

# Natural Resources Commission Meeting



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries  
September 15, 2011

# NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

September 15, 2011

- Updates
  - Wildlife Division Chief Updates
  - Priority Setting for Bear & Furbearer Regulations
  - Fisheries Division Chief Updates
  - FY2011 Fisheries Division Budget Update
  - Boardman River Restoration Update
  - Atlantic Salmon LSSU/DNR Partnership



# NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

September 15, 2011

- Information Only – Director (Action in October)
  - 6 Fisheries Orders
- Director's Action
  - Fisheries Order 227 (Waters Open and Regulations Governing the Taking of Wigglers and Crayfish for Commercial Purposes)



# Wildlife Division Update



Russ Mason, Chief  
Wildlife Division  
September 15, 2011



# Priority Setting for Bear & Furbearer Regulations



Dan Eichinger  
Policy and Regulations Unit Supervisor  
September 15, 2011

# Tentative Furbearer Issues for 2013

- Bobcat in NLP- Expansion of the area open (include season structure)
- Beaver/Otter – Possibility the Department may have changes after a broader review of riparian issues
- Muskrat trapping in pushups
- Adding bobcat to list of species that may be taken at night – all methods
- Use of #3 and #4 buckshot for nighttime coyote hunting
- Review impact of changes to UP bobcat season  
Evaluate returning to pre-2009 regulations



# Tentative Furbearer Issues for 2013

- Incidental seals – add into WCO or require incidental tag with a sealing requirement
- Examine registration deadlines. Consider shortening timeframe to avoid illegal take after seasons close
- Require seals remain on unprocessed furs if shipped out of state for processing
- Remove restrictions on furbuyers harvesting beavers
- Cable restraints – discussion. Action?



# Furbearer Informational Items

- Commercial Forest Lands - Traps
- Tribal bobcat harvest – concerns with level of harvest/methods on state and federal lands (EUP)
- WI bobcat harvest occurring in MI. What does MI registration look like on the WI border?
- Provide presentations on harvest levels of furbearers as well as handouts
- Use incidental pelts for education. Sell fur to raise money for education
- Data on bobcat nonresident harvest



# 2012 Bear Issues

- Quotas
  - Increase population
  - Concern of level of harvest
- Change cub rule (suggest 42 inch rule)
- Allow baiting barrels on public land (with specific restrictions)



# Bear Informational Items

- Provide information on land use rules as they apply to guiding
- Provide information on bear age at harvest
- Provide graphics/information on population estimates, etc. Show most recent estimates for WUP
- Address recreational feeding of bears  
(*Added after user group meeting*)



# Animal Damage Control Operators

- Potential Modifications to Permit
  - Mandatory Training/Permit Fee
    - Request by MADCA / NWCOA
    - Division requested curriculum
    - Intent to move forward
    - Need/Controversy
  - Other Potential Changes
    - Collarum
    - Falconry



# Thank You



[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

# Fisheries Division Update



Jim Dexter, Acting Chief  
Fisheries Division  
September 15, 2011



# Welcome new Basin Coordinators

- Phil Schneeberger – Lake Superior
- Todd Kalish – Lake Erie
- Todd Grischke – Lake Huron

## Finalizing management documents

- Pike and Musky statewide plans
- NLMMU Walleye Guidelines





# Fisheries Division Funding

• Game and Fish	\$15,292,900
• Game and Fish – Settlement	\$ 923,100
• Federal – Dingell-Johnson	\$ 9,758,600
• Federal – Other	\$ 966,700
• Private	\$ 99,300

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**Total: \$27,040,600**



# Fisheries Division Programs

• Field	\$ 6,092,100	(22.5%)
• Division Administration	\$ 3,402,500	(12.6%)*
• Research	\$ 8,193,900	(30.3%)
• Fish Production	\$ 8,429,000	(31.2%)
• Aquatic Mitigation	\$ 923,100	( 3.4%)

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**Total:           \$27,040,600**

\* Includes Tribal, Habitat Management, Aquatic Species & Regulatory Affairs and Program Support.



