



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Fish Lines

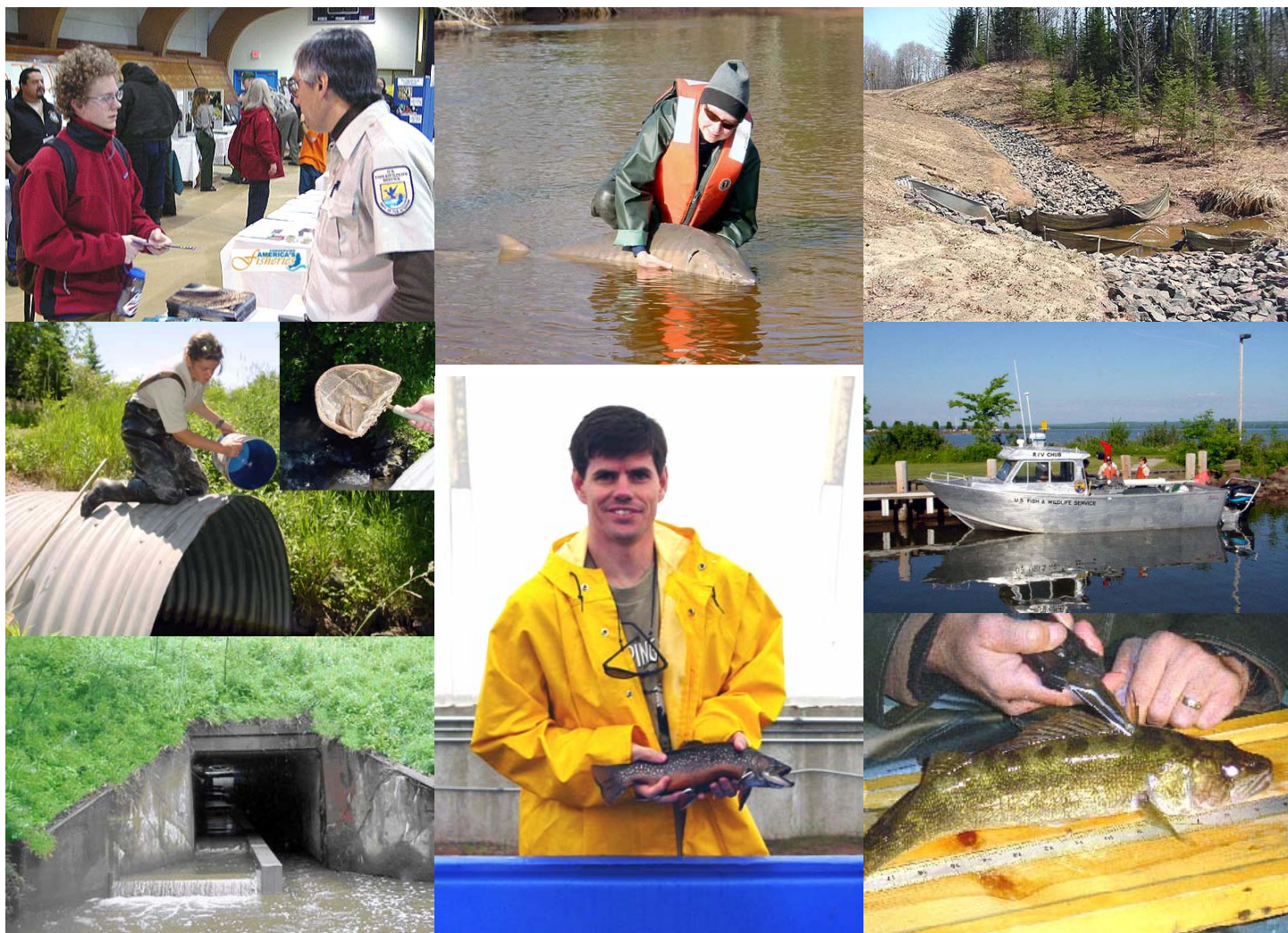
## Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers

*Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing, and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems*



May 2003  
Vol. 1 No.3

Ashland Fishery Resources Office; Ashland, Wisconsin  
(See the "Station Spotlight" on Page 5)



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

*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*

#### **1. 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.

#### **2. 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.

#### **3. 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.

#### **4. 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.

#### **5. 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.

#### **6. 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.

#### **7. 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.

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*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 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.

## 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 inter-agency coordination functions affecting the management of native fishes and aquatic habitats.

Great Lakes - Big Rivers Region Fisheries Field Offices



# Great Lakes-Big Rivers Regional Fisheries Program

## *Station Spotlight - Ashland Fishery Resources Office*

The Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) was established in 1972 and is responsible for fish and wildlife management assistance to about 25 Tribal governments, restoration of native fish and habitats in the Lake Superior basin in cooperation with state, tribal, and provincial governments, ecosystem team priorities (primarily lake sturgeon and coaster brook trout restoration), aquatic nuisance species control, fisheries assistance to 4 national wildlife refuges (NWR); 4 national parks; and 3 national forests, Great Lakes Fishery Commission coordination, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and development of the new Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge. The mission of the Ashland FRO is "To assist Tribal, State, and Federal resource managers, and private landowners, in maintaining and rehabilitating native aquatic and terrestrial species, communities and the habitats upon which they depend."

One of the goals of the Ashland FRO is to fulfill Federal trust responsibilities to Native American tribes in managing, enhancing, and restoring fish and wildlife resources and ecosystems. To reach this goal technical assistance is provided to tribal resource programs in the planning, design, and operational phases of fish and wildlife management and fish hatchery activities in treaty-ceded areas. Staff also assist landowners in restoring wetlands and other habitats in eight northern Wisconsin counties under the Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife program. Under this program technical and cost-share funding assistance is provided to private landowners in the planning, design, and construction phases of wetland restoration and other wildlife habitat activities.

Aquatic nuisance species are causing significant economic and ecological problems throughout North America. The focus of the aquatic nuisance species program at this office is to promote cooperative



-USFWS

### Ashland Fishery Resources Office Staff

Left to Right: (top row) Lee Newman, Henry Quinlan, Glenn Miller, Jonathan Pyatskowitz, Ted Koehler (bottom row) Gary Czypinski, Joan Bratley, Mark Dryer, Frank Stone



-USFWS

**Ashland FRO staff assist the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission with walleye population surveys.**

efforts to prevent or control the spread of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species. Staff coordinate inter-agency control efforts and surveillance assessments to track the spread of Eurasian ruffe in the Great Lakes and investigates established ruffe populations. The Ashland FRO serves as the single office for compiling collections of ruffe and for reporting Great Lakes ruffe surveillance activities on an annual basis. This office also leads dedicated ruffe surveillance activities in Lake Superior and a portion of northern Lake Michigan, and experiments with techniques to improve ruffe control.



Station accomplishments also support the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act plus restoration of native fishes in Lake Superior, including lake sturgeon, coaster brook trout, walleye, and lake trout.

For detailed information about the Ashland Fishery Resources Office, contact the office at: **(715) 682-6185** or visit their website at <http://midwest.fws.gov/ashland/>

## Partnerships and Accountability

### Fish Health Experts Partner with the Missouri Department of Conservation

The La Crosse Fish Health Center (LFHC) staff, working with members of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), collected fish for the National Wild Fish Health Survey on five lakes in the Kansas City area of Missouri, and one lake in northern Missouri. Lakes sampled were Lake Jacomo, Big Springs, Lake Smithville, Lake Tapawingo, and Longview Lake in the Kansas City area and Mark Twain Reservoir in northern Missouri. The primary species sampled was largemouth bass. The main concern is presence of Largemouth Bass Virus.

Fish were also sampled by electrofishing crews on the Lake of the Ozarks (largemouth bass and spotted bass, white and black crappie, channel catfish), Harry S. Truman Reservoir (largemouth bass and common carp), Thomas Hill Reservoir (largemouth bass, white crappie), and Long Branch Lake (largemouth bass, white crappie, common carp). Additionally, a MDC crew used a seine to collect smallmouth buffalo from the East Fork Little Chariton River.

At Lake Thunderhead, Lake Paho, and Morzingo Lake, largemouth bass were sampled by an electrofishing crew. Thirty (30) largemouth bass were sampled from each lake. This project is part of an on-going cooperative effort between the MDC and LFHC to monitor the spread of Largemouth Bass Virus in Missouri and collect samples for the National Wild Fish Health Survey.

*Corey Puzach and Ken Phillips, La Crosse FHC*



-USFWS  
Corey Puzach of the La Crosse Fish Health Center takes tissue samples from channel catfish.

