



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Midwest Region

# Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Program

## Fish Lines

**Kid's Fishing Day at Johnson's Pond**

**Controversial Habitat Restoration Site produces Pallid Sturgeon**

**Well Traveled Lake Trout cross many Boundaries in Search of a New Home**

**Miles and Miles of Shoreline surveyed for Coaster Brook Trout**

**Lake Sturgeon Spawning Reef Announced**



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# Fish Lines

## Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Program - Midwest Region

The Mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The vision of the Service's Fisheries Program is working with partners to restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels and to support Federal mitigation programs for the benefit of the American public. Implementing this vision will help the Fisheries Program do more for aquatic resources and the people who value and depend on them through enhanced partnerships, scientific integrity, and a balanced approach to conservation.

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-USFWS  
Mussel Coordination Team partners assemble cages that will be loaded later with host fish inoculated with Higgins' eye pearlymussels.

To view other issues of "Fish Lines," visit our website at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/fishlines.htm>

# Fish Lines

2008 Vol. 6 No. 8

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**Fish Health Center staff show a tour group the finer points of a fish dissection.**

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# Kid's Fishing Day at Johnson's Pond

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

On the opening day of the Michigan trout fishing season, there were lots of kids catching lots of trout in Mancelona, Michigan. Roger Gordon and Tim Smigielski from Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) cleaned nearly 200 trout in three hours, and sent the fish home with the kids so they could savor a fresh fish dinner.

Through a partnership with Mancelona Schools and the Village of Mancelona, over 400 catchable-size brook trout were stocked by Jordan River NFH at Johnson's Pond. The pond is the property of the Village of Mancelona. Johnson's Pond and the surrounding land were donated to the village many years ago by Arvid Johnson. By local ordinance, only children less than fourteen years old are allowed to fish at the pond.



-Joan Moore

**Excited young anglers brave the cold and rain for a chance at catching a brook trout during Johnson's Pond Kid's Fishing Day.**

program *Baby Brookies* has participation from the Mancelona Public Schools-Imaginature and the East Jordan, Michigan, Cub Scouts. Jordan River hatches brook trout eggs and rears the fish annually with assistance from the kids. Trent Naumcheff, principal of the elementary school and supporter of Imaginature and *Baby Brookies* said, "I am very impressed with the commitment from the hatchery to the community." The plans for 2008-2009 *Baby Brookies* participation and the opening day fishing event are underway. Stay tuned for a future update in *Fish Lines*.

Two years ago Jordan River NFH, Mancelona Bass Festival committee and local citizens received a challenge cost share grant through the Fish and Wildlife Service to rehabilitate the pond for kid's fishing. The pond is once again a very attractive place for kids and families to have outdoor experiences.

Jordan River NFH recently developed a program to supply brook trout for local kid's fishing events. The



-Joan Moore

**Jordan River National Fish Hatchery staff process the trophy catches at Kid's Fishing Day, for the youth to enjoy a delicious fish dinner when they return home.**

For further info about the Jordan River NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/JordanRiver/>



# Controversial Habitat Restoration Site produces Pallid Sturgeon

BY BRETT WITTE AND JEFF FINLEY, COLUMBIA NFWCO

While searching the Missouri River (Big Muddy) for potential brood fish, a record number of endangered pallid sturgeon was captured in one day at the Jamison Island site in an area smaller than a football field.

“All hands on deck, we have a very short window of ideal conditions to collect egg-bearing (gravid) pallid sturgeon! Prepare all your boats and crews for some long hard days.” This was the tone set by Branch Chief of Missouri River Studies Wyatt Doyle in preparation for pallid sturgeon brood stock collection efforts. The crew heard the message loud and clear. We responded by setting 8 trot lines with a total of 250 hooks, in addition to our routine sampling protocol at Lisbon Chute.

Lisbon and Jamison Islands are both units of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (NF&WR). Lisbon has been touted as one of the best examples of a near natural side-channel and is serving as a baseline for comparing constructed chutes. Jamison Island, immediately down stream of Lisbon, has been one of the most contested Missouri River mitigation issues of the past year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) was criticized for disposing dredge material from the construction of this chute into the river. Resolution of this issue is still being debated. Ironically, less than a ¼ mile down stream of the disposal site we discovered the greatest concentration of pallid sturgeon ever collected by Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO). This is a very unique area of the river. It has large sand bar complexes formed on the inside of two of the tightest bends in the river and holds deposits of gravel, a substrate believed to attract spawning pallid sturgeon.



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So, what would it be like to shatter our office’s existing record for daily pallid sturgeon captures and find them concentrated in such a small area? Read on for technician Brett Witte’s account of that drizzly April day.

**(Lt. to Rt.) Zac Beussink, Joe McMullen, Brett Witte and Jeff Finley show-case five pallid sturgeons caught on one set line at Jamison Island on the Missouri River.**

“The morning of April 18 began like many others for Zac Beussink, Jeff Finley, Joe McMullen and I. Our crew set out from Columbia NFWCO for the boat ramp at Glasgow, Missouri. Our mission - pull 250 trot line hooks off eight lines, pull a chute’s worth of hoop nets from the river, and process the catch. The first four trotlines of the day came into the boat with the usual catch of shovelnose sturgeon and catfish. No luck by that point in the search for the endangered pallid sturgeon. When the fifth line held only two channel catfish, hopes diminished that the three channel sandbar sets would hold any elusive pallid sturgeons. The sixth line was set along the channel side of the sandbar just like its predecessor; however, the crew’s day was about to get more exciting...and quite a bit longer.”

As the first few hooks entered the boat, Zac called out, “We’ve got a pallid!” as he heaved the ghost white fish into the boat. Before the rest of the crew could respond, Zac exclaimed, “Here’s another one!” It seemed the sandbar sets might do well after all. Within minutes, the 25 hook trotline was in the boat and five pallid sturgeons were swimming in a holding tub. It quickly became evident that four of the five fish were too immature to spawn and bore the marks of being born in a hatchery - they had been implanted with a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag or visibly marked with an elastomere tag. The fifth and largest fish was just millimeters short of being large enough for U.S. Geological Survey crews to implant with a transmitter for tracking spawning activity. Given its size and having a PIT tag, we suspected it was from the 1992 year-class stocking. Although none of these fish met brood stock criteria, it was still exhilarating to catch five endangered pallid sturgeon on one 25 hook trotline.

Each pallid sturgeon, even a hatchery-born fish, requires significant time to process. We record various measurements of the head, mouth and barbules, and count rays in the dorsal and anal fins. All pallid sturgeons are checked for PIT tags and elastomere tags to determine if they were hatchery-born or previously captured in the wild. Genetics samples are collected from all suspected wild fish (as opposed to hatchery-born) and voucher photos are taken of every fish. Just one pallid sturgeon, especially a large brood stock candidate, can extend our day on the river, much less five pallid sturgeons. Collecting biological information on the fish was a significant task, but the crew was up to the challenge. A division of labor quickly fell into place and each fish was quickly returned to the river. We were glad to finish the most time-consuming short trotline of the year.

The crew then went to the next line. This line was set on the bank-side of the sandbar’s tail within 75 meters of the other line. Zac began to retrieve the last sandbar set and, would you believe it, the very first hook held a pallid sturgeon! It was nearly an instant replay of the previous line. By the time we pulled that trotline’s upstream anchor, five more pallid sturgeons were sharing the honorary tub. While one of these fish appeared to be wild, it was too small for brood stock. The rest were from one of multiple hatchery stockings. The fifty hooks of these two lines held all the pallid sturgeons that the crew would catch that day. The remaining lines and hoop nets in Lisbon chute held no pallid sturgeons; however, ten pallid sturgeons in one day and in such a small location is hardly an occasion to ignore. Despite racing sundown back to the boat ramp on a Friday, we all held our heads high having set a new record number to beat (for Columbia NFWCO at least).”

Pallid sturgeon are extremely rare and finding a remnant of their wild population old enough to spawn is the proverbial “needle in a haystack.” Finding a high concentration of pallid sturgeons, spanning two decades of stocking efforts, in a small area of a mitigation site sends a positive signal regarding our collective efforts with the Corps to recover the species. Over the years of our sampling, the Lisbon-Jamison units of the Big Muddy NF&WR has produced the first evidence of wild spawning and the most captures of any area on the Lower Missouri River. Typically we catch pallid sturgeons sporadically; rarely does one line or net hold more than one or two. This begs the question, “What is so special about this small area? Do the sediments deposited by Corps construction mimic a natural erosion process from a period before the river was bound by rip-rap and dikes? And are pallid sturgeons drawn to such an occurrence? What is so special about this sand bar and these two bends? Or, perhaps, was it just a lucky day?”

Whatever these answers may be, one thing we can say for sure, the crew and all Columbia NFWCO personnel are dedicated to the recovery of the pallid sturgeon.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

**Each spring, Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office focuses efforts to collect Federally endangered pallid sturgeon for brood stock. Large, wild mature fish used for captive spawning are extremely rare. Until evidence of natural reproduction occurs, this fish’s existence throughout the Missouri and Mississippi rivers depends on artificial propagation to sustain their population. Multiple state and Federal fish hatcheries throughout the Missouri River basin are involved in rearing these fish. A common problem facing endangered species is genetic stagnation whereby the genes of a few fish could swamp the genetic pool with related individuals; therefore, the more wild fish we can collect the greater genetic diversity of the population being stocked.**



# Well Traveled Lake Trout cross many Boundaries in Search of a New Home

BY DOUG ALOISI, GENOA NFH

Over 5,000 (12 inch) lake trout future brood stock are settling into their new homes in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan at Sullivan Creek NFH, and in the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts at Berkshire NFH after a 21 hour marathon drive from the Genoa NFH (Wisconsin).



