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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fish Lines

Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers

Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing, and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems

Genoa and Iron River National Fish Hatcheries Dedicate New Buildings



-USFWS

The building in the foreground is Genoa NFH's new lake sturgeon culture facility.



-USFWS

This building replaced Iron River NFH's air-filled dome that houses lake trout and brook trout brood stock.

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To view other issues of "Fish Lines", see our Regional website at: (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/>)



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

Region 3 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. Aquatic Invasive Species

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

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

The vision of the Service's Fisheries Program is working with partners to restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels and to support Federal mitigation programs for the benefit of the American public.

Implementing this vision will help the Fisheries Program do more for aquatic resources and the people who value and depend on them through enhanced partnerships, scientific integrity, and a balanced approach to conservation.

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La Crosse FRO Welcomes Louise Mauldin

Click here to visit our Fisheries Web Site

Great Lakes - Big Rivers Region Fisheries Field Offices

National Fish Hatcheries

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

Sea Lamprey Control Stations

Sea Lamprey Control Stations assess and control sea lamprey populations throughout the Great Lakes. The U.S. Department of State and Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans fund this program through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Fishery Resources Offices

Fishery Resources Offices conduct assessments of fish populations to guide management decisions, perform key monitoring and control activities related to invasive, aquatic species; survey and evaluate aquatic habitats to identify restoration/rehabilitation opportu-

nities; play a key role in targeting and implementing native fish and habitat restoration programs; work with private land owners, states, local governments and watershed organizations to complete aquatic habitat restoration projects under the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Great Lakes Coastal Programs; provide coordination and technical assistance toward the management of interjurisdictional fisheries; maintain and operate several key interagency fisheries databases; provide technical expertise to other Service programs addressing contaminants, endangered species, federal project review and hydro-power operation and re-licensing; evaluate and manage fisheries on Service lands; and, provide technical support to 38 Native American tribal governments and treaty authorities. In other Regions of the Service, FRO's are also referred to as Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance 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.

Great Lakes - Big Rivers Region Fisheries Field Offices



List of Acronyms

DNR- Department of Natural Resources
 FHC- Fish Health Center
 FRO- Fishery Resources Office
 NFH- National Fish Hatchery
 NWR- National Wildlife Refuge

Feature Story - Genoa and Iron River National Fish Hatcheries Dedicate New Buildings

Summer is a time to celebrate: school's out, the weather is warm, the days are long and the nights are balmy.

Two Wisconsin national fish hatcheries had extra reason to celebrate during the summer of 2005. Genoa NFH, along the Mississippi River in southeastern Wisconsin, and Iron River NFH, near Lake Superior in the northern part of the state, both dedicated new buildings that will enhance their ability to restore native midwestern fish species.

With help from many Friends, Genoa NFH dedicated its new lake sturgeon culture facility on August 9. The hatchery open house and building dedication featured such distinguished speakers as U.S. Representative Ron Kind of Wisconsin, Fish and Wildlife Service Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Mamie Parker, and Charlie Wooley, deputy regional director for the Midwest Region.



-USFWS

Representative Ron Kind cuts the first ribbon to dedicate the new lake sturgeon culture facility at the Genoa NFH. Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Mamie Parker, Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley, and Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries Gerry Jackson assisted with the dedication.

The hatchery's new lake sturgeon building features state-of-the-art sturgeon culture systems that will allow more than 30,000 sturgeon fingerlings per year to be released into four different restoration areas, including Menominee Tribal waters in Wisconsin and White Earth Tribal waters in Minnesota.

Genoa NFH has been raising lake sturgeon for stocking in tribal waters since 1994. In 2002, the hatchery recognized that it needed expanded facilities and water supplies for this burgeoning program. Construction on the new lake sturgeon building began in 2004.

Local contractors built the facility and its flooring, with the hatchery staff completing the plumbing. The new building has state-of-the-art water heating and water treatment systems for production of healthy fish.

In his remarks, Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley congratulated Genoa hatchery manager Doug Aloisi and his staff on the success of the hatchery's sturgeon management program.

"Doug and his staff have taken a small program, with a minimal budget, and built a program that we are proud to recognize," Wooley said. "The staff here at Genoa is requested to not only produce sturgeon for restoration programs, but also to provide their knowledge and expertise to help others build similar programs."

More than 300 people from the local community and across the country came to the event on a warm summer Tuesday to enjoy activities such as a kids fishing tank, tours of the new building, lake sturgeon restoration exhibits, a video presentation of freshwater mussel culture, Great Lakes lake trout restoration exhibit, and a National Wildlife Refuge System display featuring the McGregor district of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

After feasting on fried catfish provided by local commercial fishing operations and prepared by the hatchery staff and volunteers and listening to a formal speaking program, about 150 people and some 40,000

lake sturgeon fingerlings (who seemed pleased with their new home) witnessed the ribbon cutting ceremony that officially opened the new sturgeon building for business. Not one stomach went home empty, nor one question went unasked by anyone on that pleasantly warm summer day.

“My staff and I are very grateful for the support that has been given to us by our Friends Group, and the local community,” Aloisi stated. “The community has been very supportive of its National Fish Hatchery over the years, and this building dedication is just a great day to celebrate the support that we have enjoyed over the years.”



-USFWS

More than 300 people from the local community and across the country attended the lake sturgeon building dedication at the Genoa NFH.

Genoa's colleagues to the north from the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office and La Crosse Fish Health Center were on hand to discuss how sound fishery management practices and good fish health principles tie in with hatchery production to help restore sturgeon populations.

Many of the hatchery's state and tribal conservation partners also helped to dedicate Genoa's new building, which is currently in production and houses more than 40,000 lake sturgeon fingerlings. These fish are produced for ongoing restoration efforts in two tribal areas, and two areas in Minnesota and Wisconsin that are part of the lake sturgeon's historic range.

