



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Midwest Region

# Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Program

- Aquatic Species Conservation and Management
- Public Use Opportunities
- Cooperation with Native American Tribal Nations
- Leadership in Aquatic Science and Technology
- Aquatic Habitat Assessment and Management

# Fish Lines

**Alpena Open House  
& Ribbon Cutting**

**Spring is Fish Health and  
Tornado Season**

**Chinese Scientists  
Observe Conservation  
in the Heartland**

**Spring Thaws Launch  
Spawning Operations in  
High Gear**



Vol. 8 No. 7  
May 2010

# Fish Lines

Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Program - Midwest Region

The Mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The vision of the Service's Fisheries Program is working with partners to restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels and to support Federal mitigation programs for the benefit of the American public. Implementing this vision will help the Fisheries Program do more for aquatic resources and the people who value and depend on them through enhanced partnerships, scientific integrity, and a balanced approach to conservation.

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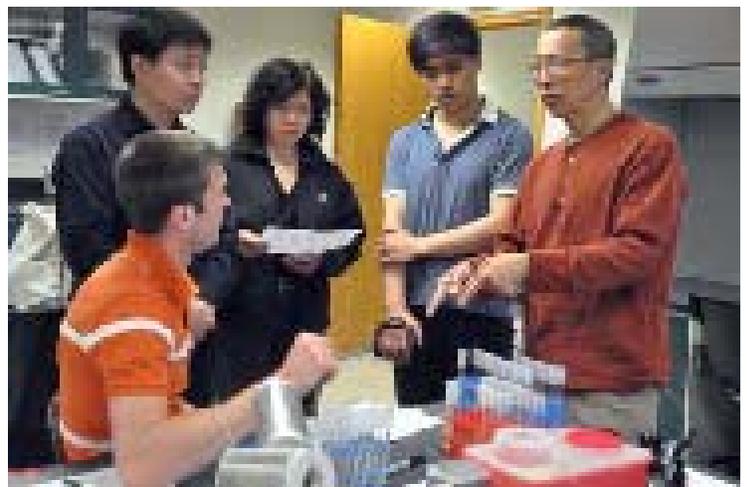
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BY ANJANETTE BOWEN AND ANDREA ANIA

## Youth Outdoor Fest

July 24, 2010  
Pettibone Park  
La Crosse, WI  
11:00 am —5:00 pm



-USFWS/Becky Lasee

Chris Olds (bottom left) of the La Crosse Fish Health Center discusses bacterial testing procedures with Chinese delegates.

To view other issues of "Fish Lines," visit our website at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/fishlines.htm>

# *Fish Lines*

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ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
Mike Weimer

To submit suggestions or comments, e-mail  
david\_radloff@fws.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Midwest Region  
Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Program  
1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, MN 55111  
Phone: 612/713-5111



-USFWS/Karla Bartelt

**Local school children celebrate at the new office dedication event for the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.**

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# Spring is Fish Health and Tornado Season

BY TERRY OTT, LA CROSSE FHC

Located in southwestern Missouri on the southern edge of the Midwest, Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) lies at the western edge of the Missouri Ozarks. The federal hatchery is named after the City of Neosho which completely surrounds the hatchery. The name “Neosho” which means “clear, cold water” is derived from the Osage, a Native American tribe of that region. Much of Neosho’s history revolves around the many springs which bubble out of the limestone rock, including the operation of one of the oldest federal fish hatcheries (built in 1888) in the country.



-USFWS

## Aerial view of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery

Travel from the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) in Onalaska, Wisc. to Neosho NFH involves a painstaking ten hour road trip through the heart of corn country Iowa, around the big city of Kansas City, Missouri, and through the hilly country of the Missouri Ozarks, or as I like to call it in the spring, “Tornado Alley.” Neosho is situated in a broad region where cold air from the Rocky Mountains and Canada collide with warm air from the Gulf of Mexico, creating some of the most powerful thunderstorms in the Midwest. Neosho has had many severe outbreaks of thunder-

storms and tornados, including an EF4 tornado in the spring of 2008.

The hatchery crew at Neosho NFH can attest to some of these violent storms by telling you some pretty scary stories of severe weather they’ve had to endure, while taking care of their rainbow trout and endangered pallid sturgeon. That is why I was in Neosho, to collect fish tissue samples from these fish for their semi-annual fish health inspection.

The fish health inspection is a tool we use to assure fishery management biologists, hatchery managers, and the general public that we are stocking “disease free” fish into lakes, reservoirs and streams. The inspection process looks for a specific group of viruses, bacteria and a parasite which fish health biologists know could have devastating effects on populations of wild fish if one of these pathogens is introduced into their environment.

On April 13th, eleven lots of rainbow trout and pallid sturgeon, totaling 225 and 30 fish, respectively, were anesthetized and sampled. Tissue samples were carefully placed into test tubes, on agar slants, into 96 well microtiter plates, on DFAT slides and into whirl-pak bags for the return trip to Wisconsin.

Once back at the lab, these specimens will be processed by fish health biologists according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s *Fish Health Policy, Guidelines and Standards*. The whole process can take up to a month before the final test results are known. A fish health inspection certificate with a “Class A” designation is most welcomed by hatchery managers, because it means their fish are free of “certifiable” pathogens. For the past four inspections, Neosho NFH has maintained a “Class A” status and we are hoping this classification will continue well into the future.

For further info about the La Crosse FHC: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/LaCrosseFishHealthCenter/>

# Chinese Scientists Observe Conservation in the Heartland

BY DOUG ALOISI, GENOA NFH

Three scientists from the People's Republic of China spent 19 days stationed at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) as part of an ongoing conservation exchange agreement signed between the United States and China. This was a working visit, where the exchange was in the thick of all the fisheries restoration activities that Wisconsin has to offer in the springtime. Scientists were also shown how conservation works in the Midwest, with work assignments scheduled with the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC), La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO), and U.S. Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center (UMESC).



-USFWS

**Chinese scientists assist with a lake sturgeon population assessment on the Menominee Reservation.**

Spring is also the time for the legendary Wolf River sturgeon spawning run, where thousands of lake sturgeon return to their birthplace near Shawano, Wisconsin, to complete their circle of life. The scientific delegation worked alongside hatchery staff to spawn lake sturgeon and process the eggs, assisted the La Crosse FHC in their wild fish health survey sampling, and even helped the La Crosse FWCO assess stocked sturgeon populations in Legend Lake on the Menominee Indian Reservation.

So many sturgeon in one small river was a rare site to the Chinese scientists, where many of their sturgeon populations are at the brink of extinction due to overharvest, habitat alterations, navigation perturbations and pollution. The Chinese sturgeon, which is considered a national treasure or "the panda of the waters" has been impacted so severely that less than 100 spawning adults are estimated to return to the Yangtze River yearly to spawn.

The group also viewed Long Term Resource Monitoring efforts at the UMESC, and assisted in sample collections in a cooperative sturgeon egg development study initiated by the Genoa NFH. They were impressed with the beauty of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and its ongoing island habitat restoration projects. They also assisted in endangered mussel recovery, learning how to infest host fish with mussel larvae, and spring river netting operations. One of the highlights was viewing a 30 pound snapping turtle in all of its glory after being released from one of the broodstock collection nets. Turtles are considered to be omens of good fortune in China, but whether the delegation felt very fortunate to be in the boat with a snapper with attitude is up for debate!

The work detail seemed to pass very quickly and soon it was time to wish our new colleagues well in their own country's conservation efforts. During the debriefing with our International Affairs, it was encouraging to hear Director Lieu of the delegation talk of the exceptional cooperation between the local area fish and wildlife offices to further ongoing conservation efforts in the Midwest. They were also impressed to see the sheer number of fish and diversity of species that are present in the Upper Mississippi River.

A reciprocal visit is being planned for late June of this year, among whose members will include Jenny Bailey of our Genoa NFH staff. Plans are for the American delegation to tour Harbin Province in northeast China and work at a variety of fisheries offices under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Chinese Academy of Fisheries.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

# Spring Thaws Launch Spawning Operations into High Gear

BY JIM LUOMA, GENOA NFH

The National Fish Hatchery System produces a wide range of fish, amphibian and freshwater mussel species to support multiple aquatic resource management goals. These goals include producing aquatic species for endangered species recovery, restoring imperiled populations, supporting cooperative management initiatives with tribal, federal and state cooperators and providing and

enhancing recreational fishing opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges or other federal lands.

The Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) produces walleye, sauger and northern pike to meet management objectives in endangered mussel recovery, cooperative management programs and tribal trust responsibilities across much of the United States. The egg sources for these ongoing programs are wild stocks of fish located in pool 9 of the Upper Mississippi River within the confines of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The need to collect wild fish in a system as large and dynamic as the Mississippi River offers special challenges to hatchery crews. The migratory nature of riverine fishes, highly fluctuating water levels, and natural population variability all affect the annual success of this operation. Despite these and other challenges, the hatchery crew annually collects millions of northern pike, sauger and walleye eggs to support fishery management programs.

The 2010 netting season proved to be a particularly challenging year as an unseasonably warm spring resulted in an early high water crest and a quick increase in water temperatures. The combined increased flows and temperatures caused the spawning runs for northern pike, walleye and sauger to commence and conclude up to two weeks earlier than normal. The hatchery crew was in full swing the last week of March



-Jim Solberg

A crew from the Genoa National Fish Hatchery lift a hoop net targeting wild walleye broodstock during the Spring 2010 spawning operations on the Upper Mississippi River.



for the annual tradition of setting up to 60 fyke and hoop nets for collecting brood fish. The nets are tended, repaired and repositioned as needed on a daily basis for about 30 days.

Over 16 million incubated eggs were transferred to cooperators in four states to meet a wide range of fishery and research needs. Additionally, four ponds at the Genoa NFH were stocked with walleye fry and they will be grown to 6 inches and then either stocked into federal, state and/or tribal waters to meet fishery management goals or held for use as mussel host fish.

To ensure that healthy populations of walleye, sauger and northern pike remain in the Pool 9 egg collection areas, approximately ten percent of the eggs that Genoa processes are returned to the river in the form of newly hatched fry. The hatchery typically has a hatch rate of over 60 percent, while wild fish eggs typically hatch out in percentage rates of much less than 10 percent. The resulting increase in fry survival ensures that the station is not harming wild populations through its egg collection efforts.

Since 2003, the wild fish eggs taken have been subject to a strict and robust bio-security and disinfection procedure to limit any potential disease transmission from the wild stocks into the hatchery.



*-Jim Solberg*

**A Genoa National Fish Hatchery biologist spawns a wild Mississippi River walleye captured during the 2010 netting operations.**

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

# Alpena Open House & Ribbon Cutting

BY ANJANETTE BOWEN AND ANDREA ANIA

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of their new office. Alpena FWCO opened in 1992 under the authority of the

over 100 years. The new building is designed for energy savings, water efficiency, carbon dioxide emissions reduction and improved indoor environmental quality.

In February 2010, Alpena FWCO staff moved into the new facility, which is located less than one mile from the Federal Building. The new building consists of offices, laboratory, cold storage for vessels and a heated storage/work area designed for net building. It is located near partner agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment Alpena Fisheries Research Station. The design and location along the Thunder Bay River allows the station to better serve the mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service and accomplish station objectives.



-USFWS/KarlaBartelt

**(Left to right) John Pines (staff representative for Congressman Bart Stupak), Jean Kowalski (Principal of Wilson and Long Rapids Elementary Schools), Carol Shafto (Alpena, Mich. Mayor), Mike Weimer (Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries), JoAnn Papenfuss (staff assistant to U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow) and Jim Peltier (Alpena Marc LCC) perform the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.**

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. When the office first opened, they were located in the heart of downtown Alpena, Mich., residing in the historic Federal Building. Although the office operated for more than 18 years from the Federal Building, tenant loss and maintenance issues forced the station to seek an alternative place to call home.

Alpena FWCO entered into an agreement with Alpena MARC LLC during the fall of 2009 to construct a new office. Alpena MARC purchased the Fletcher Paper Mill property and converted it into a state-of-the-art LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Standards) certified green building. The Fletcher Paper Mill was built along the Thunder Bay River during the logging era and operated for



-USFWS/KarlaBartelt

**Students from Wilson and Long Rapids Elementary Schools arrive at the new Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office for a day of educational activities.**



-USFWS/KarlaBartelt

**A student from Wilson and Long Rapids Elementary Schools proudly displays her fish stamp t-shirt that she created during the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office open house.**

The open house and ribbon cutting ceremony was a great success with a total of over 400 visitors attending. The ribbon cutting ceremony included an American flag presentation by the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center Base Honor Guard, singing of the National Anthem by Emma Strong - a student at Thunder Bay Junior High School, and a Native American blessing and smudging ceremony provided by Dwight "Bucko" Teeple of the Bay Mills Indian Community. Speakers during the ceremony included Alpena mayor Carol Shafto, Doug Kowalski of Alpena Marc LCC, Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries Mike Weimer, John Pines - staff representative for Congressman Bart Stupak, Joel Sheltroun - State Representative for the 103rd House District, and Andy Neumann - State Representative for the 106th House District. A ribbon cutting followed the ceremony with Carol Shafto, Mike Weimer, JoAnn Papenfuss - staff assistant to U.S. Senator Debbie

For further info about the Alpena FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>

Stabenow, John Pines, Jim Peltier of Alpena Marc LCC, and Jean Kowalski - Principal of Wilson and Long Rapids Elementary Schools. Distinguished guests also included Beverly Bodem - district director for State Senator Tony Stamas.

Partnering agencies and organizations that attended include NOAA Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, United States Coast Guard, Huron Pines and U.S. Geological Survey.

Tours of our new facility were provided which including over 250 students from local schools. Tours consisted of program posters, fish aging demonstrations, sea lamprey exhibit, non-point source pollution model, live lake trout and lake sturgeon, animal track/skulls exhibit, animal track castings, fishing lure painting, t-shirt/tote bag fish prints, *M/V Spencer F. Baird* tours, small vessel fleet and gear demonstrations, and fish distribution truck information.

Alpena FWCO would like to thank everyone who provided assistance to ensure the event was a success.

Assistance was provided by volunteers from Jordan River and Pendills Creek National Fish Hatcheries,

Green Bay FWCO, Ludington and Marquette Biological Stations, Regional Office staff, *Friends of Neosho National Fish Hatchery* and parents from local schools.



-USFWS/KarlaBartelt

**Anjie Bowen of the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office talks with students about invasive species and their impact on native fish.**

## Proposed Listing of the Shovelnose Sturgeon

BY MELISSA CHEUNG, NEOSHO NFH

At the end of January, hatchery manager David Hendrix of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) travelled to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to sit in on a public hearing regarding the proposed listing of the shovelnose sturgeon as threatened. Here is a brief summary regarding the issue taken from the Fish and Wildlife Service website: “On September 21, 2009, we announced a proposed rule to treat the shovelnose sturgeon as a threatened species under the Act. The shovelnose sturgeon and the endangered pallid sturgeon are difficult to differentiate in the wild and inhabit overlapping portions of the Missouri and

Mississippi River basins. Four states, where the two species commonly coexist, allow for commercial fishing of shovelnose sturgeon and their roe (eggs sold as caviar). Because of the close resemblance in appearance between the shovelnose and pallid sturgeon, fishermen, state regulators, and law enforcement personnel have substantial difficulty in differentiating between the two species and their roe. This similarity of appearance has resulted in the documented take of pallid sturgeon and is a threat to the species. The determination that the shovelnose sturgeon should be treated as threatened due to similarity of appearance will substantially facilitate law enforcement actions to protect and conserve pallid sturgeon.”

([http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/missouririver/moriver\\_pallidsturgeon.htm](http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/missouririver/moriver_pallidsturgeon.htm))

The proposed listing may give our partners in the field better results on their mark-recapture data. With commercial fishing prohibited in designated areas where pallid and shovelnose habitat overlap, it will be interesting to see how the juveniles that we stock respond in the absence of fishing pressure. It will take up to 12 months for the Fish and Wildlife Service to make a final determination on the proposed listing.

