



# Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Program

# Fish Lines

**Brown Bridge  
Dam Removal:**

**Open House in  
Traverse City**

**Youth Outdoor  
Fest:**

**Sparking an Interest,  
Igniting the Flame**



# 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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BY HEIDI KEULER, LA CROSSE FWCO



-USFWS

The Midwest Region has a new regional distribution unit that will be housed at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery.

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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-USFWS  
**Sarah Bauer of the La Crosse Fish Health Center measures a yellow perch captured from Pendills Lake for fish health testing.**

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# Brown Bridge Dam Removal: Open House in Traverse City

BY RICK WESTERHOF, GREEN BAY FWCO

On June 21, the Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the Boardman River Implementation Team (IT) and AMEC (formerly known as MACTEC), hosted an open house at the Civic Center in Traverse City, Michigan, to receive input and comments from the public as part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the environmental impacts of the proposed removal of Brown Bridge Dam.

In the case of Brown Bridge Dam, the Fish and Wildlife Service is providing funding to remove the Brown Bridge Dam and as the lead federal agency, we must support its proposed action - removal of Brown Bridge Dam. The Fish and Wildlife Service's decision-making is conducted by independent assessments and analyses of project alternatives (including the No Action Alternative) pursuant to NEPA. The Fish and Wildlife Service can't defer its authority under NEPA to another agency or entity (in this case, the dam owner, the City of Traverse City). Consequently, the purpose of the EA analysis is to provide the Fish and Wildlife Service with supporting documentation during their decision making. If the

EA concludes that impacts from the proposed action are not significant, a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) will be prepared; however, should it be determined that there are significant impacts that cannot be mitigated, a decision will be made as to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Assessment under consideration will evaluate three proposed actions as pursuant to the NEPA process. These actions are:



-AMEC

Aerial map of the Brown Bridge Dam and Brown Bridge Pond on the Boardman River near Traverse City, Michigan.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies, prior to implementing a proposed action, to consider a range of reasonable alternatives and to evaluate the effects of their proposed action and alternatives. The EA will include the full range of NEPA environmental factors: socioeconomic environment, recreational use, hydrology, floodplains, wetlands, water quality, water use, sediment transport, sensitive species, fish and wildlife, air/noise quality, land use, cultural resources and downstream infrastructure.

1. *No Action:* Leave dam/powerhouse/spillway in-place, maintain Brown Bridge Pond.
2. *Dam Removal with Active Restoration:* Dam removal (i.e., breach the dam, remove portions of the dam embankment as well as the powerhouse and spillway); actively construct restored river/wetland complexes within dewatered pond area.
3. *Dam Removal without Active Restoration:* Dam removal (i.e., breach the dam, remove portions of the dam embankment as well as the

powerhouse and spillway); allow passive/natural processes to establish river channel and associated bottomland wetlands.

tion and comments gathered at the scoping meeting, and received via email. The Fish and Wildlife Service will consider all comments in the assessment of the project alternatives under consideration.



The IT is made up of the following agencies: Grand Traverse County, City of Traverse City, Traverse City Light and Power, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition, Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Ex officio members of the IT include Conservation Resource Alliance, Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, Rotary Camps and Services, Grand Traverse County Road Commission and Grand Traverse Conservation District.

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**An Environmental Assessment is under consideration that will evaluate three proposed actions for the proposed removal of the Brown Bridge Dam.**

The purpose of the public scoping open house was to allow the public an opportunity to provide input on what issues should be addressed in the EA for proposed removal of Brown Bridge Dam and provided an opportunity for continued public participation in the Boardman Dams Project.

Numerous informational posters, aerial maps and conceptual restoration plans developed by AMEC staff were on display for public to review. The Fish and Wildlife Service, IT and AMEC staff and consultants were available to answer questions. Staff from *9&10 News* in Traverse City interviewed several people at the meeting and the segment aired that evening and was also posted on their website. Approximately 30 people attended the open house and 10 people provided written comments. AMEC will review the informa-



-USFWS

**The downstream end of Brown Bridge Pond that covers 191 acres above the dam on the Boardman River.**

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

# Youth Outdoor Fest: Sparking an Interest, Igniting the Flame

BY HEIDI KEULER, LA CROSSE FWCO

*“Good interpretation does not only teach or inform, it also inspires and amazes the audience so much that they are motivated into action. I think there are different forms of interpretation. Stories are a form of interpretation, or programs put on by our partner agencies. I think even our annual Youth Outdoor Fest is a form of interpretation because it has the potential to teach and inform children, parents, and grandparents, about recreation and natural resources as well as get them excited to go outside and learn a new activity. Our goal is to get kids to turn off television, or video games and turn on their imagination by going outside. If we can just spark an interest for a few minutes, there’s potential to ignite a flame.”*

## Thinking Outside the Box

Almost four years ago, the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) visited the local Park & Recreation Department in La Crosse, Wisconsin (WI), even though we had never really worked on a project together. We thought about all the recreational or natural resource

expos in the area and realized that there weren’t any for kids. So together we created Youth Outdoor Fest. For the past three years, our office has partnered with the *Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services* (FUMFS) and the City of La Crosse Parks & Recreation Department to host the Youth Outdoor Fest at Pettibone Lagoon in La Crosse, WI. This is not a fest or expo to sell boats, jet skis, and other pieces of equipment that may or may not sit around your garage gathering dust. Oh, no, these hands-on activities are learning experiences that children of all ages and abilities are able to choose from and have fun. Kids can catch their first fish, drive their first boat, ride their first pontoon, and shoot their first bow, all with instruction and loaned equipment from sportsmen and sportswomen and natural resource folks. All activities are wheelchair accessible, including the specialized pontoon driven by the North American Squirrel Association (<http://www.nasasquirrel.org/index.asp>).

