



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

Information from the Accomplishment Reporting System for May 31 - June 30, 2002

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National Fishing Week Events Attract Visitors and Highlight Fishing Opportunities

Field Stations Across the Region Help Kids Learn About Fishing

12th Annual Youth Fishing Day at Minnesota Valley Refuge

Culminating weeks of coordination and planning, the staff at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, their volunteers, numerous partners and Regional Office staff conducted a very successful Youth Fishing Day at the bass ponds area of the refuge. This was the 12th time the refuge and its partners have conducted this event.

More than 150 kids from the inner cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul participated in the morning event which included instruction on fishing techniques, education about fishery conservation efforts and time actually spent fishing. In addition, the kids and volunteer staff were treated to a lunch provided by the Red Lake Nation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

All of these kids were provided a new fishing rod and tackle as part of this event. *Rick Schultz, Minnesota Valley NWR*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uses National Fishing Week, June 2 - 8, as an opportunity to partner with other organizations to highlight fishing opportunities on national wildlife refuges and other public lands.

In particular, the Service tries to provide opportunities to kids who may not have many opportunities to experience fishing or learn about fish and wildlife conservation.



- USFWS photo by Abby Rodriguez

More than 150 kids and adults participated in the 12th annual youth fishing day event held at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The event is designed to give kids exposure to fishing and learn about fish and wildlife conservation.

Big Muddy Refuge Teams with Big Brothers/Big Sisters to Take Kids Fishing

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Boone County teamed up to take some kids for a day of fishing out in the countryside.

It was a special day for the kids as many of them had little exposure to fishing. The event was held at Arrow Rock State Historic Site in Arrow Rock, Mo., and celebrated Free Fishing Day and National Fishing Week. This site is located adjacent to the Jameson Island unit of the refuge.

The event was co-sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, Bass Pro Shops, Friends of Big Muddy, Friends of Arrow Rock, Wal-Mart, Tombstone Tackle and Reids Charter Service. Everyone caught fish and had a spectacular time. *Tim Haller, Big Muddy NFWR*



- USFWS photo

Biological Science Aid Jessica Lee (left) and graduate biology student Jack Finley help a young fisherman bait his hook during Kids Fish Day.



- USFWS photo

Shiawassee Sponsors Kids' Free Fishing Day

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and many other partners sponsored Kids' Free Fishing Day on Saturday, June 8, 2002.

Four hundred fifty children between the ages of three and 15 registered for the fishing contest. Each child received small prizes from the refuge when he or she registered.

Children had a chance to win a variety of prizes in three different age categories.

Big fish were plentiful for the 450 children who participated in Shiawassee NWR's Free Fishing Day. Nearly 100 prizes, including bicycles, fishing poles and toys, were awarded to children in three different age categories.

Prizes included bicycles, rods and reels, tackle boxes and toys. Meijer Stores, Inc., of Saginaw, Mich., and the Saginaw Field and Stream Club donated nearly 100 prizes. State Representative Carl Williams helped hand out prizes. The Sons of Italy provided free sno-cones, popcorn, cookies and orange drink to the participants.

The Saginaw Children's Zoo provided a live animal program before the winners were announced. Other sponsors of this event included the City of Saginaw, Midland Division Fishing Club, the Saginaw News, Saginaw County Sheriff's Posse, Dick's Sporting Goods, 7-Eleven Stores, GKC Cinemas and Mobile Medical Response. Forty volunteers helped the day of the event. *Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*

Indiana Bat Colony to Receive Habitat Protection During Airport Development, Road Construction

A colony of endangered Indiana bats will receive habitat protection during road construction, development and expansion projects at the Indianapolis International Airport under a plan unveiled June 24 by state and local officials and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Indiana bat Habitat Conservation Plan will provide long-term conservation for the Indiana bat and will allow for airport expansion, commercial development and road construction in wooded areas where Indiana bats roost and search for food. The plan provides for restoration of additional forested areas bats need to survive and permanent protection for key blocks of bat habitat.

Developed by an Interagency Task Force and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the plan includes permanent protection of 373 acres of existing bat habitat; planting and protection of 346 additional acres of hardwood trees used by Indiana bats; monitoring the Indiana bat population in the project area for 15 years; monitoring of plantings for five years; and, public education and outreach.

