



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Marquette and Ludington
Biological Stations



March 2013

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Jeff Slade and Michael Twohey participated in the Plenary session of the Sea Lamprey Research Board meeting held in Ann Arbor, MI.

Jessica Barber, Mary Henson, Lynn Kanieski, Kasia Mullett, Jeff Slade and Matt Symbol attended the Upper Great Lakes meetings in Duluth, MN during March 19-21. Barber, Walter and Slade presented updates on the status of sea lampreys in Lake Superior, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan respectively.

Ludington staff discussed plans for the 2013 treatment of the Big Manistee River with Marty Holtgren, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, who inquired as to why we were treating the Big Manistee River again in 2013. Staff provided Marty a copy of the “positive stream analysis” report, which provides a summary of the data used to rank this stream for treatment, and discussed concerns he had regarding the lake sturgeon rearing facility he operates on the Big Manistee River.

Pete Hrodey, Nick Johnson and Samantha Nellis (USGS - HBBS) deployed DIDSON cameras near the mouths of the Cheboygan and Ocqueoc Rivers. These sonar units will document the entire sea lamprey spawning runs and provide daily estimates of flux within each system. At the end of the season, these estimates will be compared with mark-recapture population estimates from each trap. If the estimates are similar these DIDSON units could be used to provide population estimates and run timing information for currently untrapped systems.

Ludington staff assisted Jim Boase with completion of a proposal to construct a lake sturgeon spawning reef in the Detroit River.

Matt Lipps and Jenna Tews met with Joseph Gerbyshak from the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) to receive training on the RiverSurveyor stream gauging equipment. During the Cattaraugus Creek treatment, Ludington staff utilized this technology that has an Acoustic Doppler Profiler (ADP) to measure stream discharge. The unit was on loan from the Alpena FWCO. Matt and Jenna were successful in receiving accurate gaugings of the stream without stepping foot in the water. The device has a 9-beam ADP equipped with GPS that mounts onto the SonTek Hydroboard and communicates with a computer on shore using a Bluetooth device. With a line run off the front of the Hydroboard, the RiverSurveyor can be deployed from a bridge and pulled back and forth across the river without personnel having to enter the stream. This technology allows crew members to gauge from bridges and avoid dangerous high water conditions.



Matt Lipps is running the computer program to measure stream discharge prior to the Cattaraugus Creek treatment. USFWS photo

Tim Sullivan presented a review of the large-scale Lake Erie treatment strategy, highlights of 2012 sea lamprey control activities in Lake Erie and plans for 2013 to the Lake Erie Committee at the lower lakes meetings in Niagara Falls, NY.

Final plans have been prepared to sample the Huron Erie Corridor (St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit River) for larval sea lamprey this next spring. Crews from Ludington, Marquette and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada will participate in the sampling. Funding for this project was an addition to the base budget and was provided by the U.S. State Department through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Per a request for information related to the toxicity of the mixture of TFM and 1% niclosamide to mussels, Ludington staff provided Chris Riley, U. S. Forest Service, Manistee, MI with an electronic copy of Technical Report 70 published by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, May 2011.

OUTREACH

Mike Fodale and Shawn Nowicki represented the Sea Lamprey Control Program at the Bad River Natural Resources Department Open House during March 7th in Odanah, WI.



Mike Fodale and former sea lamprey control employee, Henry Quinlan (Ashland FWCO), discuss the advancements in the sea lamprey control program over the years during the Bad River Natural Resources Open House. USFWS photo

Hank Cupp (temporary employee) and Joe Genovese (retired), volunteered to staff the sea lamprey display at the Grand Rapids Ultimate Sport Show from March 21- March 24. Their volunteer work was greatly appreciated as staff from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Hammond Bay Biological Station also assisted with the show.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Greg Klingler, Jake Van Effen and Kevin Letson completed modifications to the James Jeske Flooding Dam on the Sand River near Marquette. Funding cuts caused the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to discontinue gate operation at the dam during 2003, leaving the upper river open to escapement. Several year classes of sea lamprey were found upstream of the dam in 2011. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality approved plans to remove the top section of the gate so that the gate can be permanently closed and operated as run of river. The crew removed the upper 2-feet of the tainter gate as specified in the plans to permanently close the gate and operate the barrier as a fixed crest structure.



Greg Klingler and Jake Van Effen remove a 2-foot section of gate at the James Jeske Flooding Dam. (Photo by Kevin Letson)

Jeff Slade reviewed a manuscript for the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

Greg Klingler and Jake Van Effen traveled to the St. Joseph River and Trail Creek to set traps and meet with contractors.

Mike Sell attended Environmental Compliance training in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Mike also completed the annual Station Safety Inspection and Controlled Property inventory at the Ludington Biological Station.

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Assessment work plans for the 2013 season were prepared and completed for tributaries in all of the Great Lakes Basins.

Pete Hrodey and Dennis Smith traveled to Ohio and New York to set traps and meet up with contractors.

A combined workforce of lampricide control employees from the Marquette and Ludington biological stations and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada conducted the lampricide treatment of Cattaraugus Creek during March 25-April 5. To say this was a challenge is an understatement. There was much snow on the ground and in the air on most days. During the warmer days, the melting snow increased flows dramatically, which kept the treatment team on their toes.



A subset of the group involved in the treatment of the Cattaraugus Creek, New York. USFWS photo

Ludington larval assessment staff, John Stegmeier, Gary Haiss, and Tim Granger with assistance from researchers from Michigan State University, continued with early spring larval sea lamprey collections. To date, they have collected nearly 10,000 larvae to be used for pheromone and other research projects.

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Gary Haiss electrofishing for larval sea lamprey in the Pentwater River. Photo by John Stegmeier.

PERSONNEL

Dorance Brege received a 40 years of service gold pin and certificate and Cheryl Kaye received a 20 years of service pin and certificate. Congratulations Dorance and Cheryl!

Bruce Eldridge returned to work on March 25.

Permanent staff at the Ludington Biological Station participated in American Red Cross CPR/AED and First Aid courses, taught by Jenna Tews and Kevin Butterfield.



Staff practice CPR during training. Photo by Kevin Butterfield.