



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



April 2013

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Michael Fodale, Michael Twohey, Jessica Barber, Lisa Walter, Kasia Mullett and Jeff Slade attended the spring meeting of the Sea Lamprey Control Board (SLRB) April 16-17, 2013. Jessica Barber presented the Barrier Task Force report. Mike Twohey presented an update on the Grand River 6th street dam project (Lake Michigan). Lisa Walter presented the Larval Assessment Task Force report.

Jessica Barber met with the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians Natural Resources Department to discuss potential options for a sea lamprey barrier in the Bad River system.

Jessica Barber participated in a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Great Lakes Fishery Commission representatives to discuss real estate related to the Manistique River (Lake Michigan) sea lamprey barrier project.

Jessica Barber participated in a conference call with several partner agencies to discuss alternatives to the removal of the Hadlock Ford on the Ashtabula River (Lake Erie). The ford is currently used as a bridge, but no longer supports vehicular traffic. Ashtabula County is proposing to build a new bridge and is considering options for removal or continued maintenance of the existing ford. The ford currently restricts lampreys from infesting 60 miles of upstream habitat.

Jessica Barber participated in a conference call with several partner agencies to discuss a fish passage project on the Raisin River (Lake Erie). Concerns with the effect of removal of the Waterloo Dam on sea lamprey control are being investigated during 2013.

Pete Hrodey fabricated an eel ladder-style trap (ELST) for testing at the Brule River Sea Lamprey Barrier. Pete and researchers from Eastern Michigan University are investigating an ELST to sort lamprey from fish at a traditional trap and sort facility. During 2013, the ELST will be re-deployed at the Cheboygan and Ocqueoc in addition to its trial at the Brule River facility.

The Assessment Unit received a new 24ft vessel to aid in its assessment work in the Huron-Erie corridor. The vessel was funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Sara Ruitter assisted USGS-Hammond Bay personnel Scott Miehls and Erick Larson investigate locations for an upper Cheboygan River net study to capture adult sea lampreys on the Pigeon, Sturgeon and Maple rivers.

Lori Criger, Dan Kochanski, Cheryl Kaye, and Matt Symbal from Marquette, Jenna Tews and Aaron Jubar from Ludington, and Tonia Van Kempen from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, participated in a fish blood and tissue sampling workshop at Jordan River Fish Hatchery on April 23rd. The workshop was conducted by technicians, Ryan Katona and Ken Phillips, from LaCrosse Fish Health Center. Blood and tissue sampling and preservation techniques were discussed followed by hands-on experience. The workshop was designed to meet the updated Technical Operating Procedure 26, *Protocol for Investigations of and Responses to Unexplained Kills of Non-target Aquatic Organisms*. After the workshop concluded, Denise Johnston (Jordan River Fish Hatchery) led the group on an informative tour of the hatchery.



Matt Symbal (MBS) opens up a brook trout to remove tissue samples. *USFWS photo*

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Sullivan was contacted by newspaper reporter D'Arcy Egan (Cleveland, Ohio) regarding upcoming treatments of Conneaut Creek and the Grand River for an article on Lake Erie.

Tim Sullivan, Dorance Brege and Michael Fodale were interviewed at the Harpersfield Dam treatment site on the Grand River by Paul Wagner, TV news reporter for the NBC-TV affiliate in Erie, Pennsylvania.



Staff from the Ludington Biological Station Control team work together to deploy a spreader hose downstream of Harpersfield Dam during the Grand River treatment in Ohio. *Photo by Michael Fodale*

OUTREACH

Michael Twohey gave a presentation on the program and offered a tour of facilities to a group of 14 students from the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College. Their instructor was Gene Mensch, Wildlife Biologist for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A combined lampricide control team from Ludington and Marquette traveled to Ohio and successfully treated the Grand River, a tributary to Lake Erie.

The Marquette Control team successfully treated Springer Creek near Menominee, MI. The Ford River

treatment is deferred until May 7-16 and the Nemadji River treatment is deferred until October due to high water conditions.

Assessment staff continued efforts to collect 25,000 larval sea lamprey for research.

