



fish lines

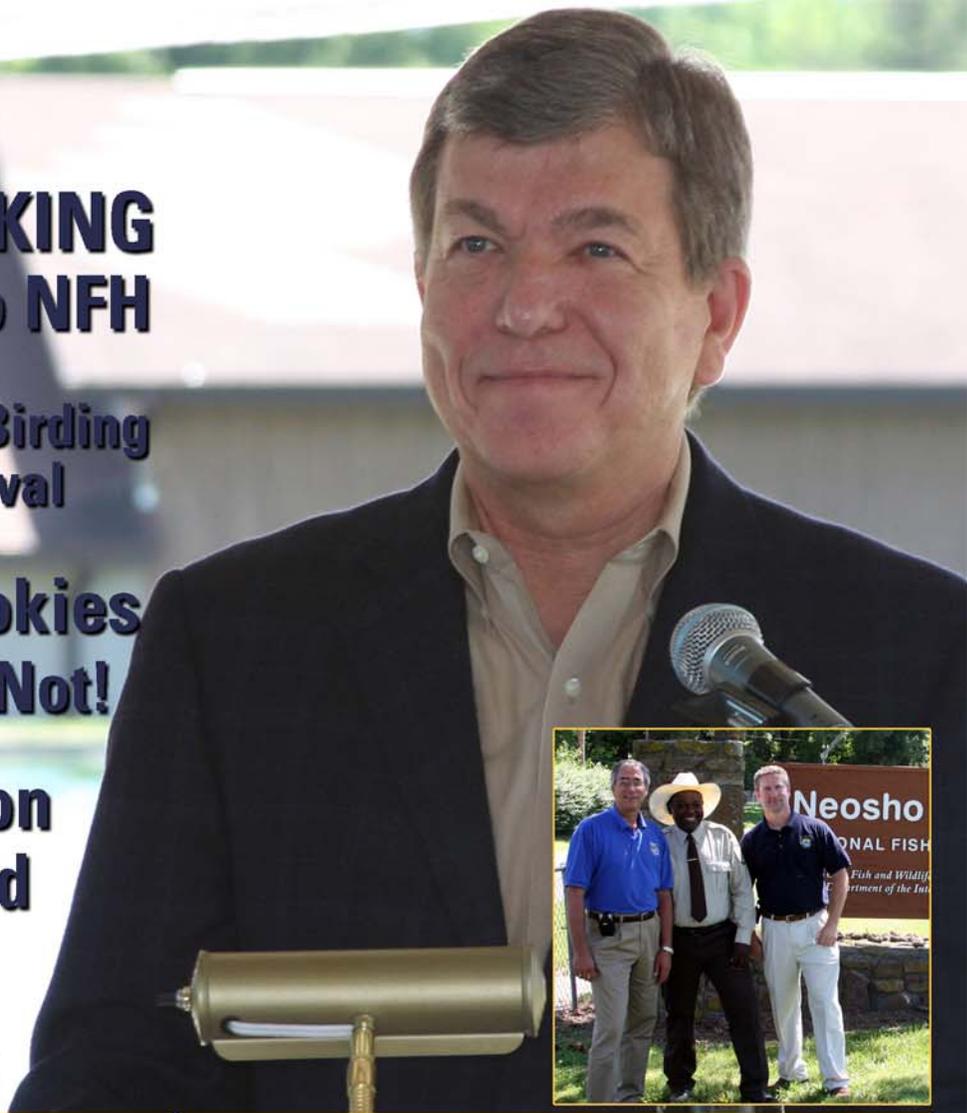
**GROUNDBREAKING
Event at Neosho NFH**

**Chequamegon Bay Birding
and Nature Festival**

**Kids Catch Brookies
"WEATHER" or Not!**

**Lake Sturgeon
Have Arrived**

**Little Fish...
Big Surprise**



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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-USFWS/DennisSmith

The Fish and Wildlife Service is collaborating with Lake Superior State University to place and monitor a rotary screw trap in the rapids area of the St. Marys River to capture migrating smolts and spawning-phase sea lamprey.

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/Karla Bartelt
Groundbreaking ceremony for the new visitor center at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery.

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A Hatchery of the Future: Breaking Ground at Neosho NFH

BY ASHLEY SPRATT, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

On July 1, 2009, a long-time dream for the town of Neosho, Missouri, and its residents, became a reality. State and federal legislatures, Fish and Wildlife Service staff, community members, volunteers, church groups, and life-long supporters of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) congregated to break ground for a new, energy-efficient visitor center at the hatchery. The hatchery faced closure in the 1980s, and now, more than 20 years later, is expanding to offer both educational and economic opportunities for Neosho and its visitors. The visitor center is expected to be completed by the summer of 2010.



-USFWS/KarlaBartelt

State and federal legislatures, Fish and Wildlife Service staff, community members, volunteers, church groups, and life-long supporters of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery congregated to break ground for a new, energy-efficient visitor center at the hatchery.

The new visitor center will improve community education about our aquatic resources, and at the same time enhance the energy-efficiency of daily hatchery operations. The hatchery's visitor center will serve to promote conservation of our resources both through its smart, environmentally-friendly design, and through the lessons learned within its walls. "This is not a hatchery of the past, this is a hatchery of the future," said Rowan Gould, Acting Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The oldest operating federal hatchery in the nation, Neosho NFH raises endangered pallid sturgeon for recovery efforts in the lower Missouri River and rainbow trout for stocking in Lake Taneycomo. The hatchery also supports conservation of the endangered Ozark cavefish and restoration of native mussels.

The following was a message shared with guests by hatchery manager David Hendrix:

"On behalf of the staff at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks for the continuous support from the City of Neosho and surrounding communities, our federal and state legislators, and our conservation partners. We are so honored to work at our nation's oldest operating federal fish hatchery, to serve our local Southwest Missouri community, and help protect and conserve the aquatic resources of our nation. The realization of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery's Visitor Center is the result of the combined efforts of our community, *Friends of Neosho National Fish Hatchery*, legislators and so many others, working together for a common purpose. The Neosho National Fish Hatchery is a wonderful conservation and management tool that not only works to restore and protect our aquatic resources but also works to educate our young people and adults about the importance of a meaningful appreciation for nature."

BENEFITS OF THE VISITOR CENTER

More visitors = more environmental education opportunities for kids and adults

Currently, more than 45,000 visitors walk through the doors of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) each year. With the new visitor center, the hatchery is expected to accommodate more than 100,000 visitors per year. The environmental education and interpretation opportunities at the hatchery will be expanded to reach new audiences, not just the traditional angler or conservationist. The increased capacity will accommodate school groups from Newton County and surrounding areas, and perhaps plant the seeds for future biologists, outdoor enthusiasts and environmental stewards.

