

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report**

### *Partnerships and Accountability*

#### **Inaugural Eagle Scout Project at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery**



Well, it took almost three years, but Robert Petersen’s (Maintenance Mechanic) persistence finally paid off. Robert was searching for an Eagle Scout candidate and Adam Ward of the Petoskey Boy Scout Troop was looking for a public benefit project to earn his Eagle Scout Badge. Robert and Adam teamed up to provide safer access to the hatchery via the Jordan Valley Road.

Adam earned his Eagle Scout Badge by demonstrating his leadership and organization skills to complete the public use project at the hatchery. Adam and eight of his friends cleared the access trail of vegetation, spread Afton stone on the cleared path, cleared vegetation for several vehicles to park along the valley road and built several benches next to the trail. Adam, his loyal friends, and Robert spent several weekends getting the project completed. The hatchery provided all the materials for the project and the Scouts provided the labor. The beneficiaries of the safer access trail will be hikers, bird watchers, hunters, fishermen and snowmobilers that use the Jordan River Valley and visit the hatchery. Last year, we had approximately 15,000 visitors, with 2,500 of them being snowmobilers stopping by to use the 24 hour restrooms and get a hot cup of coffee, tea, or apple cider.

Due to Robert’s die hard attitude and Adam’s desire to earn his Eagle Scout Badge, the general public now has a safer and easier access to the beautiful Jordan River Valley and the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.

#### **Eagle Scout Interpretive Nature Trail at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery**

The second Eagle Scout project at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery took only six months compared to three years. Robert Petersen (Maintenance Mechanic) had an idea to make a self guided interpretive nature trail around the hatchery and was in need of a volunteer. Well, Ben Fifer of the Petoskey Boy Scout Troop was in search of a project for his Eagle Scout Badge and decided that the hatchery project was a good idea.

Robert and Ben laid out the route from our Five Tile to Six Tile water sources. The trail is approximately a one mile loop around the hatchery. Ben and his small group of friends cleared the vegetation, small brush and some large trees, and put in posts for the

interpretive signs. The interpretive signs will describe specific natural features of the area. Along with the signs, the trail doubles as a cross country ski trail with several turns and hills to make it more challenging.

This is our second Eagle Badge project that Robert has completed with the aid of the local Boy Scout troops. We anticipate there will be many more kids interested in doing their Eagle Badge projects at the hatchery because of Robert's abilities and willingness to work with the Boy Scouts.

## ***Aquatic Species Conservation and Management***

### **Cleaning the Off-Line Settling Basin System**



Bob Petersen and Eric Semer cleaned the solids from the off-line settling basin system on August 9. Bob and Scott Rozanski cleaned it again on November 4. This is done three times yearly to minimize impacts to the Wild and Scenic Jordan River. Cleaning requires a twelve hour work day for two staff members. Solids are deposited on adjacent farm land, as per agreement with land owners.

### **Disposal of Hazardous Waste**

The Emmet County Transfer Station in Harbor Springs, Michigan held a household hazardous waste collection day on September 13. We delivered sixty-four fluorescent light bulbs (four foot length) and 531 lbs of other hazardous materials (old paints, stains, solvents, and chemical reagents). This was done for reasons including workplace safety and environmental responsibility.

### **Lake Trout Spawning Help**

During the month of October, we provided personnel to assist with spawning efforts at the Sullivan's Creek NFH and at the Iron River NFH.

### **Inspection of 5-Tile Water Supply**



Pollution Control Services televised our 5-Tile spring water supply lines on October 2. Due to the terrain, they had difficulty accessing the upper reaches of our southern line. The pipes appeared to be in good condition. This completed the video inspection of our water intake system. With the exception of one perforated collection pipe, which had collapsed, in our 6-Tile spring complex (inspected in July), there were no pipe failures. This single pipe failure has not likely resulted in any loss of water. Ground water that would have been collected there is most likely being collected downstream as surface water. A likely explanation for our declining flows is a drop in the elevation of the water table. Sand in our basement rearing tanks has cleared up.

