

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report

Partnerships and Accountability

Jordan River NFH Featured on “Hook and Hunting” Program

Paul Haver, Bio Science Tech, contacted Dan Boss, Channel 9&10 News TV reporter, to visit the hatchery to film a segment for his “Hook and Hunting” program on December 3. He viewed the disinfection and enumeration of lake trout eggs received from Sullivan’s Creek NFH and interviewed Assistant Project Leader David Huntly. This event provided not only a forum to showcase our program, but it also presented an opportunity to advertise our desire to form a Friends Group. In his closing remarks, Mr. Boss mentioned our Friends Group and directed those interested to contact the hatchery. The piece aired on Thursday December 4 and was broadcast statewide. As a result of the segment, we were contacted by one person from Midland, MI (Midland is approximately two hours southeast of the hatchery). Unfortunately, it was only a long “lost friend” of the hatchery manager and he wasn’t interested in developing our Friends Group.

East Jordan Snowmobilers Club and Glen’s Market Donate Beverage Center Supplies

For the past three years the East Jordan Snowmobilers Club and Boyne City’s Glen’s Market have donated supplies for our hot beverage center. This year they dropped off coffee, hot cocoa and apple cider for the snowmobilers and visitors. The partnership has resulted in positive comments about the hatchery and the hot beverage center, bathrooms, and visitor center being open 24 hours a day. Without their assistance there would be no way we could keep up with the demand. Plus, more and more people are realizing the important role that the Service plays in the restoration of native lake trout to the Great Lakes.



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

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.

Hatchery Explores Options to Improve Fish Quality

On November 6, water quality expert Greg Kindschi (USFWS, Bozeman, Montana) visited the hatchery to evaluate our physical facilities and to provide recommendations for improving the conditions under which we rear fish. Following is a brief summary of some of his recommendations:

1. Have a comprehensive chemical analysis done on our spring water supplies.
2. Investigate means of improving dissolved oxygen concentrations in the outside raceways to maintain at or above 60% of saturation. Low dissolved oxygen concentrations become problematic during the spring, when our fish loads are at their annual peak.
3. Install rotating drum or disk filters at our water intakes to reduce the quantity of silt brought into the hatchery during heavy rains. These silt loads irritate fish gills, predisposing the fish to bacterial gill disease.
4. Acquire funding to construct a building over the outside raceways. This will serve to:
 - a. provide shade to the lake trout (which do not feed well after the sun has fully risen),
 - b. limit the sunlight which causes excessive algal growth on the raceway walls in the spring, and
 - c. keep fish eating predators out of the raceways. In the winter/spring of 2003, we estimate an inventory loss to predators (raccoons, opossums, mink, and herons) of approximately 10%.

Cleaning the Off-Line Settling Basin System



Bob Petersen (Maintenance Mechanic) and Scott Rozanski (volunteer) cleaned the settling basin on November 4. After cleaning the basin, Scott realized what an honor it was to be selected for the job. Of course he was amply rewarded for his efforts and graciously accepted his dollar. The basin is typically cleaned three to four times a year to minimize impacts to the Wild and Scenic Jordan River. Cleaning requires a twelve hour work day for two staff members. The solid/sludge is deposited on adjacent farm land, as per agreement with land owners.

Summary of Egg Deliveries to Jordan River NFH

During the period from November 18, 2003 through January 6, 2004 we received eyed lake trout eggs from Saratoga NFH (Saratoga, Wyoming), Sullivan’s Creek NFH (Brimley, Michigan), and Crystal Springs State Fish Hatchery (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Altura, Minnesota). The following table breaks down the egg deliveries by strain and brood station:



Lake Trout Strain	Eggs Received, by Brood Station		
	Sullivan's Creek NFH	Saratoga NFH	Crystal Springs, MN
Green Lake	140,092	0	0
Lewis Lake	161,024	2,369,846	0
Seneca Lake	984,385	0	0
Superior-Apostle Islands	782,947	0	0
Superior-Isle Royale	0	0	458,250
Superior-Traverse Island	159,471	0	0
	2,227,919	2,369,846	458,250
Grand Total:		5,056,015	

These eggs were spawned in the fall of 2003 and the resulting fish will be released in the spring of 2005, at which time they should be approximately 6 to 7 inches in length. They will be released into Lakes Michigan and Huron in the hopes of restoring this top-level fish predator to its native habitat.



Public Use

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.

New Security Light for Late Night Visitors

On December 5, 2003 Great Lakes Energy installed a new security light near the Jordan River access trail (by the parking lot) for snowmobilers and hikers. With thousands of snowmobilers using the Jordan River trail late into the evening, Bob Petersen (Maintenance Mechanic) thought it might be a good idea to install a new light for safety reasons. Now the winter visitors will have light to work on their machines while the summer hikers will be able to find their vehicles easier when returning from a long hike at night.

Cooperation with Native Americans

Jordan River Assists with the Strategic Vision Presentation to CORA

On December 4, 2003, Rick Westerhof participated in the Strategic Vision presentation to the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) in Manistee, MI. Rick tagged along with Bob Adair, Regional Office; Mark Holey, Green Bay Fishery Resource Office and Jerry McClain, Alpena Fishery Resource Office. Overall, Bob did a fine job of presenting our Vision and the tribes seemed very interested in the Service’s list of activities in the state of Michigan.

Leadership in Science and Technology

(Nothing to report)



Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

(Nothing to report)

Workforce Management

(Nothing to report)