

*Christening & Commissioning
of the*

M/V Spencer F. Baird

September 7, 2006

Welcome

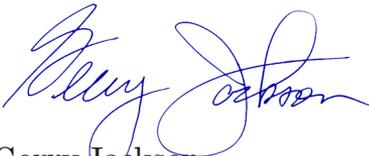
Dear Invited Guests:

I would like to formally welcome you to our celebration – the christening and commissioning of the M/V Spencer F. Baird.

With a fisheries-related economy of \$5 billion per year, the Great Lakes are vital to fisheries and people. The Service is dedicated to our partners and these vast resources.

The M/V Spencer F. Baird is an example of that dedication. Six years in development, the vessel is a long-awaited, one-of-a-kind workhorse for Great Lakes fisheries conservation. During our Baird celebrations, we hope you will:

- See how the Baird will build on successes in lake trout and native fish restoration, sea lamprey and invasive species control and habitat restoration.
- Help us honor the partners and supporters responsible for the Baird's development.
- Thank our long-time partners in aquatic resources conservation: states, tribes, other federal agencies, non-government organizations.
- See how the vessel will address your fisheries conservation interests.



Gerry Jackson
Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 3

Christening and Commissioning Participants

Gerry Barnhart, Vice-Chair, Great Lakes Fishery Commission; Director, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, New York

Harold Chase, Spokesperson for Senator Carl Levin, Traverse City, Michigan

Brandon Fewins, Spokesman for Senator Debbie Stabenow, Traverse City, Michigan

Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

Gerry Jackson, Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota

Bob Lambe, Regional Director General - Central and Arctic Region, Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada

Mamie Parker, Assistant Director, Fisheries Habitat and Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

Dwight "Bucko" Teeple, Bay Mills Indian Community, Bay Mills, Michigan

Jane TenEyck, Executive Director, Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota

Tom Todd, Great Lakes Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Bud Wagner, Pastor, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Cheboygan, Michigan

Gary Whelan, Fish Production Manager, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Lansing, Michigan

Sharon Wise, Spokeswoman for Congressman Dave Camp, 4th District, Traverse City, Michigan

The Baird Facts

The M/V Spencer F. Baird is a fish stocking and stock assessment vessel operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Great Lakes. After six years of planning and development, the Baird is a long-awaited, uniquely designed workhorse. It will further a four-decade effort to establish self-sustaining populations of native lake trout, nearly wiped out in the late 1950s due to invasion of sea lampreys, overfishing and pollution.

Mission 1: Lake trout rehabilitation

The Baird's primary mission is to transport fingerling and yearling lake trout raised at Service hatcheries in Wisconsin and Michigan to restore lake trout populations in lakes Huron and Michigan. The Service produces almost 4 million lake trout each year; it transports 95 percent of these fish to important offshore sites for release. Each year, the Baird will travel approximately 3,000 miles from April to July.

Mission 2: Fish stock assessments

The vessel's second mission is to carry out assessments to measure the performance of stocked lake trout. It also will monitor and assess other fish populations in lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior. Through the use of bottom sonar, trawls, mid-water trawls and gill nets, the Baird will sample prey and predator fishes to gather important biological information on relative abundance, age and size, and population structure. Such data will be collected in annual surveys, often done cooperatively with federal, state, tribal and provincial partners. This information will serve the needs of the lake trout rehabilitation program, management of treaty fisheries, and agencies on the Upper Great Lakes.

Baird Celebration Program

Registration and Exhibits - 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Hagerty Center
Rotary Hall

Indoor Tour of Exhibits: “Scaling the Heights of Great Lakes Conservation,” Rotary Hall. See how the Service and its partners make a difference from sea lamprey and invasive species control to habitat restoration to native fish rehabilitation. Service staff at each exhibit station will describe and discuss the Service’s Great Lakes work.

Christening and Commissioning Ceremony - 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Great Lakes Maritime Academy pier

Please join us as we celebrate the christening and commissioning of the M/V *Spencer F. Baird*.

Partners Luncheon - 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Hagerty Center Ballrooms

Guests who have confirmed their attendance will attend a complimentary luncheon to honor Service partners who were integral to the development, funding and acquisition of the Baird.

Open House - 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Great Lakes Maritime Academy pier / Hagerty Center Rotary Hall

The Baird and exhibits will be open for walking tours and viewing by the public. Crew and Service staff will be aboard the Baird to show you the ships features and describe its capabilities.

Related Tours - 2:00 p.m.

Guests who have confirmed their participation will go on guided tours of Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Christening and Commissioning

Welcome and Opening Comments - 10:30 – 11:10 a.m.

- Robyn Thorson
- Dale Hall
- Mamie Parker
- Harold Chase, Spokesperson for Senator Carl Levin
- Brandon Fewins, Spokesman for Senator Debbie Stabenow
- Sharon Wise, Spokeswoman for Congressman Dave Camp

Christening Ceremony - 11:10 - 11:25 a.m.

Introductions: Dale Hall

Invocation: Pastor Bud Wagner

Christening: Mamie Parker

Robyn Thorson

“Road to the Isles” - Tom Todd (bagpipe accompaniment)

Commissioning - 11:25 - 11:35 a.m.

Introductions of Vessel Crew - Dale Hall

Captain: Mike Perry

Engineer: Bob Bergstrom

Scientific Crew

Crystal LeGault Anderson, Pendill’s Creek National
Fish Hatchery

Charles Bronte, Green Bay Fishery Resources Office

Denise Johnston, Jordan River National Fish
Hatchery

Henry Quinlan, Ashland Fishery Resources Office

Kurt Schilling, Iron River National Fish Hatchery

Aaron Wolft, Alpena Fishery Resources Office

Orders to Commission: Dale Hall

Presentation of Flags - 11:35 – 11:50 a.m.

Introduction: Robyn Thorson

Presentation of the American Flag: Gerry Barnhart

Presentation of the Canadian Flag: Bob Lambe

Presentation of the Commissioning Pennant: Dale Hall

Raising the Colors: Naval Sea Cadets, Grayling, Michigan

“Star Spangled Banner” and “Oh, Canada!” - Northwind Brass, Traverse City, Michigan

Closing - 11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Blessing: Dwight “Bucko” Teeple

A Native American blessing for the safety of the vessel and crew.

“God Bless America” - Northwind Brass, Traverse City, Michigan

Partners Luncheon

Ceremony - 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Hagerty Center Ballrooms

Invocation: Pastor Bud Wagner

Invited Speaker Remarks:

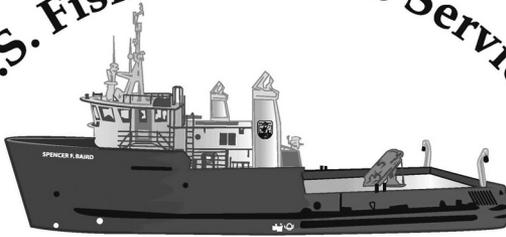
- Gary Whelan
- Jane TenEyck
- Mamie Parker
- Gerry Barnhart
- Bob Lambe
- Dale Hall

Awards Presentation: Dale Hall and Gerry Jackson

Partners - Thank You!

Partnerships are essential for effective fisheries management. No one can do it alone. We would like to thank our many partner agencies, tribes, organizations and private individuals for their contribution to fisheries conservation.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



M/V SPENCER F. BAIRD

