



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Midwest Region

# Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Program

# Fish Lines

**Nature Loves  
Children**

**Grass Carp Management**

**Volunteers Key to  
Success of Invasive  
Fish Survey**

**Manistique River  
Sea Lamprey Barrier**



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# 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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*-Owen Johnson*

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

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-USFWS/PattyHerman

**The youngest member of a stream ecology class gets the hang of dipnetting in Roaring River.**

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# Manistique River Sea Lamprey Barrier

BY CHERYL KAYE, MARQUETTE BIOL. STA.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Sea Lamprey Management Program (SLMP), in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is planning the construction of a sea lamprey barrier in the Manistique River to replace a now deteriorated structure built during the early 1900s. The Manistique

River, located in the upper peninsula of Michigan, is a major contributor of destructive parasitic sea lampreys to Lake Michigan and has the potential to produce more larval sea lampreys than any other Great Lake tributary.

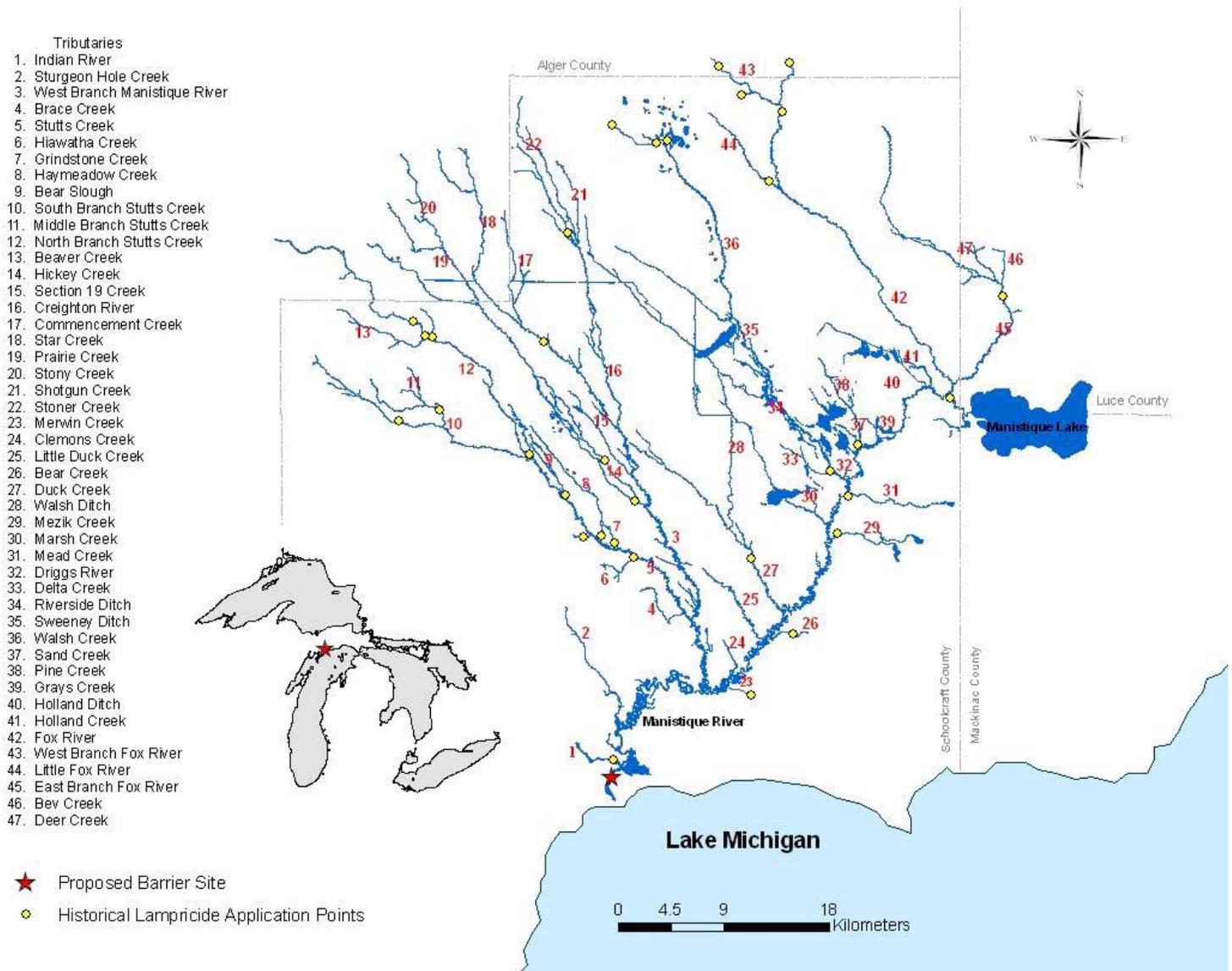


Figure 1. Map of the Manistique River located in the upper Peninsula of Michigan. The red star depicts the proposed sea lamprey barrier site, about 1.6 miles upstream of Lake Michigan.



-USFWS/CherylKaye

**The Manistique Papers Inc. dam located in Manistique, Michigan.**

Historically, the Manistique Papers, Inc. Dam, located 1.6 miles upstream of Lake Michigan, prevented sea lamprey access to 273 river miles of the Manistique River and about 260 acres of preferred larval sea lamprey habitat from 1919 to 1974. This dam was constructed in 1919 to generate hydroelectric power for logging and was abandoned for power generation during 1985, decommissioned during 1991, and today is in a state of disrepair. Holes in the dam have allowed spawning phase adult sea lampreys to pass and gain access to upstream spawning habitat, and the subsequent infestation of larval sea lampreys throughout most of the watershed.

Once the SLMP detected that sea lampreys escaped upstream and the barrier had deteriorated, the river was treated and the dam was patched to prevent further infestation of the watershed; however, during the late 1990s, the dam deteriorated to the point where escapement upstream was consistent and significant enough that sea lampreys began colonizing the watershed. Consequently, the SLMP has spent a large amount of time and money trying to remove sea lampreys from the river through lampricide treatments.

For further info about the Marquette Biological Station: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/marquette/>

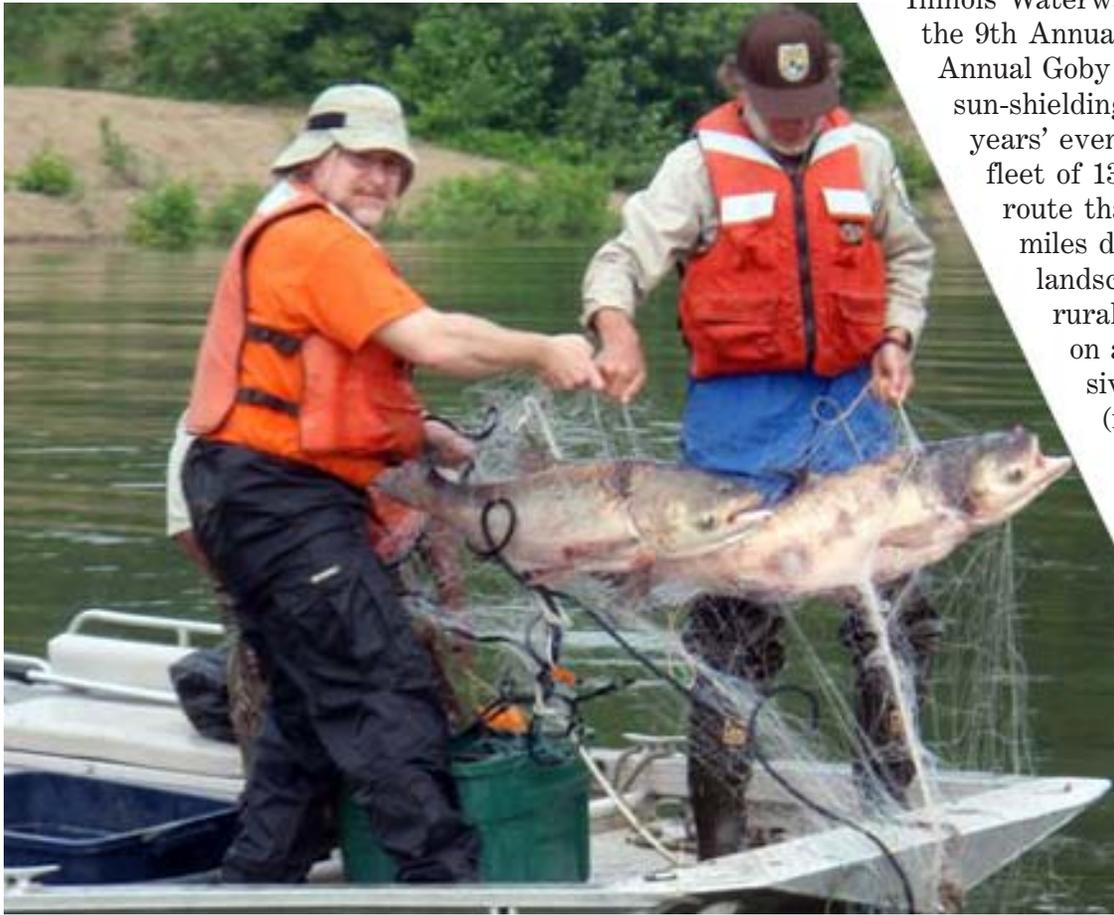
Building a barrier on the Manistique River is crucial to sea lamprey management in Lake Michigan. The number of parasitic lampreys in the lake is significantly greater than target levels, and the Manistique River is one of the major contributors to that population. Due to its large size and numerous tributaries, the river is difficult to treat. As a result of these difficulties, larval sea lampreys survive treatments, transform into parasites (known as transformers), enter Lake Michigan, and feed on fish, primarily lake trout, Chinook salmon and lake whitefish. Because of residual lampreys that survive, the river requires treatment more often than the average four year cycle that other tributaries follow. Lampricide treatments and larval assessment surveys of the river are also costly.