In return for developing the plan, the Fish and Wildlife Service has issued an "incidental take" permit for take of Indiana bats that will occur as the result of the airport expansion activities. The Endangered Species Act prohibits the "take" of - harming, harassing, or killing - a listed species but allows incidental take as long as a Habitat Conservation Plan is in place that will provide long-term conservation for the affected species.

"What could have been the proverbial train wreck -- a clash between progress and conservation of endangered species -- is instead a remarkable example of partners searching for ways to achieve vastly different goals," said William Hartwig, director of the Service's Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region. "I commend the Interagency Task Force for their



- USFWS photo by Andy King

A colony of Indiana bats roost on Indianapolis International Airport property. The habitat conservation plan will allow the airport to complete expansions while protecting bat habitat.

creativity, flexibility, and for their commitment to make this habitat plan a reality."

Female Indiana bats roost with their young in large trees and hunt for insects in forested areas. A maternity colony of about 150 female bats and their young roost on and near Indianapolis International Airport land each summer. Planned airport expansion will impact a wooded area used by a summer maternity colony of Indiana bats.

Indiana bats still occur in areas of their former range, but their numbers have declined significantly and are still dropping. The total Indiana bat population is now estimated at about 380,000 - a 60 percent decline since the 1960s. It is believed that modification and disturbance of their hibernation caves and loss of summer habitat have contributed to their decline, although other factors, such as pesticide use, are also under investigation.

"Although many of us may never see an Indiana bat, these shy, gentle creatures have a fascinating life

history and play a critical role in the human environment," Hartwig said. "Measures like the Habitat Conservation Plan can help us keep this species from extinction while ensuring that needed development proceeds."

Indiana bats are named for the state in which they were first identified. Indiana bats measure about 10 inches from wingtip to wingtip and like other bats, are voracious consumers of insects, eating about half their weight in mosquitoes and other flying insects nightly. Indiana bats breed in the fall before entering caves to hibernate. Females emerge in the spring and return to the same summer habitat each year, often to the same tree. Groups of up to 100 or more females form colonies under the bark of large dead or dying trees. Indiana bats are known to return to the same caves each year for winter hibernation. *Georgia Parham, External Affairs and Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO*

Potential Threats from Invasive Species Loom Big in the Future

A coalition of environmental professionals took to their boats recently to evaluate the extent of infestation in regional waters by some of the Midwest's most notorious invasive species.

The seventh annual Goby Round Up was held June 18-21, in a 100-mile stretch of the Illinois Waterway, from Blue Island to Spring Valley. This surveillance effort involved 13 boats and more than 40 staff members and volunteers from nine state, regional, federal and environmental entities.

The objective of this year's monitoring was expanded. In addition to determining the relative abundance and downstream leading edge of the round goby, the upstream distribution of the invasive silver and big-head carp was also monitored.

The round goby, a non-native fish from the Black and Caspian seas, was first discovered in North American waters in 1990, and has since spread to all of the Great Lakes. The



- USFWS photo

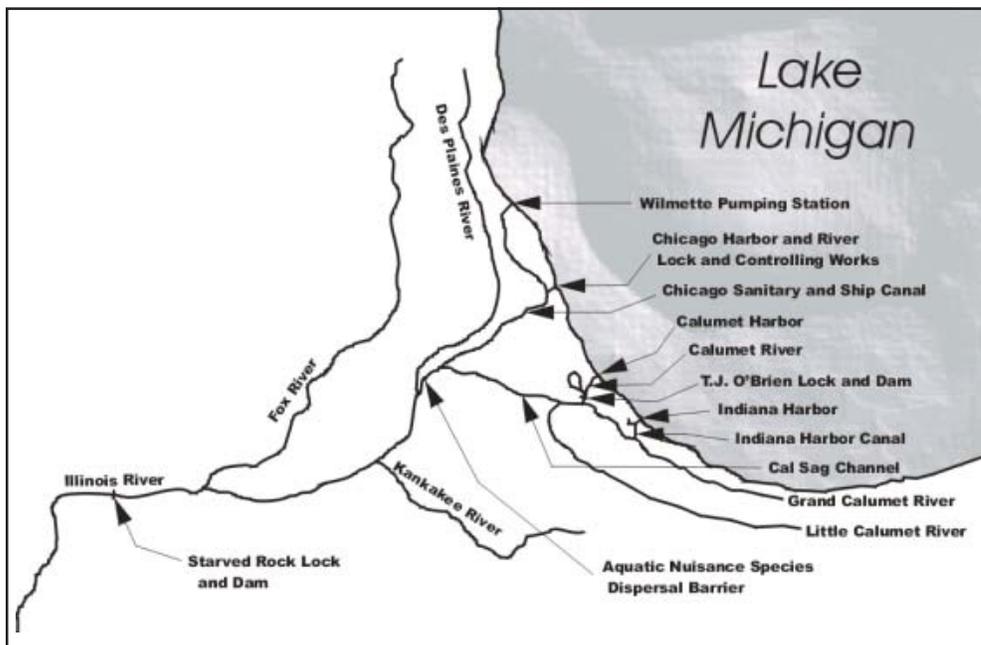
The round goby has been moving inland from Lake Michigan toward the Mississippi River basin via the Illinois Waterway System since 1993.

