

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

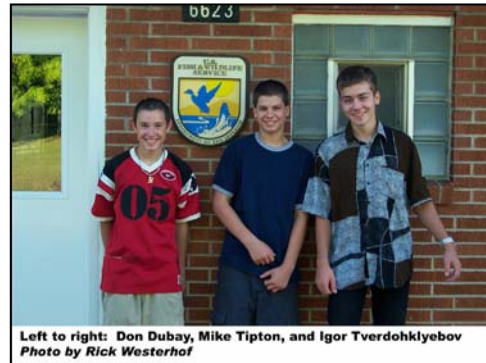
Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report

Partnerships and Accountability

US Highway 131 Comes Clean

We did our second-of-the-season Adopt-a-Highway cleanup on July 16. After picking up trash from both sides of two miles of Highway 131, we had filled 13 trash bags for later pickup by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

On September 22, 2004, our staff teamed with three students from the Concord Academy Antrim to do our fall Adopt-A-Highway cleanup in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation. We picked up trash along two miles of the highway, filling 13 garbage bags. The program gives us a good opportunity to reach out to the local community and extend our commitment to environmental stewardship. Special thanks to Don Dubay, Mike Tipton and Igor Tverdohklyebov for volunteering to help us. After the cleanup, the entire crew enjoyed a hot dog cookout.



Left to right: Don Dubay, Mike Tipton, and Igor Tverdohklyebov
Photo by Rick Westerhof

-Rick Westerhof

Innovative Partnership with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

As part of a cooperative agreement between the Jordan River NFH and the MDNR Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station, Tracy Kolb and Mary Beth Brey lived on station and volunteered at Jordan River this summer. The rest of their work days were dedicated to the MDNR performing various duties involving Great Lakes research. Tracy is from Grand Haven and is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan with a B.S. in Geology. We did not hold that against her, much. After completing her fisheries internship in Florida at the Mote Marine Research lab she decided to pursue further education and experience in the fisheries sciences. Mary Beth Brey is from the Keweenaw in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She is a recent graduate of Central Michigan University with a B.S. in Biology. Mary Beth is continuing her education at Eastern Illinois University in pursuit of a M.S. in Fisheries. Tracy and Mary Beth were a valuable addition to our staff. Certainly, they gained a diversity of experience this

summer and both advocate continuation of this partnership with the MDNR. Good Luck to Tracy and Mary Beth in their future careers.

-Tim Smigielski

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Lake Trout transferred to Pendills Creek NFH

Between May and June, the Jordan River NFH transferred approximately 850,000 lake trout fingerlings (2.4 inches average length) to the Pendills Creek NFH. This is part of our annual production commitment. These fish get their start at Jordan River because Pendills Creek has only a very small amount of nursery tank space. Providing space here for the early rearing of a large proportion of Pendills' fish serves to increase the number of fish that can be produced for lake trout restoration across the program. Numbers and strains are listed below:

2004 Transfers of Lake Trout from Jordan River to Pendills Creek NFH

Date	Lot #	Number	FPP	Weight (lbs)	Totals By Lot Number			
					Lot #	Number	FPP	Weight (lbs)
5/11/2004	LLW-04-SAR	306,998	394.75	777.7				
5/26/2004	LLW-04-SAR	149,999	295.27	508.0				
6/23/2004	SIW-04-MN	133,400	216.63	615.8				
6/23/2004	SAW-04-SUC	133,400	196.03	680.5				
6/24/2004	SIW-04-MN	66,700	227.90	292.7				
6/30/2004	SAW-04-SUC	60,156	161.23	373.1				
		850,653	261.92	3,247.8				
					LLW-04-SAR	456,997	355.45	1,285.7
					SIW-04-MN	200,100	220.26	908.5
					SAW-04-SUC	193,556	183.71	1,053.6
						850,653	261.92	3,247.8

