical barriers that Calamia, Bailar, and Man overcame to achieve their third-place finish remind us that it takes dedication, determination, and a willingness to push through discomfort to achieve success. While the fight for trans rights is not as physical as competing in an Ironman, it still demands persistence in the face of opposition. We cannot stand idly by and watch the rights of the trans community be stripped away, rather we must pick up the baton and run our leg of the marathon for social justice.



Cal Calamia runs the last leg of the 2026 Athletic Brewing Ironman 70.3 Oceanside.

Elevating Indigenous Voices in Conservation

The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society released the first edition of its new annual peer-reviewed journal, From the Field – Elevating Indigenous Voices, on April 15th. It is hoped that this publication will provide a place where research conducted in Indian Country can be shared in a way that not only highlights the conservation work being done but also honors traditional ecological knowledge. While non-Indigenous authors are welcome to submit to the journal, this publication centers on Native scholars and practitioners in an effort to address the lack of Indigenous peer-reviewed articles in mainstream scientific literature. From the Field also emphasizes that Tribal sovereignty not only includes authority over research, data, and publication decisions, but also plays a central role in stewarding fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. The first edition of From the Field covers a variety of conservation topics, including an article by Kae Skukik et al. on the decline of lake whitefish in Little Traverse Bay. Tribal Nations steward approximately 140 million acres, including water and land in Michigan, and From the Field offers an opportunity for Tribal-led scientific work to be presented in a way that respects Indigenous priorities, cultural protocols, and community values.



Premiere cover of "From the Field" featuring a group of young professionals handling a capture animal with care.

MI FishCAST Mentorship Program

We would like to invite you to participate in the natural resources mentorship program hosted by the MI FishCAST for the academic year 2026-2027. The goal of the mentorship program is to pair/group individuals at different stages of professional development within aquatic resources (not explicitly fisheries) in an effort to foster a sense of belonging, create connections, and provide mutual learning opportunities throughout the upcoming academic year. Individuals with all levels of experience, backgrounds and professional interests in natural resources are encouraged to participate. AFS membership is not required for participation. Also, if you participated last year, you are more than welcome to join us again.

If you're interested in participating in the program, please complete this [Google Form](#). We also ask if you could help us spread the word about the mentorship program, by sharing the flyer on the following. We look forward to your participation in this exciting new program. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, suggestions or concerns to Michigan FishCAST at mifishcastafs@gmail.com.



The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society invites you to join the

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 2027

Hosted by the Michigan FishCAST

What's MI AFS?

- MI AFS is a professional organization interested in maintaining high standards for the fisheries profession and ensuring conservation of Michigan's aquatic resources.
- Activities of the Michigan Chapter revolve around annual meetings, continuing education workshops, newsletters, and committees.

Mentorship Program:

- Participants will be paired with individuals in different stages of their career to foster a sense of belonging and provide mutual learning opportunities
- People of all experience levels and backgrounds are welcome
- AFS Membership is not required

Fisheries Community Advocacy and Sustainability Team Mission (FishCAST):

- Cultivate a chapter culture that ensures all members feel welcome and respected
- Recruit and retain members with underrepresented identities and backgrounds
- Create and advocate for policies and procedures that promote DEIJ at the chapter, regional, and international levels

If interested, scan QR Code or email mifishcastafs@gmail.com
michigan.fisheries.org

Featured Artist:

Abigail Kahilikia Romanchak



Abigail Romanchak is a Maui-based Native Hawaiian printmaker. As a nationally recognized artist, Abigail uses her talents to empower and reconnect the people of Hawaii to their Native culture. She is a visual storyteller that merges artistic techniques with scientific data to document very real concerns for the people of the Islands; as the Hawaii Islands evolve closer toward an economy catered to resorts and tourism, Abigail highlights the aspects of her culture that have been effaced due to colonization, climate change, and deforestation.

Abigail Romanchak's work "Kāhea" (right) depicts a spectrogram- a visualization of the time, frequency, and pitch of the calls of two endangered birds in Kaua'i. 'Akohekohe and Kiwikiu are endemic species to Hawaii, but, similar to half of the known Native Hawaiian birds, these species are at risk of extinction, due to anthropogenic actions, primarily. She uses this series to call attention to the declining population of Hawaiian birds, drawing parallels to the declining practices of her own people as they become increasingly disconnected from their heritage. In her work "Ke Ano" (bottom), Abigail illustrates another spectrogram, measured at the Haleakala Crater. The Haleakala Crater is believed to be one of the quietest places on Earth, however as settlement in Hawaii has expanded, the silence at the crater appears to have become endangered as well. When asked about the Haleakala Crater Abigail says, "silence is an endangered species on the verge of extinction and by listening to natural silence, we feel connected to the land, to our evolutionary past and to ourselves."



Abigail Romanchak is fighting to conserve Kānaka 'Ōiwi culture and the nature that has provided her people a home for centuries. It is her belief she must continue to speak about Hawaii's past, its customs, and its beauty, for that is the only way to prevent its erasure.