exotic round goby is a bottom-feeding species known for its aggressive feeding and defensive behavior, and prolific reproductive rate. These

traits make them a threat to native fish and a nuisance to anglers.

The goby has been moving inland from Lake Michigan toward the Mississippi River basin via the Illinois Waterway System since 1993. The farthest downstream verified specimen of a round goby, to date, is just below the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet. This collection places them about 50 miles from Calumet Harbor on Lake Michigan, 11 miles below the electrical dispersal barrier near Romeoville, and approximately 15 percent down the length of the Illinois Waterway on its way to the Mississippi River. Gobies were not found any further downstream last week, but their numbers are increasing.

Bighead and silver carp are native to large rivers of Asia, were brought to Arkansas by private fish farmers in the early 1970s, and started appearing in public waterways in the early 1980s. These species are plankton feeders, eating microscopic



Engineers reversed the flow of the Chicago River in the late 1800s by creating the 28 mile long Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Due to this, the Mississippi River and Great Lakes ecosystems are connected by a series of channels, allowing aquatic species to move freely between the two systems. In April, an electrical barrier was installed to hopefully slow the movement of invasive aquatic species between the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan.

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Potential Threats from Invasive Species Loom Big in the Future

plants and animals, and can reach weights of over 80 pounds. They are in direct competition for food with paddlefish, bigmouth buffalo, gizzard shad, larval and juvenile fish, and mussels.

“They have become extremely abundant in stretches of the upper Mississippi and lower Illinois rivers,” said Dr. John Chick of the Illinois Natural History Survey. “Silver and bighead carp, in addition to upsetting the natural balance of ecosystems, can cause problems for boaters and other recreational users because they can actually jump out of the water and into your boat.”

During last year’s Goby Round Up, bighead carp were collected near La Salle-Peru, Illinois. This collection represented the most upstream record for the species in the Illinois River and placed them 100 miles from Lake Michigan. Since then, the Illinois DNR has recorded the species in the Marseilles and Morris area. This puts them about 25 miles below the electrical barrier and 55 miles from Lake Michigan.

The Illinois Waterway System in the Chicago area consists of several interconnecting channels and natural rivers that provide a direct link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin for non-native species to travel in either direction.

The Mississippi River Basin is the largest in North America and the Great Lakes Basin contains 20 percent of the earth’s fresh water; and together these huge basins encompass portions of 30 states and two Canadian province’s. Therefore, the potential economic and environmental impact of the round goby, Asian carp, and other invasive species could be widespread and significant.

Dr. Hugh MacIsaac from the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research at the University of Windsor



- Photo courtesy University of Guelph

Big head carp can grow to more than 80 pounds and directly compete for food with paddlefish, bigmouth buffalo, gizzard shad, larval and juvenile fish, and mussels.

voiced concern by saying, “Invasive species like Asian carp and round goby have the real potential to cause long-term damage. These species are receiving attention because increasing populations could seriously impact sport and commercial fishing in the two large ecosystems of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.”

In order to prevent and slow the spread of nonindigenous aquatic species throughout the Mississippi and Great Lakes basins, the Nonindigenous Species Act of 1996 authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study and determine the feasibility of an aquatic nuisance species barrier as a demonstration project. An interagency advisory panel was assembled and recommended a full-water column electrical barrier as the most practical first step for slowing the spread of fish between the two basins. Construction of the barrier, located in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal near Romeoville, is completed and became operational in April 2002.