Replacing the deteriorating dam with a sea lamprey barrier will reduce the length of stream to be treated from 278 to 1.6 miles and eliminate most of the residual larvae that survive treatment. Construction of the new sea lamprey barrier is scheduled for 2012.

# Volunteers Key to Success of Invasive Fish Survey

BY MARK STEINGRAEBER, LA CROSSE FWCO

With help from a record number of volunteers (60) representing more than a dozen organizations, La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) staff resumed surveillance efforts June 16-19 to assess the distribution and relative abundance of three invasive fish species in portions of the



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**Biologists work as a team to untangle bighead carp caught in nets during the annual surveillance for Asian carps in the Illinois River.**

Illinois Waterway system. Participants in the 9th Annual Carp Corral and 14th Annual Goby Round Up, replete with sun-shielding caps commemorating this year's event, were conveyed by a fleet of 13 vessels to sites along a route that extended more than 200 miles downstream from the urban landscape of Chicago's Loop to rural farmlands near Havana, on a mission to capture invasive bighead and silver carp (i.e., Asian carps), as well as round goby. These and several other species of fish collected here were also tested by biologists from the La Crosse Fish Health Center for the presence of a variety of deadly fish disease pathogens as part of the Fish and Wildlife Service's nationwide Wild Fish Health Survey (<http://www.fws.gov/wildfishsurvey/>).

Additional safety features were required aboard several of the survey boats used this summer to protect crew members from potential injuries in hazardous locations. These included installation of a metal frame surrounding the stern of a boat, with netting tightly strung to it, to protect the crew from collisions with leaping fish in waters infested by silver carp. In addition, U.S. Coast Guard regulations now require crew members to wear a Type I personal flotation device while aboard a survey vessel that operates in energized waters near the electrical fish barriers in Romeoville. Sampling gears for Asian carps included gill nets, trammel nets, seines, and electrofishing while baited minnow traps and angling were used to capture round goby.

The abundance of round goby was markedly greater in 2009 than in recent years at sites throughout metropolitan Chicago, including those located on the Calumet-Sag Channel, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and Des Plaines River. For example, traps set overnight along the Calumet-Sag Channel at Alsip captured an average of seven times more round goby this year (25.9 fish/trap) than last (3.7 fish/trap). Meanwhile, about 160 miles downstream of Alsip, a crew working on the Illinois River just below the Peoria Lock and Dam captured a 3-inch long round goby. This site, found about mid-way between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi

River, represents the nearest location to the Mississippi River that an adult-sized round goby has been captured to date. Planned surveillance for round goby further downstream (near Havana) was postponed until later this summer due to flood conditions.

Asian carps were not detected in any surveyed waters located up-stream of the electrical fish barriers, including the Sanitary and Ship Canal, the Calumet-Sag Channel, and the south branch of the Chicago River. Meanwhile, within the 10-mile range immediately downstream of the barriers, no Asian carps were captured in either the Lockport or the Brandon Road Pools. However, members of the surveillance crew in the Brandon Road Pool observed an unidentified fish leap about 4 feet out of the water while electrofishing at a site near the confluence of the Des Plaines River and the Sanitary and Ship Canal, only six miles downstream of the barriers.

The furthest upstream location where Asian carps have been captured (to date) remains a site located about 15 miles downstream of the barriers in the Dresden Island Pool near Joliet where their abundance remains at a relatively low level. At sites in the Marseilles Pool however, located more than 25 miles downstream of the barriers, netting efforts captured Asian carps at more locations and in greater abundance than ever before. The ongoing struggle for survival among native and invasive species of planktivorous fish was highlighted here when two adjacent trammel nets, retrieved simultaneously from a backwater habitat site, yielded a total of one small paddlefish and eight large bighead carp after a one-night deployment.

As in past years, the relative abundance of Asian carps within the surveillance area appeared to peak near Starved Rock State Park in the Peoria Pool (about 70 miles down-stream of the electrical fish barriers), where more than 120 Asian carps were captured over the four-day sampling period. However, silver carp unexpectedly accounted for a smaller portion (<10%) of this catch than in recent years. Likewise, the crew working here this summer observed just a handful of silver carp leap out of the water. Meanwhile, it was common to see 80 or more of these fish leap at one time in the wake of a boat during past surveys. Cooler than normal water temperatures this summer may be responsible, in part,

for this diminished behavioral response which has also been noted this year at other Illinois River sites infested with this species.

Results of laboratory tests to detect fish disease pathogens remain pending, but because the often deadly Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus was identified last year in round goby that washed ashore from Lake Michigan in Milwaukee (less than 100 miles from Chicago and the Great Lakes connection to the Mississippi River basin), there is heightened interest in the outcome of the latest tests.

Surveillance findings were reported to the Asian Carp Rapid Response Team and the Chicago Barrier Advisory Task Force to help guide upcoming actions to limit the continued dispersal of these invasive fish and fish disease pathogens.

Survey efforts also attracted the interest of reporters and photographers from several electronic and print media outlets, due in no small part to outreach efforts coordinated by the Shedd

Aquarium, a partner in this surveillance program for several years

now. As a consequence, decision makers, as well the general public, are better informed about the current distribution of these aquatic invasive species and impacts they are having on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River ecosystems. If you would like to volunteer and participate in the next Goby Round Up and Carp Corral, tentatively scheduled for June 15-18, 2010, please contact Pam Thiel ([pam\\_thiel@fws.gov](mailto:pam_thiel@fws.gov)).



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**Volunteer Mike Leis displays one of the many invasive bighead carp captured at Starved Rock State Park during surveillance for Asian carps in the Illinois River.**

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

# Grass Carp Management

BY SAM FINNEY, CARTERVILLE FWCO

The Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species is coordinated by Sam Finney of the Carterville Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO). The panel and its partners are beginning a review of the regulation, production, triploid certification, shipping and stocking of grass carp in the United States. The purpose of the nationwide review is to ensure that all parties involved with the production, certification, shipping, stocking and regulation of grass carp are employing effective actions to safeguard

aquatic resources by preventing introductions of diploid (fertile) grass carp, and where prohibited, triploid (sterile) grass carp. The independent review is intended to provide assurances to natural resource managers that the use of triploid grass carp, combined with consistent state regulations, certification and inspection of shipments, and state enforcement, effectively reduces the risk of introduction of diploid (fertile) grass carp. The review will implement numerous management recommendations taken directly from the national Asian carp management plan.



-USGS/DuaneChapman

**U.S. Geological Survey staff holds a wild captured grass carp from the Missouri River.**

state level, members of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force regional panels, and Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. This group has convened and is in the process of developing a scope of work for the review. The scope of work will ultimately result in a report that evaluates grass carp production, triploid certification, shipping, and stocking standard operating procedures and related regulations, and will seek to identify sources and pathways whereby diploid grass carp may enter the triploid supply chain. The report may also provide for reasonable actions to reduce the risk of introductions of diploid grass carp. The review group is also actively seeking funding sources, and acquiring a list of potential consultants or other groups that would be suitable to do the work.



-USFWS

**Colby Wrasse of the Carterville Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office holds a grass carp captured during a fishery assessment.**

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

# Nature Loves Children

BY JENNY WALKER BAILEY, GENOA NFH

For the past year, I have had the incredible experience of helping kids love nature at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH). The experience began when other staff members and I got together to discuss what we could do to get kids in touch with nature as part of the Children in Nature Initiative established in 2007. As we began to explore the resources we could offer to kids with what was available at the hatchery, a little wetland area that had been ignored for traditional fish culture practices and underutilized for public use began to shine in our discussions.



-USFWS

Classmates find a sign of wildlife in the outdoor classroom at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery.

