

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report**

### *Partnerships and Accountability*

#### **Prospect of Hatchery Friends Group Coming Closer To Reality**

A Friends Group for the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery is coming closer to reality. The hatchery, which is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is located in the northern portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan and is dedicated to the restoration of lake trout in the Great Lakes. The hatchery began operation in 1964.

Hatchery staff have been very interested in trying to involve interested individuals in organizing a Friends Group. Friends Groups have been successfully established at other hatcheries and refuges and have raised public awareness, created environmental learning opportunities, and financially backed some programs and projects through fund-raising activities. They work to promote good relationships with the staff and the local communities.

An article was distributed to eight area organizations, posted in two local newspapers and in three area post offices requesting interested individuals contact the hatchery. We have been fortunate to have two of the individuals that read the newspaper article stop by the hatchery to offer their assistance and involvement in organizing our Friends Group. They have both stated that they believe they know of other interested individuals that they feel will want to get involved. We plan to schedule a meeting in the spring or summer for those individuals to meet and begin the organization process.

### *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*

#### **Native Lake Trout Egg Shipment Received**



We have once again received our annual shipment of lake trout eggs. Strains and numbers are listed on the following page:

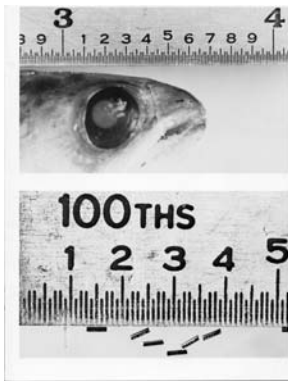


<b>Strain</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>From</b>
Lewis Lake	2,846,000	Saratoga NFH (WY)
Traverse Island	289,000	Hiawatha Forest NFH (MI)
Green Lake	130,000	Hiawatha Forest NFH (MI)
Seneca Lake	1,384,000	Hiawatha Forest NFH (MI)
Superior Apostle Island	406,000	Hiawatha Forest NFH (MI)
Superior Isle Royale	<u>277,000</u>	Crystal Springs SFH (MN)
	5,332,000	

They will be marked (fin clipped and/or tagged) in early 2004. They will be released offshore in lakes Huron and Michigan in the spring of 2004, using the Service's stocking vessel, the *M/V Togue*.

The Jordan River National Fish Hatchery is dedicated solely to restoration of lake trout in the Great Lakes in conjunction with the Pendills Creek NFH (Michigan), the Iron River NFH (Wisconsin), Saratoga NFH (Wyoming), Genoa NFH and Allegheny NFH.

**Lake Trout Coded Wire Tagged for Great Lakes Program**



Each year all of the lake trout from the Jordan River NFH are marked prior to release into the Great lakes. They are either fin clipped, which entails removing one or more fin(s), or are coded wire tagged. The coded wire tagging process involves removing the adipose fin and embedding a coded wire tag in the snout of the fish. This helps differentiate hatchery-reared fish from wild lake trout populations in the Great Lakes. Using the information on the coded wire tag, researchers can evaluate survival, growth, and movement of the fish.

This year's coded wire tagging operation began on January 9, 2003 and was completed on February 21, 2003. Seven intermittent employees worked a total of 1,016 hours marking the fish. Total cost for tagging 739,768 fish was \$13,356. The fish will be released offshore during April, May, and June 2003. Lake Huron will receive 283,337 fish and Lake Michigan will receive 456,431 fish as part of the Great Lakes Lake Trout Restoration Program.

### **1.42 Million Native Lake Trout Clipped for Release in the Great Lakes**



Approximately 1.42 million native lake trout were fin clipped (right pectoral) by 10-15 intermittent employees working 1,729 hours. Total cost to mark all the fish was \$23,000. The marking of the fish by clipping (removing) designated fin(s) is necessary to differentiate hatchery-reared fish from wild fish. This information also is useful in identifying lake trout age classes, rearing locations, and

survival. All the marked fish will be released in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan beginning in April and ending in July 2003.

