

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report**

### *Partnerships and Accountability*

#### **Hatchery Friends Group Meets**

The Friends of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery met after they assisted with the hatchery Fish are Fun event the evening of January 30<sup>th</sup>. President Bob MacCord brought the meeting to order at 7:45pm. They discussed the event and future Fish are Fun programs. Bob is a retired teacher and so is our treasurer Peg Myers. They have great suggestions and innovative ideas. Just what we need! Much of the rest of the meeting was dedicated to planning their first major project, a picnic pavilion with interpretive signage on the hatchery grounds.

*-Tim Smigielski*

### *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*

#### **Completion of Coded Wire Tagging**

Tagging of the second and last group of lake trout for the year was completed on January 16. The two groups, each approximately 60,000 fish, are for a strain comparison study. One group is comprised of Seneca Lake strain lake trout and the other of Superior-Apostle Island lake trout. They are scheduled to be released into Northern Lake Huron (Drummond Island Refuge) in the spring of 2007.

*-Wayne Talo*



Christy Reinhardt excises the adipose fin and implants a coded wire tag into the snout of an anesthetized lake trout. *-Photo by Wayne Talo*

#### **Fin Clipping Progress**

The remainder of our lake trout production scheduled for release in the spring of 2007 is presently being fin clipped. The right pectoral (RP) and left ventral (LV) fins are being removed to identify the fish as hatchery-produced, as opposed to naturally spawned in the wild. The ability to differentiate between these two groups is important to researchers evaluating the success of the Great Lakes Lake Trout Restoration Program, success being defined as the reestablishment of self-sustaining naturally spawning populations of lake trout. As of the end of January, approximately 40% of our lake trout have been either coded wire tagged or RPLV fin clipped. Fin clipping is expected to continue into early April.

*-Wayne Talo*

### **Contract Awarded for Construction of New Fish Truck Tank**

The Jordan River NFH will be acquiring a new fish distribution truck this year. This truck will be the largest in the Lake Trout Restoration Program, with four 1,000 gallon compartments. Fisheries Biologist Paul Haver outlined all the specifications for the tractor and designed the tank. The tank will be built in Cadillac, Michigan, by Cadillac Fabrication, and the tractor will be purchased through Government Services Administration (GSA) contract. The use of this truck, in combination with the large trucks from the Iron River and Pendills Creek National Fish Hatcheries, will allow us to haul ten loads of fish with only three drivers. In recent years, it has required four drivers to haul eight loads. This will be a great boost to our efficiency, both in terms of labor use and fuel consumption.

*-Wayne Talo*

### **New Year Class**

The new year class of lake trout, produced from the fall 2006 spawning effort, have all hatched and some have begun to feed. At this point, it takes more than 3,000 to make a pound of weight, and they average approximately an inch in length. As their development progresses, we will increase their feeding frequency to about once per hour during the workday. Their feed is a high protein, commercially produced diet designed specifically for trout and salmon aquaculture. Our estimated “first feeding” inventory is in the neighborhood of 3.5 million. These fish are intended for release in the spring of 2008.



Lake trout fry searching for feed.

- Photo by Wayne Talo

*-Wayne Talo*

### **Maintenance on the *M/V Spencer F. Baird***

Maintenance scheduled for the early fall of 2006 and the winter of 2007 includes both corrective and preventive maintenance. Work being done on the ten fish tanks includes:

- replacing the rubber coated electrical wire with wire encased in conduit;
- changing the electrical supply cord so that it is separate from the fish tank;
- lowering the oxygen line connection so it is below the fish tank hatches where it enters the fish tank;
- and disassembling the 10” discharge valve. Clean the valve of shipyard dirt and grime, grease the packing, paint and reassemble.
- Also fabricated one set of casters to fit on all the tanks for off-vessel tank transport.

Maintenance aboard the *Baird* also includes winterizing the vessel, changing oils and filters on all engines, and determining what supplies will be needed to keep the vessel operational during this

coming season. Getting to know the vessel is an important part of learning how to maintain it, and this includes tracing out all systems and correcting labels on all machinery, electrical wiring, circuit breakers, plumbing, and valves that are incorrectly labeled or hooked up. Lastly, we are trying to get warranty work done on some equipment that does not work correctly.

*-Bob Bergstrom*

## ***Public Use***

### **Limnology Class Impressed by STEP Student Chris Olds' Knowledge of Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Lake Trout Restoration Program**

Home for Christmas break STEP student Chris Olds took an afternoon to explain to the Gaylord High School limnology class a little about the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, and the lake trout restoration program that they are involved in. On January 3, 2007 a group of 30 high school juniors and seniors gathered around Chris to observe a lake trout dissection as the hatchery would do when performing the Fish Health Assessment designed by Ronald W. Goede. Chris explained the functions of different organs, the signs of a healthy fish, and the life cycle of a wild lake trout. A brief overview of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery followed the dissection. The class was very interested in the exotic species that have entered the Great Lakes as well as the new off shore stocking vessel the *M/V Spencer F. Baird*. Chris is a graduate of Gaylord High School and it was this limnology class that sparked his interest to pursue a degree in the fish and wildlife field.



STEP student Chris Olds

- Photo by Jeff Kalember

*-Chris Olds*

### **Snowmobile Tourists Return, Sort of**

Lack of snow and warm temperatures have severely impacted snowmobile tourism in Michigan's northern lower peninsula this winter. However, conditions improved during mid-January and we began to see our normal rush of people stopping in from the trails to see the fish, learn about the hatchery, and of course, to use the bathrooms. We encourage people to stop by our visitor center year round (our visitor center is open 24 hours daily, 365 days per year), but visitor traffic in the winter time is usually particularly heavy due to our location right next to a major snowmobile trail. By reaching out to the snowmobile community, we have made contacts with people from all over



the Midwest, educating them about lake trout and the role we play in their restoration to the Great Lakes.