## We Can’t Do it Alone

Many agencies and organizations contribute to the event each year including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey Upper Mississippi Environmental Science Center, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge – Winona District, Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, La Crosse Fish Health Center, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, North American Squirrel Association, Chaseburg Rod and Gun, Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Trout Unlimited, Coulee Region Adventures, Bikes Limited, La Crosse Sailing Club, Youth Enrichment Association, Root River Powersports and several others. Other donors are: ACE Hardware, Mid-West Family Broadcasting, Dairyland Power, Pepsi, Festival Foods, Coulee Bank, State Bank, Merchants Bank, Kicking Bear,



-Maria Barry

Two young ladies drive their first boat at the 3rd Annual Youth Outdoor Fest held at Pettibone Lagoon in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided safety talks and the electric boats for the event.



-Owen Johnson

**Yes-the fish were biting! Genoa National Fish Hatchery brings their famous trout tank for kids to practice their skills during the 1st Annual Youth Outdoor Fest.**

Hi-Tech Fishing, Gander Mountain, Bluff Country Tale Spinners, WKBT Channel 8 and many others.

Even with the humidity that Midwesterners know best and storms that swept the Coulee Region, approximately 1,200 people tore themselves from their air conditioned homes and made their way out to Pettibone Park, across the Mississippi River from La Crosse, WI. This number is down from last year, which was an estimated whopping 2,500 kids, parents, grandparents, and other family members.

### **Inexpensive Fun is Key**

I was talking to Scott Yess, a colleague of mine, after the event and he reiterated what many others have said as well, “You know, there aren’t any events like this anywhere where kids can do all these activities in one day and not have to pay. If you go to a fair, most families would have to pay \$50 and probably just for the rides alone. At the Youth Outdoor Fest families have free admission, a free light lunch and receive a free raffle ticket to win a children’s rod/reel combo. On top of that, add opportunities for families such as electrofishing/sailboat demonstrations, minnow races, identification of fish, storytelling, fish cleaning and dissection, canoeing/kayaking, mountain biking and much more.”

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

### **Sparking an Interest**

Organizers of the event heard over and over from attendees that “This was the first time my son or daughter ever paddled a kayak, caught a trout, and not only drove a boat, but rowed one too!” Many people don’t realize the wealth of opportunities they have in their area, or are too timid to try something on their own, so Youth Outdoor Fest is a great way to introduce outdoor activities to kids in a very safe environment. The event also provides an opportunity for the public to ask the experts questions, pick up informational brochures and learn about natural resources. I’ve learned that a lot of people won’t always ask you a question at a boat show or fair, but if you take the time to show their child how to shoot a bow, drive a boat or some other activity, they are more likely to spend an extra ten minutes talking with you.

I’m still not sure who has more fun at the Youth Outdoor Fest, we adults or the kids. For us adults, it’s our one day out of the year just to be a kid again. Every year we see at least one adult that gets in line with the kids to shoot a kid’s bow, paint a fish or cast a fly rod. I always tell the exhibitor, “That’s OK, they can’t help themselves. It’s fun and many have never been able to do it before. This may be their only chance. At the very least, it will spark some excitement for the whole family to go and do it again. That’s exactly what we want to happen at our event.”



-USFWS

**Children learn how to paddle canoes and kayaks at the Youth Outdoor Fest.**

## Cooperation Produces Success

BY KEVIN MANN, GREEN BAY FWCO

Months after lake sturgeon eggs were first collected from Michigan's Kalamazoo River and brought into the new lake sturgeon streamside rearing facility (SRF) located on that river, biologists from the Genoa National Fish Hatchery and the



-USFWS/KevinMann

Lake sturgeon are being reared in a streamside rearing facility on Michigan's Kalamazoo River.

Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) have worked hand in hand with the Michi-

gan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to make sure that the 120 young sturgeon currently being reared in the facility are flourishing. These fish are destined to be released back into the Kalamazoo River this fall.

This successful partnership is geared toward rehabilitating at-risk lake sturgeon populations in Lake Michigan. The project stretched even further beyond the Kalamazoo River this spring, when biologist Kevin Mann assisted the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians with sturgeon collection for their own SRF on the Manistee River. The Little River Band's SRF was the first used in Lake Michigan and has been in operation since 2004. Cooler temperatures in the Manistee River throughout the spring delayed the sturgeon spawning in that river, allowing Kevin to help both Michigan DNR and tribal biologists with their work at each facility this year.

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.

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

## Retired Brood Find New Home in Michigan

BY SHAWN SANDERS, IRON RIVER NFH

Cooperatively working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), volunteers, Marquette Biological Station, Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) and Iron River NFH successfully stocked retired lake trout brood fish into Lake Angeline at Ishpeming, Michigan.

Michigan DNR has worked with a group of outdoorsman in the Ishpeming area for some time. This relationship allows the DNR to complete a host of fisheries projects with volunteer efforts.

The Michigan DNR gave Iron River the "green light" to stock retired brood fish into Lake Angeline, a deep-water inland lake that is a retired iron mine. Even from the stocking sites, the old mining artifacts were visible, which gave the effort a historic feel.

Jordan River NFH provided the distribution vehicle and a driver, biologist Wayne Talo. With

approximately 15 volunteers and employees, the group was able to make a human distribution line, handing netted fish from person to person into the deeper, clean water areas, away from shore.

One more noteworthy event was my dinner option of a "Pasty" which is the original Upper Peninsula delicacy, a Cornish import brought by miners who wanted a meal in an easy to carry "pastry-like" exterior.

Once again, Iron River NFH thanks Tracy Demeny of the Marquette Biological Station for on-the-ground support, Wayne Talo for his driving expertise, Michigan DNR, and all of the volunteer outdoorsman for their muscle used to complete this project.

