U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fish Lines

Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers

Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing, and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems

April 2003
Vol. 1 No.2

Neosho National Fish Hatchery; Neosho, Missouri

(See the "*Station Spotlight*" on Page 5)

Click here for other issues of "Fish Lines"

Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers 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

Conserving America's Fisheries

Fisheries Program Vision for the Future

The vision of the Service and its 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.

Strategic Plan Vision Focus Areas

Partnerships and Accountability
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.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management
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.

Public Use
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.

Cooperation with Native Americans
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.

Leadership in Science and Technology
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.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management
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.

Workforce Management
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.

Inside this Issue

Great Lakes - Big Rivers Region Fisheries Field Offices
(Page 4)

-National Fish Hatcheries
-Sea Lamprey Control Stations
-Fishery Resources Offices
-Fish Health Center
-Fishery Coordination Offices
(Page 4)

Great Lakes - Big Rivers Regional Fisheries Program
(Page 5)

Station Spotlight
Neosho National Fish Hatchery
(Page 5)

Partnerships and Accountability
(Page 6)

Interagency Coordination is Key to Saving the Higgins' Eye Pearlymussel from Extinction
(Page 6)

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management
(Page 9)

Sea Lampreys Destroyed, Lake Trout Saved
(Page 10)

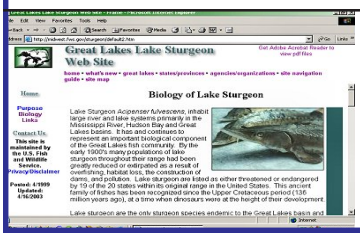
Public Use
(Page 12)

Head Start Students "Invade" Pendills Creek NFH
(Page 12)

Cooperation with Native Americans
(Page 14)

Walleye Population Estimates in Cooperation with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
(Page 14)

Leadership in Science and Technology
(Page 16)



A Fresh Look is Added to the Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Web Site
(Page 16)

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management
(Page 17)

Abundant Bluegills, not bluebills, on Polander Survey
(Page 17)

Workforce Management
(Page 19)

Region 3 Director Robyn Thorson Visits USFWS Resource Center Staff in Onalaska, Wisconsin
(Page 19)

Great Lakes - Big River Fisheries Field Offices
(Page 23)

US Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Field Offices for the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin
(Page 23)

Click here to visit our Fisheries Web Site

Great Lakes - Big Rivers Region Fisheries Field Offices

National Fish Hatcheries

National Fish Hatcheries develop and maintain brood stocks of selected fish strains with our primary focus on native species such as lake trout, pallid sturgeon, lake sturgeon and brook trout. Hatcheries also provide technical assistance and sources of fish and eggs to cooperating agencies, provide fish and eggs for research, stock fish and eggs as part of native fish restoration programs, stock fish in fulfillment of federal mitigation obligations and assist with restoration of native mussels.

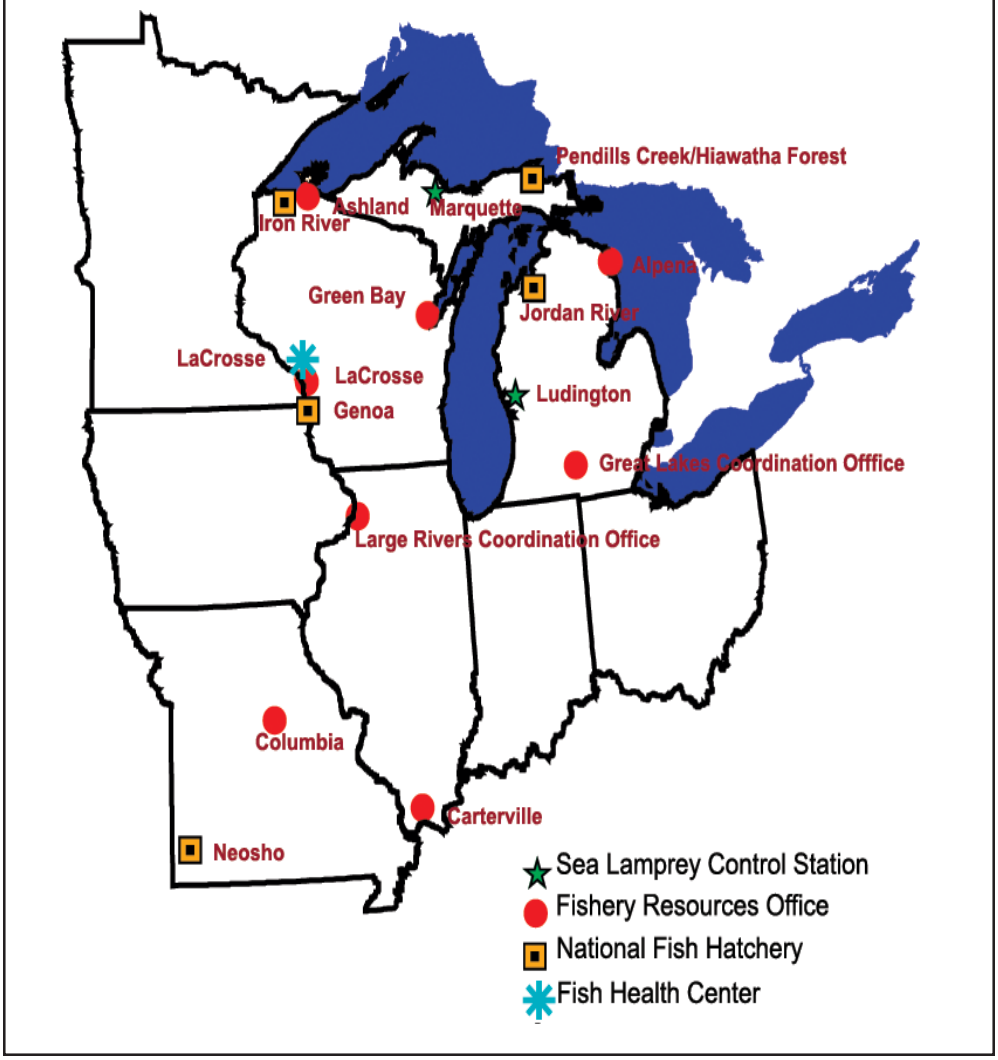
Sea Lamprey Control Stations

Sea Lamprey Control Stations assess and control sea lamprey populations throughout the Great Lakes. This program is supported through funding from the State Department and administered through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Fishery Resources Offices

Fishery Resources Offices perform key monitoring and control activities related to invasive aquatic species; survey and evaluate native fish stocks and aquatic habitats to identify restoration 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 Private Lands and the Great Lakes Coastal Programs; provide coordination and technical assistance toward the management of interjurisdictional fisheries; maintain and operate several key interagency databases; provide technical assistance to other Service programs addressing contaminants, endangered species, federal project review and hydropower operation and re-licensing; evaluate and manage fisheries on Service lands; and, provide technical support to 38 Native American tribal governments and treaty authorities.

Great Lakes - Big Rivers Region Fisheries Field Offices



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 throughout the region; 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.

Fishery Coordination Offices

Fishery Coordination Offices work with Canadian and state natural resource agencies, county, local and tribal governments and other public and private organizations to provide crucial facilitation and interagency coordination functions affecting the management of native fishes and aquatic habitats.

