



PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

Our Mission

The mission of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

A vision of Fisheries Program that hatcheries directly address is to conserve aquatic species through recovery programs for threatened and endangered fish and mussel species, maintenance of fish health, restoration of native inter-jurisdictional species and management of aquatic nuisance species.

Our Facilities

Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) 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. Currently, Pendills Creek is able to raise approximately 1 million lake trout each year.

Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) 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 brood stock at Sullivan Creek are from wild parents, and are maintained to provide approximately 5-7 million eggs each year for hatcheries to continue the restoration efforts.

Our complex is located in the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) within the Department of Interior. There are 6 hatcheries within our Region that play a valuable role in restoration/rehabilitation of native fish, mussels and other aquatic species around the Great Lakes.

Visiting our Facilities

Pendills Creek NFH is open for tours during business hours (7 am to 3 pm). For group tours, please call for an appointment, by calling (906) 437-5231 to schedule an appointment.

Sullivan Creek NFH provides tours by appointment only. Please call Pendills Creek to schedule an appointment.

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Pendills Creek NFH Stocks Over One Million Yearlings Into Lake Michigan

Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) raises lake trout for release into the Great Lakes under the Great Lakes Restoration Program. With the help of Jordan River NFH, Iron River NFH, the MV Spencer F. Baird, and Alpena NFWCO; 1,034,637 coded wire tagged and adipose clipped yearling lake trout were stocked onto reefs in Lake Michigan.



Fish stocking and distribution is a very busy time of year, and requires much coordination among the hatcheries and the fish stocking vessel, the Spencer F. Baird. All three hatcheries have millions of lake trout to stock into the Great Lakes in a span of about two and a half months, and each must help the other haul their fish in special fish distribution trucks with bulk tanks designed just for hauling lake trout. Once the fish are in the distribution trucks, they are trucked to the MV Spencer F. Baird, which has ten specially designed fish tanks on its deck. The Baird will then sail the lake trout out to different reefs in the lakes and stock the fish overboard to their new homes.

Pendills Creek NFH stocked Superior Apostle Island Wild, Lewis Lake Wild, and Seneca Lake Wild strains of lake trout. The fish weighed a total of 69,850 pounds and were stocked into Lake Michigan on the following sites: Hog Island, Ile aux Galets, Dahlia Shoal, Elk Rapids, Old Mission, Grand Traverse Bay, Good Harbor, and Torch Lake.

- *Crystal LeGault-Anderson*
Assistant Hatchery Manager

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Pendills Creek NFH Receives Aerial Boom Lift

The aerial boom lift has a telescopic boom with a working height of 40' and has a horizontal reach of over 18' to efficiently get to heights which were normally out of the reach of the hatchery's longest ladders.

In the past, PEC had to hire a local electrical company with a boom truck to change light bulbs in the raceway building, replace the rope on the flag pole mast, and other tasks with were out of the reach and unsafe for hatchery personnel. PEC plans to use the new lift to perform other jobs such as trimming trees. The new aerial lift will now allow hatchery personnel to perform those tasks.

The aerial lift is trailer mounted with dual pneumatic wheels which allows it to be easily towed behind a pickup. Since the lift is mobile, it will also be utilized at both Sullivan Creek and Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.

Hatchery personnel will be trained in the safe use of the new equipment. Personnel operating the lift will be required to wear a body harness or restraining belt with a lanyard attached to the boom to prevent being ejected from the basket.

Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery, founded in 1951 is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula near Brimley, MI along Lake Superior. The facility rears yearly lake trout to be released into the Great Lakes as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Program. Hatchery production includes just over 1,000,000 fish released into Lake Michigan each spring.

- *Randy Obermiller*
Biological Science Technician

Sullivan Creek NFH Donates Lake Trout to Sault Ste. Marie Kid's Fishing Pond

Sullivan Creek NFH delivered 220 fat and spunky lake trout to the Kid's Fishing Pond in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan this summer. 200 were 3 year old Seneca Lake Wild strain lake trout which weighed 1 to 2 pounds each, and 20 were "lunkers", 7 year old Huron Parry Sound Wild lake trout which weighed 8 pounds each and were 25 inches in length. Most of these lake trout are currently waiting to be caught and rubbing fins in the pond with rainbow trout which are purchased and stocked into the pond each month, paid for by the Soo Sportmen's Club and donors.

The Kid's Fishing Pond in Rotary Park has been maintained and



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operated since 2004 by the Soo Area Sportsmen's Club, City of Sault Ste. Marie, Cloverland Electric Cooperative, Lake Superior State University, and a growing number of donors and volunteers.

The fish and the fishermen have more room in and around the pond thanks to a 125-ft expansion this year. The fish are contained in the lagoon at Rotary Park through the use of a "blocker net" stretched across the waterway and marked with lights to warn boaters. The Sault Ste. Marie Kids' Fishing Pond will be open through September for kids 16 and under to fish.

The latest fishing report includes one young angler, using a Snoopy fishing pole, along with their parents, was shocked when a lunker 8 pound laker was hooked and brought ashore from the Kid's Pond.

- *Crystal LeGault-Anderson*
Assistant Hatchery Manager

US FWS Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery

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