



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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UPPER MICHIGAN LAKE-TROUT SITE SELECTED

Pendill's Creek, 25 miles west of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on Lake Superior, has been chosen as the site of the Upper Peninsula lake trout hatchery, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today.

The experimental hatchery, designed to help restore the lamprey-depleted lake trout fishery of the Great Lakes, was made possible by passage of a bill introduced in Congress by Representative Charles E. Potter of Michigan. A total of \$325,000 was authorized for the project and \$92,500 of this sum was later made available.

Construction of the hatchery will begin early this summer, Secretary Chapman said. By July, it is expected that the hatchery building will be started and one residence completed. Additional residence buildings and rearing ponds are to be completed by fall. The hatchery is expected to be in full operation a year from this fall.

When the number of lampreys decline, officials of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service hope that the Lake Michigan fishery can be built up by restocking with lake trout. The introduction of large fingerlings follows the practice of the Pacific salmon cultural stations -- which has shown that stocking with larger fish is much more effective than with fry.

Selection of Pendill's Creek as the hatchery site followed extensive investigations of all available locations. Through the fall and winter, the investigators measured the flow of the water in the creek and recorded fluctuations in water temperature. Since temperature and flow of water are important to hatchery operation, the ample supplies from Pendill's Creek and the springs of nearby Vidian Creek were of primary importance in the final decision on the hatchery's location.

Part of the land for the hatchery site will be purchased. The remainder is on National Forest land. Negotiations with the U. S. Forest Service for use of the forest land are now underway, Secretary Chapman said.

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