# Expenditure Categories

• Payroll	\$18,042,200
• Travel and Vehicles	\$ 1,156,200
• University Contracts	\$ 1,495,300
• Hatchery Utilities	\$ 1,038,000
• Hatchery Fish Food	\$ 667,200
• Other Contractual Supplies, Services & Materials (CSS&M)	\$ 4,641,700

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**Total: \$27,040,600**



# Field Program

## FUNDING



## EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES



# Field Program Accomplishments

- 160 inland surveys
- Hundreds of permit reviews
- Three species management plans
- 56 fisheries habitat projects
- Numerous fish kill investigations
- Collaborative Great Lakes Management
- 7 Advisory Committees and 2 Advisory Councils
- Public engagement for stocking and regulations
- Dozens of disease surveys



# Administration\*

## FUNDING

• Game and Fish	\$3,243,800
• Game and Fish - Settlement	\$0
• Federal - Dingell-Johnson	\$0
• Federal - Other	\$ 133,700
• Private	\$ 25,000
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	<b>Total: \$3,402,500</b>

## EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES

• Payroll	\$2,560,600
• Travel and Vehicles	\$ 156,800
• Other Contractual Supplies, Services & Materials	\$ 685,100
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	<b>Total: \$3,402,500</b>

\* Includes Tribal, Habitat Management, Aquatic Species & Regulatory Affairs and Program Support.



# Administration Accomplishments

- 49 commercial fishing licenses, 242 scientific collectors permits, and 113 commercial guide leases
- Processed 1,300 Master Angler entries
- Improved 161 miles of streams; seven dam removal projects
- Over 100 hydropower projects
- Reviewed 86 Natural River Program permits
- Developed new Natural River Program Rules
- Facilitated division's human resource, information technology, education & outreach, purchasing, accounting and budgeting activities.



# Research Program

## FUNDING



## EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES



# Research Program Accomplishments

- 60 ongoing research projects
  - 43 Great Lakes
  - 15 inland
  - 2 statewide
- Long-term monitoring
  - Multiple species
  - Fish communities
  - Angler success
- Evaluate regulations and stocking effects, habitat initiatives



# Fish Production Program

## FUNDING



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**Total: \$8,429,000**

## EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES



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**Total: \$8,429,000**



# Fish Production Accomplishments

- Stocked 12 million fish weighing 350 tons
- Stocked 661 sites driving 110,000 miles
- Conducted 132 hatchery inspections
- Analyzed 23,000 fish from 36 species for VHS
- Completed 14 major maintenance projects
- 51 fish quality assessments
- No significant fish losses since 2004



# Aquatic Mitigation Program

## FUNDING

• Game and Fish	\$0
• Game and Fish - Settlement	\$923,100
• Federal - Dingell-Johnson	\$0
• Federal - Other	\$0
• Private	\$0

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**Total: \$923,100**

## EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES

• Payroll	\$165,000
• Travel and Vehicles	\$11,100
• Other Contractual Supplies, Services & Materials	\$747,000

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**Total: \$923,100**



# Aquatic Mitigation Accomplishments

- Lead DNR implementation and compliance efforts on the AuSable, Manistee and Muskegon Rivers
- Funded and implemented 5 major habitat improvement and research projects
- Since 2009:
  - 6 dam removal projects
  - 3 habitat improvement projects
  - 2 road-stream crossing projects
  - 3 research projects on walleye, lake sturgeon and steelhead
  - 1 angler access project