Great Lakes - Big Rivers Regional Fisheries Program

Station Spotlight - Neosho National Fish Hatchery

The Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is the oldest Federal fish hatchery in operation. Established in 1888, the hatchery is located in the Ozark Mountain Region of southwest Missouri in the town of Neosho. It is one of 69 fish hatcheries operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Role of Hatcheries in Fisheries Conservation

The US Fish and Wildlife Service operates fish hatcheries throughout the United States. These hatcheries are a significant part of fisheries conservation and restoration efforts by producing and releasing rare, endangered and other fish back into America's lakes and rivers. Some of these hatcheries also help mitigate the loss of fishing from the large Federal dams built in the last century.

Over 130 species of cold, cool, and warm water fish have been produced at the Neosho NFH since it was established. The current focus is on paddlefish and lake sturgeon restoration, pallid sturgeon recovery, production of rainbow trout for mitigation, and native mussel propagation.

-USFWS

Feeding Pallid Sturgeon

The hatchery water supply is from four gravity flow underground springs, located up to four miles from the hatchery. The 1,600 hundred gallons per minute of 58 degree, high quality water allows hatchery staff to produce up to 90,000 pounds of fish annually and to rear several species of imperiled fish and other aquatic species.

The staff at the Neosho Fish Hatchery also protect the endangered Ozark cavefish in one of the springs that supplies the hatchery with water. In 1989, staff discovered Ozark cavefish using the spring. In 2002 efforts were taken to protect the area surrounding the spring and protect the water quality necessary for cavefish survival. A remote camera provides live pictures of Ozark cavefish in the hatchery visitor center.

-USFWS

Neosho National Fish Hatchery Staff

Left to right: Roderick May, Ralph Simmons, David Hendrix, Nancy Warner, Jeffrey Messens

-USFWS

Aerial View of Neosho NFH; Neosho, MO

Visitors are welcome at the hatchery Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For detailed information or to reserve a tour please contact the Hatchery at: **(417) 451-0554**

Partnerships and Accountability

Consultations with Partners Help Protect Endangered Species during Lampricide Treatments

Consultations were conducted with federal endangered species programs and state agencies to achieve consensus on proposed lampricide treatments to kill sea lampreys in 34 streams of the Great Lakes during 2003. The consultations provided an excellent forum and assured that treatment strategies complied with Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 and State permits.

The following protocol was implemented for lampricide treatments: "Protocol to Protect and Avoid Disturbance to Federal and/or State-Listed Endangered, Threatened, Candidate, Proposed, or Special Concern Species and Critical or Proposed Critical Habitats in or near Great Lakes Streams Scheduled for Lampricide Treatments in the United States during 2003." The protocol includes a summary of streams proposed for treatments; details of the known locations of listed species in each stream and procedures to protect and avoid disturbance; and an appendix with fact sheets for each listed species that includes an image and description of the species and preferred habitat.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is responsible for control of sea lampreys in the Great Lakes and contracts field operations to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
John Weisser, Marquette Biological Station

Interagency Coordination is Key to Saving the Higgins' Eye Pearlymussel from Extinction

Since 2000, a variety of conservation measures have been implemented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with assistance from the interagency Mussel Coordination Team to save the federally endangered Higgins' eye pearlymussel (Lampsilis higginsii) from extinction. Conservation activities were required by a Biological Opinion provided to the Corps in April, 2000 for continued operation and maintenance of the federal 9-Foot Channel Project on the Upper Mississippi River. A variety of conservation activities have been implemented including genetics studies, mussel culture at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, cage culture in the Upper Mississippi River and tributaries, stocking juvenile mussels, relocating adults, stocking glochidia inoculated fish, cleaning and stockpiling adult mussels, and survey/monitoring activities. These activities are presented in a new report entitled "Saving the Higgins' Eye Pearlymussel (Lampsilis higginsii) from Extinction: 2002 Status Report on the Accomplishments of the Mussel Coordination Team". The report can be downloaded from the new Internet web site "Freshwater Mussels of the Upper Mississippi River System" currently in development with the U.S. Geological Survey. (http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/mussels/documents/mct_2002_status_report.pdf)
Gary Wege, Twin Cities ES

-USFWS

Monitoring growth of a Higgins' Eye Pearlymussel

Task Group Reviews Lake Trout Restoration Impediments for Lake Michigan

Impediments to lake trout restoration in Lake Michigan were reviewed by the Lake Trout Task Group of the Lake Michigan Committee, Great Lakes Fisheries Commission in a document entitled 'Possible Impediments to Lake Trout Restoration in Lake Michigan.' The Chairman of the Lake Trout Task Group, Green Bay Fisheries Office Biologist Chuck Bronte, edited and formatted the document that examines and ranks 14 possible impediments to lake trout restoration. The outcome of this analysis will shape the redrafting of the lakewide lake trout restoration plan for Lake Michigan by the Lake Trout Task Group. Implications for the Region 3 lake trout hatcheries are significant as the impediment analysis suggests higher stocking rates and shifts in stocking locations. The document will be available electronically at the Great Lakes Fishery Comm. website (www.glfc.org).
Charles Bronte, Green Bay FRO

Service Assists States Set Recreational Fishing Regulations

The recreational harvest off of Munising, Michigan in Lake Superior exceeded the recommended harvest limit in 2002. The State is required by the 2000 US vs MI Consent Decree to institute management actions that will keep future harvests within the limits, but does not want to set regulations that are unnecessarily restrictive or rejected by the angling community. John Netto of the Green Bay Fisheries Resources Office assisted State biologists with developing management strategies and assessed their effects on future angler harvest and quota calculations. The creel data suggests that size restrictions from the past two years have not significantly reduced harvest, but have only changed the size structure of the harvest. Restrictive size limits also increase the estimated number of fish caught and released and therefore the mortality associated with hooking. A number of management options ranging from season closures, reduced bag limits, size minimums, size maximums, and slot limits were passed on to the State managers with estimates of how they will affect harvest in 2003.
John Netto, Green Bay FRO

Service Contributes to Spring Meeting of the Sea Lamprey Integration Committee, an Advisory Group of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Sea Lamprey Control staff presented detailed information and recommendations for the Sea Lamprey Management Program in the Great Lakes at the Spring 2003 meeting of the Sea Lamprey Integration Committee (SLIC), in Ann Arbor, Michigan on April 30 - May 1, 2003, sponsored by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Marquette and Ludington Biological Stations staff presented current status and new initiatives for lampricide control (Terry Morse), assessment (Michael Fodale), sterile-male-release technique (Michael Twohey), and sea lamprey barriers (Dennis Lavis, Kasia Mullett) for the 2003 field season. The Sea Lamprey Integration Committee, chaired by Dr. Roy Stein of Ohio State University, is a group of seven scientists and managers that evaluate information from task forces chaired by Fish and Wildlife Service and Fisheries and Oceans Canada - the Commissions' control agents. The SLIC then recommends plans of action for the management of sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The Fish and Wildlife Service delivers a program of integrated sea lamprey control in U.S. waters of the Great Lakes as a contracted agent of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.
Michael Fodale, Marquette Biological Station

Partners Revise Press Releases and Public Notices for Lampricide Control Program

The Lampricide Control Task Force's Standard Operating Procedures Sub-group is nearing completion of an initiative to revise and standardize press releases used in the bi-national sea lamprey lampricide control program. The sub-group consisting of representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, U.S. Geological Survey, and Great Lakes Fishery Commission, met in Escanaba, Michigan on April 29, 2003. The result of the meeting was draft formats that upon completion of review and approval, will be used for standard press releases and public notices in the program in the U.S. and Canada.
Terry Morse, Marquette Biological Station