Lake sturgeon are a species of concern in the Upper Midwest; because of population declines, this species has suffered over its native range and the relatively long time it takes for a lake sturgeon to mature. Sturgeon also have specific habitat requirements needed for successful reproduction.

Many thanks need to be expressed to our event sponsor, the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Fisheries Services, a support group for the three fisheries field offices in the La Crosse area.

Established in the 1930s, Genoa's original mission was to supply bass and bluegill to area waters. In the 1950s, because of its location by the Mississippi River, the hatchery turned to sportfish restoration, supplying northern pike and walleye collected from the river to state conservation and fish and game agencies to bolster existing fisheries, or to create new fisheries.

Today, Genoa's mission is focused on recovering threatened and endangered aquatic species such as the Higgins' eye pearl mussel and winged mapleleaf mussels; restoring declining native species such as lake sturgeon and coaster brook trout; and assisting in the fisheries management on Federal and tribal lands.

Iron River Dedication

Just four days after Genoa's event, on Saturday, August 13, dignitaries and community members gathered some 250 miles to the north at Iron River NFH to dedicate two new buildings.



-USFWS

(Lt. to Rt.) Project Leader Dale Bast, State Assemblyman Gary Sherman, Karen Graaf representing Senator Feingold, and Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries Gerry Jackson cut the ribbon to dedicate the new production and brood stock buildings at the Iron River NFH.

Some 200 guests helped Iron River hatchery manager Dale Bast and his staff dedicate the new trout buildings. A formal program featured Karen Graaf, an aide to U.S. Senator Russell Feingold, State Representative Gary Sherman, and Midwest Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries Gerry Jackson.

Many hatchery partners brought displays and information to the open house. Iron River would like to thank these exhibitors: Gary Cholwek from the U.S. Geological Survey Lake Superior Station; Roger Gordon from Genoa NFH; Tracy Roessner from Pendills Creek/Sullivan Creek NFH Complex; Ken Phillips, Corey Puzach, and Ashley Umberger from La Crosse Fish Health Center; Glenn Miller from the Ashland Fishery Resources Office; John and Denise Johnston from Jordan River NFH; and Gregg Baldwin and Bob Kahl from Marquette Biological Station.



Approximately 200 people enjoyed the exhibits provided by the Fish and Wildlife Service offices, partners, and stakeholders during the Iron River NFH buildings dedication.



-USFWS photos

The two buildings dedicated replaced the hatchery's air-filled domes that housed raceways full of lake trout and brook trout. The air-filled domes had been built in 1989 to cover open raceways and protect production fish and captive adults from predators and the disease organisms they carry. The new metal buildings will better withstand loads of snow dropped during northern Wisconsin winters.

Construction on the new buildings began in May 2004 and was completed last November. The buildings survived their first Northland winter, but summer seemed like the perfect time to formally celebrate their completion.

The smaller building is 140 feet by 190 feet, and the larger one is 146 feet by 416 feet — bigger than a football field. The buildings hold a total of 32 raceways that are now full of coaster brook trout and lake trout, which are among the native fish species the Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for conserving.

“We are working to conserve fish and freshwater mussels, restore and preserve the places they live,” said Gerry Jackson. “This region is also a leader in fisheries science and technology, and we pride ourselves on working closely with our partners, especially when it comes to providing assistance to our Native American tribes. These two new buildings will help us to continue these efforts. Dale, my congratulations to you and your staff on making them a reality.”

Established in 1979, Iron River NFH produces 1.4 million lake trout annually for stocking in lakes Huron, Michigan, and Superior.

The hatchery also raises approximately 100,000 coaster brook trout eggs, fry, fingerlings, yearlings, and adults as part of the effort to restore depleted populations. The hatchery stocks coasters into streams and rivers flowing into Lake Superior in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

For detailed information about the Genoa NFH, contact the office at (608) 689-2605 or visit their website at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

For detailed information about the Iron River NFH, contact the office at (715) 372-8510 or visit their website at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ironriver/>

Partnerships and Accountability

Winged Mapleleaf Mussel Fact Sheet Debuts at Fisheries Society Meeting

The recently published U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) fact sheet "Host Fish Identification and Early Life Thermal Requirements for the Federal Endangered Winged Mapleleaf Mussel" debuted at a September 13 reception for Department of the Interior employees who attended the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Anchorage, Alaska. This fact sheet, co-authored by La Crosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) biologist Mark Steingraeber and USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center research fishery biologist Teresa Newton, summarizes the successful results of recent early life history investigations for this endangered species conducted at the science center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. It is on-line at: http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/reports_publications/fact_sheets/winged_mapleleaf.html. This reception at the annual international gathering of fishery professionals was hosted by these Interior agencies to highlight the success of recent efforts within the Department to collaborate in solving some of the many aquatic natural resource issues that confront the nation.

Mark Steingraeber, La Crosse FRO



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The U.S. Geological Survey fact sheet titled "Host Fish Identification and Early Life Thermal Requirements for the Federal Endangered Winged Mapleleaf Mussel" was co-authored by Mark Steingraeber of the La Crosse FRO.

Binational Program Lake Superior Work Group/ Committees Meet

Ashland FRO biologists Henry Quinlan and Ted Koehler attended the Lake Superior Binational Program Work Group and Committees meeting in the Thunder Bay area of Ontario, Canada, September 27 to 29. Basin-wide natural resource coordination took place in the areas of aquatics, chemical, habitat, terrestrial wildlife, and communications. Meeting attendees also discussed and updated work plans for 2005-2006 and recent work on the U.S. Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and binational cooperative monitoring. The group began preparing for several upcoming meetings. Committees met in Thunder Bay the first day and the work group met at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park.