-Wayne Talo

Fish Distribution Season Completed

The 2004 distribution season began on April 30 and was finished on July 1. This year, the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery released approximately 1.9 million lake trout weighing 162,362 lbs into lakes Michigan and Huron. Fish length averaged about 6.6 inches. Nearly 88% were released offshore from the Togue, the remainder being shore stocked. Numbers and strains are listed below:



M/V Togue departs Charlevoix, MI
Photo by Claire Wisman



Lake Michigan				Lake Huron			
Lot #	Number	FPP	Weight (lbs)	Lot #	Number	FPP	Weight (lbs)
GLW-03-SUC	96,542	11.43	8,450				
LLW-03-SAR	568,946	10.95	51,977				
SAW-03-SUC	249,106	12.59	19,788	LLW-03-SAR	160,709	11.17	14,385
SIW-03-MN	48,501	19.02	2,550	SLW-03-SUC	619,940	12.58	49,262
SLW-03-SUC	13,117	10.57	1,241	STW-03-SUC	162,182	11.03	14,709
	976,212	11.62	84,006		942,831	12.03	78,356

This task required a tremendous amount of cooperation and coordination between the staffs of all three lake trout hatcheries and the Togue crew. Everyone also shared in some level of personal sacrifice, as people worked long hours for many days without a break, and some were away from home for extended periods to assist other hatcheries with their fish distribution. Thanks to John Johnston and Steve Redman (Iron River NFH), and James Anderson, Tracy Roessner, and John Shuman (Pendills Creek NFH) for their assistance in driving distribution trucks. Thanks also to the Togue crew: Captain Mike Perry, Engineer Bob Bergstrom, and emergency hire Jim Page.

-Wayne Talo

Lake Trout Stocking Sites Discussions Held

Tim Smigielski, Lead Fishery Biologist at the Jordan River NFH, attended a joint meeting of the MDNR Great lakes basin teams. Tim initiated a discussion regarding alternate shore stocking sites for Lake trout in lakes Michigan and Huron. Tim presented a short PowerPoint presentation describing the reasoning behind and issues leading up to this discussion. Tim presented the proposed list of alternate Lake Michigan stocking sites at the Lake Michigan technical committee meeting held in July.

-Tim Smigielski

Jordan River Staff Participates in the Lake Huron Technical Committee Meeting

Rick Westerhof participated in the Lake Huron Technical Committee meeting held in Bay City, MI on July 20-21, 2004. Implementation and approval of pulse stocking, and operation and haul out of the M/V Togue were discussed. Hatchery and stocking logistics of pulse stocking in 2005 were discussed, but approval from the Lake Committees is still pending. The five year haul out for the M/V Togue will occur in the fall, and depending upon the outcome, we may have to shore stock lake trout in 2005. A list of alternative shore stocking sites were developed by Paul Haver (Bio Tech) and Tim



Smigielski (Lead Biologist), and presented for approval. Hatchery staff participation is critical to successful lake trout restoration efforts.

-Rick Westerhof

Jordan River NFH Designates a New Rep for Lake Michigan Technical Committee

Tim Smigielski, Lead Fishery Biologist, has participated in the last two Lake Michigan Technical Committee (LMTC) meetings. Tim has become involved with the Lake Trout Task Group. He will participate in issue resolution and decision making processes regarding lake trout restoration, propagation and distribution. Tim has experience in Great Lakes and inland fisheries research, Great Lakes and inland fisheries management, and fish production. As he becomes more familiar with the committee, he is sure to contribute in all of these respects as well. At the July 2004 meeting in Charlevoix, Michigan he gave a short presentation and update on Lake trout distribution, specifically related to alternative stocking locations for the future. Tim has been with the USFWS just a year, but has shown great initiative and assumes responsibilities that belie his years with the Service. Tim is confident that he will settle into an active role in LMTC issues.