The hatchery improvements are an investment in the future of fisheries conservation and restoration. Fish hatcheries are one of the primary tools for fisheries restoration and conservation efforts in the Midwest. By producing both rare and endangered native fish species and releasing them back into the wild, and stocking sport fish into our lakes, rivers and streams, fish hatcheries and the biologists and technicians that staff them serve a critical role in fisheries conservation.

Neosho NFH sets an example of how other offices/agencies can minimize their own environmental footprint. In carrying out the Fish and Wildlife Service's conservation mission, it is our obligation as a resource management agency to examine our own environmental footprint. Are our buildings energy-efficient? Do our vehicles have low-carbon emissions? Are we doing everything we can to maximize our use of emerging "green" technologies? As conservation agents, it is our responsibility to serve as a model to Americans as we work to reduce our carbon footprint locally and everywhere we are working, from coast-to-coast.

More visitors = economic benefits for the local community

The construction and operation of the visitor center is expected to generate local economic benefits here in the local community through enhanced tourism revenues and associated employment opportunities.



-USFWS/KarlaBartelt

Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service Rowan Gould describes the history and future of the hatchery system to a crowd of more than 200 at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery.



-USFWS/KarlaBartelt

Members of the Friends of Neosho National Fish Hatchery and hatchery manager David Hendrix proudly pose at the future site of the Neosho Visitor Center.



-USFWS/KarlaBartelt

(Lt. to Rt.) Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius, hatchery manager David Hendrix, and Assistant Regional Director - Fisheries Mike Weimer pose near the location of the new visitor center.

AMENITIES

- 9,500 sq.ft. two-level facility
- History of the hatchery exhibit hall
- Friends Group Bookstore
- Classroom/wet lab and aquariums
- Auditorium, library and office space

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

Lake Sturgeon Have Arrived!

BY JIM BOASE, ALPENA FWCO

For the first time in 30 years, lake sturgeon spawning has been confirmed in Canadian waters of the Detroit River. A threatened species in both Michigan and Ontario, United States and Canadian partners have worked together to restore habitat for this species. As part of restoration efforts, the partnership worked to construct a lake sturgeon spawning reef at Fighting Island in Lasalle, Ontario, Canada. The reef was constructed at Fighting Island in October 2008 and was celebrated as the first Canada-United States funded fish habitat restoration project in the Great Lakes. The strong



-USGS/Dr.BruceManny

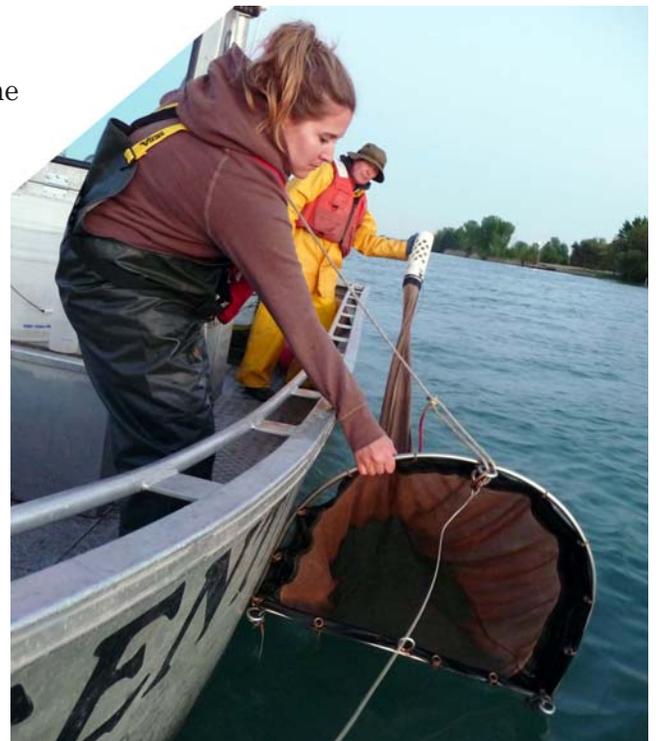
Jim Boase (left) and Jim McFee hold a lake sturgeon captured at the Fighting Island Reef in the Detroit River.

eye, various native suckers and white bass. Also found using the reef at Fighting Island was the northern madtom, a fish that is endangered in Michigan and Ontario and never before found in the lower sections of the Detroit River. Northern madtoms were also discovered on the spawning reef constructed at Belle Isle in 2004, indicating that this type of habitat restoration is important for sustaining threatened and endangered native fish populations. The fact that lake sturgeon, lake whitefish and the northern madtom, three indicator species of ecosystem health, are utilizing the reef, provides scientific evidence that this restoration project was a success and further validates the bi-national pollution prevention and control efforts implemented through the water quality agreements crafted in the early 1970's (e.g., the United States - Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement). Assessment of the reef at Fighting Island needs to continue for at least two more years to fully understand the benefits of this project for fish and other aquatic species.

As Canadian Member of Parliament Jeff Watson describes, "We are indeed so proud to be part of this International success story of restoration of lake sturgeon in our shared

partnership between the two countries, and the dedication of everyone involved in protecting our shared natural resources, made this project a reality.

By early winter 2008, the reef design was already showing evidence of success as lake whitefish were the first of many species to begin using the reef. This spring, fish species found spawning on the reef included lake sturgeon, wall-



-USFWS/JimBoase

Karen Soper from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Dr. Bruce Manny of the U.S. Geological Survey lift a net used to capture larval lake sturgeon as they emerge from the Fighting Island Reef.

Great Lakes waters. These results provide concrete evidence of the benefits of using sound science and unique public-private partnerships to improve our Detroit River ecosystem.”

“It is so heartening to see the amazing success of this sturgeon habitat restoration for the Detroit River



-USGS/JeffAllen

This is an image of a larval lake sturgeon after a month of development at the Great Lakes Science Center.

International Wildlife Refuge,” notes Congressman John D. Dingell. “No one thought this degree of success was possible only 30 years ago. It truly validates the decades of International cooperation on pollution control and conservation efforts in the Detroit River and throughout the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (IWR). I want to give my special thanks to all the Canadian partners who made this possible and I look forward to continuing this important work with them in the future.”