Asian carp upstream movement could be slowed by this electrical dispersal barrier. With the fate of the Great Lakes fishery at risk, there are elevated incentives to add additional components to the barrier to make it even more effective, since Asian carp have yet to be collected above the barrier. The Illinois Natural History Survey will be evaluating the effectiveness of the barrier this fall and conducting laboratory experiments on how to best tweak the electric barrier to repel Asian carp moving upstream. This prototype barrier is a short-term remedy, but other feasible, long-term alternatives need to be explored.

According to Pam Thiel, project leader for the Service’s La Crosse Fishery Resource Office and coordinator of the Round Up, “Preventing a non-native species from becoming established in a new area is always the best approach to maintaining healthy ecosystems.” *Pam Thiel, LaCrosse FRO, Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO and Jerry L. Rasmussen, Rock Island FO*

Natural Resources Damage Assessment Settlement for Fox River Announced

Settlement Will Provide Restoration and Recreation Projects

The natural resource trustees for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay announced a proposed settlement with the Fort James Operating Company, a subsidiary of the Georgia-Pacific Corporation, for injury to the environment caused by widespread contamination of the Fox River and Green Bay by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) released from their papermaking operations.

The trustees are the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The basis for this agreement, reached through the cooperative effort of the trustees and the Wisconsin and U.S. Departments of Justice, is for restoration and recreation projects on or adjacent to the Fox River and Green Bay. The selected projects were chosen from a comprehensive list created by the trustees working with local communities,



- USFWS photo by Colette Charbonneau

Trustee representatives attending the announcement included: (front to rear) Oneida Tribal Chair Gerald Danforth, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Northeast Region Director Ron Kazmierczak, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Darrell Bazzell and FWS Region 3 Director Bill Hartwig.



- USFWS photo by Colette Charbonneau

Regional Director Bill Hartwig speaks at a press conference, held June 20, along the Fox River to announce the Natural Resources Damage Assessment settlement.

organizations and individuals over the past several years. The projects being addressed in this settlement represent the priority requests sought by the communities with the trustees acting to facilitate funding by Georgia-Pacific.

The settlement provides for the acquisition of 1,063 acres of ecologically significant threatened habitat on the west shore of Green Bay. The property provides habitat for red-shouldered hawks, osprey, beaver and other species, foraging territory for bald eagles, northern harriers, Forster's terns and common terns. The waterways contained in these acquisitions provide spawning areas for northern pike and forage fish, and nursery areas for fish, waterbirds and shorebirds.

Specific habitat restoration projects include: the local share of

reconstruction of the Cat Island Chain; yellow perch restoration investigations; a spotted musky restoration project; and, northern pike habitat restoration projects.

The trustees also identified 11 recreational projects that will be implemented as a result of this settlement.

William Hartwig, Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said, "This final settlement, with projects such as the Cat Island restoration, will provide tremendous benefits to the fish and wildlife resources, as well as the citizens, of the Lower Fox River and Green Bay. The settlement is a great illustration of how partners, working together for a common purpose, can achieve their goals."

Colette Charbonneau, Green Bay FO

Service Helps Restore Apostle Islands' Oak Island Sandscape

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (AINLS) includes 21 islands in Lake Superior with a diverse collection of sandscapes or coastal features (sand spits, cusped forelands, tombolos and barrier spits). Most dune environments throughout the Great Lakes have been heavily impacted by recreation and development. While most coastal features in AINLS retain a high degree of their ecological integrity, the Oak Island sandscape is one of the most impacted and threatened.

Ten years of monitoring data revealed a steady decline in native vegetation and an increase in exotic species. The Oak Island Sandscape Restoration Project is funded in part through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Coastal Program with technical assistance from the Ashland Fishery Resources Office. The project is in the process of restoring the ecological integrity of the Oak Island sandscape and will provide restoration protocols to be used in other efforts within or outside the park.

In 2000, National Park Service biologists and the Natural Resources Conservation Service collected

remnant native species from the site and have propagated these plant materials at NRCS's Rose Lake Plant Materials Center. A few test plots were planted in 2001 in order to monitor planting techniques and success. Revegetation of target areas has begun this field season

in conjunction with aggressive invasive species control. During a one week period this spring, AINLS, NRCS and Ashland FRO staff, with assistance from a Northland College biology class, planted hundreds of native plants and performed invasive species control.