This 20-30 acre wetland was acquired from a local landowner in 1969, but had not been previously developed. It was a gem of a little working wetland complete with migrating birds, year-round resident mammals, and a wonderful variety of wetland plants, insects, fish, amphibians and reptiles. In it a person could come close enough to touch and see wildlife as it lives and breathes in its natural environment. The wetland is not without lessons of human alteration and its impact to habitat and wildlife communities,

however. Agriculture is a major means of disturbance in the area, as well as the spread of suburban areas, the introduction of invasive species, and erosion and runoff from roads. We thought the wetland would be perfect for permanent use as an outdoor classroom and discovery area, so we named it “The Sense of Wonder Discovery Wetland” after Rachel Carson’s *Sense of Wonder* and began designing programs for its use.

In 2008, we secured funding for a pilot project from the Fish and Wildlife Service’s annual construction allocation to erect a boardwalk in the Sense of Wonder Discovery Wetland. The boardwalk will minimize impacts while allowing the public to enter the wetland and enjoy the benefits of nature observation, exercise, fresh air, study, meditation and sunshine (or rain). An observation deck overlooking the oxbow channel will be the focus of the boardwalk, and will be used by hatchery staff and educators to teach students of all ages the value of wildlife and natural areas, conservation ethics, wetland ecology, history and the study of life (biology).

The 2008-2009 school year was the first time that the Outdoor Classroom was used to offer repeat experiences in nature to a 5th grade class from Southern Bluffs Elementary School in La Crosse, Wisc. The class visited the Sense of Wonder

Discovery Wetland for one school day early in October, and came back for repeat experiences in January and May. Lessons in the outdoor classroom were designed to enhance the school’s 5th grade curriculum, and bring to life topics that the students were already studying in school. Each day in the outdoor classroom included time for free exploration in nature. When designing this program for the outdoor classroom, we decided that unstructured play time would be essential for creating a meaningful experience in nature

that would stay with kids as they grow. By reserving free time for exploring nature in repeated doses throughout the seasons, we hoped that visiting children would develop a personal relationship with nature in a way that best suited each child and his/her needs.

The program has been more successful than we could have imagined. It was designed to teach children to know and love nature. We hoped that the children would keep these experiences close in their hearts to use as a navigation point on life's journey. We have found that by offering this wetland to the children, unstructured and unfettered, each child finds what he/she needs there. Nature is the teacher.

We are learning, too. We are learning that all we need to do is provide children with opportunities to be in nature, repeatedly! We can provide guidance to help children learn to explore nature, discover nature, and love nature on their own. Nature teaches. The children listen! The lessons are funny, reliable, fascinating, careful, obnoxious, serious, difficult and hopeful. These children love and care about nature. And nature loves and cares for children. We are seeing the effects. The children are stretching their bodies and minds in ways they can't do in a traditional, structured learning environment (inside or out). They are making connections they could not see before. They are helping each other, and themselves. They are searching for treasures in the mud, and beyond the horizon. They are building shelters and dreams.

Darla Wenger, my co-adventurer, and I received "Thank You" letters from Ms. Susan Houlihan and her 5th graders from Southern Bluffs Elementary, the first class to come to the Outdoor Classroom for repeat experiences throughout the year. This class is full of very special students who have taught me how to open my heart and reconnect with nature. In reading their letters and viewing pictures that were taken those days, it is evident to me that our original goal of helping kids make connections with nature has been exceeded. These children



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The land in the "Sense of Wonder Discovery Wetland" outdoor classroom offer a variety of habitats to explore.



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The 5th grade class from Southern Bluffs Elementary is the first class to graduate from the outdoor classroom at Genoa National Fish Hatchery.

will grow up one day and take care of nature. And they will be better, and stronger, and smarter and healthier, because they are letting nature take care of them. They are already making a difference. They have helped me remember how nature takes care of and nurtures a person from the inside out. Throughout their lives these children will shine, because nature loves these children.

## How children respond to the Sense of Wonder Discovery Wetland

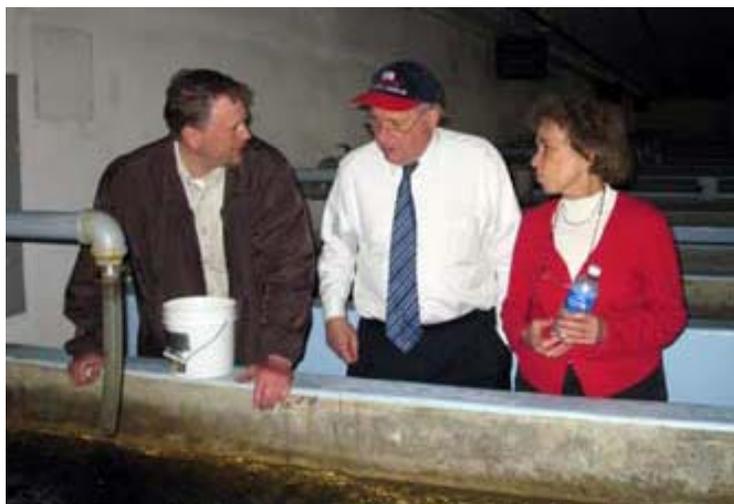
- "The thrill of tunneling through the tall grass and deciding your own destiny was something I wish everyone could experience....These field trips, I believe, have left a lasting impression on me and my classmates. An impression to love all nature, respect its creatures, and protect our graceful Earth." – Sam
- "On the third trip we founded The Men's Exploration Corps, discovered a dry creek-bed, I almost died of thirst and caught one fish...I learned a lot over the course of this year." – Zach
- "Thank you for letting us come to the Genoa National Fish Hatchery three times, for coming here and letting us dissect fish, and for giving us the fish to keep in our classroom." – Zach
- "My favorite part of all three times was free exploring time. In the fall about four of my friends and I were making forts. In the spring one of my friends and I were climbing trees. We got really high in one of the trees. I got a pretty big scar on my arm but I'm OK." – Zach
- "The part that I enjoyed the most was definitely the fishing. I was even lucky enough to limit out. When we got to go down and get right next to the water for the invertebrates...that was awesome, and the trapping demonstration with the furs, traps, foot prints was one of the coolest things." – Colten
- "Thank you for the fish (an aquarium in the classroom), they have been a joy." – Breanna
- "I liked the fall trip because Lauren and I got lost in the grass..." – Breanna
- "The poems that we wrote; Ms. Houlihan sent them into Living with Nature. Mine got picked to be in a book." – Breanna
- "Thank you so much for letting us have a great experience with your wetland and wildlife." – Annie
- "Thank you for letting us fish. It was so cool...I liked exploring time too. I climbed a tree and so did Lauren, Zach and Garrett. After awhile I played this game and it was hard. I had to run my heart out because people were chasing us!" – Cassie
- "The fall was fabulous with its tall tripping grass. Winter was wonderfully white with wet snow and many tracks. Did you ever figure out whose track it is?" – Betsi
- "In the fall my favorite part was jumping in the grass. I felt like I was flying! In the winter, I liked sliding down the hill to the tall grass... Yesterday my favorite part was fishing. I felt like I was hunting for food." – Cole
- "We ate them and they tasted good." – Jared
- "I am grateful for the fish that we dissected and the fish we got to keep. I had fun...going down into the wetland. It was peaceful, the plants were beautiful and I love the birds." – Justin
- "Thank you for letting me fish. I got three fish to hit the jackpot! Thank you for letting me play in the wetland. I looked for clues with Cole. I liked resting. I liked drawing pictures, too." – Stephen
- "It was fun to see you girls again! I was excited to learn how to raise a baby fish and to make a big fish. I ate the fish I caught at the fish hatchery, it was great!" – Tou
- "When I first heard that we were going to dissect fish I thought it might be gross, but it wasn't that bad. I hope all the fish help with the plants and trees we planted them by." – James
- "I can't say thank you enough for letting my class come to the fish hatchery all of those times. I remember in the fall I had so much fun in the grass and looking at bugs. In the winter I remember seeing the baby trout with their egg sack still attached. And in the spring I saw sturgeon from egg to giant. I had the time of my life at the hatchery and I hope I can come again." – Garrett
- "When I have free time it allows me to explore, be creative and just have fun without being in a line." – Paige
- "I never dissected a fish...or saw the insides of a fish...so seeing the insides was interesting. Also catching my first fish was fun for me. I didn't eat it; I buried it in a garden." – Paige
- "...But most of all thank you so much for letting us fish and learn all we could by jumping and hiding, crawling and climbing...Every time I would come home after the field trip I told my parents all the new amazing facts that I learned from you. Hope to see you this summer!" – Harley
- "Jumping in the grass and snow was my favorite, dissecting brook trout was educational, messy, and a whole lot of fun! But best of all, catching fish and being able to take them home was my top favorite! You should definitely do the same for the next 5th grade, and don't be afraid to try new things with them...Seeing how fun your jobs were, I could work there when I'm older!" – Beverly

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

## Michigan's Senator Carl Levin Visits Jordan River NFH

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

Senator Carl Levin (Mich.) visited Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) on June 6 as part of National Trails Day. The senior Senator was touring northern Michigan and visiting various North Country Trails Association (NCTA) events when he made a scheduled stop at the hatchery to discuss the multiple American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded projects slated for Jordan River NFH. Hatchery staff, *Friends of the Jordan River NFH*



-USFWS

Hatchery Manager Roger Gordon explains the finer points about lake trout culture to Senator Carl Levin and his wife.