The lake sturgeon is a remnant of the dinosaur age and can grow to over eight feet in length and weigh over 200 pounds. It is listed as either threatened or endangered in 19 of 20 states within its original range in the United States. In Canada, it was identified as threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife. Lake sturgeon is endemic to the Great Lakes, and historically, the Huron-Erie Corridor was one of the most productive waters for lake sturgeon in North America. In 2001, lake sturgeon spawning was documented in the Detroit River for the first time in over 30 years, but their numbers are estimated to be only one percent of their original population. Based on recent research, scientists have determined that lack of spawning habitat is one of the factors limiting lake sturgeon population growth. Over the past six years, habitats have been constructed off Belle Isle in Detroit, McKee Park in Windsor and Fort Malden in Amherstburg to increase available spawning habitat for lake sturgeon and

other native fish. Historically, the area surrounding Fighting Island was well known as an important spawning and nursery area for lake sturgeon and thus was targeted as a potential habitat construction site in 2008. Finding fertilized lake sturgeon eggs and collection of lake sturgeon larvae from the reef at Fighting Island this spring indicates that this restoration strategy is yielding very positive ecosystem results, and that this small, remnant population of native lake sturgeon may one day be restored to a higher level of abundance in the Detroit River.

Partners in this project include: BASF Corporation, DTE Energy, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Environment Canada, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, Landmark Engineers Inc., Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Sea Grant, Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and the Wildlife Habitat Council.



-USFWS/JimBoase

The Fighting Island Reef provides habitat to other fish species such as this northern madtom which is endangered in the State of Michigan and Ontario, Canada.

The Detroit River has the distinction of being the only International Wildlife Refuge in North America and the only river system in North America to hold both American Heritage River and Canadian Heritage River designations. This project is being undertaken in direct response to the sturgeon spawning habitat restoration objective in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Detroit River IWR.

For more information, please go to the following links:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver/documents/FightingIslandSturgeonReef.pdf>

http://huron-erie.org/sturgeon_restoration.html

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6xR9czENWM>

<http://www.windsorstar.com/Technology/Lake+sturgeon+larvae+Holy+Grail+area/1633412/story.html>

<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090529/COLUMNIST22/905290378/-1/SPORTS06>

<http://www.thenewsherald.com/articles/2009/06/07/news/doc4a2ab65f47c0c198097320.txt>

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

Kids Catch Brookies

“Weather” or Not!

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

It is not uncommon to have near winter-like weather in northern Michigan on the trout fishing opener. This year, Mother Nature didn't disappoint us for our fishing event! Thunderstorms and cold and windy conditions marked the 2009 Kids Trout Fishing events at Johnson's Pond in Mancelona and Meadowbrook Pond in Bellaire.

The kids fishing events are sponsored by the Village of Mancelona and Bellaire Conservation Club, partners in the “Baby Brookies” program. Jordan River NFH and participants in the Baby Brookies program delivered 1,100 brook trout to the ponds on April 24th. The kids who have visited the hatchery with the Baby Brookies program helped to release the fish. It was a very impressive turn out. Some dads were just “oohing and aaahing” over the beautiful fish their kids helped culture.

Saturday morning came early with hundreds of kids lined up to get a chance at a trophy. They all braved the storms with a couple intermissions due to lightening. Although



-USFWS

The 2009 Kids Trout Fishing event at Johnson's Pond was made possible through the Baby Brookies program at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, where local student groups help culture brook trout for stocking at kids fishing events.



soaked and probably quite cold, the kids didn't give up. The trout cooperated too and provided a unique opportunity for the families of these communities. The smiles, the loud shrieks and the heartfelt handshakes were so worth it. Today, the hatchery connected people with nature and connected people with people! This was a great day for the kids of northern Michigan and the Fish and Wildlife Service.



-USFWS photos

These big ones didn't get away at the Johnson Pond Kids Trout Fishing event.

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

Little Fish, Big Surprise

BY COLBY WRASSE, COLUMBIA FWCO

After seven years of sampling fish on the big rivers of the Midwest, I thought I had seen just about all these rivers had to offer. Catching Federally endangered pallid sturgeon, prehistoric lake sturgeon and monstrous catfish had become just another day at the office. But when you least expect it, these murky waters and their mysterious fish will surprise you.



-USFWS

Trawling with small mesh nets, such as the one in this picture, can be effective for sampling young-of-year paddlefish.

The big surprise this year has been the impressive number of young-of-year paddlefish turning up in our trawl nets on the Missouri River. In years past, we've collected small paddlefish, but never in these numbers. We don't have an exact count at this time, but it is safe to say that we have collected several hundred young-of-year paddlefish this spring. On some occasions we had fifty, or more, small "spoonbills" in a single trawl sample. Everywhere we dropped a net this spring, we caught juvenile paddlefish.

So the obvious question is "Why?" What seemingly made this spring such a successful year for paddlefish spawning? Did this spring's high water trigger a mass spawning event? Did high water in 2007 and 2008 lead to increased paddlefish food (plankton) in the river, which in turn improved paddlefish condition and fecundity? Have stockings and

conservation efforts increased paddlefish numbers to the point where they have reached a critical mass needed for an outstanding spawn? Or is it a combination of these factors, or maybe something else entirely? This is all just speculation, but whatever the reason, it appears that it was a banner year for paddlefish spawning.

Paddlefish are not rare in Missouri, but they are ranked as vulnerable in the state, and a great amount of effort has been spent to ensure the continued existence of the species. Paddlefish populations in Missouri are robust enough to support a recreational snagging season, which is incredibly popular with anglers.

While paddlefish in Missouri seem to be doing pretty well, half a world away the Chinese paddlefish is struggling for survival. In fact, some scientists fear this close relative to the American paddlefish may already be extinct, as no adult Chinese paddlefish have been reported since 2003 and no juveniles have been collected since 1995. It is believed that a combination of over-fishing and dam construction has led to the demise of this fish in China. Hopefully, enough Chinese paddlefish remain to make recovery of the species possible.



-USFWS/ColbyWrasse

These young-of-year paddlefish, ranging in size from 20-60 mm, were collected this spring.

Perhaps, what we have learned about American paddlefish populations, propagation and conservation can be used as a model of recovery for the Chinese paddlefish. In light of the plight of the Chinese paddlefish and other ancient fishes around the world, we should be thankful that we have a relatively stable population of prehistoric paddlefish here in Missouri for everyone to enjoy.

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

Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival

BY TED KOEHLER, ASHLAND FWCO

The Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival was held May 15 -17, 2009. Hosted by the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, Wis., the event was attended by hundreds of



-USFWS/MikeWeimer

These participants of the Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival attended the brook trout session which included stocking fish into Whittlesey Creek.

people from around the country and consisted of birding and nature programs near the south shore of Lake Superior. Spring migration of many types of birds was in full swing during the festivities and the hundreds of participants and staff observed 175 individual bird species during the festival.

The Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) played a major role in organizing the event. Mark Brouder, Henry Quinlan and Ted Koehler from the Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

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

(FWCO) helped with leading festival excursions. Mark Brouder and Henry Quinlan led segments called Coaster Brook Trout Field Trips where festival goers joined them on Whittlesey Creek to learn about and participate in coaster brook trout restoration. Part of these trips was the chance to help stock coaster brook trout in the stream and everyone was thrilled to handle and directly participate in efforts to restore this important Lake Superior resource.

Assistant Regional Director - Fisheries Mike Weimer attended the festival and helped with the Coaster Brook Trout Field Trips. Tours called Coastal and Inland Wetland Walks were led by Ted Koehler. The programs focused on migratory waterfowl and explored Whittlesey Creek NWR's inland and coastal wetlands. Many species of waterfowl and other wetland associated birds were observed including buffleheads, Bonaparte's gulls, common terns and bald eagles. The largest flock of Bonaparte's gulls ever seen on Whittlesey Creek NWR was observed during one of the Coastal and Inland Wetland Walks. More than 300 of the birds swarmed close above and around the tour group as they stood near the mouth of Whittlesey Creek and watched the birdlife of the refuge and Chequamegon Bay. In all the activities led by the Ashland FWCO, participants learned about the area's natural features and their importance in the life cycles of fish and wildlife, as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service's role in protecting and restoring the area's federal trust species and their habitats.

The Chequamegon Bay region is among the top birding destinations in the Midwest, with an amazing variety of high-quality habitats ranging from pine barrens and upland forests to coastal wetlands. More than 300 species of birds call the area home permanently or during their migrations. Extraordinary natural beauty and abundant public land make Wisconsin's south shore of Lake Superior an ideal location for bird-watching and other wildlife viewing.

National Broodstock Program Leaders Meet in La Crosse, WI

BY DOUG ALOISI, GENOA NFH

Project leaders of the Fish and Wildlife Service's broodstock hatcheries from across the nation met in La Crosse, Wis., to coordinate Federal hatchery system trout egg production needs through the next four years. The National Broodstock Program supplies certified disease free eggs of salmonid species to ensure that Federal fish production needs can be met. The eggs and resulting fish are used in a myriad of



-USFWS

Participants of the National Broodstock Program meeting tour Genoa National Fish Hatchery's new mussel propagation unit which is operating this summer at nearby Blackhawk Park, using the Mississippi River as a water/food source for developing mussels.

ways, which include Federal hatcheries that produce fish to mitigate habitat loss due to dam construction. They also serve as a disease free source of eggs to make forage fish for endangered species programs such as the pallid sturgeon recovery program, and produce forage for host fish in the endangered mussel recovery programs.

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

Lake Huron PIT Tag Detection Enhanced

BY ADAM KOWALSKI, ALPENA FWCO

In August 2008, biologist Adam Kowalski received a grant for \$17,575 from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to purchase passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag readers and tagging equipment for commercial fishers in Lake Huron and western Lake Erie. Currently, Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) partners with nine state-licensed commercial fishers operating 14 vessels primarily in Saginaw Bay, that record bio-data and externally tag

A typical broodstock facility also acts as a gene bank of the founding population, usually having up to three year classes of fish that are maintained and interbred to conserve the genetic makeup of the existing population. Many different fish strains are also on hand to use in different stocking locations. This is used as a method to increase post stocking survival, optimize growth in the hatchery and after stocking, and to increase return to the creel if stocked for recreational fishing. The National Broodstock Program has also assisted our state partners in fisheries conservation for many years by providing disease free salmonid eggs to help restore and create fisheries and to reduce the persistence and spread of fish pathogens.

The Fish and Wildlife Service also employs isolation and quarantine facilities as tools to safely infuse wild fish genes back into captive broodstock populations, while still maintaining their disease free conditions. After a period of time and intensive disease sampling, fish from wild parents are folded back into the captive population to ensure that they closely resemble the founding population's genetic characteristics. Through careful planning and due diligence, the National Broodstock Program strives to fulfill its role of good stewards of fisheries conservation both now and into the nation's future. While in the La Crosse area, the group was treated to a tour of the Genoa National Fish Hatchery's fish restoration and mussel recovery programs.

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.

fishers, 8 to Tribal fishers in northern Lake Huron and 2 each to United States and Canadian commercial fishers in western Lake Erie.

This project also supplied 12 new commercial fishers with Floy cinch tags, cinch tag applicators, a soft measuring tape, hacksaw, fin ray envelopes/data sheets and a waterproof storage box. Alpena FWCO will enter all PIT tags (new and recaptured) into the

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

Boy Scout Camporee held at Jordan River NFH

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Scenic Trails Council held their Spring Camporee on the grounds of Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) during the first weekend in May. Jon Sumner, vice president of the hatchery friends group and Northern Trails District Membership Chair of the BSA, and Cub Master for Pack 17 East Jordan, Mich., coordinated the huge outdoor camping and service-oriented event. With the support of Jordan River



-USFWS

Tidy camps were the norm for Boy Scout troops of the Scenic Trails Council that held that spring camporee on the grounds of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.

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

lake sturgeon tag identification database, a project also funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust in 2004.

This project will improve information sharing between agencies and commercial fishers that may encounter tagged lake sturgeon. Improved data sharing will lead to a better understanding of the population trends and movement patterns of lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes.

NFH staff, the hatchery grounds were transformed into a 116 acre campground. More than 200 boy and cub scouts representing 10 troops from northwest Michigan participated in the event.

The weekend started with an impressive ceremonial colors presentation and flag raising. On-site, the scouts earned badges and completed some public service projects at the hatchery. One project included the repair and reconstruction of a gravel and timber drip edge along the early life stage rearing building. The scouts also constructed and placed more than 30 bird nesting boxes on the hatchery grounds as well as participated in forestry and fishery seminars. The scouts had fun too! They held activities and competitive events all weekend between the troops. Hatchery manager Roger Gordon commented, "The amount of parental and mentor support is just so impressive. They were so well organized and the place was better manicured after they departed than when they arrived."

The final day featured an awards ceremony recognizing the winners in the events and also the adult leadership for their part in coordinating the event for the scouts. Once the scouts broke camp, the weekend concluded with the lowering of the colors ceremony. The BSA is an impressive organization and Jordan River NFH staff will continue to engage the scouts and build upon this partnership. Thanks to all who participated!

Mussels on MARS!