-USFWS  
-Genoa National Fish Hatchery's Jeffrey Lockington (left) works with State of New York biologists to remove adult Seneca Lake strain lake trout from a net.

with the assistance of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, is extremely valuable in rehabilitation programs due to its apparent ability to avoid invasive sea lamprey predation. Sea lamprey predation is one of the main causes of decline of lake trout populations in the Great Lakes, and an ongoing effort to control this invasive species has been successful in allowing lake trout rehabilitation to occur in Lake Superior, and give ongoing lower Great Lakes rehabilitation programs an increased chance of success by ensuring that lake trout survive to reproductive age.

Staff from Genoa NFH loaded their trucks and traveled over 1,100 miles non-stop to get their valuable cargo safely to Massachusetts this past week. After driving all night they were met by Pittsford NFH (Vermont) manager Henry Bouchard and volunteers from Berkshire NFH to offload the fish to their new home. At Berkshire, the fish will grow and be held until modifications to Allegheny NFH (Pennsylvania) are completed. When these fish reach reproductive age in three years, their egg production should provide an ample supply of yearling fish for rehabilitation stocking in lakes Michigan, Huron, Ontario and Erie.

These valuable fish are the result of a successful 20-month isolation rearing process which verified that they carried no infectious diseases that would have precluded them from being used as captive brood stock in ongoing Great Lakes rehabilitation programs. This particular strain of lake trout, acquired from the Finger Lakes in New York



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Eggs from each wild lake trout are kept separate during incubation to maximize genetic diversity in the resultant fish.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

# Miles and Miles of Shoreline surveyed for Coaster Brook Trout

BY FRANK STONE, ASHLAND NFWCO

**A** fishery survey was conducted on the Grand Portage Indian Reservation to determine the presence and relative abundance of coaster brook trout. Coaster brook trout were once abundant throughout the near-shore waters of Lake Superior, but due to overfishing and habitat degradation, there are only a handful of waters around Lake Superior that still have spawning populations of these magnificent fish.



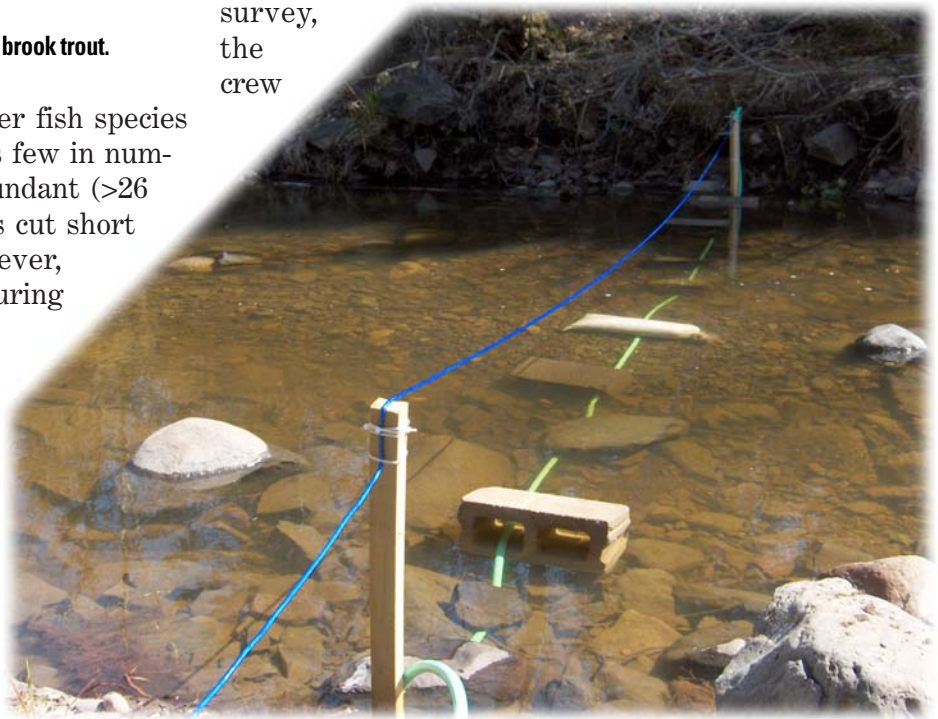
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**A pit tag is carefully inserted into the abdomen of a coaster brook trout.**

focused on netting only brook trout. Other fish species observed during the study were noted as few in numbers (1-4 fish), common (5-25 fish) or abundant (>26 fish). The second night of the survey was cut short due to adverse weather conditions; however, during the 20 miles that were covered during the study, six coaster brook trout were collected. Additional yearly assessments will be scheduled to help determine if these fish are beginning to re-establish waters of the North Shore.

Another component of this project was to install a PIT tagging station at the mouth of Hollow Rock Creek. This station will be used to track the frequency of coaster brook trout migration into and out of this river system.

This two-night survey was conducted using an electrofishing boat starting from the mouth of the Pigeon River moving southward along the North Shore of Lake Superior. This near-shore survey was part of a Lake Superior restoration plan sponsored by the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Biological analysis included species caught, length, insertion of a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag and numbered Floy tag, and tissue samples (for genetic analysis). The information obtained will help Grand Portage and Fish and Wildlife Service fishery managers gain a broader understanding of the abundance of coaster brook along the Minnesota North Shore.

During the survey, the crew



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**This passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag station tracks the frequency that pit-tagged coaster brook trout migrate between Hollow Rock Creek and Lake Superior.**

For further info about the Ashland NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ashland/>



# Lake Sturgeon Spawning Reef Announced

BY JIM BOASE, ALPENA NFWCO

Both United States and Canadian partners met at Fighting Island on April 19th to announce the construction phase of a new lake sturgeon spawning reef at Fighting Island in LaSalle, Ontario. Approximately 80 researchers, media representatives, VIPs, and interested citizens from both the United States and Canada came to the Fighting Island Lodge to celebrate the announcement of the spawning reef.

Biologist Dr. Bruce Manny from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Great Lakes Science Center and biologist James Boase from the Alpena NFWCO presented information regarding the history of the site and the specifics about the proposed reef construction. John Hartig, manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (IWR), presented information about funding for the project stating that “both the United States and Canada have pooled resources to create a lake sturgeon spawning reef located at Fighting Island in the

Detroit River, and to date \$178,000 dollars have been raised for construction of the reef.” Members from the Essex Region

Conservation Authority, Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, and BASF presented information about the project. This effort is truly international in scope and is the first such environmental project jointly funded by both United States

and Canadian funds and is appropriately located within the IWR. Corporate sponsorship for this project includes both BASF and DTE Energy and both have committed in-kind support for construction and materials. As this project develops, we continue to seek additional funding to increase the size of the reef and funds to conduct post-construction assessment. The reef will be located near the international boundary at the northeast corner of Fighting Island and when completed should provide spawning habitat for lake sturgeon, walleye, lake whitefish and a number of other native species of fish.



*-Karen Boase*

**Greg Kennedy from the Great Lakes Science Center and James Boase and Jim McFee from the Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office lift a lake sturgeon captured in front of the Fighting Island Lodge in the Detroit River on April 19.**

Funding for reef construction has been provided by the following agencies: Canada-Ontario Agreement – Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (\$65,000), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Bring Back the Natives Program (\$45,000), Michigan Wildlife Conservancy (\$30,000), Fish and Wildlife Service – Coastal and Challenge Cost Share Grants (\$23,000), and Environment Canada’s Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (\$15,000).

The pre-construction assessment began in the fall of 2005 and was completed in the fall of 2007 with \$34,500 from Environment Canada’s Great Lakes Sustainability Fund and the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Challenge Cost Share Grant Program and Coastal Grant Program. This work involved researchers from Alpena NFWCO, USGS and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Reef Construction will be completed in 2008-2009. Following reef construction, a post-construction assessment will be undertaken in 2009-2010, including a public education and outreach component.

“This is the first time both Canadian and United States money is being pooled for a common fish habitat rehabilitation project in the Great Lakes, stated U.S. Congressman John Dingell. This sturgeon reef construction project is precedent-setting and shows the strength of our United States-Canada partnership for the Detroit River IWR.”

“We are proud to be contributing to the first-ever fish habitat rehabilitation project in the Great Lakes,” said Canadian Member of Parliament Jeff Watson. “Canada’s government is committed to restoring the health of our lakes and waterways. Today’s announcement builds upon the significant financial commitment we have already made to help restore this important water system, and demonstrates our commitment to the residents who rely on the watersheds of Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie and the connecting Detroit River.”



-Karen Boase

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources biologist Gary Towns (left) and Fish and Wildlife Service biologist James Boase discuss habitat issues in the Detroit River with Congressman John Dingell at the Fighting Island Lodge.**

were waiting to ask questions. For the next hour guests had an opportunity to jump on board the *Sentinel* and view the captured lake sturgeon up close. Jim McFee and James Boase (Alpena NFWCO) and Greg Kennedy, Dr. Bruce Manny and Dr. Ed Roseman (USGS) were present to answer questions from the guests.

The lake sturgeon is a remnant of the dinosaur age and can grow to over eight feet in length and weigh over 200 pounds. It is listed as either threatened or endangered in 19 of 20 states within its original range in the United States. In Canada, it was identified as threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife. Lake sturgeon is endemic to the Great Lakes and, historically, the Huron-Erie Corridor was one of the most productive waters for lake sturgeon in North America. In 2001, lake sturgeon spawning was documented in the Detroit River for the first time in over 30 years, but their numbers are estimated to be only one percent of their original population. Scientists have now determined that lack of spawning habitat is one of the factors limiting lake sturgeon population growth. Over the past six years, lake sturgeon spawning habitat has been constructed off Belle Isle in Detroit, off McKee Park in Windsor, and off Fort Malden in Amherstburg to increase available spawning habitat for lake sturgeon and other native fish. Historically, the area surrounding Fighting Island was well known as an important spawning and nursery area for lake sturgeon and thus was targeted as a potential habitat construction site.