A monitoring program has been established and is being carried out by AINLS staff. Construction of boardwalks to direct visitor traffic



- USFWS Photo

This restoration project on Oak Island will help restore the ecological integrity of this islands unique sandscape. Pictured from left to right are: Ted Koehler - USFWS, Julie VanStappen - NPS, Tony Bush - NRCS and Northland College students working at the restoration site.

and active visitor information are also in place and will help protect and maintain the restoration.

The Great Lakes Coastal Program and Ashland FRO are proud to be partners in this important on the ground restoration effort which will benefit the area's native habitat and wildlife. *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*

Experience Works at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge



- USFWS photo

Experience Works volunteers receive a recognition award from the program's director.

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge has teamed with Experience Works (formerly Green Thumb) since the refuge's establishment in 1966.

Currently three volunteers donate 20 hours per week, year round, to help the refuge with a wide variety of tasks and they are also helping the refuge to prepare for the upcoming Centennial celebration

Pam Fox, Director of Indiana

Experience Works Inc., recently visited Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge to recognize their Experience Works volunteers and celebrate Older Americans Month.

The refuge is truly fortunate to have the high caliber of help that they receive from this program. *Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

Prairie Chicken Numbers on the Increase in Northwestern Minnesota

The Fergus Falls Wetland Management District participates in a prairie chicken census each spring. The mild winter appears to have been favorable to prairie chicken survival and the population has continued to slowly increase over recent years.

Four staff members from the Fergus Falls WMD helped to census prairie chickens south of Hwy. 24 and west of Rothsay, Minn. This is the far southern part of the prairie chicken range in northwestern Minnesota.

The district censuses part of Wilkin County south of Hwy. 24, western Otter Tail County and northern Grant County. Only male prairie chickens are counted on lek sites (dancing grounds) unless a flush count is necessary in tall

grass.

In Wilkin County, 12 leks were observed and 178 birds were counted. In Otter Tail County, six leks were observed and 96 birds were counted. Grant County was included in the census, but no birds were observed. One new lek site was observed in Otter Tail county. Other cooperators include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society. *Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*



- USFWS photo

Surveys completed by the Fergus Falls WMD indicate prairie chicken populations continue to increase in the survey area.

Contract for Replacement of the Lake Trout Stocking Vessel *Togue* Awarded

Fifteen years ago, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired a shrimp trawler that had been confiscated by a drug enforcement agency. The vessel was retrofitted with large fish tanks and began operations in 1989 as a lake trout stocking vessel known as the *Togue*. The name

Togue is derived from a Native American word meaning Lake Trout.

Recent inspections of the *Togue* found it to be significantly degraded and needing replacement.

During the planning stage of the replacement project, beginning in November 2001, considerable re-

search was conducted to familiarize those involved with this unique project regarding ship design and construction. In-house with assistance from the Marine Design Center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the American Bureau of Shipping. An acquisition plan was developed and a formal source selection board, which included fisheries field, regional office and engineering personnel, selected the most highly qualified naval architect for this project.

An indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contract for naval architectural services was awarded on June 7, 2002, to Timothy Graul Marine Design, Inc. of Sturgeon Bay, Wis. The contract's first task order for the conceptual design was awarded on June 10, 2002, for \$74,053. The conceptual design is scheduled for completion in late September 2002. The task order for the final design is scheduled for award in fall 2002, with vessel construction expected to begin in winter of 2003/2004. *Robert Hansen, ABA-CGS*



- USFWS photo

The *Togue* has been stocking lake trout in the Great Lakes since 1989.

search was conducted to familiarize those involved with this unique project regarding ship design and construction.

In January 2002, the Service "Togue Team" determined that the project would be managed

Missouri Cave Fish and Minnesota Butterfly Named Candidates for Endangered Species List

The grotto sculpin, a small fish found only in a few cave streams in southeastern Missouri and the Dakota skipper, a small butterfly found in 15 counties in southwest Minnesota, were listed on June 13 as candidate species for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act. They are among 16 species recently named as candidates for listing under Act and the only two found in Region 3.