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.

members and NCTA volunteers were on hand to discuss these and other cooperative projects between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the NCTA. The Senator, his wife Barbara, and staffers spent over an hour touring the facility, asking questions and engaging with those involved with the event, as well as the visiting public.

The hatchery and the Tittabawassee Chapter (TBA) of the NCTA have a history of working together on various environmental and educational projects in Antrim County, Mich. Since the creation of the hatchery Friends Group in 2006, Jordan River NFH has provided meeting facilities, tool storage and maintenance assistance to the TBA and has annually assisted in local trail upkeep on the North Country Trail. This relationship has been mutually beneficial for all involved and the hatchery hopes to maintain and grow these cooperative efforts for years to come.

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

## George Washington Carver Remembered

BY MELISSA CHEUNG, NEOSHO NFH

The National Park Service's George Washington Carver National Monument in nearby Diamond, Mo., commemorated the establishment of the national monument and the life of renowned scientist George Washington Carver during their annual Carver Day Celebration.

Manager David Hendrix and assistant manager Rod May represented the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) alongside Missouri Department of Conservation's information booth. The day included activities such as storytelling, musical performances, guided tours, interpretive talks and special speakers. A total of 900 people attended the annual event.



-USFWS

Terry Cook of the Missouri Department of Conservation and Roderick May of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery team up with an outreach booth at the George Washington Carver National Monument.

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

## Friends Group assembles “Fishing for Fun” Backpacks

BY HEIDI KEULER, LA CROSSE FWCO

The *Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services* (FUMFS), La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO), La Crosse Fish Health Center and Genoa National Fish Hatchery saw the need to get children outside and came up with a “Fishing for Fun” backpack intended to get children outside with their families. The backpack has an aquatic theme that contains hands-on activities relating to fishing, freshwater mussels, and aquatic invertebrates and just spending time near water. Backpacks contain a telescopic fishing pole, tackle, fish identification cards, maps, a book on how to fish, aquatic invertebrate nets, instructions on invertebrate collection, magnifying glasses, mussel shells, mussel identification book, *Russell the Mussel Book*, scavenger hunts, a journal and many other items.

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

Children will be able to check out the backpack, just like checking out books, from a library.

Twelve FUMFS members and Fish and Wildlife Service employees assembled 50 backpacks in June, 25 of which will be placed in local public and school libraries before fall. The FUMFS will maintain and sell more backpacks to local businesses or organizations and then the backpacks will be donated to libraries, schools, churches, scouts and clubs.

Over \$3,600 in grant funds have been received to start up the program including one grant from La Crosse Rotary Foundation, La Crosse Public Education Foundation and one from Walmart. Several private contributors have also donated toward the project.

## Educational Float Trip on the Big Muddy!

BY ANDREW PLAUCK AND ANDY STAROSTKA, COLUMBIA FWCO

The Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) was asked to participate, once again, in the “Big Canoe Float on the Big Muddy.” This event is organized by the Missouri River Communities Network, a non-profit organization which raises awareness of Missouri River issues. July’s event, with over 100 paddlers, was the second offering of this educational field trip. In September of 2007, the Network organized a similar float trip with participants stopping at several locations along a 15 mile float; however, high winds and multiple presenter stops led to some pretty worn out paddlers at the end of the day.

This year’s event was shortened to ten miles and participants stopped at just two islands for presentations. Tim Haller from the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was the first stop. With live turtles in hand, he explained how the adjoining refuge land was important for various plant and animal species. The next stop on the tour was on a large sandbar, locally known as California Island. Presenters from the Missouri Department of Conservation talked about recreational opportunities available on their riverfront conservation areas. Missouri River

Relief presented the total tonnage of trash removed from their Missouri River clean-ups. Aaron Delonay of the United States Geological Survey was on hand to talk about their research concerning the federally endangered pallid sturgeon.

Columbia FWCO’s Andy Starostka and Andy Plauck had captured some shovelnose sturgeon and showed the audience this peculiar, prehistoric fish. The two biologists talked about the ongoing fish monitoring projects on the lower Missouri River. Several different nets were set up and demonstrated to illustrate different fish capture techniques. The live fish were a great “talking tool” since very few people have ever seen a sturgeon face to face.

A local historian then finished up with a detailed account of local settlements.

This event was a great opportunity for all of the involved agencies to inform people of the work being conducted on the Missouri River. All of the participants took time on a Saturday afternoon to go out and use a resource, not commonly used in the Columbia area. Hopefully everyone in attendance learned something about the biology of the Missouri River and its interesting fish!

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

## Pike and Pelicans on the Prairie - Big Stone NWR has more to Offer than Just Ducks

BY HEIDI KEULER, LA CROSSE FWCO

La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) has a five-year rotational sampling schedule with five National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in Minnesota and Wisconsin including Big Stone, Horicon, Fox River, Minnesota Valley and Trempealeau. Big Stone NWR was sampled last in 2002, but due to draw-downs in the East and West Pools, conditions were not adequate for sampling until this year. Biologist Kim

Bousquet and student employee Ethan Hoffman from Big Stone NWR near Odessa, Minn., worked with biologists Heidi Keuler and Louise Mauldin from La Crosse FWCO during the week of July 6-8. Ethan assisted Heidi and Louise with electrofishing, minifyke or trap nets and gill nets on the East Pool. Surprisingly, no adult largemouth bass were sampled; however, some nice northern pike and walleyes were caught. Other species sampled include yellow bullhead, common carp, black crappie, bluegill, shorthead redhorse, yellow perch and several others. Ideas on more public access to the East Pool were discussed for the Big Stone NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan. La Crosse FWCO will compile data and a formal report will be completed this fall/winter.



-USFWS

Northern pike was one of many fish species sampled on the pools at Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge.

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

## Fishery Population Assessments with the Bad River Watershed Association

BY FRANK STONE, ASHLAND FWCO

Frank Stone and Ian Johnson concluded a project with the Bad River Watershed Association conducting fishery assessments of several streams within the Bad River watershed. Using a backpack electro-fishing device, fish of all species were collected and marked to help identify their movement pattern and the benefits associated with culvert replacements.

Many agencies in our area are involved in replacing perched culverts to improve the negative impacts of poorly constructed road crossings. These culvert installations are intended to benefit all fish species and their habitats; however, limited monitoring has been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of these installations both at a specific project site and on an overall watershed basis.



-USFWS

Biologist Frank Stone records information on a stream in the Bad River watershed.

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

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.

## Fathead Minnow Production at the Genoa NFH

BY JAMES LUOMA, GENOA NFH

The Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH), located along the Bad Axe and Mississippi rivers in south-west Wisconsin, maintains more than six different species of captive brood stock and produces tens of thousands of advanced fall fingerling fish including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and two different strains of walleye. Maintenance of these brood lines and advancing the production fish to the fall fingerling stage requires feeding an enormous amount of forage fish.

Commercially available sources of forage species, typically supplied by the bait industry, may carry diseases, and therefore do not meet the strict health protocols established for use in the NFH system. In order to assure a disease-free source of forage fish to supply the many hungry mouths at the hatchery, the Genoa NFH dedicates a 33 acre pond for the production of fathead minnows.

The pond is filled with water starting in January and then it is stocked with approximately 100 gallons of adult minnows. As the summer progresses, the minnows rapidly reproduce, and in early July, trapping and transporting minnows to the brood stock holding and the production ponds commences. Approximately 15 traps are baited, set and harvested on a daily basis. In late fall, the pond is drained and all the remaining minnows are harvested. The remaining minnows are stocked to brood stock over-wintering ponds, held for forage throughout the winter months and retained for the following year's adult stock. In total, the annual production of fathead minnows is approximately 1,000 gallons or 8,000 lbs.

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

## Rydell NWR Walleye Pond

BY DAVE WEDAN, LA CROSSE FWCO

Dave Wedan of the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) participated in Rydell National Wildlife Refuge's open house on August 9 by setting up a walleye display and aquarium. The choice of walleye for the display is because of the refuge's involvement in the Fisheries Program. One of the ponds on the refuge is used to produce young walleye to fill high priority fish requests.