The highlight of the event took place in front of the lodge as an adult lake sturgeon (that was captured on a setline the night before) was netted and lifted onto the Fish and Wildlife Service boat, the *Sentinel*, to the surprise and excitement of the guests. The fish was 70 inches long and weighed 72 pounds. By the time the *Sentinel* pulled up to the Fighting Island dock, the crowd of guests including Congressman John Dingell and Member of Canadian Parliament Jeff Watson



Recent research by the Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS, and Michigan DNR has shown that water velocity and depth characteristics off the northeast corner of Fighting Island are ideal for spawning, and the river bed can support a constructed reef. In addition, scientists have caught juvenile lake sturgeon just downstream of the proposed Fighting Island reef site, providing further justification for building the reef in this location.

Current partners in the project include: Environment Canada, Fish and Wildlife Service, Essex Region Conservation Authority, USGS Great Lakes Science Center, Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, BASF Corporation, DTE Energy, Landmark Engineers Inc., International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, Michigan DNR, Michigan Sea Grant, and Wildlife Habitat Council.



*-Karen Boase*

**(Lt. to Rt.) Dennis Fijalkowski (Michigan Wildlife Conservancy), Refuge Manager Dr. John Hartig, Jeff Watson (Canadian Member of Parliament), Ed Nuermberg (BASF Corporation), and Fish and Wildlife Service biologist James Boase hoist a lake sturgeon that was captured in front of the BASF Fighting Island Lodge in the Detroit River.**

The Detroit River has the distinction of being the only International Wildlife Refuge in North America and the only river system in North America to hold both American Heritage River and Canadian Heritage River designations. This project is being undertaken in direct response to the sturgeon spawning habitat restoration objective in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Detroit River IWR.

For further info please go to the following links:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver/documents/FightingIslandSturgeonReef.pdf>

[http://huron-erie.org/sturgeon\\_restoration.html](http://huron-erie.org/sturgeon_restoration.html)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6xR9czENWM> <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080428/OPINION02/804280360/1070/OPINION02>

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/InNews/ancient2008.html>

## Service Regional Director visits *M/V Spencer F. Baird*

BY AARON WOLDT, ALPENA NFWCO

On May 6, Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Regional Director Robyn Thorson visited the *M/V Spencer F. Baird* in Charlevoix, Michigan, to observe the loading of hatchery lake trout onto the vessel. Drivers John Johnston and Wayne Talo of Jordan River NFH and James Anderson of Pendills Creek NFH delivered approximately 120,000 yearling lake trout from Jordan River NFH to the vessel. Director Thorson visited with the vessel crew and drivers before and



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Midwest Regional Director Robyn Thorson and Seaman/Fisherman David Bohn load lake trout onto the offshore stocking vessel *M/V Spencer F. Baird*.

during loading, and also participated in fish transfer to the stocking vessel. The crew demonstrated the relative ease that fish are loaded onto the vessel, when compared with loading the previous stocking vessel (*M/V Togue*) and explained how the oxygen and chilled water systems on the *Baird* have helped to reduce fish stress during transport. Thorson was also able to observe the recent upgrades made to the on-deck fish hauling tanks to ease stress on fish and make the tanks safer for staff to work with. Director Robyn Thorson was pleased with the opportunity to observe the *M/V Spencer F. Baird* in action and thanked all staff involved for their efforts to rehabilitate lake trout stocks in the Great Lakes.

The fish were later stocked by the *Baird* crew members Mike Perry, Bob Bergstrom, David Bohn, and Jordan River NFH fish tender Bob Petersen on Hog Island Reef in Northern Lake Michigan. In 2008, the *Baird* stocked approximately 2.4 million hatchery-reared, yearling lake trout in Lake Michigan and approximately 1.2 million in Lake Huron.

Since the 1970's, the Fish and Wildlife Service has contributed to multi-agency lake trout rehabilitation efforts in the Great Lakes by planting hatchery reared lake trout.

For further info about the Alpena NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>

## DTE Harbor Beach Power Plant improves Dock for Fish Transfers

BY AARON WOLDT, ALPENA NFWCO

Staff of the Detroit Edison (DTE) Harbor Beach Power Plant in Harbor Beach, Michigan, worked with Rooney Contracting in April to install tie-off pilings near the existing DTE coal dock to improve accessibility for the Fish and Wildlife Service's lake trout stocking vessel, the *M/V Spencer F. Baird*. In past years, DTE allowed the Fish and Wildlife Service to use its Harbor Beach dock as a platform for transferring fish with its previous stocking vessel, the *M/V Togue*. Due to the dock's configuration (several round mooring dolphins separated by large distances), the vessel crew had difficulty safely securing the *Togue* at the dock without the vessel pivoting on the round dolphin. The *M/V Spencer F. Baird*, which replaced the *M/V Togue* in 2007, presented an even bigger challenge to secure due to its longer length and greater width.

Biologist Aaron Woldt, Captain Mike Perry, and Seamen Fishermen David Bohn met with Jim Masterson of DTE at the November 2007 Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee meeting to discuss options for improving the dock for Fish and Wildlife Service use. A subsequent meeting in Harbor Beach with the Fish and Wildlife Service, DTE and Michigan Steelheaders Thumb Chapter yielded a solution. DTE agreed to drive a tie-off piling 20 feet north and 20 feet south of the second dolphin to aid in securing the boat. Further, DTE agreed to weld new cleats on the existing dolphin and to widen the road at the base of the dolphin to make it easier for hatchery trucks to back-up to the vessel. DTE paid for all requested dock improvements.

Partnerships are essential for effective fisheries conservation. Many agencies, organizations, and private individuals are involved in fisheries conservation and management, but no one can do it alone. Together, these stakeholders combine efforts and expertise to tackle challenges facing fisheries conservation. The success of these partnerships will depend on strong, two-way communications and accountability.



Maintaining access to the DTE dock at Harbor Beach was critical to the Fish and Wildlife Service's lake trout stocking efforts in Southern Lake Huron, since no other docks with enough water depth and adjacent dock space to maneuver hatchery trucks were available between Alpena and Harbor Beach, Michigan. In June 2008, the Fish and Wildlife Service delivered five vessel loads of hatchery lake trout (approximately 460,000 fish) from the Jordan River NFH to the Port Austin stocking site using the Harbor Beach Power Plant dock. These fish will directly support lake trout rehabilitation efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake Huron Technical Committee, and Lake Huron Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Since the 1970's, the Fish and Wildlife Service has contributed to multi-agency lake trout rehabilitation efforts in the Great Lakes by planting hatchery-reared lake trout.



- Ken Merckel

**New yellow tie-off pilings were installed at Detroit Edison (DTE) Harbor Beach Power plant to secure the stocking vessel *M/V Spencer F. Baird* during fish transfers destined for Lower Lake Huron.**

For further info about the Alpena NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>

## Earth Day Event Warms, Informs

BY MARK STEINGRAEBER, LA CROSSE NFWCO

Although none of the bands that performed at the 2008 La Crosse community Earth Day celebration played a rendition of the Rolling Stones standard "Give Me Shelter," this would have been an appropriate lyric to accompany the April 26 weather (gusting north winds, recurring snow showers) that forced this annual event out of Cameron Park and into the warm, cozy confines of the Three Rivers Waldorf School gymnasium. A diverse mix of representatives from grass roots organizations, cooperatives, community sustained farms, nature centers, small business owners and even an automobile dealership were on hand to inform several hundred attendees of "green" environmental practices, products, and services that are locally available.

Biologist Mark Steingraeber from the La Crosse NFWCO set up an exhibit to inform the crowd about local, environmentally friendly alternatives for the disposal of unwanted medications and unwanted pet fish. Recent partnerships forged by this Fish and Wildlife Service office with local government agencies and pet fish retailers provide temporary "shelter" for these unwanted items and ensure they will not be released into aquatic environments where they may cause harm.

Several event attendees expressed a desire to "connect with nature" by offering to volunteer, and have since enjoyed doing so by participating in electrofishing surveys. The opportunity to meet the diverse audience that attends the Earth Day celebration makes participation a valuable outreach tool.

For further info about the La Crosse NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrossefisheries/>

### Laboratory Testing Services

**The La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) provided laboratory testing services in April to the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Fish hatchery, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (viral hemorrhagic septicemia surveillance), Upper Mississippi River Environmental Sciences Center, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Senecaville, Hebron, Kincaid and London state fish hatcheries), Illinois DNR (Jake Wolf Memorial and Little Grassy state fish hatcheries), Wisconsin DNR (viral hemorrhagic septicemia surveillance) and Jordan River NFH.**

## Historic Harvest and Abundance of Deepwater Lake Trout in Lake Superior Revealed

BY CHARLES BRONTE, GREEN BAY NFWCO

Siscowet, a deep water form of lake trout, is the top predator in Lake Superior and currently makes up most of its lake trout biomass. Anecdotal accounts indicate that siscowet made up some portion of the historical lake trout commercial fishery but estimates of harvest and relative abundance were lacking.

Charles Bronte of the Green Bay NFWCO and Shawn Sitar of the Michigan DNR examined historical commercial fishing catch reports from the lake trout fishery. Using the location information provided by the anglers and past and contemporary knowledge of the depth distribution of the siscowet, they provided the first estimates of historical siscowet commercial harvest, fishing effort, and changes in relative abundance for Michigan waters of Lake Superior from 1929-1961.

Results from the study indicate that siscowet lake trout made up about 27% of the historical yield of lake trout in Michigan waters during this time period, but this composition varied greatly among areas. The relative abundance of siscowet in their principal habitat (waters deeper than 250 feet) generally declined in most areas prior to an increase in fishing effort in the mid to late 1940's and the invasion of sea lamprey during the 1950's - these factors led to the collapse of near-shore lean lake trout populations by the late 1950's.

Modest levels of fishing effort prior to sea lamprey invasion were sufficient to cause declines in siscowet lake trout numbers and were likely related to low production potential of siscowet, which grow slow and mature at a relatively late age. Siscowets have high concentrations of omega-3 fatty acids, and interest has risen to exploit these fish as a source for fish oil.

These findings have implications for any re-developing fishery and suggest that over-harvest is a real possibility. This study on the historical relative abundance and harvest of siscowet was published in the March issue of the *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*.