Grotto Sculpin

The grotto sculpin, found only in eastern Missouri, has been given a listing priority of 2. The Service assigns a listing priority number between 1 (highest) and 12 (lowest) to each candidate based on the magnitude and immediacy of threats to its continued existence. Those species facing the highest, most immediate threats are given the highest priority for listing. Before a candidate can be listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, the Service must publish a proposal to list, obtain public comment and review all available information before determining whether listing is needed.

About two-and-a-half inches long, the grotto sculpin lives only in five cave streams in Perry County, Mo. Biologists believe that only a few thousand fish make up the entire population. Threats facing the grotto sculpin include degraded water quality in its cave stream habitat. The areas where the grotto sculpin lives are known for their unique 'karst' topography caves, sinkholes and underground streams. Sinkholes are sometimes used as areas to dispose of garbage and trash, with chemicals and other pollutants from this waste contaminating underground water sources. Scientists believe that such pollution has

already eliminated the grotto sculpin from one cave.

Dakota Skipper

The Dakota skipper, found in high-quality remnants of tallgrass and mixed grass prairie in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and two Canadian provinces, has a listing priority number of 11.

Dakota skipper populations have declined due to widespread conversion of native prairie. States and Canadian provinces in the original range of Dakota skipper have each lost from 72 to over 99 percent of their historical tallgrass and mixed-grass prairie. This has left isolated remnants of native prairie within the historic range of the Dakota skipper, only some of which have remained consistently suitable for the species.

Dakota skippers are sensitive to several types of artificial and natural disturbances and are almost always absent from remnant prairies that are overgrazed or otherwise degraded. The isolation of remaining populations and threats to their habitat indicates that further declines are likely. Without the availability of immigrants from nearby, undisturbed prairie, Dakota skippers are likely to disappear permanently when isolated prairie remnants are subjected to untimely and intensive disturbance.

Candidate species are plants and animals which the Service believes



- Photo used by permission

The Dakota Skipper, a butterfly native to northern tallgrass prairies, is one of two species in Region 3 recently named to the Endangered Species Act Candidate List.

meet the criteria for listing under the Endangered Species Act but which have not yet been proposed as endangered or threatened. Candidates are not protected by the Endangered Species Act, but they often become the focus of conservation efforts among resource managers and other partners to address the threats they face.

Due to the habitats of both species, they are likely prospects for candidate conservation agreement, which may prevent the need to list the species under the Endangered Species Act. Such agreements are developed among partners who have interest or management responsibility for candidate species, such as state and federal agencies, private landowners or local governments. The agreements outline measures that can be taken to lessen threats to a species so that it does not need the protection of the Endangered Species Act. *Georgia Parham and Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

Service and Bay Mills Indian Community Conduct Lake Whitefish Survey

From June 17 through June 27, staff from the Alpena Fisheries Resource Office and Bay Mills Indian Community in Brimley, Mich., conducted a lake whitefish survey in 1836 Treaty waters of northern Lake Huron. The goal of the survey was to collect fishery independent population abundance and biological data of whitefish stocks. This data will be used in statistical-catch-at-age population models that are updated annually to determine harvest regulation guidelines for tribal commercial fishers in 1836 Treaty waters.

Good data collection and model development is essential to sound and sustainable management of the lake whitefish resources in northern Lake Huron. The biological data collected will also improve our understanding of the relative health of whitefish stocks in northern Lake Huron.

As dictated in the 2000 Consent Decree -- a 20-year fishery allocation agreement for 1836 Treaty waters signed by Michigan, the United States Government, Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Grand Traverse

Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians -- the Modeling Subcommittee of the Technical Fisheries Committee annually collects data and conducts models to determine whitefish harvest regulations for five management units in northern Lake Huron. Lake whitefish is the central component to the Native American commercial fisheries in 1836 Treaty waters.

Using both Service and Bay Mills research vessels and staff, 22 overnight gill net sets were conducted at randomly selected sites in whitefish management unit 4 (Alpena to Presque Isle) and whitefish management unit 5 (Presque Isle to Hammond Bay). All whitefish collected were measured, weighed, checked for lamprey wounds, sexed and assessed for maturity and visceral fat content. Scale samples were taken from each fish for age determination and stomach contents will be identified and counted by staff the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab in Ann Arbor, Mich.



- USFWS photo

Service fishery biologist survey whitefish populations to collect data that will help determine sustainable harvest quotas for northern Lake Huron.