### Alpena Fishery Resources Office Assists Michigan Department of Natural Resources with Walleye Study

The Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) assisted the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Alpena Fishery Research Station with the collection of juvenile walleye from the Thunder Bay River in Alpena, Michigan during the month of May. The walleye are stocked by the DNR in the Thunder Bay River watershed in the spring. The fish will be examined for the retention of an oxytetracycline mark placed in the fish before stocking.



-USFWS  
Angie Bowen, Alpena FRO, removes a captured walleye from a net in the Thunder Bay River.

The oxytetracycline produces a mark in bony tissue that fluoresces in a cross-section of the fish

vertebrae under a black light. The study will help the DNR to determine what percentage of hatchery fish exposed to oxytetracycline provide a good mark that can be readily identified by DNR staff and what proportion of walleye in Thunder Bay are naturally produced. The Service accomplishes its mission through assisting other agencies in areas where needs exist. Assistance provided to the Michigan DNR with walleye studies strengthens partnerships between our agencies.

*Anjanette K. Bowen, Alpena FRO*

### Assistant Secretary, Regional Director, and Commissioners Observe Sea Lamprey Control Activities

Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Judge Craig Manson and Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Robyn Thorson observed field demonstrations of sea lamprey control techniques during a May 21, 2003 tour near Rogers City, Michigan. The tour was sponsored by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to introduce recently appointed Commissioners, including Judge Manson, Gerry Barnhart of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Dr. William Taylor of Michigan State University to the scope of the Commission's sea lamprey control and research program. The Commission also invited Regional Director Thorson to join the tour to provide the first opportunity for her to observe sea lamprey control program activities since joining Region 3. Staff from the Service's Marquette and Ludington Biological Stations demonstrated

various aspects of the sea lamprey management program including lampricide control, trapping, barriers, and sterilization of male lampreys. Also included was a tour of the Hammond Bay Biological Station and a briefing on the sea lamprey research program by U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division staff. An evening dinner provided an informal opportunity for the Regional Director and Commissioners to meet Service staff and continue discussions regarding control of sea lampreys in the Great Lakes. The tour concluded in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario the following day with field demonstrations by Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff and a tour of the Sea Lamprey Control Centre.  
*Dennis Lavis, Ludington Biological Station*

### **Columbia Fishery Resources Office Staff assist Corps of Engineers with Biological Bridge Construction**

Joanne Grady assisted Jane Ledwin of the Columbia Missouri Field Office, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Missouri River Biological Opinion team, and the Corps of Engineers (Corps) in a series of meetings regarding impacts of Corps actions on pallid sturgeon in the Missouri River. The Biological Bridge would be a series of items the Corps could fund or initiate to minimize impacts to the pallid sturgeon, piping plover and least tern in the interim period until the Recommendations from the Biological Opinion on River Operations are in place. Joanne provided comments and suggestions on potential projects and benefits or impacts on the pallid sturgeon. The Service and the Corps are continuing to collaborate on this process.  
*Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO*

### **Ashland Fishery Resources Office Leads Two Great Lakes National Program Office Grant Review Teams**

Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) staff, through their role in the Binational Program, played a key role in forwarding Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) grant proposals which will help restore and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem. This year the granting program will provide nearly \$5,000,000 for projects throughout the entire Great Lakes basin, furthering protection and cleanup of the ecosystem. Henry Quinlan and Ted Koehler serve on the Binational Program's Lake Superior Work Group and each lead a review team, which ranked proposals and provided input to the EPA as to why the proposals benefited Lake Superior and the Great Lakes basin, as well as advanced the goals of the Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP).

*Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*

### **Green Bay Fisheries Office meets with Partners to Coordinate Restoration Efforts on the Driggs River**

The Green Bay Fishery Resources Office (FRO) met with biologists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Seney National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to discuss restoration options for the Driggs River. This river is located in the central portion of Upper Michigan and flows through Seney NWR. Fires and historical logging practices have negatively affected the river over the years. Elevated sand bed loads covering limited spawning areas and a high width/

depth ratio which increases water temperatures are two likely causes of poor recruitment among native brook trout populations.

Restoration efforts will focus on increasing spawning habitat, decreasing the width/depth ratio, and decreasing sand bed load in the river. A start date of late August has been tentatively set. The Green Bay FRO will partner with the Michigan DNR and Seney NWR to complete this project.

*Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

### **Isle Royale Fish Management Plan Progresses**

Through a cooperative agreement with Isle Royale National Park, the Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) is leading the process to develop a Fish Management Plan (FMP) for Isle Royale. The focus of the Plan relates to fish and fishery management on inland lakes and tributaries to Lake Superior. Opportunities for cooperation on research and management activities for Lake Superior will also be addressed. Ashland FRO serves as coordinator of the multi-agency work group involving State, Tribal, and Federal agencies. A draft plan will be written from the materials provided and additional information will be incorporated as it becomes available. Due to the significance of Lake Superior fish stocks around Isle Royale, FMP progress is important to Lake Superior Technical Committee agencies. Ashland FRO continues to provide updates of Plan development to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Lake Superior Technical Committee.  
*Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO*

## St. Clair River Bi-National Public Awareness Meeting

Fishery Biologist James Boase traveled to Port Huron, Michigan on 13 May 2003 to attend the St. Clair River Bi-National Public Awareness Meeting. Boase gave a PowerPoint presentation titled "Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Efforts in the Great Lakes". Twenty-two committee members attended the presentation. The two main focal points presented were; current efforts to establish new lake sturgeon spawning sites in the connecting channels between Lakes Huron and Erie, and how the construction of these spawning sites can be used in mitigation cases. The goal of the meeting was to persuade attending members from Dow Chemical Corporation to include construction of a lake sturgeon spawning reef as part of their mitigation efforts on the St. Clair River. Dow chemical is in the process of cleaning up a contaminated section of the St. Clair River and will need to replace dredge areas with clean fill. The presentation was well received by members from Dow Chemical as well as other members of the board. Reporter Deanna Weniger from the Times Herald in Port Huron was at the meeting and summarized the presentation in the newspaper the following day. The forum was an excellent opportunity for Boase to explain how the Alpena FRO is working with government agencies and private industries from both Canada and the United States in efforts to rehabilitate lake sturgeon populations throughout the Great lakes. This presentation provided an excellent opportunity to explain to the public the Service's mission and efforts to restore native fish.

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 were clearly defined and explained. The presentation was also an excellent outreach opportunity.

*James C.Boase, Alpena FRO*

## May Meeting of the Thunder Bay River Working Committee

Assistant Project Leader Tracy Hill, Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO), participated in the quarterly Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Working Committee for Thunder Bay Power (Working Committee). The Working Committee was created to assist Thunder Bay Power with its requirements to FERC under the terms of their license. Dr. Hill is the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) representative on the Working Committee. During the meeting schedules and planning of the upcoming 2003 field season were finalized. Members of the Hubbard Lake Sportsman and Development Association expressed concerns about water levels on the lake and how that has affected shoreline erosion. Plans for expansion of a fishing pier below the 9th Street Dam were also discussed. The Working Committee is seeking assistance from the Service to develop grants for funding future projects. Alpena FRO hosted the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for July 8. The meeting was attended by member representatives from Michigan DNR, Thunder Bay Power and the Service. In addition, representatives from Thunder Bay River Restoration Committee, Hubbard Lake Sportsmen and Development

Association, Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, also participated. Service involvement in this initiative provides an opportunity to minimize the impacts of habitat alteration on fish and other aquatic species from the hydropower facilities.

*Tracy D. Hill, Alpena FRO*

## Prospect of Hatchery Friends Group Coming Closer To Reality

A Friends Group for the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery is coming closer to reality. The hatchery is located in the northern portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan and is dedicated to the restoration of lake trout in the Great Lakes. The hatchery began operation in 1964.

Hatchery staff have been very interested in trying to involve interested individuals in organizing a Friends Group. Friends Groups have been successfully established at other hatcheries and refuges and have raised public awareness, created environmental learning opportunities, and financially backed some programs and projects through fund-raising activities. They work to promote good relationships with the staff and the local communities.

An article was distributed to eight area organizations, posted in two local newspapers and in three area post offices requesting interested individuals contact the hatchery. Our efforts resulted in two individuals offering their assistance and involvement in organizing our Friends Group. They have both stated that they believe they know of other interested individuals that may want to get involved. We plan to schedule a meeting this summer for those individuals to meet and begin the organization process.