### **Electrical Troubleshooting Project Completed at the Jordan River NFH**

Two electrical engineers from Barr Engineering, Hibbing, Minnesota came to the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery to troubleshoot our electrical system. With the increased electrical load (computers, copier, etc.) on the facility and a troublesome HVAC system, several circuit breakers weren't shutting off equipment when tripped.

The field investigation was conducted from September 16-18, 2003. Every electrical device in the building was located and the panel and breaker that supplied the power to the piece of equipment was recorded. This included all receptacles, lighting, motors, switches and other equipment. The engineers used a circuit tracer or shut down breakers to determine actual location of the power supply to each item. Plus, branch circuits were cataloged, neutral and ground conductors were identified, new load center index cards were prepared, and a one line drawing was created for each load center.

Overall, the electrical system condition from the load centers out to the loads was excellent. The physical condition of the wire, conduit and supporting systems was in good shape. There were only a few minor things that need to be upgraded or repaired. Thanks to Terry Pennaz and Steve Dedon from the Division of Engineering for project management and oversight.

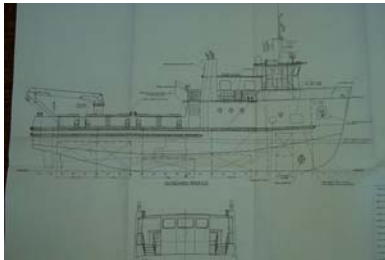
### **Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Raceway Replacement Project**

On October 16-17, 2003, Paul Evenson from the Division of Engineering visited the hatchery to begin the raceway replacement project. The raceway, raceway covers and liquid oxygen engineering and design phase is being funded from the Lower Fox River and Green Bay National Resource Damage Assessment settlement. Along with replacing

the raceways, the project will include covers and installation of a liquid oxygen system for the 48 outside raceways. Once the project is completed the hatchery will be able to maintain and increase propagation of quality lake trout for the Great Lakes. For example the new raceway covers will eliminate the loss of fish to predation (birds and mammals). Last year alone, we lost 180,000 fish to predation in less than six months.

Thanks to Mark Holey, Green Bay Fisheries Resource Office for securing the funds for lake trout restoration efforts in Lake Michigan.

### **New Stocking and Assessment Vessel 60% Design Phase Review Meeting**



The new stocking vessel 60% design phase submittal was reviewed by members of the “New Vessel Team” (alias Togue Team) on September 26, 2003 at the Green Bay Fisheries Resource Office (FRO). Bob Bergstrom, Marine Engineer, and Mike Perry, Ship Captain from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery participated in the meeting along with Chuck Bronte, Green Bay FRO; Todd Turner, Regional Office Fisheries; Paul Evenson, Project Manager, Division of Engineering; and staff from Timothy Graul Marine Design (TGMD) from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

Overall, the design of the new stocking and assessment vessel is proceeding smoothly. The 90% design submittal is scheduled for December 12, 2003. The New Vessel Team is very pleased with TGMD and is confident the vessel will be a great asset to the FWS and native lake trout restoration efforts in the Great Lakes.

### **M/V Togue Stuck in Thunder Bay River, Alpena, MI**



In cooperation with the Alpena Fisheries Resource Office (FRO), the M/V Togue crew, from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, attempted to conduct the annual lake trout fall surveys in Lake Huron. Unfortunately, this year the weather was not very cooperative and the Togue never left the dock behind the Federal Building in the Thunder Bay River.

The weather was unusually cold, which put the Togue at risk of damage to equipment from freezing. Bob Bergstrom and Mike Perry had to winterize as much equipment as possible to prevent damage, but still be operational enough to get the assessment work completed. The vessel was stuck in Alpena from October 11 to November 1, 2003. Finally, on November 2 the weather broke and the

Togue was able to return to Cheboygan and be properly winterized. Thanks to the Alpena FRO for covering the travel, per diem and fuel costs for the attempted survey.