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

## Midwest Region Responds to Yellowstone Oil Spill

BY MARK STEINGRAEBER, LA CROSSE FWCO

About 11:00 pm Friday July 1<sup>st</sup>, a break occurred in a 12 -inch pipeline owned by the Exxon Mobil Pipeline Company that spilled thousands of gallons of crude oil into a flood-swollen Yellowstone River, approximately 20 miles upstream of Billings, Montana. At the time this article was written, wildlife rescue teams had yet to find significant numbers of oiled birds, fish or amphibians. Isolated patches of oil were detected just 35 miles upstream of a site where; in



2008, hundreds of federally endangered pallid sturgeon were released into this river. Whether oil deposits will cause long-term impacts to this migratory species or other fish may take years to detect. Meanwhile, nearly 2 weeks after the spill, the number of areas contaminated by oil stands at 45, a number that is expected to continue to rise as the flood waters recedes. While no Fish and Wildlife Service managed

lands were impacted downstream of the spill site, a dozen contaminant specialists from the Mountain Prairie Region and beyond have responded by: conducting aerial wildlife surveys; embedding with cleanup crews as Resource Advisors; and participating in Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique teams.

Participating in the cleanup from the Midwest Region is Dr. Lisa Williams, an environmental contaminants specialist who similarly responded in 2010 to an 800,000 gallon crude oil spill into Talmadge Creek, a tributary of the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. While recently serving as the Deputy Branch Director for Wildlife Operations at the Montana spill, Dr. Williams contacted the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) seeking guidance in procedures to disinfect boats, trailers, outboard engines, and other pieces equipment being brought by spill-response contractors from throughout the western United States. A list of six effective disinfection procedures, developed by Region 3 Watercraft Safety Coordinator Dave Wedan and La Crosse Fish Health Center biologist Corey Puzach, was quickly forwarded to Dr. Williams for widespread distribution among spill responders. These disinfection procedures are available to Fish and Wildlife Service employees on the Regional Intranet Safety Program web site ([https://intranet.fws.gov/region3/safety/images/Disinfection\\_Techniques\\_2010.pdf](https://intranet.fws.gov/region3/safety/images/Disinfection_Techniques_2010.pdf)) and can be sent to others interested in this information by contacting the La Crosse FWCO.

More information on agency actions in response to the Yellowstone oil spill can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/pressrel/11-montanaoilspill-07082011.html>.

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

## Wild Fish Health Survey Completed on Mississippi River

BY COREY PUZACH, LA CROSSE FHC

Staff of the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) and the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office participated in a Wild Fish Health Survey. The assessment took place on Pool 7 of the Mississippi River, near Dresbach, Minnesota. Annual assess-



-USFWS/Rebekah McCann

Dustin Hart, Curtis Slagle and Lucas Purnell (left to right) take fish health samples from Mississippi River fish for the Wild Fish Health Survey.

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

## Region 3 Lake Trout Distribution Season is Complete!

BY SHAWN SANDERS, IRON RIVER NFH

This spring was like no other, for many different reasons. First, the distribution of shore-stocked lake trout yearlings began earlier than normal. Due to the potential impasse by lawmakers on the solution to the Fiscal Year 2011 budget, a decision was made to complete the shore stocking well ahead of any potential budget crisis. Iron River's shore-stocking trips were completed in mid-March as Nick Starzl hauled fish to the Green Bay, Wisconsin, area and Shawn Sanders completed a run to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Many possible scenarios to deal with a government shutdown were analyzed by managers at the Regional Office. Fortunately, none of scenarios were introduced and lawmakers came to an agreement, which allowed for off-shore stocking efforts to begin on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Once the off-shore stocking portion of the distribution season began, so did the wind. Wind makes it difficult for the *M/V Spencer F. Baird* to properly stock fish, due to the heavy tanks on the deck of the

ments are a useful tool for biologists to track the health history of a fishery. Health assessments have taken place on Pool 7 since 1999.

This year, 294 specimens representing 14 species were sampled to screen for viral and bacterial pathogens. The samples were transported to the La Crosse FHC where they will be processed and analyzed in the laboratory. Results take at least 28 days to complete.

These surveys are for the National Wild Fish Health Survey program. Nine FHCs participate. The primary goal of the program is to determine the occurrence and distribution of fish pathogens throughout the United States. Results from past Wild Fish Health Surveys are public information and can be viewed at: [www.esg.montana.edu/nfhdb/](http://www.esg.montana.edu/nfhdb/).

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.

ship and the fact that the fish seem to get "seasick" in high seas. The winds blew and blew, as the stocking efforts switched from Cheboygan, Michigan (MI) to Alpena, MI to Charlevoix, MI and finally to Milwaukee, Wisconsin - the winds seemed to follow. With a total of thirty days where the vessel could not leave port (weather days), managers commented that this may be a modern day record for the most delays within a distribution season.

Another factor that complicated the extended season was that each group of fish with coded-wire tags (CWT's) must be released at their designated stocking site. Once the delays began, the schedule had to continually evolve to meet this demand. Lake Michigan received approximately 68% of the total 4.1 million yearling lake trout with the remaining 32% stocked into Lake Huron. This long season saw the crew of the *Baird* away from their station for approximately 75 days which was approximately the same amount that each station must have a driver

available to haul fish. This long season was difficult but through the efforts of the stocking vessel, all three lake trout hatcheries, and the Alpena Fish and

Wildlife Conservation Office, all 4.1 million lake trout were safely released into the Great Lakes.

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

## Walleye Early Summer Harvest at Genoa NFH

BY JENNIFER BAILEY, GENOA NFH

Each spring at the Genoa National Fish hatchery (NFH), the staff braves late winter snowfalls and roaring spring floodwaters for about 20 days in order to capture wild Mississippi River walleye, sauger and northern pike at the peak of their spawning season. Millions of eggs are collected, fertilized and transported back to the hatchery and later distributed to tribal, state and federal partners for recreation, restoration and sport fishing.