BY DOUG ALOISI, GENOA NFH

One of the largest limiting factors in successful freshwater mussel propagation is the lack of information on the nutritional requirements of juvenile mussels, and hence the lack of a larval diet. One method to circumvent this bottleneck in freshwater mussel culture may be to supply natural river water to juvenile mussels while limiting predation and low oxygen levels that may occur in natural settings. To do this in a cost effective manner, the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) maintenance staff of Dan Kumlin and Jeff Lockington fabricated a mobile



-USFWS

Genoa National Fish Hatchery's mobile aquatic rearing system (MARS) is used to culture native mussels.

aquatic rearing system, (affectionately known as MARS), that is located alongside the mighty Mississippi River, home to some of the most plentiful and diverse mussel populations in the world.

An 8 x 20 foot cargo trailer was acquired in the fall of 2008, and through the winter, electrical, water filtration, aeration and plumbing systems were designed and installed specifically for the biological needs of juvenile mussels. These juveniles are smaller than the head of a pin at the time that they excyst from their fish host's gills and skin, which makes

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

keeping them in tanks challenging enough, never mind culturing them.

Once the culture systems were completed, Blackhawk Park superintendent Tom Novak was approached to see if he would like to become a partner in freshwater mussel conservation by allowing the hatchery to locate the trailer in the park near the Mississippi River. The park is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and is located adjacent to the Mississippi River. He was more than happy to assist, and it was a natural fit since the Corps St. Paul and Rock Island Districts currently provide funding to the hatchery for mussel restoration and recovery.

As of this writing, over 30,000 juvenile mussels have been placed in the trailer in 18 small culture tanks supplied with suitable substrate and supplied with Mississippi River water filtered to 60 microns to remove predators such as flat-worms. We are anxiously awaiting the results of this season's efforts and plan to use knowledge garnered this season to fine tune and perfect the trailer's systems to increase survival.

Native mussels are considered to be one of the nation's most endangered fauna due to a myriad of reasons, some of which are the effects of invasive zebra mussels and habitat destruction. It is hoped that through the judicious use of propagation and the restoration of aquatic systems, our freshwater mussels will be a treasure to be preserved for many generations to come.

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.

2008 Seneca Lake Strain Lake Trout

BY JAMES ANDERSON, SULLIVAN CREEK NFH

During the 2008 lake trout spawning season at Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH), a new future brood lot of Seneca Lake Wild (SLW) strain was created by crossing the 2002 year class female lake trout with the 2003 year class of male lake trout. A total of 128 adult lake trout pairings were randomly collected during the entire spawning run to make the 2008 group. Of that, 28 pairs were collected on October 1, 50 pairs were collected on October 9, and 50 pairs were collected on October 16. The three groups were then incubated separately in egg stacks until they hatched this past February. Fry were randomly culled down to 4,000 fish and placed into rearing tanks. In August, the fish will be culled down to 2,000 and moved into the brood building. In the next four to five years, the 2008 SLW lake trout will be ready to spawn for the first time, contributing their progeny to the Great Lakes lake trout rehabilitation effort.



-USFWS

These young lake trout will be used as a source of eggs for the lake trout rehabilitation program when they reach sexual maturity at age four or five.

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

Schacte Creek Fish Relocation

BY FRANK STONE, ASHLAND FWCO

Frank Stone of the Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) provided technical assistance to the staff of the Iron River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) to remove (via back pack shocking) wild trout from Schacte Creek. This collection effort primarily targeted brook trout found within a three-quarter mile section of the creek upstream of the NFH. As a result of this effort, 110 brook trout were collected and safely transferred below the hatchery's first intake structure.

Schacte Creek is the primary source of water for the hatchery, thus it's imperative to maintain wild fish stocks to a minimum to reduce the potential for transferring fish diseases to the hatchery's production fish.

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

Learning to Locate and Identify the Galerucella Beetle - Purple Loosestrife Beware!

BY HEATHER RAWLINGS, ALPENA FWCO

Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) biologists Anjanette Bowen and Heather Rawlings participated in a *Galerucella* beetle collection workshop sponsored by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in Petoskey, Mich., on June 4. The workshop was held at a wetland that had been inun-



-USFWS

Galerucella beetles feed on purple loosestrife plants and are being used as a biological control of this invasive species.

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

AIS Surveillance on the Illinois River

BY ANJANETTE BOWEN, ALPENA FWCO

Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) was one of many offices that assisted the La Crosse FWCO with an annual Asian carp and round goby surveillance survey on the Illinois River from June 16-19. The goal of the survey was to determine the extent of the range and the relative abundance of Asian carp (bighead and silver carp) and round goby within the Illinois Waterway. These

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

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.

dated by invasive purple loosestrife and was treated four years ago with a biological control agent, the *Galerucella*

beetle (beetle). The beetle is now well-established on the site, and control of the purple loosestrife (loosestrife) is obvious. Loosestrife is an invasive perennial plant of European origin that forms dense monotypic stands that invade and degrade wetland habitat, out-competing native vegetation. Beetles were collected in a beetle trap made from a 2-liter plastic bottle. All participants were encouraged to collect at least 50 beetles, and transfer them as soon as possible to a new site infested with loosestrife. Bowen and Rawlings collected the allotted number of beetles and transferred them to an infestation site in Cheboygan County that was threatening to expand into some wetlands that were recently restored by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

Alpena FWCO biologists are now able to identify and collect beetles that can easily be used to treat local infestations of loosestrife. Local “seed” populations of the *Galerucella* beetle have also been identified. This knowledge provides Alpena biologists with another tool to fight infestations of invasive species.

species are aquatic invasive species (AIS) and are thought to compete with native fish for food and habitat. The La Crosse FWCO initiated the survey in 1995. Many state, Federal and community agencies cooperate on this project, which involves angling, trapping and gillnetting along 200 miles of the Illinois Waterway. Alpena FWCO has assisted with the survey since 1997.

Elementary Schools Complete First Ever Outdoor Classroom Days Curriculum at Jordan River NFH

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

In partnership with Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH), Mancelona Elementary School provided every grade and every class with a new learning opportunity this spring. The idea started after biologist Tim Smigielski, and public outreach coordinator with the hatchery, was inspired at a



-USFWS

Students participate in the outdoor classroom days curriculum at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.

couple of excellent conferences he had attended. Tim had already been working with Mancelona schools on several other outreach and public use projects. He presented a plan to begin a program using the hatchery grounds and the hatchery facility as an outdoor classroom. Tim explained, "The short term plan was to get teachers to experience a different learning environment with their students. We just wanted them to try it."