Wedan took the opportunity to check on the progress of the walleye culture pond. He netted 60

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



-USFWS

**Biologist Jenny Walker-Bailey harvests minnows from a culture pond at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery. The minnows are used as forage for captive brood stock at the station.**

Without the dedicated fathead minnow production pond and the methods used to trap and transport the forage, the Genoa NFH would not be able to meet the production goals of advanced fall fingerling fish or freshwater mussels, such as the federally endangered Higgins' eye pearl mussel, for which the advanced fingerlings are used for hosts.

walleye fingerlings for a routine fish health analysis. Wedan found good numbers of fish for the fall harvest; however, they are smaller than average for this time of year (average was 3.5 - 4 inches). This is probably the result of the cold spring and summer slowing everything down. Let's hope that August and September bring warm weather and good growth; and, I believe the best approach will be to hold off on the netting and distribution of this year's walleye harvest as long as possible into October, but before winter-like weather.

## Alpena FWCO Raises Public Awareness about Aquatic Invasive Species

BY ANJANETTE BOWEN, ALPENA FWCO

In early summer 2009, the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) made efforts to raise public awareness about aquatic invasive species along the coast of Lake Huron and the St. Marys River through the distribution of WATCH identification cards for Eurasian ruffe and round goby. Both Eurasian ruffe and round goby have been found in Lake Huron. They are considered invasive species because they are thought to compete with native species for food and habitat resources.



The Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office raises public awareness about invasive species by distributing "Watch" cards such as this one for ruffe.

the spread of aquatic invasive species to inland waters and new areas. Citizens can prevent the spread of unwanted invasive fish by learning to recognize them, reporting any unusual fish to your local conservation office, disposing of unwanted live bait in the trash, and never releasing fish from one body of water into another. For more information on aquatic invasive species, visit the Protect Your Waters website at <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>.

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

## Fish and Wildlife Service Jumps on Board to Monitor Asian carp Detected near Lake Michigan

BY SAM FINNEY, CARTERVILLE FWCO

Bighead and Silver carp are two species of invasive Asian carp that have been marching up the Mississippi River from Arkansas since the 1970s. Now in the upper Illinois River system, the main defense that stands between the carp and the Great Lakes is an electric barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, a man-made canal that connects the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins.

Unfortunately, silver carp were detected in Brandon Road Pool on July 31, 2009 – 10 miles closer to the barrier than previously known. This detection also verifies that the fish have passed through another

dam on their way towards the barrier. Novel genetic monitoring techniques, still under development at Notre Dame University, were used to detect the fish. This detection is coupled with a sighting of a jumping silver carp during this year's Carp Corral in Brandon Road Pool. Brandon Road Pool is immediately downstream of Lockport Pool where the barrier is located. In response to these findings, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is elevating the operating voltage of the barrier. The U. S. Coast Guard is also ramping up safety testing at the barrier due to the safety concerns associated with the increased voltage. Notre Dame has collected and analyzed addi-

### 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.

Alpena FWCO biologist Anjanette

Bowen distributed aquatic invasive species WATCH identification cards to over 25 bait and fishing license vendors along the coast of Lake Huron and the St. Marys River from Sault Ste. Marie to Bay City, Mich. during April, June and July. Cooperation with bait and tackle dealers is key to getting the word out to the public who frequent these shops for fishing and boating supplies. Approximately 4,500 aquatic invasive species educational materials were distributed.

Alpena FWCO's aquatic invasive species education efforts are focused on increasing public recognition of invasive species and providing information on what precautions should be taken to prevent the spread of these species. The ultimate goal is to prevent or slow

tional samples but no further results are available at this time.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Carterville and La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCO) have been actively involved in monitoring the Illinois Waterway near the barrier using a variety of methods such as ultrasonic telemetry and electrofishing. This monitoring effort is prescribed by the USACE Barrier Panel Monitoring Plan. The USACE, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Natural History Survey have also been part of this collaborative effort. Carterville FWCO has helped implant ultrasonic tags into Asian carp downstream of Brandon Road Pool, and monitored Asian carp movements via active tracking and stationary receivers. The Carterville and La Crosse offices have both contributed to monthly

electrofishing efforts to search for Asian carp in Lockport, Brandon Road and Dresden Island pools.

The detection of Asian carp in pools further upstream than where previously detected elevates the risk and the amount of monitoring effort put toward Asian carp in the Illinois Waterway. With increased funding and other assistance from the USACE, the Fish and Wildlife Service, led by the Carterville and La Crosse offices, is currently ramping up the level of monitoring in the Brandon Road and Lockport Pools. Electro-fishing will occur weekly through October. Active and passive tracking of telemetered fish will be done monthly. In addition, an effort is underway to coordinate assistance from other Fish and Wildlife Service Offices in the Region due to the intensity of this effort and the importance of the issue.

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

## Implementation of the “Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States”

BY SAM FINNEY, CARTERVILLE FWCO

The *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* (Plan) was approved by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in 2007 with the recommendation that implementation begin immediately. A draft implementation team structure has been developed that includes key partners from state and federal agencies and the aquaculture industry. The draft structure is going through the proper channels of approval through the Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and Fish and Wildlife Service.

Included in the draft structure is a full time Asian carp plan implementation coordinator, Sam Finney from the Carterville Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO). Sam has a strong background in big river invasive fish issues. He is currently getting up-to-speed on Asian carp issues in the United States through, among other methods, making office visits with potential partners and stakeholders throughout the nation. You can direct any questions, thoughts or concerns about Asian carp management, control and plan implementation to Sam.

The Plan can be viewed at: [http://www.anstaskforce.gov/Documents/Carps\\_Management\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.anstaskforce.gov/Documents/Carps_Management_Plan.pdf).

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

## Overview of Lake Huron Aquatic Invasive Species for COSEE Great Lakes Teachers

BY ANJANETTE BOWEN, ALPENA FWCO

Biologist Anjanette Bowen provided an overview of aquatic invasive species found in Lake Huron for teachers participating in the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) program on July 28 in Alpena, Mich. The teachers were studying applied science on Lake Huron aboard the Lake Guardian, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency research vessel. They visited a number of ports in Lake Huron and ended their trip in Lake Michigan.

Bowen provided a presentation covering dispersal vectors and problems associated with aquatic invasive species, general species information, Asian carp as a

new threat to the Great Lakes, useful websites to find more information, and efforts underway within Lake Huron to research, manage, control and prevent the spread of invasive species. Fifteen teachers attended the presentation and asked many questions about invasive species.

The workshop was supported by the National Science Foundation, Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For more information on COSEE Great Lakes programs, visit their website at: <http://coseegreatlakes.net/>.

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

## Asian Carps Surveillance Completed ... and Expanding!

BY MARK STEINGRAEBER, LA CROSSE FWCO

With assistance of staff from the Barrington Field Office and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR), La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) biologists Louise Mauldin and Mark Steingraeber conducted surveillance for invasive Asian carps in the Brandon Road Pool of the Illinois Waterway System near Joliet on August 10-11. Responsibility for conducting this routine surveillance is shared and rotates monthly among the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army corps of Engineers, Illinois DNR and Illinois Natural History Survey.

Direct current electrofishing gear was used in attempts to detect the presence of Asian carps at shore line sites on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the Des Plaines River. Other than a few grass carp, no other species of Asian carps were caught or observed here.

This Fish and Wildlife Service-led effort completed surveillance requirements for the month to determine whether Asian carps have approached closer to an array of electrical barriers, located further upstream (River Mile 296) in the Lockport Pool near Romeoville, which was designed to prevent these fish from entering Lake Michigan. Bighead carp and silver carp were previously captured as far upstream as River Mile 281 and River Mile 275 in the Dresden Island Pool, respectively; however, genetic analyses of water samples recently collected and analyzed by



-USFWS

**This sign informs all who navigate the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal of safety precautions to follow while transiting the electrical invasive fish barrier near Romeoville, IL.**

researchers from Notre Dame University indicate that silver carp are now at sites in the Brandon Road Pool near the Lockport Lock and Dam, just 5-6 miles down-stream of the electrical barrier array. As a consequence of these findings, staff from the Carterville and La Crosse FWCO's plan to lead more intensive electrofishing and netting efforts to detect and capture Asian carp here during the remainder of the summer and into the fall.

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

## Stocking Brook Trout for Recreational Fishing in Wisconsin

BY CAREY EDWARDS, IRON RIVER NFH

The general program focus of the Iron River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is restoration for both brook and lake trout in the Great Lakes. Once brood stock (adult fish) enter retirement age it is often difficult to find a use for these fish. In early June, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



-USFWS/JessicaZakovec

**Biologist Carey Edwards talks to local anglers about the lake trout she is stocking into Perch Lake (Wisc.).**

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

## Early Dismissal at Sullivan Creek NFH

BY JAMES ANDERSON, SULLIVAN CREEK NFH

When the Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) has excess lake trout brood fish, the hatchery partners with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to locate inland lakes which have the essential habitat base and depth required by our large lake trout.

On June 2, Sullivan Creek NFH stocked 200 fish from its 2006 year class of Seneca Lake Wild lake trout brood stock. The lake trout averaged 1.5 pounds (13.5 inches). The fish were split between two lakes in western Marquette County of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The first lake was Perch Lake, located next to the town of Republic off of M-95, which received 50 lake trout. The second lake was Lake Arfelin, located adjacent to the Marquette County and Baraga County line just off the Peshekee Grade Road, which received

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

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.