After eggs are shipped to management partners, fry are hatched out into indoor raceways until the young fish are ready to feed. At least ten percent of the annual take of eggs from wild fish in the upper Mississippi River are stocked back into their nursery waters. This replaces what was removed from the population, and gives the young fry a chance to develop before being released back into the wild.

About 250,000 of these young fry are also stocked into hatchery ponds for grow-out. Ponds are fertilized with alfalfa meal and inorganic fertilizer weekly to

enhance native zooplankton populations which feed the fry during the early stages of growth. In June, when fry reach 1½ inches, they are harvested and restocked into ponds. At this stage, the young fish have eaten all of the zooplankton in the pond and need to be thinned to a level that the pond productivity can support. And at 1½-2 inches they can also begin to eat small minnows.

This spring, 2,635,000 small fry were stocked back into the Mississippi River or shipped to tribal hatcheries for restoration, and 60,000 excess 1.5-2 inch fingerlings were stocked into tribal or state waters, or were provided to research facilities. Sixteen thousand 1.75 inch fish were re-stocked back into hatchery ponds for growout this summer. In September, these fish will be harvested at 5-7 inches and will be either used in Genoa's endangered freshwater mussel program as host fish, or will be stocked into state, federal and tribal waters for sport fish recovery or recreational fishing.



-USFWS

**Walleye fry are stocked into a culture pond (left) and the resultant fingerlings harvested at 1.5 to 2 inches (right).**

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

## Shocking Warfare

BY WYATT DOYLE, COLUMBIA FWCO

In the warfare against invasive Asian carp, there is promise of a new weapon. Electrofishing has, at best, been marginal in the fight against the invasive carp. The mystery of how some fish respond to electricity—while others don't has challenged biologists to explore new electrical pulse rates, duty cycles and voltage fields to tease the fish of interest to come to the boat. Because silver carp tend to jump and sink



-USFWS/WyattDoyle

**The MLES Electrofishing Control Box gives biologists the ability to tweak the voltage and pulses in digits rather than a range during electrofishing sampling, to find a field that is most effectual on a fish species within a given water body.**

and maybe even have some semblance of ESP in detecting the electrical field, we have been working to tweak the settings of our unit to induce electro-taxis (the fish becomes rigid and is drawn to the electrical current) in these fish for years now. To date, the only method that has shown promise was a surprise attack and scaring them into shallow water where we could net them as they jumped. There has been a recent advance; however, with the production of the MLES electrofishing box developed by Midwest Lake Management. The new box uses a redesign of old technol-

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

### 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.

ogy that incorporates digital infinite adjustment for the user, rectified alternating current (AC), and a computed calculation of power as a “read-out”

display on the box. Now a biologist has the ability to tweak the voltage and pulses in digits rather than a range to find a field that is most effectual on the species within a given water body.

To test the unit on other species, I recently met with Dr. Jan Dean (Fish and Wildlife Service electrofishing course instructor) and Lee Holt (Arkansas Game and Fish biologist). We were electrofishing for snakehead and alligator gar in eastern Arkansas. Lee's summary of the system was very positive. He had not seen a more effective shocking of forage (gizzard shad) than with the MLES box. Though we didn't find alligator gar, we were able to capture one snakehead.

Our office has worked closely with Midwest Lake Management and their physicist Tom Lehman to learn more about the nuances of electrofishing. Through our experiments and a little “trial and error”, they have been able to incorporate new software upgrades that will maximize electrical power output so that this box can deliver for our needs. Our preliminary efforts show some success in creating taxis of silver carp. Our future efforts will seek to document effective control box settings that we can use to monitor and manage carp throughout our rivers.

## An Egg-cellent Adventure!

BY CAREY EDWARDS, IRON RIVER NFH

How it all began... Dennis Smett, a middle school science teacher from Superior, Wisconsin (WI) heard about and then initiated a classroom project in which students rear salmon from the egg to fingerling stage in an aquarium. What better way would there be to teach students about the life history of trout and salmon than to have them raise fish in the classroom? The year after his initial project, Dennis decided that this was too good to keep to himself and asked Russ Bailey, the science teacher (now retired) at Northwestern Middle School in Maple, WI, if he was interested in doing the project too. The answer was a resounding yes. The Brule River Sportsman's Club had purchased the first 30 gallon aquarium and chiller unit and agreed to foot the bill again. That was nine years ago.



-USFWS

Students rear lake trout from the eyed egg to fingerling stage in their classroom as a science project, monitoring their progress daily.

In the fall of 2010, the Brule Sportsman's Club contacted the Iron River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) in hopes of continuing the legacy. The staff at Iron River NFH gladly agreed to provide lake trout eggs for the program with the stipulation that the fish

would be humanly euthanized at the project's end (this is because of stringent regulations and permitting in the transportation of fish due to disease concerns).

Three classrooms, totaling 75 students, received 500

eyed lake trout eggs in mid-October. They monitored the water temperature and acidity every day to make sure it was perfect for the developing fish. Once the fish hatched out, they began the 30 day wait until the baby fish swam-up. Upon swim-up, the students fed the fish every hour and monitored their progress. Math and science teacher, Donna Bell, explained that the project was very successful and the students enjoyed themselves.

As part of the program, biologist Carey Edwards brought the hatchery to life with a presentation and hands-on lab, where students were able to simulate egg enumeration in the same manner that occurs at the hatchery. This involved displacing water with "eggs" (BB's), recording data and calculating the number of eggs per millimeter of water displaced. Students were also presented with additional math problems that mimic day to day calculations occurring at the fish hatchery. This helped to strike home how important and frequently used math is in everyday life.

This program is very rewarding for all involved. The school, sportsman's club and hatchery are looking forward to this fall, when the next group of students get to learn about the life history of lake trout.