For further info about the Green Bay NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/greenbay.pdf>

The Fisheries Program maintains and implements a comprehensive set of tools and activities to conserve and manage self-sustaining populations of native fish and other aquatic resources. These tools and activities are linked to management and recovery plans that help achieve restoration and recovery goals, provide recreational benefits, and address Federal trust responsibilities. Sound science, effective partnerships, and careful planning and evaluation are integral to conservation and management efforts.

## Wild Fish Health Survey takes place on the Mississippi River

BY COREY PUZACH, LA CROSSE FHC

The La Crosse FHC completed its 12th annual Wild Fish Health Survey on Pool 9 of the Upper Mississippi River in March and April of this year. Over 500 fish representing 10 species were sampled for serious viruses and bacteria.

This project generates long-term data from the Upper Mississippi River that can be used to track the distribution and spread of fish pathogens. A pathogen of primary concern in the Midwest Region is viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus or VHSV. To date, VHSV has not been detected in the Mississippi River watershed. The Fish Health Center also monitors the status of largemouth bass virus (LMBV) and spring viremia of carp virus (SVCV), which has already been detected in the Mississippi River.

The Genoa NFH assisted with collection of the fish in conjunction with their spring netting of walleye and northern pike. The Fish Health Center screens the wild brood stock to ensure pathogen free fish are used for hatchery projects.



-USFWS/Sarah Bauer

La Crosse Fish Health Center staff Eric Leis (left) and Terrence Ott sample fish at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery as part of the Wild Fish Health Survey.

For further info about the La Crosse FHC: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/lacrosse-fhc.pdf>



## Partners hitch-up to produce Walleyes

BY NICK STARZL, GENOA NFH

In May, Genoa NFH employee Dan Kumlin stocked 250,000 Ottertail River strain walleye fry into Clifford Lake in Northwest Minnesota. The 40 acre lake is one of many small bodies of water found on the Rydell National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). After spring stocking, the fish grow on natural food for several months until autumn's first frost signals it is time to begin harvest operations. Fishery and refuge crews set several dozen hoop nets in order to remove the 5-6" walleye. The fish are then transported to Federal, tribal and state waters across Northern Minnesota for enhancing recreational fisheries projects and maintaining strong viable fishing opportunities in areas where they are stocked.

This program is supported by the Minnesota DNR which supplies the newly hatched walleye fry to Genoa NFH for stocking into Clifford Lake. The White Earth Reservation and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians also benefit directly from the program by receiving fish for their tribal fishery management programs.



-USFWS  
A fishery crew from the Genoa National Fish Hatchery and La Crosse National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office harvest fall walleyes from Clifford Lake on the Rydell National Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota.

Clifford Lake is unique in that it represents the only natural water body located on a Midwest Region NWR that is used extensively for fish production. This small lake is perfect for annual walleye production because of its shallow depth, coupled with very cold temperatures and heavy annual snowfall. These conditions usually result in very low winter oxygen levels which cannot support most species of fish. This annual "cleaning out" of older walleyes and other fish species eliminates predation on newly introduced fry and optimizes production for this valuable recreational fish. These fish potentially represent thousands of recreational fishing hours in tribal, Federal and selected state waters and are an important part of our fisheries cooperative management program in the Midwest Region.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

## Columbia NFWCO Samples at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

BY BRIAN ELKINTON, COLUMBIA NFWCO

During the last week of May, staff from the Columbia NFWCO, DeSoto NWR and Iowa DNR teamed up to sample DeSoto Lake in Missouri Valley, Iowa. This sampling was completed as part of a long-term monitoring and management program started in the 1970's. The four day sampling included both day and night electrofishing as well as fyke netting. Although tornado watches in the area made sampling difficult at times, we were able to safely and successfully collect the required data. Although many of the usual fish species were captured, we were particularly concerned about an increase in yellow

bass captured as this species is known to be a nuisance species in areas lakes. That data can now be analyzed and incorporated into the annual DeSoto Lake Management Plan. Our team of inter-jurisdictional biologists can then make management decisions to help improve DeSoto Lake recreational fishing.

The lake, and refuge around it, draws large numbers of visitors each year, estimated at upwards of 26,000. Recreational fishing is an important part of DeSoto NWR. Our fish sampling and management at DeSoto Lake will help improve recreational fishing opportunities.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

## Columbia NFWCO embarks on a Carp Catching Crusade

BY WYATT DOYLE AND JEFF FINLEY, COLUMBIA NFWCO

In telling people how much fun it was catching, dispatching and cutting into the guts of 600 invasive carp for a fish health survey, we noticed they did not share or understand our enthusiasm. Sometimes it's the simple things that make the job enjoyable, and not having to fill in a long and detailed datasheet for every sample made carp fishing down right fun! Our excursion took 4 of us over 700 miles on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers searching for 150 carp at 5 different sites. Using nets, a shock boat, fillet knives and an "anaesthetizing stick," we collected enough common, grass, bighead and silver carps at every site to meet the needs of the spring viremia of carp virus survey.



-USFWS/BrianElkington

**Chris McLeland attempts to net silver carp as they are corraled into waiting gillnets, as part of a fish health survey.**

swing sideways and either catch them in mid-air or have a split second to grab them at the surface before they bolted away. Driving a chute at ¼ throttle proved the only effective way to catch carp in that situation.

Below the lock at Alton, Illinois, we witnessed what we had only seen on television. Thousands of carp covering at least three acres of water leapt in the air when we first hit the juice on the electrofisher. Our carp collection method here more resembled kids swinging at a piñata than dipping fish. It was like being trapped in a bag of microwave popcorn where at any given time there were more fish in the air than in the water.

We successfully completed the task, helping the La Crosse FHC obtain spleen and liver samples for their study, and despite having "carp remains" ground into our hands and fingernails for the next week, we experienced enjoyment yet hard work in completing this project.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

### Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species are one of the most significant threats to fish and wildlife and their habitats. Local and regional economies are severely affected with control costs exceeding \$123 billion annually. The Fisheries Program has focused its efforts on preventing introductions of new aquatic invasive species, detecting and monitoring new and established invasives, controlling established invasives, providing coordination and technical assistance to organizations that respond to invasive species problems, and developing comprehensive, integrated plans to fight aquatic invasive species.

Unlike routine scientific sampling, our strategy for finding carp in unknown areas involved several different approaches. We found that visiting a riverside bar and grill and asking the locals where to find "jumping carp" worked well in Quincy, Illinois. We were invited to talk with "Uncle Bob" over morning coffee at the local used car dealership in order to find out where to deploy our gear. Bob was more than happy to assist us in locating a concentration of carp for collection and consequent eradication of, albeit small, a portion of the population of this invasive species.

On the Lower Missouri River, we adapted a new method to get our 150 fish - "speed shocking." The funny thing about jumping carp is that they don't sit there when you shock them....they jump out of the way! Their evasive reaction to the electric field forced us to quickly drive the fish to the bank then



## Spring Ruffe Surveillance in Thunder Bay Area of Lake Huron

BY ANJANETTE BOWEN, ALPENA NFWCO

The Alpena NFWCO conducted annual spring surveillance and monitoring to detect the presence of adult spawning Eurasian ruffe (ruffe) in the Thunder Bay River in Alpena, Michigan, during the month of April. Small mesh (1.3 cm) gill nets (33 x 1.6 m) were used during the survey. Nets were set overnight for two nights a week during the week of April 14 through the week of April 28, and were fished at three to four index locations per set. Sampling efforts targeted water temperatures and timing that corresponds to when ruffe were captured in past years. No ruffe were captured following a total of 21 nights of sampling effort.

Ruffe are an aquatic invasive species native to North-Central Europe that were accidentally introduced into the Great Lakes via ballast water from an ocean-going vessel. They resemble and are related to yellow perch but do not attain a size that is desirable for sport fishing harvest and are thought to compete with native species for food and habitat resources. Ruffe were designated an aquatic invasive species in 1992 by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

Ruffe were first found in the Thunder Bay area (Thunder Bay River) during monitoring efforts in 1995, and by 1999 they had become the most abundant bottom dwelling fish species captured from the Thunder Bay River. In 2002, the Alpena NFWCO initiated a project to remove spawning adults prior to egg release. Spawning phase ruffe were captured in 2002 and 2003, but have not been captured since. This survey has continued in an effort to detect the presence of ruffe that may persist in the area.

For further info about the Alpena NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>



-USFWS/ScottKoproski

**Biologist Anjie Bowen removes small fish from a gill net used to survey for the presence of spawning-phase, invasive Eurasian ruffe in the Thunder Bay area of Lake Huron.**

## Community Partnerships strengthen in the Fight against Exotic Carp

BY HEIDI KEULER, LA CROSSE NFWCO

Every Monday, local business folk from the La Crosse/Onalaska area gather for the Rotary International Club of La Crosse East meetings. Meetings provide an opportunity for its members to serve their club, vocation, community, and international relationships. What better way is there for the Rotary International Club to serve than to team up with the Fish and Wildlife Service to serve the community and learn about international issues that involve invasive species? Together this community

partnership can inform others in the area about the possible detriments to the environment and negative impacts to the local economy. Heidi Keuler, from the La Crosse NFWCO, spoke to the Rotary Club and led a discussion on May 12 about the possible impacts that invasive species may have to the Upper Mississippi River and the greater La Crosse area. Members of the Club volunteered to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service and get the word out to others in the community.

For further info about the La Crosse NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrossefisheries/>

## Fish, memories and smiling faces

BY KAY HIVELY, NEOSHO NFH

It really would not matter if the sun fails to come out when the Neosho National Fish Hatchery holds its annual open house for elderly and physically-challenged fishermen. On that day, the smile on hatchery manager Dave Hendrix's face is bright enough to light up every nook and cranny of the old hatchery.