# Thank You



[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

# Fisheries Orders

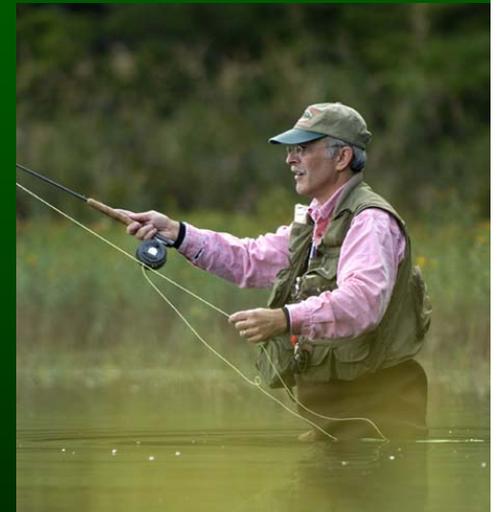
## For Information Only

- FO-200
- FO-206
- FO-215
- FO-216
- FO-219
- FO-231



# FO- 200: Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish and Lake Herring Regulations

- Removal of Johnson Cr. (Wayne Co.) from GRS to Type 1
- Two stream Type class changes
- One stream boundary modification
- Two stream removals
- Seven lake removals



# FO-206: Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes

- Lake Gogebic yellow perch possession change (25/day w/ no more than 5 > 12")
- 13 waters moved from FO-220 to this Order
- Restrictive walleye regulation: remove one lake and add a different lake



# FO- 215: Statewide Coolwater Regulations for Bass, Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass

- Reinstating LBDN walleye possession restriction of no more than 1 over 23”



# FO- 216: Regulations for the taking of minnows for commercial purposes

- Addition of Kent Lake (Livingston/Oakland) due to recent finding of Koi herpes virus
- Removal of several Lake Superior tributaries thus opening them up to commercial bait harvest



# FO- 219: Spearing Regulations - Statewide

- Expanding the season on many waters
- Expanding the waters bodies open
- Expanding the type of gear that can be used
- Expanding the list of species
- Elimination of many restrictions and exceptions = **simplification**