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.

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

## Boy Scouts Earn Fishery Badges

BY ADAM MCDANIEL AND BRANDON BAUMHOER, COLUMBIA FWCO

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) had the opportunity to show the Troop 4 boy scouts some Missouri River fishes while they were camping along the river. After the scouts completed a 40 mile bike ride in the early

morning, they were eager to learn about the Missouri River and its inhabitants.

Adam McDaniel and Brandon Baumhoer of the Columbia FWCO collected fish by electrofishing and setting a stationary trammel net. Project Leader

Tracy Hill opened the event by discussing the Fish and Wildlife Service's mission and various projects of the Columbia FWCO.

The scouts then broke into two groups; one started at the live fish station and the other group began at the fishing gear station. Brandon showed the scouts a variety of native fishes such as smallmouth bass, bigmouth buffalo, flathead catfish, longnose gar, shovelnose sturgeon and an invasive silver carp. He discussed fish ecology, anatomy and native versus

non-native species. Adam explained how to use the different gears and discussed applications for sampling river fishes. The fishing gear on display included an electrofishing boat, standard trawls, mini-fyke nets, gill nets, trammel nets and hoop nets. Overall, the event was a great success and provided the scouts with an opportunity not only to see Missouri River fishes and our equipment but also to ask some great questions and share their own fish stories.

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

## Growing Vegetables and Partnerships

BY LINDSAY LESMEISTER, GREEN BAY FWCO

As the first fire flies appear, and the idea of the upcoming growing season dances in our mind, the notion of having a station garden at the Green Bay



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Several Fish and Wildlife Service employees in the Green Bay offices take care of a garden space on the office grounds during their lunch breaks, to serve as a therapeutic break from the hectic office routine, donating their produce to the local food pantry.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) was being cultivated. With the approval from the building manager, the ground breaking began in some unused ground behind the building. Many seedlings and plants were strategically placed throughout the 750 square feet of garden. The list of plants that thrive in the garden includes: tomatoes, peppers, sugar snap peas, pumpkins, watermelon, several varieties of lettuce, and many other plants.

On any given day, several Fish and Wildlife Service employees will wander to the garden over lunch break and spend time weeding or watering for therapeutic reasons or for a short mental break. A cooperative effort between Fisheries, Ecological Services, and the Private Lands program has led to the constant upkeep of the garden; the plants have reaped the benefits. Bounty from the garden is going to be donated to a local food pantry.

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

## Boys & Girls Club Learns about Fish and Fishing

BY SARAH BAUER, LA CROSSE FHC

Nick Bloomfield, Julia Egan and Katie Holland of the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) and Eric Leis and Sarah Bauer of the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) visited the Huber Court Boys & Girls Club of La Crosse, Wisconsin (WI) to teach the children about fish anatomy, fish identification, and to practice their casting skills. The fish anatomy was a "hands on" lesson comparing fish anatomy to human anatomy. It demonstrated that humans and nature are connected. After the fish anatomy and fish identification, the children went outside to practice their casting skills by playing "Backyard Bass". There were a few misdirected

casts into trees, onto the roof and over street lights. But in the end, the children were very excited about having the Fish and Wildlife Service staff visit and share their knowledge about fish and fishing. The event was such a success that the following week, La Crosse FWCO and La Crosse FHC staff met the group at Pettibone Lagoon near downtown La Crosse, WI to take the children fishing. The fishing was slow, but the children caught a few small bluegills and had fun interacting with the Fish and Wildlife Service employees by sharing their fishing stories and angling insights.

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

## 3rd Annual - Kids Fishing Event at Pendills Creek NFH

BY JULIE TIMMER, PENDILLS CREEK NFH

Another success! The *Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery* and Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kids Fishing Day on June 25.



-USFWS

Children and parents patiently wait for a fish to bite at the 3rd Annual Kids Fishing Day held at the Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery.

The staff and friends of Pendills Creek NFH are sad to say that this will be the last event at the current site, but are excited to announce that construction is currently underway for the new fishing pond at the Lower Water Control Structure Pond and Trail. The pond and trail will be completed by July 31st of this year. The new pond will be able to accommodate all of our young fisherpersons at once, unlike before. This year's event was exceptional; the weather was perfect, and the fish (and bugs) were biting. There was a great turn-out, despite the fact



-USFWS

Larry Gilbert gave a fish carving demonstration to participants of the fishing event at Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery.

that several other local events were scheduled on the same day; Soo Locks held their Engineers Day, Bay Mills honored their veterans with a PowWow, and the Car Show in St. Ignace.

A total of 137 children from the area attended the event, and 152 rainbow trout were weighed and recorded. This year, goodie bags were handed out, and prizes were awarded for the top 10 for Ages 8 and under, and 9-15, as well as special prizes for the smallest fish and for the first lake trout. There were 3 lake trout and 300 rainbow trout in the pond. The prizes included rods and reels, tackle boxes, tents, sleeping bags, pool parties and more. A hot dog lunch was provided, as well as other activities to keep everyone busy. We had a fish carving demonstration by Larry Gilbert, a bouncy castle, football toss, an alien dart game and face painting.

This event would not have been possible without the volunteers and the support from our local businesses. A total of 67 businesses from around the area donated food, money and supplies to help support the purpose of the event, "To get kids off the couch and outdoors".



-USFWS

Goodie bags were given to each participant at the fishing derby, compliments of local businesses.