This year, with the support of principle Trent Naumcheff, the initial pilot was undertaken. A small

committee of teaching staff and hatchery staff planned the class curriculum for each grade, integrating some grade specific benchmarks. Teachers Mark Challis and Chandra

LaPointe were instrumental in promoting the outdoor learning days for the elementary school. Tim said that the long term plan is to develop a program where Outdoor Classroom is held one day a week at the hatchery by various local schools with a full time environmental education instructor on-site. Trent Naumcheff participated during the 4th grade Outdoor Classroom day and said, "The response by the students and the teachers was very positive - we'll begin planning and development for next year early this fall."

Participating teaching staff will be trained and encouraged to teach their "lessons" out-of-doors. Art, English, reading, physical education, social studies, and yes science too, all in an outdoor environment - the ultimate classroom! Early this fall, the elementary school will begin construction of a school yard habitat on the school grounds. This project will not only benefit our natural resources but will provide a daily opportunity to learn, in a natural place, right outside their door. Outdoor Classroom days were also held at Jordan River NFH this spring by Concord Montessori School, again with great support and success!

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

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

Quality Fishing Opportunities at Fort McCoy

BY JAMES LUOMA, GENOA NFH

The beautiful landscape around Sparta, Wis., captured the imagination of Robert Bruce McCoy. McCoy was born the son of a Civil War captain on Sept. 5, 1867 in Kenosha, Wis., McCoy's military career began in 1895 and he reached the rank of general and had a distinguished career including duty during the Spanish-American war, the police action in



-USFWS

Genoa National Fish Hatchery stocks rainbow trout in Fort McCoy lakes, which provides a recreational fishery for over 2,000 fishermen annually.

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

Desoto Refuge Fest is a Success in 2009

BY MARK CORIO AND BRIAN ELKINGTON, COLUMBIA FWCO

On June 7th, Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office's (FWCO) Brian Elkington and Mark Corio took part in Refuge Fest at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Refuge Fest, initially started in 2001 to encourage fishing at DeSoto Lake, is a great opportunity for outreach and education. Working together with the DeSoto NWR staff, Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, American Family Insurance and many more organizations made this event a

Mexico and in World War 1. McCoy purchased 4,000 acres near Sparta, Wis., after the Spanish-American war which he envisioned as an artillery range for training soldiers. From these beginnings, the long and rich history of Fort McCoy began and today the fort encompasses 60,000 acres including 12 lakes and over 1,200 buildings. Over 127,000 personnel were trained here in 2008 alone.

For many years, the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) has entered into a cooperative agreement with Fort McCoy to provide thousands of ten inch trout for stocking into six lakes managed by the base, in order to provide quality recreational fishing opportunities for our service men and women, their families as well as the general public. This program is ultimately funded through annual sales of Fort McCoy fishing permits.

In 2008, a creel survey indicated that 70 percent of the anglers fishing the six lakes stocked with trout were specifically fishing for those fish. In total, approximately 3,000 anglers purchased annual fish permits for the base and they fished approximately 49,000 angler user days.

The quality of the rainbow trout provided to Fort McCoy from the Genoa NFH greatly enhances the recreational fishing opportunities on the base as shown by the data collected from creel surveys. Genoa NFH takes pride in providing these opportunities for our service members as well as the general public, and the hatchery hopes to continue this cooperative effort for many years to come.

huge success. Bass Pro Shops and Tracker Boats provided educational excursions and clinics ranging from archery to boating and fishing. They also donated prizes for the carp fishing contest. In addition, Raptor Recovery Nebraska offered the chance to see and learn about raptors from the region. *Friends of Boyer Chute and DeSoto NWR* provided concession stands and live music.

This event is held annually the first Saturday in June. Refuge Fest is a great opportunity to talk to

the public about what we do. We displayed sampling nets, a measuring board and scale, and *Lowweza*, our electrofishing boat. Live fish were also displayed for adults and children alike to handle. There were many flyers and handouts, as well as a fish identification puzzle for the public to enjoy. We also discussed the plight of the pallid sturgeon and recovery efforts. New this year at Refuge Fest was the use of an attendance card which is initialed at each of the stations that participants visit, in order to be entered for a drawing at the end of the day. Even with more stations than signatures required, the attendance at the electrofishing boat was high enough that the presenters barely had enough time to get away and grab lunch.

There was an excellent turnout of participants at the 9th annual Refuge Fest. It was a beautiful day and a fun time was had by all! The Columbia FWCO looks forward to participating in this event for years to come.

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

Presentation at Wilson School

BY ADAM KOWALSKI, ALPENA FWCO

Biologists Adam Kowalski and Heather Rawlings talked to 2nd grade students at Wilson Elementary School in Alpena, Mich. They discussed the food chain in general and the feeding habits of many different animals. Kowalski then talked about the specific feeding habits of black bears to prepare students to play an animal habitat game. The game consisted of several different colors of paper spread over a large area representing different food items, water, space and shelter. The students became black bears having to forage (collect different colored pieces of paper), and each student had to collect 80 lbs of food to survive in the game; however, there was not enough food (paper) for all the bears (students) to survive. The game helped students understand the importance of quality habitat for the survival of animals. Educational sessions like this help connect children with nature by describing animals that students may see in their local area and helping students understand animal behaviors.

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



-USFWS/MarkCorio

Brian Elkington of the Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office displays a flathead catfish to awe-inspired 2009 Refuge Fest onlookers at the Desoto National Wildlife Refuge.



-USFWS/HeatherRawlings

Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office biologist Adam Kowalski teaches Wilson Elementary students about animals through games that mimic animal behavior.

Fish Transfer for Kids Fishing Day Activities

BY FRANK STONE, ASHLAND FWCO

Do you remember your first fishing or boating trip? Ask anyone to tell the story of who first took them boating or fishing - chances are

good the story is deeply personal and meaningful.

Biologist Frank Stone of the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO)

conducted a day of boat electrofishing to help transfer largemouth bass and assorted pan fish for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC). In previous years, this fish transfer to Lighthouse Pond had been a big success during the KBIC Annual Kids Fishing Day. The small pond is located adjacent to the tribal Pow Wow grounds and serves as a great location to add a fun day of fishing to all the other activities associated with this very special event.

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.



-KBIC/GeneMensch

Biologist Frank Stone of the Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office completes a transfer of fish for National Fishing Day activities at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

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

So why should we take a child fishing?

- More than 44 million Americans six years of age and older enjoy fishing every year.
- An average angler spends \$1,046 every year on the sport.
- Americans fish 557 million days per year.
- Hunters and anglers support more jobs nationwide than the number of people employed by Wal-Mart.
- Through license sales and excise taxes on equipment, hunters and anglers pay for most fish and wildlife conservation programs.
- Anglers and boaters have paid \$3.6 billion in excise taxes since 1952.
- Recreational anglers spend a staggering \$41.5 billion a year to fish.
- Anglers spend almost \$300 million a year just on ice and more than \$1 billion a year on bait alone.

