



Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division 2015 Annual Report

Fiscal Year: *October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015*

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Fisheries Division Mission: To protect and enhance Michigan’s aquatic life and habitats for the benefit of current and future generations.

Fisheries Division Vision: To provide world-class freshwater fishing opportunities, supported by healthy aquatic environments, which enhance the quality of life in Michigan.

Introduction

In the world of freshwater fishing, Michigan stands head and shoulders above the rest. With 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 11,000 inland lakes, and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, you’re never very far from an angling opportunity. Michigan fishing is truly world class.

Let us show you the numerous ways the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division worked diligently to maintain our fisheries for current and future generations—specifically with highlights chosen to illustrate a few of the Fiscal Year 2015 accomplishments. The following is our annual report, with content reflective of the work laid out in our five-year strategic plan, *Charting the Course: Fisheries Division’s Framework for Managing Aquatic Resources*, that details how we will continue managing fish and aquatic communities, habitat, anglers and the division.

Fisheries Division Strategic Plan Goals

- Goal 1:** Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems and Sustainable Fish Populations
- Goal 2:** Diverse Fishing Opportunities
- Goal 3:** Strategic Resource Partnerships
- Goal 4:** Strategically-focused Assessment and Decision-support Tools
- Goal 5:** Efficient Division Operations

GOAL 1: Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems and Sustainable Fish Populations

Habitat Protection and Rehabilitation

The DNR established the Habitat Management Unit (HMU) within Fisheries Division to protect, manage and improve aquatic habitat in Michigan. The role of this unit constantly evolves with advances in science and lessons learned from past and ongoing projects, with attention to the ever-increasing interest in improving the state's fisheries. At the end of the day, the goal of the HMU is to protect stream or lake function and stability through all aspects of their work, continuing to keep Michigan's fisheries and waters world class.

Healthy fisheries require high-quality, diverse habitat. The protection and rehabilitation of aquatic resources and habitats is the crux of DNR's public trust responsibility, making it one of Fisheries Division's most important duties, as is protecting against aquatic invasive species and their effects on the state's natural resources.

Thompson Dam Removal

The original Thompson State Fish Hatchery needed dams on both Thompson and William's creeks to provide that facility with water. Upon moving the hatchery to its current location in 1978, these dams were no longer necessary. In the summer of 2015, the dams were removed and a new channel was constructed to improve aquatic habitat in both Thompson and William's creeks. Removing the dams allowed for fish passage via restored connectivity from Lake Michigan to the headwaters (approximately seven miles), and facilitated cooler water temperatures and higher oxygen levels on the lower section of this stream. This project was funded by DNR's Aquatic Habitat Management Grant Program and received support from Fisheries and Parks and Recreation divisions, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Schoolcraft County Sport Fishing Association.

In FY2015, Fisheries Division staff:

- provided technical assistance on 12 dam removals and four road stream crossings that will result in more than 73 additional miles of reconnected aquatic habitat;
- provided hydrological and stream channel expertise for more than 20 stream habitat rehabilitation projects ranging from future dam removals to excessive erosion sites to channel re-establishment, which will eventually protect and rehabilitate aquatic habitat leading to enhanced and sustainable fish communities;
- worked to assist conservation and angling groups with development of specific monitoring protocols for four projects, each in a unique watershed;
- worked with stakeholders and consultants and served on multiple committees for the "Restore the Rapids in Grand Rapids" project on the Grand River (Kent County);
- worked with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide technical support and resolve violations and concerns associated with vegetation clearing and dredging within 13.5 miles of the Little Thornapple River (Barry County) and at least two tributaries;