For further info about the Pendills Creek NFH/Sullivan Creek NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/pendills.pdf>

## Fishery-Independent Spring Assessment of Northeastern Lake Michigan

BY DALE HANSON, GREEN BAY FWCO

Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) staff members Ted Treska, Lindsey Lesmeister and Dale Hanson, along with the assistance of Kyle Kranjiak of the Alpena FWCO recently completed two lake whitefish surveys in the East Arm of Grand Traverse Bay and waters near Leland, in northeastern lake Michigan. These June gillnet surveys provide an index of relative abundance of both lake whitefish and lake trout, and are used to assess the general health of the populations. In addition to size and age data, catches are inspected for invasive sea lamprey wounds and tissue samples were obtained for diet analyses.



-USFWS

(Left to right) Kyle Kranjiak, Dale Hanson and Ted Treska of the Green Bay and Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices remove fish from a gill net panel as part of the spring fishery assessment in northeastern Lake Michigan.

The 2011 survey catches averaged 34 lake trout and 4 lake whitefish per 1,800 feet of gill net in Grand Traverse Bay, compared to 15 lake trout and 1 lake whitefish for nets fished near Leland. The relative abundance indices remain below lake-wide target levels, but numbers appear to be building and several large lake trout, over 27 inches, were captured in each survey location. Unfortunately, sea lamprey wounding rates remain higher than the management target of 5 wounds per 100 lake trout sampled. We observed mean wounding rates of 7.6 and 19.3 in Grand Traverse Bay and Leland, respectively. After

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

age structures (otoliths), stomachs and tissue samples for diet analysis were obtained, the fish were dressed and donated to local food pantries.

Over 800 pounds of lake trout, lake whitefish and burbot were donated this year.

These “fishery independent” surveys are a cooperative venture performed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Michigan and the Tribes within the 1836 Treaty Waters of the upper Great Lakes. This data source compliments other fishery data collected through commercial and recreational catch monitoring. All available fishery data are input into an “integrated analysis” to assess the status for each management unit’s fish stocks, and this process is ultimately used to generate harvest quotas. The integrated analysis approach was a critical component of the 2000 Consent Decree as it fosters the adoption of scientifically defensible management policies to regulate harvest in 1836 Treaty Waters.



-USFWS

Pictured is a lake trout with a recently attached invasive sea lamprey “transformer”. Transformer phase lampreys recently entered the lake from tributary streams and will feed for a year or more on fish before returning to streams where they spawn and die.

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.

## Researchers Learn How to Take Blood Samples from Fish

BY ERIC LEIS, LA CROSSE FHC

Staff from the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) was recently contacted by researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UW-SP) about providing them assistance on how to take



-USFWS/Sarah Bauer

**UW-Stevens Point researcher attempts to draw blood from a largemouth bass from the Mississippi River.**

blood samples from fish. Collecting blood from fish is a

skill that combines proper needle placement with the ability to spatially determine organ and artery location within the fish. Several staff members at the La Crosse FHC have experience in effectively taking blood samples from fish, because it is a technique used to screen fish for Spring Viremia of Carp Virus.

La Crosse FHC staff used the cardiac or caudal blood sampling technique to retrieve blood from fish. These two methods were demonstrated on live fish for the visiting researchers from UW-Stevens Point and staff from La Crosse FHC and La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office. The researchers from UW-SP are currently studying why the small-mouth bass found in a northern Wisconsin lake are spawning in both the spring and the fall.

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 La Crosse FHC: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/LaCrosseFishHealthCenter/>

## Great Lakes Mass Marking Team Completes First AutoFish Marking Project

BY KEVIN PANKOW, GREEN BAY FWCO

Staff from the Great Lakes Mass Marking program, headquartered at the Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO), recently completed the first lake trout marking project of 2011 at the Marquette State Fish Hatchery (SFH) in Michigan. Lake trout have been manually marked with fin clips in the past by Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff, but this is the first year that the Fish and Wildlife Service has tagged state-reared lake trout, and used an automated tagging trailer designed to rapidly coded-wire tag and adipose fin clip salmon and trout. The AutoFish™ trailer is manufactured by Northwest Marine Technology (NMT) and is one of four automated trailers operated by the Fish and Wildlife Service to tag and fin clip salmon and trout stocked into the Great Lakes.

Biologist Jim Webster led the project and trained Kevin Pankow and Elliot Hoffman, two recently hired biologists for the Mass Marking program. The team marked 288,472 Seneca Lake Wild strain lake trout between June 19<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>. These fish will be stocked next spring in 1836 Treaty waters in Lakes Michigan and Huron by the Michigan DNR and will



-USFWS/Jim Webster

**Mass marking biologists Kevin Pankow (left background) and Elliot Hoffman (right foreground) operate the AutoFish™ Trailer.**

contain a unique coded-wire tag to track their contribution to the fishery. Brian Toews, from NMT, joined the team to assist in training and to install upgrades to the AutoFish™ trailer.

The Great Lakes Mass Marking program is in its second season of operation. In addition to the lake trout marked at Marquette SFH, the team marked nearly 4.7 million Chinook salmon at state hatcheries

in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan this spring. Beginning in August through October, the team will travel to four National Fish Hatcheries in Michigan, Wisconsin and Vermont to tag about 5.3 million lake trout for rehabilitation programs on Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. The recap-

ture of tagged fish that are stocked in many unique groups allows biologists to determine the efficacy of stocking methods, strains, and sizes to meet the needs of developing self-sustaining lake trout populations in the Great Lakes.

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

## Two New Mussel Cage Locations for the 2011 Production Season

BY JORGE BUENING, GENOA NFH

This year, the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) Freshwater Mussel Program has incorporated cage locations in Iowa's Lake MacBride and our very own Pond 14 North. These locations will join previously used locations at the Dubuque Ice Harbor (Iowa) and Stillwater, Minnesota, to make up our 2011 cage locations.



-USFWS

Tow floating racks hold mussel cages in Genoa National Fish Hatchery's Pond 14 North.