For additional information about shovelnose sturgeon, see the following website: <http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/endangered/fishes/shovelnose.html>.



For further info about the Neosho NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/neosho/>

## National Fisheries Friends Partnership Makes Waves!

BY HEIDI KEULER, LA CROSSE FWCO

Ken Visger, Glen Jenkins and Heidi Keuler represented not only the *Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services*, but also the La Crosse Fish Health Center, Genoa National Fish Hatchery and La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) during the annual National Fisheries Friends Partnership (NFFP) in Arlington, Virginia, in April. Almost 50 Friends members and Fish and Wildlife Service employees from all nine regions met to discuss how to

make the NFFP stronger and how it could improve all of the field stations and their Friends groups. Topics discussed included communications (a new web site), a completed survey of the Friends groups, National Fish Passage Program, National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Fisheries Program Youth Initiative and much more.

Partnerships are essential for effective fisheries conservation. Many agencies, organizations, and private individuals are involved in fisheries conservation and management, but no one can do it alone. Together, these stakeholders combine efforts and expertise to tackle challenges facing fisheries conservation. The success of these partnerships will depend on strong, two-way communications and accountability.

This meeting was also very beneficial for Fish and Wildlife Service employees to meet each other and discuss issues from across the country. Some of the participants from the meeting also “stormed the Hill” later in the week to meet with their representatives from Congress.

Other NFFP members and Fish and Wildlife Service employees attended the Jim Range National Casting Call which is an event to educate members of Congress about collaborative fisheries conservation and provide an opportunity to fish for shad in the Potomac River. During the Casting Call, there was also a NFHAP award ceremony attended by the Fish and Wildlife Service Director and many other past and present dignitaries. Kenda Flores (Missouri Department of Conservation) and Bob and Nicky Baker (Lower Bourbeuse COA Landowner Committee), members of Fishers and Farmers (one of our local NFHAP partnerships), received one of the four NFHAP awards for fishery habitat improvement. The other three NFHAP awards went to Scott Robinson (Southeast Aquatics Resources Partnership), David Moe Nelson (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and Catherine Inman (Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District). The Casting Call

was a great opportunity for the NFFP to meet, mingle, and make waves with award recipients, and high ranking employees of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior and the U.S. Congress.

For additional information, see the following websites:

NFFP website: <http://www.fisheriesfriends.org/>

Jim Range Casting Call website: <http://www.nationalcastingcall.com/>

NFHAP website: <http://fishhabitat.org/>



For further info about the La Crosse FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrossefisheries/>

## Restoration of Great Lakes Muskellunge in Green Bay

BY TED TRESKA, GREEN BAY FWCO

Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) biologist Ted Treska assisted Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologist Dave Rowe on April 23rd with sampling the ever growing population of restored muskellunge (muskie) that is thriving in the waters of Green Bay in northeastern Wisconsin. Eleven fyke nets were lifted and while it seemed to be a little early in the year to catch muskies, a number of other types of fish were caught along with a few muskies. The muskies captured were examined to determine weight, length and sex. Samples were taken to look for the signs of the recently discovered Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus. Fish were then scanned to detect the presence of a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag, which allows the muskie to be uniquely identified when it is encountered in the future to determine growth and mortality rates. Any untagged fish were PIT tagged prior to release. The information gathered from captured muskies is important to muskie management in the bay since a large recreational fishery has developed over the last 5-10 years targeting the fish,

which can reach lengths of over 50 inches and weights of over 40 pounds.

Sampling this spring has yielded data from over 150 muskies so far. A large number of other species of



-USFWS/TedTreska

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologist Dave Rowe holds a Muskellunge captured in Green Bay.

fish are also captured in the survey, with data recorded on them prior to release back into the bay along with the muskies. The Great Lakes musky

restoration project is funded in part by the Lower Green Bay/Fox River Natural Resource Damage Assessment program.

For further info about the Green Bay FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/greenbay.pdf>

## Mass Marking Laboratory Completes Chinook Salmon Tagging for Lake Michigan

BY ALLEN LANE, GREEN BAY FWCO

**F**ish and Wildlife Service biologists Jim Webster and Allen Lane helped coded-wire tag and adipose fin clip 30,000 Chinook salmon during April 12-29 at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment's Platte River State Fish Hatchery (SFH) using an automated fish tagging trailer. Coupled with the 362,000 Chinook salmon tagged in March at Wisconsin's Wild Rose SFH, almost one million Chinook salmon will be stocked into Lake Michigan in 2010 with coded-wire tags and adipose fin

clips in support of a joint study by Lake Michigan fishery agencies to determine the level of natural reproduction occurring in the lake.

Webster and Lane were assisted by fin clippers Terry and Nancy Edney from Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH), Bob Lee and Donna Bruning from Jordan River NFH, staff from Platte River SFH, and Brian Toews from Northwest Marine Technology, the manufacturer of the AutoFish marking trailer. The team had to overcome early challenges of a computer crash and the need to jack up the trailer to match the elevation of the raceways before tagging could commence. The crew averaged 70,000 fish tagged per day with a maximum of 84,000 in a 10 hour day.

During our stay at the Platte River SFH, Congressional staff members from Senators Levin and Stabenow, Congressman Camp and Hoekstra and Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley were given a tour of the mass making process. All were pleased with the progress of the mass marking project to date.

The last tagging project of 2010 will be marking approximately 5 million lake trout between Jordan River, Pendills Creek, and Iron River NFHs beginning in August and finishing in October. This task will include our new mass marking trailer (due sometime in July) and a manual tagging trailer. Northwest Marine Technology has been developing new parts to make the mass marking trailers more efficient for marking lake trout.



-USFWS/MarkHoley

**Congressional staff members from Senators Levin and Stabenow and Congressman Camp and Hoekstra along with Assistant Regional Director Charlie Wooley tour the new Great Lakes mass marking trailer.**

For further info about the Green Bay FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/greenbay.pdf>

## Fish Health Center Staff Exchange Practices with Chinese Biologists

BY BECKY LASEE, LA CROSSE FHC

**C**hinese biologists Ms. Wei Liu, Mr. Ying Wang and Mr. Minqing Zong from Harbin and Beijing visited the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) in April. The delegates assisted Eric Leis, Sarah Bauer and Rebecca McCann with inspections of wild fish

from Pool 9 of the Upper Mississippi River. In addition, they discussed sampling, lab reports, bacteriology protocols, histopathology of sturgeon iridoviruses, and viral tissue cell culture techniques.

For further info about the La Crosse FHC: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/LaCrosseFishHealthCenter/>

## Wild Fish Health Survey

BY SARAH BAUER, LA CROSSE FHC

For over 10 years, staff at the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) has conducted an annual wild fish health survey on Pool 9 of the Mississippi River. Staff at Genoa National Fish Hatchery assisted with the wild fish health survey by collecting



-USFWS/Erik Leis  
Rebekah McCann (left) of the La Crosse Fish Health Center supervises Chinese delegates with virology sampling.

fish from the river for the La Crosse FHC. This year, FHC staff sampled 275 fish from 9 species of fish for target viral and bacterial pathogens.

Bluegill virus (BGV) was isolated from two species of fish, bluegill and black crappie. Bluegill virus is a picornovirus that has been associated with kills of bluegill in 2001 and 2003 at various locations in Wisconsin.

Wild fish health surveys are an important component of fisheries management because they prevent inadvertent pathogen transfers by monitoring the distribution and spread of diseases. Also, if wild populations are free of serious diseases they may be safely used as hatchery broodstock.

The Fisheries Program maintains and implements a comprehensive set of tools and activities to conserve and manage self-sustaining populations of native fish and other aquatic resources. These tools and activities are 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.

For further info about the La Crosse FHC: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/LaCrosseFishHealthCenter/>

## Fingerling Trout get Vaccinated at Genoa NFH

BY JENNIFER BAILEY, GENOA NFH

There are a few simple words that inspire dread in young children. Among these words are: “monster”, “stranger” and “stomach flu”. Among fish culturists, words of terror include “disease outbreak”, “external lesions” and “furunculosis”.