## ***Public Use***

### **Jordan River NFH Participates in the Northland Sportsman Club Family, Fishing and Hunting Expo**



On September 7, 2003 Bob Petersen, Tim Smigielski and Wayne Talo represented the USFWS at the Hunting and Fishing Expo held at the Northland Sportsman's Club in Gaylord, Michigan. Some 1,400 youngsters attended the event. Jordan River staff provided insights into fish culture, hatchery operations and Lake Trout rehabilitation efforts in the Great lakes region. Bob Petersen was "Mr. Popular" with the children as he was administering the trout tattoos. This was the second year that Jordan River staffed this event. Our booth was a popular attraction and our attendance has been requested again for next year's expo. This family-oriented outdoors event is held annually and is free.

### **M/V Togue Participates in the Alpena Lighthouse Festival**



The M/V Togue participated in the Alpena Lighthouse Festival October 10-12, 2003. Over the three day period, approximately 150 people toured the vessel. Tours were given by Bob Bergstrom, Marine Engineer; Mike Perry, Ship Captain; and Rick Westerhof, Project Leader from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.

Turn out was down from previous years because of the cold wet weather and transportation to the offsite location wasn't provided as it had been in the past. The United States Geological Service's R/V Grayling was the only other vessel to take part in the festival this year. This is the fifth year that the M/V Togue has been involved in the Lighthouse Festival. The event is coordinated with the Alpena Fisheries Resource Office.

### **Jordan River NFH Staff Presents "Fisheries Strategic Vision for the Future"**

Tim Smigielski and Rick Westerhof spoke to the membership of the Northland Sportsmen's Club at their monthly meeting on November 6. Approximately thirty





members were in attendance. Tim provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Fisheries Strategic Plan and discussed the planning process. Rick fielded questions about hatchery operations, lake trout restoration and promoted the friends group concept. The membership was very receptive to our strategy for the future. Rick and Tim participated in the rest of the meeting and Rick stayed *late* into the evening answering various questions and providing more insight.

### ***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***

#### **New Personnel**

- On August 24, 2003 Timothy J. Smigielski joined the staff at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery in Elmira, Michigan. Tim received his BS in Fisheries Biology from Michigan State University in 1988. He began his career working in environmental education and environmental consulting for municipal, private and private non-profit organizations around Detroit, Michigan. For the past 12 years Tim has been employed with the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He got his start with the MDNR Environmental Response Division in 1991. Tim was an Environmental Quality Analyst and coordinator of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program out of the Gaylord, Michigan office until 1993. From 1993 until 2000 Tim was a researcher at the MDNR Hunt Creek Research Station in Lewiston, Michigan where he gained a variety of experiences in inland trout biology and stream ecology. Tim also spent 13 months on special assignment as the Fisheries Management Biologist for the Northern Lake Huron Management Unit out of the Gaylord, Michigan office. For the past three years Tim has been a researcher at the Charlevoix Great Lakes Research Station where he has been involved with a variety



of Great Lakes Research projects including Lake Trout Rehabilitation and coordination of the state-wide coded wire tagging program. Tim is married to his wife of ten years (Janet) and has two children (Luke age 7) and (Jill age 3).

- Scott Rozanski entered into a volunteer agreement at the hatchery on October 4, 2003. He plans to volunteer until early next spring.
- Norma Sparks, Bellaire, Michigan began working at the hatchery under a program from the Commission on Aging.

### **Warrant Training Completed for Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Staff**

Two persons currently hold procurement warrants at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery. The Assistant Project Leader David Huntly and Administrative Technician Clarice Beckner, who hold \$5,000 and \$10,000 warrants, respectively, completed the procurement training course "Simplified Acquisition Procedures Refresher" in Minneapolis, Minnesota October 20-23, 2003. The course was given by Northwest Procurement Institute, Inc. of Edmonds, Washington. The training course reviews all types of government purchasing and satisfies the requirement for training for every two years for Ms. Beckner and every four years for Mr. Huntly.