



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report**

### *Partnerships and Accountability*

#### **Leading, Lifetime, Learning Program Comes to Jordan River National Fish Hatchery**

Two students from Mancelona High School participated in the Leading, Lifetime, Learning Program administered by the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. The program allows special need kids a chance to learn new skills in the workplace. Chris Palmer and Joey Heinze assisted at the hatchery every Monday for two hours from April 4 to May 23.

Some of the activities they helped with were loading the feed truck, cleaning fish tanks, washing windows, organizing the metal building and cleaning the visitor's center. Evaluations were completed on both kids that included several actions items for them to work on. The hatchery enjoyed having them around and certainly appreciated the extra help. Overall, they seemed to enjoy their experience and were surprised that we had a little party in their honor on their last day.

*-Rick Westerhof*

## *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*

### **Distribution Season Begins**

Our first truckloads of lake trout were released into Lake Michigan on April 7, marking the beginning of the 2005 fish distribution season. As of the end of May, we have released 827,847 fish averaging 6.17 inches. Thus far, approximately 89% have been released directly into offshore rearing habitat via the M/V Togue. This will be the last distribution season for the Togue, which is scheduled to be replaced by the M/V Spencer F. Baird, currently under construction, in the coming fall.

*-Wayne Talo*



Loading fish on to the M/V Togue  
Photo by Paul Haver

### **Fingerling Lake Trout Transferred to Pendills Creek NFH**

We transferred approximately 830,000 lake trout averaging 2.32 inches to the Pendills Creek NFH during May 2005 (more precise statistics are listed below). This transfer of fish is an annual occurrence, and serves to make use of the more abundant early rearing space here, maximizing the number of fish produced for the Great Lakes Lake Trout Restoration Program.

#### **2005 Transfers of Lake Trout from Jordan River to Pendills Creek NFH**

Date	Lot #	Number	FPP	Weight (lbs)	Lot #	Totals By Lot Number			
						Number	FPP	Weight (lbs)	Length (inches)
5/19/2005	LLW-05-SUC	255,044	265.12	962.0					
5/20/2005	SAW-05-IRR	102,000	341.0	299.0	LLW-05-SUC	255,044	265.12	962.0	2.401
5/25/2005	SAW-05-IRR	281,745	294.37	957.1	SIW-05-MN	195,686	317.88	615.6	2.260
5/26/2005	SIW-05-MN	195,686	317.88	615.6	SAW-05-IRR	383,745	305.51	1,256.1	2.290
		834,475	294.48	2,833.7		834,475	294.48	2,833.7	2.318

*-Wayne Talo*



### **Acquisition Management Review at Jordan River NFH**

Regional Office staff recently conducted an Acquisition Management Review at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery. On April 26, 2005 Lynn Kelley, Debby Peterson, and Vince Becker of the Contracting and Facilities Management (CFM) Office in Minneapolis, Minnesota made the hatchery one of their five stops for the week while in Michigan.

Lynn reviewed all property maintained at the hatchery and verified that all vehicles were properly marked with Service emblems and license plates, while Debby and Vince reviewed all purchase/delivery orders and credit card purchases for fiscal years 2004 and 2005. It also gave the administrative staff a chance to ask questions about their areas of expertise (i.e. property, IDEAS, etc.)

Since the three visitors mentioned this was the first hatchery they had ever visited, they enjoyed a tour of facilities and a discussion of the lake trout restoration program. They all agreed it would be a nice place to work.

*-Clarice Beckner*

### ***Public Use***

#### **Concord Academy Antrim Tours the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery**

Tim Smigielski and Rick Westerhof provided a hatchery tour to 16 second and third grade kids and six adults from the Concord Academy Antrim on May 18, 2005. The kids were treated to a PowerPoint presentation on “Exotic Invaders” developed by Tim. The presentation teaches kids about invasive species in the Great Lakes and ways to prevent their spread. The kids really enjoyed the show because it was developed by the biggest kid at the hatchery.

The rest of the tour included stops in the tank room to see the little fish, checking out the 30,000 pounds of ice in the freezer, feeding fish in the metal building, cleaning a fish tank courtesy of Denise Johnston, observing Wayne Talo and Bubba Anderson (Pendills Creek NFH) sample count and split fish in the metal building and viewing the yearling lake trout outside. The outside tour was shortened because of “black fly attacks” on the kids. The hatchery provided snacks and drinks so the kids could recover from the black flies.