-Wayne Talo

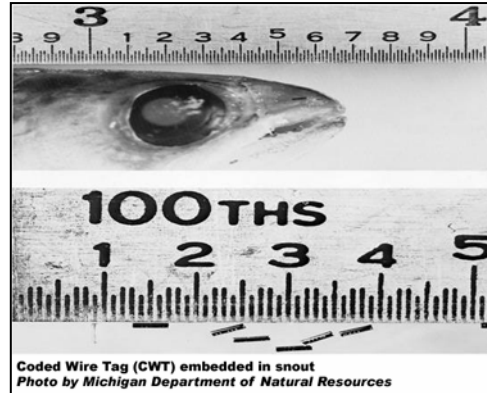
Executive Council Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan

Rick Westerhof, Hatchery Manager, Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, attended the Executive Council Meeting in Traverse City, MI with other FWS folks. Other people in attendance were Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, Bob Adair, Great Lakes Program Leader, Mark Holey, Green Bay FRO Project Leader, Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO Project Leader, and Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO Fisheries Biologist. It was a good opportunity for Rick as he has a much better understanding of the US vs. Michigan 2000 Consent Decree process and how hatchery actions are being reviewed by all parties.

-Rick Westerhof

Mass Marking Trailer Demonstration at Platte River State Fish Hatchery

Bob Adair (Great Lakes Program Leader), Jerry McClain (Alpena Fishery Resource Office Project Leader) and Rick Westerhof (Hatchery Manager) attended the mass marking trailer demonstration at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery on July 15, 2004. Overall, the entire operation was impressive. Approximately 38,000 coho were coded wire tagged and clipped that day with only five people and the trailer. The majority of the fish were processed by the trailer, with the rejected fish being fin clipped by two MDNR staff.



On July 19, 2004, Paul Haver, Bio Tech, and Chris Olds, STEP, witnessed the operation of the mass marking trailer at Platte River State Fish Hatchery. Paul has been involved in coded wire tagging and fin clipping lake trout since 1985. Chris went along to learn more about the trailer, as he is interested in a career in fisheries and is now enrolled in the fisheries program at Lake Superior State University.

-Rick Westerhof

Jordan Staff Attend Marking and Tagging Demo at Iron River NFH

As part of an effort to evaluate the potential of the Autofish System for use in Lake trout marking and tagging operations, Paul Haver, Biological Technician, Tim Smigielski, Lead Fishery Biologist, and Wayne Talo, Fishery Biologist, attended a demonstration of Lake trout tagging on August 9 and 10 at the Iron River NFH. Northwest Marine Technology staff from Shaw Island, Washington operated the unit. Tracy Roessner and James Anderson from Pendills Creek NFH were also part of the contingent. The group will submit their findings to USFWS National Fish Hatcheries leadership in early September 2004.

-Tim Smigielski

Region 3 Fisheries ARD Gets to Michigan

Gerry Jackson ARD of Region 3 Fisheries Programs paid a visit to Jordan River National Fish Hatchery after a day of field work at the Alpena, Michigan FRO. Paul Haver, Biological Technician, hosted a tour of the facility and the grounds for Gerry. Clarice Beckner, Administrative Technician, Tim Smigielski, Lead Fishery Biologist, Chris Olds,

STEP Student, and Paul Haver were all present for an informal discussion with Gerry. The staff all enjoyed Gerry's visit and insights. We especially appreciated his compliments about our facility and the work we accomplish. Thanks for stopping in Gerry!

-Tim Smigielski

Spring Cleaning

Maintenance Mechanic Bob Petersen pumped the sand from the sand trap in the 6-Tile Spring fore bay during July. This is done annually to maintain the depth and integrity of the spring water collection basin.

-Wayne Talo

Settling Basins Cleaned

Maintenance Mechanic Bob Petersen and Biological Technician Paul Haver cleaned the settling basins on August 18. This is done three times annually to help ensure compliance with our effluent discharge permit.