### **Lake Trout Emergency Shore-Stocked in Grand Traverse Bay**



On April 16 and 17, 2003 a total of 87,500 lake trout were emergency shore-stocked to prevent an on-station loss of fish. The fish were released at the Acme site and Traverse City Maritime Academy in Lake Michigan. The water level in Lake Michigan was down considerably so extra pipes were needed to make sure the fish were released properly. Normally, we don't shore stock fish, but this year we have an extra 310,000 fish on station

(2.16 million total) and the dissolved oxygen levels in the last raceway tailboxes were less than 5.0 ppm.

### **New Overhead Garage Doors**



After almost 40 years of wear and tear, the original overhead garage doors at the hatchery were replaced by Installation Specialties from Petoskey, Michigan. The old doors were difficult to open, posed a safety risk to staff and were energy inefficient. Installation Specialties replaced 13 overhead doors that were installed in 1963 when the hatchery was constructed. Total cost of this project was \$16,925 and was made possible by station

cyclical maintenance funds. The doors made a significant improvement to the building's appearance and energy efficiency, while minimizing injury to staff. Clark Bartelt, Region 3 Contracting & General Services, provided the hatchery with contracting assistance during the busiest time of the year.

### **Electrical Service to the Main Hatchery Building Upgraded**



Sky Electric of East Jordan, Michigan was awarded the contract to upgrade Jordan River NFH main electrical service. They were contracted to restructure the existing electrical service for the main hatchery building, which included installing a new panel board. They also rewired the electrical power for the main building heating system that has been troublesome from day one. This upgrade was necessary to proceed with the next phase of installing a backup generator to keep the essential items functioning in the hatchery building.

Total cost of this project was \$9,060. Maintenance management funds (4722-B310) had been set aside in 2002 to complete this project. Assistance from Engineering was provided by Steve Dedon, Region 3 Division of Engineering.

### **Paul Haver Teaches Anatomy 101 to Fourth Graders**



Paul Haver, Animal Caretaker, taught Fish Anatomy 101 to 25 fourth grade students at the Kalkaska Elementary School, Kalkaska, MI. He traveled to the school and presented lake trout life history information and dissected an adult lake trout with the help of students. A good discussion of organs, their functions, and how they related to fish health took place during the dissection. Paul explained how fishery managers use autopsy data to make changes to the hatchery program to achieve

restoration goals in the Great Lakes. The students enjoyed the anatomy lesson and hopefully have a better understanding of the FWS's role in restoration of lake trout in the Great Lakes. A special thanks goes to Crystal LeGault, Hiawatha Forest National Fish Hatchery, for the donation of excess brood stock for the dissection.

### **Fish Pathologists Knock Visitors Out**



Rick Nelson, Fish Pathologist, and Corey Puzach from the LaCrosse Fish Health Center visited the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery on April 22-23, 2003 to conduct the spring fish health inspection. The 2002 and 2003 brood year lake trout were sampled by Rick and Corey for any potential pathogens.

On the second day, five kids (ages 4-11) and two adults stopped by the hatchery for a tour. Rick and Corey were gracious enough to discuss what they were doing to the group. The teaching lesson lasted only five minutes as one kid turned white and had to sit down. Then the older kid proceeded to hang on his mother before falling to the floor. His mother assumed he was kidding, but it turned out he passed out from the sight of fish blood. His fall was broken by his mother and a chair, so he was not injured. We took him outside just in time as he lost his breakfast. The youngest boy in the same family also turned white and felt sick. A good time was had by all, especially the mothers. One was laughing so hard, she was crying. I think this is the last time we will have Rick and Corey give tours to visitors. We want to leave a good impression.

### ***Public Use***

#### **Michigan Snowmobilers Make Their Presence Known at the Jordan River NFH**



The winter was long, snowy and cold, but snowmobilers made their presence known at the Jordan River NFH. This year approximately 2,500 snowmobilers passed through the fishy halls of the visitor center and hatchery building. Most were in search of the restrooms, a place to warm up and a free cup of coffee or hot cocoa. Tours were provided to those interested.

Many of the snowmobilers read about the hatchery in the Michigan Snowmobiler Magazine, where we had a feature story last fall. The Harrison Rayders Snowmobile Club (Harrison, MI one hour south) stopped by the hatchery for a tour and the hospitality. Overall, another successful year for the hatchery and the snowmobilers.