The Canadian and U.S. governments, as well as the Province of Ontario, and the states of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin formed the Binational Program to restore and protect Lake Superior by supporting a diverse, healthy, and sustainable natural community in the Lake Superior basin. The Binational Program plays a key role in the integration of land use planning efforts across jurisdictions such as the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site in Ontario and Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Northern Wisconsin.

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Ashland FRO Assists Michigan with Lake Trout Aging

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently requested technical assistance from Joan Bratley of Ashland FRO in the form of training for staff on lake trout aging. Bratley gave hands-on training at the DNR's Marquette Fisheries Station.

Accurate determination of lake trout age is a key parameter in fishery models used to determine total allowable catch in 1836 and 1842 Treaty Waters of Lake Superior. Model analysis of age data helps fishery managers maintain sustainable sport and commercial fisheries.

Joan Bratley, Ashland FRO

Friends Take a Hike at Iron River

The Friends of the Iron River National Fish Hatchery hosted a fall hike along the newly created trails through the hatchery property on October 8. Both old friends and new ones enjoyed the fall colors on the picture perfect autumn day. The group began working on the trails this summer, to get them ready to open to the public for cross-country skiing by winter. The hike provided enjoyable outdoor exercise as well as ideas for what needs to be done before winter. Plans are in the works to set up a gravel parking lot and build small foot bridges over small springs along the trail for next summer. After the 1½ hour hike, the hungry hikers enjoyed great food at a potluck barbecue!

Angela Baran, Iron River NFH



-USFWS

The Friends of the Iron River National Fish Hatchery hosted a fall hike along newly created trails throughout the hatchery property.

Fish and Wildlife Service Personnel Attend Mussel and Fish Kill Workshop

Staff from the Marquette Biological Station Sea Lamprey Management Program attended a workshop titled "Investigation and Valuation of Fish and Mussel Kills," hosted by the Michigan and Indiana chapters of the American Fisheries Society. The workshop was designed for field personnel who investigate such incidents in both freshwater and marine environments. The sea lamprey program continues to work closely with partners to control populations of sea lampreys in tributaries of the Great Lakes to protect the fishery and related economic activities in the basin, an estimated benefit of \$4 billion to \$6 billion each year to the region.

John Weisser, Marquette Biological Station

Interior Agencies in Northern Wisconsin Hold Autumn Picnic

Department of the Interior natural resources agencies from Ashland, Wisconsin, convened for an annual employee, volunteer, and family autumn picnic and cookout at Prentice Park. The date of September 23 was chosen to coincide with the presence of a large Sea Lamprey Control program crew that was treating area streams for invasive sea lamprey. Picnickers hailed from Ashland FRO, Whittlesey Creek NWR, Sea Lamprey Control, USGS - Lake Superior Biological Station, National Park Service - Great Lakes Network Office and Great Lakes Exotic Management Team, Bad River Tribe, and Northland College. Glenn Miller of the Ashland FRO grilled brats and burgers for everyone.

Mark Dryer, Ashland FRO



-USFWS

Department of the Interior employees, along with their family members and volunteers, hold an annual picnic for agencies located in the Ashland, Wisconsin, area.

Life-Long Learners Hear About the Long-Lived Paddlefish

Approximately 25 retirees, members of The Learning Club of the Institute for Lifelong Learning at Winona State University, participated in a September 6 tour of recently constructed islands in Polander Lake, a backwater of the Upper Mississippi River within the Winona District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Before the group proceeded with refuge staff on the island tour to see first-hand this successful Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, La Crosse FRO biologist Mark Steingraeber briefed the attentive retirees on paddlefish, a state protected species in Minnesota. Paddlefish use Polander Lake but are seldom seen by most visitors. Recent FRO studies indicate that this long-lived fish has benefited from island construction activities. Following the tour, the life-long learners better appreciated the significance of recently built Paddlefish Island, so-named because of its close proximity to refuge habitat sites now used by this ancient species.

Mark Steingraeber, La Crosse FRO

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Fish Population Estimate Performed in Whittlesey Creek

Biologists recently conducted six days of back pack and barge shocking electrofishing surveys in Whittlesey Creek near Ashland, Wisconsin, to obtain a population estimate for salmon and trout species, including coaster brook trout plants conducted in 2005. Staff from the Wisconsin DNR, Ashland FRO, Whittlesey Creek NWR, Iron River NFH, and the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited joined efforts to collect this important population information. This survey is part of a long-term data set the Wisconsin DNR has been collecting on Whittlesey Creek, and part of the experiment to establish a self-sustaining coaster brook trout population in Whittlesey Creek.

Population estimates will be conducted annually for a nine-year period that started in 2003. Approximately 950 young-of-the-year brook trout, of which many are likely from a fry plant in June, were netted in the survey. Brook trout stocked in 2004 as yearlings were also netted.

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO



-USFWS

Biologists from the Wisconsin DNR, Ashland FRO, Whittlesey Creek NWR, Iron River NFH, and the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited joined efforts to collect important population information for salmon and trout species, including coaster brook trout (pictured) in Whittlesey Creek near Ashland, Wisconsin.

Isle Royale Status and Trends Stream Surveys Conducted

Jonathan Pyatskowit and Henry Quinlan from the Ashland FRO sampled six streams at Isle Royale National Park to describe fish community status and trends, with specific interest in brook trout populations. Between September 9 and 14, they sampled Washington Creek, Grace Creek, Big Siskiwit River, Little Siskiwit River, Siskiwit River, and Benson Creek.

Sampling is designed to detect changes in the fish population over several survey cycles. The sampling scheme uses a mark-and-recapture population estimate annually for three years followed by three years of no sampling and then three more years of sampling. Study sites are electrofished one day and the brook trout marked with a caudal clip for identification during a subsequent recapture on the second day. A population estimate is calculated using this information. Pyatskowit and Quinlan also measured, weighed, scale sampled, and collected tissue from the caudal fin clip for later genetic analysis. They identified by species and counted other fish captured.

