



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alpena Fishery Resources Office FY 2007 Station Activities

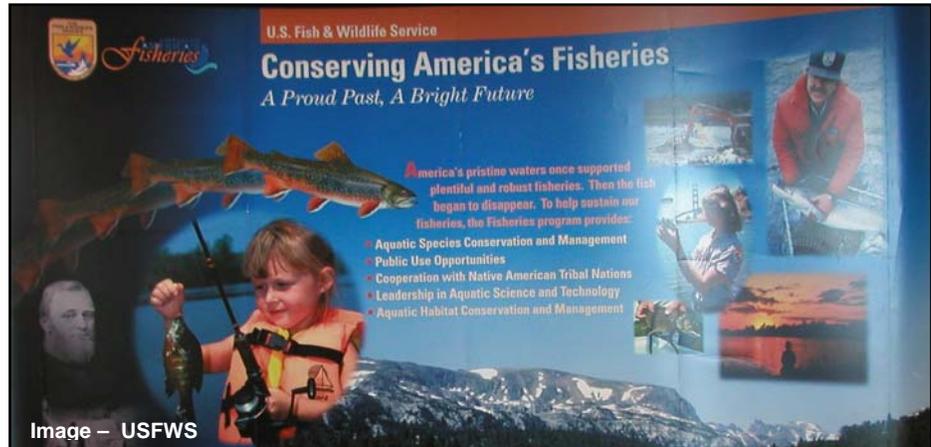
Public Use

As the population in the United States continues to grow, the potential for adverse impacts on aquatic resources, including habitat will increase. At the same time, demands for responsible, quality recreational fishing experiences will also increase. The Service has a long tradition of providing opportunities for public enjoyment of aquatic resources through recreational fishing, habitat restoration, and education programs and through mitigating impacts of Federal water projects. The Service also recognizes that some aquatic habitats have been irreversibly altered by human activity (i.e. – dam building). To compensate for these significant changes in habitat and lost fishing opportunities, managers often introduce non-native species when native species can no longer survive in the altered habitat. The Alpena Fishery Resources Office in Alpena, Michigan is actively involved in public use by providing educational programs, presentations, and activities to expand knowledge about Great Lakes fishery and aquatic habitat issues and our office activities. The following list of accomplishments highlights public use activities that the Alpena FRO provided in Fiscal Year 2007 (October 2006-September 2007).

The Annual Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival was a Success

*Submitted by Susan Wells
Fishery Biologist*

The 2006 Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival was held in Alpena, Michigan on October 13, 14, and 15, 2006. Lighthouses around the Great Lakes were showcased along with their associated aquatic resources. The Alpena FRO and Jordan River NFH represented the Service at this event. The M/V Spencer F.



Baird was present and staffed with personnel from the Jordan River NFH to give tours and describe the operation of the boat and its role in lake trout restoration. Biologist Wells put up a display depicting operations conducted by the Alpena FRO and the Service. Informational brochures and

children's aquatic resources quiz games were displayed at the booth. The boat, booth, and games were a success with both children and adults. Approximately 3,000 people attended at the festival.

This accomplishment was an educational and outreach opportunity providing an outlet to educate and interact with youth groups on issues regarding Great Lakes aquatic resources. We were able to showcase the Service to the public and educate people on the aquatic resources available in the Great Lakes. Approximately 3,000 people attended the Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival. This project addresses the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future priority for "Public Use".
Future.

Alpena FRO Staff Delivers a Presentation to Lake Superior State University

*Submitted by Scott Koproski
Fishery Biologist*

On November 21, 2006, Fishery Biologist Scott Koproski traveled to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to meet with the Introduction to Fisheries and Wildlife class at Lake Superior State University (LSSU). Throughout the semester various resource professionals have been invited to meet with the class and discuss how they ended up working for their respective agency. Biologist Koproski met with and provided the class information about the different programs of the Service and some of the responsibilities of each.

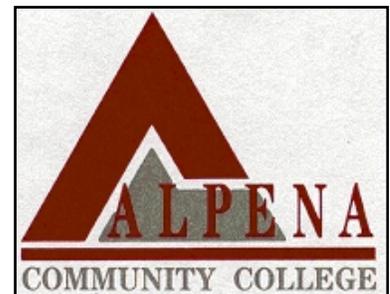
After providing an overview of the Service, he then described his journey in obtaining a position with the Service. He conveyed personal experiences, volunteer activities, positions held, and his educational background. There were over 40 students in the class and he fielded a variety of questions about a natural resource career.