WORKFORCE

The adult assessment team delivered trap and net supplies to trap contractors in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin. High water levels and lingering snow have delayed trap sets throughout much of the area.

The new trap at the Scoby Dam on the Cattaraugus River and the Orwell Brook barrier and trap in New York are operational.

Ludington and Marquette station employees completed two weeks of training sessions in CPR, First Aid, Defensive Driving, USFWS Motor Boat Operation Certification, Lamprey Identification and specimen handling, MSDS Hazard Communication, Station Safety Plan, QA/QC, and Substance Abuse.



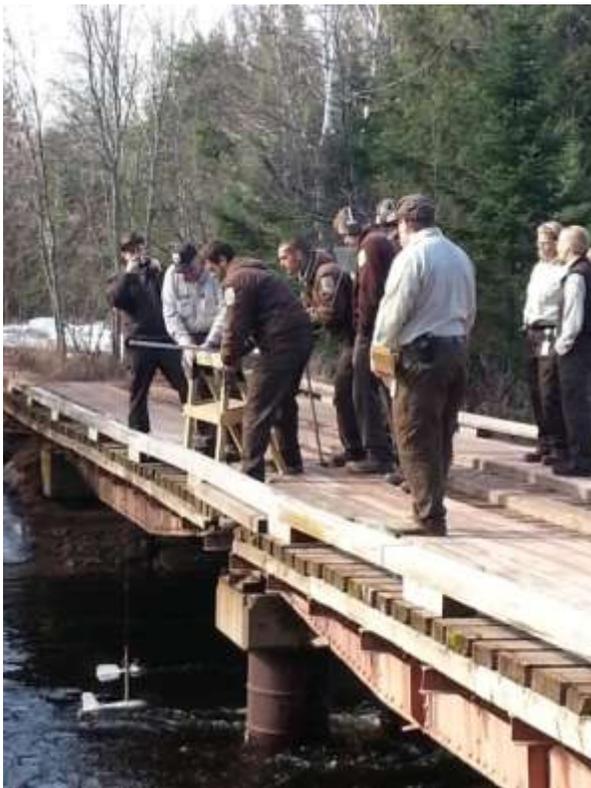
Matt Symbal shocking larvae for Marquette lamprey ID during training weeks. Photo by Lynn Kanieski

MBS trainers Jarvis Applekamp, James Criger, Dan Kochanski, and Pat Wick were able to overcome mountains of snow to hold three ORUV courses in early April. They trained 5 Marquette personnel, one Jordan River Fish Hatchery employee, and 5 Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel from Kingsford, MI, Marquette, MI and Sault Ste. Marie, MI.



ORUV instructors, Jamie Criger and Dan Kochanski, observe students' ATV skills on the course. *USFWS photo*

Bob Wootke demonstrated how to measure discharge using the bridge-board gauging method to several employees on the lampricide control unit. Discharge in the Iron River (Marquette County), which is normally treated with a discharge of 60-90 cfs, was measured at 650 cfs.



Bob Wootke demonstrates the bridge-board gauging method. *USFWS photo*

Technicians at the Marquette Biological Stations experimented with recently purchased Garmin Montana 650T GPS units. Enhanced capabilities on these units include touch-screen operation, turn-by-turn navigation, 5 mega-pixel georeferenced camera, internal topographic maps, and wireless transfer of routes, tracks, waypoints, and pictures between any Garmin products.



Kelley Stanley, Bob Wootke and Jamie Criger try out the wireless transfer function on the new GPS units. *USFWS photo*

PERSONNEL

Ludington and Marquette stations welcomed back career seasonal and temporary employees for the 2013 field season.

Mike Sell completed the DOI Learn Collateral Duty Safety Training Course.

Kevin Butterfield (Ludington) and Kathy Hahka (Marquette) was presented with a certificate and pin in recognition of 30 years of service with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, all with the Sea Lamprey Control Program. Congratulations to Kevin and Kathy on their dedicated service and numerous accomplishments!

Michael Fodale was recognized with the Region 3 Employee Excellence Award for External Customer Service for his outstanding efforts in communicating important program information and negotiating permits with state and regulatory agencies to apply lampricides across the Great Lakes.

Prepared by Mary Wilson, MBS