



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers

Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing, and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems

Genoa National Fish Hatchery

Genoa, Wisconsin



Series of photos depicting Genoa National Fish Hatchery activities: (Lt. to Rt.) (Top Row) Roger Gordon spawns a coaster brook trout; An aerial view of the Genoa National Fish Hatchery; Jeff Lockington holds a female northern pike captured from the Mississippi River as a source of production eggs; (Middle Row) Native mussel species (clockwise from the base of the thumb - Higgins' eye pearlshell, cylindrical papershell, giant floater, paper pondshell, white heelsplitter); Nick Starzl coded wire tags a lake sturgeon fingerling prior to release in support of a restoration plan; Kids with their dad enjoy the annual Fishing Derby; (Bottom Row) Roger Gordon stocks 7 inch walleye into Lake Greenwood at the Crane Naval Base, Indiana; Teaching a child from a local tour group the techniques used to spawn a northern pike; Building mussel cages as part of the Higgins' eye pearlshell recovery plan.

Genoa National Fish Hatchery

Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH), established in 1932, is located on the eastern shore of the Mississippi River in west central Wisconsin. It is one of the few Fish and Wildlife Service hatcheries to be located on a National Wildlife Refuge. The station's current programs include threatened and endangered mussel recovery, restoration of native fish species (such as lake sturgeon, coaster brook trout, and lake trout), and fish production to meet fishery management needs on Federal and tribal lands. In FY2003, Genoa produced over 13.3 million fish and eyed eggs of 17 different species for 23 different federal, state, and tribal programs!

The hatchery is involved with many of the surrounding states and Federal natural resource agencies in efforts to recover the endangered Higgins' eye pearlymussel, one of the first aquatic species registered on the Endangered Species List. We also partner with state and tribal agencies to restore lake sturgeon and coaster brook trout, species of concern in the Midwest due to declines in its populations and range. The hatchery also provides sport fish obtained from its spring river netting operations to Federal (3), state (10), and tribal (10) partners to support ongoing management programs, and provide recreational fishing opportunities. In return, the partners assist the Fish and Wildlife Service with threatened and endangered species recovery efforts.



-USFWS

These endangered Higgins' eye pearlymussels were produced in cages. "Host fish" are inoculated with glochidia (mussel larvae) and put into cages. After this "parasitic" phase, the mussels drop off their host fish.



-USFWS

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Staff

Lt. to Rt. (Front Row) Dan Kumlin, Doug Aloisi, Tony Brady, Jenny Walker, Ashley Umberger, (Back Row) Nick Starzl, Jeff Lockington, Roger Gordon, Diane Zittel.

The station is also the first Fish and Wildlife Service office to staff a mussel biologist, to manage the station's mussel recovery programs. The stations programs have moved past the fish hatchery boundary to assist in stream mussel population surveys, assessments, and recovery planning. This will allow restoration plans to most accurately mesh with production capabilities and technologies currently available.

Genoa NFH also has a unique opportunity to provide a fully reimbursed rainbow trout fishery with the Fort McCoy Army Base in Sparta, Wisconsin. This year over 2,500 anglers spent 5,470 angler days fishing for 14,000 9-14 inch rainbow trout that were raised at the hatchery.

The Genoa NFH continues to be a national leader in science and technology development by researching the development of large scale production techniques for freshwater mussels. The hatchery also carries out trials to discover the most suitable fish species to serve as mussel hosts. This past year the hatchery partnered with the U.S. Geological Survey, Ecological Services, and several universities on multiple year investigations concerning mussel life history and propagation questions. The hatchery also supplies study information to support fishery drug registration efforts.

For more detailed information about the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, contact the office at (608) 689-2605 or visit their website at: <http://midwest.fws.gov/genoa/>