Furunculosis is a bacterial disease of cultured salmonid (trout and salmon) species. It is caused by the bacterium *Aeromonas salmonicida* and can be spread from fish to fish, or it can be spread by infected water. It is most commonly characterized by lethargy, anorexia, hemorrhaging and external lesions (furuncles) on the skin. In a hatchery setting, a single infection can quickly lead to a disease outbreak and entire loss of production. Control of this nasty fish disease is possible. The easiest and most cost-effective way to control furunculosis is 100% prevention.

Just as children feel safe from monsters when wrapped up in extra blankets from the hall closet, hatchery workers feel safe when their culture programs are wrapped up in layers of biosecurity, or, disease prevention mechanisms. The first line of defense in disease prevention is sanitation in fish culture. Fish culturists at Genoa National Fish Hatch-

ery (NFH) are trained in methods designed to prevent fish diseases from entering hatchery facilities. These methods include disinfecting hands, boots and culture equipment before entering fish rearing facilities to prevent diseases from being introduced to young fish. The second line of defense, in the case of preventing furunculosis, is vaccination. Vaccination is a powerful tool used to create immunity to a disease organism in case of exposure. At Genoa NFH, all salmonids are vaccinated for furunculosis when they reach a length of two inches. Twenty-one days later they receive a “booster” of vaccine to increase immune function against the disease. Hopefully, these fish will never know the terror of “disease outbreak”, “external lesions” or “furunculosis”. The vaccine helps insure a healthy production year at Genoa NFH.

Genoa NFH typically produces over 150,000 rainbow trout annually for sport and recreational fishing programs and threatened and endangered mussel species restoration programs. Over 50,000 brook trout and coaster brook trout are cultured for restoration programs, Lake Superior stockings, and for the National Broodstock Program.

Immunity from a serious and widespread fish disease keeps these programs “healthy”, “productive”, and “successful”. These are good words that

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

fish culturists, program managers and all people who care about fish and fishing love to hear.

## To the Missouri River they Go

BY MELISSA CHEUNG, NEOSHO NFH

Tagged, 11 month old pallid sturgeon juveniles have been stocked from the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) into the following sites so far: Herman, Weldon Spring, Portland and Lexington, all stocking points on the Missouri River in Missouri, and Atchison, Kansas. With just over 1,000 young-of-the-year fish left to stock, we will put the rest of the pallid sturgeons into the last two stocking sites: Nebraska City and Ponca State Park. Since this is our busy time of the year, we are prepared to start spawning our pallid sturgeon broodstock and have tanks ready for sturgeon eggs and fry.



-USFWS

**Missouri Department of Conservation staff transfer pallid sturgeon from Neosho National Fish Hatchery's distribution unit onto their boat. The fish will be stocked at designated sites in the Missouri River.**

For further info about the Neosho NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/neosho/>

## Good People Making Good Things Better

BY JIM LUOMA, GENOA NFH

The Genoa National Fish Hatchery's (NFH) coldwater production program involves the annual rearing of approximately 45,000 (9-10 inch) brook and rainbow trout to meet federal and tribal fishery management goals. The annual distribution of approximately 17,000 pounds of trout requires careful attention to detail, significant manpower and adequate equipment. The Genoa NFH annually moves trout to approximately 15 different water bodies at a distance of up to 400 miles. To accomplish this in a timely, economical and efficient manner, the hatchery utilizes a fleet of two 200 gallon pickup tanks, a one ton (450 gallon) distribution truck and a 1,000 gallon trailer mounted tank. When prudent, a combination of vehicles and tanks are used to haul the fish to their stocking locations. At times, the most prudent alternative is to combine fish for more than one stocking location on the same load, thus saving labor and fuel expenses; however, this can be difficult for the person stocking the fish since it involves weighing some of the fish off of the truck to assure that the correct number are stocked.

Previously, the trailer mounted tank that the Genoa NFH used to distribute larger loads of fish was a large single compartment unit which often resulted in the combining of loads and weighing of fish at various stocking sites. Prior to the start of the 2010 distribution season, the maintenance staff of the Genoa NFH, Dan Kumlin and Jeff Lockington, teamed up to mount the tank on a new higher weight capacity trailer and additionally to modify the tank into a three separate compartments with individual rear discharge. Kumlin wired the trailer for the aerators and provided the oxygen delivery system, while Lockington designed and built the water segregation and discharging systems that allow the three compartments to be separately filled and discharged through separate 6" bottom drains.

The new improved distribution trailer made its maiden voyage to the Fort McCoy, Wisc. Army base in mid April loaded with rainbow trout. The new tank design worked flawlessly and it has made combined load hauling easier and more efficient for the driver. The Genoa NFH is very pleased with their new tank modifications and with the dedicated and talented staff that made this a reality.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

## On The Brink of Invasion

BY COLUMBIA FWCO STAFF, COLUMBIA FWCO

Protecting the Great Lakes from Asian carp has become a priority within the Great Lakes area as well as for the Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO). Biologists from the Columbia FWCO spent four weeks in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) in February and March, electrofishing and netting alongside the Carterville FWCO, La Crosse FWCO, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The effort was part of a search for Asian carp that may have eluded an electrical barrier operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers near Romeoville, Ill. The electrical barrier was designed to physically cut off migration of Asian carp from the Illinois River to Lake Michigan. Only minor barriers (such as locks) exist that can restrict movement from the CAWS above the electrical barrier to Lake Michigan. Recently, environmental DNA (eDNA) testing has indicated that Asian carp DNA is present above the electrical barriers near Lake Michigan. The positive eDNA tests have intensified efforts to reduce the risk of Asian carp becoming established in the Great Lakes.

Current sampling efforts are intended to remove any Asian carp from the CAWS and monitor their movement towards Lake Michigan. During the cold winter month of February, electrofishing and trammel/gill netting efforts focused on areas of warm water discharges that may attract fish. While no

Asian carp were detected using this sampling approach, the warm water discharge areas generally attracted more common carp, gizzard shad, largemouth bass and sunfish than

nearby cold water areas. As the water warmed up with spring upon us, the sampling protocol shifted to fishing near barriers that may impede the upstream spawning migration of Asian carp. It will also utilize a combination of fixed site and systematic sampling to ensure that the entire CAWS will be sampled to evaluate the risk of Asian carp invading the Great Lakes.

The search for Asian carp in the CAWS has been a unique experience for biologists and pedestrians alike. It's not every day someone gets to electrofish at the foot of the Sears Tower among the high rises of downtown Chicago. Pedestrians walking over bridges almost always take a second look as we electrofish below them. One can imagine their thoughts, "What are those people doing?" None the less, the possibility of Asian carp invading the Great Lakes has brought deserved attention to this issue.

### Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species 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 Fisheries Program has focused its efforts on preventing introductions of new aquatic invasive species, detecting and monitoring new and established invasives, controlling 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.

For further info about the Columbia FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

## Quantifying the Impacts of Sea Lamprey Control

BY TED TRESKA GREEN BAY FWCO

Biologist Ted Treska of the Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) is working jointly with the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (GLFC) on quantifying the impacts of invasive sea lamprey and how these impacts are affected by lamprey and lake trout numbers. Ted attended a meeting of the Sea Lamprey Integration Committee in April to give a presentation on the process to determine the metrics of the assessment, and to meet other Fish and Wildlife Service staff that is integral to sea lamprey control.

The impact of invasive sea lamprey on fisheries in the Great Lakes can be very substantial; in some

places, mortality from these eel like creatures can exceed commercial, recreational and natural mortality combined. Quantifying this mortality and its impacts can be very difficult, especially when the fish that die from lamprey attacks sink to the bottom, never to be seen again. The Sea Lamprey Integration Committee meets annually to discuss plans, progress and issues concerning sea lamprey control in the Great Lakes. By working with these other Fish and Wildlife staff and the GLFC, Ted hopes to help evolve this process into more informative metrics, which will help indicate the yearly impacts of lamprey on Great Lakes fish communities.

For further info about the Green Bay FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/greenbay.pdf>

## Jordan River NFH and Friends Reach Out to Thousands

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

As winter slowly gives up its icy grip in the Midwest, people begin to think about warm weather outdoor activities. Whether you camp, fish, hunt, hike or enjoy all of these worthwhile sports, chances are you or someone you know will attend one of the countless outdoor sporting shows that pop up in our communities every spring. These events offer the perfect opportunity for Fish and Wildlife Service programs to engage an interested public in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, and this is exactly what the staff from Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) and the Friends group do every year.



