



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Region 3 – Great Lakes/Big Rivers
*Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing and Restoring
Aquatic Ecosystems*

Ashland National Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

Ashland, Wisconsin



The Ashland National Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office provides fish and wildlife management assistance for Interjurisdictional fisheries rehabilitation, habitat restoration, and Tribal programs, along with numerous other activities. Outreach is recognized as a valuable educational tool to increase public awareness of our accomplishments and goals.

Ashland National Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

The Ashland National Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) was established in 1972 and is responsible for fish and wildlife management assistance in cooperation with state, tribal, federal, and provincial governments throughout the Lake Superior region. This involves management and rehabilitation of native fish and restoration of aquatic and upland habitats, natural resource assistance to about 25 Tribal governments, prevention and surveillance of aquatic invasive species (AIS), fisheries assistance to 4 national parks; and 3 national forests. Activities are coordinated through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, 2000 Consent Decree and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

Our office mission is *“Working with Tribal, Federal, State and local governments, non-government organizations and private landowners, to conserve, manage and rehabilitate native species and their habitats for citizens of the Lake Superior basin.”*



Staff assists landowners in restoring wetlands and other habitats in eight northern Wisconsin counties under the Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife program. Under this program and the Coastal Program - Great Lakes, technical and cost share funding assistance is provided to private landowners in the planning, design, and construction phases of wetland restoration and other wildlife habitat activities. This work restores and enhances thousands of acres for Service trust species.



Ashland NFWCO Staff:

Top L to R; Glenn Miller, Jessica Krajniak, Gary Czypinski, Ted Koehler. Bottom L to R; Frank Stone, Henry Quinlan and Mark Brouder.

The focus of the AIS program is to promote cooperative efforts to prevent or control the spread of nonindigenous AIS. We conduct dedicated ruffe surveillance activities in Lake Superior, investigate fish community response to established ruffe populations, conduct experiments to improve ruffe control, work with other agencies and universities doing AIS research and assist the LaCrosse NFWCO with monitoring the range expansion of the invasive round goby. The Ashland NFWCO serves as the primary office for compiling collections of ruffe and for reporting Great Lakes ruffe surveillance activities on an annual basis.



Lake Superior fishery activities involve assessment and studies of coaster brook trout and lake sturgeon populations that support lakewide rehabilitation efforts. Surveys of lake whitefish and lake trout contribute data for fishery harvest management and assistance with siscowet and lake herring surveys provide information on the structure and ecology of the Lake Superior fish community.



One of the goals of the Ashland NFWCO is to also fulfill Federal trust responsibilities to Native American tribes in managing, enhancing, and restoring fish and wildlife resources and ecosystems. To reach this goal, technical assistance is provided to tribal resource programs in the planning, design, and operational phases of fish and wildlife management and fish hatchery activities in treaty-ceded areas.

For detailed information about the Ashland National Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office, contact the office at: (715) 682-6185 or visit their website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ashland/>