Lake Sturgeon Research Presented at Lake Erie Metropark

BY JIM BOASE, ALPENA FWCO

Biologist James Boase traveled to Brownstown, Mich., to present information about lake sturgeon rehabilitation efforts taking place in the Detroit River near Lake Erie Metropark. Approximately 25 visitors attended the 45 minute presentation, which introduced the various fish, plants and invertebrates found in the river near the park and gear used to sample them.

The informal presentation allowed the audience to participate throughout the talk by asking questions and sharing their fishing experiences from southeast Michigan. Questions focused not only on lake sturgeon but also on how rehabilitation efforts will enhance the abundance of other species. Questions were also asked about invasive species and health risks associated with fish consumption. The forum was an excellent opportunity to explain how Alpena FWCO is working with other Metropark biologists, recreational anglers and commercial fishers from both Canada and the United States on efforts to better understand and enhance fish populations throughout the Great lakes. In addition, the meeting provided an opportunity to

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

Another Tag Station on the Lake Superior Shoreline

BY GLENN MILLER, ASHLAND FWCO

The Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) has installed another passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag station for gathering information on coaster brook trout populations of Lake Superior. The new station is located on Miners River located near Munising, Mich., and is part of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (PIRO).

Frank Stone and Glenn Miller traveled to PIRO in early June and with the help of PIRO staff Sara Malick, April Chiraboga and Meg Hahr, the station was installed on Miners River approximately 200 yards upstream of Lake Superior. The station consists of two antennas placed in the river which will

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

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.

interact with interested citizens from southeast Michigan and explain the vital role they play in the rehabilitation of lake sturgeon.

Lake Erie Metropark is located at the mouth of the Detroit River and features over 1,600 acres of land. It lies within the boundaries of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and has over three miles of coastal marsh along Lake Erie. To help promote fishing, Metropark staff provides the use of free fishing poles, which are available at the Marshland Museum. Housed within the Marshland Museum is a 1,300 gallon aquarium showcasing regional fish species and a large cutaway model of a six foot long lake sturgeon depicting the biology of the fish. Since 2004, Metropark staff has worked with Fish and Wildlife Service biologists to conduct a number of assessment projects on the Detroit River and continue, to be a valuable partner us.

record any PIT tagged fish going through the antennae field. The tag information is then relayed to a data logger, recording the individual tags. This station's energy is maintained entirely by solar power as this area is very remote.

The Ashland FWCO will be spending time this summer conducting electrofishing surveys to try to capture any brook trout in Miners River and outfit them with PIT tags, along with other trout species that are encountered. Natural resources staff of PIRO will be downloading the data logger and supplying this information to the FWCO.

Mullett Creek Road Crossing Inventory

BY HEATHER RAWLINGS, ALPENA FWCO

Biologists Andrea Ania and Heather Rawlings completed a road crossing inventory of the Mullett Creek watershed on May 12-13 in Cheboygan County, Mich. A standardized inventory of the road crossings was conducted, which allows the Mullett Creek watershed sites to be compared to other northern Michigan watershed inventories. Although this is a small watershed, it is an important tributary to Mullett Lake, a large inland lake that supports a coldwater fishery with brook trout as the dominant fish species. Land use practices, primarily agriculture, have degraded this small watershed through the years and caused sediment



-USFWS

Biologist Andrea Ania inventories the Mullett Creek watershed. Watershed inventories are used to prioritize habitat restoration projects.

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

Sampling at Dalbey Bottoms on the Lower Missouri River

BY ADAM MCDANIEL AND CLAYTON RIDENOUR, COLUMBIA FWCO

Dalbey Bottoms is located on the Missouri River between northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas near river mile (RM) 417. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) proposed to build a side channel chute as part of the Missouri River Recovery Plan to restore habitat for Federally endangered pallid sturgeon. Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) and the Corps are cooperating to study Missouri River habitat at Dalbey Bottoms before and after construction to assess the ecological impact of the constructed chute on pallid sturgeon and other native Missouri River fishes.

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

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.

and other contaminants to load into the system. The system is small enough that any improvements made to the watershed, such as opening fish passage, placing larger culverts and curbing sediment can have a big impact on the entire fishery. Mr. Perry Smeltzer (Natural Resource Conservation Service) brought this watershed to our attention and the attention of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources several years ago.

Fifteen road/stream crossing sites were surveyed and scored. Six of the sites ranked "Severe" due to the excessive amount of sediment they are contributing to the watershed, along with other factors such as fish passage, structure condition, road condition and in-stream erosion conditions. This data will be shared with resource agency partners and will be added to a larger database housed by Huron Pines that contains information about all northeastern Michigan watersheds.

Biologists from Columbia FWCO completed the first round of sampling at Dalbey during the last week of June. Despite several weeks of high water, we captured over 450 fish, 38 of which were young-of-the-year sturgeon. Construction of the chute is scheduled for the winter of 2009, but we plan to return for several sampling trips to complete pre-construction monitoring this summer and autumn. This cooperative effort provides an avenue to apply adaptive management and supports the Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation program.

Career Fair held at Schoolcraft Community College

BY JIM BOASE, ALPENA FWCO

Biologist James Boase was invited to present information at the Annual Career Fair held at Schoolcraft Community College in Livonia, Mich. The fair was attended by over 500 local high school students and their parents from the surrounding metropolitan area. Students attending the fair were given the opportunity to talk with individuals representing over 36 career disciplines. Boase along with partners from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Department of Agriculture were on hand to address questions for young adults embarking on careers in natural resources. The Career Fair ran for approximately two hours, and at the top of each hour,

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

Boase gave a presentation followed by a question and answer session. Information was provided about career paths within the Fish and Wildlife Service along with other federal and state agencies and college programs available that would get young adults on the path to those careers.

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.

Columbia FWCO Field Crew become First Responders

BY ANDY STAROSTKA, COLUMBIA FWCO

As part of required and continuing training, Fish and Wildlife Service personnel must be certified in first aid and CPR. Though these skills are hopefully seldom needed, we are prepared to use these skills should an emergency event occur. These skills were recently put to the test for one of Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) field crews.

While traveling to Atchison, Kan., to conduct field work on the Missouri River, field crews were first to arrive at a single car accident. The vehicle had failed to negotiate a tight corner and was involved in a head on collision with a concrete bridge rail. The collision totaled the full-sized pickup deploying the airbags and caused non-life threatening injuries to both the occupants. Assistance consisted of surveying the accident site for other potential hazards and providing first aid for a suspected broken arm and a broken nose. Due to the traumatic nature of the event, mental support for the distressed individuals was also an important role for the first responders until other help arrived on the scene.

