



La Crosse Fish Health Center May 2010 Monthly Highlights

The La Crosse Fish Health Center (LFHC) is located in Onalaska, Wisconsin and is responsible for fish health management within the Big Rivers/Great Lakes region of the upper Midwest. Primary responsibilities include inspection, certification and diagnostic services for federal hatcheries, providing inspection and laboratory services for state, federal and tribal agencies, surveillance of target pathogens as part of the National Wild Fish Health Survey, providing training in fish health management, monitoring use of drugs and chemicals for national fish hatchery use, researching fish health management and assisting in design and implementation of surveillance, and control of invasive aquatic pathogens in cooperation with state, tribal, federal and non-governmental agencies.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

LFHC Monitors Sentinel Fish in Asian Carp Rotenone Project

by Eric Leis

The La Crosse Fish Health Center (LFHC) assisted with the Asian Carp rotenone project held near Lansing, Illinois on May 19th. The area below the O'Brien Lock and Dam was treated with rotenone in order to protect the Great Lakes from Asian Carp. LFHC staff was asked to provide a pathologist to determine both the effectiveness of the rotenone treatment and to monitor the neutralization process. In order to accomplish this task, common carp and bluegills were placed in cages for use as sentinel fish. Before the rotenone application, common carp



Biologists dodge seagulls as they remove fish from the Illinois Waterway USFWS E. Leis

were placed in six locations. They were then monitored to determine the effectiveness of the rotenone application. Once the rotenone was neutralized, the common carp were replaced with bluegills, which are more sensitive to the sodium permanganate. The bluegills were then monitored to make certain that the rotenone had been properly neutralized. Monitoring the condition of the sentinel fish ensured that the rotenone treatment was effective and neutralization of the rotenone was successful.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Fish Health Survey of Fish from Pendills Lake

by Corey Puzach

The week of May 17th, Sarah Bauer and Corey Puzach from the La Crosse Fish Health Center teamed up with Anjanette Bowen from the Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office to check the health status of the fish in Pendills Lake. The lake is occasionally used as a water source for Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery. It is important to monitor disease status of fish in hatchery water sources in order to prevent introduction of diseases.

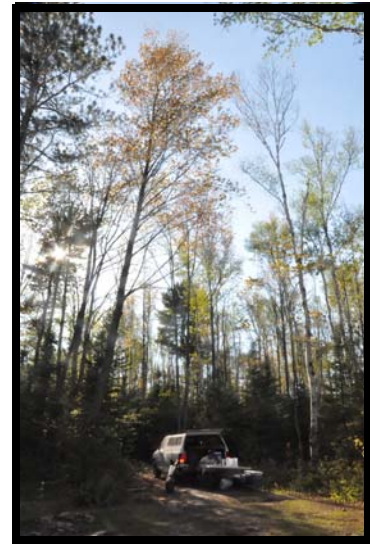


Pendills Lake landing USFWS S. Bauer

On Tuesday, after studying a lake map the group set out in a small boat to survey the lake and set experimental and fyke nets. On a picture perfect Wednesday morning the group met to pull the nets and collect fish for the health sampling. Both gear types were very effective in capturing fish. Many fish were released back into the lake after the species, number, and length were recorded. After the nets were pulled, the

group went back to shore where fish health sample collection had already begun. A total of 60 brown bullheads, 60 rock bass, 30 pumpkinseed, 30 northern pike, and 17 yellow perch were sampled.

A kidney sample was taken from each fish to screen for the bacterial pathogens, *Aeromonas salmonicida*, *Yersinia ruckeri*, *Edwardsiella ictaluri*, and *Renibacterium salmoninarum*. Kidney and spleen samples were then collected to screen for the viral pathogens, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus (VHSV), Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis virus (IPNV), Oncorhynchus Masou virus (OMV), and Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis virus (IHNV), Largemouth Bass virus (LMBV), and Channel Catfish virus (CCV). Laboratory results of this wild fish health survey are pending.



Corey Puzach taking fish health samples from fish at Pendills Lake USFWS S. Bauer

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Wild Fish Health Survey in Ohio

by Ken Phillips

Biologists from the La Crosse Fish Health Center (LFHC) traveled to Ohio the week of May 24th to collect tissue samples for pathogen screening in support of the National Wild Fish Health Survey. The sampling was done in cooperation with Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODW) biologists, who collected the fish and also assisted with tissue collection for pathogen screening. Fish were collected from the Ohio River basin and Lake Erie during the sampling effort.

In the Ohio River basin, ODW fishery crews collected fish from the Muskingum River, Pleasant Hill Reservoir, and the Scioto River. Five hundred twenty (520) fish representing seven species were collected by Ohio Division of Wildlife fishery crews from the three sites via electro-

fishing. Fish species sampled included common carp, freshwater drum, gizzard shad, largemouth bass, longnose gar, pumpkin seed sunfish, and smallmouth buffalo. One hundred twenty-one (121) fish were sampled from the central basin of Lake Erie and included freshwater drum, rainbow smelt, and yellow perch. Because VHSV has been detected in Lake Erie since 2006, the primary purpose of the sampling was to isolate VHSV and determine if the genotype composition of the virus has changed since the initial isolation. Addi-

tionally, the tissue samples were also screened for infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPNV), largemouth bass virus (LMBV), spring viremia of carp (SVCV), *Aeromonas salmonicida* (furunculosis), *Edwardsiella ictaluri* (enteric septicemia) and *Yersina ruckeri* (enteric redmouth). The samples were transported to the LFHC for processing; final results are pending.



Dave Insley (left) and Dan Kovalaske (right) of the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and Ryan Katona (back) of the La Crosse Fish Health Center collect tissue samples during a recent wild fish sampling in Ohio USFWS K. Phillips

Public Outreach

Veterans Fishing a “Reel” Success

by Lucas Purnell

On May 18, 2010, Ryan Katona and Lucas Purnell of the La Crosse Fish Health Center assisted at the Tomah VA Medical Center’s 20th annual Fishing Tournament in Tomah, Wisconsin. Fish health staff measured and recorded the lengths of fish caught by the veterans. Prizes were awarded to veterans who caught the longest rainbow trout, bluegill, black crappie, and largemouth bass. Sixth grade teachers and students from Tomah Middle School must also be recognized for their contributions to this event. One student was paired with each veteran, making it possible for everyone to participate in the fishing tournament. Lastly, thanks must be given to the staff at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery for providing the fish fry.



Lucas Purnell and Ryan Katona recording the lengths of the fish USFWS N. Christopherson

Kids Enjoy Anatomy Lesson

by Sarah Bauer



Children learning external anatomy of the fish USFWS N. Christopherson

Genoa National Fish Hatchery hosted the Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fisheries Services (FUMFS) Kid’s Fishing Derby on May 22nd on a rainbow trout rearing pond. La Crosse Fish Health Center staff assisted FUMFS volunteers, Genoa NFH staff, and derby participants throughout the event. Prior to fishing, the participants were provided educational sessions on jig making, fish identification, wetlands, and fish anatomy. The LFHC presented the session on fish anatomy using hatchery fish. The children really enjoyed seeing the internal anatomy of the fish and guessing where each organ is located and it’s function.