This work is another example of Alpena FRO's commitment to the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future priorities of "Partnerships and Accountability" and "Public Use".

2007 Career Pathways Night at Alpena Community College

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen
Fishery Biologist*

The Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) participated in the Arts & Communications and Natural Resources & Agriscience Career Pathways Night at Alpena Community College on March 5, 2007, in Alpena, Michigan. The goal of Career Pathways is to expose college and high school age students and their parents to a number of professions, allowing the students to gain an understanding of what is required of the various careers. Speakers were encouraged to share their personal experiences and challenges in pursuing their



career goals, educational and training requirements, potential salary, demand for the career, and pros and cons of the profession.

Biologist Bowen provided information on Fishery Biologist and Fishery Technician careers available within the USFWS. She provided background on her own career path and detailed the types of activities associated with work at Service fishery offices located within the region - including Fishery Resources Offices, Biological Stations, National Fish Hatcheries, and Fish Health Centers.

A number of students and their parents participated in the event, which was sponsored by Alpena Regional Medical Center, Educational Talent Search, and the Alpena Community College. This event was the fourth of five events held during February and March to expose students to over 100 careers in Health Sciences, Human Sciences, Business, Management, Marketing & Technology, Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology, Arts & Communications, and Natural Resources & Agriscience.

Public education about fishery resources and career opportunities address the "Public Use" components of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

Biologist meets with Alpena High School Advanced Biology Class

*Submitted by Adam Kowalski
Fish and Wildlife Biologist*

Fishery biologist Adam Kowalski was invited to speak to an advanced biology class at the Alpena High School on March 8, 2007 about career opportunities in the field of fishery biology.

Kowalski's presentation highlighted his duties as a fishery biologist, the path he took to obtain his position, opportunities within the Fish and Wildlife Service, pay scales, and other opportunities as a fisheries biologist.

This invitation was initiated by one of the students as part of a class project. This was a great opportunity for the Alpena FRO to talk with a group of biology students about some things that the USFWS does in the local community.

Kowalski's presentation is consistent with the Service's goal of implementing educational and outreach activities to educate the public about Service activities and is consistent with and supportive of the "Aquatic Species Conservation and Management" and "Public Use" priorities of the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

Alpena FRO Outreach

Submitted by Heather Rawlings
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Biologists Anjanette Bowen and Heather Rawlings participated in the Michigan Regional Science Olympiad tournament on Saturday, March 10, 2007. The Alpena FRO Biologists judged the Ecology category, and developed and administered an ecology test for six junior high and eight high school teams. A considerable amount of time and effort were invested in designing the tests. Medals were awarded to first through third place in each category, and the schools that ranked the highest overall advanced in the competition and become eligible to compete at the state level.



Biologist Rawlings also participated in Fairview High School's Career Day on March 16th. Rawlings discussed careers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a career as a fisheries/private lands biologist in particular. The importance of obtaining a college degree and following your dreams was emphasized in this presentation. The presentation was interactive to harness the attention of the students, and give them a chance to articulate their future intentions. Several students expressed a strong interest in the SCEP/STEP programs. This is the second year the Alpena FRO has participated in this particular Career Day.

Outreach events such as these contribute toward the "Public Use" component of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future. Approximately 60 high school and junior high students learned about the Service through these outreach events.

Summer Notes at the Pine River Nature Center in Goodells, Michigan

Submitted by Jim McFee
Fishery Biologist

The Pine River Nature Center invited Service biologist Jim McFee, of the Alpena FRO, to give a presentation for a weekly program called Summer Notes. The Pine River Nature Center is a 5000 square foot log cabin located in the middle of a beautiful 80 acre track of hardwoods, along the Pine River. The center is located in St. Clair County Michigan and is operated by the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency. The center was built to give school kids the opportunity to

be involved with nature. This is an amazing facility and is kept running strong by Lisa Appel the operations coordinator.

On May 23, 2007 McFee gave a presentation entitled Lake Sturgeon and Lake Whitefish Recovery in the Detroit River. This presentation was prepared as a collaborative effort by USGS and Service biologists. The talk gave a broad overview of the changes that have occurred along the Detroit River and the impacts of these changes over the last two hundred years.



