

Confirmed Ruffe Sightings

(Gymnocephalus cernuus)



Lake Superior

1. St. Louis River, 1986
2. Amnicon River, 1988
3. Brule River, 1991
4. Middle River, 1991
5. Bark Bay Slough, 1991
6. Stoney Point, 1991
7. Kaministiquia River, Canada, 1991
8. Thunder Bay, Canada, 1991
9. Iron River, 1992
10. Flag River, 1992
11. Sand River, 1992
12. Bad River, 1993
13. Red Cliff Creek, 1993
14. Sioux River, 1993
15. Lost Creek Slough, 1993

16. Siskiwit River, 1993
17. Raspberry River, 1993
18. Ontonagon River, 1994
19. Chequamegon Bay, 1994
20. Black River, 1994
21. Oronto Creek, 1994
22. Saxon Harbor, 1994
24. Two Harbors, 1995
25. Kakagon River, 1995
26. Presque Isle River, 1996
27. Neebing River, Canada, 1996
28. Bear Island, 1997
29. Taconite Harbor, 1997
31. White River, 1998
32. Firesteel River, 1999
33. Current River, Canada, 2001
35. Sturgeon River Sloughs, 2002
36. Bark Point, 2002

37. Raspberry Island, 2002
38. Stockton Island, 2002
40. Marquette Harbor, 2004
41. Misery River, 2004
42. Torch Lake, 2005
43. Tahquamenon River, 2006
44. West Bay, 2006
45. Little Lake, 2006
46. Welcome Islands, Canada 2006

Lake Huron

23. Thunder Bay, 1998
30. Thunder Bay River, 1995

Lake Michigan

34. Little Bay de Noc, 2002
39. Big Bay de Noc, 2004



Gary Cholwek

Figure 1. Detected locations of ruffe in the Great Lakes, 2006.

Summary of Ruffe Surveillance on the Periphery and Outside of the Detected Ruffe Range, 2006

Lake Superior: Along the south shore, surveillance activity confirmed major ruffe expansion 226 km east of Marquette Harbor, Michigan, the previous eastern boundary of the ruffe range. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) crew captured one adult ruffe near Grand Marais, Michigan, 120 km east of Marquette Harbor. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MIDNR) confirmed one adult ruffe captured by an angler in Little Lake Harbor, Michigan, 167 km east of Marquette Harbor. The USFWS confirmed two adult ruffe captured by an angler in the Tahquamenon River estuary, a tributary on the west shore of Whitefish Bay, 226 km east of Marquette Harbor and 55 km west of the Soo Locks. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources confirmed that ruffe span the entire length (13 km) of Thunder Bay Harbour of Thunder Bay, Ontario, the eastern boundary of the ruffe range along the north shore.

Lake Huron: Ruffe were first detected in the Thunder Bay River in 1995, with expansion into Thunder Bay confirmed in 1998. In 1999, the river catch rate peaked to 11 ruffe per minute in trawls, then declined to 0.3 ruffe per minute in trawls in 2000. No ruffe have been captured from Lake Huron since 2003.

Lake Michigan: No ruffe were reported from new locations or Big Bay de Noc, where they were first detected in 2004. However, MIDNR captured a total of 40 ruffe from Little Bay de Noc, 18 more than were captured there in 2005. Little Bay de Noc and Big Bay de Noc of Green Bay continue to comprise the ruffe range in Lake Michigan. **Lakes Erie and Ontario:** No ruffe were captured from the Lower Great Lakes. Ruffe remain undetected in the Lower Great Lakes, and in all inland lakes and streams within the Great Lakes Basin. For additional information, contact Gary Czypinski (715-682-6185), Ashland Fishery Resources Office, Ashland, Wisconsin.

