

The Ashland National Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) is a field station located on the south shore of Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay, and is part of the Fish & Wildlife Service's Midwest Region (Region 3) Fisheries Program.

### ***Our Mission is:***

***Working with Tribal, Federal, State and local governments, non-government organizations and private landowners, to conserve, manage and rehabilitate native species and their habitats for citizens of the Lake Superior basin.***



*There are eight areas we focus our day-to-day efforts to help us achieve our mission:*

### **Partnerships, Accountability & Outreach:**



The Fisheries Program stresses partnerships with States, Tribes, other governments, private organizations, public institutions and interested citizens in larger efforts - often crossing Interjurisdictional boundaries - to conserve these important resources. Outreach and communication is critically important.

### **Aquatic Species Conservation:**

The Ashland NFWCO is committed to conserve and manage self-sustaining populations of native fish and other aquatic resources. The station maintains and implements a comprehensive set of tools and activities linked to management and recovery plans that help achieve restoration and recovery goals, provide recreational benefits, and address Federal trust responsibilities.



Sound science, effective partnerships, and careful planning and evaluation are integral to conservation and management efforts.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species:**

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are one of the most significant threats to fish and wildlife and their habitats. Local and regional economies are severely affected with control costs exceeding \$123 billion annually. The Ashland NFWCO has focused its efforts on preventing introductions of new aquatic invasive species, detecting and monitoring new and established invasives, controlling the spread of established invasives, providing coordination and technical assistance to organizations that respond to invasive species problems, and developing comprehensive, integrated plans to fight aquatic invasive species.



### **Public Use:**

The Ashland NFWCO has a long tradition of providing opportunities for public enjoyment of aquatic resources through recreational fishing, habitat restoration, and education programs. As the human population in the region continues to grow, the potential for adverse impacts on aquatic resources and habitat will increase. At the same time, demands for responsible, quality recreational fishing experiences will also increase.



### **Cooperation with Native Americans:**

Conserving this Nation's fish and other aquatic resources cannot be successful without the partnership of Tribes.

Tribes manage or influence some of the most important aquatic habitats both on and off reservations. In addition, the Federal government and the Service have distinct and unique obligations toward Tribes based on trust responsibility, treaty provisions, and statutory mandates. The Ashland NFWCO plays an important role in providing technical assistance to Tribes as they exercise their sovereignty in the management of their fish and wildlife resources within Federal Indian trust land and in treaty reserved areas.



### Leadership in Science and Technology:



Science and technology form the foundation of successful fish and aquatic resource conservation and are used to structure and implement monitoring and evaluation programs that are critical to determine the success of management actions. The Ashland NFWCO is committed to following established principles of sound science.

### Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management:



The office's Habitat and Wildlife Section is an active partner in wetland, upland and instream fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects. Locally, through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Great Lakes basin wide through the Coastal Program – Great Lakes, technical and financial assistance is given on restoration projects. This work restores and enhances thousands of acres for Service trust species.



### Workforce Management Administration:

Biologists, technicians and administrative staff utilize their skills, abilities and dedication to independently and together fulfill the mission of the Ashland NFWCO. Employees must be trained, equipped and supported in order to perform their jobs safely, often under demanding environmental conditions, and to keep current with the constantly expanding science and technology of fish and aquatic resource management and conservation.

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The Ashland NFWCO welcomes questions or comments about our programs and accomplishments. Staff members are available for presentations to schools, civic groups, and others interested in fish and wildlife resources.

# Ashland National Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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