*Rick Westerhof, Jordan River NFH*



# Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

## Endangered Higgins-eye Pearlmussel Project Expanded

Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH), in cooperation with Ecological Services Twin Cities Field Office, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and four upper Midwest states, has completed a major portion of its 2003 efforts for the ongoing recovery of the federally endangered Higgins-Eye Pearlmussel. This recovery project, which began in 2000, is part of a multi-agency effort to bolster the drastic decline in population and range that this species has experienced in the last half of the 20th century.



-USFWS

**Endangered Higgins' eye pearlymussels are being cultured at the Genoa NFH.**

Accomplishments during 2003 include the production, infestation and distribution of over 7200 mussel bearing host fish to selected sites within the Upper Mississippi River watershed, the expansion of cage culture activities, and renewed captive culture techniques to be carried out at the Genoa NFH. As part of their life cycle most freshwater mussels must parasitize a vertebrate "host" as a step in their larval development. It is at this juncture in the life cycle that Genoa NFH and its cooperators begin efforts to reproduce mussels for recovery efforts in the

Mississippi River. Hatchery staff and dozens of volunteers from other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, state agencies, and members of the hatchery Friend's Group began the week long artificial inoculation process in late April when hundreds of larval mussels are placed on the gills of host fish. After the fish are parasitized they are held at the hatchery for 30 days for evaluation and incubation. The next step in the process is the distribution of the infested fish to selected sites in the Upper Mississippi River. At these pre-selected sites the fish are either released free into the environment to spread their attached mussels throughout the local area or placed in "cages" that were previously constructed at the hatchery. Once metamorphosis of the larval mussels is complete and the juveniles have fallen off the host fish, project biologists release the fish into the local environment. These "caged" fish offer an opportunity to gather released juvenile mussels later in the summer for relocation to other sites in the river. This year's cage effort included over 85 cages placed in four states in the upper Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers.

This extensive effort, plus the free release of thousands of inoculated fish in Wisconsin and Iowa represents a 27% increase over 2002 efforts and is projected to produce over 1 million juvenile Higgins-eye mussels in the watershed. 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 regions river systems brought about by habitat loss, invasive species, and water use practices. For more

information on this or other mussel propagation activities on the Upper Mississippi River please contact Doug Aloisi or Roger Gordon at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, 608-689-2605, e-mail [roger\\_gordon@fws.gov](mailto:roger_gordon@fws.gov).

*Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH*

## 2002 Report Indicates Pallid Sturgeon Continue to Decline

Columbia Fishery Resources Office (FRO) fishery biologists Wyatt Doyle and Andy Starostka recently completed a report of our 2002 pallid sturgeon monitoring project. Columbia FRO is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City and Omaha Districts, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to monitor pallid sturgeon populations in the Lower Missouri River. Twelve pallid sturgeon, 12 hybrid pallid sturgeon, 28 lake sturgeon, and 3044 shovelnose sturgeon were collected among 27,903 fish sampled. Four juvenile pallid sturgeon were collected several months after their stocking by Neosho National Fish Hatchery. These fish exhibited good growth during their time in the river. Unfortunately, the ratio of pallid sturgeon to all river sturgeons collected has decreased from a 1996-2000 study. Seventy-four juvenile sturgeon, including 15 larval sturgeon were collected in summer and fall trawling collections. Columbia FRO has reports available for distribution to interested parties.

*Wyatt Doyle, Columbia FRO*

## U.S. Sea Lamprey Control Program Destroys Lampreys to Save Lake Trout

During April and May 2003, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's sea lamprey control program treated 7 Great Lakes streams (2 in Lake Erie, 4 in Lake Huron, and 1 in Lake Michigan) with lampricide to eliminate larval sea lamprey populations. These treatments destroyed an estimated 444,000 sea lampreys including about 30,000 that would have metamorphosed to the parasitic phase in 2003 and entered the Great Lakes. 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 lakes. 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*

## Lake Trout Emergency Shore-Stocked in Grand Traverse Bay

On April 16 and 17, 2003 a total of 87,500 lake trout from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery were emergency shore-stocked to prevent an on-station loss of fish. The fish were released at the Acme site and Traverse City Maritime Academy in Lake Michigan. Normally, we don't shore stock fish, but this year we had an extra 310,000 fish on station (2.16 million total) and the dissolved oxygen levels in the last raceway tail-boxes were less than 5.0 ppm, a critical level for lake trout culture. The water level in Lake Michigan was down considerably so

extra pipes were needed to make sure the fish were released properly.

*Rick Westerhof, Jordan River NFH*



*-USFWS Historical Photo*

**Shore stocking lake trout in 1986. Today, lake trout are stocked from shore only in emergency situations.**

## Second Year of Study to Examine Round Goby Predation on Lake Trout

The second of a two-year study to examine the predation of round goby on lake trout eggs and fry on a northern Lake Huron reef was initiated in May. The round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*) is an aquatic nuisance fish species that was first found in the Great Lakes in 1990 and is almost widespread in the Great Lakes. It is an aggressive bottom dwelling fish that is thought to compete with other bottom dwellers for food and habitat. Fishery Biologist Anjanette Bowen of the Alpena Fishery Resources Office is conducting the study to determine if nuisance goby are preying on native lake trout eggs and fry. The study is funded by a grant from the EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office. The stomachs of goby are examined for lake trout fry in the spring when lake trout hatch and eggs in the fall when lake trout spawn. The Service has been conducting lake trout restoration in the Great Lakes through stocking and various

strain and fish quality studies and has partnered with state, provincial and tribal management agencies, and universities to restore the once abundant lake trout. An estimate of goby predation on lake trout eggs and fry will assist with models of lake trout mortality in Lake Huron.

*Anjanette K. Bowen, Alpena FRO*

## Eurasian Ruffe Control in Lake Huron Waters of Michigan

The Eurasian ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*) is an aquatic nuisance species that has infested areas of Lakes Huron, Michigan, and Superior over the past 20 years. The ruffe is a perch relative and is thought to compete with native yellow perch and walleye for food and habitat resources in the Great Lakes. Throughout the month of May, Fishery Biologist Anjanette Bowen lead the Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) in an annual effort to remove spawning phase adult Eurasian ruffe from the Thunder Bay River in Alpena, Michigan. The Thunder Bay River is the only known ruffe infested area in Lake Huron and hopes are that removal of adults before spawning will not only reduce the numbers of ruffe offspring, but prevent their spread to other areas of the lake. Many fish are sensitive to the ratio of population size to habitat available. When habitat is limited because populations are high, fish tend to move to new areas. The hope is that by keeping the Thunder Bay ruffe population reduced, the fish will not spread to other areas. Approximately 100 adult ruffe were removed from the river in the spring of 2002. Similar hopes are for a large removal in 2003. Unseasonably cold water temperatures have set back fish



-USFWS

**Biologists use gill nets to remove invasive Eurasian ruffe adults from Thunder Bay in Michigan.**

spawning in the Thunder Bay area in early to mid-May however, the ruffe catch is anticipated to climb as water temperatures rise into late May and early June. The Service works to conserve native aquatic species through control of aquatic nuisance species.

*Anjanette K. Bowen, Alpena FRO*

### **Sea Lampreys Captured in Great Lakes Traps**

Over 36,000 sea lampreys were captured in Great Lakes tributaries on their spawning migrations during May. The Marquette Biological Station operates a network of sea lamprey traps in 60 index rivers throughout the Great Lakes. Assessments of abundance of spawning sea lampreys provide a long-term measure of the success of sea lamprey control. Male lampreys from about 15 of these sites are collected and used in a sterile male release technique to reduce sea lamprey reproduction. 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*

### **Preliminary Survey of Lake Sturgeon Spawning Site at Belle Isle in Detroit River**

On 23 April 2003 Fishery Biologist James Boase joined forces with Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) Biological Science Technician Kathy Huffman, along with Biologists Bruce Manny and Greg Kennedy from the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct the pre-construction survey at the location of the proposed lake sturgeon spawning reef. The spawning reef will be built on the east side and at the up river end of Belle Isle. Belle Isle is located near Downtown Detroit in the Detroit River. Construction of the artificial spawning site will begin in the late summer or early fall of 2003. Results of the pre-construction survey revealed the presence of very few aquatic organisms. Sampling techniques included baited setlines and large mesh gillnets (for lake sturgeon), underwater video, small mesh gillnets and minnow traps for smaller species of fish and other aquatic organisms. SCUBA divers from USGS surveyed the site for threatened and endangered species of shellfish. Resources from both the Service and the USGS were pooled to efficiently monitor this site. Major contributors for this project include; Michigan Sea Grant, EPA, US Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, the City of Detroit, and Detroit Edison. If successful this project will not only be the first artificial spawning reef constructed in the Great Lakes specifically for lake sturgeon, but will also serve as a demonstration of a partnership effort working for the common good of a listed species. This event provided a unique opportunity to create new partnerships with both

governmental and non-governmental agencies. This effort also provided an opportunity to explain the Service's mission and our efforts to restore native fish in the Great Lakes, specifically, the Service's efforts to rehabilitate lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes. Benefits of native species restoration were clearly defined and explained.