These lakes

provide put/take trout fishing every-other year. Close to 250 adult fish were stocked into Wanoka, Perch and Beaver lakes, all in Bayfield County about 10-15 miles east of the city of Iron River, Wisc. The stockings all occurred in July when the weather and temperatures permitted. Project leader Dale Bast of the Iron River NFH commented, "I am very pleased that we are able to put these fish in local waters."

This stocking allows recreational anglers the chance to catch trophy-sized brook trout. Further stockings into these lakes will be accomplished by hatchery personnel through the ice this winter.

the remaining fish. Several camps line the edge of Lake Arfelin, so this should make for an excellent sporting opportunity for the campers. Sullivan Creek NFH biologist James Anderson delivered the fish.

The next day we stocked Ottawa Lake, which is located in the western part of Iron County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Ottawa Lake received 150 lake trout from the 2003 year class of Seneca Lake Wild strain which averaged 5.5 pounds (23 inches). Fifty lake trout of the 2005 Lake Huron Parry Sound Wild strain were also selected for Ottawa Lake and averaged 2 pounds (15 inches). On June 4, staff returned to Ottawa Lake, this time to stock 150 lake trout from the 2002 Seneca Lake Wild year class, which averaged 6 pounds (24 inches). Again, 50 fish from the 2005 Lake Huron Parry Sound Wild strain were selected as well to be stocked out. John Shuman delivered the fish for both Ottawa Lake runs with assistance from Randy Obermiller.

## Summer Camp at Neosho NFH

BY MELISSA CHEUNG, NEOSHO NFH

This summer, teacher Marilynn Maddox of the Joplin School District (Joplin, Mo.) organized a camp called “No Child Left Inside” at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH). Geared toward third to sixth grade, the program lasted from June to July and brought children outside to an outdoor classroom experience. The camp groups were given lessons on Missouri’s endangered species and wildlife, a tour of the Neosho NFH and question/answer sessions with a hatchery biologist. The program also involved the completion of a butterfly garden on the lawn across from our parking lot. Later that day, butterflies were already seen in the freshly planted garden.



-USFWS

Children from the Joplin School District plant a butterfly garden at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery.

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

## 1st Annual Youth Outdoor Fest - A HUGE Success!

BY HEIDI KEULER, LA CROSSE FWCO

Smiling faces, wet slimy hands and free hotdogs galore were served up at the First Annual Youth Outdoor Fest on July 18 at Pettibone Lagoon in La Crosse, Wisc. Approximately 1,500 people experienced hands-on fishing, boating and other recreational activities after munching on delicious grilled food. Rod and reel combinations were raffled off to 150 children and free tackle and other handouts were given at booths during the event. *Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services* (FUMFS), La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) and the City of La Crosse Park and Recreation Department organized the successful event and were given much needed help from many sponsors such as Wal-Mart, Youth Enrichment Association, ACE Hardware, Midwest Family Broadcasting, Dairyland Power, Pepsi, North American Squirrel Association, Root River Powersports, Festival Foods, Coulee Bank, State Bank, Merchants Bank, Kicking Bear, Hi-Tech Fishing, WKBT Channel 8, Genoa NFH and many others.

Local federal, state and local agencies along with area businesses and non-profit organizations provided information, demonstrations, entertainment and hands-on outdoor activities for children of all abilities and their families. Some of the activities included canoeing/kayaking, trout fishing, archery, casting, fly

fishing, pontoon rides, environmental crafts and games, fish identification, electrofishing, acrobatic bikers and much more.

Next year, organizers hope to add more activities including rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, camping, wildlife photography, bird watching, mushroom collecting, fur identification, dog training, hunting and much more.



-Owen Johnson

Fish cleaning and dissection is demonstrated at the 1st Annual Youth Outdoor Fest in La Crosse, Wisc.

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

## Lake Whitefish Population Assessment in Grand Marais, Michigan

BY GLENN MILLER, ASHLAND FWCO

The Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) conducted lake whitefish assessments out of Grand Marais, Mich. in July. The survey usually entailed six nights of gill net sets totaling 216,000 feet of net, but Mother Nature had other plans for the crew that week. We were only able to set nets for one night the entire



-USFWS

**A crew from the Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office takes samples for a lake whitefish population assessment in Grand Marais, Mich.**

Resources, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Grand Marais Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The areas typically surveyed include Grand Marais, Blind Sucker Creek and Deer Park. The information obtained is used by agencies to manage the commercial and recreation harvest of lake whitefish, evaluate abundance and fish health, and to gain a broader understanding of the lake whitefish ecological role in Lake Superior. Biological data collected for each species captured included length, weight, sex, sea lamprey marks, ageing material and stomach (diet) samples.

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

## 2009 Fishery Independent Lake Whitefish Survey in Northern Lake Huron

BY ADAM KOWALSKI, ALPENA FWCO

Staff from the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) and volunteers conducted a fishery independent lake whitefish survey in 1836 Treaty waters of northern Lake Huron. Staff involved included biologists Adam Kowalski and Anjanette Bowen, Acting Project Leader Scott Koproski and biological science aid Kyle Krajniak. Volunteers included Jerry McClain, Jerry Kowalski and Brittney Miller. The purpose of this survey is to collect fishery independent abundance and biological data on lake whitefish stocks in treaty waters for use in statistical-catch-at-age population models that are updated

annually to determine harvest regulations for tribal commercial fishers in 1836 Treaty waters.

During the survey, we set 24 overnight, variable mesh gill nets at randomly selected sites in lake whitefish management units WFH 04 (Hammond Bay to Presque Isle) and WFH 05 (Presque Isle to Alpena). All whitefish collected were measured, weighed, sexed, assessed for maturity and visceral fat content, and checked for lamprey wounds, fin clips and tags. We took scales and otoliths for age determination and removed stomachs whole for diet analysis. Non-target species were worked up in a similar manner.

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.

Winds were averaging 20–25 knots and 3-7 foot waves made it impossible to safely perform the surveys. The Ashland FWCO also had help from the Marquette Biological Station, with Nik Rehwal joining the crew, along with Ted Eggebratten from the Green Bay FWCO.

These surveys are coordinated by the Technical Fisheries Committee (TFC) of the 2000 Consent Decree for 1836 Treaty waters of Lake Superior. Lake Superior cooperators on this effort include the Bay Mills Indian Community, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Michigan Department of Natural

Twelve additional overnight, small mesh gill nets were set along the selected lake whitefish sites to capture juvenile lake trout. All juvenile lake trout collected were measured, weighed, checked for lamprey wounds and fin clips, sexed, and assessed for visceral fat content, maturity and stomach contents. Scales and otoliths were taken from coded-wire tagged and no-clip (presumed wild) lake trout for age determination.

Data collected in this survey will improve the accuracy of population models used to set lake whitefish harvest guidelines in 1836 Treaty waters of northern Lake Huron. Harvest limits allow fisheries to be executed while still protecting the biological integrity of the stocks.



-USFWS/AnjanetteBowen

**Biologist Adam Kowalski prepares to weigh a lake trout captured during the fishery independent lake whitefish survey in northern Lake Huron.**

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

## Genoa Provides Walleye for Lac Courte Oreilles

BY JENNY WALKER BAILEY, GENOA NFH

Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) biologists provided 1.5 - 2 inch (Phase I) walleye fingerlings to Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Tribal Fisheries managers for stocking into Indian Lake, Gurno Lake and Ashegon Lake on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation. In April, eggs were collected by the LCO Fisheries Office and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for shipment to Genoa NFH for rearing. At Genoa, hatched fry were stocked into rearing ponds and are left to grow over 40 days until they reach 1.5 to 2 inches. After this first phase of growth, the walleye fingerlings stop feeding on zooplankton in ponds and are ready to be harvested for stocking. When stocked into lakes, the fingerlings will be ready to prey on small forage fish species such as fathead minnows and white suckers.

This year, 17,280 fingerling walleyes were transported by biologist Nick Starzl to LCO for stocking in tribal lakes, and 11,583 were stocked into advanced growth rearing ponds at Genoa NFH for Phase II production. Phase II advanced growth fingerlings will be harvested in September and stocked when they reach 5 - 7 inches. This partnership between the offices helps improve fisheries on LCO lands for sport

and recreational fishing, and helps sustain native walleye populations in lakes where natural reproduction has been poor. Lakes on the LCO reservation have great potential for sport fisheries, and have a long history of great fishing for anglers. Careful management of sport and forage fish species should increase the number of catchable fish and improve the value of fisheries in LCO lakes.



