

PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

Our Facilities

Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery is located along Lake Superior, approximately 17 minutes west from Brimley, Michigan. Pendills Creek NFH is a lake trout production facility and was established in 1951 to stock the Great Lakes. Lake trout are raised from eggs, and are reared for approximately 14 months, then are released into Lake Michigan and Huron. Currently, Pendills is able to raise approximately 1 million lake trout.

Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery is 15 miles west of Brimley, located south of M-28, on US Forest Service Road 3134, which is branched off of US Forest Service Road 3131. Sullivan Creek NFH was established in 1934 and is a lake trout brood stock facility. The Broodstock at Sullivan Creek NFH are from wild parents, and are maintained to provide approximately 5-7 million eggs for hatcheries to continue the restoration efforts.

Pendills Creek Fish Babies

Many people were present at Sullivan Creek NFH for the momentous day of October 3, 2012. It was the day for fertilization of the 2002 year class Seneca Lake Wild (SLW) Lake Trout's eggs. Sullivan Creek was the temporary home for the eggs destined for the tanks at Pendills Creek NFH. Over the course of the spawning season there were over 9 million eggs taken and fertilized. Due to space restraints and the number of fish planned for release, only a special "few" (255,744 eyed eggs) are chosen for



Figure 1 - Eggs in an incubator tray. (Photo Credit: Julie Timmer)

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Pendills.

On December 19, 2012, this select group of eggs made their first road trip-travelling in specially made Styrofoam egg shipping crates-to the Pendills Creek. On New Year's Eve, the first fish began to emerge from their shells. What they are called changes at this point from eyed eggs to sac fry. They are called this because even though they mostly look like the normal fish body shape, there is also a yolk sac attached that is utilized for food. This yolk sac makes them look like they have a large protruding belly.



Figure 2 - Sac fry in incubator tray. (Photo Credit: Julie Timmer)

Growing on the food from their yolk sacs in the 45 degree water, they lived in their trays until February 13, 2013. It was on this day the sac fry-all of which were now completely hatched-were moved from the trays they called home for so long into three small rearing tanks. The sac fry are learning to control their muscles and air bladder so they stay close to the bottom of the tank. Gradually, hatchery staff will begin introducing more and more food sprinkled on the water surface as the young fish begin to swim up into the water column. Now, the

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Figure 3 - Fry being transferred into tanks. (Photo Credit: Julie Timmer)

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sac fry will continue to use up their yolk sac and “button up” or lose the protruding belly, and will be known as fry. By the end of February, the fry should all be swimming up and feeding. Now that all the fry are in the tanks and once they are all feeding, the task of growing fish (and sometimes limiting their growth) begins. This season of growing in our facility will conclude in the spring of 2014 when these babies we have come to know and love are released into the wild waters of Lake Michigan.

- *Tim Falconer*
Fish Biologist

Pendills Creek NFH 2013 Snowmobile Open House - A Success!

The Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery (FPCH) sponsored a Snowmobile Open House at



Figure 5 – Looking at yearling lake trout up-close. (Photo Credit: Julie Timmer)

courtesy of FPCH. A wide spread of homemade soups, prepared by members of FPCH, finger sandwiches, cheese, crackers, and homemade desserts were available for all who attended.

It was a pleasure to see everyone who came out to the Open House. The FPCH members and hatchery staff had seen many familiar faces, of all ages, from the local community, and a fair share of few new ones. We were



Figure 4 - A young visitor viewing sac fry in an incubator tray. (Photo Credit: Julie Timmer)

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Figure 6 - Guests arriving via snowmobile. (Photo Credit: Julie Timmer)

pleased to see a few people that visited were from out-of-state; one family was from California. The Friends Group and hatchery staff were thanked many times by guests for this event, which they were excited to have the opportunity to visit the hatchery, at a family-friendly event, and to head outdoors, despite the frigid season.