*James C. Boase, Alpena FRO*

### **Spring Sampling Season Begins for Missouri River "Chutes Project"**

Columbia Fishery Resources Office (FRO) is in its third season of a fish community assessment project on the lower Missouri River. The project focuses on three side channels that are passively managed by the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Objectives of the study include comparing catch rates, species richness, diversity, and fish assemblages across the three side channels and adjacent main channel and characterizing habitat use.

Columbia FRO staff began sampling with hoop nets this month. Large and small hoop nets were set in each side channel and adjacent main channel. About 130 fish were caught in large and small hoop nets set at Cranberry, 173 at Lisbon and 72 at Overton Bottoms. The number of fish caught between the side channel and main channel were similar in each of the study areas. Unbaited hoop nets set throughout May with warming water temperatures provided some information as to which species were on the move to possible distant staging areas. Channel catfish were dominant in Cranberry chute while longnose gar, a typical backwater species, was collected in greater numbers during this time in the main channel. Channel catfish and

shovelnose sturgeon were largely present in the trough of the 2-mile long Lisbon side channel and in the adjacent main channel. Freshwater drum, flathead catfish and channel catfish were primarily using this 1 ¾ mile long, 40 ft wide pilot channel as a travel corridor during this sample period. Seining and mini-fyke netting in the summer and fall will provide some information as to how these side channels are being used by small adult and juvenile fishes.

*Louise Maulding, Columbia FRO*



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**Corey Lee, Columbia FRO, nets a blue catfish in the main channel near Lisbon Bottom, Missouri.**

### Coasters" Migrate to the Genoa National Fish Hatchery

The Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) in Genoa, Wisconsin received approximately 17000 1" coaster brook trout from the Iron River National Fish Hatchery on May 8, 2003. The eggs to produce the fish came from three to four year old coasters that were spawned last October through November.

Of the 17000 fish sent to Genoa, 13000 are being reared to a size of 8-10 inches over a period of twelve months. They will be stocked at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore located in Munising, MI, and other tribal areas for restoration purposes. The remaining 4000 fish will be kept at the station to serve as a genetic backup for the Iron River



-USFWS

**Adult coaster brook trout are spawned in the Fall to produce eggs for restoration programs. Eggs were hatched and 17,000 fry sent to Genoa NFH.**

NFH's coaster brook trout program.

The coaster strain of brook trout is a species of special concern endemic to the Isle Royale region of Lake Superior. Though similar to the inland strains, coasters become larger; attaining weights of 4-10 lbs. The Genoa National Fish Hatchery is cooperating with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Iron River National Fish Hatchery, the Ashland Fisheries Resource Office, and the states of Wisconsin and Michigan to restore the coaster brook trout to its native range on the southern shore of Lake Superior.

*Nick Starzl, Genoa NFH*

### Chequamegon Bay Surveyed for Coaster Brook Trout

An electrofishing survey was conducted in Chequamegon Bay to determine the presence and relative abundance of coaster brook trout. The survey was conducted during evening hours from Whittlesey Creek to Bono Creek in Bayfield County, Wisconsin. Annual assessments are conducted each spring and fall as part of the rehabilitation plan for coaster brook trout in Whittlesey Creek on Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Data collected will

establish a baseline and evaluate the success of management and stocking plans for the Whittlesey Creek. No coaster brook trout were collected during this survey.  
*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

### The Lake Sturgeon are Spawning! Genoa National Fish Hatchery begins Spring Egg Collection Efforts

The sturgeon are in! In late April, one of the last remaining wild lake sturgeon populations migrate from Lake Winnegago, up the Wolf River, Wisconsin to lay their eggs in nursery areas. This is to protect the young fry from the many predators in the lake. This spawning run is an annual tourist attraction, with people lined up on the banks to see thousands of adult sturgeon weighing as much as 120 pounds laying their eggs. Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) staff, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Warm Springs NFH (GA), collected 30 adult lake sturgeon, some weighing over 110 pounds, and stripped some of the "black gold" from 5 females. Sturgeon eggs are used in many countries to make caviar, considered a delicacy by some. These eggs were fertilized with milt from 25 different males, and the resulting fry will be reared for several ongoing restoration and research efforts this spring. Staff from the hatchery and the Wisconsin DNR collected roughly 75,000 eggs, and released the adults unharmed back into the river. Sturgeon are prolific spawners, and the 15,000 eggs that were taken from each female were only a small fraction of the total eggs that a female lake sturgeon can produce. The female then was released unharmed to continue spawning and releasing the

remainder of her eggs. Eggs were processed and brought back to the station for further grow-out. Lake sturgeon will be reared to approximately 6 inches long, tagged for later assessment, and released in Menominee Reservation (WI) tribal waters, Tennessee Valley Authority Reservoirs, and used in research projects to further our understanding of this prehistoric species.

*Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*



-USFWS

**State and Federal workers measure returning adult lake sturgeon captured on the Wolf River. A portion of the eggs from 5 females will be used for restoration and research programs.**

### Lake Trout Marked for Great Lakes Program

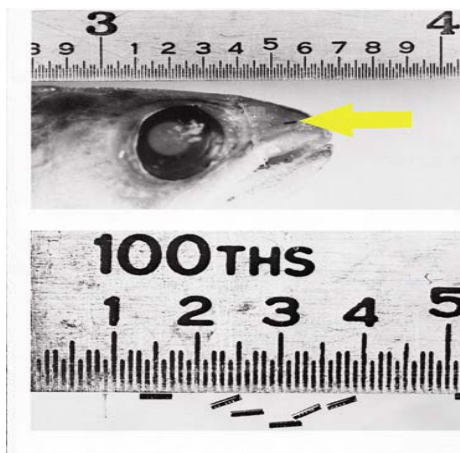
Each year all of the lake trout from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery are marked prior to release into the Great lakes as part of the Great Lakes Lake Trout Restoration Program. They are either fin clipped, which entails removing one or more fin(s), or are coded wire tagged. The coded wire tagging process involves removing the adipose fin and embedding a coded wire tag in the snout of the fish. This helps differentiate hatchery-reared fish from wild lake trout populations in the Great Lakes. Using the information on the coded wire tag, researchers can evaluate survival, growth, and movement of the fish.



-USFWS

**One method to mark lake trout at the Jordan River NFH involves removing one or more fins.**

This year, the coded wire tagging operation began on January 9, 2003 and was completed on February 21, 2003. Seven intermittent employees worked a total of 1,016 hours tagging the fish. Total cost for tagging 739,768 fish was \$13,356. In addition, approximately 1.42 million native lake trout were fin clipped (right pectoral) by 10-15 intermittent employees working 1,729 hours. Total cost for fin clipping was \$23,000. The marking of the fish by clipping (removing) designated fin(s) is necessary to differentiate hatchery reared fish from wild fish. This information also is useful in identifying lake trout age classes, rearing locations, and survival. All the marked fish will be released in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan



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**The arrow in this photo points to a tiny coded wire tag implanted in the snout of a lake trout.**

beginning in April and ending in July 2003.

*Rick Westerhof, Jordan River NFH*

### Columbia Fishery Resources Office Staff assist Corps with Biological Bridge Construction

Joanne Grady assisted Jane Ledwin of the Columbia Missouri Field Office, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Missouri River Biological Opinion team, and the Corps of Engineers (Corps) in a series of meetings regarding impacts of Corps actions on pallid sturgeon in the Missouri River. The Biological Bridge would be a series of items the Corps could fund or initiate to minimize impacts to the pallid sturgeon, piping plover and least tern in the interim period until the Recommendations from the Biological Opinion on River Operations are in place. Joanne provided comments and suggestions on potential projects and benefits or impacts on the pallid sturgeon. The Service and the Corps are continuing to collaborate on this process.

*Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO*

### Fish Relocation at Shacte Creek

Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) staff provided assistance to the Iron River National Fish Hatchery during its effort to transfer wild trout from Shacte Creek. This collection effort was targeted primarily for brook trout found within a 3/4-mile section of the creek that borders the hatchery. 69 brook trout were safely transported below the first barrier on Shacte Creek. Because Shacte Creek is the primary source of water for the hatchery, it's imperative to reduce the potential for transferring disease pathogens from wild fish to the hatchery's production fish.

