

# Kids Free Fishing Day on Ojibway Island a Success

*June 13, 2009*

One hundred and sixty-seven children and their families congregated at Ojibway Island in Saginaw for the 29<sup>th</sup> annual **Kids Free Fishing Day** on Saturday, June 13, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This fishing contest coincides with Michigan's free fishing weekend each year. The weather was perfect for catching fish – rainy and cool. Over 550 fish were reeled in all around the island. The largest fish was caught by Hailey Metiva, 6-year-old daughter of Steve and Amanda Metiva, who pulled in a nearly 9 ½ pound Northern pike. The fish was nearly as long as she was tall!



*Hailey Metiva, 6-year-old daughter of Steve and Amanda Metiva, caught the largest fish at Kids Free Fishing Day on June 13. The Northern pike weighed in at nearly 9 1/2 pounds.*

*Photo by Becky Goche/USFWS; June 13, 2009.*

Twenty-six volunteers, including 8 Sea Cadets and 5 officers from the local U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps – H.R. Doud Division, donated over 120 hours helping with the event. These volunteers registered the children, handed out free bait, checked in the fish at the fish return area, and helped hand out over 85 prizes to the winners after the contest had ended. The Sea Cadets also provided a color guard and flag ceremony prior to the drawing for all the prizes.



*Sea Cadet Miller from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps-H.R. Doud Division in Saginaw was one of the 8 cadets who assisted with Kids Free Fishing Day on June 13 at Ojibway Island. One of the cadets duties was to check in the over 550 fish that children caught around the island. Photo by A. Mallard/USNSCC; June 13, 2009*

The sponsors for the **Kids Free Fishing Day** were Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Green Point Environmental Learning Center, City of Saginaw, Dow Chemical Michigan Operations Fishing Club, Lake Huron Area Council – Boy Scouts of America, Friends of Shiawassee NWR, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps – H.R. Doud Division, and Shiawassee NWR Volunteers. In addition Dick's Sporting Goods, Meijer Store on Gratiot, and 7-Eleven donated gift coupons and bait. The Saginaw County Sheriff's Posse provided horse patrol during the event.