-USFWS

**Biologists harvest walleye fingerlings at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery.**

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

## Lake Sturgeon Research Presented at Cranbrook Institute of Science

BY JIM BOASE, ALPENA FWCO

Biologist James Boase traveled to Bloomfield Hills, Mich. on June 25 to present information at an education workshop sponsored by the Cranbrook Institute of Science. Fifteen educators attended the 45 minute presentation, which focused on research efforts taking place in the Huron-Erie Corridor.

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.



-WoodwardAvenueActionAssoc.

**Cranbrook Institute of Science**

This informal presentation allowed the educators an opportunity to participate throughout the talk by asking questions and sharing their teaching experiences from southeast Michigan. Questions focused on lake sturgeon and how rehabilitation efforts will enhance the abundance of other species, invasive species and fish health. The forum was an excellent opportunity to explain how Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) has a commitment to assist educators to teach young people about fisheries and environmental issues throughout the Great Lakes.

More than 200,000 visitors flock to Cranbrook Institute of Science annually, making it one of the region's best known museums of natural history. The institute was founded in 1904 and has been serving area families since its creation in 1930. Cranbrook staff member Lisa Appel has worked with Fish and Wildlife Service biologists to conduct a number of assessment projects on the Detroit River and continues to be a valuable partner for Alpena FWCO. This presentation provided an excellent opportunity to explain to the public the Fish and Wildlife Service's mission and efforts to restore native fish and control invasive species. Specifically, the presentation focused on efforts to rehabilitate lake sturgeon populations in the Huron-Erie Corridor. The benefits of native species restoration and the detriments of invasive species were clearly defined and explained.

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

## Stephenson Wetland Restoration in Bayfield County, Wisconsin

BY TED KOEHLER, ASHLAND FWCO

A Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFWP) wetland restoration project was completed on the Stephenson property in July. The project is located in Bayfield County, Wisc. within the Lake Superior Watershed Focus Area for Region 3's PFWP, and consisted of two wetland restoration sites totaling three acres. A PFWP Habitat Development Agreement was signed to protect the



-USFWS

The Stephenson wetland restoration project was funded through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and restored three acres of wetland at two sites.

the restoration and improve the Whittlesey Creek watershed. Wetlands have been restored on the neighboring refuge property during the past two years, and these private land restorations will add to the complex in the local area. Waterfowl surveys conducted on Whittlesey Creek NWR's newly restored wetlands show use by a variety of ducks, geese and other birds. It is expected that the wetlands on the Stephenson property will see a similar amount of waterfowl use

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

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.

restored area for a period of 10 years. This newly restored and protected wetland will provide ideal resting and nesting conditions for many species of migratory songbirds and waterfowl. Species benefiting from the habitat restoration and protection project include migratory waterfowl such as wood duck, mallard, and American black duck as well as migratory songbirds such as sedge wren and Le Conte's sparrow.

The restoration is on former agricultural land adjacent to land owned by Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Mike Mlynarek from the Whittlesey Creek NWR and Ted Koehler from the Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) worked in close coordination to accomplish

## Missouri River Recovery Program Agency Coordination Meeting

BY TRACY HILL, COLUMBIA FWCO

Project Leader Tracy Hill and Branch Chief for Missouri River Studies Wyatt Doyle traveled to Omaha, Neb. in July to attend the quarterly meeting of the Missouri River Recovery Program, Agency Coordination Team (ACT). The meetings are intended to brief state and Federal agencies on the progress of this program. Under the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project, a variety of aquatic and terrestrial habitats acquired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been restored and developed in the

Missouri River and its floodplain to enhance habitats for fish and wildlife. Monitoring priorities for the upcoming fiscal year were discussed and presented to the ACT. Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) continues to partner with state and federal agencies to conserve and increase native fish populations in the Missouri River and to identify and take appropriate actions that will help achieve desired resource goals and outcomes.

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

## Survey on the Thunder Bay River

BY HEATHER RAWLINGS, ALPENA FWCO

Biologists Andrea Ania and Heather Rawlings, and Natural Resource Conservation Service engineer Andrea Paladino surveyed a reach of the Thunder Bay River the week of July 6. The survey was conducted in order to collect data on an ungaged (by a U.S. Geological Survey gaging station) reach of river that is considered stable by resource professionals. The data will be added to a dataset held by the Michigan Stream Team to determine regional curves for the State of Michigan.



-USFWS/AndreaAnia

**Biologist Heather Rawlings of the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office takes a survey point along a riffle cross-section of the Thunder Bay River, to collect baseline data for the Michigan Stream Team.**

The site surveyed was located upstream of the McMurphy Road bridge on the Main Branch of the Thunder Bay River, east of the village of Atlanta, Mich. Approximately 1,300 ft. of the river was surveyed with a longitudinal profile. Two cross-sections were conducted in two of the riffles within the surveyed reach. Pebble counts were taken at both of the riffles, and one pebble count was taken to encompass the entire reach. Surveying was completed with a robotic total station and a laser level. The entire survey took three days to complete. The data will be compiled and entered into RIVERMorph before sending it to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Geological Survey Stream Team members for incorporation into the larger database.

Data was also collected on an ungaged reference reach of the Thunder Bay River. This data will be incorporated into a larger database housed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and will be used to determine regional curves for the State of Michigan. Regional reference curve development is important to all natural resource professionals concerned with proper river restoration. This critical data will take the guesswork out of river restoration in Michigan, and provide restoration professionals with information to develop successful and stable project outcomes.

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

## Kovala and Kalmon Wetland Restoration Projects Completed

BY TED KOEHLER, ASHLAND FWCO

Construction has finished on the Kovala and Kalmon wetland restoration projects. These Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program projects are located in Ashland County, Wisc., within the Lake Superior watershed, and restored a total of three wetland acres. Upland areas around the projects were also enhanced to provide nesting cover for migratory birds. These wildlife habitat projects will benefit a host of species including American black ducks and wood ducks.

After the design was completed on the projects, the contracts were awarded to local contractors from the Ashland area. Wetland Development Agreements were signed to protect the restored locations for a period of 10 years. Partners contributing to the success of the projects are the Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited and the Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO).

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

## Au Sable Institute Students tour Jordan River NFH

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

The Au Sable Institute is an educational institution of higher learning located in northern Michigan. The students who attend programs at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) are from various back-



-USFWS

The aquatic biology class from Au Sable Institute stop at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery for a tour.

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

## Columbia FWC Completes its Fourth Year of Partnership with the City of Columbia

BY ANDREW PLAUCK, COLUMBIA FWC

For the fourth consecutive year, Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) participated in a local job placement program for high school students called Career Awareness Related Experience (CARE). Josh Tharpe and Riaz Helfer are students at Hickman High School in Columbia, Mo. These students are paid by the City of Columbia but gain valuable experience working for local businesses. The two young men learned many new skills during their employment here. They were able to assist in boat and truck maintenance, gillnet repair, organize electronic files and learn some fish sampling techniques on the Missouri River. In previous years, we have rewarded the students by going fishing with them at Little Dixie Lake Conservation Area. This year, we decided to do some river fishing, setting

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

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.

grounds and many different colleges and universities. Au Sable's curriculum emphasizes field experiences and hands-on projects in environmental studies. Annually, several classes stop at the hatchery and tour the facility. Staff speak to the students about careers and education, and usually deliver a specific program topic. This year, the aquatic biology class toured the hatchery during the first week of July. The students were studying aquatic biology, ecology and environmental stewardship. Great stuff! Biologist Tim Smigielski provided the tour. Jordan River NFH will continue to work with Au Sable Institute to train our future resource professionals.

trotlines in an afternoon and returning to pull them the following morning. Unfortunately, we only caught two catfish on the lines we set. We tried some rod and reel fishing, but the warm July morning probably wasn't the best time for trophy catfish angling. Despite the slow fishing, we all had a great time and enjoyed our river fishing trip.

The CARE program has allowed our office to show many young people the work we do on the Missouri River. Because teenagers are less and less exposed to outdoor activities these days, we hope that the job experience from this summer sparks an interest for them in our natural resources. This day was a great way to thank the students for their hard work all summer, while also getting them outside to enjoy the Missouri River.

# Congressional Actions

[111th CONGRESS Senate Bills]  
[From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access]  
[DOCID: s1214is.txt]  
[Introduced in Senate]

111th CONGRESS  
1st Session

S. 1214

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.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 9, 2009

Mr. Lieberman (for himself, Mr. Casey, Mr. Bond, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Whitehouse, and Mr. Crapo) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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A BILL

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.