Ashland FRO Works Closely with the National Park Service to Complete Pictured Rocks Fish Species Inventory

Results of a comprehensive fish species inventory for the Lake Superior waters of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore have been tabulated, and a draft final report provided to the National Park Service. The report describes collection efforts and results during 2002. A total of 29 species and 1 hybrid (splake) were confirmed in the collection. Nine of the species had never been confirmed in Pictured Rocks waters prior to the study.
Lee Newman, Ashland FRO

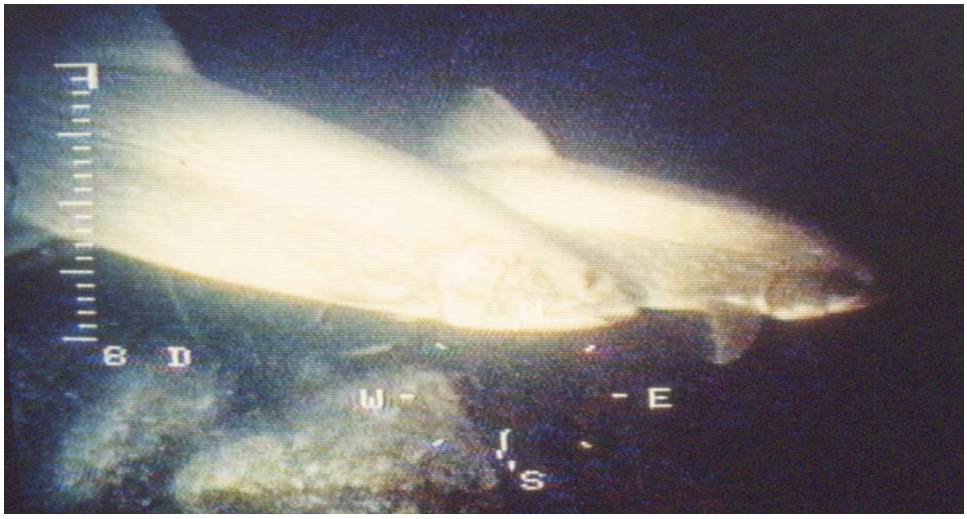
Service Biologist Conducts Stock Assessment Analysis for OMNR

Fishery Biologist Aaron Woldt of the Alpena FRO, at the request of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), conducted catch at age simulations for lake trout stocks in northern Lake Huron. Woldt used statistical-catch-at-age (SCAA) models developed by the Modeling Subcommittee of the Technical Fisheries Committee to assess the impact of the Ontario commercial fishery on lake trout stocks in northern Lake Huron. These SCAA models include reported harvest of Canadian licensed commercial fishermen and are used to annually set lake trout harvest

limits for state of Michigan and tribal fishermen in 1836 Treaty waters under the 2000 Consent Decree. OMNR provided new estimates of commercial lake trout harvest in Canadian waters based on its commercial catch sampling program. This estimated harvest was significantly larger than reported harvest for 1999 to 2002 in some Canadian units. Woldt provided model output using 1) reported commercial catch and 2) estimated commercial catch to aid OMNR in evaluating its commercial fishing assessment and licensing program. Increased harvest in Canadian waters causes decreases in harvest limits in US waters for both Michigan and tribally licensed fishermen.

Future discussions between OMNR and the parties to the 2000 Consent Decree are expected regarding sustainable lake trout harvest levels and stock dynamics in northern Lake Huron. The 2000 Consent Decree is a 20 year fishery allocation agreement for 1836 Treaty waters signed by the State of Michigan, United States, Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Results from this analysis will be used by OMNR to assess its commercial reporting system for lake trout and the potential impacts of using reported or estimated commercial lake trout harvest. This result is consistent with the Service's goal of establishing and maintaining open, interactive communication with its partner agencies.

Aaron P. Woldt, Alpena FRO



USGS photo by Greg Kennedy

Stock assessments for lake trout in Northern Lake Huron provide data to set harvest limits for state of Michigan and tribal fishermen in 1836 Treaty waters under the 2000 Consent Decree. This image shows two lake trout on spawning reef habitat at the Tawas artificial reef in Lake Huron.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

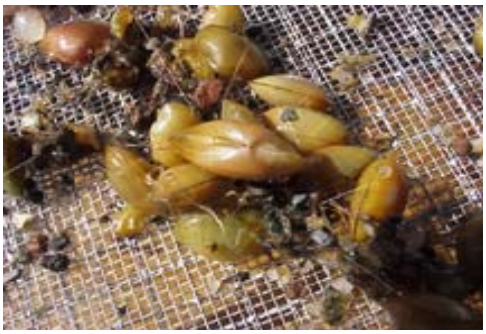
Preliminary Survey of the Maumee River for Spawning Lake Sturgeon

On 9 April 2003 Fishery Biologist James Boase joined forces with Biologists Chris Vandergoot and Larry Goedde from Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife (ODOW) to conduct a preliminary survey of the Maumee River for lake sturgeon. The Maumee River is a tributary of western Lake Erie and sports Ohio's largest spawning run of walleye. For many years recreational fishers targeting walleye on the Maumee have occasionally caught lake sturgeon below Providence Dam. Preliminary genetic information collected from lake sturgeon captured by commercial fishers near the mouth of the Maumee River indicated that there may exist a distinct population of lake sturgeon in Western Lake Erie. The purpose of the preliminary survey was to locate potential spawning locations, assess effective sampling techniques for those locations, and determine how resources from the Service and ODOW can be pooled to efficiently monitor lake sturgeon in the Maumee River. Chris Vandergoot has submitted a grant through the Lake Erie Protection Fund. If the grant is accepted ODOW will begin working with the Service collecting lake sturgeon on the Maumee River during the 2004 lake sturgeon spawning run. This effort, if successful, would be a major step for the rehabilitation of lake sturgeon in western Lake Erie and initiate an excellent partnership effort between the Service and ODOW. This event provided a unique opportunity to create new partnerships with Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife personnel and to explain the Service's mission and efforts to restore native fish in the Great Lakes. Benefits of native species restoration were clearly defined and explained, specifically the Service's efforts to rehabilitate lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes.
James Boase, Alpena FRO

Endangered Mussels Arrive at Genoa National Fish Hatchery

(It is hoped that the hundreds of thousands of juvenile mussels produced at the hatchery will help halt the drastic downward population trend in the region's river systems brought about by habitat loss, invasive species, and water use practices)

Whether you notice the willows in bloom, observe the high flocks of geese winging north, or hear the spring peepers calling frantically from dusk 'til dawn, the crew at Genoa National Fish Hatchery knows spring has finally sprung with the arrival of the year's first gravid mussel to the facility. This annual event is the midpoint of a year-long process to help recover threatened and endangered freshwater unionids in the Upper Mississippi River system. Planning for the arrivals began approximately one year prior with the spawning of wild and captive fish for the production of the thousands of host fish required to carry out the complicated life cycle of these organisms. Nine species of fish are currently being propagated at the hatchery in expectation of multiple restoration and recovery projects in four states in Region 3 this year. Several species of state and federally listed endangered mussels will be propagated on the facility during 2003, with special emphasis on recovery efforts for the Higgins eye Pearlymussel.