The purpose of mussel cages is to house host fish and allow juvenile freshwater mussels to drop off of the fish and be collected in the bottom of the cage. We utilize two different types of cage systems depending on the water conditions. The first system uses the cages and the base collection area by simply resting the whole unit at the bottom of the water body. The second raises the units up in the water column by having them rest on a floating holding unit. This year, the systems at Ice Harbor and Pond 14 North are both floating units and the Lake MacBride and Stillwater systems are bottom resting.

In Pond 14 North, we have fish infested with plain pocketbook, black sandshell, hickorynut, fat mucket and the federally endangered Higgen's eye pearlymussel, each within their own cages. In Lake MacBride we are attempting black sandshell and plain pocketbook.

We hope to find these new locations successful and give us alternative culture sites to aid the mussel program. In Lake McBride, raising the mussels in the water that they will eventually be stocked into is also a major encouragement. In the case of Pond 14 North, allowing us to produce mussels without introducing them to possible diseases in the wild could open up the possibility for many more stocking locations.

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

## Dam Reconnaissance Study in the Muskegon Watershed

BY RICK WESTERHOF, GREEN BAY FWCO

The Muskegon River watershed has nearly 100 dams, and with limited funding resources available for dam removals, the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) and Prein and Newhof conducted a dam survey and inventory in the Muskegon River watershed with funding from the National Fish Passage Program. The main objective of the study was to develop a list of potential dam removal projects to be pursued based on relative low cost, social acceptance for removal, habitat benefit and opportunity. Using 11 ranking attributes or criteria, the top 15 dams (see table) out of nearly 100 dams in the watershed were identified and ranked as candidates for removal.

With both federal and state initiatives to elevate the benefits of dam removal, combined with the crisis of recognizing the long-term

financial and environmental impacts of aging dams, the development of the decision-support system or strategic approach was a necessity. The decision-

support system could be used in any watershed to identify candidate dams for removal well in advance, so that when funding opportunities arise, there are dam removal projects ready to go. The survey has been completed and the final report is available. Please contact Rick Westerhof, Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) at [rick\\_westerhof@fws.gov](mailto:rick_westerhof@fws.gov) or Gary Noble, MRWA [noble@gferris.edu](mailto:noble@gferris.edu) for an electronic copy of the report.

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.

DAM	COUNTY
Miller (Nartron) Dam	Osceola
Ebels Dam	Mecosta
Acker Dam	Mecosta
Old Fur Farm Dam	Clare
Marion Dam	Osceola
Kelinski Dam	Missaukee
Buckhorn Creek Dam	Mecosta
Wraco Lodge Dam	Roscommon
Vomastek Dam	Missaukee
Winterfield Conservation Club Dam	Clare
Barton Road Dam	Newaygo
Townline Creek Flooding Dam	Clare
Houghton Lake Flats South Unit Dam	Roscommon
Johnson Dam #2	Newaygo
Tamarack Creek Dam	Montcalm

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

## Welcome Aboard - STEP Students

BY MARK STEINGRAEBER, LA CROSSE FWCO

**K**atie Holland joined the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) staff in May where she participates in the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP). Katie received her bachelor's degree in Biology from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and is currently working on her master's degree in Geographic Information Science (GIS) at Saint Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota. Her prior work experiences include: a prairie restoration internship at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; a research assistantship in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of



-USFWS

**Katie Holland (left) and Julia Egan are working this summer at the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office through the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP).**

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

## CARE Student Returns to Columbia FWCO

BY CAYLA CARLSON AND PATTY HERMAN, COLUMBIA FWCO

**C**olumbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) is proud to introduce a new summer employee. Cayla Carlson comes to us through a local student job placement program for middle and high school students called Career Awareness Related Experience (CARE). Students are paid by the city of Columbia but gain valuable hands-on experience while assisting our field crews with equipment repair and maintenance, as well as field data collection (when river levels allow). Our office is proud to be in its sixth year of partnering with the City of Columbia and the CARE program, and we are even more pleased to have Cayla with us this summer. Welcome aboard!

"My name is Cayla Carlson; I'm 17 years old and will be a senior this fall at Hickman High School here in Columbia, Missouri. At school I'm involved in many extra-curricular activities such as Global Issues club, Trireme and Student Government. I'm a born and

Illinois; and a GIS technician for Geospatial Services of Winona. Katie looks forward to performing a wide variety of work tasks for the La Crosse FWCO this summer. Katie described her opportunities as a STEP, "One day I could be building a geodatabase and the next helping with an outreach event or performing e-DNA sampling in the Chicago area."

Julia Egan joined the La Crosse FWCO staff in June as a STEP student. Julia was born and raised in La Crosse, and understandably has a passion for the outdoors and environmental preservation. She recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a background in Fisheries, Biology and Chemistry. Julia plans to continue her education this fall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she is enrolling in the School of Medicine and Public Health and will be studying Environmental Health. Julia hopes to be exposed to a diversity of subjects this summer to prepare her for a career in aquaculture or environmental toxicology.

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.

raised Missourian and I have always been interested in the outdoors. I enjoy camping, kayaking and fishing. I plan to go to college to become a marine biologist, so I was ecstatic when I learned that I landed a job at Columbia FWCO through the CARE program. I have done a variety of tasks since being here, from maintenance on trucks to cleaning bathrooms in the shop. I also have pressed scales and repaired nets, but the part of this job I love the most is actually being out in the boat on the river. I have recently gotten the chance to go out on the river and trawl for fish which was very interesting because we caught a lot of little fish like baby gars and paddlefish, which was really cool! This job has been very rewarding so far and I have learned many new things that I think will help me in my future career of being a biologist. The staff here is extremely friendly and I'm glad I have gotten the chance to work here!"

