

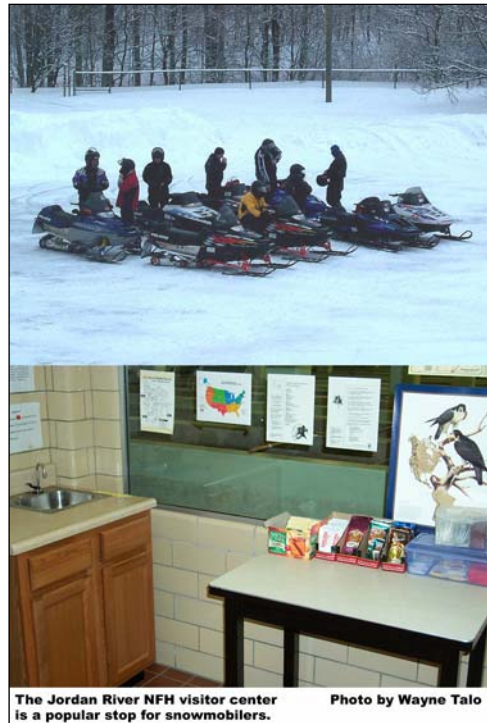
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report

Partnerships and Accountability

Jordan River NFH Visitor Center Receives Snowmobiler Support

Since 2001 the visitor center at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery has been open to the public 24 hours a day. This change has been successful and will continue as long as the public supports and respects the opportunity. A local snowmobile group from East Jordan, Michigan sponsors refreshments and promotes visitor center attendance. They have been instrumental in the success of this effort. Recently, the East Jordan snowmobilers supplied the visitor center with much needed hot chocolate for the winter months. The visitor center is a popular stop for families and groups snowmobiling or otherwise enjoying the Jordan River Valley. The visitors log at the center is littered with positive comments regarding the friendly staff, clean bathrooms and educational displays. The hatchery hopes to expand and improve the visitor center continuously into the future.

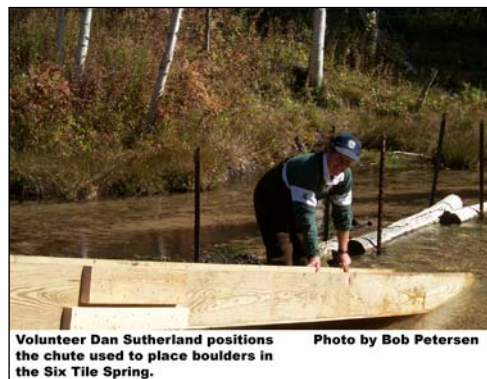


The Jordan River NFH visitor center is a popular stop for snowmobilers. Photo by Wayne Talo

-Tim Smigielski

The “Eagle” has Landed at Jordan River NFH

This past October a group of Boy Scouts from East Jordan, Michigan participated in an Eagle Scout qualification project on the grounds of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery. The scouts placed boulders building a water diversion device in Six Tile Spring. Six Tile Spring is one of two water sources for the hatchery. The water diversion device is working well, as the purpose was to increase water velocity and move sediment to an area that is more accessible for removal with the hatchery backhoe. The materials for the project were purchased with challenge cost share grant funds and the



Volunteer Dan Sutherland positions the chute used to place boulders in the Six Tile Spring. Photo by Bob Petersen

match was provided with the labor from the Boy Scouts. Bob Peterson, Maintenance Mechanic, coordinated the project and was assisted by Dan Sutherland, volunteer. Another Eagle Scout project is in the works for 2005.

-Tim Smigielski

Local Jordan River NFH Volunteer Lends a Helping Hand

Tim Moore, a local volunteer and friend of the hatchery provided assistance to Sullivan's Creek NFH during their annual fall Lake Trout spawning. "Got Milt?" Tim didn't get it, when he saw the graffiti written on one of the containers. He soon found out what that meant, as his first duty was to check for ripe males and help fertilize green eggs. Tim participated in many of the daily duties during a spawning day at Sullivan's. He enjoyed the work, and as Tim admitted at the end of day one, "it is definitely work." He did an excellent job and is certainly welcome to return next season. Thanks for the apple pie at break time Crystal!

-Tim Smigielski



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

M/V Togue is Ready to Set Sail in 2005

On October 10, 2004 the haul out project on the M/V Togue began in Escanaba, MI at Basic Marine Inc. Repairs included work on the propellers and some touch up painting on the hull. The major repairs were: replacement of the shafts, bearings, and stuffing boxes. The most serious of the findings was that the alignment of the vessel has worsened. The infrastructure has shifted, resulting in the shaft flange having to be cut off because there wasn't enough room between the flange and the hull. Due to these findings, rough weather will again be an issue for the Togue crew this distribution season. The total cost of the haul out came to \$41,690 dollars. The Togue is being wintered at Basic Marine Inc. until April when it





will return home. The 2005 season will be the last for the M/V Togue with the new vessel the M/V Spencer F. Baird being ready to set sail in 2006.