-USFWS

Success! Mussels are produced for recovery efforts.

The recent arrival of 21 gravid female Higgins eye's mark the beginning of the annual multi-agency effort to bolster populations of this mussel in the upper Mississippi River, as well as reintroduce this mussel to areas of the watershed where it has been extirpated. These first mussels are the vanguard of scores of mussels scheduled to contribute larvae at the facilities mussel propagation unit during the spring and summer of 2003. It is hoped that the hundreds of thousands of juvenile mussels produced at the hatchery will help halt the drastic downward population trend in the region's river systems brought about by habitat loss, invasive species, and water use practices. For more information about this program or the opportunity to assist in recovery efforts for freshwater mussels contact Roger Gordon at the facility at 608-689-2605.
Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH

-GLFC

Stream treatments to destroy parasitic sea lamprey protects a $4.0 billion fishery in the Great Lakes.

Sea Lampreys Destroyed, Lake Trout Saved

Service personnel from the Marquette and Ludington Biological Stations sea lamprey control program recently completed lampricide treatment of two Lake Erie tributaries, the Grand River and Conneaut Creek, to destroy larval sea lamprey populations. These treatments removed an estimated 23,500 sea lampreys including about 6,800 that would have metamorphosed to the parasitic phase during 2003 and entered Lake Erie. There, each parasitic phase sea lamprey would have been capable of killing upwards of 40 pounds of lake trout during its year-long life in the lake. Extensive coordination and outreach was required with Lake Metro-Park, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to successfully conduct these treatments. The Service's sea lamprey control program is conducted under contract with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The successful control program continues to ensure sport fish rehabilitation in the Great Lakes and protects a fishery valued at over $4.0 billion.
Dennis Lavis, Ludington Biological Station

The Green Bay Fisheries Office Develops Sampling Plan for Ruffe Monitoring in Lake Michigan

The Green Bay Fishery Resources Office (FRO) met with Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO, to develop a sampling schedule for ruffe in Lake Michigan during 2003. Eurasian ruffe were discovered in Lake Michigan for the first time in the port of Escanaba, Mich., during monitoring in 2002. Potential habitat locations that ruffe are attracted to were identified around the basin. Emphasis will be placed on areas that may have a connection with boat traffic to and from the Escanaba port. Available equipment and schedules were also coordinated between each office. Identifying the present range of ruffe in Lake Michigan may help slow or prevent the spread to other areas around the basin. Sampling protocol will follow established guidelines for ruffe monitoring in the Great Lakes.
Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO

-USFWS

Eurasian Ruffe

Sea Lamprey Holding Tank Installed at Peshtigo Dam

A flow through tank has been installed to hold live sea lampreys at the Peshtigo River dam in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. Sea lampreys are captured at the site to assess sea lamprey spawning numbers, and the males are held live at the site until they can be transported to the Hammond Bay Biological Station for sterilization and later release in the St. Marys River. The holding tank will keep the males healthy and provide flexibility in scheduling transportation. The tank was placed in the powerhouse in cooperation with the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. Electronic monitors will shut off water flow in case of leakage. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delivers an integrated program of sea lamprey management in U.S. waters of the Great Lakes as contracted agent of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.
Michael Twohey, Marquette Biological Station

Lake Sturgeon Assessment in the Rifle River

Biologists Adam Kowalski and Aaron Woldt and Assistant project leader Tracy Hill sampled the mouth of the Rifle River in Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron for the presence of adult lake sturgeon during the month of April. Set lines and gill nets were deployed in the bay in hopes of capturing mature lake sturgeon trying to enter the Rifle River on the spring spawning run. The project was jointly funded by Great Lakes Fisheries Trust and Service Cost Share Challenge Grant. Low water levels in Lake Huron made the sampling very difficult. Unfortunately, no lake sturgeon

were captured. Several common carp and one channel catfish were captured in the gill nets. No by-catch was encountered with the set lines. While sampling in the Standish area, Alpena FRO staff used the opportunity to visit several of the commercial fishers participating in the Lake Huron Lake Sturgeon Status Survey. Adam Kowalski was introduced to William Lentz and his son Mark. Both Bill and Mark have been participating in the survey project since 1994. Work on this project allows the Fisheries Program to increase its support and assistance to state partners in stopping the declines of native fish. The Alpena FRO is working to identify declining native fish and determine what the greatest threats to these species are.
Tracy D. Hill, Alpena FRO

-USFWS

Lake sturgeon are native to the Great Lakes. Only a small fraction of their historic numbers remain due to over-harvesting and habitat loss. Throughout the Great Lakes, over 40 partnerships have been formed between federal and state agencies, tribal governments, Canadian agencies, academic institutions, commercial fishers, sport anglers, private organizations and individuals in order to conserve, protect and enhance populations. For more information, visit the Lake Sturgeon web site at: (http://midwest.fws.gov/sturgeon)

Round Goby Stomachs Processed

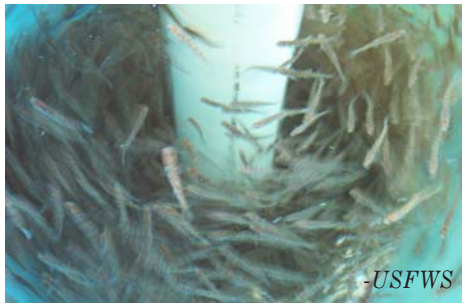
Fishery Biologist Anjanette Bowen and Assistant Project Leader Tracy Hill processed goby stomach samples in April. The fish were captured in November 2002 as part of an EPA Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) project. Alpena FRO staff examined the stomachs for the presence of lake trout eggs. The project was initiated to determine if round goby are having a negative impact on the rehabilitation of lake trout in the Great Lakes. The project was funded in 2002 and will continue through the 2003 field season with monthly trap sets between May and October. This project allows the Alpena FRO to help the Fisheries Program achieve its goal of preventing and reducing the establishment and spread of aquatic nuisance species. Staff at the Alpena FRO are attempting to determine the impact that round goby may be having on international efforts to rehabilitate lake trout in Lake Huron.
Tracy D. Hill, Alpena FRO

-USFWS

Fishery Biologist Tracy Hill from the Alpena Fishery Resources Office examines stomach contents of a goby for the presence of lake trout eggs. Round goby is an invasive specie in the Great Lakes and may have a negative impact on lake trout rehabilitation.

Hiawatha Forest NFH Raises Fry for Michigan DNR Research

Approximately 228,000 fry were raised this winter to aid in a research project funded by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The lake trout, all of the Marquette strain, originated from adult fish at Hiawatha Forest NFH last fall and kept on station until April 15.



-USFWS

Lake trout fry swim around an aerator during transport. They will be released in Lake Michigan.

