



United States Department of Interior

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LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

MONTHLY REPORT May 2003



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(on temporary duty from Iroquois NWR)

Volunteers

Chad Jaquith, Melanie Antonik, Jamie Woodall, Margaret Siller

LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

Two lake sturgeon were captured in the lower Niagara River (5/21-22) during a lower river sturgeon survey. One of these fish was a recaptured adult, while the other was an untagged, sub-adult fish. Both were measured, tagged and released alive.

Emily worked with Rodger Klindt (NYSDEC), Dawn Dittman (USGS), and Tom Brooking (Cornell University), to capture lake sturgeon in the St. Lawrence River near the Moses-Saunders Dam

Eggs were collected from lake sturgeon to stock in the St. Lawrence River and for research (5/28-30)

LAKE ONTARIO

The Lake Ontario biomonitoring program started this month. With the help of staff and volunteers, Betsy collected samples at three nearshore stations in Lake Ontario and one nearshore station in Lake Erie. A total of four embayment and nine nearshore sites are sampled 12 times per year. Offshore sites are periodically sampled during the year as well. Samples are collected for phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and zooplankton analysis. The purpose of this program is to monitor key lower trophic variables that will characterize overall ecosystem change.

LAKE ERIE

Betsy also started the Lake Erie lower trophic level monitoring program this month. Collections were made at two stations outside Buffalo Harbor. A total of 18 stations in Lake Erie and two in Lake St. Clair are sampled 12 times per year. Samples are collected for phosphorus, chlorophyll a, zooplankton, and phytoplankton analysis. Bottom macroinvertebrates were collected (5/19) and will be collected again in the fall. The purpose of this lake wide program is to monitor key lower trophic variables that will characterize long-term ecosystem changes.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Erie Canal

Mike G. and Mike S. completed the first of three Erie Canal invasive species surveys (5/13-15, 29, 30). Sample areas included Montezuma/Cayuga-Seneca Canal, Niagara River/Erie Canal confluence, Genesee River/Erie Canal confluence, and a new site along the Oswego River near Fulton, NY. Notable invasive fish

collected included round gobies at the Niagara River/Erie Canal confluence. Although this survey focused on invasive fish, seeds of waterchestnut were collected at the Oswego River site and one Asian clam shell was observed near the Genesee R. confluence. A formal plant survey will occur in July at these sites.

Round Goby

Mike S, Mike G., and Melanie Antonik (volunteer) conducted the first of three round goby creek surveys on Lake Ontario tributaries (5/19-21). A 25-foot seine net was used to sample Bear Creek, Irondequoit Creek, and 4-Mile Creek. No gobies were collected.

Asian Carp

Mike G. installed a temperature logger in the Buffalo River as part of an investigation to determine habitat suitability of the Buffalo River for Asian carp spawning (5/13).

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FEDERAL LANDS)

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Impacts of grass mowing on bird species

Molly and Jessica started the point counts and nest searches at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and the nearby BFI landfill (5/12). Point counts will be conducted approximately every ten days, and nest searches will be conducted weekly through mid August. This study is examining the difference in bird species and nesting success between a mowed (NFARS) and a non-mowed grassland (BFI landfill).

Impacts of storm water discharge

Betsy, Molly and Jessica completed the spring benthic macroinvertebrate collection in Cayuga Creek. Samples were collected from six locations on the Creek (5/8-9, 13). The macroinvertebrate community will be used to evaluate the water quality of the creek upstream, within, and downstream of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

Fort Drum

Mike W., Emily, and Mike S. conducted fish community, aquatic plant, invertebrate, and habitat

surveys at Conservation Pond (5/6-7) and Mud Lake (5/8), at Fort Drum, New York.

GIS AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Chris compiled and joined the National Wetland Inventory data for portions of New York State. The information is organized by 7.5 minute topographic quads and some of the information is in the process of being updated.

Chris acquired updated Electronic Nautical Charts for portions of the Great Lakes basin. These data are created from NOAA's Digital Nautical Charts and separated by features such as rock outcrops, buoys, and other land features.

Chris has completed the draft working maps for the Buffalo Ornithological Society. These maps will assist members with bird surveys and field locations within the Western New York and Niagara region.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Mike G. and Chad Jaquith (volunteer) participated in the first annual Girl Scout Eco-Information Festival at Camp Seven Hills in Holland, NY (5/3). A LGLFRO poster outlining current office activities was displayed. Various brochures, environmental crossword puzzles, and aquatic nuisance species (ANS) ID cards were distributed to approximately 200 western New York Girl Scouts.

Allyson and Geoff created an educational poster on aquatic invertebrates for use at LGLFRO outreach events (5/27-28). Additional copies of the poster are being sent to the New York State DEC Fish Hatchery at Altmar, NY and the Allegheny National Fish Hatchery in Warren, PA.

STAFF TRAINING

Emily and Chris participated in Horizon Live webtraining to host internet conferences on 5/13.

OTHER

Kofi, Betsy, Mike G., and Emily met with Tom Niziol and Darin Figurskey (NOAA) (5/2) to discuss collaboration opportunities between the LGLFRO and the National Weather Service (NWS). Tom and Darin gave a demonstration

on the newly updated NOAA/NWS website showing access to real-time stream flow and flow prediction data, as well as historical temperature data for Buffalo Harbor.

Mike W. continued a detail at the Regional Office to coordinate work on the Northeast Region Fisheries Strategic Plan, currently being put together by regional project leader workgroups, as well as staff from the regional office (5/26-30). The plan is intended to provide guidance for the regional fisheries program for 2005-2009, and represents an implementation of the goals described in the National Fisheries Program “Vision for the Future”.

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.