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

## Public Use

### Tomah Veterans Administration Medical Center Fishing Tourney Benefits Veterans & Students

For more than 50 years, Service employees at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) have annually raised a variety of game fish species for stocking in public waters, including the American Legion Fishing Pond at the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in Tomah, Wisconsin. Angling is a very popular activity here that provides Tomah VA clients with many hours of therapeutic outdoor recreational opportunities.

Since 1991, US Fish and Wildlife Service staff and volunteers from the Genoa NFH, the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO), and the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) have helped sponsor a hospital-wide fishing tournament at the pond. The 2003 fishing tourney was held on May 21 under sunny blue skies with a stiff westerly wind that aided the casts of anglers on the handicap accessible fishing pier. Tomah Middle School students were also on hand to aid veterans who needed some assistance angling. Successful anglers then registered their catch to win prizes awarded by the Tomah American Legion. By all accounts, there was a lot of exciting action during this year's event as many more larger fish (rainbow trout, largemouth bass, and bluegill) were caught than at any past tourney, making for some very memorable moments. To complement the event, La Crosse FHC staff gave demonstrations for general fish anatomy and fish health for the participants. The popularity of this annual event, complete with a lunchtime fish-fry



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**Corey Puzach, La Crosse Fish Health Center, discusses enviromental concerns with a local veteran during the fishing tournament.**

prepared and served by Service staff, has grown into a highly anticipated and rewarding springtime event for all participants.

*Mark Steingraeber, La Crosse FRO and Corey Puzach, La Crosse FHC*

### Sea Lamprey Display Goes West For the Environment

The Sea Lamprey Control Program display was selected to be featured at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) 2003 Conference on the Environment, hosted by the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, in Phoenix, Arizona. The display was set up and staffed by personnel from the Sea Lamprey Management Program at the Marquette and Ludington Biological Stations.

The conference theme this year was "Partnering for Environmental Stewardship - Resource Conservation for the Future." The display was a popular attraction and was well attended by most of the 436 professionals from government, tribal, and the private business sector that attended the conference. The conference was designed to provide a forum for

DOI staff and tribal representatives to meet and exchange information on a wide variety of environmental topics; to provide a Department-wide conference to all bureau environmental professionals; to increase their professional knowledge through exposure to new information from and across all bureau boundaries; to update their base of knowledge through learning opportunities; and to introduce them to other environmental professionals who are doing similar jobs.

*Terry Morse, Marquette Biological Station*

### La Crosse Fishery Resources Office Gave a "Shocking Performance" at the Upper Mississippi River Festival

This year's Upper Mississippi River Festival took place May 13-14th on the banks of the "Mighty Mississippi," in the historic river town of Guttenberg, Iowa. Almost 800 students, teachers and chaperones toured three stations, Celebrating a Century of Conservation, History and Culture of the Upper Mississippi River (Valley), Aquatic Resources and received a guest appearance from "President Theodore Roosevelt." Topics covered were: amphibians and reptiles, Mississippi River management, stream table demonstrations, analysis of artifacts, tours of Guttenberg's lock and dam, mussels, fish sampling techniques, fish identification and habitat needs, aquatic insect identification, exotic species, history of the National Wildlife Refuge System and "Teddy Roosevelt's" vision of wildlife conservation. It was hoped that

students, teachers and chaperones would learn how valuable a resource the Mississippi River is



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**La Crosse FRO staff demonstrate electroshocking to students at the Upper Mississippi River Festival.**

and how rich it is in culture and tradition.

Dave Wedan and Heidi Keuler along with two volunteers from La Crosse Fishery Resources Office participated in the Aquatic Resources portion of the event teaching fish sampling techniques. Students were shown how fishery biologists collect fish through electrofishing, netting and trapping. Some groups of students viewed a live "shocking" demonstration and comprehended how effective of a sampling technique electrofishing is. Tagging and measuring equipment, used for lake sturgeon, paddlefish, walleye and many other species, was also shown to students and chaperones.

Groups of students did not visit each station during their rotation because it was hoped that students would share their different experiences on the ride home or back at school. Questions were taken from each presenter at the festival and were gathered into a "Who Wants to be a River Rat?" game modeled after the popular "Millionaire" game on television. This was an excellent tool to help students learn facts they did not pick up at the festival and to help students comprehend what they learned. There are plans to hold

two Upper Mississippi River Festivals next year in order for more students in Wisconsin and Minnesota to participate.

*Heidi Keuler, La Crosse FRO*

### **Focus on Fish and Wildlife Newsletter – June 2003**

The Ashland FRO has been sharing its resource accomplishments through the Focus on Fish and Wildlife Newsletter since 1998. The newsletter is a quarterly release written to keep our many cooperators informed about our activities and accomplishments. The latest issue was recently mailed to 118 local and national contacts. The topics from the June mailing included; Red Cliff Creek Habitat Improvement - Phase 1, Range Expansion Documented in 11th Annual Ruffe Surveillance Report, Ashland FRO Assists with Refuge Centennial Activities, and Walleye Population Estimates for the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. Access to this and previous newsletters can be made from our Internet web site at: <http://midwest.fws.gov/ashland/news/news.html>.

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

### **Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Presentation at Wild Turkey Federation**

Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Coordinator, Heather Enterline, gave a presentation to 50 Wild Turkey Federation representatives from around the State of Michigan at Nettie Bay Lodge in Hawks, MI, on Saturday, May 10. Enterline gave examples (before and after pictures) of projects completed in Northern Michigan encompassing both

wetland and in-stream restoration, and discussed general aspects of the Partners program. Many questions were asked, and pamphlets were handed out with contact numbers for all the Michigan Partners Coordinators. Following a morning session of presentations by various natural resource professionals, a tour was given of Nettie Bay Lodge highlighting various habitat management techniques employed by the lodge to improve turkey habitat. 50 Wild Turkey Federation representatives from all corners of Michigan were given a presentation describing the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and the services available through the program. This opportunity to showcase the Partners Program resulted in three people contacting the Alpena FRO with an interest in wetland and grassland restoration.

*Heather L. Enterline, Alpena FRO*

### **Sea Lamprey and Great Lakes Fish Were Catch of the Day at Scout Fest**

Assistant Project Leader Tracy Hill and Fishery Biologist Anjanette Bowen of the Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) in Michigan educated Regional Boy



-USFWS

**A boy scout learns about "Conserving America's Fisheries" From Anjie Bowen, Alpena FRO.**

and Girl Scouts about local fishery resources at Scout Fest held May 10 in Alpena, Michigan. Scout Fest is an annual event that provides Scouts with hands-on educational experiences in a variety of different fields. The Conserving America's Fisheries display, a knot tying exhibit, and native and exotic fish including the sea lamprey, Eurasian ruffe, and walleye captured from Lake Huron were on display. Over 200 scouts, leaders, and assistants came through the US Fish and Wildlife Service booth. The fresh fish were a big hit. Providing community education and outreach is an important component of the Service's mission.

*Anjanette K. Bowen, Alpena FRO*

### **Great Lakes Fishery Management Explained to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Students**

Fishery Biologist Jessica Richards of the Green Bay Fishery Resources Office (FRO) gave a presentation titled, "Fishery Management in the Great Lakes" to the Fisheries Management class at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. This outreach opportunity, as supported by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Fisheries Program Strategic Vision, is scheduled as an annual presentation to make upcoming biologists aware of the fishery management process in the Great Lakes. Students learned about the development of fishery management in the Great Lakes region, the organizational structure of the governing bodies involved in Great Lakes fishery management, the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of the Great Lakes, and what the USFWS roles and responsibilities are in Great Lakes fishery management. There

was a question and answer session following the presentation, and employment opportunities were also discussed.

*Jessica Richards, Green Bay FRO*

### **Trash Relief brought to Twenty Miles of Missouri River**

Over one hundred local volunteers joined Missouri River Relief for a trash clean-up of a mid-Missouri stretch of the Missouri River. "This stretch of river was cleaned in the past two years, but it was due for a little 'trash maintenance,'" said event coordinator, Tim Nigh. As in previous mid-Missouri events, Columbia Fishery Resources Office (FRO) provided two boats, life jackets, and staff to ferry the volunteers up and down the twenty mile stretch of river. River Relief provides a unique opportunity for us to talk one-on-one with the public about the river..while ON the river. The event was based at Cooper's Landing in Boone County. Volunteers cleaned up the river banks and the KATY Trail between the communities of Huntsdale and Hartsburg. Following a day of caring for the river, music and dancing were added to the ambiance of the magnificent river setting. More information on Missouri River Relief can be found at their website:<http://www.riverrelief.org/>

The Haul as reported by Missouri River Relief: 4 tons of non-recyclable waste \* 4 tons of appliances and scrap metal \* 4 pick-up truck loads of plastic \* 2 truckloads of aluminum \* 2 truckloads of trash \* 74 tires \* a gas furnace manifold \* 3 propane tanks \* a 30-foot length of steel cable \* 2 washing machines \* 3 sinks \* 2 television sets \* a refrigerator door \* 1 message in a plastic bottle.

*Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO*



*-USFWS*

**Michigan snowmobilers take a break at the Jordan River NFH and learn about lake trout restoration.**

### **Michigan Snowmobilers Make Their Presence Known at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery**

Last winter was long, snowy and cold, but snowmobilers made their presence known at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH). This year approximately 2,500 snowmobilers passed through the fishy halls of the visitor center and hatchery building. Most were in search of the restrooms, a place to warm up and a free cup of coffee or hot cocoa. Tours were provided to those interested. Many of the snowmobilers read about the hatchery in the Michigan Snowmobiler Magazine, where we had a feature story last fall. The Harrison Rayders Snowmobile Club (Harrison, MI one hour south) stopped by the hatchery for a tour and the hospitality. Overall, another successful year for the hatchery and the snowmobilers.

*Rick Westerhof, Jordan River NFH*



## Cooperation with Native Americans

### Alpena Fishery Resources Office Conducts Independent Lake Whitefish Assessment

During the month of May Biologist Adam Kowalski was busy preparing the R/V Karegnondi for the independent lake whitefish assessment scheduled for the last week in May. Tasks accomplished during this time were making sure all gear needed was accounted for and in proper working condition, ensuring the vessel was ready for the water, and ordering needed equipment and placing it in the vessel. A mock set and lift refresher was conducted during the week of May 19 to make sure the entire crew was working in rhythm.

Beginning on May 27 Biologists Scott Koproski, Adam Kowalski, and Aaron Woldt began assessment activities in Whitefish Management Unit 04 (WFH-04) in Northern Lake Huron. Project Leader Jerry McClain and Assistant Project Leader Tracy Hill also provided help during the assessment activities on a rotating schedule. Two variable mesh gill net gangs were fished daily at specified transects within the management unit. One gang was set in waters less than 100' and the other gang was set in waters greater than 100'. Out of the 12 lifts required for this management unit we were able to complete 3 transects or 6 lifts during that week. The remaining transects and locations within WFH-04 and WFH-05 will be completed in June. Data obtained from the independent lake whitefish surveys will be utilized by the Modeling Subcommittee of the Technical Fisheries Committee to establish harvest limits in 1836 Treaty

Ceded Waters of Lake Huron. Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) is fulfilling the Service's obligations as a signatory to the 2000 US vs. MI Consent Decree for effective management of the shared fisheries in Lake Huron. *Adam T. Kowalski and Scott R. Koproski, Alpena FRO*



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**Lake whitefish assessments provide data needed to set harvest limits in 1836 Treaty waters of Lake Huron.**

### Fish Health Inspection at the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Fish Hatchery

The La Crosse Fish Health Center staff completed the semi-annual fish health inspection at the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Fish Hatchery and the Keweenaw Bay Isolation Facility. Prior to the inspection at the isolation facility the fish were subjected to a thirty (30) day stress test. Tissue samples were collected from two lots (3 strains) of 2002 year class lake trout at the isolation facility and one (1) lot of coaster brook trout brood stock at the Tribal hatchery. These samples will be screened for selected fish pathogens.

*Ken Phillips, La Crosse FHC*

### Crews Experience Calm Waters on the Mille Lacs Lake Walleye Tagging Project

The spring walleye spawn came on strong during April and that means survey time. The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) requested assistance from both La Crosse and Ashland Fishery Resources Offices (FRO). Dave Wedan, Heidi Keuler, Mark Steingraeber and Scott Yess (La Crosse FRO) and Gary Czypinski (Ashland FRO) all assisted on Mille Lacs Lake this year, in what proved to be the opposite extreme from last year. Weather conditions were favorable during the two week spawning run. Due to the ideal working conditions the team; which consisted of 2 GLIFWC boats, 2 FRO boats and 1 Fond du Lac Tribal boat tagged over 20,000 walleye. The majority of the fish were males in the 14-22 inch range.

This effort was conducted in conjunction with an effort by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources which involved fyke netting. The information will be used to determine the overall population and make walleye harvest regulations. Mille Lacs Lake is the premiere walleye lake in Minnesota and for the last several years the harvest has been allocated for both sport fishing and Tribal spearing and netting. Harvest limits are set based on population estimates and the surplus that can be removed without damaging the population. Regulations are then set based on the pounds of fish to be harvested. *Scott Yess, La Crosse FRO*

### Another Edition of the "Midwest Tribal Aquaculture Network" Goes to Print

The most recent addition of the Midwest Tribal Aquaculture Network (MTAN), volume 44, has just been completed and is now available for review on the Internet. This quarter's newsletter discusses Floating or In-ground - Portable Raceway's and Wind Powered Aeration for Remotely Located Ponds.

The Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) has the unique distinction of providing technical assistance for the development of numerous tribal fish hatchery programs. One of the ways we contribute to these programs is by publishing a quarterly newsletter. MTAN is dedicated to assisting tribal hatchery programs through the sharing of cool/cold water fish culture practices. Information from previous issues of the MTAN plus tribal hatchery stocking information is accessible from the Ashland FRO web page. Readers can access this information by pointing their web browsers to: <http://midwest.fws.gov/ashland/mtan/mtanhome.html>.

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

### Inland Lake Survey and Collecting Northern Pike for Mercury Testing for the Keweenaw Bay Reservation

Frank Stone, Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO), recently completed an inland lake survey and a northern pike collection project for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC). The KBIC is interested in developing Lighthouse Pond into a family oriented largemouth bass fishery. Currently the surrounding area is used for picnicking and

numerous tribal activities, including a yearly Pow-Wow. Because of the lakes convenient proximately to this tribal recreation area, the KBIC has initiated management plans with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to enhance this fishery. However, because this system is subjected to winterkill conditions, the options for enhancing the angling potential are limited. The KBIC wants to manage the lake as a catch and release fishery to enhance angling opportunities for children, tribal elders and the disabled. Last fall catchable size largemouth bass were transferred from a nearby lake into Lighthouse Pond. The objective of this most recent survey was to determine if after the addition of an aeration system, the fish previously transferred into Lighthouse Pond had survived through the winter. Unfortunately, the results of this survey revealed that the bass did not survive. Other options for this fishery are currently being considered.

The second phase of this project consisted of collecting adult size northern pike from Huron Bay and Keweenaw Bay. As part of a cooperative project with the Environmental Protection Agency, these fish will be examined for possible mercury contamination. The results of which will be shared with local and tribal residents. A total of ten northern pike were collected for the project.

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

### Drawings Completed for the Grand Portage Fish Hatchery

Frank Stone, Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) completed a list of preliminary specifications and drawing of a

proposed fish hatchery for the Grand Portage Reservation. The tribe is interested in stocking walleye fry into Reservation waters to enhance the Pigeon River fishery and will plan to use the facility during the rearing/hatching phase of the rearing cycle. Frank recently presented the conceptual drawings to Ben Whiting (Fishery Biologist for the Grand Portage Natural Resources Department) and representatives from the Grand Portage Construction Department. This project is being funded through Tribal funds and a Challenge Cost Share (\$6K) provided by the Ashland FRO.

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

### Inland Lake Surveys for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

Frank Stone, Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) completed two inland lake fishery assessments for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC). This project consisted of conducting nighttime electrofishing surveys that collected all fish species found in Sandy and Pike Lake. Data was recorded to define species diversity, length frequency and age distribution. The KBIC is working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to transfer walleye fry into these two lakes. These surveys will give the tribe baseline data to better evaluate the success of this stocking effort.

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

# Leadership in Science and Technology

## Genoa National Fish Hatchery Expands Propagation Efforts to Other Native Mussels

Thanks to some Ecosystem funding from the Refuge system, biologists at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Genoa, WI have begun propagation efforts with additional native mussels. While on a smaller scale than the endangered Higgins'-eye pearly mussel recovery project, this work with other native mussels will provide useful information and open the door for work with other endangered species.

One of our goals is to determine additional host fish for the Hickorynut (*Obovaria olivaria*). The only reported host for this mussel species is the shovelnose sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus*) so finding another host would be beneficial for future propagation of this species. With Genoa's access to lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) and other non-traditional fish, we infested nine lake sturgeon and eight freshwater drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*) with glochidia from two hickorynut females.

