



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

January 2008 Station Activities

The Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) is located in Alpena, Michigan and works to meet the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fishery and Ecosystem goals within Lake Huron, Western Lake Erie, and connecting waters of the St. Marys River, St. Clair River, and Detroit River. Activities include Aquatic Species Conservation and Management, Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management, Aquatic Invasive Species Management, Cooperation with Native Americans, Leadership in Science and Technology, Partnerships and Accountability, Public Use, and Workforce Management – all of which are conducted in alignment with the Service Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future. The station is one of many field offices located within Region 3, the Midwest Region.

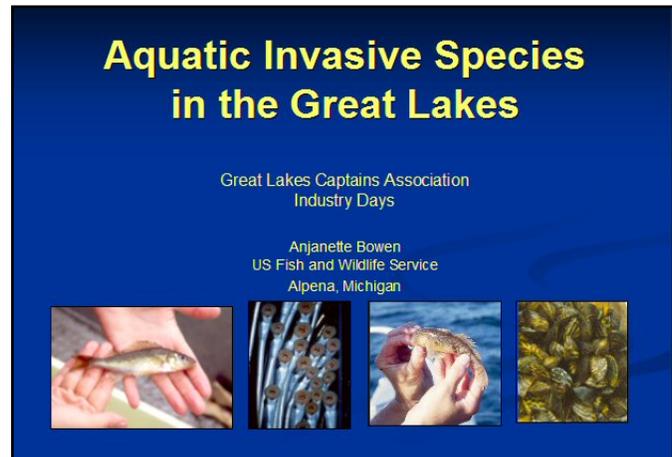
Aquatic Invasive Species Management

Invasive Species Information Provided at Great Lakes Captains Association Conference

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen
Fishery Biologist*

On January 17, Anjanette Bowen of the Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office presented information on Aquatic Invasive Species at the Great Lakes Captain's Association's annual "Industry Days" conference held in Traverse City, Michigan.

Bowen provided a PowerPoint presentation on problems associated with some invasive species currently found in the Great Lakes. She also provided information on Asian Carp, carp species that are not found in the Great Lakes but are within 50 miles of entering the system via the Mississippi and Illinois River systems. Information on the



Information on aquatic invasive species was provided to the Great Lakes Captains Association at their Industry Days conference held in Traverse City, Michigan in January.

Chicago Shipping and Sanitary Canal Dispersal Barrier Project in Illinois was provided as well. Approximately 150 people attended the event.

Public education regarding invasive species is an important means of preventing their spread and helps promote healthy native species populations. This effort is consistent with the Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future priorities of "Aquatic Invasive Species Management" and "Public Use."

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Whiskey Creek Road Crossing Restoration

*Submitted by Heather Rawlings
Fish and Wildlife Biologist*

Ninety-four road-stream crossing sites were identified as contributing excessive sedimentation to the Thunder Bay River watershed, as documented in "*Thunder Bay River Watershed: Road/Stream Crossing Inventory Report*," (Huron Pines RC&D, December 2000). One of these crossings, Whiskey Creek at Hunt Creek Road, was a priority of the local road commission, and presented an opportunity to improve habitat with renovation at the site. Whiskey Creek is a tributary of Hunt Creek, which is known to support the best trout fishery and coldest water within the watershed. This tributary provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for native brook trout, and is a good coldwater source feeding into Hunt Creek.



The Whiskey Creek/Hunt Creek Road stream crossing in Montmorency County, Michigan was improved in November 2007 to allow fish passage.

The former crossing, a 24 inch by 20 foot round culvert was critically failing to the extent that it was partially filled with sediment and was blocking fish passage. This culvert was replaced with a 57 inch wide by 48 foot long elliptical culvert on November 9, 2007. Additionally, the culvert was realigned to match the stream channel and the embankments were stabilized using fieldstone. The road approaches have a steep 10 degree grade which was hardened with crushed limestone. Several check dams were installed in the ditches and one sediment basin was placed to filter out the majority of the road run-off. Seeding was spread and geotextile fabric was placed at all disturbed areas. Erosion from the road shoulders and embankment, which was contributing nearly three tons of sediment annually to Whiskey Creek, was virtually eliminated.

Benefits of the project were 1) reinstated fish passage, allowing access to approximately 2 miles of the headwaters of Whiskey Creek; 2) reduction of adverse fish habitat impacts from erosion and

warming of water at the crossing, benefiting approximately 8 stream miles of fish habitat downstream to the confluence of the Thunder Bay River; and 3) benefits to non-fish species currently suffering the impacts of sand erosion, flooding, and obstructed flow.

Funding for the project was provided by the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the FishAmerica Foundation, Huron Pines, the Montmorency County Road Commission and the State of Michigan's Clean Michigan Initiative Program. The total cost of the project was \$25,268, and Service funding (\$3,000) was matched with an 8.5:1 match of equipment and labor. Alpena NFWCO's Biologist Rawlings coordinated the project with Ms. Lisha Ramsdell from Huron Pines.

Completion of aquatic habitat restoration projects such as this is consistent with and supportive of the "Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management" priority of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

Public Use

Fishery Education Provided for Area Cub Scouts

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen
Fishery Biologist*

On January 22, Biologist Bowen of the Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office was invited to speak to Alpena Area Cub Scouts about Great Lakes fish and their conservation. The scouts learned about lake sturgeon, an important native species, and efforts to conserve them. They viewed a variety of frozen native species common to our area including northern pike and yellow perch.

Information was also provided on aquatic invasive species and efforts to control them. The scouts learned about and viewed sea lamprey, zebra mussels, and round goby specimens and learned what to do to prevent the spread of these invaders.

The scouts shared their fishing stories and enjoyed the time to focus on aquatic resources. Approximately 20 scouts, scout leaders, and parents attended the event.

Public education about natural resources is an important objective for the USFWS Fishery Program. This effort is consistent with the "Public Use" priority of the Fisheries Vision for the Future.

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

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