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

## SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds that—

(1) healthy populations of fish and other aquatic organisms depend on the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of aquatic habitats in the United States;

(2) aquatic habitats (including wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal and marine ecosystems, and associated riparian upland habitats that buffer those areas from external factors) perform numerous valuable environmental functions that sustain environmental, social, and cultural values, including recycling nutrients, purifying water, attenuating floods, augmenting and maintaining stream flows, recharging ground water, acting as primary producers in the food chain, and providing essential and significant habitat for plants, fish, wildlife, and other dependent species;

(3) the extensive and diverse aquatic habitat resources of the United States are of enormous significance to the economy of the United States, providing—

(A) recreation for 44,000,000 anglers;

(B) more than 1,000,000 jobs and approximately \$125,000,000,000 in economic impact each year relating to recreational fishing; and

(C) approximately 500,000 jobs and an additional \$35,000,000 in economic impact each year relating to commercial fishing;

(4) at least 40 percent of all threatened species and endangered species in the United States are directly dependent on aquatic habitats;

(5) certain fish species are considered to be ecological indicators of aquatic habitat quality, such that the presence of those species in an aquatic ecosystem reflects high-quality habitat for other fish;

(6) loss and degradation of aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, water quality, and water volume caused by activities such as alteration of watercourses, stream blockages, water withdrawals and diversions, erosion, pollution, sedimentation, and destruction or modification of wetlands have—

(A) caused significant declines in fish populations throughout the United States, especially declines in native fish populations; and

(B) resulted in economic losses to the United States;

(7)(A) providing for the conservation and sustainability of fish and other aquatic organisms has not been fully realized, despite federally funded fish and wildlife restoration programs and other activities intended to conserve aquatic resources; and

(B) that conservation and sustainability may be significantly advanced through a renewed commitment and sustained, cooperative efforts that are complementary to existing fish and wildlife restoration programs and clean water programs;

(8) the National Fish Habitat Action Plan provides a framework for maintaining and restoring aquatic habitats to ensure perpetuation of populations of fish and other aquatic organisms;

(9) the United States can achieve significant progress toward providing aquatic habitats for the conservation and restoration of fish and other aquatic organisms through a voluntary, nonregulatory incentive program that is based on technical and financial assistance provided by the Federal Government;

(10) the creation of partnerships between local citizens, Indian tribes, Alaska Native organizations, corporations, nongovernmental organizations, and Federal, State, and tribal agencies is critical to the success of activities to restore aquatic habitats and ecosystems;

(11) the Federal Government has numerous regulatory and land and water management agencies that are critical to the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, including—

(A) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) the National Park Service;

(D) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(E) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(F) the National Marine Fisheries Service;

(G) the Forest Service;

(H) the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

(I) the Environmental Protection Agency;

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

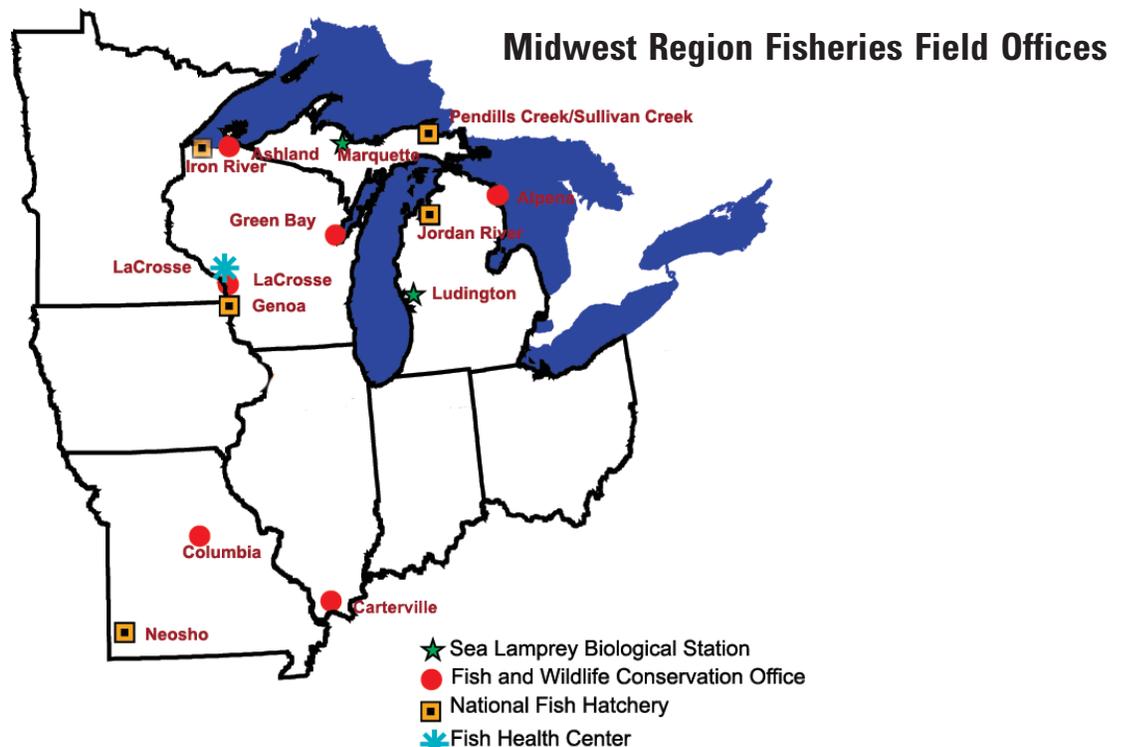
technical expertise to other Service programs addressing contaminants, endangered species, federal project review and hydro-power operation and relicensing; evaluate and manage fisheries on Service lands; and, provide technical support to 38 Native American tribal governments and treaty authorities.

## 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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# 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**

- [Columbia FWCO Biologist gives Fish Presentation for Local River Group](#)
  - Andrew Plauck, Columbia FWCO
- [Fourth Annual Benefit Dinner Held at Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown, Michigan](#)
  - Jim Boase, Alpena FWCO
- [MICRA Executive Board Meeting](#)
  - Tracy Hill, Columbia FWCO
- [UMRCC Hosts Teachers Workshop](#)
  - Scott Yess, La Crosse FWCO
- [USFWS Staff Participate in Michigan No Child Left Inside Summit](#)
  - Tim Smigielski, Jordan River NFH
- [When Landowners Are Engaged, The Resource Benefits!](#)
  - Brian Elkington and Aaron Walker, Columbia FWCO

## **Aquatic Species Conservation and Management**

- [Alpena FWCO assists with Lake Trout Distribution](#)
  - Scott Koproski, Alpena FWCO

## **Aquatic Invasive Species**

- [Ashland NFWCO Participates in 14th Goby Round-Up](#)
  - Gary Czypinski, Ashland FWCO
- [Carp like Zebra Mussels too!](#)
  - Scott Yess, La Crosse FWCO
- [La Crosse National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office “Thinks Green” to Help Fight Exotic Fish](#)
  - Heidi Keuler, La Crosse FWCO

## **Public Use**

- [5th Annual River Education Days on Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge is a Great Success!](#)
  - Heidi Keuler, La Crosse FWCO
- [Earth Tracks at the Duluth Zoo](#)
  - Carey Edwards, Iron River NFH
- [Genoa National Fish Hatchery Participates in 2nd Annual Mississippi River Adventure Day](#)
  - Tony Brady, Genoa NFH
- [Harrisville Event](#)
  - Adam Kowalski, Alpena FWCO
- [La Crosse NFWCO Shows Winona Middle School, “What’s Inside a Rainbow”](#)
  - Heidi Keuler, La Crosse FWCO
- [Over 600 Evergreen Elementary Students Learn About Dinosaurs of the Deep](#)
  - Heidi Keuler, La Crosse FWCO
- [Students Learn about Wetlands at Camp Wilderness](#)
  - Andrea Ania, Alpena FWCO
- [Time for the County Fair](#)
  - Jaime Pacheco, Neosho NFH

## **Cooperation with Native Americans**

- [Genoa NFH sends lake sturgeon to the Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Visitor Centre](#)
  - Nick Starzl, Genoa NFH

## **Leadership in Science and Technology**

## **Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management**

## **Workforce Management**

- [Aaron Woldt Selected as Regional Fishery Program Supervisor](#)
  - Andrea Ania, Alpena FWCO
- [Baird Safety Course](#)
  - Adam Kowalski, Alpena FWCO
- [CPR/First Aid Training](#)
  - Melissa Cheung, Neosho NFH
- [Fish and Wildlife Service Family Picnic](#)
  - Aracy Hill, Columbia FWCO
- [Iron River NFH Welcomes New Biologist](#)
  - Carey Edwards, Iron River NFH
- [Jordan River NFH Welcomes Newest Staff Member](#)
  - Tim Smigielski, Jordan River NFH
- [Summer Interns Upward and Onward!](#)
  - Melissa Cheung, Neosho NFH



### **Frank’s Ship is Leaving**

After 34 years with the federal government, Frank Stone has retired from the Fish & Wildlife Service. “I’m leaving with mixed feelings because I have been so very blessed. Although I’m looking forward to the days ahead, it’s hard to say goodbye to all the great and caring people that I’ve have been associated with over the years. I have many wonderful and exciting memories to cherish. I want to thank each of you for enriching my life and making my career so memorable. I wish you all the best of health and happiness, and I hope our paths cross again in the future.”