"I just love having these people out here," Hendrix smiled. "I know that many of these elderly people fished at some time in their lives, and



-Kay Hively

**The annual open house for elderly and physically-challenged fishermen at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery draws dozens of local Neosho, Missouri, residents.**

"When I see these people out here enjoying the outdoors, I know it would put a smile on my mother and dad's faces," he said. "I come from the country, and we enjoyed and depended on the resources of nature. Without fish and deer and other wild animals for food, our family would not have survived. This is what I think of and why this is so dear to me."

The annual Kids Fishing Clinic and Derby went off as planned on June 6, but rain seemed determined to take away the clinic for the elderly and physically-challenged. But the day could not have been more perfect on Tuesday, June 17, and Dave's big smile was apparent to those who were reeling in trout.

"You sure know when someone gets a fish," Dave laughed. "You can hear lots of noise as someone is shouting, and you can hear the fish flopping around in the water. This is such fun."

Helping Dave put this big event together were members of his staff and several civilian volunteers. One of the big events of the day came at noon when local businessman Bill Andrews fired up an outdoor grill and served lunch for everyone who came to the hatchery.

As each fish was pulled ashore, it usually was accompanied by a story told by someone who "hadn't fished in 40 years."

One fisher woman, Nancy Middleson, came to the fishing event from an area nursing home. She was having great success, and her face just beamed when she said she hadn't caught a fish in 40 years when she fished in Big Sugar Creek.

It was a cool and cloudy day, but there was sunshine all around, most coming from the happy face of a smiling Dave Hendrix.

For further info about the Neosho NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/neosho/>

As the population in the United States continues to grow, the potential for adverse impacts on aquatic resources, including habitat will increase. At the same time, demands for responsible, quality recreational fishing experiences will also increase. The Service has a long tradition of providing opportunities for public enjoyment of aquatic resources through recreational fishing, habitat restoration, and education programs and through mitigating impacts of Federal water projects. The Service also recognizes that some aquatic habitats have been irreversibly altered by human activity (i.e. - dam building). To compensate for these significant changes in habitat and lost fishing opportunities, managers often introduce non-native species when native species can no longer survive in the altered habitat.

now they get to do it again. It really doesn't matter if they catch anything or not, just being out in nature gives them a chance to remember some good times from the past."

Even though this event, and the Kids Fishing Clinic and Derby, are ways for the hatchery to give back to the community, both events are about more important things.

"I like to do this to show support for a community that has been so good to me and my family, my staff and the hatchery," Hendrix explained. "But I also like to see the looks on the faces of these fishermen. There's just a look of peace and contentment and reminiscences."

But memories of fishing and being outdoors are not reserved for those who were trying to hook a big rainbow trout. Hendrix had a few memories of his own.



## Sullivan Creek gets Famous

BY CURT FRIEZ, PENDILLS CREEK NFH

On Tuesday, May 21, Sullivan Creek became famous! Writer, producer, and director T. Lindsey Haskin came to Sullivan Creek NFH to film the lake trout brood stock for an upcoming documentary he is making about the Great Lakes.

The documentary called *Freshwater Seas: Great Lakes* covers the evolution of the Great Lakes from glacial times to the anthropogenic effects that decimated fish species in the 1950's; the introduction of invasive species such as sea lamprey, alewives and what's being done now to counter act it; also a look into the future for what possibly lies ahead for the Great Lakes.

As part of Haskin's research, he and his assistant Andy Hall visited Jordan River NFH and Pendills/Sullivan Creek NFH to film lake trout production fish and brood stock. Haskin also observed the Sea Lam-

prey Management Program at the Marquette Biological Station in Marquette, Michigan, in their efforts to reduce to the sea lamprey population through the use of sterilization techniques. Haskin also plans a trip on the *M/V Spencer F. Baird* to observe lake trout stocking on North Point Reef in Lake Huron.

Haskin is working with the Detroit Public Television Service to produce the documentary, which he believes will be finished this year. Haskin's says, "We're making the film to educate people about how important ecosystems are to their health, prosperity, and quality of life. Our film will tell the story of the relationship between people and the Great Lakes ecosystem over time." Look for *Freshwater Seas: Great Lakes* to air next year on Detroit Public Television and hopefully later on PBS.

For further info about the Pendills Creek NFH/Sullivan Creek NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/pendills.pdf>

## Tours of Jordan River NFH are a Popular Spring Field Trip

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

On May 20th, 125 Kindergarten students (plus chaperones and teachers) from the South Maple Elementary School in Gaylord, Michigan, toured the Jordan River NFH. There were five classes of 25 students and the teachers. Each group visited a different learning station for twenty minutes before moving on to the next station.



-USFWS

**Mrs. Ernst poses with her pre-kindergarten class during a tour of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.**

Lastly, the students got a chance to have a snack of goldfish crackers, pretzels and lemonade while they colored pictures of lake trout. This is the third year in a row that the kindergarten teachers have chosen the Jordan River NFH for their final spring field trip. They plan on doing it again in 2008.

For further info about the Jordan River NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/JordanRiver/>

In the visitor center, the kindergarteners learned about sea lampreys and other invasive species, our brood stock stations, and our offshore stocking vessel. In the tank room, they viewed the "baby lake trout" and their nutritious food, and learned about the daily work involved with raising them. Out on the raceways, the students saw fish at release size (six to seven inches total length), learned about our feed truck, raceway cleaning practices, and they viewed our fish pump used to load fish distribution trucks.

Perhaps "the most popular" station was staffed by Project Leader Roger Gordon. His station was at the end of the line, where our water gets treated for discharge. So the kids got to talk about ... you guessed it, fish poop!

## Ashland NFWCO assists with Spring Walleye Surveys

BY FRANK STONE, ASHLAND NFWCO

The Ashland NFWCO assisted the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission with several walleye population surveys. The objective of this project is to estimate spawning populations of adult walleyes in Mille Lacs Lake, Minnesota.



-USFWS photos

A collection of images portraying the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission spring walleye survey.

Conserving this Nation's fish and other aquatic resources cannot be successful without the partnership of Tribes; they manage or influence some of the most important aquatic habitats both on and off reservations. In addition, the Federal government and the Service have distinct and unique obligations toward Tribes based on trust responsibility, treaty provisions, and statutory mandates. The Fisheries Program plays an important role in providing help and support to Tribes as they exercise their sovereignty in the management of their fish and wildlife resources on more than 55 million acres of Federal Indian trust land and in treaty reserved areas.

Walleye population estimates are used to set safe harvest levels, on which tribal harvest quotas are based. This year's assessment activity was assigned to Frank Stone. During the ten night sampling effort, Frank and his crew (Mitch Soulier and Greg Smart) collected over 2,000 fish. The sampling effort is conducted at night because this is when spawning activity and opportunities to collect adult-size fish are maximized.

Conserving this Nation's fish and other aquatic resources cannot be successful without the partnership of Tribes; they manage or influence some of the most important aquatic habitats both on and off reservations. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Service has distinct and unique obligations toward Tribes based on trust responsibility, treaty provisions, and statutory mandates. The Fisheries program plays an important role in providing help and support to Tribes as they exercise their sovereignty in the management of their fish and wildlife resources on more than 55 million acres of Federal Indian trust land and in treaty reserved areas.

For further info about the Ashland NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ashland/>

## Biologist presents Assessment Results to Technical Fisheries Committee

BY JOHN NETTO, GREEN BAY NFWCO

The 2000 Consent Decree requires that harvest quotas for lake trout and whitefish be established through a multi-agency, scientifically objective process. The Modeling Subcommittee (MSC) of Technical Fisheries Committee (TFC) consists of biologists and analysts from the State of Michigan, the tribes with treaty fishing rights in these waters, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. As co-chair of the Modeling Subcommittee, John Netto from the Green Bay NFWCO presented the preliminary harvest limits to the TFC on behalf of the MSC. This meeting allows representatives from each party to ask questions and seek clarification on the results of the assessments and resulting harvest limits.

For further info about the Green Bay NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/greenbay.pdf>



## Fishery Surveys on the Keweenaw Bay Indian Reservation

BY FRANK STONE, ASHLAND NFWCO

At the request of the Keweenaw Bay (KB) Indian Community, Frank Stone assisted the KB Natural Resources Department with three inland lake surveys. Light House Pond, 3rd Lake and Bishop Lake were surveyed using a boat electrofishing system to determine the species diversity and relative abundance of sport fish within those systems. Data collected included fish species, length, scale samples, catch per unit effort and management recommendations for each lake. The information gained from these surveys will be used to determine future fishery management needs within these areas.



-USFWS

The night electrofishing crew pose for a photo before another fishery survey on a lake at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

For further info about the Ashland NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ashland/>

## TWG Technical Assistance Request from the Bois Forte Tribe

BY FRANK STONE, ASHLAND NFWCO

Chris Holm (Bois Forte Water Resource Program Manager) requested the Ashland NFWCO review a 2009 Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) proposal. Frank Stone and Pam Dryer read the draft document and provided comments back to the tribe. Additional comments were also provided by Darienne McNamara (Whittlesey Creek NWR).

This proposed project is a survey of aquatic plant communities and an assessment of risk from aquatic invasive plants into Nett Lake if a fish passage system is installed at the Nett River dam. This initial survey is essential to complete prior to installation of a fish passage structure through or around the Nett River dam, so as not to allow potentially invasive plant species from being introduced into Nett Lake. Pending the outcome of survey results, a feasibility/design study would then be carried out to identify engineering costs associated with construction of a

fish passage structure around Nett River dam. This structure would allow the currently excluded fish assemblage in Nett River to access Nett Lake and provide for fish populations resembling the historic accounts.

Tribal resource programs throughout the United States will receive financial help in 2009 to initiate projects ranging from base line data collection and habitat restoration to the control of invasive plant species. The TWG program provides new funding opportunities to Tribes for activities that protect and restore habitats that will benefit fish and wildlife species of Tribal significance. TWG grants also support the efforts of tribal governments to develop or augment the capacity to manage, conserve, or protect fish and wildlife species of concern through the provision of additional funding and technical support.

