

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report**

### *Partnerships and Accountability*

(Nothing to report).

### *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*

#### **U.S. Senator Carl Levin Meets With FWS & USGS Personnel**

On Friday, June 3, 2005, U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-Michigan) and his Regional Representative, Harold Chase, met with personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Those in attendance representing USGS Great Lakes Science Center were Dr. Leon Carl (Director), Steve Longacre (Administrative Officer), Ed Perry (Ship Operator) and Joe Spicciani (Ship Operator). Bob Bergstrom (Marine Engineer), Rick Westerhof (Hatchery Manager), and Clarice Beckner (Administrative Technician) were there representing the FWS.



Left to Right in front of the USGS vessel R/V *Sturgeon*: Steve Longacre, Dr. Leon Carl, Rick Westerhof, Senator Carl Levin, Joe Spicciani, and Ed Perry. Photo by Clarice Beckner

The meeting was held aboard the USGS Research Vessel *Sturgeon*. The purpose of the meeting was to brief Senator Levin on the current situation regarding dock space for federal vessels located in Cheboygan, Michigan. The FWS leases dock space from Ryba Marine for the Motor Vessel *Togue* while the USGS docks two vessels on their property, the R/V *Sturgeon* and *Grayling*. Unfortunately, the current space will not accommodate the M/V *Baird* that is under construction to replace the M/V *Togue*.

USGS and FWS have been working with the City of Cheboygan to lease 66 ft. of dock space along West Second Street for the federal vessels. Presently, West Second Street is being leased to a local ferry operator. The City of Cheboygan is trying to find another dock site for the ferry operator, so the federal agencies can sign a long term lease on the 66 ft. Two other dock space options were discussed. These included building a 100 ft. boat slip up West Second Street and upgrading the Ryba Marine dock space located east of the USGS property. The second option would require some modifications but appears to be more cost effective.



Senator Levin was also briefed on FWS hatchery operations, other USGS programs, and toured the R/V *Sturgeon*. The Senator was very interested in the marking and tagging programs conducted at each Lake trout facility. Senator Levin and Harold Chase were invited to mark and tag lake trout at Jordan River next year. The group appreciated Senator Levin's time, interest and support of our programs.

*-Clarice Beckner*

### **Fish Distribution Season Continues**

We released another 1.12 million Lake trout into Lakes Huron and Michigan during June. These fish averaged 10 fish per pound, or about 6.94 inches length. Our total number released thus far for the year is 1.95 million, or 100,000 fish over our annual production goal – and we still have fish left to release in July!

*-Wayne Talo*

### ***Public Use***

#### **Boyne City Natural Resources Class Learns About Lake Trout at Jordan River NFH**

On Friday June 3, Mr. Lockman's class from Boyne City schools toured the hatchery. These future resource stewards got a close up view of the current hatchery operations and learned about the Great Lakes Lake trout restoration program. Mr. Lockman returns to the hatchery with his students annually. See you next year!

*-Tim Smigielski*

#### **Jordan River NFH Staff Return to Mancelona Bass Festival**

For the second year in a row, the Jordan River NFH has staffed a booth at this local community event. Rick Westerhof, Project Leader, along with volunteers Dan Sutherland, Ray Puroll and Ray's children, Megan and Dylan, participated in the parade which began at noon on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>. Dan and the kids passed out candy along the parade route. Tim Smigielski, Fishery Biologist, staffed a booth to inform the public about the Service's programs and the hatchery's role in Great Lakes Lake trout restoration. After the parade Rick lead tours of the hatchery truck showing the public how it functions and displaying some yearling Lake trout that were brought along. Our hatchery has developed a successful partnership with the Bass Festival committee and its



chair, Joan Moore. Other projects are in the works with these new friends.

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **College Students Enjoy Programs at Jordan River NFH**

In June about fifteen students from various colleges took a road trip to the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery. The students were enrolled in a summer course at North West Michigan's Au Sable Institute. Wayne Talo, Rick Westerhof and Tim Smigielski teamed up to provide a three hour program. Wayne Talo and Tim Smigielski led a tour of the hatchery; they highlighted hatchery operations and Lake trout culture. Wayne provided a homework problem where the students learned to calculate feed rates for a raceway of fish. Rick and Tim exposed the students to the many aspects of the Great Lakes Lake trout restoration program, Lake trout distribution (stocking), sea lamprey control, implementation of the 2000 Consent Decree, and aquatic nuisance species. All students found the video and PowerPoint presentations informative. The students enjoyed their lunch at the hatchery, while participating in an informal question and answer session prior to their departure.

*-Tim Smigielski*

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

(Nothing to report).

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

(Nothing to report).

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

#### **Jordan River NFH Biologist Doubles as "Cruise Director"**

On June 15<sup>th</sup> the Grass River Natural Area and Three Lakes Association from Antrim County, Michigan held an outreach event called "Fishing for Answers". The "three hour tour" was designed to inform lake property owners and other user groups about the area lakes. The event was held at the Torch Lake Township Park. Several pontoon owners around the lake volunteered their services to take attendees for short cruises on Torch Lake. One of the volunteer tour guides was Tim Smigielski from the Jordan River NFH. Tim drafted a reference of FAQs for the guides, which was also distributed to those

attending the event. Tim fielded questions primarily about fishing, aquatic nuisance species and water quality. He pointed out poor shoreline development practices and discussed alternatives and Best Management Practices for the watershed.

*-Tim Smigielski*

## ***Workforce Management***

### **Jordan River's STEP Student Returns for Another Summer!**

The Jordan River National Fish Hatchery's STEP (Student Temporary Experience Program) student, Chris Olds, just recently finished his first year of college at Lake Superior State University (LSSU) and has returned for a second year of employment with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Chris is working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. He is getting "hands on" experience with fish culture, assisting with cleaning tanks, sample counting, and fish distribution.



STEP Student Chris Olds

Photo by Wayne Talo

Chris' interest in fish culture led him to studying fish growth, eating habits, and spawning habitat. In his free time he enjoys conducting research projects on different species of fish. Currently he has three research projects on Lake Trout, Muskellunge, and Northern Pike at his home.

Running cross-country and track for LSSU keeps Chris busy during the school year. Then during the summer, when not at the hatchery, Chris can be found working on his parents' ranch raising horses. The STEP program is working great for Chris and he looks forward to future years of employment.

*-Christopher Olds*