Photo – L. Appel, Pine River Nature Center

Following the overview of changes to the river a snapshot of the work being done for lake sturgeon and lake whitefish recovery interested all listeners. McFee touched on the Belle Isle reef construction project, the proposed Fighting Island spawning reef project, and overall sampling in the Detroit River used to better understand the resource.

Everyone in attendance was very interested with the changes of the past and the recent work that is being done on the river. Following McFee's presentation was a short talk from a member of the St. Clair River BPAC (Bi-National Public Advisory Council). Communication after the presentations, with the BPAC member, helped to build a possible future partnership to help our valuable resources.

This effort provided a unique opportunity to create new partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental agencies to achieve common Great Lakes management objectives. Maintaining these collaborative relationships allows for the most efficient use of limited human and fiscal resources. This project is consistent with the "Public Use", "Partnerships and Accountability", "Aquatic Species Conservation and Management", and "Leadership in Science and Technology" focus areas of the Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future.

Alpena FRO Helps Out at Camp

*Submitted by Adam Kowalski
Fish and Wildlife Biologist*

Fishery Biologist Adam Kowalski was invited to attend an outdoor educational camp from May 24-25, 2007 as an adult chaperone and as a guest speaker about fisheries for the 5th and 6th graders from Alpena Lincoln Elementary where his 10yr old son attends. The camp was structured as an educational experience of the outdoors along with periods of unstructured play time for the students. Since the focus of the camp was education Kowalski talked about the educational requirements to obtain a Fish Biologist position with the Service and other agencies.

Kowalski showed the students a model of a trap net, identified all the parts and described the size of an actual commercial trap net. Kowalski also discussed commercial fishing with trap nets and the use of trap nets as a research tool used by the Alpena FRO.

Kowalski set two small inland trap nets the night before the presentation, which allowed the students to see how they are fished and to help sort the catch. Kowalski then talked about other research done by the Alpena FRO, the importance of the data collected and what it is used for. Kowalski also helped out in other areas throughout the day assisting with a black bear population exercise, leading a nature scavenger hunt, a game of capture the flag, baiting hooks and untangling fishing line.



Kowalski's presentation is consistent with the Service's goal of implementing educational and outreach activities to educate the public about Service activities and is consistent with and supportive of the "Public Use" and "Aquatic Species Conservation and Management" priorities of the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

Hubbard Lake Kids Fishing Day

*Submitted by Adam Kowalski
Fish and Wildlife Biologist*

Fisheries Biologist Adam Kowalski attended a kids free fishing day in Hubbard Lake, Michigan on June 9, 2007. Alpena FRO obtained live sea lamprey from the USGS Hammond Bay Biological Station to take to the event. Children were allowed to handle the sea lamprey while Kowalski talked about the invasive species and current methods the Service uses to control their numbers in the Great Lakes.

Approximately 100 children and parents visited the sea lamprey station and visited with Kowalski about the program and Service activities. There were many other stations at the event for children including boat safety, fish identification, a fishing pond to catch a rainbow trout, life saving techniques (buoy throw), and others.

Alpena FRO has attended this event for several years as part of the station's goals to be involved with the public and inform them of the role of the Service's Fisheries program.

This presentation is consistent with the Service's goal of implementing educational and outreach activities to educate the public about Service activities and is consistent with and supportive of the

“Public Use” and “Aquatic Species Conservation and Management” priorities of the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

Friday Night Downtown in Alpena, Michigan

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen
Fishery Biologist*

Heather Rawlings and Anjanette Bowen staffed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service booth at the June 29, 2007 Friday Night Downtown event in Alpena, Michigan.

Friday Night Downtown is hosted by the Friday Night Downtown Committee and downtown businesses. It is held on Friday nights during July to provide fun for families. Downtown area streets are closed for the event and downtown businesses remain open. A number of local businesses and organizations host booths during the event. Local bands play music and there are food vendors and activities for children including balloon tying, face painting and games.

