

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report**

### *Partnerships and Accountability*

#### **Jordan River NFH Provides Leadership Outside of the Service**

Rick Westerhof, Project Leader, and Chris Olds, Step Student, attended the monthly meeting of the Friends of the Jordan River in mid-August. Rick has been a board member for a couple of years and provides input on conservation and natural resource management issues in the watershed.

- *Tim Smigielski*

### *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*

#### **2005 Fish Distribution Season Completed**

Our last load of Lake trout was released on July 5 into Lake Michigan. Overall, it was a very successful year. We released in excess of 2.15 million fish – more than 350,000 over our target. Approximately 95% were released offshore via the M/V *Togue*. With the *Togue*, we have the ability to directly introduce these fish to historically productive Lake trout habitat (rocky reefs and shoals). Fish stocked offshore with the *Togue* have also been found to survive at higher rates than those stocked from trucks at the shoreline.



The M/V *Togue* departs with a load of fish.

Photo by "unknown"

Our fish were almost evenly divided between Lakes Michigan and Huron. The following table outlines our release data by Lake trout strain and lake:



Lake Trout Strain	Lake Michigan			Lake Huron			Grand Total		
	Number	FPP	Pounds	Number	FPP	Pounds	Number	FPP	Pounds
Seneca Lake	33,405	9.99	3,344	645,397	13.63	47,341	678,802	13.39	50,685
Superior - Apostle Islands	361,438	11.03	32,757	0		0	361,438	11.03	32,757
Lewis Lake	649,458	11.14	58,288	331,361	9.16	36,159	980,819	10.38	94,447
Green Lake	0		0	0		0	0		0
Superior - Isle Royale	0		0	0		0	0		0
Superior - Marquette	0		0	0		0	0		0
Superior - Traverse Island	38,212	10.35	3,693	92,351	10.13	9,115	130,563	10.19	12,808
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,082,513</b>	<b>11.04</b>	<b>98,082</b>	<b>1,069,109</b>	<b>11.54</b>	<b>92,615</b>	<b>2,151,622</b>	<b>11.28</b>	<b>190,697</b>

FPP refers to fish size in terms of "fish per pound"

As always, our thanks and appreciation go to our fellow Service employees from cooperating hatcheries who helped with truck driving duties: Angela Baran, Nick Grueneis, and Steve Redman (Iron River NFH); and James Anderson, Tracy Roessner, and John Shuman (Pendills Creek NFH). Special thanks to the crew of the *Togue*: Captain Mike Perry, Engineer Bob Bergstrom, and Jim Page.

*-Wayne Talo*

**Jordan River’s Class of 2006 has Left the Building!**

On August 23, Jordan River NFH staff signaled the end of summer by beginning the task of transferring Lake trout fingerlings from the indoor tanks to the outdoor raceways. Typically, fingerling size and density in the tanks requires this move to occur sometime in mid- to late-August. During this part of the rearing cycle, the Lake trout are sample counted to determine the number of fish per pound. Then the fingerlings are weighed out by nets to a trough, which carries the fish through a piping run, several hundred yards down hill, to the main bank of outdoor raceways. A total of 1.91 million fingerlings were transferred to the outdoor raceways when the project was completed on September 14. We anticipate producing 1.8 million lake trout yearlings for Great Lakes Lake trout restoration efforts on Lakes Huron and Michigan in the spring of 2006.

*- Tim Smigielski*

**Annual Intake Maintenance Completed on Six Tile Spring**

In August, Bob Peterson, Maintenance mechanic at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, removed sediment from the retention pond at the hatchery’s Six Tile spring. John Johnston and Paul Haver assisted with transporting and spreading the spoils. Cleaning of the intake pond provides more holding capacity and helps prevent movement of sand and sediment into the hatchery supply pipes, tanks and raceways.

*- Tim Smigielski*

### **Jordan Staff Participate in Iron River NFH Building Dedication**

Denise Johnston, Assistant Manager, and John Johnston, Fishery Biologist, attended the dedication ceremony for the new Iron River NFH brood stock and production buildings. Denise and John staffed a booth showcasing Jordan River's participation in the Great Lakes Lake trout restoration program. Approximately 150 people attended this successful event. Congratulations to Iron River National Fish Hatchery and to those who were there to celebrate with them.