Habitat work is done during year one and again in the seventh year. Thirteen transects per stream are examined. Habitat measurements consist of instream (discharge, width and depth, substrate, stream characteristic, and woody debris) and riparian (predominant vegetation, bank stability, and bank characteristic) measurements. Habitat characteristics can be correlated with observed fish population estimates.

Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

Pallid Sturgeon Tagged and Stocked at Neosho NFH

The remainder of the 3,611 fish of the 2004 year class of Federally endangered pallid sturgeon were stocked into the Missouri River at Miami, Missouri, as part of the Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Plan. All of the fish were elastomer and Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagged, allowing biologists to determine that the fish were reared at a hatchery—in this case, Neosho. The pallid sturgeon building at Neosho will be disinfected and prepared for the next group of pallids to minimize chances of spreading diseases to wild fish.

Roderick May, Neosho NFH

Rainbow Trout Arrive at Neosho NFH

The September shipment of eyed rainbow trout eggs arrived on time and in good condition at the Neosho NFH. The hatchery receives five shipments of eggs per year; each shipment contains around 80,000 eggs. Neosho NFH is a production hatchery meaning it relies on brood stock stations, such as Ennis NFH in Montana, to provide disease-free eggs for their cold water culture program.

Roderick May, Neosho NFH

Aquatic Invasive Species

Biologists Sample for Aquatic Invasive Species

From September 26 to 28, biologists Adam Kowalski and Scott Koproski completed bottom trawling for aquatic invasive species in Northern Lake Huron and the St. Mary's River. Kowalski and Koproski trawled seven study sites using the R/V Sentinel. They found round goby in all of the Lake Huron sites but found none in any of the St. Marys River sites. They did not find ruffe at any of the sites sampled. This is similar to the 2004 trawling results.

Biologists survey for invasive species such as Eurasian ruffe and round goby annually to locate newly established populations and monitor existing populations. This project is designed to monitor invasive species populations and prevent their spread, if possible, consistent with the Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Program "Vision for the Future" to prevent new introductions of aquatic invasive species.

Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO



-USFWS photo by Anjanette Bowen
Alpena FRO biologists sample for invasive species including round goby in Northern Lake Huron and the St. Mary's River. Invasive round goby were detected in all of the Lake Huron sites, but none were found in the St. Marys River sites.



-USFWS
Alpena FRO did not detect any new populations of invasive Eurasian ruffe during aquatic invasive species surveys in Northern Lake Huron and the St. Mary's River.

Students Learn by Doing in Aquatic Ecology Class

Fish and Wildlife Service staff gave lectures and field trips to 65 middle school students at the Clear Lake Nature Center located near Manistique, Michigan. Students gained a greater appreciation of the importance of a healthy ecosystem and the harmful effects of non-native species on our environment. Live sea lampreys, rusty crayfish, as well as native fish and invertebrates were studied. Students also collected and identified aquatic organisms from Clear Lake.

John Weisser, Marquette Biological Station



-GLFC
Bob Kahl explains about the negative impacts that invasive sea lampreys have on the environment to middle school students at the Clear Lake Nature Center.

Public Use

Alpena FRO's Web Site Gets a Face Lift

Web developer Anjie Bowen updated and revised the Alpena FRO web site (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena>) in late September. The site provides an overview of Alpena FRO aquatic species and habitat conservation and management activities including lake trout and lake sturgeon population investigations, treaty fishery management assistance, habitat and ecosystem restoration, and aquatic invasive species management. It also houses station reports and fact sheets for viewing.

Located in Northeastern Michigan, Alpena FRO meets Fish and Wildlife Service fishery priorities and objectives in Lake Huron and Western Lake Erie, including connecting waters of the St. Marys River and the St. Clair/Detroit River waterway.

Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO



The Alpena FRO website provides an overview of the station's aquatic species and habitat conservation and management activities including lake trout and lake sturgeon population investigations, treaty fishery management assistance, habitat and ecosystem restoration, and aquatic invasive species management.

Mussel-Minded Students Keep Their Cool

On a hot and humid September day, nearly 280 sixth grade students from four public and four parochial schools in Houston County, Minnesota, participated in the seventh annual Environmental Field Day sponsored by the Root River Soil and Water Conservation District at Camp Winnebago near Caledonia, Minnesota. In the shade of the camp's picturesque valley, beneath steep, forested, sandstone bluffs and near the banks of a cold, clear, spring-fed stream filled with trout, La Crosse FRO biologist Mark Steingraeber gave eight presentations on the biology of freshwater mussels, the environmental and economic significance of this imperiled taxa, threats to their existence, and actions to reduce the spread and impact of invasive zebra mussels. Each presentation concluded with an opportunity for the attentive students to handle several live mussels exhibited in a tank of water from the cool stream. Based on the enthusiastic willingness of most students to get wet during this opportunity and on several other occasions on such a steamy day, the Fish and Wildlife Service should have no trouble enlisting a cadre on young new volunteers who are willing to 'pollywog' for mussels on upcoming surveys. *Mark Steingraeber, La Crosse FRO*



-USFWS

Some 6th grade students check out the native mussels at the La Crosse FRO display. Mark Steingraeber participated in the 7th annual Environmental Field Day sponsored by the Root River Soil and Water Conservation District.

Journalists Learn about Lake Superior and Coaster Brook Trout

During recent survey work at Isle Royale National Park, Ashland FRO biologists Henry Quinlan and Jonathan Pyatskowitz addressed 16 journalists from around the country as part of the 2005 Great Waters Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources (IJNR) program. The Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources is a non-profit organization that "seeks to pursue higher standards of news coverage through expedition-style programs of professional development."

Pyatskowitz and Quinlan provided journalists with insight into successful fishery rehabilitation efforts in Lake Superior, a comparison to the status of fisheries in other Great Lakes and an exploration into the mystique of migratory coaster brook trout. During a morning session, Quinlan, former Isle Royale commercial fisherman Mark Rudd, and Park Service staff detailed from their perspectives the changes and current status of Great Lakes fisheries, with an

emphasis on Lake Superior and Isle Royale.