While we are only a week into this study, we have noted that the freshwater drum have sloughed off all their glochidia indicating that they are not a suitable host fish for the hickorynut. However, all of the lake sturgeon are still heavily infested with glochidia indicating positive signs that the glochidia will transform into viable juvenile mussels.

A second goal we have set is to develop the techniques and culture practices for some of the common *Quadrula* species found in the upper Mississippi River. By developing the techniques to culture some of these common



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**Genoa NFH staff are developing culture techniques for the pimpleback mussel to expand mussel technology.**

species, we will be able to apply them to the propagation and culture of the winged mapleleaf (*Quadrula fragosa*) a federally endangered species. Mussel species we are attempting to culture are pimplebacks (*Q. pustulosa*), mapleleaves (*Q. quadrula*), monkeyfaces (*Q. metanevra*), and spikes (*Elliptio dilatata*). So far, only a single pimpleback has been found gravid, all other mussels contain either unfertilized eggs or immature glochidia. The glochidia collected from the pimpleback were used to infest 10 black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) and 25 channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*). Results from the infestation are expected in a few weeks. In the meantime, we plan to search for gravid *Quadrula* species. This is a cooperative effort with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources who has provided us with not only the hickorynuts, but also with the other *Quadrula* species and the spikes.

Finally, some other mussel species we are planning to propagate and culture are the black sandshell (*Ligumia recta*) and the pocketbook (*Lampsilis cardium*). Juveniles produced from these infestations will aid in the

development of mussel culture practices at Genoa, and will be the start of supplying the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge and state waters with some state listed species.

*Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*

## River Biologists develop Basin-wide Pallid Sturgeon Monitoring Program

Columbia Fishery Resources Office (FRO) biologists participated in an in-field training session on the Missouri River near South Sioux City, Nebraska. Other participants included the South Dakota FRO, US Geological Survey out of Montana, the US Corps of Engineers (COE) from Yankton, South Dakota, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The two day April session stemmed from a Pallid sturgeon monitoring and assessment program spearheaded by the COE that is currently in the planning/trial stages. The COE pallid sturgeon coordinator and fishery biologists looked at various Missouri River habitat types, discussed habitat definitions, and drafted the habitat classification section for the standard operating procedures for the monitoring program. Biologists also shared their expertise on proper deployment and retrieval of some of the standard sampling gears to be used in the monitoring program. Contributions by biologists with experience from different portions of the Missouri River made this training session a positive learning experience.

*Louise Mauldin, Columbia FRO*

### Green Bay Fishery Resources Office Develops Green Bay Yellow Perch Fishery Monitoring Database

The Green Bay Fishery Resources Office (FRO) has been assisting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) Peshtigo Office with the assessment and management of the Green Bay yellow perch fishery. A major component of this cooperative effort is to organize the historic data for this fishery. Recently, the Green Bay FRO setup a database for Peshtigo containing the available sport and commercial fishing data for yellow perch in Green Bay. Pauline Schuette consolidated the data sheets from the commercial vessel monitoring program, and entered all of the biological data from 1978 to 1999. She also acquired the commercial and sport harvest records from the central databases within the WDNR. John Netto used these data to develop a database for the Peshtigo office to house all of the commercial and sport fishery data necessary for analyses conducted on this fishery. He also built routines into the database to extract harvest and effort summaries, calculate length frequency distributions, calculate age compositions for each of the fisheries, and write these data to a text based data file that is read into the Statistical Catch at Age model being developed for assessing the fishery. This product will facilitate future analyses by having the data available in an accessible format and will facilitate the annual assessment process by automating the preliminary calculations and extractions of data needed to run the assessment models.

*John Netto, Green Bay FRO*

### Innovative Net Systems Assists Columbia Fishery Resources Office Staff with New Sampling Gear

Greg Faulkner of Innovative Nets Systems in Louisiana specializes in trawl designs. He has designed trawls for different fisheries around the world and is now adding the Missouri River sturgeon to the list. Greg spent a couple of days on the channelized river near Kansas City with Fishery Biologists Wyatt Doyle and Andy Starostka and fishery staff from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Omaha District. Wyatt and Andy have spent the last year refining the design and safety features of Columbia Fishery Resources Office's (FRO) stern trawling vessel. This is the only stern trawler sampling the lower 300 miles of the Missouri River. The gear has allowed our staff to collect juvenile sturgeon and paddlefish in record numbers. Greg was on hand to critique the trawler's design and to refine the net design to efficiently sample in the fast currents of the Missouri River.

*Wyatt Doyle, Columbia FRO*

### Wild Fish Health Assessments and Station Inspections

The La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC) staff completed its annual wild fish health assessment with the assistance of Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) on Pool 9 of the Upper Mississippi River. Genoa was involved in their spring netting of walleye and northern pike. The fish are spawned and reared for a variety of stocking and mussel projects. Up to thirty fish from each species were sampled from 23



*-USFWS*

**Ken Phillips conducts a fish health inspection. Inspections identify fish diseases providing biologists with critical information prior to releasing fish into the wild.**

species with a total of 440 fish sampled.

La Crosse FHC staff also completed the semi-annual fish health inspection at the Iron River NFH. During the inspection tissue samples were collected from 24 lots of lake trout and coaster brook trout. Fish samples are screened for selected pathogens and then given a station classification based on the results of the laboratory work.

During April a semi-annual station inspection was conducted at the Jordan River NFH. Twelve lots of lake trout were sampled as part of the inspection. Samples were collected and taken back to the laboratory for further processing.

In May it was Genoa NFH's turn for a semi-annual fish health inspection. Fish were sampled from both the production facility and the isolation facility. Fish sampled included coaster brook trout, rainbow trout, black crappie, blue catfish, freshwater drum, and yellow perch. This was the first time warm-water species were included in a fish health inspection at Genoa NFH.

*Corey Puzach, Ken Phillips, Rick Nelson, La Crosse FHC*

### Microsoft Access Fishery Database Established

Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) has developed a Microsoft Access relational database for managing and maintaining fishery records from the station. This database will ensure that fishery work conducted by past, present and future biologists at Ashland FRO will be maintained and accessible in a common format and location. It will provide an important degree of continuity during staffing changes, will improve biologists ability to review and analyze data, will allow us to be more responsive to information requests from partner agencies and the public, and meet data management criteria required for receipt of funds from granting organizations. Data from 2002 has been entered and entry of data from prior years is in progress. The database structure has been

shared with Green Bay and Alpena FRO's and recommendations from these offices have been incorporated.

*Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO*

### Region 3 Fisheries Publication Policy Development

On May 27, Project Leader McClain, Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) convened a conference call with a team developing a draft Region 3 Fisheries Publication Policy. The call was held to review and refine the latest draft of the policy and to seek guidance from Assistant Regional Director Gerry Jackson on the next steps. In addition to McClain and Jackson, other team members include Joanne Grady (Columbia FRO), Chuck Bronte (Green Bay FRO) and Rick Westerhof (Jordan River National Fish Hatchery). Development of the Publication Policy will assist

the Region 3 Fisheries Program in meeting objectives of the Fisheries Vision regarding Leadership in Science and Technology. It will also provide guidance to the Fisheries Program for standardization and peer review of station publications for improved outreach and agency credibility. When a final draft is produced it will be sent to all fisheries stations for review and input. A finalized policy is anticipated by the fall of 2003 to assist stations with the annual post-field season report writing requirements. Dissemination of publications is expected to rely heavily on the use of the new Region 3 Web Site. This activity is consistent with Fisheries Vision Objectives associated with Leadership in Science and Technology as well as Partnerships and Accountability.

*Jerry R. McClain, Alpena FRO*



-USFWS

**A Lake Michigan commercial fishing vessel lifts a trap net in Green Bay. As commercial fishing technology advances, natural resource agencies must also develop new assessment capabilities to set safe harvest limits.**

# Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

## Grand Portage Creek Fish Passage Project is Working!

Anadromous Lake Superior steelhead are again ascending the full length of Grand Portage Creek to spawn and reproduce! Grand Portage Tribal Fish and Wildlife Biologist Ben Whiting and Lee Newman, Fishery biologist at Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) found significant numbers of adult steelhead spawning above MN Highway 61 in surveys done in May. The finding is conclusive evidence that anadromous fish now have free passage to spawning and nursery habitat above the road crossing. A large, concrete box culvert at the crossing was a barrier to fish passage since its installation in 1959. Many years of effort to remove this barrier by the Tribe and Ashland FRO culminated in a cooperative project with Minnesota Department of Transportation to build a permanent fish passage structure into the culvert in fall of 2002. Primary funding (about \$35,000) was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish passage Program. Biologist Whiting calls the project "A great success and will have a big impact on coaster brook trout and steelhead populations." The Minnesota shoreline of Lake Superior is 150 miles, but there are only a few miles of stream available for anadromous fish because of barrier falls. To restore 3 miles of prime habitat with this one project is pretty great.