Background image sourced from Abigail Romanchak's "Roam" print series

Ally Coner: Fonts MAKE ALL the Difference



The fonts we choose have a direct impact on how readers engage with our written work. Many of us likely don't even consider the font we're choosing and simply use the default option. One important factor that is often overlooked is how font choice affects the ability of people with disabilities to interact with and read written materials. Font choice can have a significant impact on people with print disabilities. A print disability is a condition that prevents an individual from effectively reading standard printed materials, such as individuals with visual impairments, physical limitations, and/or learning/cognitive disabilities (e.g. dyslexia or Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder).

Fortunately, studies have identified that fonts such as Helvetica and Verdana can improve accessibility for readers with visual impairments and learning disabilities (1, 2, 3). In general, sans serif fonts (e.g., Arial, Open Sans, and Aptos) are easier to interpret because they lack the tails and feet of serif styles, which decreases letter recognition. If you're looking to add contrast to your work, Bebas Neue is a good option for headings, while Lavanderia can provide a more decorative cursive style. It is also recommended to avoid italic fonts, as they decrease letter recognition and reading performance in dyslexic readers (1).



Researchers have also developed fonts to support both visually impaired and dyslexic readers. The Braille Institute recommends its family of Hyperlegible® fonts, including Atkinson Hyperlegible, which is the font used in the Tackle Box (4). This font makes each letter more distinct through design features such as unambiguous letterforms, clear uprights, spurs and tails, distinct pairs, and open counters. For dyslexia, there is OpenDyslexic (5). The letters in this font have heavily weighted bottoms to help indicate direction and reduce confusion caused by letter flipping or swapping. Some readers with low vision also find fonts like OpenDyslexic and Comic Sans helpful due to their visually distinct letterforms.

Stacked word cloud graphic showing examples of accessible and not accessible fonts.

Individual font preference can have a significant effect, which is why font selection options on eReaders, websites, and other electronic devices are important. When creating a document where readers cannot adjust font settings, the best option is to choose a sans serif style, particularly Helvetica or Verdana. A simple change that you will likely barely notice can have a significant impact on someone else's ability to read and enjoy your work.

References and additional information:

- 1) [Good Fonts For Dyslexia](#) - Rello & Beaza-Yetes, 2013
- 2) [Best Fonts for ADHD: Improve Readability & Reduce Distraction](#) - Jensen, 2026
- 3) [My favorite free fonts for print disabilities](#) - Lewis, 2025
- 4) [Atkinson Hyperlegible Font](#) - Braille Institute, 2025
- 5) [OpenDyslexic](#)

May 5: Honoring Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women

May 5 is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls, or MMIW. This day gives voice to what has been called the “silent crisis”—the lack of attention given to the high rates of violence, rape, and murder experienced by Indigenous women and girls. According to [information from the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Indian Affairs](#), Indigenous women and girls make up a disproportionate number of missing and murdered individuals in the United States.

The MMIW movement began in 2017 in response to the murder of Hanna Harris and other Indigenous women. It seeks to break the silence by raising awareness of the abductions and killings of Indigenous women and girls across the United States. As the [National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center](#) states, “when a mother, daughter, or sister goes missing communities understand action is needed immediately. Silence is being replaced with the



The logo of an upcoming MMIW event being held by the Potawatomi Tribes. It shows an Indigenous woman with a red handprint over her mouth, symbolizing the silencing of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Michigan MMIW Events

- [Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 5th Annual MMIP Day of Awareness](#) - Suttons Bay
- [Little River Band of Ottawa Indians March for MMIP](#) - Ah-Nab-Awen Park, Grand Rapids
- [Potawatomi Tribes MMIP March 2026](#) - Rosa Park Circle, Grand Rapids
- [Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe March for Justice, Awareness, and Remembrance](#) - Island Park, Mt. Pleasant
- [Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Annual MMIWR March](#) - Newberry

across law enforcement agencies. This information could improve how cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous people are tracked and addressed.

No one person’s life is more valuable than another, and crimes against Indigenous women and girls deserve immediate and sustained attention. MMIW not only raises awareness of the historical neglect surrounding these cases but also calls for meaningful and lasting change.

As always FishCast members remain dedicated to fostering a welcoming and respectful chapter culture, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion for all members.

As always, please contact us if you would like to become involved with FishCast or if you come across items that you would like to have shared. You can reach us at mifishcastafs@gmail.com or submit items [anonymously](#).

Warm Wishes -

Dana Castle (she/her), Lydia Doerr (she/her), Kynzie House (she/her), Maggie Haite (they/them), Taylor Skiles (she/her), Kathleen Quebedeaux (she/her)

understanding of the urgency to act... not accepting the ‘no action response but demanding a ‘yes crisis-mode response’...”.

On the day itself, you can support MMIW by wearing or displaying a red dress (a tangible reminder of stolen lives), sharing information on social media, or attending a local event. While action on May 5 helps bring national attention to the disparities in justice that Indigenous women and girls experience, a single day of awareness cannot create change on its own. Addressing the violence faced by Indigenous women and girls requires sustained effort, including advocating for policy changes. For example, supporting funding for and enhancements to [Savanna’s Act](#) would prioritize mandatory, standardized data reporting