In the afternoon, Pyatskowitz and Quinlan surveyed Benson Creek to shed light on efforts by Lake Superior fishery agencies to rehabilitate coaster brook trout. During fish work-up, they held a discussion and question and answer session about the unique life history of coasters and associated genetic research to determine how they migrate. The capture of beautifully colored, ripe, male brook trout and abundant young-of-the-year, as well as many non-native rainbow trout made for an interesting discussion and potential material for future articles.

IJNR attempts to improve the quality of the conversations that produce the coverage, especially the conversations between journalists and their sources. Such interaction is an essential starting point for improving the quality of the public conversation and debate on natural-resource and environmental issues.

Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

Students Learn About Fisheries at Shiawassee NWR

On September 20, approximately 35 students from Buena Vista High School in Saginaw, Michigan, visited Shiawassee NWR to learn about the Fish and Wildlife Service's Refuge and Fishery programs. Shiawassee NWR Park Ranger Becky Goche and Anjanette Bowen, a biologist at Alpena FRO, hosted the event, which was funded by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Challenge Cost Share Program and the Buena Vista High School.

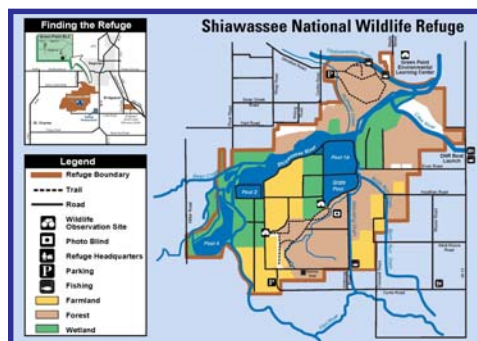
Bowen and Goche demonstrated fish sampling gear and techniques to allow students to learn how biologists sample a variety of aquatic habitats and fish species. Students and instructors surveyed a pond on the refuge with trap nets and minnow traps to allow students to participate in fishery data collection. A variety of native fish species including northern pike, lake trout, yellow perch, and brown bullhead along with the invasive sea lamprey were on display for identification.

Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

Neosho NFH Reaches Out

Biologist Ralph Simmons represented Neosho NFH and worked a booth at the annual "Carver Prairie Days" at Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri, honoring George Washington Carver and his many works with the peanut. In addition, hatchery manager David Hendrix and assistant hatchery manager Roderick May set up a booth at Wildcat Park on October 1. The Outdoor Channel was there doing interviews to find a select few that will be the host of their own fishing show for a week.

Roderick May, Neosho NFH



Cooperation with Native Americans

Coaster Brook Trout Planted in the Keweenaw

Biologist Steve Redman from the Iron River NFH recently stocked coaster brook trout with assistance from personnel of the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Resources Department. The crew stocked three tribal tributary streams of Lake Superior with two- to three-inch fingerling coaster brook trout reared at the Iron River NFH. Kelsey Creek and Zeba creeks each received 7,500 fingerlings and the Silver River was stocked with 15,000 fingerlings. All stocked fish had been marked with oxytetracycline and fin clipped at the hatchery prior to release. Marking allows biologists to monitor the status of the coaster brook trout in these habitats.

Since 1997, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Fish and Wildlife Service have been coordinating this annual event as part of the rehabilitation plan for Lake Superior coaster brook trout. The combined efforts have led to continued monitoring of coaster brook trout status, distribution, movement, and abundance of re-introduced fish. Along with these accomplishments, the tribe has also acquired additional land, performed stream habitat improvements, and removed barriers that impact coaster brook trout rehabilitation.

Steve Redman, Iron River NFH



-USFWS

Personnel from the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Resources Department stock fingerling coaster brook trout that were provided by the Iron River NFH. Three Lake Superior tributary streams were stocked with 22,500 fish as part of a rehabilitation plan for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

Alpena FRO Assists the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority with Walleye Assessments

Biologist Scott Koproski assisted the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) with its annual juvenile walleye assessment of the St. Marys River near Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, in September. Using the Alpena FRO's electrofishing vessel, Koproski and two CORA staff sampled four locations in the St. Marys River system (Waiska Bay, Lake Nicolet, Lake George, and Sugar Island Side Channel). The objective of this work is to determine the percent contribution of hatchery-reared walleye to the St. Marys River walleye population and to index juvenile walleye abundance. Hatchery stocked walleye are immersed in oxytetracycline (OTC) prior to release, leaving them with marks on calcified structures like otoliths and vertebrae that can be detected in the lab. Data collected will also be used to determine appropriate stocking levels and stocking locations for this system. Staff

from the Alpena FRO has been assisting CORA with this walleye assessment for the past 13 years.

Walleye are both a recreationally and commercially important species in 1836 Treaty waters. The Alpena FRO will continue to evaluate stocking success by CORA in the future, which will benefit the resource and all harvesting parties.

Scott Koproski, Alpena FRO



-USFWS

Walleyes were the focus of an assessment in 1836 Treaty waters. Alpena FRO assisted the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority with their annual juvenile walleye assessment of the St. Marys River.

Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist Chairs Subcommittee Meeting

Biologist Aaron Woldt of the Alpena FRO attended and chaired the September meeting of the Modeling Subcommittee of the Technical Fisheries Committee. The primary focus of this meeting was to generate preliminary 2006 harvest limits for lake whitefish management units in 1836 Treaty waters of lakes Huron, Superior, and Michigan, although the group discussed other technical matters as well. As stipulated in the 2000 Consent Decree, preliminary lake whitefish harvest limits must be calculated by the subcommittee, reviewed by the committee, and presented to the parties to the decree by November 1 each year.