-USFWS

Staff from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery and their Friends group meet and greet visitors at the 2010 Traverse City Hunting and Fishing Expo.

As the population in the United States continues to grow, the potential for adverse impacts on aquatic resources, including habitat will increase. At the same time, demands for responsible, quality recreational fishing experiences will also increase. The Service has a long tradition of providing opportunities for public enjoyment of aquatic resources through recreational fishing, habitat restoration, and education programs and through mitigating impacts of Federal water projects. The Service also recognizes that some aquatic habitats have been irreversibly altered by human activity (i.e. - dam building). To compensate for these significant changes in habitat and lost fishing opportunities, managers often introduce non-native species when native species can no longer survive in the altered habitat.

The Traverse City Hunting and Fishing Expo is held annually in early March in Traverse City, Mich. and draws thousands of interested outdoor enthusiasts to a three day event. Hundreds of vendors, nationally recognized outdoor organizations, and state and federal agencies strut their stuff to the public at this first class event. Jordan River NFH, with outstanding support by the *Friends of the Jordan River NFH*, provided an aquarium showcasing lake trout and brook trout, informational literature outlining regional and national activities, and most importantly staff to answer questions about the Fish and Wildlife Service programs, policies and opportunities.

This year's Expo drew over 5,000 people past the hatchery exhibit and countless visitors of all ages were engaged and informed of the important work that the Fish and Wildlife Service and its cooperators carry out for the benefit of all. For more information about this event or any other program at the Jordan River NFH, please contact hatchery manager Roger Gordon at: 231/584-2461 or via email at: [roger\\_gordon@fws.gov](mailto:roger_gordon@fws.gov).

For further info about the Jordan River NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/JordanRiver/>

## Brazilian Film Crew Highlights the Upper Mississippi River

BY SCOTT YESS, LA CROSSE FWCO

Yes, the biggest river in the world flows across Brazil; however, Brazilians are still interested in the Mississippi River. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, a crew of three Brazilians and a contractor hired by the State Department shot footage and conducted interviews near La Crosse, Wisc. The Brazilian news team is shooting a series of informative TV news stories on critical environmental issues, to be jointly produced by the sister Brazilian television networks *TV Amazonica* and *Amazon Sat* for broadcast throughout Brazil.

The U.S. Department of State's Office of Broadcast Support (OBS) invites serious, credible journalists to come to the United States to produce TV news reports and documentaries on subjects and themes of need or interest in their country. To that end, the U.S. Embassy in Brazil and the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. are sponsoring this project through a grant to *TV Amazonica* and *Amazon Sat*. These timely reports will be taped in the United States to highlight successful "green" experiences in the United States that can serve as examples to the

Amazon region. The series will examine efforts being made by the United States governmental agencies, businesses and private citizens to combat pollution, as well as preserve “green” spaces and natural resources.

The team filmed three news features for this series about the Upper Mississippi River. The first was an “Operation Turn In” aimed at reducing pharmaceutical products from being disposed of in our waste water which eventually ends up in our rivers. Biologist Mark Steingraeber of the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) was the lead on this story and indentified the goal to reduce chemicals into our waterways by working with the county waste program to collect unused prescription drugs. Our second story highlighted the Art and Jean Ticke farm and how their operation reduced sediment and nutrient runoff. The third feature was of the Lock and Dam operation along the Upper Mississippi River.

The Brazilians developed a great sense for how important the Mississippi River is to Americans and what steps are being taken to improve the environment.



-USFWS

**A Brazilian film crew interviews Mark Steingraeber of the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office about his office’s work on the Upper Mississippi River.**

For further info about the La Crosse FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrossefisheries/>

## Open House at Neosho NFH

BY MELISSA CHEUNG, NEOSHO NFH

Blessed with great weather and a steady, continuous flow of pedestrian traffic, we were kept very busy at this year’s open house at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH). As usual, we had a mélange of educational booths: George Washington Carver National Monument’s educational booth, a rock specialist, a snake specialist, the Southern Missouri beekeepers club, the master gardeners club and of course Missouri Department of Conservation’s tree giveaway booth - the state had hundreds of young pine, redbud and white flowering dogwood trees free for the public. Neosho NFH staff served lunch for everyone. Members of the *Friends of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery* and volunteers contributed baked goods and their time to ensure that the day went smoothly.



-USFWS

**Frank Martinez educates visitors about venomous snakes at Neosho National Fish Hatchery’s annual open house.**

For further info about the Neosho NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/neosho/>

## Tons of People attend Tons of Trucks

BY COLBY WRASSE AND CLIFF WILSON, COLUMBIA FWCO

Amidst roaring engines and blaring horns an enthusiastic crowd gathered, eagerly awaiting their chance to see the show. Children jostled for position in hopes they might get a better look. What could possibly cause so much excitement? Believe it or not, the answer is fish – shovelnose sturgeon and catfish to be exact. The setting was Tons of Trucks, an annual event hosted by Columbia (Missouri) Parks and Recreation; and once again, Columbia Fish and

Wildlife Conservation Office’s (FWCO) live fish exhibit was a huge hit. The Tons of Trucks event gathers trucks and equipment from a wide range of disciplines for the purpose of teaching children, and their parents, about different career fields and the equipment they use. At this venue, children had the opportunity to see fire trucks, police cars, road construction equipment; and this year, an electrofishing boat along with some live fish. Cliff Wilson and Colby Wrasse

staffed the live fish exhibit, showing children the unique characteristics of these native Missouri River fish. Curious children were able to touch the live fish while learning all about these unique creatures. Meanwhile, Tracy Hill and Patty Herman staffed the electrofishing boat, helping the excited kids aboard and answering questions about the boat and their jobs. In addition, Rick Hansen from Columbia Field Office was on hand to photograph the fun.

This was the third year that Columbia FWCO has participated in Tons of Trucks. Although this may seem like an unusual venue for fisheries outreach, it has proven very effective at reaching a large audience. This year alone, an estimated 3,740 people attended. That's a lot of people who may know little about the Missouri River, native fish and the conservation work we do. It's always encouraging when you feel like you reached someone and made a difference. This was the case with one little boy who stopped by this year. He informed us that he is now an expert on sturgeon because he saw them here last year. He proceeded to hang around the fish tanks for a long time telling everybody what he knows about the fish.

It was obvious that our message had reached this child, and that is why we do outreach.



-USFWS/PattyHerman

**Technician Colby Wrasse displays a catfish for a large group of curious children at the Tons of Trucks outreach event held annually in Columbia, Missouri.**

For further info about the Columbia FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

## Outreaching in Madison

BY JAN BEITLICH, LA CROSSE FHC

Administrative technician Jan Beitlich of the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) gave a presentation to approximately 35 students and teachers at Marquette Elementary School in Madison, Wisc. A lamprey, otter, deer skull and various fur pelts accompanied her on the trip. The presentation included discussion on the mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service and a display of animal furs and other items that the students could look at and touch. The fourth graders had many stories to share regarding their encounters with these animals. Fish cookie treats, coloring books and Frisbees concluded the presentation and left a smile on all their faces!



-USFWS/JanBeitlich

**A 4th grade student from Marquette Elementary School (Madison, Wisc.) shows off a coyote pelt to his fellow classmates.**

For further info about the La Crosse FHC: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/LaCrosseFishHealthCenter/>

# IMAGINATURE KIDS AND SCOUTS TEAM UP TO MARK BROOKIES

**JORDAN RIVER NFH WHERE BIOLOGY, COMMUNITY SERVICE AND FUN MEET!**



Baby Brookie my foot!



**BABY BROOKIES**

Currently Mancelona Elementary School, Concord Community School and local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are participating in this hatchery science and conservation education program.