For further info about the Ashland NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ashland/>

## Tissues collected from Native Species for Genetics Study

BY ANJANETTE BOWEN, ALPENA NFWCO

The Alpena NFWCO collected tissues from a spawning population of yellow perch in Thunder Bay, Lake Huron, for a genetics study underway at the University of Toledo. Tissues were also collected from walleye. These tissues will aid in the development of DNA markers to distinguish unique spawning populations of these native species.

The samples were collected during regularly scheduled monitoring activities targeting Eurasian ruffe. Yellow perch and walleye were encountered as by-catch in overnight sets with small mesh (1.3 cm) gill nets. Sampling consisted of eight single night sets per week during the last three weeks of April (April 17-May 2). The tissue samples consisted of a 1 cm fin clip. Approximately 20 yellow perch and 15 walleye samples were collected. Tissues were frozen and sent to the University of Toledo Great Lakes Genetics Laboratory.

For more information about studies at the University of Toledo's Great Lakes Genetics Laboratory, visit their website at: <http://www.utoledo.edu/as/lec/research/glgl/index.html>.

For further info about the Alpena NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>

Science and technology form the foundation of successful fish and aquatic resource conservation and are used to structure and implement monitoring and evaluation programs that are critical to determine the success of management actions. The Service is committed to following established principles of sound science.

## Studying the Olfactory Homing Response Development in Lake Sturgeon

BY JAMES LUOMA, GENOA NFH

The Genoa NFH has been working to restore lake sturgeon populations in the waters of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri and Tennessee which have declined due to habitat loss, pollution and overfishing. Genoa NFH has become recognized for its rearing program and as a provider of healthy lake sturgeon at various life stages for various research projects regarding the biology and management of the species. A new project supported by the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust and conducted by the Biology Division of the Illinois Institute of Technology has been initiated to study the neurobiology of lake sturgeon olfactory development.

During this study, the Genoa NFH will provide approximately 150 young-of-the-year lake sturgeon on

a weekly basis for two months for cellular and molecular analysis. The goal of this research is to determine the age when the lake sturgeon olfactory system is highly sensitive to the environment and developed to the level where a homing response may be possible. If determined, this information may provide useful data on the migration, homing and reproductive behavior of the lake sturgeon. Providing animals for research studies can significantly increase the knowledge base for the species and therefore aid in management and restoration efforts. Genoa NFH recognizes the information needs for management agencies and therefore has been an active participant in numerous research projects including several species of fish and mussels.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

## Research Proposal reviewed on Invasive Eurasian Ruffe

BY GARY CZYPINSKI, ASHLAND NFWCO

At the request of the Minnesota Sea Grant Program, Gary Czepinski of the Ashland NFWCO completed a review of a ruffe research proposal submitted by Raymond Newman, Professor, Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife, & Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota-St. Paul. Using 16 years of field data collected by the USGS Lake Superior Biological Station, Dr. Newman proposes to determine if ruffe density or biomass affected the growth of yellow perch in the St. Louis River System (SLRS) which forms the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin. The suggested impacts of ruffe on yellow perch and other native fishes in the SLRS became controversial, since all investigations to date have been laboratory based, and field observations drawn from collected abundance data in the SLRS were challenged. If funded by Minnesota Sea Grant, this proposed research would set a benchmark - it will confirm or deny the effects of ruffe on yellow perch growth in the SLRS.

For further info about the Ashland NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ashland/>



## Chutes and Sturgeon

BY JOE MCMULLEN AND CHRIS MCLELAND, COLUMBIA NFWCO

The Mitigation team at Columbia NFWCO recently completed the first two months of aquatic sampling. The Mitigation project's purpose is to document fish communities and habitats present within four side-channels, or chutes, on the Lower Missouri River near Columbia, Missouri. Lisbon Bottom and Tate Island are two side-channels that were naturally created by river processes. North Overton Bottoms and Tadpole Island are chutes that were created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate for lost side-channel and shallow water habitat.



-USFWS/ JoeMcMullen

**Mitigation trawl runs by the Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office produce a number of the pallid sturgeons captured each year on the Missouri River.**

Shallow water habitat, provided by side-channels, is an important component of many fishes home range. These side-channels serve as productive foraging areas, spawning grounds, and provide refuge for fish during high water events. Sturgeon are some of the many species that use side-channels, and this year their presence within these habitats was especially pronounced. During April and May of this year, a total of 274 shovelnose sturgeon, one lake sturgeon, and one pallid sturgeon were captured within the four chutes involved in the project. During the 2007 sampling season (April to September), only 275 shovelnose sturgeon were captured during the entire season. Lisbon Chute produced the greatest number of shovelnose sturgeon compared to the other three chutes, accounting for nearly 50% of the fish captured. The lone pallid sturgeon caught was from Lisbon chute as well; this fish represents the first of its kind captured during Mitigation sampling at Columbia NFWCO which began in 2005. Tadpole Chute had the second highest shovelnose sturgeon numbers accounting for around 27% of April and May's total catch. A lake sturgeon was also captured in Tadpole chute this spring, the only representative of its species in 2008 so far. Tate and Overton chutes held the lowest numbers of shovelnose sturgeon, each of which contributed around 10% of the total catch for this spring.

Finding sturgeons in these side-channels is an interesting pattern of habitat use that biologists at Columbia NFWCO will investigate in the near future. The data collected this spring, as well as that collected in previous years, will serve as a means to better understand these fish and the habitats they require. Eventually patterns in sturgeon behavior and population numbers can be used to make sound, science-based decisions concerning the management of these species. As a "natural" side-channel, Lisbon chute serves as an example of what shallow water habitat on the Missouri River can be. Lisbon offers productivity and diversity to the system, which aids in restoring natural river conditions. Tadpole chute is an engineered side-channel that supports significant numbers of sturgeon, and may in the future become as productive as Lisbon chute. By studying these chutes, biologists will have the information they need to make suggestions on how to create more suitable side-channel habitats for all river species, and aide in the recovery of endangered Missouri River fish including the pallid sturgeon.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

Loss and alteration of aquatic habitats are principal factors in the decline of native fish and other aquatic resources and the loss of biodiversity. Seventy percent of the Nation's rivers have altered flows, and 50 percent of waterways fail to meet minimum biological criteria.

## Coastal Program and Fish Passage Biologists team-up

BY RICK WESTERHOFF AND STEWART COGSWELL, GREEN  
BAY NFWCO

On April 29-30, fish passage biologists from three Fisheries offices met with coastal program biologists to review and discuss Coastal Program proposals at the Biological Station in Marquette, Michigan. The team consisted of Andrea Ania (Alpena NFWCO), Bob Kavetsky (East Lansing Field Office), Ted Koehler and Mark Brouder (Ashland NFWCO), and Stewart Cogswell and Rick Westerhof (Green Bay NFWCO). Christie Deloria (East Lansing Field Office Biologist stationed at Marquette) hosted and participated throughout the meeting.

This was the first time fish passage and coastal biologists met to review and discuss approximately 25 proposals submitted for Fiscal Year 2008 Coastal

Program funding. The team developed a process to sort out the top proposals using the following guidance: 1) substantial involvement by Fish and Wildlife personnel, 2) Threatened, Endangered and Trust Species benefits, 3) and Strategic Plan goals, focus areas and strategies. The team developed a list of proposals for funding that was consistent with Fish and Wildlife Service priorities.

Getting biologists out on the ground to develop proposals and work hand-in-hand with our partners will only strengthen our relationships in the Midwest Region. The Ecological Services and Fisheries programs work together to develop and review Coastal Program proposals.

For further info about the Green Bay NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/greenbay.pdf>

## Restoring Wildlife Habitat and Federal Trust Species in Price County, Wisconsin

BY TED KOEHLER, ASHLAND NFWCO

Spring surveys of new and old Ashland NFWCO wetland restoration projects started as soon as the snow left the landscape in Northern Wisconsin. The Price County, Wisconsin, Land Conservation Department has been a long standing partner with the Ashland NFWCO in habitat restoration. Many excellent projects benefitting Fish and Wildlife Service trust species have been completed in the past as well as planned for the future. With a focus on the agricultural portions of the county, years of wetland and in-stream restoration projects are adding significant acres and miles of productive fish and wildlife habitat.



-USFWS

**This Price County, Wisconsin, habitat restoration project was funded through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.**

Where relatively wildlife-sterile hay and agriculture fields once stood, these areas now team with local and migratory wildlife. Mallard, blue-winged teal and Canada geese were present and/or nesting at all the locations. Many other migratory birds such as green herons, Le Conte's sparrows, song sparrows and red-winged blackbirds were all found using the restored areas. This year's projects will now add to the growing number of restored sites on private land in Price County. Seven new wetland restoration projects are in various planning stages with many of these to be completed during the 2008 field season.

For further info about the Ashland NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ashland/>

Construction took place and was completed on the Hefner, Seidl and Stein Wetland Restoration Projects in the fall of 2007. These Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program projects are located in the important headwater portions of the Upper Mississippi River watershed. Wetland habitat restored totaled 15 acres. Upland migratory bird nesting cover around the projects totaling 10 acres was also enhanced and protected through 10-year agreements and management plans. Partners on the projects included the Landowners and the Price County Land Conservation Department.

In talking to the landowners this spring, all were extremely happy with the results of the projects.



## Alpena NFWCO Project Leader Jerry McClain Retires

BY AARON WOLDT, ALPENA NFWCO

On April 1, Project Leader Jerry McClain of the Alpena NFWCO retired after 32 years with the United States Fish and Wildlife



Service. On April 5, over 40 family members, friends, and colleagues gathered at the Alpena Golf Course to celebrate Jerry's career. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, a presentation featuring pictures spanning Jerry's career, and several award presentations to commemorate Jerry's professional achievements and dedication to natural resource conservation.

Thanks to donations from staff, friends, and colleagues, Jerry and his wife Kathy were presented with a double matted and framed lake trout print by artist Joe Tomelleri and a gift certificate for TreeTops golf resort in Gaylord, Michigan. Now that he is retired, Jerry will be able to devote more time to the truly important things in life—walleye fishing, golfing, bow hunting, and mushroom picking.