The fry were transported by an employee from the Ministry to the MDNR near Traverse City, MI. About 100,000 fry were planted on Ingal's Point, while 92,000 fry were stocked at Fisherman's Island. Both are reefs in Lake Michigan near the Grand Traverse Bay that have been designated as spawning reefs. The remaining fry are being held in traps to estimate mortality and the MDNR will continue to evaluate the mortality and predation through time.
Tracy Walters, Pendills Creek NFH

Accidental Zebra Mussel Introduction Unsuccessful in Chequamegon Bay

Gary Czypinski presented results from four seasons of zebra mussel monitoring in Chequamegon Bay, Lake Superior, at a recent conference sponsored by the National Park Service-Great Lakes Network and Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. An audience of more than 50 National Park Service biologists received good news that zebra mussels accidentally introduced into Chequamegon Bay by a barge in 1998 appeared to have been unable to survive and reproduce. Since the introduction, the Chequamegon Bay Zebra Mussel Task Force has discovered only one dead juvenile zebra mussel.
Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

Public Use

Whittlesey Creek NWR Centennial Celebration Includes Fisheries

Ashland FRO's participation in the planning and coordination for the Whittlesey Creek NWR Centennial events in 2003 continues. Ashland FRO and Iron River NFH are key partners and participants in the Superior Celebration on August 9. Events being planned include stocking of coaster brook trout, initiation of a coaster brook trout telemetry study, coaster brook trout flotilla following coaster migrations, and a coaster calling contest for creative fishers.

Mark Dryer, Ashland FRO

The Blue Water Anglers Learn About Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Efforts

Fishery Biologist James Boase traveled to Point Edward, Ontario on 9 April 2003 to attend the Blue Water Anglers meeting. Boase gave a PowerPoint presentation titled "The Blue Water Bridge Lake Sturgeon". Approximately 120 recreational anglers from the Point Edward and Sarnia, Ontario area attended the presentation. The informal presentation allowed the audience to participate throughout the talk by asking questions and sharing their encounters with lake sturgeon while fishing in the area. Questions focused on how lake sturgeon habitat rehabilitation would enhance the abundance of other species, interaction with exotic species, potential for increased poaching as public awareness increases, and health risks associated with the consumption of lake sturgeon. The forum was an excellent opportunity for Boase to explain how the Alpena FRO is working with biologists, recreational anglers, and commercial fishers from both Canada and the US in efforts to better understand and enhance sturgeon populations throughout the Great lakes. Also, the meeting provided Boase an opportunity to interact with recreational anglers from Ontario and explain the vital role they play in the rehabilitation of lake sturgeon. This presentation provided an excellent opportunity to explain to the public the Service's mission and efforts to restore native fish and control exotic species. Specifically, the presentation focused on efforts to rehabilitate lake sturgeon populations in the Great Lakes and the role that the Fishery Resources Offices have in this endeavor. The benefits of native species restoration, and the detriments of exotic species were clearly defined and explained. The presentation was also an excellent outreach opportunity.

James Boase, Alpena FRO

Ashland-Area Fish and Wildlife Service Offices are Well Represented at Community Function Sponsored by Trout Unlimited

The Ashland-area chapter of Trout Unlimited, Wild Rivers Chapter, held a fund-raiser and agency-fair in Ashland on April 5. The Ashland FRO, Whittlesey Creek NWR and Iron River NFH partnered to present a multi-office booth. Numerous citizens stopped by to visit about the Refuge, Hatchery and Fishery programs, habitat restoration, native fish management, and threats to fishery resources such as aquatic nuisance species and habitat loss.

Mark Dryer, Ashland FRO

Head Start Students "Invade" Pendills Creek NFH

The Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery greeted five different groups of Head Start kids during the week of April 1. These Head Start classes came from surrounding areas including Bay Mills, Brimley, and Kinross. The kids, ranging in age from 2 ½ to 5, got to see yearling lake trout during fin clipping. This is the only time of year the fish can be viewed "up close and personal." For the other 11 months out of the year, the fish may only be seen from afar, darting out of the light as observers peer into the raceways trying to get a glimpse of them. During finclipping, however, the fish are brought inside and placed in a shallow trough to provide finclippers with easy access to them, which also gives kids a chance to see and hold them.

Tracy Walters, Pendills Creek NFH

Spring-time tours by local Head Start youth are an annual event at the Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery located in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan near Sault Ste. Marie.

To schedule a group tour, call the hatchery at: (906) 437-5231.

Sea Lamprey Story taken to Michigan Lake and Stream Association Conference

Staff from the Ludington Biological Station responded to an invitation by the Michigan Lake and Stream Association (MLSA) to present a display and information booth at the Association's 42nd annual conference at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan. Sponsors of the conference included the Michigan Riparian, Michigan Loon Society, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation, Michigan Water Alliance, and the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited. The MLSA is comprised of lake, stream, and watershed associations, corporations, and individuals uniting to protect Michigan's water resources and is a nonprofit statewide volunteer organization with over 350 association members. Several hundred people viewed, asked questions, and received information about the Service's Fisheries program vision "Conserving America's Fisheries" and sea lamprey control over the three-day span of the conference.

Dennis Lavis, Ludington Biological Station

Local School Groups Use Genoa National Fish Hatchery to Further Outdoor Education

Twenty-five students from Westby High School and 35 students from Vernon County and La Crosse area home school groups were given a demonstration in northern pike spawning and freshwater mussel ecology at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, April 3. Students were given the opportunity to participate in northern pike egg collection procedures and even got to get up close and personal with a lake sturgeon as part of a lesson in sturgeon biology. Students were shown live adult mussels that they might see in the upper Mississippi River basin and learned about the fascinating life cycle of these underwater sentinels of water quality. The threat of aquatic nuisance species in our freshwater lakes and rivers was emphasized throughout the tour. Students also had good questions on the effect of zebra mussel populations on freshwater mussel populations in the Mississippi River.
Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

-USFWS

Tours at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery educate students on the role of hatcheries in conservig our aquatic resources.

Ludington Staff Educates Youngsters

Kevin Butterfield gave a Sea Lamprey Control presentation to a first grade class at Franklin Elementary School in Ludington. Students were introduced to such topics as sea lamprey life cycle, basic morphological differences between higher fish and the sea lamprey, and control and assessment methods. Nearly all of the 25 students handled the slippery critters following the presentation causing lots of squeals and excited laughter. Other teachers stopped in to see what all the commotion was about and additional presentations are planned.

Dennis Lavis, Ludington Biological Station

-GLFC

Excited students touch a live sea lamprey!

Cooperation with Native Americans

2003 Lake Trout Harvest Limits Recommendations Set by Technical Fisheries Committee

On April 17, 2003 the Technical Fisheries Committee (TFC) approved 2003 harvest limits for lake trout in the 1836 Treaty waters in Lake Superior, Huron, and Michigan. The harvest limits will be forwarded to the parties of the Tribal, State and United States parties to the 2000 Consent Decree. Aaron Woldt, Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) and Mark Holey, Green Bay FRO represented the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the meeting. Mark Holey served as chair of the meeting for Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO, who was absent. Aaron Woldt serves as the co-chair of the Modeling Subcommittee (MSC), the committee that performs the stock assessments and runs the populations models for presentation to the TFC. Lake trout catches for 2002 and stock assessment model runs were reviewed to establish the harvest limits for 2003. Harvest limits for some management zones had to be adjusted to correct for 2002 catches that exceeded harvest limits for that year. The Service serves on both the TFC and the MSC with the five Chippewa/ Ottawa Indian Tribes and the State of Michigan to implement the biological provisions of the 2000 Consent Decree. Harvest limit recommendations of the TFC are applied to both sport and commercial fisheries for the State and Tribes and are set at levels that will achieve lake trout rehabilitation goals in each lake.
Mark Holey, Green Bay FRO

-USFWS

Walleye sampling in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin is a critical component to estimate adult populations and establish harvest levels.

