

UPCAC Update for September, 2013

Marquette and Thompson Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Manager):

Summer is the season of caring for small fingerlings and maintenance projects. Both activities have been a challenge for staff at both hatcheries due to staff shortages. There has been a technician vacancy due to a retirement since early July at Marquette and a staff member at Thompson has been out recovering from surgery most of the summer.

Projects completed or under way at Thompson Hatchery include:

- ❖ Staff assisted Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit in the harvest and stocking of walleye fingerlings from Peterson Pond.
- ❖ All the steelhead have been graded to separate the smallest fish from the population (these will be stocked later in the fall)
- ❖ The automatic fish feeders on the outside raceways have been thoroughly torn down, cleaned, rebuilt and put back together
- ❖ Eroded cement on the floors of outside raceways was patched while they were dry.
- ❖ Brown trout were inventoried (weighed and counted) and transferred to outside raceways
- ❖ Preparing for arrival of Chinook eggs from Little Manistee Weir in early October.
- ❖ Marquette and Thompson maintenance crews are revamping four of the 24 water aeration cans outside by converting from aluminum to PVC plastic. This is the first phase of a multi-year project.
- ❖ All the lots of fish are healthy and growing well.

Projects completed or under way at Marquette Hatchery include:

- ❖ All the lake trout, brook trout and splake were inventoried (weighed and counted) and transferred to outside raceways
- ❖ All fingerlings were vaccinated prior to transfer outside
- ❖ All the Seneca Lake-lake trout were fin-clipped and coded-wire-tagged using the USF&WS mass marking trailer
- ❖ 60,000 surplus lake trout fingerlings were stocked in Hoist Basin
- ❖ Hatchery staff have been assisting management research personnel on field projects
- ❖ A continuing project to enclose the outside raceways with security fencing is underway. Third phase of four phases to be completed by October 1st.
- ❖ Heavy rains this summer has resulted in a lot of silt moving through the hatchery requiring constant sweeping by the crew.
- ❖ The sand trap above the hatchery was dredged in August.
- ❖ All the lots of fish are healthy and growing well.