This study will continue annually and the data collected will be maintained at Alpena FRO and adapted to meet future data collection needs. *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Project Helps Cub Scouts Work Toward Earning Conservation Badge

Cub Scout Pack 549 from Verona, Wis., assisted in dry sand prairie and oak savanna restoration on a Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program project.

The Scouts worked on invasive species removal, interpretive sign construction and garbage clean-up on a remnant dry sand prairie. Midway through their work activities, they took a break and learned about state endangered ornate box turtles, which are endemic to the area.

Bob Hay, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources herpetologist, provided hands-on experience with

live turtles and explained the life history and habitat requirements of turtles.

Their contributions to this project are a step toward earning their Conservation Badge. *Kurt Waterstradt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc.*



- USFWS photo

Cub Scouts learned about ornate box turtles and assisted with a restoration project as part of earning their Conservation Badge.

Region 3 Personnel Learn Open Water Motorboat Safety

The Green Bay Fishery Resources Office coordinated Region 3's first Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC) with the Open Water Module in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., on June 11-14, 2002. This initial course was attended by 10 individuals from Region 3 and instructed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel.

A basic MOCC is required for all Service employees who operate motorboats. Each MOCC is comprised of classroom and on-the-water practical sessions. Several specialized modules have been prepared to equip Service personnel with additional training to perform work assignments including airboats, open water (coastal/Great Lakes) and moving water.

The Open Water Module covers all the basic MOCC information on boat orientation, maintenance, required and recommended equipment, rules of the road, aids to navigation, practical exercises and emergency procedures. This course expands on each topic to include pertinent information for operating in open water areas such as sea anchors, drogues, radar reflectors, life rafts, survival suits, zincs and emergency procedures. Additionally, important topics relevant to operations in



- USFWS Photo

Service personnel observe a helicopter rescue simulation on Lake Michigan as part of a Motorboat Operator Certification Course.

coastal areas or in the Great Lakes were covered including charting, navigation, electronics, waves, tides, weather and situational awareness.

Emphasis was placed on "know before you go" and on assessing risk versus data collection. Highlights from the course included a helicopter rescue demonstration by the U.S. Coast Guard, a gillnetting demonstration by the Wisconsin Depart-

ment of Natural Resources and a visual distress signal flare shoot.

The Open Water Module provides the necessary information and skills for Region 3 employees to become safe and reliable motorboat operators and crew members in open water areas. This course is being planned on an "as needed" or every other year basis. *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

Ashland FRO Helps Develop Fishing Pond for Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

Frank Stone recently completed one lake survey and fish transfer for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to help them develop Lighthouse Pond into a family-oriented largemouth bass fishery.

The pond, located on community property, is used for numerous tribal activities, including a yearly Pow-Wow. The tribe has initiated management plans with the Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to enhance this fishery.

Because this system is subjected to winter kill conditions, it was suggested the pond be managed as a catch and release fishery for children, elders and the disabled. Catchable size largemouth bass could be stocked and/or transferred annually from nearby lakes into the pond.

The second phase of this project consisted of transferring 113 largemouth bass from Laws Lake into the pond. The Community provided a fish hauling tank (which included an aeration system) that helped to ensure the fish arrived at the pond in excellent condition. *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*



- USFWS photo

Keweenaw Bay members Evelyn Ravindran (left) and Juliet Ellenich assist with the stocking project.

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between May 31 and June 30, 2002. Employees can search reports using the Report Manager utility in the ARS.

DCR Reviews More Than 200

Personnel Actions/Selections During 3rd Quarter

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

June Diversity report

*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/
PWLC*

Diversity Report

Dale Bast, Iron River NFH

Meadows WPA/Manston Slough

WMA Hydrology Researched for Possible Restoration

*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/
PWLC*

Ashland FRO Expands Private Lands Habitat Restoration Coverage

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Share Successes With North American Prairie Conference

Michael Engel, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc

Cub Scouts Work Toward Earning Conservation Badge

Kurt Waterstradt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc

Service and Bay Mills Indian Community Conduct Lake Whitefish Survey in Northern Lake Huron

Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO

Shiawassee Refuge Hosts Annual Summer Discovery Camp

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

DCR Briefs Program Supervisors on Draft Multi-Year Affirmative Employment Plan

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

Service Helps Restore Apostle Islands' Oak Island Sandcape

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Endangered Species Colony to Receive Habitat Protection During Indianapolis Airport Development

