

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

La Crosse FRO Accomplishment Highlights Report

Tribal Assistance:

A Lake Sturgeon Success Story 10/30/2003

This survey will provide information necessary to make changes to the lake sturgeon management plan, if needed. Monitoring of the survival and growth is critical to a successful restoration project.



A Lake Sturgeon Success Story is unfolding on the White Earth Reservation due to the efforts of several partners. Partners such as White Earth DNR, Rainy River First Nations and US Fish and Wildlife Service have worked as a well oiled machine to make this a reality. Great recognition should go to Randy Zortman and his staff at White Earth DNR and Joe Hunter and his staff at Rainy River First Nations who have worked with four main fishery stations; Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Neosho National Fish Hatchery, La Crosse Fish Health Center and La Crosse Fishery Resources Office.

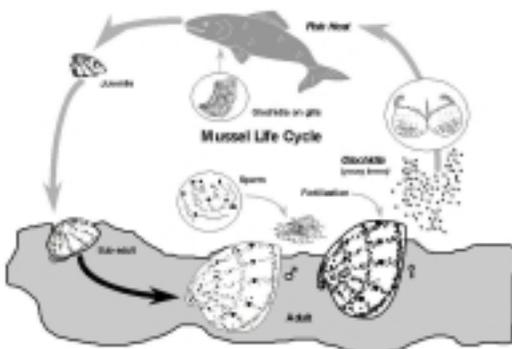
A lake sturgeon management plan for the White Earth Reservation was completed in 1998 and after three years of successful stocking, survival and growth were documented

this year. During surveys conducted in October two young lake sturgeon were collected from White Earth Lake and four were caught at Round Lake. The number of fish are not so important at this point as the fact that lake sturgeon are present and healthy. The management plan calls for two more years of stocking then an evaluation will be made on the stocking recommendations.

Scott Yess

Outreach:

Westby Middle School Students “Fish” for Information on Fishery Careers 11/19/2003



This was a great opportunity to educate local students and teachers about daily activities of a fishery biologist, inform them about the fishery program, and how they and the environment benefit from the USFWS.

Career Day on November 19th, 2003, at Westby Middle School in Westby, Wisconsin was a great success. Heidi Keuler from the La

Crosse Fishery Resource Office (FRO) spoke to about 40 seventh and eighth graders on life as a fishery biologist. A PowerPoint presentation highlighted Region 3, Partners of La Crosse FRO, projects La Crosse FRO works on, a job description, requirements for the job, hours worked, wages and much more. Pictures of fishery biologists on the job were displayed as well as diagrams of the mussel life cycle. Students were given a mini biology lesson about the life of a mussel and how fishery biologists propagate endangered mussels, such as the Higgins' eye and winged mapleleaf. Some of the students had previously heard about Asian carp so additional information was given about invasive species. Additional information on jobs in law enforcement, health care and business was also provided. Students diligently took notes at each of the four, 30-minute career presentations they rotated to. This was a great opportunity to educate local students and teachers about daily activities of a fishery biologist, inform them about the fishery program, and how they and the environment benefit from the USFWS.

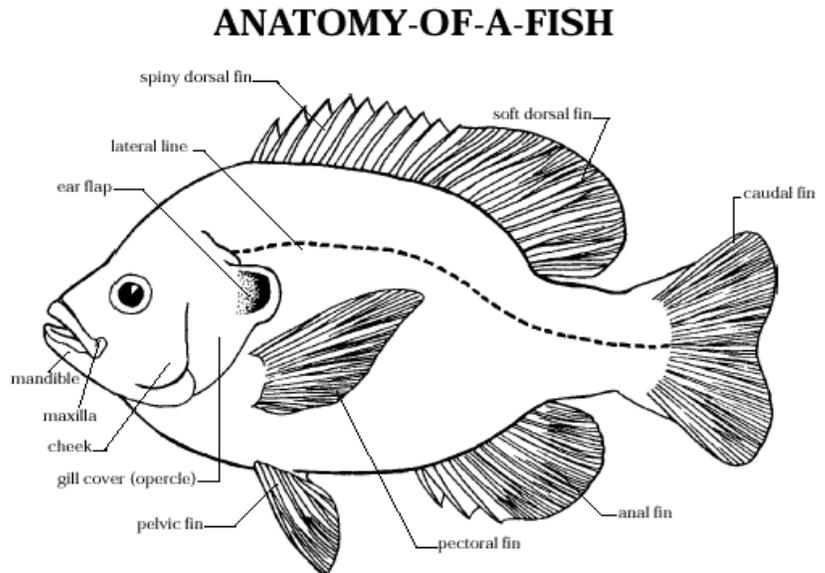
Heidi Keuler

Outreach:

Students Enjoy Fish Dissection **11/20/2003**

This is an outreach activity that should help educate today's youth as to the value of fishery resources and the environment.

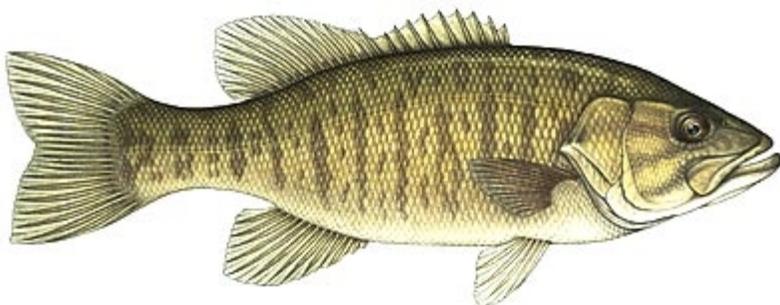
Rainbow Trout were inspected and dissected by 25 high school students from Cochrane Fountain City Senior High. Scott Yess (La Crosse FRO) discussed the internal and external organs of a fish and demonstrated a fish dissection prior to giving each student a trout of their own to dissect. Many of the students successfully removed all the organs and knew their function at the conclusion of class. The trout were donated by Genoa NFH. A description of La Crosse FRO's activities and FWS careers were also presented.



Scott Yess

Interjurisdictional Fisheries/Federal and State Lands Assistance:

La Crosse FRO assists Genoa NFH on Brood Stock Collections **12/15/2003**



The fish collected will be used as brood stock which will produce several thousand fry/fingerlings to be stocked in Region 3 management waters.

Dave Wedan and Scott Yess (La Crosse FRO), with help from volunteer Bill Brockman,

assisted Roger Gordon, Nick Starzl and Tony Brady (Genoa NFH) on largemouth and smallmouth bass brood stock collections. Over 70 smallmouth were collected along with approximately 30 largemouth bass during three days of electroshocking on the Wisconsin River near The Dells. The La Crosse Fish Health staff ran virology tests on the bass prior to transporting to Genoa, all tests were negative. These brood stock will help supply the region with young stock sized bass for several years.

Scott Yess