Walleye Population Estimates in Cooperation with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

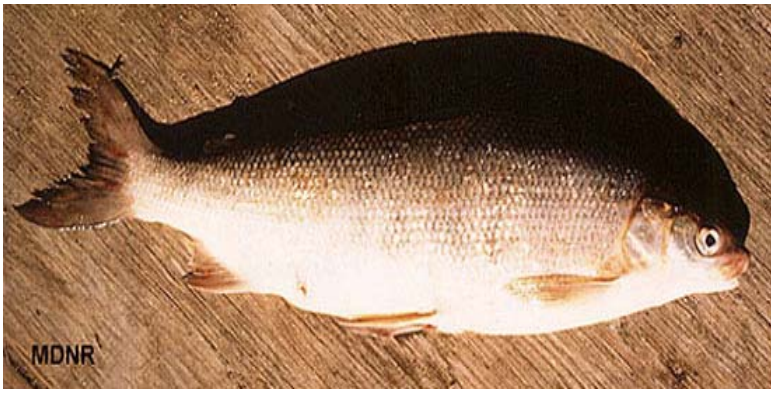
The Ashland FRO assisted the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission with several walleye population surveys in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. These adult population estimates are used to set safe harvest levels, on which tribal harvest quotas are based. This year, assessment activities were assigned to Gary Czypinski and Frank Stone. Using boat electrofishing and covering a period of sixteen nights, surveys were conducted on Mille Lacs Lake (Minnesota) and seven northern Wisconsin lakes. The sampling effort occurred at night, when spawning activity is high and opportunities to collect adult walleye are maximized.
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Service Biologist Attends Technical Fisheries Committee Meeting

Fishery Biologist Aaron Woldt of the Alpena FRO attended the April 17 meeting of the Technical Fisheries Committee (TFC). The primary focus of this meeting was to finalize 2003 harvest limits for lake trout in 1836 Treaty waters of lakes Huron, Superior, and Michigan, although other matters were discussed. As stipulated in the 2000 Consent Decree, final recommended lake trout harvest numbers must be calculated by the Modeling Subcommittee (MSC), approved by the TFC, and presented to the parties to the decree by April 30 each year. The 2000 Consent Decree is a 20 year fishery allocation agreement for 1836 Treaty waters signed by the State of Michigan, United States, Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

As co-chair of the MSC, Woldt presented tables of lake trout harvest and effort limits for 1836 Treaty waters of lakes Huron, Superior, and Michigan to the TFC for review. Woldt also brought several needs of the MSC to the TFC for comment. These needs included the development of a list of standing charges from the TFC to the MSC, a proposal for developing an alternate year rotation for doing stock assessment/model runs for individual lake trout and lake whitefish stocks, removal of the commercial fishery underreporting vector from stock assessment models, and the potential impacts of increased Canadian lake trout harvest on Lake Huron lake trout harvest limits. Woldt also performed additional model analyses as requested by the TFC and kept meeting minutes for TFC chairman Jerry McClain who was unable to attend the meeting.

Harvest limits approved at this meeting, when reviewed by the parties and finalized, will become binding 2003 lake trout harvest limits for 1836 Treaty waters. These harvest limits will allow lake trout fisheries to be executed while still protecting the biological integrity of the lake trout stocks. This outcome is consistent with the Service's goal of building and maintaining self-sustaining populations of native fish species while providing recreational fishing opportunities and meeting the needs of tribal communities. *Aaron P. Woldt, Alpena FRO*



Lake whitefish, above, and lake trout, below, are important to the Great Lakes fishery and require strick harvest requlations to maintain stocks.

Leadership in Science and Technology

Green Bay Fisheries Office Summarizes Sport Fishery Catch and Effort in Lake Michigan, 1974 - 2001

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Green Bay Fishery Resources Office provided a report summarizing Lake Michigan recreational fishery catch and effort data, from 1974 to 2001, for the Lake Committee at their annual meeting in Milwaukee, Wis., March 19 - 20. Fishery agencies around Lake Michigan provide data on their recreational fisheries for inclusion into the lakewide database that is maintained by the Green Bay FRO on behalf of the Lake Michigan Committee and Technical Committee. The data contained in this report will help managers address stocking programs and regulation changes needed to protect the fisheries within heavily used management zones of Lake Michigan. The report shows that total fishing effort has decreased over the last 15 years and that most of the effort and catch for salmonids is concentrated in the southern areas of Lake Michigan. Yellow perch effort is concentrated in southern regions of the lake and in Green Bay. Over the past decade, targeted effort, harvest, and catch rates for yellow perch have declined dramatically in Lake Michigan.

With this information, managers can better manage stocking efforts and regulation changes to prevent overexploitation of the fishery in localized regions.
Dale Hanson, Green Bay FRO

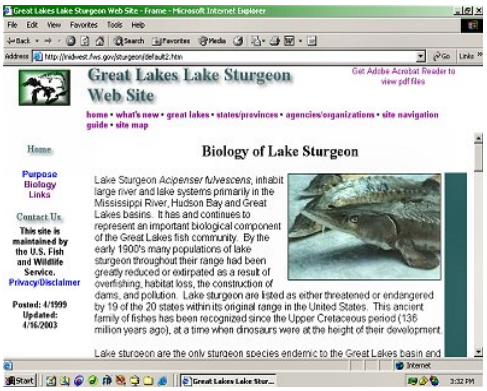
Nontarget Mortalities during Lampricide Treatments in Lake Champlain

An external review was conducted on the nontarget mortality observed during 27 lampricide treatments that killed populations of larval sea lampreys in 6 streams within the jurisdiction of the New York State Adirondack Park Agency (APA) in Lake Champlain during 1990 to 2002. Most nontarget organisms survived exposure to the lampricides, the magnitude of mortality of the 3 major taxa (fishes, invertebrates, and amphibians) in the 27 streams (81 cases) was minor in 77.8%, moderate in 18.5%, and major in 3.7% of the cases. The review satisfied one of the APA pre-permit requirements for future sea lamprey control efforts proposed by the Fisheries Technical Committee of the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative.

The Sea Lamprey Management Program in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control Program are independently managed, but have much in common: they follow the same standard operating procedures for treatments, encourage input and address the interests and concerns of jurisdictional agencies and public, and continue to consider treatment strategies that effectively control sea lampreys and also minimize the risk to nontarget organisms.
John Weisser, Marquette Biological Station

A Fresh Look is Added to the Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Web Site

The Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon web site (http://midwest.fws.gov/sturgeon) is a cooperative effort between state, provincial, and federal agencies and universities from the US and Canada to provide information to the public and other resource agencies on lake sturgeon activities in the Great Lakes. The site was first posted in 1999. A fresh look was added to the site in April to provide a cleaner platform for information exchange. Links to new reports were also added and contacts updated. The site is managed by Alpena FRO Fishery Biologist Anjanette Bowen. Check it out! Updates and new looks are important to maintaining the integrity of web sites. The Internet is one of the most valuable ways to provide information about lake sturgeon to the public and other stakeholders.
Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO



Check out the Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon website at:

http://midwest.fws.gov/sturgeon

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Abundant Bluegills, not Bluebills, on Polander Survey

La Crosse FRO initiated a new project this year as requested by the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District. The study is designed to determine fish usage in Polander Lake's new island complex. These islands were constructed as part of the Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) on the Upper Miss. Several HREP's have islands as a feature built into the project. The goal of these islands is to help break up wind fetch which should reduce suspended sediments. The islands also create slack water habitat which promotes vegetation growth and provides food and cover for both fish and wildlife. The islands also create nesting habitat for waterfowl and turtles. Fishery monitoring was conducted on April 28th and 29th and will be repeated during summer and fall, which will help determine seasonal use. Both electrofishing and trap netting are being conducted at fourteen sites. Bluegill were the dominant species collected, during April, and were present at several sites. Rock bass were also plentiful but were collected primarily on the rock rip-rapped portions of the islands. Other species present included; carp, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, freshwater drum and northern pike. The fish collected were weighed, measured and released. This project is a great follow up to the paddlefish work which was conducted in Polander last year.
Scott Yess, La Crosse FRO

-USFWS

Islands constructed in Polander Lake are part of a Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project on the upper Mississippi River.