Georgia Parham, External Affairs

Indiana Bat HCP Announced at Airport News Conference

Georgia Parham, External Affairs

Climate Change: A Hot Topic at Minnesota Valley

Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

More Than 600 Attend Wings over Muscatatuck" Event"

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge's Restle Unit Has Good News/Bad News Spring

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Hosts Wetland Plant Course for Corps

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Has Over 2,000 Students Visit For Environmental Education

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Continues to Promote Conservation on Private Lands

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Experience Works at Muscatatuck Refuge

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge May Day Count Locates 116 Species

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Remodels Visitor Center Restrooms

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Asian Carp Monitoring Added to Annual Goby Round-up

Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

Muscatatuck Refuge Holds Conservation Field Days for 600 Third-Graders

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Hosts 300 for Take A Kid Fishing Day

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Wings Over Muscatatuck Event Attended My More Than 600

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Recruits for Summer Volunteer/Intern

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Trustees Announce Natural Resources Damages Settlement with Georgia-Pacific Corp.

Colette Charbonneau, Green Bay FO

Regional Refuge Visitor Services Reps Updated on Centennial Activities

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

First American Avocets Hatched in Becker County, Minn.

Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR

Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay Surveyed for Coaster Brook Trout

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Fish and Wildlife Service Participates in Wild Careers Day

Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR

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Mississippi Headwaters Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem Receives \$5,000 to Update Internet Web Page

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

FmHA Fee-Title Transfer May Result in Additional 240 Acres for Fergus Falls WMD

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Region 3 Completes First Motorboat Operator Certification Course with Open Water Module

Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO

Outreach Planning - Grotto sculpin

Georgia Parham, External Affairs

CSG, DCR and EA Provide Overview of R3 Intranet to RO Webmasters

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

Service Invites Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative Members to Discuss Surplus Bison Transfers

John Leonard, External Affairs

Grotto Sculpin Designated a Candidate Species

Georgia Parham, External Affairs

Rare Minnesota Prairie Butterfly Named Candidate for Endangered Species List

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

113 Largemouth Bass Transferred To Lighthouse Pond

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Turtle Research at Big Muddy Refuge

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

FmHA Easement Fenced due to Violation

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Ho-Chunk Nation receives Wetlands Conservation Award

James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc

Big Muddy Refuge Teams with Big Brothers/Big Sisters to Take Kids Fishing

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

Very Successful Youth Fishing Day at Minnesota Valley Refuge

Rick Schultz, Minnesota Valley NWR

Replacement of the Lake Trout Stocking Vessel Togue

Robert Hansen, ABA-CGS

Focus on Fish and Wildlife Newsletter

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

La Crosse FRO and U.S. Geological Survey Assist Menominee Tribe in Lake Sturgeon Study

Ann Runstrom, LaCrosse FRO

Weather Improved Over the Course of the Spring Prescribed Burn Season

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Mourning Dove Routes Completed

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Spring Woodcock Route Surveys Completed

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Two Rivers Refuge Family Fishing Fair A Huge Success

John Mabery, Two Rivers NWR

Red Lake Tribe Celebrates Youth Fishing Day at Minnesota Valley Refuge

John Leonard, External Affairs

Buffalo Day at Neal Smith Refuge

Don Jorgensen, Neal Smith NWR

New Native American Exhibit at Neal Smith Refuge

Don Jorgensen, Neal Smith NWR

Blue-Winged Teal Numbers Look Up in Fergus Falls District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Region 3 Employees Attend Diversity Day

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

Attendance Soars at Potter Park Zoo's Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Jim Hudgins, Michigan PLO

DCR Briefs Regional Office Supervisors on Diversity

George Kubik, ABA (DCR)

Diversity Report

Dale Bast, Iron River NFH

Minnesota's Traveling Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit is in Demand

Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR

Projects Identified and Underway by Northern Wisconsin Wetland Team

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Squaw Creek Refuge Hosts Biologist's Mini-Workshop

Frank Durbian, Squaw Creek NWR

Spring Sampling Completed at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Lee Newman, Ashland FRO

Wisconsin Launches Two New Regional Invasive Plant Species Working Groups

Michael Engel, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc



**Inside Region 3
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