# FO- 231: Catch Reporting Regulations for Commercial Minnow, Wigglers, and Crayfish Catchers

- Re-organized with penalty language added



# Thank You



[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

# The Boardman: A River Reborn

Removing Dams for a  
Free Flowing River



Todd Kalish

DNR Fisheries Division

09/15/2011

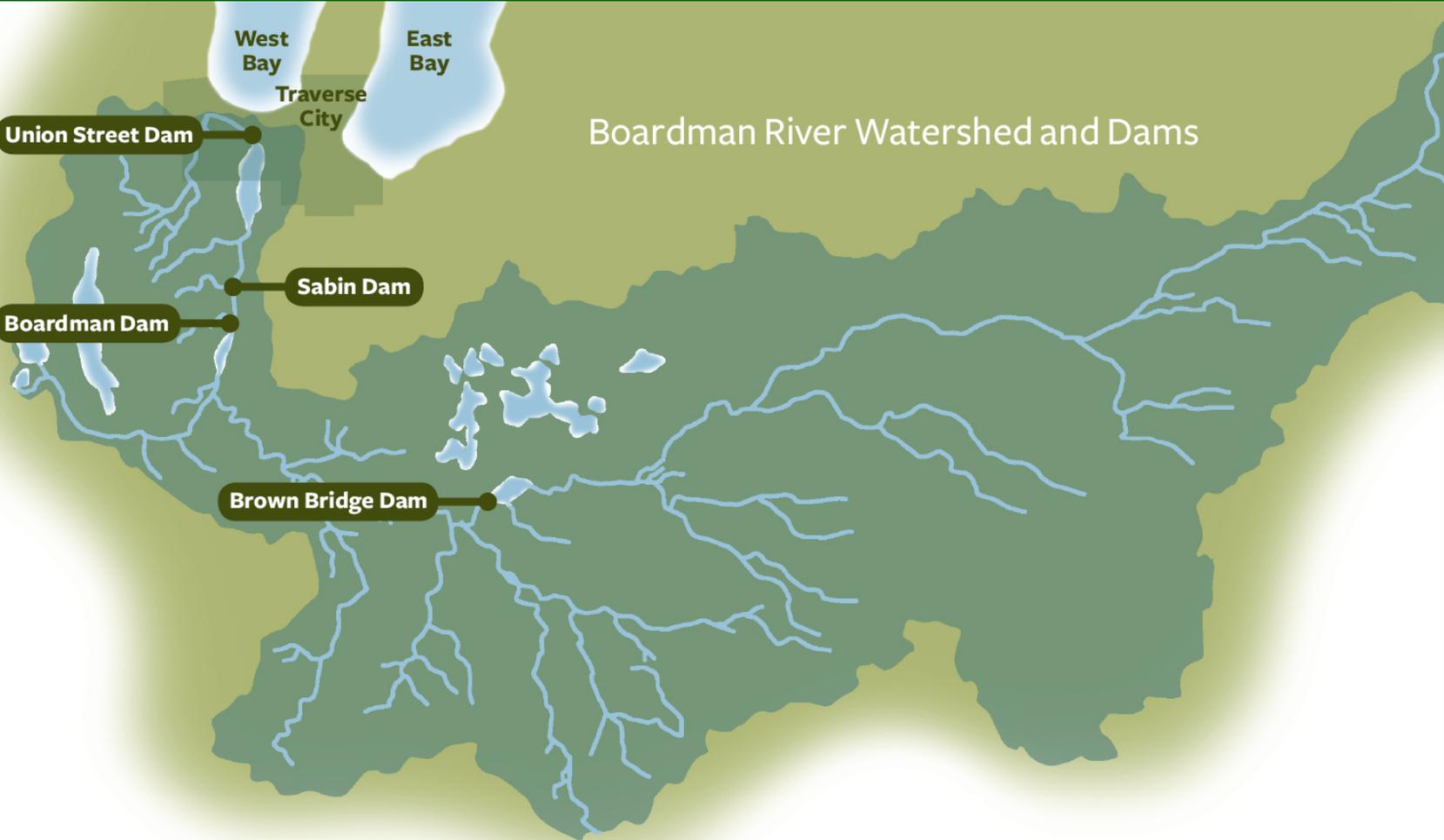
# The Project

- Remove Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin dams, and modify Union Street dam
- Return the Boardman to a more natural, cold water, free flowing river
- Largest dam removal project in Michigan's history
- Largest wetland restoration project in Michigan





# Boardman River Watershed and Dams



# Boardman River Dams

Brown  
Bridge



Sabin



Boardman



Union  
Street



# Project Implementation Team

## IT

- Grand Traverse Band
- City of Traverse City
- Grand Traverse County
- MDNR
- MDEQ
- MI Hydro Relicensing Coalition
- Traverse City Light & Power
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Ex-Officio IT

- Conservation Resource Alliance
- Grand Traverse Conservation District
- GT County Road Commission
- Rotary Camps & Services
- Watershed Center GT Bay
- Garfield Township



# Regional/Collaboration

- Engage all interests, create ownership, sensitive to community concerns
- Unparalleled collaboration
- Document and archive the process
- Citizen involvement



# Environmental Benefits

- Create 3.4 miles of river, 57 acres upland habitat, 253 acres wetland habitat

<i>Category</i>	<i>Brown Bridge</i>	<i>Sabin</i>	<i>Boardman</i>	<i>Total</i>
New upland habitat (acres)	25	7	25	57
New wetland habitat (acres)	156	28	69	253
New river length (miles)	1.5	0.7	1.2	3.4