-Wayne Talo

Public Use

New Website Created for Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

Jim and Claire Wisman began their volunteer assignment at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery the end of May. During their two month stay they created a website that tells the Jordan River hatchery story. In addition, the site describes the educational, public use and volunteer/intern opportunities the hatchery provides. The web address for the new site is: <http://midwest.fws.gov/jordanriver/> .



Volunteers and web-builders extraordinaire: Claire & Jim Wisman
Photo by Clarice Beckner

The Wismans are from Fayetteville, Arkansas. Jim taught Chemistry at the University of Arkansas for 34 years and Claire was a librarian at a vocational high school. They retired in 1998 and have been volunteering at state and county parks, historic sites and National



Wildlife Refuges for the past six years. They have had a variety of experiences including being lighthouse tour guides, landscape and maintenance workers, site caretakers and camp hosts. The last two winters were spent at wildlife refuges in Texas and Louisiana where their primary responsibility was also the development of websites.

-Claire Wisman

Jordan River NFH “Reaches-Out” at Bass Festival in Mancelona

Jordan River Fishery Biologist Tim Smigielski coordinated the hatchery participation in the 49th annual festival held June 3rd through June 6th. Scott and Kim Rozanski (volunteers), Ray Puroll (volunteer) and their children along with Tim’s kids and volunteer Dan Sutherland presented a hatchery truck in the parade. The kids passed out candy to the parade enthusiasts. Tim, Ray, Dan and the children gave tours of the truck, which contained some live lake trout yearlings. Besides being treated to tours of the truck, participants at the USFWS booth received information about stocking, fish culture operations and lake trout rehabilitation in the Great Lakes. Tim fielded many questions about cormorants, aquatic nuisance species and “where do you stock the fish?” Thanks to all that participated.

-Tim Smigielski

AuSable Institute Students Tour the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

On August 4, 2004, 14 students and one professor from the AuSable Institute, Mancelona, MI spent about four hours at the hatchery learning about Great Lakes environmental issues. Topics discussed included lake trout propagation and monitoring and evaluation efforts; sea lamprey control efforts; aquatic nuisance species programs; hatchery effluent system and enhancements; and career opportunities. After the tour, the students enjoyed lunch at the hatchery and walked down to the Jordan River to collect water samples for a class project. The AuSable Institute attracts students from all over the United States, and for the last three years they have brought students to the hatchery on field trips to learn about Great Lakes issues.

-Rick Westerhof

Jordan River NFH Staff Attends Building Dedication

On Saturday, August 7, 2004, the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery staff showed their support for their sister station, when Administrative Technician Clarice Beckner, Lead Fishery Biologist Tim Smigielski and Project Leader Rick Westerhof attended the dedication of the new brood stock building at Sullivan's Creek National Fish Hatchery. The three employees offered a PowerPoint presentation, printed materials, and answered questions from a very interested crowd.



Tim Smigielski at the new broodstock building dedication
Photo by Clarice Beckner

Of special interest was our display of an adult lake trout with an attached sea lamprey.

A lot of good information was gained that should be very helpful when Jordan River hosts our own "Hatchery Fest" on September 18, 2004.

-Clarice Beckner

FWS Represented At R/V *Sturgeon* Christening/Commissioning

Administrative Technician Clarice Beckner and Project Leader Rick Westerhof from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery had the pleasure of attending the christening and commissioning of the Research Vessel *Sturgeon* on Thursday, August 12, 2004.



Commissioning of the R/V *Sturgeon*
Photo by Clarice Beckner

The R/V *Sturgeon* was acquired by the Great Lakes Science Center (part of U.S. Geological Survey) in July 1993 from the Smithsonian Institute. Complete overhaul of the vessel began in April 2002. The primary mission of the R/V *Sturgeon* will be to support fisheries related science in Lake Michigan using state-of-the-art electronic technology and traditional sampling gear.

