



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Fisheries and Habitat Conservation**

# Fish & Wildlife Conservation Offices *Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program*

## Fish without Borders

Fishes in rivers, coastal areas, and even some lakes, move across state and national boundaries without a second thought or glance. Because many fish travel long distances, place-based management measures do not provide adequate protection. Yukon River Chinook salmon, for example, undertake the longest migration of any salmon in the world, swimming over 1700 miles.

Consequently, Tribal councils, interstate resource management commissions, regional management councils, States, Federal agencies and countries, agree to manage multijurisdictional species through regulations developed by the jurisdictions which contain portions of the species' habitat. Cooperation of multijurisdictional resource management partners to effectively manage a fish species is called interjurisdictional fishery management. Interjurisdictional commissions have been formed voluntarily, by treaty, or by act of Congress to coordinate actions of



Pallid sturgeon, a federally endangered species, is particularly difficult interjurisdictional fish to manage. Much of its native habitat, ranging from Montana east to Ohio and south to Mississippi, is fragmented and modified.

### What is an Interjurisdictional Fish?

Interjurisdictional fisheries are freshwater, coastal, or marine fish populations managed by two or more states, nations, or Tribal governments because of their geographic distribution or migratory patterns. Examples of interjurisdictional fish include: American shad, Atlantic sturgeon, chum salmon, cutthroat trout, paddlefish, red drum, and striped bass.



Biologists from the Green Bay FWCO conduct surveys for lake trout, an interjurisdictional native to the Great Lakes.

multiple governments to manage and conserve these Interjurisdictional fisheries effectively.

## FWCO Role

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs), on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, work cooperatively with these organizations to conserve, restore, and manage these interjurisdictional fish stocks and the habitat on which they depend. FWCOs bring a national perspective

to these often regional organizations because we work across borders that traditionally other State, local, and Tribal organizations do not have jurisdiction. The FWCO program has over 65 field offices, across 32 States, with over 300 biologists and other experts committed to cooperative restoration and management efforts. We support the efforts of many types of coastal, interior and Tribal fishery management authorities to help conserve and manage native, interjurisdictional aquatic species.

# FWCO Interjurisdictional Fisheries projects include:



- In 2007, the Columbia River Fisheries Program Office tagged 175,522 spring Chinook and coho salmon to evaluate hatchery performance, survival, and contribution to fisheries.
- In the 2007 migration season, 38 Pacific lamprey were tagged by the Idaho FWCO to better understand species dynamics. Pacific lamprey are the least understood anadromous fish in the Columbia and Snake river basins, and their populations in the Snake River have declined significantly. Pacific lamprey returning to Idaho are the farthest migrating populations of Pacific lamprey.
- A fish passage barrier was removed to provide access for the relic Whiskey Creek Gila trout population to 2 miles of Upper West Fork Gila, NM. The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is reconnecting aquatic species to historical habitat through voluntary, non-regulatory efforts.



FWCO biologists surveying for Pacific lamprey nests.

- The Gulf Coast Fisheries staff contributed to Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP) Steering Committee. SARP is a Fish Habitat Partnership under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP), a non-regulatory, partnership-driven plan to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities.
- FWCO biologists monitored the Essex Dam trap MA, Coheco River trap, NH, and Kennebec River, ME capture sites for adult herring. Approximately 1,169 herring were enumerated at the Essex Dam in 2007 to estimate spawning population size.

For more information about Interjurisdictional Fisheries, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at (202) 208-6394 or visit <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/fwco/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
(800) 344-WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>

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