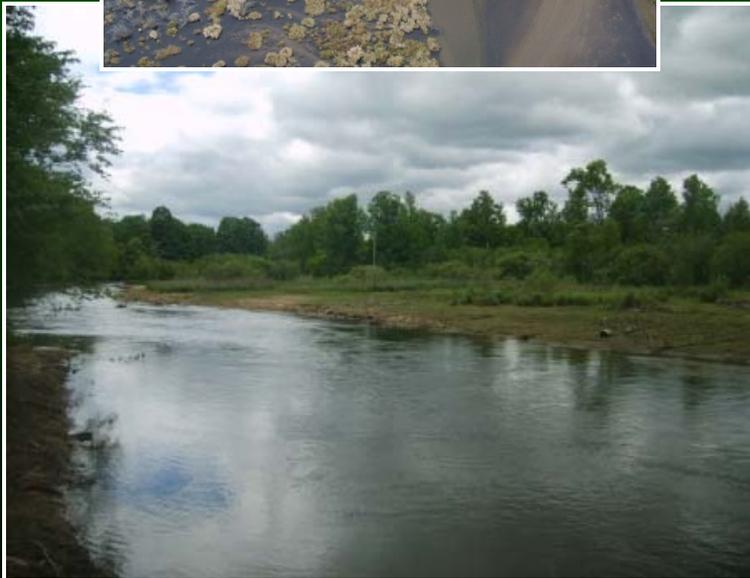
- Eliminate habitat fragmentation and degradation, thermal pollution and introduced species



# Bottomlands Restoration



# River Restoration



# River Restoration



# Watershed Restoration



# Community Benefits



- \$3 million economic impact
- Promote tourism and business growth
- Support long-term goals of the Grand Vision



# Educational Benefits



- Active laboratory for local schools
- Support a variety of scientific research initiatives



# Boardman River Prosperity Plan

- Link environmental quality with economic prosperity
- Balance quality of life and economic well being
- Leverage existing community assets
- Ecosystem-based, holistic planning and action



# Project Timeline

- 2005-2009 Preliminary decisions
- 2011-2013 Deconstruction/Modification
- 2013-2018 Restoration



# Funding

- Initial cost estimate \$8-10 million
  - Not including transportation system costs (road crossings, etc.)
- Funding pursued through federal, state, tribal, local government & private sources
- \$6.6 million raised to date



# Brown Bridge Dam



- First of three dams to be removed
- Restore 1.5 mi. of cold water stream & 156 acres of wetlands
- Initial drawdown Sept – Oct 2011
- Deconstruction begins in 2012



# Thank You



[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

# LSSU's Aquatic Research Lab: Partnerships with the MI DNR



NRC Meeting - 15Sept2011

Dr. Ashley Moerke, Co-Director and Assoc. Professor

# Located on the St. Marys River



Aquatic Research  
Laboratory



Soo, Ontario

Soo, Michigan

# ARL's Mission

To combine education and research on aquatic biota and their associated habitats within the Great Lakes basin to serve the academic, scientific, and public communities

- Conduct hands-on undergraduate **training**
- Provide valuable **scientific information**
- Provide **support** for researchers and managers
- Foster **information transfer** to the community

# History of the ARL

- 1977- LSSU and Edison Sault Electric Co.
- 1984 – MDNR - Atlantic salmon
- 1980s-2000s – ATS continue, brook and rainbow trout