The Jordan River NFH staff members were particularly interested in the event because in approximately two years they will be conducting the same type of event for their new lake trout stocking/assessment vessel Motor Vessel *Spencer F. Baird* which will replace the Motor Vessel *Togue*.

-Clarice Beckner

Jordan River NFH participates in Family Hunting and Fishing Expo

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Staff participated in the 9th Annual Northland Sportsman’s Club Family Hunting & Fishing Expo on Sunday September 12. Aaron Woldt from the Alpena, Michigan Fishery Resource Office provided 50 floy tags for use in marking prize trout for the kid’s trout fishing pond. Rick Westerhof, Wayne Talo and Tim Smigielski staffed a booth providing information on Lake trout restoration, hatchery operations, sea lamprey control, and aquatic nuisance species. “Tattoo Timmy” spent most of his time applying tattoos of trout on the many children who visited the booth. About 1400 children passed through the 5 hour event. This is the 3rd year in a row Jordan has staffed this event.



Tim Smigielski at the Northland Sportsmen's Club, Gaylord, MI
Photo by Rick Westerhof

-Tim Smigielski

Ecological Services Provides Howling Opportunity to Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

On September 14, 2004, Rick Westerhof, Hatchery Manager, was given the opportunity to assist Ecological Services with their Public Hearing Proposal to Delist the Eastern Distinct Population Segment of the Gray Wolf in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Rick was honored to serve as the public hearing officer for the meeting that turned out to be a howling good time. Public attendance at the meeting was good, with the majority of folks supportive of the delisting proposal.

-Rick Westerhof

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Hits the Air Waves

Leave it to Tim Smigielski, Lead Biologist, to get the word out about the first annual Jordan River Hatchery Fest! Tim contacted Jim Miller from WMJZ Oldies 101.5 radio station in Gaylord, MI. Jim does the Michigan Outdoor Adventures segment every Saturday from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. So on September 4, 2004, Rick Westerhof, Hatchery Manager, went to the studio and did a 12 minute live broadcast about the hatchery,



Jim Miller, of Oldies 101.5, and Rick Westerhof
Photo by Joanie Moore

development of a Friends Group, and our upcoming First Annual Jordan River Hatchery Fest on September 18, 2004. Rick made two subsequent appearances on the show:

- The second spot was a live remote from the recent Hatchery Fest on September 18th. Tim Smigielski, Lead Fishery Biologist, did a live spot in which he invited the public to the "Partners and Friends Day" and explained the Service's emphasis and prioritization on partnerships and public outreach opportunities. Rick also talked about the new USFWS Great Lakes Motor Vessel Spencer F. Baird. Rick then tag teamed with Joanie Moore, chief organizer of the Mancelona Bass Festival, for a segment regarding the Jordan River's partnership with the Mancelona Bass Festival, a local community event.
- Rick also did a "call in" the next weekend September 25th where he thanked all of the Hatchery Fest participants and sponsors, especially Jim and WMJZ 101.5 Oldies.

Jim offered this remote broadcast as a donation to the event (the station normally charges events for remote broadcasts). Many visitors at the Hatchery Fest registration booth referenced the radio spots as the reason that they were in attendance that day.

-Rick Westerhof and Tim Smigielski

Hatchery Fest 2004

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery hosted our 1st Annual Hatchery Fest on Saturday, September 18th. Over 140 visitors passed through the five hour event. MDNR staff from Oden State Fish Hatchery and the Bellaire Forest Management Fire Unit staffed displays and assisted with kids games. Smokey the Bear also made an appearance. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality staff presented a surface water runoff model called "Enviroscape" which was a popular stop for visitors. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff from Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery, the Alpena Fishery Resource Office and Seney National Wildlife Refuge, along with Jordan River staff provided information at the various interpretive displays and worked the kid's games. Hayride tours of the hatchery grounds were a very popular attraction. Of course, the children's games and various door prize donations were enjoyed by all. Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make the event possible. We hope to advance the Service's mission through the future leaders



Hayride Tour with Denise Johnston and Enviroscope
Photos by Joanie Moore



of natural resource conservation and management: our children. Thanks again to everyone!