All in all, we, the hatchery staff and Friends group, enjoyed visiting with everyone who attended the event. The Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery added a few new members to their organization and the community was able to learn more about the US Fish and Wildlife Service's mission for lake trout restoration in the Great Lakes.

- *Julie Timmer*
Administrative Officer

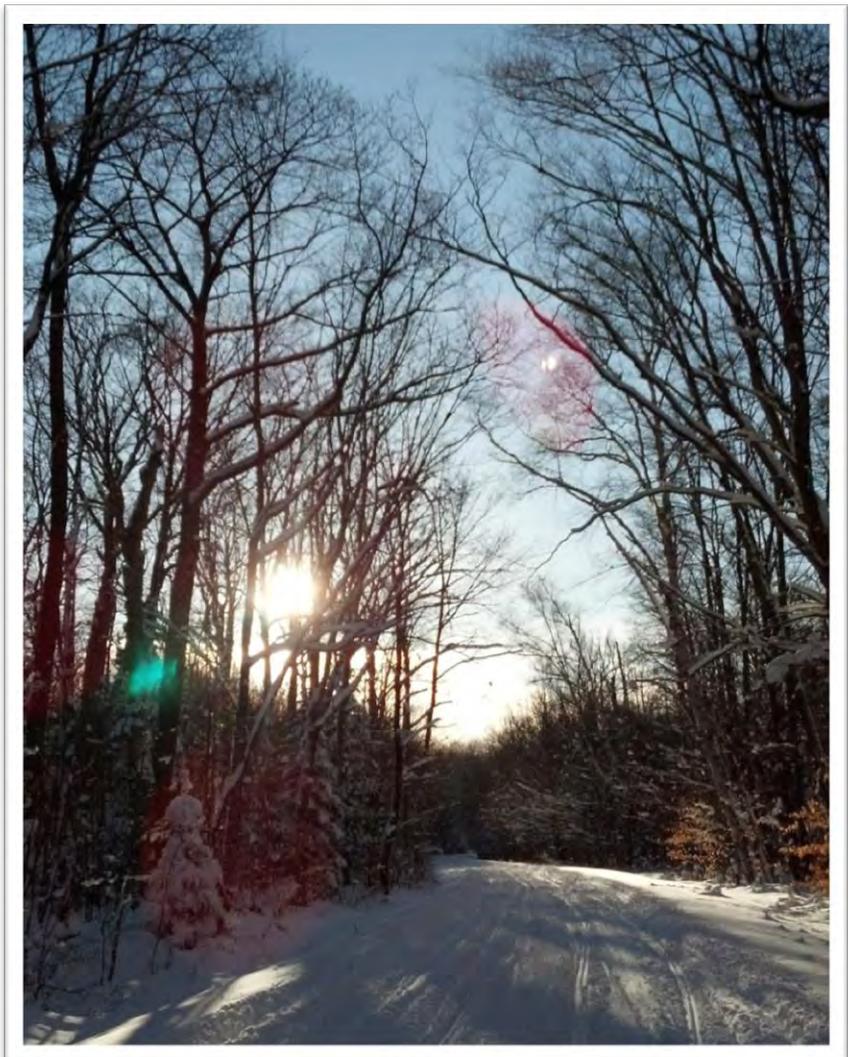


Figure 7 – Snowmobile trail south of hatchery. (Photo Credit: Julie Timmer)

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Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery Update

Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery (FPCH) are kicking off 2013 in high gear. With their efforts at the Snowmobile Open House, a few new members were added to their organization. The Friends Group recently received a license to hold raffles for future fundraising efforts and currently holding two raffles. The Friends Group is currently raffling off a canoe, a quilt and a jewelry box. A Rummage and bale sale is their next fundraiser, scheduled May 18. The Executive Members are currently working on the 5th Annual Children's Fishing Event, scheduled June 8.

