

# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

### *Contaminants of Emerging Concern Study*

Rochester Embayment Area of Concern, Rochester, NY



#### Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is coordinating a study of contaminants of emerging concern (CEC) in the Great Lakes Basin, within the United States. CECs include thousands of pharmaceutical compounds, antibacterial compounds, plasticizers, detergents, hormones, new pesticides, and other chemicals in commercial products, all of which are making their way into waterways of the Great Lakes Basin. The principal goal of the study is to determine how abundant CECs are and the extent to which they may adversely affect fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes system.



Irondequoit Bay fyke net. Photo credit: USFWS

#### Sampling

Sampling has been performed yearly since 2010, with future sampling in the planning stages for 2013. The USFWS New York Field Office (NYFO) is currently analyzing sediment, surface water, and fish tissue collected in and near the Rochester Embayment Area of Concern. Samples were collected from the lower Genesee River in 2010 and 2011, and nearby embayments in 2012. The U.S. Geological Survey is assisting the USFWS in evaluating fish (brown bullheads and largemouth bass) for tumors, altered hormone levels, and other bioindicators of exposure to CECs.



USFWS Biologist collecting fish tissue samples. Photo credit: USFWS



USFWS Field Crew, 2012. Photo credit: USFWS

#### Future Plans

NYFO is currently exploring additional locations suitable for 2013 sampling, with the objective to isolate CEC effects in fish at known CEC source locations (e.g. wastewater treatment plants or concentrated animal feeding operations), as compared with reference locations.



#### For more information, contact:

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