For further info about the Jordan River NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/JordanRiver/>

## Viral Testing on Rainy River Lake Sturgeon

BY SCOTT YESS, LA CROSSE FWCO

Fin clips from wild lake sturgeon adults were obtained from a group of fish prior to bringing their eggs into the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH). We worked with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Baudette Office. On Sunday, April 18th, Scott Yess of the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) traveled to Baudette, Minn. to collect 30 lake sturgeon fin clips. There he met Tom Heinrich and Nate Hodgins (Minnesota DNR) who had collected 30 lake sturgeon from anglers. The fish were being held in a holding tank



-USFWS

**Tom Heinrich of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources holds a lake sturgeon that provided a fin clip, to test for viruses in the native population of Rainy River.**

prior to fin clipping. In addition to taking fin clips, the DNR staff recorded length data and tagged the fish with Carlin tags.

The fin clips were transported to the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC), to be tested for Iridovirus. This test must be negative prior to transporting lake sturgeon eggs to Genoa NFH. Viral testing is the first stage of the annual effort to restore lake sturgeon to the White Earth Reservation and the Red River watershed. If the viral tests prove negative, staff from the La Crosse FWCO and White Earth Natural Resource Department (NRD) will assist Joe Hunter (Rainy River First Nations) with his lake sturgeon spawning operation. These eggs will then be transported to Genoa NFH and raised to fingerlings (approximately 6 inches) and stocked on the White Earth Reservation, Red Lake Reservation and Minnesota DNR managed waters of the Red River watershed.

Partners with this lake sturgeon restoration effort include the White Earth NRD, Rainy River First Nations (Canada), Minnesota DNR, La Crosse FHC, Genoa NFH and La Crosse FWCO.

Conserving this Nation's fish and other aquatic resources cannot be successful without the partnership of Tribes; they 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 Fisheries Program plays an important role in providing help and support to Tribes as they exercise their sovereignty in the management of their fish and wildlife resources on more than 55 million acres of Federal Indian trust land and in treaty reserved areas.

For further info about the La Crosse FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrossefisheries/>

## Annual Inspection Completed at Red Cliff Tribal Fish Hatchery

BY ERIC LEIS, LA CROSSE FHC

On Monday April 5th, Eric Leis and Sarah Bauer of the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) traveled to Red Cliff Tribal Fish Hatchery located near Bayfield, Wisc. to conduct their annual hatchery

inspection. Five age classes (or lots) of brook trout were sampled for a variety of bacterial and viral pathogens as well as the parasite that causes whirling disease. The test results of the inspection are pending.

For further info about the La Crosse FHC: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/LaCrosseFishHealthCenter/>

## Great Lakes Fisheries Modeling Toolbox

BY TED TRESKA, GREEN BAY FWCO

Biologist Ted Treska of the Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) traveled to Providence, Rhode Island, in April to attend an advanced stock assessment workshop hosted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Treska assists the Modeling sub Committee, which is comprised of state and tribal representatives who are tasked with the development and maintenance of statistical catch-at-age models that predict the amount of fish that can be harvested from each management unit in the Great Lakes.

At the workshop, assessment biologists from along the eastern seaboard discussed and practiced with tools from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Toolbox which provides user friendly programs that allow a number of manipulations to a model to determine what is driving the ecosystem. The course was taught by two experts from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in

Woods Hole, Mass. who developed the main programs of the course.

Modeling the population dynamics of Great Lakes fisheries is not like counting fish in a bucket. Maybe a very large, deep and dark bucket, but still not that easy. Data from many agencies, tribes and entities is combined to provide a data set that will provide the most accurate picture of what is going on below the waves. Currently, models are run every year for a number of management areas in lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron as part of treaty agreements to determine the allowable catch that can be supported by populations of lake whitefish and lake trout. It is hoped that by incorporating the knowledge gained at this workshop, we can improve and strengthen the power of the models currently being used in the Great Lakes.

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 Service is committed to following established principles of sound science.

For further info about the Green Bay FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/greenbay.pdf>

## Workshop on Mortality of Young Lake Trout in the Great Lakes

BY TED TRESKA, GREEN BAY FWCO

Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) biologist Ted Treska attended a meeting at the Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, Mich. The group was comprised of multiple agency representatives tasked with addressing the reduced survival of young lake trout. Fish and Wildlife Service fish hatcheries raise over four million lake trout a year to stock into the Great Lakes. In most cases, these fish produce viable fisheries, both recreational and commercial, but efforts to produce self sustaining (naturally reproducing) populations are ongoing, as

there are many gauntlets for lake trout in today's waters.

One big concern is survival of yearling stocked lake trout. Once they are stocked off the boat or truck, what is happening to them? Assessments have shown reduced survival of these fish in both lakes Huron and Michigan. The group discussed topics such as predation, lack of suitable sized food, dispersion, and a number of other topics and some possible study ideas that could be used to evaluate these hypotheses.

For further info about the Green Bay FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/greenbay.pdf>

## Dawson Dam Removal

BY LOUISE MAUDIN, LA CROSSE FWCO

Located on the West Branch of the Lac qui Parle River in western Minnesota, Dawson Dam was removed in the fall of 2009 and a rock arch rapids constructed in its place to maintain upstream water levels. The dam was approaching 100 years old and was in need of considerable repair. Constructed in 1910, the dam, spillway and abutment walls had



(Above) Dawson Dam on the West Branch of the Lac qui Parle River in Minnesota before barrier removal. (Below) Rock arch rapids replace the dam and restore fish passage to 157.5 miles of mainstem and tributary habitats.



-USFWS photos

deteriorated and there were several leaks present throughout these structures.

The West Branch Lac qui Parle River is the largest tributary to the Lac qui Parle River, originating in South Dakota and flowing some 57 miles before joining the Lac qui Parle near the town of Dawson. Dawson Dam was located about 1.5 miles upstream from the confluence of the Lac qui Parle River. Except during periods of very high flow, this 70 foot wide (7 foot high) dam impeded fish movement. Known spawning runs of walleye and northern pike occurred in this stream; however, the dam prevented these species from reaching upstream spawning and nursery areas. Many smaller fish species could not navigate upstream of the dam during high flows because velocities were too high.

The completed habitat project reconnected 157.5 mainstem and tributary miles of the river, restoring fish migration to about 96% of the West Branch Lac qui Parle River. Project completion benefits native fishes historically found in the river, such as northern pike, golden redhorse, brassy minnow, hornyhead chub, northern redbelly dace, blacknose dace, Iowa darter and blackside darter and provides for the reestablishment of species such as slenderhead darter, walleye, yellow perch and black crappie from the Lac qui Parle River.

Loss and alteration of aquatic habitats are principal factors in the decline of native fish and other aquatic resources and the loss of biodiversity. Seventy percent of the Nation's rivers have altered flows, and 50 percent of waterways fail to meet minimum biological criteria.

For further info about the La Crosse FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrossefisheries/>

## Gulf Coast/Ozarks SHC Meeting

BY TRACY HILL, COLUMBIA FWCO

Project Leader Tracy Hill of the Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) attended the Gulf Coast Plain and Ozarks Strategic Habitat Conservation Workshop in Jackson, Miss. The purpose of the workshop is to inform and engage leaders within the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding continuing efforts to advance Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) and promote development of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) as the principal framework and strategy for organizing and undertaking conservation efforts in support of the agency mission. The workshop provided an ideal atmosphere for promoting understanding and discussion regarding strategic habitat conservation and its implications for this agency. It also allows project leaders an opportunity

to more fully consider the challenges associated with LCCs and to consider the next steps for advancing their development.

The Gulf Coast Plain and Ozarks LCC will facilitate conservation planning and design across a highly diverse region in southeastern North America that encompasses 180 million acres. Building on a conservation legacy established with partners, the Gulf Coast Plain and Ozarks LCCs will be a conservation science partnership between the Fish and Wildlife Service, federal agencies, states, tribes, non-governmental organizations, universities and other entities. LCCs will aid the Fish and Wildlife Service in filling gaps in science capacity, and ultimately addresses our response to accelerating climate change.