The Field Season Begins for the Alpena Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The month of April was busy for the Alpena Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Five surveys and fourteen site visits were completed in eleven counties of Alpena FRO's jurisdiction. Pending final funding, the Partners Program in northern Michigan has scheduled fifteen wetland restorations for construction, five road/stream crossing restorations, stream bank restorations in three watersheds, and one dam removal. Four wetland restoration sites constructed in 2002 were visited, and were filling with water. Due to a very dry year in 2002 most of the sites constructed in 2002 had very little water until the 2003 spring run-off. 32 acres of wetlands will be restored, 44 miles of river will be opened to fish passage, 15 miles of stream bank erosion sites will be restored, and 20 miles of river will have fish habitat improvements by the end of the 2003 field season due to efforts initiated by the Alpena Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Projects will primarily benefit coldwater fisheries in the headwaters of northern Michigan watersheds.
Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

-USFWS

Many wetland restoration projects are accomplished through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

Red Cliff Creek Habitat Improvement - Phase 1

In November of 2002, the first phase of the multi-year Red Cliff Creek Habitat Improvement Project was completed. This partnership between the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Coastal Program is working to enhance and restore fish and wildlife habitat from the confluence with Lake Superior to 4.5 miles upstream. Red Cliff Creek is an important cultural and natural resource for the Red Cliff Band. Brook trout inhabit the water, woodcock and songbirds depend on the riparian corridor, and gray wolves roam the area.

Brook trout spawning habitat was enhanced on 85 feet of a pond outlet tributary channel. Meanders were created in this channelized

section of stream and 2 rock lined step pools were created to improve fish habitat. Spawning gravel was also placed within the channel. Stream bank stabilization occurred on approximately 200 feet of stream. Large rock and boulders were placed in select locations to limit bank erosion and willows were planted on the banks within the entire project area. Ten-foot high balsam fir trees that were removed from a nearby construction site were also planted in select locations. Erosion control measures took place at one culvert and a collapsed road crossing was removed. Future plans include enhancing and restoring instream and riparian habitat downstream, as well as establishment of fish habitat structures.

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

-USFWS *USFWS*

Creation of meandering streams with stabilized banks create ideal brook trout spawning habitat on Red Cliff Creek. To preserve restored habitat, erosion control measures must be placed at road crossings.

-USFWS

Fish passage projects remove obstructions such as the screened culvert in this photo allowing fish access to spawning, rearing, and nursery habitat.

For more information on the National Fish Passage Program, check out our Regional Website at:

http://midwest.fws.gov/Fisheries/topic-fishpass.htm

Workforce Management

Region 3 Director Robyn Thorson Visits USFWS Resource Center Staff in Onalaska, Wisconsin

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Center Staff in Onalaska, Wisconsin had the great privilege to welcome the new Region 3 Director, Robyn Thorson, to their office on April 17th. Director Thorson had a busy day starting with a 'Meet and Greet' at the Resource Center, a tour of the facilities, a visit with local Service partners, and then finally a tour of Genoa National Fish Hatchery. Approximately 60 employees from Genoa National Fish Hatchery, La Crosse Fishery Resource Office, La Crosse Fish Health Center, National Wetlands Inventory Office, Ecological Services, Onalaska Law Enforcement Field Office, Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge and Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge -La Crosse and Winona Districts were present to listen to Director Thorson's vision for the future. She challenged Region 3 employees to stand up and utilize a stronger voice nationally. The new director explained her management style and also asked what kinds of things needed attention, and listened carefully to the ideas of the employees. The Director astonished the attentive listeners by remembering each employees name after meeting them only briefly once before the meeting. Employees really received a sense of Director Robyn Thorson's positive personality through her quick wit and charisma, and truly feel that she is "one of us." The employees thank the new Regional Director for taking the time to meet them and for learning what they do for the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and look forward to her leadership.

Heidi Keuler, La Crosse FRO

-USFWS

(Regional Director Robyn Thorson initiated a personal working relationship with staff and developed an understanding of each programs' contribution to the mission of the USFWS. The Regional Director also gained great insight on how local Service partners contribute to our mission)

Service Biologist Speaks at Career Pathway Night

Fishery Biologist Aaron Woldt of the Alpena FRO was invited to speak at the Natural and Agriscience Career Pathway Night sponsored by the Alpena/ Montmorency/Alcona Educational Service District and Alpena Community College on March 20th, 2003. Woldt gave a PowerPoint presentation to two groups of high school and college students, parents, and community members describing the field of marine biology and his professional duties as a Service Fishery Biologist. Concurrent sessions included presentations by a Michigan conservation officer, forest fire officer, forester, geologist, horticulturist, meteorologist, surveyor, and veterinarian.

Woldt's presentation highlighted the educational requirements for professional marine biologists, necessary and recommended coursework, universities that offer marine science/fisheries training programs, employment opportunities inside and outside the Service, expected salaries, and potential duties of a Service Fishery Biologist. Students and parents asked questions about the field of marine biology and inquired about job shadowing opportunities. Overall, Career Pathway Night allows students and parents to learn about potential natural resource based careers from local professionals representing a wide range of agencies. Woldt's presentation explained the duties of a Service Fishery Biologist and the role the Service plays in fisheries conservation to interested students, parents, and community members. This outcome is consistent with the Service's goal of implementing educational and outreach activities to educate the public regarding Service activities.

Aaron P. Woldt, Alpena FRO

Career Days at Thunder Bay Junior High

The Thunder Bay Junior High School in Alpena, Michigan, held a career day on April 17. The event was held to showcase a diverse range of careers for the students. There were over 20 speakers from various careers including acting, firefighting, chefs, teaching, and natural resources. A room was set up for each presenter where a 20-minute presentation was given to the students. Four groups of 25 students rotated rooms throughout the morning. Biologist Wells attended this event representing the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The presentation focused on the diverse career opportunities in the Service. This included biological, technical, clerical, and management positions. The focus of the Alpena Fisheries Resource Office was highlighted throughout the presentation. Many students were surprised to learn the USFWS had an office in Alpena and showed interest in the projects that are conducted from the office. Over 70 students attended the presentation given by Wells, which concluded with many questions on how they may begin a career in natural resources. This accomplishment was an educational and outreach opportunity. We were able to showcase the USFWS and the Alpena FRO to the public and educate young students on the opportunities in the field of natural resources. Approximately 80 students attended the event including volunteers and staff.
Susan E. Wells, Alpena FRO

Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC) at the Marquette Office

On April 29-30 Fish and Wildlife Biologist Adam Kowalski was at the sea lamprey control office in Marquette, MI assisting with a Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC). Adam was recently certified as an MOCC instructor and was asked to help teach the course in Marquette. The course was held for the seasonal people at the Marquette Biological Station (7 students). The course consisted of 8 hrs of classroom instruction covering information such as Federal, State, and Local Policies, Boat Orientation, Required Equipment, Navigation Rules, Aids to Navigation, Marline Spike, Emergency Procedures, Fire Suppression and Visual Distress Signals, Towing, Anchoring, and Boat Handling. There was also eight hours of field exercise to demonstrate activities and allow the students a chance to perform the task before being tested. This is one of the several courses being conducted this by the Fish and Wildlife Service this year. This course will allow the Marquette Biological Station to operate at full capacity this field season. All field personal will be able to operate the vessels needed to carry out the objectives the of sea lamprey control program. Having all personnel trained to carry out all required duties is essential for the smooth operation of any field station.
Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO

CPR and First Aid Training held at Alpena FRO

Bob Petersen of Jordan River NFH provided CPR and First Aid Safety Training for Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) staff on April 1-2 at the Alpena office. Staff were also trained in the use of the new AED (Atrial Electrical Defibrilator). Seven Alpena FRO employees received training. CPR training is required annually and First Aid every 3 years for all USFWS employees. It keeps staff aware of potentially dangerous situations and empowers them to act in emergency situations. The training is timely with the field season beginning the end of the month. Safety training is required for all USFWS employees to provide protection for them and their co-workers. The CPR and First Aid training prepared staff for the start of the field season. It is especially important since we work in isolated areas.
Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

New Manager Starts At Pendills Creek/Hiawatha Forest NFHs

Curt Friez has been selected as the new project leader for the Pendills Creek/Hiawatha Forest National Fish Hatchery Complex. Curt comes to Michigan from Carson National Fish Hatchery in Washington. One of Curt's visions for the hatchery is formation of a friends group made up of local residents.
Tracy Walters, Pendills Creek NFH

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) Acquired for Field Crews

Field crews working on the sea lamprey sterilization team will now have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) available for cardiac emergencies. An AED was acquired for use at the sterilization facility at the USGS Hammond Bay Biological Station, and another for use on a fish distribution truck that travels to trap sites in the Cheboygan area. These units will provide an added measure of safety in remote areas where emergency medical service response times can be slow. The chance of surviving a cardiac arrest declines by approximately 10% for each minute without defibrillation. Team members were trained in CPR and AED. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delivers an integrated program of sea lamprey management in U.S. waters of the Great Lakes as contracted agent of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.
Michael Twohey, Marquette Biological Station

Ludington/Marquette Staff Receive Training

The annual ritual of orientation and training of new, returning, and permanent field staff was completed at the Ludington and Marquette Biological Stations during the last two weeks of April. After first being screened as medically fit for duty, employees received required coursework in Defensive Driving, CPR and First Aid, Pesticide Applicator certification, HazCom, and Standard Operating Procedures for the sea lamprey control program. Additional items covered during the intensive training period included many safety related topics such as water safety, poison ivy, Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus, chemical handling, winch and ATV operation, and fire extinguisher practice. Sessions also were presented on substance abuse, computer operations, ethics, Global Positioning Systems, and electrofishing. Various administrative procedures were also covered.
Dennis Lavis, Ludington Biological Station

-GLFC

CPR training along with a variety of safety training is the first order of business for staff.

Pendills Creek NFH Welcomes New Biological Technician

A new, but familiar, face has been seen working at Pendills Creek and Hiawatha Forest National Fish Hatcheries. James "Bubba" Anderson started as the new biological technician at both hatcheries on March 31st. Anderson's start at his new job was not quite as overwhelming, since he has worked with everyone at Pendills/Hiawatha at one point or another. Anderson comes to the hatchery from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, which is only about three hours south. In Region 3, the three lake trout hatcheries work closely together, giving each other helping hands during the busy spawning and distribution seasons.
Tracy Walters, Pendills Creek NFH

CONSERVING AMERICA'S fisheries
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Great Lakes - Big Rivers Regional Fisheries Offices

Regional Office, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056; 612/713-5111

Illinois

Carterville Fishery Resources Office
9053 Route 148, Suite A
Marion, Illinois 62959
Greg Conover (*greg_conover@fws.gov)*
618/997-6869

Large Rivers Fisheries Coordination Office
4469 48th Ave. Ct.
Rock Island, IL 61201
Jerry Rasmussen (*jerry_rasmussen@fws.gov)*
309/793-5811

Michigan

Alpena Fishery Resources Office
Federal Building; 145 Water Street
Alpena, MI 49707
Jerry McClain (*jerry_mcclain@fws.gov*)
989/356-3052

Great Lakes Coordination Office
2100 Commonwealth Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Dale Burkett (*dale_burkett@fws.gov*)
734/662-3209

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery
6623 Turner Road
Elmira, MI 49730
Rick Westerhof (*rick_westerhof@fws.gov*)
231/584-2461

Ludington Biological Station
229 South Jebavy Drive
Ludington, MI 49431
Dennis Lavis (*dennis_lavis@fws.gov*)
231/845-6205

Marquette Biological Station
1924 Industrial Parkway
Marquette, MI 49855
Gary Klar (*gerald_klar@fws.gov*)
906/226-6571

Pendills Creek/Hiawatha Forest National Fish Hatchery
21990 West Trout Lane
Brimley, MI 49715
Curt Friez *(curt_friez@fws.gov)* 906/437-5231

Missouri

Columbia Fishery Resources Office
608 East Cherry
Columbia, MO 65201
Jim Milligan (*jim_milligan@fws.gov*)
573/876-1909

Neosho National Fish Hatchery
East Park Street
Neosho, MO 64850
David Hendrix (*david_hendrix@fws.gov*)
417/451-0554

Wisconsin

Ashland Fishery Resources Office
2800 Lake Shore Drive East
Ashland, WI 54806
Mark Dryer (*mark_dryer@fws.gov*)
715/682-6185

Genoa National Fish Hatchery
S5689 State Road 35
Genoa, WI 54632-8836
Doug Aloisi (*doug_aloisi@fws.gov*)
608/689-2605

Green Bay Fishery Resources Office
2661 Scott Tower Drive
New Franklin, WI 54229
Mark Holey (*mark_holey@fws.gov*)
920/866-1717

Iron River National Fish Hatchery
10325 Fairview Road
Iron River, WI 54847
Dale Bast (*dale_bast@fws.gov*)
715/372-8510

LaCrosse Fish Health Center
555 Lester Avenue
Onalaska, WI 54650
Richard Nelson (*rick_nelson@fws.gov*)
608/783-8441

LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office
555 Lester Avenue
Onalaska, WI 54650
Pamella Thiel (*pam_thiel@fws.gov*)
608/783-8431

Fish Lines
Region 3, Great Lakes/Big Rivers
April 2003 Vol. 1 No.2

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Region 3
Divsion of Fisheries
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111

Phone: 612/713-5111

Windows in Time

A Glimpse into our Proud Past

Fish distribution from the Neosho National Fish Hatchery

Fish Lines is produced by the Fisheries Progam, Region 3, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft. Snelling, Minn. Items included are selected from monthly reports submitted by Region 3 fisheries offices. Photos included are used by permission and may be copyrighted.
Questions and comments concerning ***Fish Lines*** should be addressed to Dave Radloff, 612/713-5158 or email at (david_radloff@fws.gov).