-Tim Smigielski

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

Student Temporary Experience Program (STEP) Intern

STEP student Chris Olds completed his last day at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery on August 16. Chris is a native of Elmira, MI and plans to begin his studies in fisheries biology at Lake Superior State University (Sault Saint Marie, MI) this fall. Chris proved himself to be an invaluable worker over the course of the spring and summer, assisting with routine fish culture, fish distribution, and power-washing. He demonstrated an excellent work ethic and an eagerness to learn as much as possible. We were glad to have him here and we wish him the best of luck.

-Wayne Talo

Tim Smigielski “Gets An Education”

Tim Smigielski entered on duty as the Lead Fishery Biologist at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery back in August 2003. Tim just recently had the opportunity to experience the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia first hand.

When first told he was slated to attend the “*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Foundations*” class, Tim was not sure he would benefit from such an experience. When Tim returned from the class, he was full of compliments concerning both the class and the facility. He expressed his appreciation of being offered this type of opportunity and highly recommends it for other professionals coming into the Service. He was also able to make some very good contacts with both Fish and Wildlife Service employees and those from other agencies. Tim is looking forward to taking another class at NCTC.

-Clarice Beckner

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Personnel Meet SAMMS

Robert Petersen (Maintenance Mechanic) and Rick Westerhof (Hatchery Manager) were formally introduced to SAMMS (Service Maintenance Management System) at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV from August 23-27, 2004. SAMMS is the new web-based database system developed to record 100% of all labor and supply costs for preventative and corrective maintenance at the facility. Work orders will have to be generated for all maintenance work and entered into the database biweekly.



Implementation of SAMMS will require all personnel to keep track of any maintenance-related work performed. Thank goodness Robert Petersen has been keeping track of all his maintenance work, so the hardest part will be learning how to use the new system and entering data in a timely fashion. Funds were received from the Washington Office to implement SAMMS. New computers and office equipment were purchased to get an office setup for Mr. Petersen.

-Rick Westerhof

The Johnston's are Coming to Jordan River National Fish Hatchery!

The Johnston's are coming, the Johnston's are coming – to Jordan River NFH!! On August 29, 2004, Denise and John Johnston officially reported to work at the Jordan River NFH. Denise accepted the Assistant Manager position, while John accepted the Biological Technician position. We are very excited about having Denise and John join the staff, especially with their knowledge and experience of hatcheries and Great Lakes issues. They will be able to step right in and make a positive impact at the hatchery because of their dedication and work ethic. With the arrival of the Denise and John, the hatchery will be fully staffed for the first time in three years. Please welcome the Johnston's back to Jordan River.

-Rick Westerhof

All Hands Chat with the Regional Director at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

Regional Director Robyn Thorson held an “all hands chat” at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery with FWS folks from around the area on September 9, 2004. FWS offices represented included: East Lansing Ecological Services, Ann Arbor, Bay City and Detroit Law Enforcement, Pendills Creek NFH, Regional Office Fisheries, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Green Bay Fishery Resource Office, Alpena Fishery Resource Office, and Cheboygan River Front Station. In addition to the “all hands chat with Robyn” there was a: potluck luncheon featuring grilled pork roast by Master Chef Paul Haver and all the trimmings, hatchery tour by Wayne Talo and Tim Smigielski and Great Lakes briefing by Mark Holey. Thanks to all the FWS people in attendance to learn about a small portion of our Great Lakes Fisheries program. A special thanks to Robyn who was kind enough to stop by the hatchery to discuss issues, answer questions and visit on her way to the Executive Council Meeting in Traverse City, MI the next day.



Regional Director Robyn Thorson takes questions
Photo by Clarice Beckner

-Rick Westerhof