For further info about the Columbia FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

## Key Volunteers Receive Masters Recognition

BY MARK STEINGRAEBER, LA CROSSE FWCO

One of the pinnacles of achievement in the sporting world occurs annually in the spring when a green tailored sport coat is symbolically donned by the champion of the Masters Golf Tournament. Patterned upon this prestigious form of recognition, the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO)



-USFWS/Sarah Bauer

Master volunteers for the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office were recently awarded the highly coveted, navy blue, Fish and Wildlife Service volunteer windbreaker jacket in recognition of more than 100 cumulative hours of volunteer effort each. Pictured (left to right) Don Schroeder, Pete Schaettle, John Allen, Chuck Chihak, Gil Hanesworth, Ken Visger and Owen Johnson; missing: Chuck Snyder.

likewise awarded the highly coveted, navy blue, Fish and Wildlife Service volunteer windbreaker jacket

to eight of its most dedicated volunteers. These and other volunteer awards were presented on March 26th at the annual volunteer and partner recognition dinner cosponsored by the La Crosse FWCO, La Crosse Fish Health Center and Genoa National Fish Hatchery. This special group of handsomely clad gentlemen was honored to receive their new, functional sport jackets which symbolically recognized more than 100 cumulative hours of volunteer effort by each. To date, these “Master” volunteers have tallied more than 3,600 hours of service to the La Crosse FWCO. It is hoped the existing enthusiasm and improved visibility of these committed volunteers will inspire others in the La Crosse community to greater levels of self sacrifice on behalf of fish and wildlife resources.

The Fisheries Program relies on a broad range of professionals to accomplish its mission: biologists, managers, administrators, clerks, animal caretakers, and maintenance workers. Without their skills and dedication, the Fisheries Program cannot succeed. 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 of fish and aquatic resource management and conservation.

For further info about the La Crosse FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrossefisheries/>

## Acting Fish Hatchery Program Supervisor Trevor Needham Visits La Crosse FHC

BY BECKY LASEE, LA CROSSE FHC

Acting Fish Hatchery Program Supervisor Trevor Needham toured the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Trevor was in the process of completing his advanced leadership development assignment in the Midwest Regional Office Fisheries program, but still wanted to take time to meet the staff in person at the La Crosse FHC. He had already visited all the regional National Fish Hatcheries during his detail.

Trevor was given a tour of the three laboratories in the morning and assisted with a wild fish health survey in the afternoon. FHC staff was impressed with the interest Trevor had in their work.



-USFWS

Acting Fish Hatchery Supervisor Trevor Needham assists biologist Becky Lasee with sample collection for a wild fish health survey.

For further info about the La Crosse FHC: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/LaCrosseFishHealthCenter/>

## Excellent Volunteer Tim Falconer

BY WAYNE TALO, JORDAN RIVER NFH

Tim Falconer volunteered at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) during February and March. He is a seasonal Fish and Wildlife Service employee at the Ludington (Michigan) Biological Station, and is leaving to return to his work in sea lamprey control. Our station is the third Region 3 National Fish Hatchery at which Tim has volunteered with the goal of increasing his experience in fisheries. Tim has been a great help in doing daily fish cultural work such as feeding fish and cleaning rearing areas. He has also assisted us with performing weight inventories, taking dissolved oxygen measurements, and assessing pre-release fish condition through the Goedes fish health profile. Lastly, Tim learned how to calculate daily feed rations, project fish growth, and prepare feed orders. He brought a positive attitude and an excellent work ethic, and we are sure he will

be a valuable asset in any office or organization he may work for in the future. Thanks very much for all your help, Tim, and we wish you all the best.



-USFWS

**Volunteer Tim Falconer checks the temperature and oxygen level of culture water at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.**

### Volunteers make things happen for the Fish and Wildlife Service

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery has a very successful and popular volunteer program. Volunteer talents and skills are matched with projects and work activities to provide the most diverse and rewarding experience possible. For more information please contact Tim Smigielski at 231/5842461 or by email at: [tim\\_smigielski@fws.gov](mailto:tim_smigielski@fws.gov).

For further info about the Jordan River NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/JordanRiver/>

## Columbia FWCO names Boats in Honor of Captain Jeff Finley

BY COLUMBIA FWCO STAFF

As many of you know, Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) biologist Jeff Finley is currently serving in Iraq with the 480th Preventative Medicine Medical Detachment unit of the Army Reserves. Being away from home and family for a year and putting himself in harm's way is a huge commitment and sacrifice, which Jeff has tackled with great dignity and patriotism. In honor of

Jeff's service to our country, we have renamed two of our boats. The boats were rechristened *Mustang- 6* and *Roman- 6*, in reference to Jeff's call signs while stateside and in Iraq. We hope this small gesture conveys the great gratitude we have for Jeff's service. We look forward to the day when Jeff returns and can cruise the Missouri River in the boats named in his honor.

For further info about the Columbia FWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

# Congressional Actions

<PRE>  
[111th CONGRESS House Bills]  
[From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access]  
[DOCID: h48ih.txt]  
[Introduced in House]

111th CONGRESS  
1st Session

H. R. 48

To amend section 42 of title 18, United States Code, popularly known as the Lacey Act, to add certain species of carp to the list of injurious species that are prohibited from being imported or shipped.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 6, 2009

Mrs. Biggert introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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### A BILL

To amend section 42 of title 18, United States Code, popularly known as the Lacey Act, to add certain species of carp to the list of injurious species that are prohibited from being imported or shipped.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act”.

#### SEC. 2. ADDITION OF SPECIES OF CARP TO THE LIST OF INJURIOUS SPECIES THAT ARE PROHIBITED FROM BEING IMPORTED OR SHIPPED.

Section 42(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after “*Dreissena polymorpha*,” the following: “of the black carp of the species *Mylopharyngodon piceus*; of the bighead carp of the species *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*; of the silver carp of the species *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*; of the largescale silver carp of the species *Hypophthalmichthys harmandi*”.

<all>

</PRE>

Source is <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/index.html>  
Searched database by keyword = “fish” or “Asian carp”

# Midwest Region Fisheries Divisions

## National Fish Hatcheries

The Region's National Fish Hatcheries primarily focus on native fish restoration/rehabilitation by stocking fish and eggs, such as pallid and lake sturgeon and by developing and maintaining brood stocks of selected fish strains, such as lake trout and brook trout.

Hatcheries also provide technical assistance to other agencies, provide fish and eggs for research, stock rainbow trout in fulfillment of federal mitigation obligations and assist with recovery of native mussels and other native aquatic species.

## Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices conduct assessments of fish populations to guide management decisions, perform key monitoring and control activities related to invasive, aquatic species; survey and evaluate aquatic habitats to identify restoration/rehabilitation opportunities; play a key role in targeting and implementing native fish and habitat restoration programs; work with private land owners, states, local governments and watershed organizations to complete aquatic habitat restoration projects under the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Great Lakes Coastal Programs; provide coordination and technical assistance toward the management of interjurisdictional fisheries; maintain and operate several key interagency fisheries databases; provide

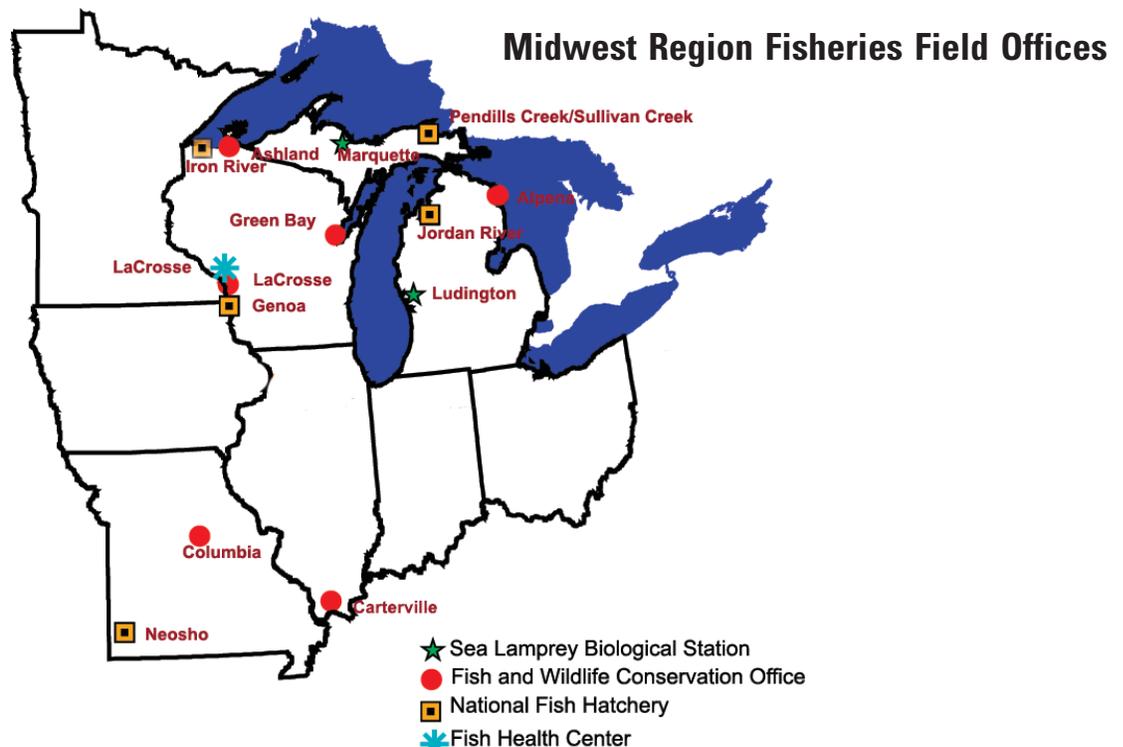
technical expertise to other Service programs addressing contaminants, endangered species, federal project review and hydro-power operation and relicensing; evaluate and manage fisheries on Service lands; and, provide technical support to 38 Native American tribal governments and treaty authorities.