- Julie Timmer
Administrative Officer



Figure 8 – Fry adjusting to the water column in tank. (Photo Credit: Julie Timmer)

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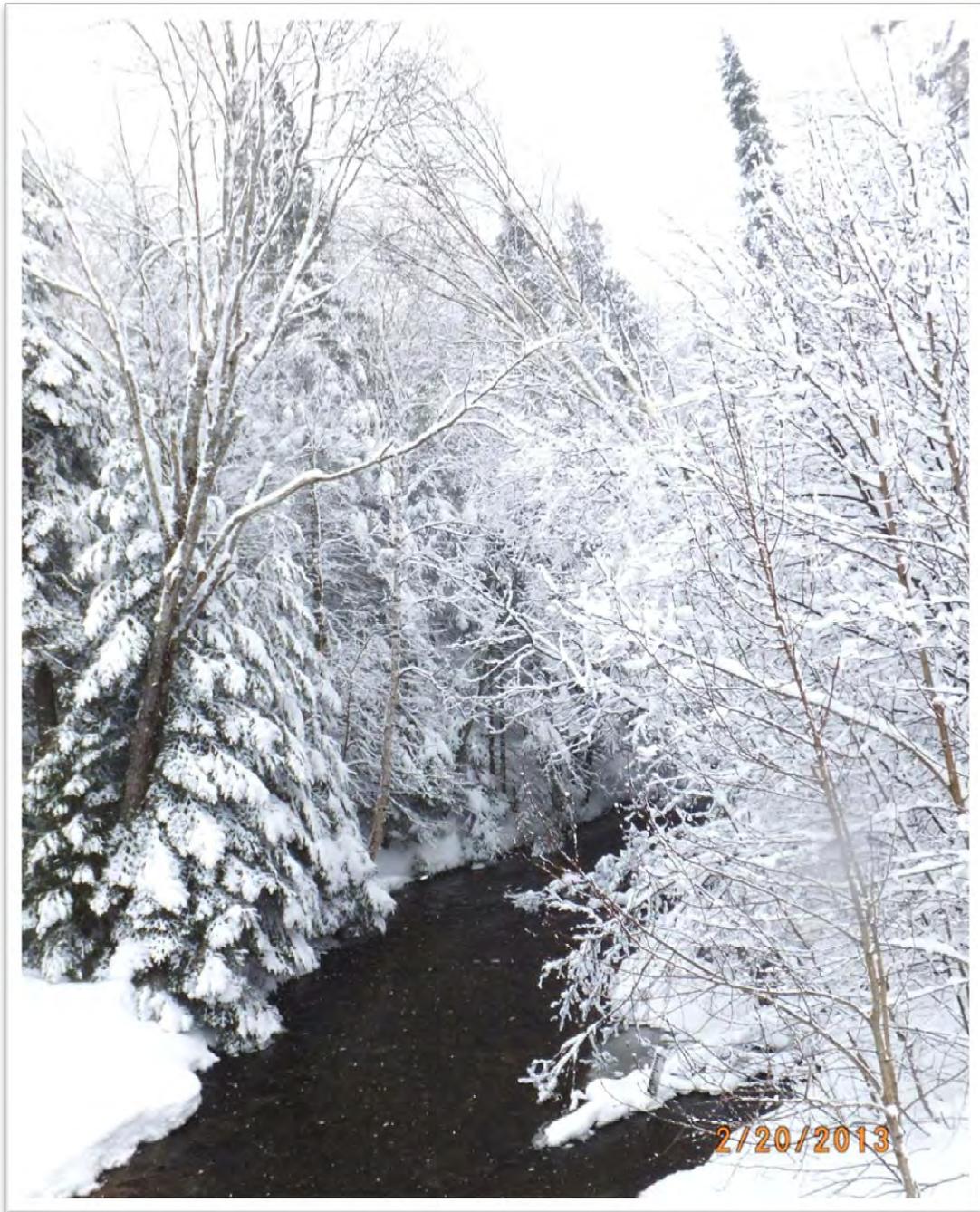


Figure 9 – Pendills Creek with a fresh blanket of snow. (Photo Credit: Julie Timmer)

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