### ***Cooperation with Native Americans***

(nothing to report)

### ***Leadership in Science and Technology***

(nothing to report)

### ***Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management***

(nothing to report)



## ***Workforce Management***

### **News Flash – After 31 Years of Service, Beckner Goes to NCTC**

Clarice Beckner, Administrative Technician at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (for 31 years), finally went to the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)! On February 24-26, 2003, she attended her first training course at the NCTC entitled “Computer Support Overview”. She was one of three Region 3 employees that took the course. Participants came from as far away as Alaska and Washington State. With her newly acquired expertise, the hatchery staff anticipates no problem being too difficult for Clarice to fix, especially with our new LAN and file backup system.

In the past three years, course leaders have tried several times to offer the course, but due to various problems, including lack of participants, it had to be cancelled. The course brought together supervisory, administrative and maintenance personnel who were interested in brushing up on techniques to provide better computer support for their respective offices. This course is a prelude to a two week computer course that will be offered later this year at the NCTC.

### **Robert Petersen Provides CPR and First Aid Training to Cheboygan, Alpena, and East Lansing Office Employees**

On March 18, 2003, Robert Petersen, Maintenance Mechanic, traveled to the Cheboygan Vessel Base to teach CPR and First Aid. Since 1997, Robert has been teaching CPR and First Aid to the M/V Togue crew and U.S. Geological Service vessel employees. This year a total of six people were trained in adult CPR and First Aid.

As a result of Robert’s efforts and training last year, Mike Perry, M/V Togue Ship Captain was able to assist a man that was having seizures in a local restaurant. Mike prevented further injury to the man by clearing people and objects away while the man was having seizures. Good job Mike, as nobody else stepped up to help.

On April 1 and 2, Robert trained staff members at the Alpena Fishery Resource Office in CPR and First Aid. Robert has been traveling to Alpena since 1997 to provide this important training. This year Robert instructed a total of eight employees (adult CPR and First Aid to seven people and adult, child, and infant CPR and First Aid to one person).

Robert provided CPR and First Aid Training to employees at the East Lansing Field Office on April 8 and 9. Eleven employees attended the adult CPR and First Aid training, while thirteen employees attended the adult CPR training. He has been conducting this class there annually since 1999. Bob does an excellent job teaching, and

it benefits the field office by reducing travel and registration costs, reducing travel time, scheduling to meet their needs, and it may save somebody's life in the future.

### **Jordan River NFH "Adopts a Highway"**



Our office has joined the Michigan Adopt-a-Highway program. The program is run by the Michigan Department of Transportation and works with groups that are interested in cleaning up roadsides that are littered with trash. Jordan River has adopted a two-mile section of US-131 which runs perpendicular to the hatchery entrance road. The program has three slated pickup times during the year: spring, summer, and fall. This year's first pickup took place on April 24, 2003. Staff members (permanent, volunteers and emergency hires) and their families (totaling 13 people) participated, covering the four miles in approximately two hours and filling 30 bags with trash. Some of the prized items were mufflers, a hubcap, and a pair of underwear. Afterwards, the group enjoyed a potluck dinner featuring hamburgers, hotdogs, salads, beverages and desserts. Bob Beckner watched the manager's rug rats and manned the grill. A good time was had by all and we are looking forward to our July and September "Adopt A Highway" outings. If you are in neighborhood, stop by and join us.

### **Hatchery Residence gets a Facelift**



In preparation of filling several vacancies at the Jordan River NFH, the hatchery staff have been extremely busy providing facelifts to the hatchery residences. Three of the five houses are vacant, so it's the best time to repair, paint, and improve living conditions at each house. Early this year the hardwood floors were sanded and varnished and the kitchen linoleum was replaced in two of the houses. Over the past several weeks, one of the houses was cleaned top to bottom and repainted. The basement walls, floor, and steps were painted, along with the entire living area (bathroom, bedrooms, closets, living room, and kitchen). Other improvements include a new kitchen stove, faucets and screen door. The house looks brand new and should last another forty years! The house project was lead by Robert Petersen, maintenance mechanic, along with Debbie Petersen, Animal Caretaker, Ted Shepard, Emergency Hire, and Moose Kotz, Emergency Hire. Way to go! One house down and two more to go.