Jerry...good luck in your retirement from the staff at the Alpena NFWCO.

The Fisheries Program relies on a broad range of professionals to accomplish its mission: biologists, managers, administrators, clerks, animal caretakers, and maintenance workers. Without their skills and dedication, the Fisheries Program cannot succeed. Employees must be trained, equipped and supported in order to perform their jobs safely, often under demanding environmental conditions, and to keep current with the constantly expanding science of fish and aquatic resource management and conservation.

-USFWS/AnjanetteBowen  
Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
Office Project Leader Jerry McClain speaks during  
his retirement party, celebrating a 32 year career.

For further info about the Alpena NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>

## Federal, State, and Public “Hook Up” for Training

BY HEIDI KEULER, LA CROSSE NFWCO

Many have heard about national outreach programs for children called, *Children and Nature*, *No Child Left Inside*, *Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs* (HOFNOD) and *Take Me Fishing*. Because there is such a need to get children outside and away from video games and computer screens, both Federal and state employees in the natural resources field are going through training to facilitate fun activities for children in their home towns. Jeff Janvrin from the Wisconsin DNR is a facilitator with the national HOFNOD and with three other successful Wisconsin programs called *Project Learning Tree*, *Project We*, and *Project Wild*. Jeff led a Project Wet/Wild and Angler Education workshop on May 20-21

for Fish and Wildlife Service employees, volunteers and Friends Group members. The training workshop included topics such as conducting fishing clinics, age-group activities and lessons that meet state educational standards, environmental ethics and conservation, resources available to instructors, etc. Trainees received hands-on training and four large guide books to use for outreach with children (K-12). Twenty people attended the workshops from Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. Partners included the Wisconsin DNR, Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services, Mississippi River Wild, and La Crosse Park and Recreation Department.

For further info about the La Crosse NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrossefisheries/>

## Training for Pallid Sturgeon Population Assessment

BY ANDY PLAUCK AND CLIFF WILSON, COLUMBIA NFWCO

Four members of Columbia NFWCO traveled to Niobrara State Park in Nebraska to attend the annual training for the Pallid Sturgeon Population Assessment Team (PSPAT). The setting for this meeting couldn't have been more appropriate – the lodge at Niobrara State Park overlooks a very scenic, unchannelized Missouri River. Because the Missouri River habitat is quite varied throughout its course, we get together once a year with crews from the entire Missouri River basin to review sampling techniques. The entire team meets to standardize procedures on the sampling protocol for this large-scale project. The Population Assessment crews monitor Federally endangered pallid sturgeons year-round in the 2,300 mile-long basin. As one would expect, a project that stretches from Montana to Missouri is going to involve a fair number of people and close cooperation with multiple state and Federal agencies. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funds crews from the Columbia NFWCO; Missouri Department of Conservation; Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Management Office; Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Management Office; Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks; North Dakota Game and Fish; and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

After one morning of a “classroom” style meeting, the attendees traveled to the boat ramp for the on-the-water component of the training. On the river, we deployed all of the different gears used by the team and shared techniques with our partners. Gillnets, drifted trammel nets, mini-fyke nets, otter trawls and seines were all demonstrated. The day ended with a boat ride to the confluence of the Niobrara River, which drains into the Missouri River in a complex of large ever-changing sandbars. On the next day the group traveled to the headwaters of Lewis and Clark Lake and learned about the changes in morphology of the upper lake since the construction of Gavin's Point Dam. On the way back to Missouri we stopped in Sioux City, Iowa, to demonstrate sampling techniques on the channelized portion of the Missouri River. Aside from the daily training activities, the evenings were spent discussing many different aspects and improvements to the project. The opportunity to spend time with other crews and learn about other work they are doing is always a unique experience.

The Columbia NFWCO looks forward to partnering with other agencies on many Missouri River projects. Combining knowledge and skills of multiple agencies and biologists will hopefully improve the pallid sturgeon population, as well as other native Missouri River fish populations.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

## Safety Course for *M/V Spencer F. Baird*

BY ADAM KOWALSKI, ALPENA NFWCO

The *M/V Spencer F. Baird* is the largest vessel owned by the Fish and Wildlife Service in Midwest Region. This vessel is primarily used for stocking hatchery lake trout, but it is also capable of trawling, gillnetting, and conducting hydroacoustic surveys. The Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of developing a stand-alone training module for the vessel to address the specific and unique safety issues presented by this large, multi-purpose vessel. Motorboat Operator Certification Course Instructors Adam Kowalski, Aaron Woldt, Dave Wedan, Kyle Krysiak, and Jeffery Lucas along with vessel crew Mike Perry, Bob Bergstrom, and Dave Bohn are developing the course. To date, there have been several conference calls and one meeting of the team.

The team has developed the tentative course content to include boat orientation, house-keeping, fire suppression, emergency procedures, night operations, required and recommended equipment, use of visual distress signals and cracker shells, cargo handling, radio use, and safety during assessment work. Each topic will be broken down into basic boating safety sections and safety concerns specific for the *M/V Spencer F. Baird*. This course will be mandatory for all personnel riding on the Baird during stocking and assessment work.

The maiden course is currently scheduled for late August or early September 2008. The instructors will conduct a run through prior to the first course to work out any logistic or safety concerns and to make sure all concerns have been addressed.

For further info about the Alpena NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>



# Congressional Actions

S. 2907 (is) To establish uniform administrative and enforcement procedures and penalties for the enforcement of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and similar statutes, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

H.R. 1495 (enr) To provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes. [Enrolled bill]

S. 1248 (pcs) To provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes. [Placed on Calendar Senate]

H.R. 6316 (ih) To reduce global greenhouse gas emissions through the creation of a domestic carbon market and international trade measures, and to direct the revenue therefrom to public interests. [Introduced in House]

H.R. 4455 (ih) To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide international wildlife management and conservation programs through the Wildlife Without Borders Program in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

H.R. 3891 (rh) To amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act to increase the number of Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. [Reported in House]

S. 3213 (pcs) To designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes. [Placed on Calendar Senate]

H.R. 6384 (ih) To provide a comprehensive plan for greater American energy independence. [Introduced in House]

H.R. 6165 (ih) To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to assist individuals confronting high gasoline and diesel fuel costs in commuting to work by allowing a refundable credit against income tax based on the business standard mileage rate for commuting miles, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

S. 2758 (is) To authorize the exploration, leasing, development, production, and economically feasible and prudent transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain in Alaska. [Introduced in Senate]

H.R. 3891 (eh) To amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act to increase the number of Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. [Engrossed in House]

H.R. 767 (ih) To protect, conserve, and restore native fish, wildlife, and their natural habitats at national wildlife refuges through cooperative, incentive-based grants to control, mitigate, and eradicate harmful nonnative species, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

H.R. 6001 (ih) To rebalance the United States energy portfolio, to increase and utilize the Nation's domestic energy resources and supply, to strengthen energy security and independence, and for other purposes. [Introduced in House]

H.R. 767 (eh) To protect, conserve, and restore native fish, wildlife, and their natural habitats at national wildlife refuges through cooperative, incentive-based grants to control, mitigate, and eradicate harmful nonnative species, and for other purposes. [Engrossed in House]

H.R. 3891 (rs) To amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act to increase the number of Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. [Reported in Senate]

S. 3222 (is) To promote the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

H.R. 1533 (ih) To provide for the establishment of a national mercury monitoring program. [Introduced in House]

S. 2958 (is) To promote the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes. [Introduced in Senate]

S. 2973 (pcs) To promote the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes. [Placed on Calendar Senate]

S.J.Res. 17 (rs) Directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean. [Reported in Senate]

S. 843 (is) To provide for the establishment of a national mercury monitoring program. [Introduced in Senate]

H.R. 767 (rfs) To protect, conserve, and restore native fish, wildlife, and their natural habitats at national wildlife refuges through cooperative, incentive-based grants to control, mitigate, and eradicate harmful nonnative species, and for other purposes. [Referred in Senate]

H.R. 767 (rcs) To protect, conserve, and restore native fish, wildlife, and their natural habitats at national wildlife refuges through cooperative, incentive-based grants to control, mitigate, and eradicate harmful nonnative species, and for other purposes. [Reference Change Senate]

S.J.Res. 17 (es) Directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean. [Engrossed in Senate]

S.J.Res. 17 (is) Directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean. [Introduced in Senate]

Source is <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/index.html>  
Searched database by keyword = "fish"

# Midwest Region Fisheries Divisions

## National Fish Hatcheries

The Region's National Fish Hatcheries primarily focus on native fish restoration/rehabilitation by stocking fish and eggs, such as pallid and lake sturgeon and by developing and maintaining brood stocks of selected fish strains, such as lake trout and brook trout. Hatcheries also provide technical assistance to other agencies, provide fish and eggs for research, stock rainbow trout in fulfillment of federal mitigation obligations and assist with recovery of native mussels and other native aquatic species.