*-Rick Westerhof*

### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Watch Student Congress in Traverse City**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Watch Student Congress was held in Traverse City, Michigan on May 20, 2005. The workshop focuses on water uses and issues across the Great Lakes. This years list of agencies included: OMI Waste Water Treatment Plant; Grand Traverse County Health Department; Traverse City Light & Power; Richard Forrest Artist and Fly Fisherman; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Grand Traverse Conservation District; Adams Chapter Trout Unlimited; Wings of Wonder; Inland Seas Education Association; Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Center; TCAPS West Senior High School; Great Lakes Maritime Academy; Grand Traverse County Resource Recovery; Traverse City Water Treatment Plant and the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.



The students come from nine schools in the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. Students from grades six through 12 chose the class they wanted to attend. Each class runs for one hour and twenty minutes and is presented in the morning and afternoon. This year, Rick Westerhof and Paul Haver teamed up to provide a brief overview of the hatchery program and fish dissection 101. Rick covered the hatchery information and Paul covered the fish dissection.

The fish dissection was a last minute addition, so the kids were surprised to learn they would be dissecting yearling lake trout. In the morning class, we had two kids out of 27 that were looking a little pale and in the afternoon class we had one kid out of 25 that left just before the dissection began. Under the direction of Paul, the rest of the kids had a great time finding all the parts of the fish, especially seeing the heart still beating.

*-Rick Westerhof*

### **Kids, Kids and More Kids**

On Tuesday, May 24, 2005 the Jordan River NFH was livened up with 125 Kindergarten students from South Maple Elementary of Gaylord, Michigan. The students and teachers decided to make the hatchery one of their stops on their end-of-the-year field trip.

Their tour included viewing hatchery facilities, a PowerPoint presentation on aquatic invasive species, Six Tile water supply, and the fish pumping process. They were also given the opportunity to color a lake trout picture. Some fish looked more like rainbow trout than lake trout, but they all enjoyed themselves. The star of the visit was the adult lake trout mount with attached sea lamprey.



This is the second year in a row that the South Maple Kindergarten class has visited the hatchery. The staff was impressed with how well the children conducted themselves and the good questions they asked. The staff looks forward to continuing the yearly visit.

The students and teachers will be able to see themselves on television. Dan Boss, reporter from the local CBS affiliate, TV9/10, shot footage for his outdoor segment "Hook and Hunting". Mr. Boss has done an excellent job of educating the public by filming the various phases of hatchery life, including receiving lake trout egg shipments, the fish marking program, and distribution of lake trout into Lakes Huron and Michigan.

*-Rick Westerhof*

### ***Cooperation with Native Americans***

(Nothing to report).

### ***Leadership in Science and Technology***

#### **USFWS Biologists Present at IAGLR 2005**

The 48th Annual conference of the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) was held the week of May 23rd 2005 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. On May 26, 2005 Aaron Woldt, Fishery Biologist, Alpena FRO and Tim Smigielski, Fishery Biologist, Jordan River NFH attended the session entitled "Use and Misuse of Tagging Data in the Great Lakes". Aaron and Tim both presented at the session. Aaron presented

on lake trout movement patterns based on coded wire tag (CWT) returns and also presented survival of enhanced quality Lake trout in Lake Huron based on CWT returns. Tim presented an overview of the CWT tagging program in the National Fish Hatchery System in lakes Huron and Michigan.

*-Tim Smigielski*

## ***Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management***

### **City of Alpena River Walk Guard Rail Problem Solved**

The City of Alpena installed a steel guard rail along the length of the Thunder Bay River between the Alpena Oil docks upstream to the 2nd Avenue Bridge. Unfortunately, they blocked off the USFWS dock access for the Togue. After quite a bit of negotiating, a compromise was reached. Apparently the rail sections, although very heavy, are removable. Therefore, when the Togue docked and lake trout were delivered, the city used heavy equipment and removed a section. It all worked out. As a long term solution the city has agreed to make the sections blocking the Federal dock slide open and close. Thanks to Alpena FRO, particularly Aaron Woldt, for resolving this issue and providing safe access for the boat crew during their Great Lakes tour.

*-Tim Smigielski*

## ***Workforce Management***

### **It's A Wrap**

Final touches have been made to the Administrative Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Manual that has been a project of long time FWS employee, Clarice Beckner. Clarice, who has worked at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery for almost 34 years, began accumulating materials while training new administrative personnel at nearby facilities. She then decided to place the information in a manual.



When other administrative personnel heard about the manual, they requested a copy. So far, copies have been provided to 12 FWS offices in Region 3. Rick Westerhof, Project Leader at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, also requested a copy. He has found the manual very helpful when Clarice is out of the office.



*Jordan River NFH, Apr. through May 2005*



Clarice hopes to provide updates and changes to the manual as they occur. She has also requested feedback on those using the manual in hopes of adding other helpful administrative information.

*-Clarice Beckner*