

## Ahoy! The R/V “Chub” Arrives at Ashland

The Ashland FRO has its new research and assessment vessel, the R/V Chub.

Built by American MetalCraft Marine in Clayton, N.Y., the Chub is 29.5 feet long, has a 10-foot beam and is powered by twin 150-horsepower Mercury Optimax outboards. She will be busy on the waters serving as the work platform for fish surveys in three national parks, in 1836 and 1842 Treaty waters and throughout Lake Superior. A gill net lifter and picking/work table have been installed on the vessel, with both lifter and table removable for opening up the deck for other types of work.

The cab fits six people comfortably and has a full array of electronic gear to aid in navigation and conducting assessments. Along with the electronic gear the CHUB is outfitted with a various safety features including high gunwales, EPIRB, six-person life raft and other required safety items. A 140-gallon fuel tank allows a wide travel range. The vessel sits on a tri-axle Classic trailer which allows easy travel to worksites throughout the Lake Superior basin. *Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO*



*-USFWS Photo*

The new R/V Chub alongside the dock in Ashland. The 2000 Consent Decree requires Ashland to do certain surveys, for which they needed a research vessel. The Chub's builder grew up on Lake Superior and knew the conditions the Chub will face in her career, and Ashland personnel believe the boat will last for more than 20 years of hard work on the water.