- *Tim Smigielski*

### **Public Use**

#### **Jordan River NFH "Hatchery Fest" was Fun for All**

On Saturday August 20 Jordan River held its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hatchery Fest. The event was sponsored by more than two dozen local businesses and community groups. More than a dozen state, federal, and non-profit conservation and natural resource organizations provided booth displays, including the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Division; Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Oden State Fish Hatchery and the Forest Management Division; Ducks Unlimited; Grass River Natural Area; Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council; Michigan United Conservation Clubs; Mancelona Bass Festival Committee; Iron River NFH; Alpena FRO; Ludington Biological Station; East Jordan Snowmobilers; National Wild Turkey Federation; Northland Sportsman's Club; and Bob Peterson-Great Lakes Fishing.



Rick Riley, hatchery supporter from the Northland Sportsman's Club and NWTF, displays "Turkey Hunting Stuff" for the visitors.  
*Photo by Tim Smigielski*

The weather, although very wet, did not dampen the spirits of the 100 plus who attended the event. The kid's games and contests were staffed by volunteers who did an outstanding job keeping up with the younger generation. Perhaps the most popular booth display was provided by the Service's very own Ludington Biological Station. Barry Matthews (USFWS) said that he attends "many events per year" and it showed. Barry had a polished presentation on sea lamprey in the Great Lakes. The live sea lamprey larvae drew in many curious onlookers. Donna Koltuniak volunteered her fly casting expertise. Her display also commanded the attention of most visitors. Donna patiently provided instruction to youngsters and adults.



Tim Smigielski, biologist at Jordan River said, “Donna is already booked for next years Fest, she was just awesome, and I can’t thank her enough.” “There were so many door prizes my throat was getting sore from announcing the winners.” The donators, the exhibitors, the volunteers, the hatchery staff, were all ready for mass quantities of public participation, but the poor weather forecast just kept numbers down.” Tim Smigielski also noted, “It’s Michigan, we were just lucky it didn’t snow.” Hatchery Fest 2006 is already in the works! Thanks to anyone and everyone who participated.

*-Tim Smigielski*

**Jordan River NFH Staff “Live” from Mackinac Island**

Jim Miller, our media contact with local radio station Oldies 101.5, was assigned to cover a salmon fishing tournament the same day as our Hatchery Fest. So, he couldn’t be on site, as he was last year. However, Jim offered to do a live call-in remote broadcast from Mackinac Island. We said “Great! We’ll take it!” Rick Westerhof, Project Leader, Tim Smigielski, Fishery Biologist, and Maureen Jacobs with MDNR Oden State Fish Hatchery were on the call. The main emphasis was to advertise the Hatchery Fest. Maureen also did a great job explaining the cooperation between the agencies. Rick was... well... Rick. The whole thing was just a super promotion for USFWS and MDNR programs and services. The broadcast reached out to all of northern Michigan.

*-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***

### **Hocking College Provided “Super Student” for the Summer**

On September 8, Jordan River NFH bid a fond farewell to student worker John O’Brien. John, a forty-eight year old student pursuing his second career, started working at the hatchery on June 20. Although John could not recite the scientific name of the Lake trout on his first day, on day two he blurted out at the break table, “*Salvelinus namaycush*.” Though he mispronounced it, John definitely showed promise. At the end of it all, John experienced many aspects of hatchery operations, fish culture, and administration. John was very enthusiastic and contentious. John’s wife Karima was instrumental in securing donations for the hatchery fest. She mostly worked out of her house while nursing a knee injury she sustained in a car accident earlier this year. Both John and Karima fit in well here at the hatchery. We all wish them the best in their future endeavors.

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **Jordan River Gets Quality Volunteer Work from Experienced Ex-Teacher**

Retired teacher Bob MacCord, who resides in McBain, Michigan, has been volunteering at the hatchery since July. Bob retired this June from a 32 year career as a teacher of environmental science at Comstock High School near Kalamazoo, Michigan. This spring, Bob was traveling in the Upper Peninsula. He stopped by the Pendills Creek NFH, where he saw a sign for volunteer programs. So, Bob came to Jordan River (which is much closer to his home) and was welcomed with a tour, by biologist Tim Smigielski. Bob must have liked what he saw, he has been showing up once a week to do fish work and maintenance stuff ever since. Thanks for your help Bob!

*-Tim Smigielski*