## Sea Lamprey Biological Stations

The Fish and Wildlife Service is the United States Agent for sea lamprey control, with two Biological Stations assessing and managing sea lamprey populations throughout the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission administers the Sea Lamprey Management Program, with funding provided through the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of the Interior, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

## Fish Health Center

The Fish Health Center provides specialized fish health evaluation and diagnostic services to federal, state and tribal hatcheries in the region; conducts extensive monitoring and evaluation of wild fish health; examines and certifies the health of captive hatchery stocks; and, performs a wide range of special services helping to coordinate fishery program offices and partner organizations.



# Midwest Region Fisheries Contacts

Mike Weimer ([mike\\_weimer@fws.gov](mailto:mike_weimer@fws.gov))

## Michigan

Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
480 West Fletcher St.  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Scott Koproski ([scott\\_koproski@fws.gov](mailto:scott_koproski@fws.gov))  
989/356-3052  
Area of Responsibility (Michigan, Ohio)

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery  
6623 Turner Road  
Elmira, MI 49730  
Roger Gordon ([roger\\_gordon@fws.gov](mailto:roger_gordon@fws.gov))  
231/584-2461

Ludington Biological Station  
229 South Jebavy Drive  
Ludington, MI 49431  
Jeff Slade ([jeff\\_slade@fws.gov](mailto:jeff_slade@fws.gov))  
231/845-6205

Marquette Biological Station  
3090 Wright Street  
Marquette, MI 49855-9649  
Katherine Mullett ([katherine\\_mullett@fws.gov](mailto:katherine_mullett@fws.gov))  
906/226-1235

Pendills Creek/Sullivan Creek  
National Fish Hatchery  
21990 West Trout Lane  
Brimley, MI 49715  
Curt Friez ([curt\\_friez@fws.gov](mailto:curt_friez@fws.gov))  
906/437-5231

## Missouri

Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
101 Park Deville Drive; Suite A  
Columbia, MO 65203  
Tracy Hill ([tracy\\_hill@fws.gov](mailto:tracy_hill@fws.gov))  
573/234-2132  
Area of Responsibility (Iowa, Missouri)

Neosho National Fish Hatchery  
East Park Street  
Neosho, MO 64850  
David Hendrix ([david\\_hendrix@fws.gov](mailto:david_hendrix@fws.gov))  
417/451-0554

## Illinois

Carterville Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
9053 Route 148, Suite A  
Marion, Illinois 62959  
Rob Simmonds ([rob\\_simmonds@fws.gov](mailto:rob_simmonds@fws.gov))  
618/997-6869  
Area of Responsibility (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio)

## Wisconsin

Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
2800 Lake Shore Drive East  
Ashland, WI 54806  
Mark Brouder ([mark\\_brouder@fws.gov](mailto:mark_brouder@fws.gov))  
715/682-6185  
Area of Responsibility (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin)

Genoa National Fish Hatchery  
S5689 State Road 35  
Genoa, WI 54632-8836  
Doug Aloisi ([doug\\_aloisi@fws.gov](mailto:doug_aloisi@fws.gov))  
608/689-2605

Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
2661 Scott Tower Drive  
New Franken, WI 54229  
Mark Holey ([mark\\_holey@fws.gov](mailto:mark_holey@fws.gov))  
920/866-1717  
Area of Responsibility (Michigan, Wisconsin)

Iron River National Fish Hatchery  
10325 Fairview Road  
Iron River, WI 54847  
Dale Bast ([dale\\_bast@fws.gov](mailto:dale_bast@fws.gov))  
715/372-8510

LaCrosse Fish Health Center  
555 Lester Avenue  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
Becky Lasee ([becky\\_lasee@fws.gov](mailto:becky_lasee@fws.gov))  
608/783-8441

LaCrosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
555 Lester Avenue  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
Pamella Thiel ([pam\\_thiel@fws.gov](mailto:pam_thiel@fws.gov))  
608/783-8431  
Area of Responsibility (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin)

# Fish Tails

“Fish Tails” includes articles that are included in field station reports that are not published in the “Conservation Briefs.” These articles are categorized by focus area and includes the article title, author and field station. The website link, where the full article can be viewed, is highlighted in blue type.

## **Partnerships and Accountability**

- [April Showers Bring “Public Relation” Flowers](#)
  - Heidi Keuler, La Crosse FWCO
- [Iowa Hosts UMRCC Meeting](#)
  - Scott Yess, La Crosse FWCO
- [Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study Meeting](#)
  - Tracy Hill, Columbia FWCO
- [Partners Offer New Medication Disposal Service](#)
  - Mark Steingraeber, La Crosse FWCO
- [Who Let the Dogs In?](#)
  - Mark Steingraeber, La Crosse FWCO

## **Aquatic Species Conservation and Management**

- [Let the Sturgeon Tagging Begin!](#)
  - Melissa Cheung, Neosho NFH

- [Sturgeon Broodstock Show Weight Increase Over Time](#)
  - Melissa Cheung, Neosho NFH

## **Aquatic Invasive Species**

### **Public Use**

- [Children Learn Fish Identification and Anatomy](#)
  - Eric Leis, La Crosse FHC
- [Macon County School Earth Day](#)
  - Aaron Walker and Colby Wrasse, Columbia FWCO
- [March Madness at the La Crosse FWCO](#)
  - Heidi Keuler, La Crosse FWCO
- [Preaching Green to the Choir](#)
  - Mark Steingraeber, La Crosse FWCO
- [Time to Say Goodbye](#)
  - Melissa Cheung, Neosho NFH
- [Wisconsin Science Teachers Visit the Lacrosse Fish Health Center](#)
  - John Whitney, La Crosse FHC

## **Cooperation with Native Americans**

## **Leadership in Science and Technology**

## **Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management**

## **Workforce Management**

- [Columbia FWCO Attends Fish Health Class](#)
  - Colby Wrasse and Clayton Ridenour, Columbia FWCO
- [Fish Health Staff Attend Federal Retirement Planning Seminar](#)
  - Becky Lasee, La Crosse FHC
- [Genoa National Fish Hatchery Welcomes a New Volunteer](#)
  - Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH
- [Regional Office Detail Wrapped up in D.C.](#)
  - Brian Elkington, Columbia FWCO



### **Ground Breaking Ceremony at Jordan River NFH**

The Jordan River National Fish Hatchery invited the public and media to an open house and groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, May 14 to mark the beginning of hatchery improvement projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These projects include the construction of two fish rearing buildings covering outdoor raceways, modernizing the fish hatchery effluent treatment system and installation of a geothermal heating system.

For more information about these projects, please contact the hatchery at 231-584-2461 or by email at: [roger\\_gordon@fws.gov](mailto:roger_gordon@fws.gov).