

Lake Champlain

Fish and Wildlife Resources Complex

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Purpose

The Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Resources Office was established for fish and wildlife resource restoration, development and conservation in accordance with the provisions of the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990 and the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Lake Champlain Basin Program Act of 2002.

Biologists at Pittsford National Fish Hatchery raised lake trout for restoring interjurisdictional and recreational fisheries in Lake Champlain and the lower Great Lakes in 2006. The hatchery also contributed to efforts to restore anadromous fish populations in the Connecticut River by producing sea-run Atlantic salmon in 2006.

The Service is the lead federal agency in cooperative efforts to control sea lamprey, monitor forage fish and produce hatchery fish supporting a multi-million dollar recreational fishery and the restoration of native species in the Lake Champlain basin.

Management Activities

- Assists agencies, organizations and landowners in restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat
- Works with others to restore fisheries
- Works to minimize the impacts of invasive species
- Produced 75,000 2-year-old Atlantic salmon in 2006 for restoration efforts in the Connecticut River watershed

- Produced 1,500 lake trout in 2006 for Lake Champlain, and initiated production of 150,000 lake trout for the lower Great Lakes

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January 2007



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USFWS

Highlights

Under a new agreement with the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation, Pittsford National Fish Hatchery staff are providing oversight for the Berkshire Trout Hatchery, the first and only national fish hatchery run solely by volunteers. In 2006, the hatchery began raising Atlantic salmon for the Connecticut River's restoration program.

With FY 06 funds, the office's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has completed 40 projects that restored or enhanced 144 acres of wetlands, 113 acres of upland forests, 26 miles of riparian and 1 mile of in-stream aquatic habitats, and removed 1 barrier to fish passage. The Program estimates leveraging approximately \$305,000 of non-governmental funds and in-kind services for these projects.

Issues

Lake Champlain is experiencing, through a variety of pathways, a severe invasion of harmful exotic species. The Service is working closely with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and stakeholders to address concerns about the Champlain Canal's role in introducing invasive species from the Hudson River.

Because of reduced FY 06 operating budgets, Lake Champlain landlocked Atlantic salmon at Pittsford National Fish Hatchery were transferred to White River National Fish Hatchery. Rearing of lake trout for the lower Great Lakes is planned for Pittsford National Fish Hatchery in 2007.