In addition to performing lake whitefish model analyses, Woldt ran the modeling subcommittee meeting, ensuring that the group discussed all agenda items and kept meeting minutes. A preliminary draft of the meeting minutes was mailed to subcommittee members for review.

Preliminary lake whitefish harvest limits were presented to the Technical Fisheries Committee for review on October 4. The subcommittee will complete final lake whitefish harvest limits and present them to the committee at its December 2 meeting. Harvest limits produced at this meeting, when approved by the parties, will become binding 2006 lake whitefish harvest limits for 1836 Treaty waters. These harvest limits will allow lake whitefish fisheries to be executed while still protecting the biological integrity of the lake whitefish stocks.

Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO

Brook Trout Run for the Border Again!

On August 15, 46,000 coaster brook trout fingerlings found themselves on the way to Grand Portage, Minnesota. Iron River NFH supplied the coaster fingerlings to the Grand Portage tribe as part of a new restoration plan. Of the total, 11,000 Tobin Harbor strain coaster brook trout were stocked into Grand Portage Creek and 35,000 Siskiwit Bay strain coaster brook trout were driven nearly to the United States/Canada border check station, and then down a dirt road to where they were stocked into the Pigeon River. The Pigeon River helps to form part of the international border and flows into Lake Superior.

Angela Baran, Iron River NFH

Midwest Tribal Aquaculture Network Features Fish Ponds

The Ashland FRO has the distinction of providing technical assistance for the development of numerous tribal fish hatchery programs. One contribution to these programs is publication of a quarterly newsletter, the Midwest Tribal Aquaculture Network (MTAN), which is dedicated to assisting tribal hatchery programs by sharing cool/cold water fish culture information. The most recent addition of the MTAN (Volume 53) is now available on the Internet at <http://midwest.fws.gov/ashland/mtan/mtanhome.html>. This quarter's newsletter discusses repairing fish pond levees, renovating leaky ponds, a new and innovative aerator system, and reference material from the American Fisheries Society.

The MTAN has been assisting tribal fish hatchery programs for the past 13 years. The reward from this kind of technical assistance is in knowing we are providing information that enables hatchery programs to better use their resources and provide a healthier product for the fishery. The MTAN has also helped to educate fish hatchery workers and direct them to other areas of opportunity so they can better research their specific needs. Previous issues of the MTAN newsletters are also accessible at the above web site.

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO



The Midwest Tribal Aquaculture Network (MTAN) is dedicated to assisting tribal hatchery programs by sharing cool/cold water fish culture information.

Fish and Wildlife Service Provides Assessment Training to Tribal Biologists

Biologists from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Bad River, and Red Cliff fisheries departments attended a stock assessment modeling workshop at the Ashland FRO. The participants saw presentations on fishery modeling methods and harvest policies, and learned how to use AD Model Builder software through a series of guided exercises. John Netto of the Green Bay FRO led the workshop activities while Glen Miller and Henry Quinlan from the Ashland FRO handled the logistics. *John Netto, Green Bay FRO*

Leadership in Science and Technology

Guidelines Drafted for Sturgeon Conservation, Propagation, and Stocking

A work group of the Lake Michigan Lake Sturgeon Task Group has drafted guidelines for genetic conservation, propagation, and stocking of lake sturgeon in Lake Michigan, including background information on the current genetic structuring and diversity of remaining populations in the Lake Michigan basin and the potential risks to and importance of conserving this diversity when initiating rehabilitation of the species. The document identifies six guiding principles for lake sturgeon rehabilitation and describes actions and rationale for determining when stocking is warranted, selecting a donor population, collecting gametes, determining stocking numbers, rearing techniques, release techniques, and evaluation. Biologist Rob Elliott from the Green Bay FRO serves as chair of the work group and worked with Ed Baker (Michigan DNR), Marty Holtgren (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians), and Brad Eggold (Wisconsin DNR) to lead the drafting of this document. Project leaders Mark Holey (Green Bay FRO) and Doug Aloisi (Genoa NFH) also participated.

This document is based on information presented and discussed at meetings of the task group in September 2003 and June 2004. A draft was distributed for further review in February 2005. These guidelines are part of the Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Plan for Lake Michigan, which the task group is developing. Participants in the workgroup that developed these guidelines include representatives from the Lake

Michigan resource agencies with expertise in lake sturgeon biology and culture, and seven experts from various universities with experience in sturgeon genetics.

This document is being expanded to provide Great Lakes-wide guidelines for genetics conservation and stocking, an effort being coordinated by Amy Welsh, a Ph.D. student from the University of California - Davis. Questions or comments may be directed to Rob Elliott, Lake Michigan Lake Sturgeon Task Group Chair, Green Bay FRO (920-866-1762, Robert.F.Elliott@fws.gov).
Robert Elliott, Green Bay FRO



-photo from the Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Web Site

Great Lakes Fishery Resources Offices are heavily involved with lake sturgeon management in the Great Lakes.

**Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon
Web Site**



For additional information on Great Lakes lake sturgeon visit the web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/sturgeon/>

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Fish Use of Wing Dams Evaluated on the Mississippi River

Last summer, the Army Corps of Engineers' St. Paul, Minnesota, District contracted with the La Crosse FRO to initiate fishery surveys to provide baseline information to aid in evaluating fishery responses to proposed wing dam notching activities on the Upper Mississippi River.

La Crosse FRO staff and volunteers sampled the fish communities with standardized gears at 40 wing dams in an 11.7-mile reach of Pool 2 (river mile 824.6 to 836.3) during mid-August. River discharge at this time was very low and ranged from 4,900 to 7,100 cubic feet per second at Lock and Dam 2. Electrofishing crews sampled 20 wing dams in an 8.9-mile reach of the pool, and 20 wing dams in a 6.4-mile reach of the pool were sampled with fyke nets set overnight. Electrofishing was conducted during daylight hours following guidelines recommended by the Long Term Resource Monitoring Program for sampling wing dam habitat with this gear. La Crosse FRO staff also conducted electrofishing at 10 wing dams where the District has proposed notching (treatment sites) and at 10 wing dams where notching is not anticipated (control sites). The duration of sampling at each site was 15 minutes.