The Alpena FRO booth showcased an aquatic nuisance species display, informational brochures, coloring books and games for children - including a fish puzzle. The Service will also host a booth at the July 20th Friday Night Downtown event. Education and outreach are important components of the “Public Use” and “Partnerships and Accountability” priorities of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

Shipwreck Detectives Summer Day Camp

*Submitted by Heather Rawlings
Fish and Wildlife Biologist*

Biologists Anjanette Bowen and Heather Rawlings from the Alpena FRO led a “Surf-N-Turf” Scavenger Hunt for nineteen teenagers on July 12, 2007. Students were taking part in the Shipwreck Detectives Day Camp, sponsored by Alpena Community College. The Day Camp focused on teaching local teens the process of locating, mapping, and identifying shipwrecks. The third and final day of camp the students were able to snorkel out to a shipwreck located in Bell Bay in about 30 feet of water. Half of the students snorkeled, and half participated in the scavenger hunt, then the students switched groups. Held at



Besser-Bell Natural Area in Presque Isle County, the scavenger hunt was designed for the teens to experience a variety of ecosystems- Lake Huron, a lagoon, a fir/cedar forest, and an old growth white pine remnant. Students were instructed to identify a variety of flora and fauna, touch and feel them (except for the snapping turtle), and then comment on various characteristics of that particular item. Since it was a scavenger hunt there were also a list of items to find such as berries, fossils, pine cones and leaves. The Alpena News (7/19/07) quoted one of the students as saying, "The scavenger hunt was my favorite part of the entire experience. They (the USFWS) gave you an idea of what they did... it was definitely a learning experience."

Outreach events such as this contribute toward the "Public Use" component of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future. Nineteen high school and junior high students learned about the Service and their natural world through this outreach event.

Optimist Club Fishing Event at the Brown Trout Festival

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen
Fishery Biologist*

Alpena FRO Fishery Biologists Heather Rawlings and Anjanette Bowen participated in the Optimist Club Kids Fishing Event held during the Brown Trout Festival in Alpena, Michigan on July 19, 2007. It is an annual event hosted by the Alpena Optimist Club to teach children how to fish. A number of other vendors are invited to participate and provide outreach for the kids as well. The Alpena FRO booth featured a live sea lamprey provided by the USGS Hammond Bay Biological Station to introduce kids to invasive species issues. Fish puzzles, games, and coloring pages were also available, as well as sunglasses and other give away items. Drawing children's interest to natural resources is an important priority for the Service and the future of natural resource management.



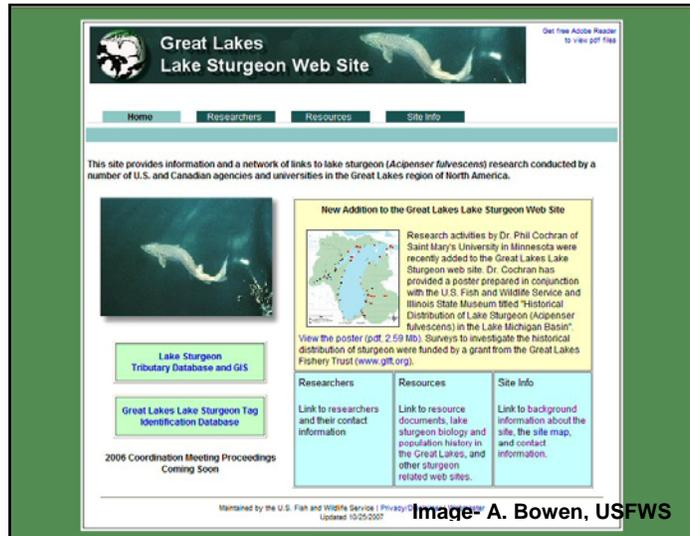
Approximately 650 children and adults were educated about invasive species and fishery issues at the Kids Fishing Event. Public education is an important component of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future priority of "Public Use".

Web Sites Updated

**Submitted by Anjanette Bowen
Fishery Biologist**

The Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon web site (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/sturgeon>) and the Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office web site (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena>) were updated in September 2007.

The Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon web site was established in 1999 as a tool to provide contact information to lake sturgeon researchers, managers, and interested parties across the Great Lakes Basin and as a source for lake sturgeon management, research, conservation, and restoration. The web site currently has information provided by 42 researchers, biologists, and interested



citizens from 40 agency offices, institutions, and organizations. The site receives an average of 24,200 visits per month and averages 230 visitors per day. Twelve new contacts and six new federal, state, and university partners were added in September. The appearance of the site was also changed. Alpena Biologist Anjanette Bowen is the webmaster for the site.

The Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) web site provides information about station programs and activities. All station reports are listed on the site. The site receives an average of 46,500 visits per month and averages 1,500 visitors per day. New information was added, and the appearance and organization of the site was updated in September.

This effort is consistent with the “Aquatic Species Conservation and Management”, “Partnerships and Accountability”, and “Public Use” priorities of the Service’s Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

For more information about Alpena FRO programs and activities contact us at:

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