



# United States Department of Interior

Fish & Wildlife Service  
Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office  
405 North French Road, Suite 120A  
Amherst, New York 14228



## LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

# MONTHLY REPORT June 2004



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### LGLFRO Staff

Chris Castiglione, GIS Specialist  
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Michael Goehle, Fishery Biologist  
Sandra Keppner, Invasive Species Coordinator  
Gail Testa, Administrative Officer  
Betsy Trometer, Fishery Biologist  
Emily Zollweg, Fishery Biologist  
Erin Gawera, (on temporary duty from Jacksonville, FL ES Office)

### Volunteers

Denise Clay, Brodie Follman, Peter Krakowiak, Katie Hoelscher, Neil Witkowski, Joseph Riina-Ferrie, Meghan Dye, Margaret Siller, Jon Sztukowski

### LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

#### *Adopt-A-Sturgeon*

Emily and Erin worked to finish a fact sheet on Lake Sturgeon Restoration for the Adopt-A-Sturgeon Project. Emily also gave a presentation to the Friends Group (6/30) about lake sturgeon. They discussed ways that she and the group can work together to educate kids about lake sturgeon and raise funds for research and conservation projects.

### Genesee River

Sampling for stocked lake sturgeon resumed (6/14-18) with USGS Tunison Lab personnel. Five small lake sturgeon were recaptured from last fall's stocking and spawning freshwater drum were also

collected. So far, 16 out of 900 sturgeon have been collected since stocking and the fish are still being recaptured near the stocking site.

### LAKE ONTARIO

Betsy with the help of staff and volunteers collected samples at three nearshore stations in Lake Ontario for the Lake Ontario Biomonitoring Program. A total of 4 embayment and 9 nearshore sites are sampled 12 times a year, and offshore sites are sampled a couple of times a year. 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.

### INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

#### Ruffe Monitoring

Mike, Emily, Erin, and four volunteers conducted the June ruffe survey for sites in Lakes Erie and Ontario (6/10, 6/14-18, and 6/24). No ruffe were collected.

### FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FEDERAL LANDS)

#### Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS)

Cara with the help of Denise Clay (intern), staff, and volunteers started the second year of surveys for estimating the abundance and distribution of purple loosestrife and common reed, as well as monitoring for the presence and impact of the released beetles on purple loosestrife. The surveys will continue through the fall to evaluate the effectiveness of the beetles as biological control of purple loosestrife.

## **Fort Drum**

Two reports were completed this month on the “*Mercury Analysis of Fish Tissues in Indian and Narrow Lakes*”, and the “*Fish Community and Habitat Inventory for Remington Pond, Fort Drum, New York.*” Both reports have been finalized and submitted to Fort Drum personnel.

Emily and Cara retrieved temperature monitors from Black Creek, Trout Brook, West Creek, Conservation Pond and Mud Lake (6/23-24), which will allow for the completion of the reports for work on those waters.

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Betsy staffed a display on aquatic life at the Niagara County Field Days sponsored by the Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District (6/1-2). Approximately 1200 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from schools in Niagara County attended the event.

Emily participated in the Lake Ontario Fishing and Tourism event at Sodus Point sponsored by Assemblyman Robert Oaks (6/5). Most visitors were people out fishing and touring. The event also provided an opportunity for biologists, researchers, and club representatives to collaborate and exchange ideas.

Betsy gave a presentation on the status of lake trout and lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes at the Great Lakes United 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting at Mercyhurst College, North East, PA (6/6).

Mike and Cara staffed the LGLFRO display at the 2004 City of Tonawanda Kid’s Fishing Derby held at Niawanda Park (6/26). The display included live fish and information on invasive species and wetlands.

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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.