Staff and volunteers collected 326 fish representing 25 species during the study. Channel catfish were the dominant species, exceeding 20 percent of the catch. The catch at test sites totaled 148 fish and comprised 18 species, six of which were not collected at control sites. Meanwhile, the catch at control sites totaled 148 fish of

19 species, seven of which were not collected at test sites. The most notable difference in species diversity was the capture of nine gizzard shad at test sites (representing 6 percent of the catch there) and the absence of this species in the catch at control sites. A post-construction evaluation of the fishery will be conducted in the summer 2006. Wing dams and closing dams constructed for channel management in Navigation Pool 2 of the Upper Mississippi River have significantly modified hydraulic conditions and sediment transport, resulting in degraded main channel border and secondary channel habitat in Pool 2. The St. Paul District evaluated the 215 wing dams and closing dams in Pool 2 for modification to improve habitat conditions. Proposed modifications include notching wing dams and closing dams to increase current velocity in these areas, which will mean greater bathymetric and substrate diversity. The District also evaluated increasing the flow in secondary channels and restoring a specific side channel area for aquatic habitat benefits. An initial evaluation of wing dam and closing dam notching, as well as side channel restoration, was performed as part of the Lower Pool 2 Channel Management Study completed in January 2002. Environmental aspects of this proposed work are now conducted as part of the Navigation and Environmental Sustainability Program (NESP). As a part of NESP, the District must evaluate the potential effectiveness of proposed habitat improvement actions.

Scott Yess, La Crosse FRO



-USFWS

Tim Yager from Ecological Services (left) and Scott Yess from the La Crosse FRO remove fish from a fyke net. The Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating the fishery around wing dams in Pool 2 of the Mississippi River as part of a study to determine if dam notching improves fishery habitat.

Brook Trout Habitat Restored

Poor land management practices have impaired fish habitat on Upper Ox Creek in Douglas County, Wisconsin. Historic large woody debris have been removed from the stream and higher sediment loads have eliminated or degraded many of the spawning sites and cover habitat for brook trout and other aquatic species. Upper Ox Creek is a spring-fed tributary to the wild and scenic St. Croix River and is designated as Class II trout water.

Working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, County Land Conservation Department, and a private landowner, the Ashland FRO participated in a habitat restoration project on Upper Ox Creek made possible through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. The project consisted of installing large wood structures at selected locations in the stream to restore cover as well as create scour holes to expose spawning gravel. Red pine logs were used to create the structures. A crew from the Gordon Correction Center

performed the majority of the labor and did an excellent job. The results were win-win: the public benefits from the restored habitat and the correctional facility crew gains new experience and insight. The resulting habitat benefits include approximately 1,600 feet of native brook trout habitat restored and 6 acres of riparian area enhanced.

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO



-USFWS

A crew from the Gordon Correction Center set an anchor for a large wood structure in Upper Ox Creek in Douglas County, Wisconsin. The entire Partners for Fish and Wildlife project restored 1,600 feet of brook trout habitat and enhanced 6 acres of riparian habitat.

Partners Coordinator Surmounts End of Year Challenges

The end of the fiscal year is always a challenging time in the government, and this year was no exception. Partners for Fish and Wildlife coordinator Heather Rawlings of the Alpena FRO worked hard to gather final bids for wetland restoration projects in order to obligate remaining 2005 funds. However, construction came to a halt in September after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. After several excavating companies from Northern Michigan—one of which was scheduled to complete Partners projects—traveled to Mississippi and Louisiana to assist with recovery efforts, some projects had to be postponed until

either early winter of 2005 or spring of 2006.

Rawlings completed 2005 monitoring requirements and finalized a number of end-of the year reports through several databases. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program accomplishments for 2005 in Northern Michigan are: Restored 19 acres of wetlands on 6 sites in 5 counties of Northern Michigan; Improved 8,500 acres of Fletcher Floodwater impoundment (Thunder Bay River watershed) by stocking native weevils that eat the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil; Restored four stream bank erosion sites on the Thunder Bay River (Montmorency and Alpena Counties), improving four miles of river; and, Restored three erosion sites on the Pine River, improving water quality on five river miles.

Three erosion sites on the Maple River will be restored in early summer 2006. Improved five miles of the Upper Black River (Montmorency and Cheboygan Counties) for fish habitat by strategic placement of large woody debris, and remove 25 beaver dams in the same watershed, opening 10 river miles to uninhibited fish passage.

Opened ten beaver dams in the Greene Creek watershed on a private landowner's property to open habitat and reduce water temperatures for brook trout. Restored one road-stream crossing site, opening two river-miles on the Jordan River (Antrim County). Two project sites will be completed in 2006, opening 13 miles on the Maple and AuSable River watersheds.

Heather Rawlings, Alpena FRO



-USFWS photo by Heather Rawlings

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Coordinator Heather Rawlings is involved in dozens of habitat restoration projects in Northern Michigan watersheds.

Laymans Creek Culvert Replaced

Through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, the Ashland FRO partnered with the Town of Oma, Wisconsin, and the County Land Conservation Department to replace a culvert that blocked fish passage on Laymans Creek in Iron County. The old culvert, located at Camp 7 Road, was a fish passage barrier to brook trout and other fish. In August 2005, crews replaced the old culvert with a new one set at the proper elevation to allow uninhibited passage by brook trout and other aquatic species.