# ATS Hatchery

- 150+ adults used for broodstock
- ~150,000 eggs collected annually



# ATS Hatchery

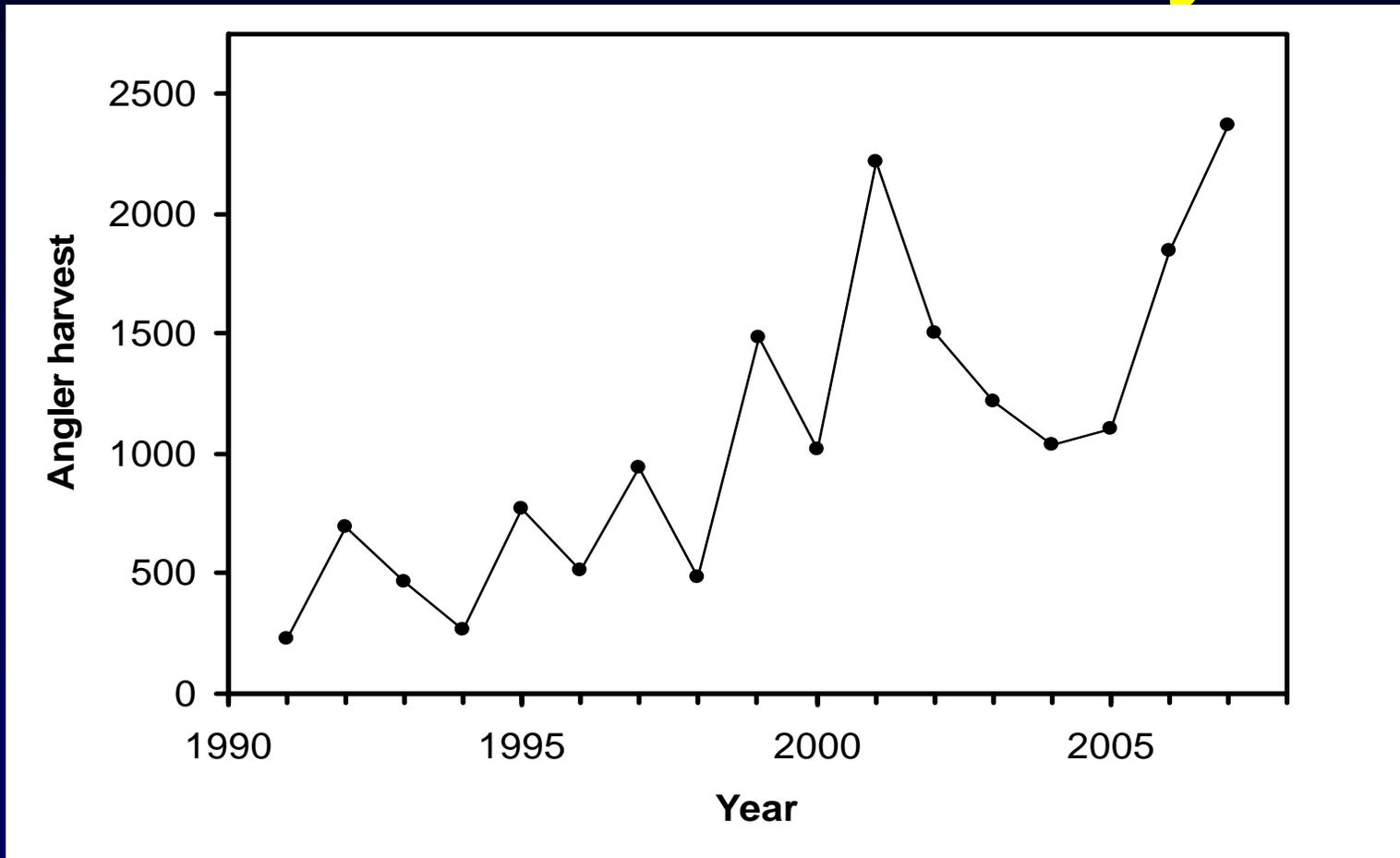
- 25,000 – 40,000 yearlings hatched, reared and released annually
- Majority stocked directly into the St. Marys River
- Surplus provided to DNR each fall



# Where do they go?



# ATS Contribute to the Great Lakes Fishery



Angler harvest has been increasing!

# Professional Training

- Student-run hatchery
- Strong record of MDNR employment



# Collaborative Research

- Examples of LSSU senior thesis projects
  - Northern pike spawning in Potagannising R.
  - Survival of whitefish with lamprey scars
  - Relationships between temp, flow, and stream fish communities
  - Chinook salmon reproduction
  - Early mortality syndrome in GL fishes



# Future Collaborations

## Renovation and Relocation of the ARL

- **Fish Health Lab** – MDNR collaboration
- Community education resources - Visitor's Center and Discovery Center (K-12)
- Space for collaborators – MDNR?



# Thank You!

[www.lssu.edu/art](http://www.lssu.edu/art)