-Christopher M. Olds

Jordan River Staff Assists Fellow Lake Trout Hatcheries with Spawning

Jordan River NFH staff members Denise and John Johnston, Tim Smigielski, Paul Haver, Bob Petersen, and Wayne Talo assisted with the spawning of fish for the 2005 year class. Labor was in short supply at both the Iron River NFH and the Sullivans Creek NFH, so our help was much appreciated. It's also great fun for us too!

-Wayne Talo

2005 Year Class Lake Trout Find a Home at Jordan River NFH

Jordan River NFH received its first eyed egg shipment from Saratoga NFH on November 16, 2004. On January 4, 2005 the last egg shipment arrived from Sullivan's Creek NFH. The 2005 year class consists of five strains of Lake Trout. A net total of 4,586,382 eggs from all brood sources, have been incubated at the hatchery to date. Fry emergence was in full swing by the end of December. At this point, hatching is complete in all but two incubation jars and the sac fry are acclimating to their new conditions in the tanks. Actually, two of the thirty two rearing tanks are at swim up and have begun feeding as of this report writing. The Jordan River Class of 2005 is off to a great start.

-Tim Smigielski

Public Use

Jordan River NFH Hosts Program for High School Natural Resource Class

On a beautiful Northern Michigan October day, forty-five students from Alpena High School in northeastern Lower Michigan toured the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery. The students experienced a tour of the facility and three different programs. John Johnston (Biological Technician) introduced the students to hatchery operations and cold water fish culture. The student groups calculated density indices utilizing fictional data, determining the pounds of fish that could be held per unit of rearing space. Rick Westerhof (Project Leader) discussed careers with the USFWS and National Fish Hatcheries. In addition, Rick presented information on Stocking and Distribution of Lake trout for the Great Lakes restoration program. Rick included information about the new vessel, the M/V Spencer F. Baird. Tim Smigielski (Fisheries Biologist) provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled "An Introduction to Lake Trout Restoration - It's A Whole New World Out There." Tim presented a historical overview of Lake trout



restoration, focusing on the changes in the Great Lakes ecosystem and some of the possible impediments to and solutions for the future of Lake trout restoration. This was an excellent introduction to the fisheries sciences and resource conservation for these 9th and 10th graders. Mark McKay, the Alpena High School teacher who chaperoned the students, hopes to return to the hatchery annually with his future classes.

-Tim Smigielski

High School Students Hike and Tour the Jordan River Valley

On October 21st, 40 juniors and seniors with the Kingsley High Outdoor Club toured the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery as part of their Outdoor Adventure Club field trip. Tim Smigielski (Fisheries Biologist) and Rick Westerhof (Project Leader) each lead tours for 20 students. After the tours were completed the student group hiked from the hatchery to Deadman's Hill, a scenic overlook of the Jordan River Valley. The students and their instructor were impressed with the facility and enjoyed the valley. They plan to return next fall.

-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

On The Road Again.....

When Debbie Jones entered on duty at the Pendills Creek/Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) in February 2004, there was more than enough for her to absorb without trying to learn the Budget Tracking System (BTS) program that Region 3 Fisheries offices use.

Debby is slated to take the BTS training in Minneapolis in December 2004. Since this is after the fiscal year begins, Clarice Beckner, longtime Administrative Technician from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, offered to travel to the Pendills Creek NFH to load the program on Debby's computer and give her some insight into the BTS program. Together they built her dataset with vendor, account, and employee information. Debbie was then able to enter her obligations and payments made to date, along with downloading payroll information from Denver. Now when Debbie attends the December training she can take a backup copy of her station's BTS information and instructors can personally instruct her on how to reconcile her data with her October and November Denver reports. Debbie will return to her station with up-to-date budget information which she can share with her Project Leader.



-Clarice Beckner

NFH Staff Member is "Certifiable"

Assistant Manager Denise Johnston has recently been certified for waste water treatment operation in the state of Michigan. Denise attended a week long training course in Jackson, Michigan in October. She then wrote an examination in November. Denise recently received confirmation that she successfully completed the requirements. Jordan River NFH has a passive off-line settling basin system to ensure that the hatchery's effluent discharge is within the permitted criteria for total phosphorus and total suspended solids. An upgrade of the basin is scheduled for 2006 and certainly Denise will be involved in its design and future operation. Congratulations on your success Denise!



-Tim Smigielski