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

# Congressional Actions

S. 1201 (is) To conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

S. 52 (is) To establish uniform administrative and enforcement procedures and penalties for the enforcement of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and similar statutes, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

H.R. 2373 (ih) To establish a regulatory system and research program for sustainable offshore aquaculture in the United States exclusive economic zone, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

H.R. 1917 (ih) To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct a Joint Venture Program to protect, restore, enhance, and manage migratory bird populations, their habitats, and the ecosystems they rely on, through voluntary actions on public and private lands, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

S. 1401 (is) To conserve wild Pacific salmon, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

S. 1494 (is) To reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act. [Introduced in Senate]

H.R. 1160 (rh) To require the Secretary of the Interior to convey the McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery to the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes. [Reported in House]

H.R. 2325 (ih) To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to build on and help coordinate funding for restoration and protection efforts of the 4-State Delaware River Basin region, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

H.R. 2351 (ih) To direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. [Introduced in House]

S. 651 (is) To require the Secretary of the Interior to convey the McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery to the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

H.R. 1160 (ih) To require the Secretary of the Interior to convey the McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery to the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

S. 1266 (is) To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to build on and help coordinate funding for restoration and protection efforts of the 4-State Delaware River Basin region, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

H.Con.Res. 15 (ih) Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service should incorporate consideration of global warming and sea-level rise into the comprehensive conservation plans for coastal national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

S. 1183 (is) To establish a national mercury monitoring program, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

S. 1224 (is) To amend Public Law 106-392 to maintain annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023. [Introduced in Senate]

S. 632 (is) To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to extend the authorized period for rebuilding of certain overfished fisheries, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

H.R. 521 (ih) To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prevent the approval of genetically engineered fish. [Introduced in House]

S. 230 (is) To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prevent the approval of genetically-engineered fish. [Introduced in Senate]

H.R. 520 (ih) To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling of genetically engineered fish. [Introduced in House]

H.R. 1646 (ih) To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to preserve jobs and coastal communities through transparency and accountability in fishery management, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

S. 229 (is) To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling of genetically engineered fish. [Introduced in Senate]

Source is <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/index.html>  
Searched database by keyword = "fish"

# 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

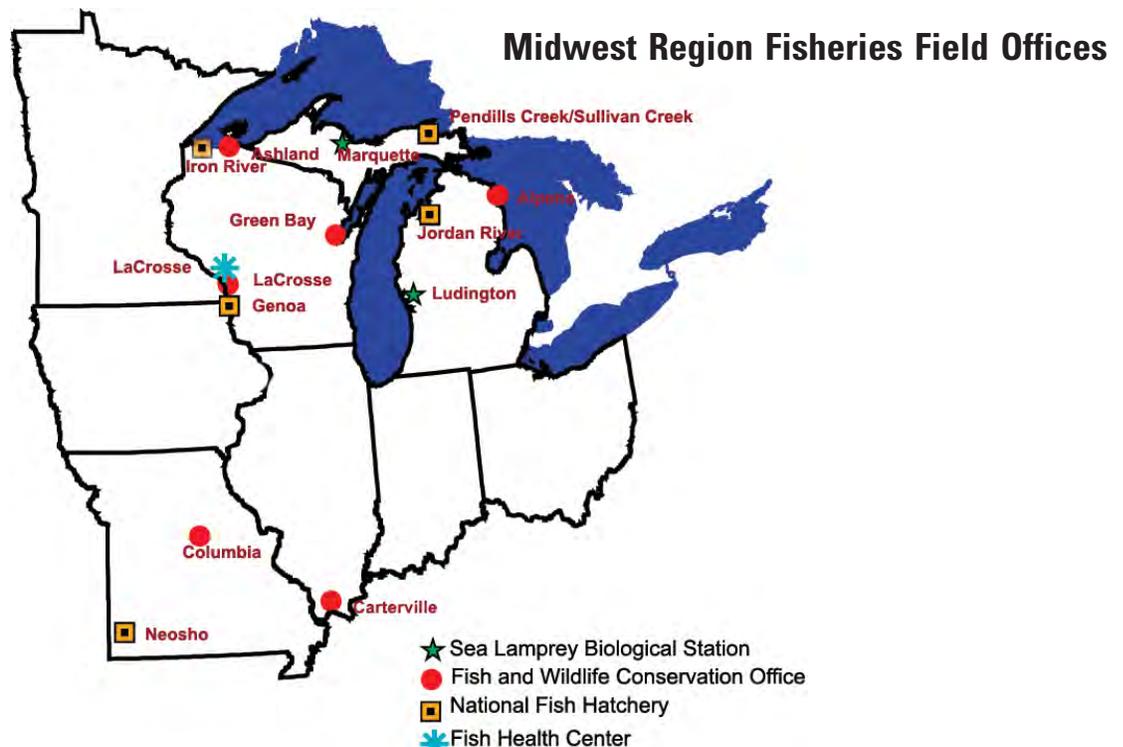
technical expertise to other Service programs addressing contaminants, endangered species, federal project review and hydro-power operation and relicensing; evaluate and manage fisheries on Service lands; and, provide technical support to 38 Native American tribal governments and treaty authorities.

## 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

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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

### Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

➤ [Finding Endangered Mussels? You Gotta Get Your Feet Wet](#)

- Heather Calkins, Columbia FWCO

### Aquatic Invasive Species

## Public Use

➤ [Earth Tracks at the Duluth Zoo](#)

- Carey Edwards, Iron River NFH

## Cooperation with Native Americans

### Leadership in Science and Technology

## Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

➤ [Watervliet Dam Removal Public Hearing](#)

- Rick Westerhof, Green Bay FWCO

## Workforce Management

➤ [From Hawaii to ... Genoa?](#)

- Angela Baran, Genoa NFH



-(from Top Left); Maria Barry, USFWS, USFWS, Maria Barry, USFWS, Maria Barry, Owen Johnson

# South Outdoor Fest at Pettibone Lagoon in La Crosse, Wisc.