



United States Department of Interior

Fish & Wildlife Service
Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office
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LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

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Volunteers

Chad Jaquith

LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

The Genesee River juvenile lake sturgeon stocking and habitat-use experiment continued in October. This is a cooperative project with USGS and NYSDEC. Juvenile lake sturgeon were sampled with gill nets at two sites in the Genesee River, with a total of nine lake sturgeon recaptured since stocking in September. Eight of the recaptured fish were caught less than a mile from the release site. The ninth sturgeon was caught about three miles downstream toward Lake Ontario. Migration, habitat use, and contaminant monitoring will continue through 2004.

Lake Sturgeon Tributary Database

Database information was provided to Mike Kilby (OMNR law enforcement) for a report on areas in need of enforcement effort due to lake sturgeon presence.

Oneida Lake Lake Sturgeon

Emily advised and demonstrated PIT tagging of juvenile lake sturgeon to Cornell Biological Field Station staff (10/15).

Lake Sturgeon Brochures

A second printing of 12,000 "*Lake Sturgeon: Giant of the Great Lakes*" brochures were received this month and will be distributed soon.

LAKE ONTARIO

The 2003 Lake Ontario biomonitoring program field collections ended this month. Betsy, with the help of staff and volunteers, collected samples at three nearshore stations in Lake Ontario (10/6-7, 14, and 20).

LAKE ERIE

The 2003 Lake Erie lower trophic level monitoring program field collections ended this month. Betsy, with the help of staff and volunteers, collected samples at two stations outside Buffalo Harbor (10/8-9).

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Coordination

The LGLFRO received 75,000 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service version, "*Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers*" stickers. These large stickers describe steps that can be taken to reduce the spread of aquatic nuisance species and will be distributed to partners, anglers, tackle stores, and at outreach events.

Erie Canal

The LGLFRO designed and received 3,000 copies of the new Erie Canal factsheet titled, "*The Erie Canal and Introduced Species.*" The factsheet describes the invasive species issues on the Erie Canal and what anglers, boaters, and

other users of the Canal can do to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

Northern Snakehead

The LGLFRO designed and received 2,500 copies of the new northern snakehead factsheet titled, “*Recognizing Northern Snakehead*.” The factsheet illustrates the differences between the invasive northern snakehead and two native, yet similar looking species, bowfin and burbot. It also describes how to report a snakehead sighting and how to prevent further spread of invasive species.

HABITAT EVALUATION/RESTORATION

Mike W. conducted bathymetric and topographic surveys at Yanty Creek Marsh (Hamlin Beach State Park), a coastal wetland location along the south shore of Lake Ontario (10/7-9). Additional reconnaissance surveys were conducted at seven other coastal marsh locations between Oswego and Rochester. This project is being conducted in support of an ongoing bi-national study investigating the effects of water level management on Lake Ontario nearshore habitat.

Mike W. and Natalie Brown (Buffalo State College), conducted backpack electrofishing surveys at two locations along the south branch of Cazenovia Creek in Holland, NY (10/17). The surveys are being conducted to assess the potential effects of stream stabilization and enhancement projects on the resident fish communities in Cazenovia Creek.

Mike W. participated in a site visit and initial project meeting at LaFarge Corporation property along Elton Creek in the town of Freedom, NY (10/16). This project will involve the restoration of 1.5 miles of prime stream habitat, including the placement of a variety of in-stream “fish-friendly” structures, as well as large-scale stream stabilization and revegetation work.

Mike W. attended a meeting of the Western New York Remedial Advisory Committee Workshop, held at the Buffalo, NY office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (10/10). Representatives of various agencies and institutions gave presentations summarizing initiatives currently underway to rehabilitate the

Great Lakes “Areas of Concern” (AOC) found in western New York, and identified and prioritized “next steps” to facilitate the implementation of AOC-specific remedial action plans.

FISH PASSAGE

The LGLFRO partnered with The Nature Conservancy and the Army Corps of Engineers to remove the Cuddebackville Dam located on the Neversink River. The removal process was initiated (10/22) and will provide access to more than 34 miles of habitat for fish and mussel species.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FEDERAL LANDS)

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS)

Impacts of storm water discharge

Betsy and Cara completed the fall benthic macroinvertebrate collection in Cayuga Creek. Samples were collected from six locations on the Creek (10/1-2). The macroinvertebrate community will be used to evaluate water quality of the creek upstream, on, and downstream of NFARS.

Fort Drum

Emily, Mike W., and Chris conducted brook trout and habitat surveys on Black Creek, Pleasant Creek, and West Creek at Fort Drum (10/20-24). Water flows were high due to rain and snow. Two brook trout were captured in West Creek.

GIS AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Chris gave a presentation, titled “*Value of Great Lakes Aquatic GAP data for the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team*” (10/9) at the National GAP meeting in Ft. Collins, Colorado. The presentation highlighted the potential integration of Aquatic GAP data into the Island and Lake Sturgeon Decision Support System under development by the Ecosystem team.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Mike G. and Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant) conducted the second portion of the Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute at Presque-Isle State Park, PA (10/4). Participants included

teachers, charter captains, and representatives from angling organizations and state agencies. Mike discussed LGLFRO office programs and distributed recent invasive species information.

OTHER

Betsy completed the LGLFRO's Annual Volunteer Report for the Regional Office. A total of 38 volunteers contributed 954 hours in FY2003.

This monthly report provides a brief, in-house report on recent activities, issues or events of the Lower Great Lakes Office. Its contents should not be used or cited elsewhere in any way without first contacting our staff. This is to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information.