*Lee Newman, Ashland FRO*



*-USFWS*

**A permanent fish passage structure was added to this box culvert allowing Lake Superior steelhead to ascend Grand Portage Creek to spawn.**

## Alpena Fishery Resources Office Prioritizes and Selects Partners Program Projects

Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) Project Leader McClain, Partners Program Coordinator Enterline, Assistant Project Leader Hill, and Biologist Wells met on May 5 to review potential Fiscal Year 2003 Partners Program projects and prioritize them for selection and funding. The station has developed a process to review and select projects that will provide the best resource benefits in a cost-effective manner while ensuring consistency with Partners Program objectives. This process will help ensure selection of the most appropriate projects, ensure sufficient oversight from project initiation until completion and help avoid conflicts between land owners and contractors. The prioritized project list was agreed on and bids will be sought for the work. Based on estimated project costs, up to six projects are anticipated with the funding level received at Alpena FRO. When bids are received we will then determine whether we need to add or delete projects based on

available funding. The Alpena FRO Partners Program seeks projects that provide the greatest resource benefits, assures financial accountability, and maintains consistency with objectives of the Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program. This activity is consistent with objectives of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Vision relative to Partnerships and Accountability and Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management.

*Jerry R. McClain, Alpena FRO*



**Projects are selected for the "Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program" that provide the greatest resource benefits.**

## Workforce Management

### Alpena Federal Building Security Program

Project leader McClain, Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO), assisted Federal Protection Service officials with a re-write of the Alpena Federal Building security plan in late April and participated in a meeting of building tenants to review the plan on May 1. Federal Protection Service has recently been shifted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and is required to tighten security at federal buildings. As the station lead for the building's largest tenant, McClain serves as point of contact and coordinator for building security. Al Argillander, chief law enforcement officer for federal building security in Michigan, was on site to familiarize building tenants with new regulations and responsibilities associated with Homeland Security and provided training on dealing with issues such as bomb threats and natural disasters. Other FRO staff participating in the meeting included Deb Turner, Aaron Woldt and Tracy Hill. Assisting U.S. Department of Homeland Security with federal building security in Alpena, Michigan is consistent with Service goals and objectives associated with federal agency cooperation and collaboration and with Fisheries objectives associated with Workforce Management. An informed and trained staff is essential to provide a safe work place for US Fish and Wildlife Service employees.

*Jerry R. McClain, Alpena FRO*

### University of Missouri-Columbia Students Join Staff for Summer Field Season

University of Missouri students Jennifer Johnson and Greg Snellen joined the Columbia Fishery Resources Office (FRO) staff following the completion of their spring semester. Jennifer and Greg will assist the fisheries field crew with fish and habitat sampling primarily on the Missouri River. Both students were hired through the Service's Student Temporary Experience Program (STEP). This opportunity allows student's to sample their potential careers before graduating from college. The experience STEP students gain will give them a competitive advantage over their peers at graduation. Our former STEP students are employed by the Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. For more information on the STEP program, see the website at <http://midwest.fws.gov/Administration/step.html>.

*Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO*

### Hatchery Staff, Families, and Volunteers Work Together to "Adopt a Highway"

The Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) has joined the Michigan Adopt-a-Highway program. The program is run by the Michigan Department of Transportation and works with groups that are interested in cleaning up roadsides that are littered with trash. Jordan River NFH has adopted a two-mile section of US-131 which runs perpendicular to the hatchery entrance road. The program has three slated pickup times during

the year: spring, summer, and fall. This year's first pickup took place on April 24, 2003. Staff members including volunteers and their families (totaling 13 people) participated, covering the four miles in approximately two hours and filling 30 bags with trash. Some of the prized items were mufflers, a hubcap, and a pair of underwear. Afterwards, the group enjoyed a potluck dinner featuring hamburgers, hotdogs, salads, beverages and desserts. A good time was had by all and we are looking forward to our July and September "Adopt A Highway" outings. If you are in neighborhood, stop by and join us. *Rick Westerhof, Jordan River NFH*



*-USFWS*

**Jordan River NFH staff, volunteers and family members join together to keep the beautiful Jordan River Valley clean for everyone to enjoy.**

### Service Biologist Attends MOICC Training

Fishery Biologist Aaron Woldt of the Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) attended a Department of Interior (DOI) Motorboat Operator Instructor Certification Course (MOICC) at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV from May 5 to 9, 2003. The primary goal of this course was to train attendees to instruct the DOI Motorboat Operator Certification

Course (MOCC) and 5 year MOCC refresher course. DOI Policy 485 DM 22 requires operators of all department watercraft to successfully complete MOCC training and complete refresher MOCC training every 5 years thereafter. Woldt successfully completed MOCC training and is now able to teach MOCC courses with other trained instructors. Woldt looks forward to helping Region 3 instructors deliver future MOCC courses. MOCC training and refresher training are valuable curricula designed to make Service personnel competent and safe boaters. Teaching MOCC courses is consistent with the US Fish and Wildlife Service goal of providing employees with opportunities to maintain competencies, improve opportunities for professional achievement, and safely perform their jobs.

*Aaron P. Woldt, Alpena FRO*

### **First-Aid and CPR Training at the Green Bay Fisheries Office**

Green Bay Fishery Resources Office (FRO) personnel completed the American Red Cross first aid and CPR refresher course. The Green Bay Ecological Services Office (ES) also participated with the training for a total of 12 employees. Several employees have job duties that require this certification on an annual basis. The training was held at the new Green Bay Field Office in which both the Green Bay FRO and Green Bay ES are co-located. This annual training allows Green Bay FRO employees the ability to refresh skills and keep updated on the latest procedures pertaining to first aid and CPR.

*Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

### **Robert Petersen Provides CPR and First Aid Training to Cheboygan, Alpena, and East Lansing Office Employees**

On March 18, 2003, Robert Petersen, Maintenance Mechanic at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH), traveled to the Cheboygan Vessel Base to teach CPR and First Aid. Since 1997, Robert has been teaching CPR and First Aid to the M/V Togue crew and U.S. Geological Service vessel employees. This year a total of six people were trained in adult CPR and First Aid. As a result of Robert's efforts and training last year, Mike Perry, M/V Togue Ship Captain was able to assist a man that was having seizures in a local restaurant. Mike prevented further injury to the man by clearing people and objects away while the man was having seizures. Good job Mike, as nobody else stepped up to help. On April 1 and 2, Robert trained staff members at the Alpena Fishery Resource Office in CPR and First Aid. Robert has been traveling to Alpena since 1997 to provide this important training. This year Robert instructed a total of eight employees (adult CPR and First Aid to seven people and adult, child, and infant CPR and First Aid to one person). Robert provided CPR and First Aid Training to employees at the East Lansing Field Office on April 8 and 9. Eleven employees attended the adult CPR and First Aid training, while thirteen employees attended the adult CPR training. He has been conducting this class there annually since 1999. Bob does an excellent job teaching, and it benefits the field office by reducing travel and registration costs, reducing travel time, scheduling to

meet their needs, and it may save somebody's life in the future.

*Rick Westerhof, Jordan River NFH*

### **Volunteer Positions Posted on the Web at: Volunteer.Gov/Gov**

Columbia Fishery Resources Office (FRO) posted three new volunteer positions at the Volunteer.Gov website. These positions include: a field technician to assist us with field sampling, a laboratory technician to aid us in processing field samples and a library assistant to convert and update our literature database. While several of Region 3's refuges and hatcheries have posted volunteer positions, Columbia FRO is the first fishery resources office to take advantage of this new outreach tool.

*Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO*



For information about student employment programs, please visit:

<http://jobs.fws.gov/STEP.htm>

<http://jobs.fws.gov/SCEP.htm>



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**Paul Bergman (STEP Student) and Jessica Krajniak (STEP Student) are stationed at the Ashland Fishery Resources Office.**



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## Fish Lines

Region 3, Great Lakes/Big Rivers

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Region 3

Division of Fisheries

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## Windows in Time

*A Glimpse into our Proud Past*



*Left: A pre-1978 picture shows a Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (a predecessor agency to the US Fish and Wildlife Service) employee stocking fish into a pond at the Tomah Veterans Administration Hospital. Right: Today, Genoa NFH, La Crosse FRO, and La Crosse FHC continue the tradition and also conduct an annual National Fishing Day event for hospital patients.*



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