## National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices

National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices conduct assessments of fish populations to guide management decisions, perform key monitoring and control activities related to invasive, aquatic species; survey and evaluate aquatic habitats to identify restoration/rehabilitation opportunities; play a key role in targeting and implementing native fish and habitat restoration programs; work with private land owners, states, local governments and watershed organizations to complete aquatic habitat restoration projects under the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Great Lakes Coastal Programs; provide coordination and technical assistance toward the management of interjurisdictional fisheries; maintain and operate several key interagency fisher-

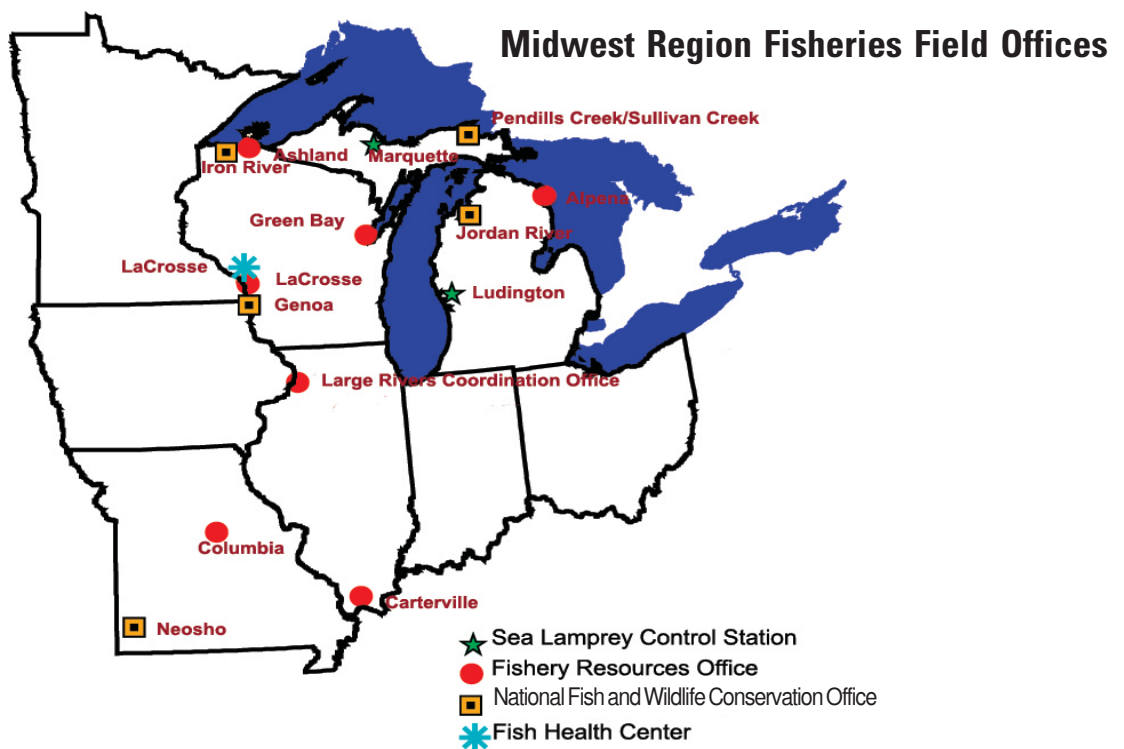
ies databases; provide technical expertise to other Service programs addressing contaminants, endangered species, federal project review and hydro-power operation and re-licensing; evaluate and manage fisheries on Service lands; and, provide technical support to 38 Native American tribal governments and treaty authorities.

## Sea Lamprey Biological Stations

The Fish and Wildlife Service is the United States Agent for sea lamprey control, with two Biological Stations assessing and managing sea lamprey populations throughout the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission administers the Sea Lamprey Management Program, with funding provided through the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of the Interior, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

## Fish Health Center

The Fish Health Center provides specialized fish health evaluation and diagnostic services to federal, state, tribal and private hatcheries in the region; conducts extensive monitoring and evaluation of wild fish health; examines and certifies the health of captive hatchery stocks; and, performs a wide range of special services helping to coordinate fishery program offices and partner organizations.





# Midwest Region Fisheries Contacts

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## Fish Tails

“Fish Tails” includes articles that are included in field station reports that are not published in the “Conservation Briefs.” These articles are categorized by focus area and includes the article title, author and field station. The website link, where the full article can be viewed, is highlighted in blue type.

### Partnerships and Accountability

- End of an Era: M/V Togue Sold at Auction
  - Aaron Woltdt, Alpena NFWCO
- Mourning Dove Call-Count Survey – Ashland NFWCO 2008
  - Ted Koehler, Ashland NFWCO

- Piping plovers and kids make headline in Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine
  - Glenn Miller, Ashland NFWCO
- Third Annual Benefit Dinner Held at the Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan
  - Jim Boase, Alpena NFWCO
- Upper Mississippi River Directory Updated

- Scott Yess, La Crosse NFWCO

### Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- An Unexpected Visitor!!!
  - Chris McLeland and Joe McMullen, Columbia NFWCO

- Better Late Than Never... Mussel Culture Cages Finally Deployed After Late Spring Floods in the Midwest
  - Tony Brady, Genoa NFH
- Columbia NFWCO Finishes Management Plans for Three Missouri River Floodplain Scours at the Overton Unit of Big Muddy NFWR
  - Cliff Wilson, Columbia NFWCO
- Jordan River NFH 2008 Stocking Season Completed
  - Tim Smigielski, Jordan River NFH
- Jordan River NFH Stocks Yearling Lake Trout Early in Southern Lake Michigan
  - Tim Smigielski, Jordan River NFH
- Jordan River NFH Transfers 750,000 Lake Trout Fingerlings to Pendills Creek NFH
  - Tim Smigielski, Jordan River NFH
- Regional Director Finds Out First Hand What's Happening on the Detroit River
  - Jim Boase, Alpena NFWCO

### Aquatic Invasive Species

- Service Biologist Addresses League of Women Voters
  - Aaron Woldt, Alpena NFWCO

### Public Use

- Thanks to the Local Heroes at Tomah Veterans Hospital
  - Darla Wenger, Genoa NFH
- 5 X 25 = Body Systems/Collection Techniques
  - Jeff Finley and Zac Beussink, Columbia NFWCO
- 5th Annual Kids Fishing Day Nets over 130 Young Anglers
  - Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH
- Alpena NFWCO Assists with Educational Outdoor Camp
  - Adam Kowalski, Alpena NFWCO
- Alpena NFWCO Collecting Animal Skulls and Hides
  - Adam Kowalski, Alpena NFWCO
- Alpena NFWCO Invited to Talk with Students at Wilson School
  - Adam Kowalski, Alpena NFWCO
- Alpena NFWCO Participates in 2008 Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops
  - Scott Koproski, Alpena NFWCO
- Alpena NFWCO Participates in Under the Sea Week
  - Scott Koproski, Alpena NFWCO

- Ashland NFWCO Participates in Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival
  - Ted Koehler, Ashland NFWCO
- Biologists Work with Wilson School to Develop Nature Acre and Teach Students about Fossils
  - Andrea Ania, Alpena NFWCO
- Columbia Hosts First W.O.W School
  - Jeff Finley/Tracy Hill/Nick Utrup, Columbia NFWCO
- Fish and Wildlife Employees Judge Math and Science Expo
  - Sarah Bauer, La Crosse FHC
- Fishing the Big Muddy
  - Andy Plauck/Wyatt Doyle, Columbia NFWCO
- Goats, Pigs and Sturgeon – Oh My!
  - Colby Wrasse and Patty Herman, Columbia NFWCO
- Jordan River NFH Programs Are Popular with Students 13th Annual Water Watch Student Congress
  - Tim Smigielski, Jordan River NFH
- La Crosse Fish Health Center Volunteers with the La Crosse Boys and Girls Club
  - Kristen Dzuibinski, La Crosse FHC
- Michigan DEQ Hosts Annual Earth Day Celebration in Lansing
  - Anjanette Bowen, Alpena NFWCO
- North Country Trail Clean Up in the Jordan River Valley
  - Rick Westerhoff, Green Bay NFWCO
- Onaway and Rogers City Public Schools 5th Grade Conservation Day
  - Heather Rawlings, Alpena NFWCO
- Prescriptions for Cleaner Water Dispensed at River Education Days
  - Mark Steingraeber, La Crosse NFWCO
- Something Fishy is Going On in Hallsville!
  - Colby Wrasse/Patty Herman/Courtney Culler, Columbia NFWCO
- Troops Invade Columbia NFWCO
  - Patty Herman, Columbia NFWCO
- What is your fish's name? Fred
  - Darla Wenger and Jenny Walker, Genoa NFH
- What's For Lunch?
  - Patty Herman, Columbia NFWCO

### Cooperation with Native Americans

- Another Edition of the MTAN is now on the WEB
  - Frank Stone, Ashland NFWCO

### Leadership in Science and Technology

#### Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- Boardman River Dams Committee Approves Dam Alternative Fact Sheets
  - Rick Westerhoff, Green Bay NFWCO
- McCormick Creek/Marsh Monitoring
  - Andrea Ania, Alpena NFWCO
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Tri-State Meeting
  - Heather Rawlings, Alpena NFWCO
- Pre-Construction Monitoring at Houghton Creek Road-Stream Crossing
  - Andrea Ania, Alpena NFWCO
- Strategic Habitat Conservation Technical Advisory Team Meeting
  - Tracy Hill, Columbia NFWCO

#### Workforce Management

- Another Great Fisheries and Wildlife Student Volunteers at Jordan River NFH
  - Elizabeth Williams, Jordan River NFH
- Environmental Facility Compliance and Safety Audit at the La Crosse Fish Health Center
  - Becky Lasee, La Crosse FHC
- Jordan River NFH Biologist Selected to Assist in Development of NCTC Course
  - Tim Smigielski, Jordan River NFH
- Jordan River NFH Volunteer Returns from Her First Year at MSU
  - Hannah Edwards, Jordan River NFH
- Northern Michigan Native Volunteering at Jordan River NFH
  - Tim Smigielski, Jordan River NFH
- The Columbia NFWCO welcomes new STEP students! Fisheries Conservation Branch
  - Zac Beussink/Shelley Banks/Mark Corio/Johnathan Slade, Columbia NFWCO
- The Columbia NFWCO welcomes new STEP students! Missouri River Studies Branch
  - Andy Plauck/Chris Scheppers/Jake Norman/Zach Darter/Skip Mross/Jeremiah Smith, Columbia NFWCO
- Tres Hombres Take the Genoa (WI) Hatchery by Storm
  - Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH
- Wild in Lacrosse Wisconsin
  - Brian Elkington, Columbia NFWCO



Jerry French Postcard Collection; U.S. Fish Hatchery at Quilcene, Washington (circa 1920).

## *Water Under the Bridge* A Glimpse into our Proud Past

*The U.S. Fish Hatchery at Quilcene was established in 1911 and continues operations today. Quilcene is located in eastern Jefferson County on the Olympic Peninsula, near the upper arm of Diablo Bay.*