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Price County Wetland Projects Benefit Many Species

Construction has finished on the Bures, Kempen, and Stratil wetland restoration projects, Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects in the Upper Mississippi River watershed in Price County, Wisconsin. The three projects resulted in restoration of wetland habitat on six, four, and ten acres, respectively. Thirty-eight acres of upland migratory bird nesting cover around the projects were also enhanced and are now protected through 10-year agreements and management plans. These wildlife habitat projects will benefit a host of species including mallards, wood ducks, blue-winged teal, northern harriers, and Le Conte's sparrows. Partners on the projects included the landowners and the Price County Land Conservation Department.

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO



-USFWS

This is one of three Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects completed by the Ashland FRO in Price County, Wisconsin. Twenty acres of wetland habitat was restored at the sites and 38 acres of upland migratory bird nesting cover was enhanced and protected.

Volunteers Restore Habitat during National Public Lands Day

On September 24, the Alpena FRO and Ottawa NWR hosted a National Public Lands Day event that included a small-scale habitat restoration project. This project is an extension of what was accomplished during National Public Lands Day events in 2003 and 2004.

Volunteers applied bank stabilization techniques along 140 feet of Crane Creek at the refuge using soft engineering techniques. Materials used included coconut filter fabric, coir logs, and native live plants and seed mixes. The materials are completely biodegradable within five years, after the vegetation has been established.

Crane Creek is a low gradient stream that flows through the refuge and empties into Lake Erie through a flooded river mouth. The creek provides habitat for migratory birds and Lake Erie fish species and is a vital link between the refuge and the lake. Bank stabilization techniques used in this project will enhance the habitat and reduce sedimentation into the creek without the use of large rock. Examination of the 2003 and 2004 sites showed that although the bank was dominated by thistle, native grasses such as big blue stem as well as forbs were also present and beginning to dominate in the area that was completed in 2003. Within the next two years the native vegetation is expected to out-compete the thistle and provide stabilization roots for the bank as well as food and cover for wildlife.

Alpena FRO biologist Susan Wells and Ottawa Public Use Specialist Rebecca Hinkle planned this project as a National Public

Lands Day event to allow people the opportunity to become involved in habitat management on the refuge. Individuals involved with the project responded positively about the restoration project and enjoyed the opportunity to do hands-on work. Many of the volunteers were from the 2003 and 2004 events and plan on returning for the event in 2006. This project provides an opportunity that seldom is offered to the public, and their efforts can be viewed from the walking trails for everyone to see. Plans have already begun between the Alpena FRO and Ottawa NWR to repeat the project on a larger scale in 2006. Some of the volunteers will be spending their winter growing native vegetation for next year's project.

Susan Wells, Alpena FRO



-USFWS photo by Susan Wells

Volunteers and Fish and Wildlife Service staff stabilized 140 feet of bank along Crane Creek during a National Public Lands Day event at Ottawa NWR.

Workforce Management

La Crosse FRO Welcomes Louise Mauldin

The staff at the La Crosse FRO is very pleased and excited to welcome Louise Mauldin to the team. Louise is a biologist and comes to us after tenure of six years at the Columbia FRO, where she was responsible for assessing fish community response to restoration areas and habitat improvements on the Missouri River, especially Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

Louise started her career downriver from La Crosse at Bellevue, Iowa, with the Iowa DNR at the Long Term Resource Monitoring Station on the Mississippi River. From there she moved to the state fish hatchery near Decorah, Iowa. She then went back to Iowa State University, where she earned her undergraduate degree to complete a Master's degree. Her first experience with the Fish and Wildlife Service was through the Student Career Experience Program. After graduation, Louise was hired full-time at the Columbia FRO.

Louise will help us with our ongoing activities, as well as taking the lead with the National Fish Habitat Initiative in the Driftless area of Southeast Minnesota, Northeast Iowa, and West-central Wisconsin. We are thrilled to have Louise working on our team!
Pam Thiel, La Crosse FRO



-USFWS

Louise Mauldin is ready to handle the big fish at her new duty station at the La Crosse FRO. Louise brings an innovative perspective to the many projects occurring in and around the Upper Mississippi River watershed.

Ashland FRO Honors 2005 Volunteer of the Year at Autumn Picnic

Ashland FRO honored its 2005 volunteers at Prentice Park in Ashland, Wisconsin, in September. Volunteers assisted with fisheries field work, lab analyses, data entry, and public outreach, donating more than 500 hours of hard work. This year Al Pyatskowitz was honored as the Ashland FRO "Volunteer of the Year." Al has worked on the Lake Superior Lake Whitefish Surveys for two seasons, assisting the crew of the R/V Chub with all aspects of fisheries surveys. Al put in more than 62 hours in 2004 and 44 hours in 2005, and was a reliable crewmember under the adverse conditions experienced during surveys on Lake Superior. We really appreciate Al's hard work, and the work of all of our volunteers, who so generously share their time and talents.
Joan Bratley, Ashland FRO



-USFWS

Ashland FRO's "Volunteer of the Year" is Al Pyatskowitz who provided 62 hours in 2004 and 44 hours in 2005.

Alpena FRO has Environmental Compliance and Safety Audit

Alpena FRO participated in an environmental compliance and safety audit in August. Patrick McDermott, Craig Nibbe, and John Hoffman from the Division of Safety, Health, and Environmental Compliance conducted the audit in cooperation with station collateral duty safety officer Anjie Bowen and project leader Jerry McClain. Environmental compliance audits are required every three years and conducted by regional Safety Office personnel.

Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

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-Jerry French Postcard Collection

Windows in time

A Glimpse into our Proud Past

U.S. Fish Hatchery, Alpena, Michigan

The Alpena Fish Hatchery was established in 1883 in the City of Alpena, Alpena County, Michigan. The city of Alpena is located in Northeastern Michigan near Thunder Bay of Lake Huron.

As you will note, the hatchery building was adjacent to the Alpena City Hall. The Hatchery was closed in 1933 and conveyed to the city of Alpena.

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