*-Wayne Talo*

### **Fish Are Fun...Again!**

Tim Smigielski resumed our winter kids outreach program, *Fish Are Fun*, on January 30. The topic of the evening was "Ice Fishing Michigan." Tim has two more programs scheduled on February 28 ("What About Lake Trout?") and March 29 ("Vampires of the Great Lakes – The Sea Lamprey"). The programs are designed for youngsters with lots of animation to keep their attention on the subject at hand. After the presentation, the visitors tour the tank room and some are given the chance to fin clip a lake trout. The tour is followed by a hands-on activity or some other mentally stimulating but entertaining focal point. Of course snacks and refreshments round out the evening. These programs have been requested at off site locations again for 2007.

*-Tim Smigielski*

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

(Nothing to report).

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

#### **Attendance at Technical Committee Meetings**

Denise Johnston, Assistant Project Leader, attended the Lake Huron Technical Committee meeting during the week of January 15. Denise presented some information about the 2006 lake trout stockings and the 2007 fish distribution schedule. Tim Smigielski, Fish Biologist from Jordan River, attended the Lake Michigan Technical Committee meeting during the week of January 22. Tim fielded some questions about hatchery operations and off shore lake trout stocking methods and practices.

*-Tim Smigielski*

#### **Industry Days in Traverse City**

Industry Days took place at the Holiday Inn in Traverse City from January 23 through 26, 2007. 173 individuals representing all fields of The Great Lakes Maritime Industry attended the conference. USFWS employees in attendance were Mike Perry, Captain of the *M/V Spencer F. Baird* and Dave Bohn, Deckhand, *M/V Spencer F. Baird*.



During the conference several classes were offered by The Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Dave Bohn attended three classes: Reading Electric Schematics and Troubleshooting Controls; Drive Train Alignment; and Shipboard Electrical Grounds. Mike Perry took Reading Electric Schematics and Troubleshooting Controls, Hydraulics Changing Fluids and Cleaning Systems, and Ship Stability. These classes were two to three hours long and were taught by Academy instructors.

Other topics covered during the conference were:

- Licensing Issues by retired Coast Guard Inspector Chuck Kakuska
- Bio-Diesel Fuels, Lubricants & Hydraulics by Jack Blanchard Diesel Engineer, General Motors
- Security Awareness and Safety by Rick Brown, National Transportation Institute
- Chart Updating, Raster Electronic and Paper Charts by Brian Link (NOAA)
- Computers/ E-mails, How to keep yours healthy by Mike Hochscheidt Great Lakes Maritime Academy
- Water levels & Other Great Lakes Issues by Roger Gauthier, Army Corp of Engineers
- Presentation on Michigan DNR New Research Vessel Char
- Oil Testing and Preventative Maintenance by David Ezell, Caterpillar Rep.
- Kelley Smith Michigan DNR talked about VHS fish virus
- Coast Guard and Regulatory Issues by U.S. Coast Guard Rep.
- Ship Stability by Tim Cherry, Naval Architect
- Fire and Safety Issues by Dennis Sargent, Northern Fire and Safety
- Weather Issues by Amy Seeley NOAA/NWS Chicago
- History of Science Vessel Operation on the Great Lakes by Mike Quigley

On the evening of January 24, Mike Perry and Denise Johnston gave a presentation on the construction and operation of the M/V Spencer F. Baird. The presentation consisted of a 15 slide PowerPoint file showing the construction of M/V Spencer F. Baird and explaining the improvements in the fish stocking capabilities of the Baird as compared to the Togue. We also talked about the Lake Trout Restoration Program. The presentation lasted 15 to 20 minutes and was followed by a 20 to 30 minute question and answer period.

21 vendors were represented with informational booths which were available to visit during the entire conference. Some of the companies were:

- Caterpillar
- Cummings
- Detroit Diesel
- AAA Sling
- Algae-X
- Diesel Fuel Doctor
- Paint & Environmental Co.
- Safety Equipment Co.
- Communication Co.

*Michael R. Perry, Ship Operator, M/V Spencer F. Baird*

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

(Nothing to report).

## ***Workforce Management***

### **New Employee**

Dave Bohn is the new seaman-fisherman aboard the *M/V Spencer F. Baird*. Cheboygan is the home port for the Baird and has been Dave's home most of his life. After graduating from high school, Dave attended Southwestern Michigan College and started working on the passenger boats to Mackinac Island. Three years later he had risen to the rank of Captain and spent the next fourteen years running and maintaining boats for three different companies and around fifteen different boats. In 1988 Dave began operating tugboats in the off season and quickly decided that the change of pace and new challenges were to his liking. Two companies and about ten tugboats later, Dave is ready for new challenges aboard the *Baird*. The wide assortment of vessels Dave has operated and maintained, along with marine construction experience with winches, cranes and other equipment, has prepared Dave for his new job. While working in the Marine construction trade, Dave had the opportunity to sail on all five Great Lakes as well as the New York State Barge Canal and the Hudson River. He is looking forward to many years of working with the seasoned crew of the *Baird* and being able to step into their positions if an emergency arises. Dave currently holds a 200 gross ton Masters license with towing and sail endorsements for Great Lakes and Inland waters including Western Rivers. He is in the process of upgrading to 1600 gross tons to give him the necessary credentials to operate the *Baird*. Dave has attended many varied training courses throughout his career that have increased his safety awareness. He plans to make safety his foremost concern during his training period aboard the *Baird* and throughout the rest of his career.



David Bohn

- Photo by Tim Smigielski

*-Dave Bohn*