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

To ensure necessary first aid supplies and equipment are always on hand, Columbia FWCO with assistance from Boone County emergency medical technicians assembled advanced first aid kits. These kits are housed in orange Pelican cases that are waterproof and durable enough that they can be taken with field crews on the road, in the field and on rivers while performing assigned duties at all times. Our Missouri River crews are frequently located more than an hour from the closest boat ramp; in the case of a medical emergency we need these kits to care for our staff. These kits provided all the needed items for this situation in one organized location.

Safety and the wellness of both employees and the public is an important role for all in the Fish and Wildlife Service. This incident provides evidence that crews are willing, as well as have, the training and resources available to render assistance when called upon.

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.

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

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.

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

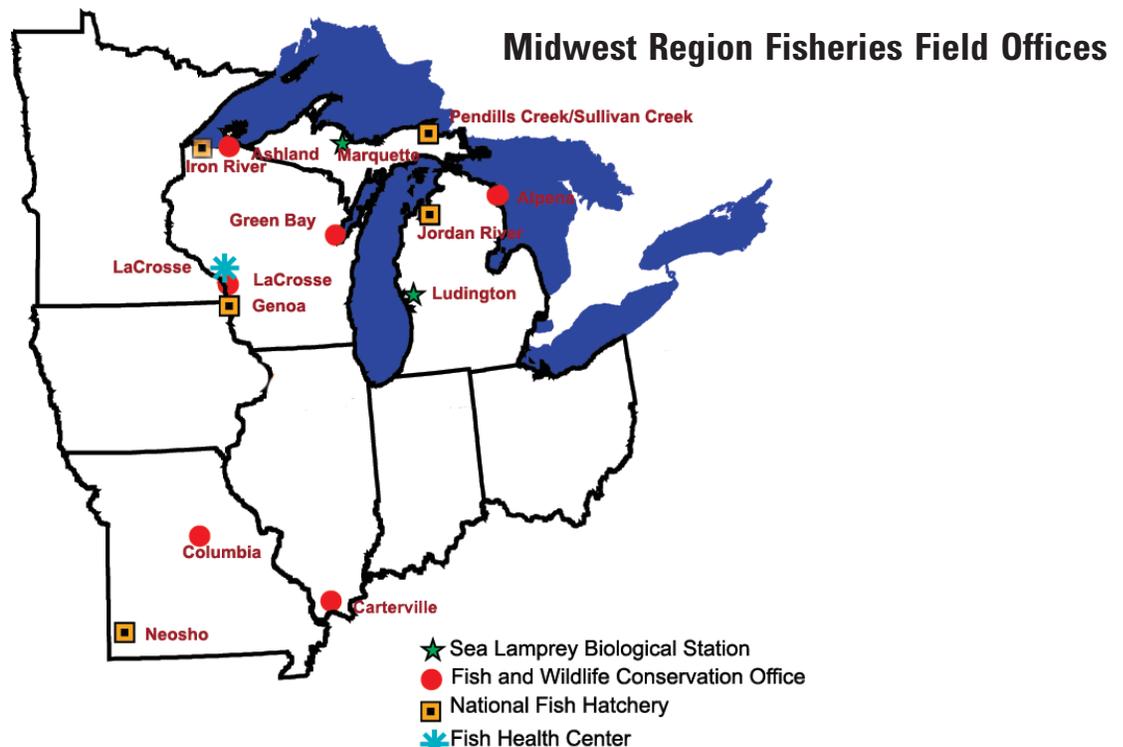
technical expertise to other Service programs addressing contaminants, endangered species, federal project review and hydro-power operation and relicensing; evaluate and manage fisheries on Service lands; and, provide technical support to 38 Native American tribal governments and treaty authorities.

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.



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608/783-8431
Area of Responsibility (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin)

Fish Tails

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

Partnerships and Accountability

- [Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Website Updated](#)
 - Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FWCO

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- [Genoa National Fish Hatchery Finishes Salmonid Vaccinations](#)
 - Nick Starzl, Genoa NFH
- [Next Year's Production Fish Arrive](#)
 - Crystal LeGault-Anderson, Sullivan Creek NFH
- [Pendills Creek NFH Empties Out!](#)
 - Robert Deems, Pendills Creek NFH

Aquatic Invasive Species

Public Use

- [Adventurers Club Learns about the Missouri River](#)
 - Brian Elkington and Adam McDaniel, Columbia FWCO
- [Alpena FWCO Assists Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary with Ground Water Display](#)
 - Adam Kowalski, Alpena FWCO
- [Biologists Facilitate 2nd Graders Annual Field Trip](#)
 - Andrea Ania, Alpena FWCO
- [Boy Scout Troop 4 meet fish of the Big Muddy](#)
 - Andy Starostk, Columbia FWCO
- [Columbia Getting a Jump on 2010 W.O.W.](#)
 - Cliff Wilson and Wyatt Doyle, Columbia FWCO
- [Fishery Education Provided for Students at Camp Chickagami](#)
 - Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FWCO
- [Genoa National Fish Hatchery Puts on Summer Education Program for the Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library, Iowa](#)
 - Tony Brady, Genoa NFH
- [Students from Livonia Stevenson and Clarenceville High Schools Learn About Careers in Fisheries](#)
 - Jim Boase, Alpena FWCO

Cooperation with Native Americans

- [Alpena FWCO Repairs Gillnets](#)
 - Adam Kowalski, Alpena FWCO

Leadership in Science and Technology

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Workforce Management

- [Alpena FWCO Biologist Graduates from MOICC Class](#)
 - Scott Koproski, Alpena FWCO
- [Columbia FWCO adds another MOCC Instructor](#)
 - Andy Starostka, Columbia FWCO
- [Columbia FWCO Welcomes a new Biological Science Technician](#)
 - Darlena Oberkirsch, Columbia FWCO
- [Columbia FWCO Welcomes CARE Student Employees](#)
 - Staff, Columbia FWCO
- [Four New Staff Members at the Ashland NFWCO](#)
 - Frank Stone, Alpena FWCO
- [Stepping into a Summer Job at the Genoa Hatchery](#)
 - Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH



-USFWS/Dorance Brege

Lori Criger collects water samples during a lampricide treatment on the Pine River.

Treatments for invasive sea lampreys were completed on the Pine, Nemadji, Arrowhead, Black and Crow rivers and Deadhorse and Hog Island creeks by the Marquette, Mich., treatment teams.