- represented Fisheries Division during the Enbridge Straits of Mackinac oil spill drill exercises in September 2015;
- reviewed and provided comments on approximately 50 DEQ / Michigan Department of Transportation permit applications to ensure consideration of habitat protection;
- submitted a permit and wetland mitigation plan to DEQ for the Manistique River (Schoolcraft County) sea lamprey barrier;
- actively participated on the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee to assess, control and manage the spread of silver and bighead carp in the Great Lakes basin;
- participated with the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) Advisory Committee as resource experts to assist with the multi-stakeholder group looking at control points within the CAWS;
- worked with the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) executive steering committee to begin implementing the GLMRIS report;
- actively participated on the State of Michigan Aquatic Invasive Species Core Team, a multi-agency committee working to prevent invasive species introductions and spread;
- provided oversight on two research projects related to grass carp in Lake Erie, one baitfish pathogen project and one crayfish project with two universities;
- conducted response exercises on the upper Pere Marquette River (Lake County) upon detection and verification of a New Zealand mudsnail infestation;
- conducted a crayfish assessment in Lake Macatawa (Ottawa County) in response to detections of anglers using red swamp crayfish as bait;
- sent 10 employees to Illinois to work first-hand with various sampling techniques used to capture live bighead and silver carp;
- worked internally and with industry to provide recommendations to reduce restrictions for fish disease regulations (FO-245). Enacted Public Act 537 of 2014 requiring a review of current restricted and prohibited species lists and the development of a permitted species list; and
- reviewed 112 Natural River permit applications ensuring protection of riparian zones on 13 watersheds.

In FY2015, FERC:

- provided input on hydropower projects administered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, thereby helping to protect habitat and public access on 19 watersheds throughout the state;
- worked on Menominee River fish passage efforts, including construction and initial operation of a fish lift at the Menominee Dam (Menominee County) designed to pass lake sturgeon upstream; and
- participated in the ongoing relicensing efforts related to the Ludington Pump Storage project on Lake Michigan (Mason County).

In FY2015, Grant Programs:

- further developed and implemented the second round of the Aquatic Habitat Grant Program, which provided \$1,250,000 in funding for seven stream restoration projects, including road stream crossings improvements—this work will reconnect more than 88 miles of river habitat and restore approximately two miles of river that was previously impounded; and
- further developed and implemented the Dam Management Grant Program, which provided \$350,000 funding for the removal of three dams, two of which were high-hazard dams in ill repair, and for the repair of the Big Creek Dam (Crawford County), whose 97-acre impoundment receives high recreational use—removal of the three dams addresses dam safety concerns and reconnects 161 river miles.

Habitat Improvement Account (HIA) – The HIA was established to mitigate resource impacts from hydropower dam operations. Fisheries Division manages the HIA and oversees the use of funds to implement habitat improvement and research projects on the Au Sable, Manistee and Muskegon river watersheds. In FY2015, five projects were funded totaling \$212,797:

- Habitat Improvement on the West Branch Big Creek (northside), Au Sable River tributary (Crawford County)
- Upper Manistee River Access Site Improvements (Kalkaska County)
- Muskegon Watershed River Barrier Inventory
- Buhl Dam Removal (Alcona County)
- Boat Launch Improvements, Old Orchard Park – Foote Pond (Iosco County)

GOAL 2: Diverse Fishing Opportunities

Saginaw Bay Regulation Changes

Working with the public, Fisheries Division implemented several management actions aimed at improving walleye and yellow perch fisheries in Saginaw Bay. These included: 1) liberalizing recreational walleye regulations; 2) implementing cormorant management; 3) lowering the daily bag limit on yellow perch; 4) reducing commercial harvest and effort on Saginaw Bay yellow perch; and 5) cooperating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies on a proposal to reintroduce cisco (lake herring) into Saginaw Bay. It is anticipated that, collectively, these management actions will help increase yellow perch survival and improve both walleye and yellow perch populations in Saginaw Bay.

State Record Fish

There are phenomenal fishing opportunities around nearly every corner of Michigan, with many locations producing state record catches that leave a few lucky anglers with bragging rights to last a lifetime. In FY2015, five anglers joined the elite group of Michigan state record fish holders, including Mark Leep of Middleville (Freshwater Drum, Gun Lake), Sage Colegrove of Muskegon (Black Buffalo, Grand River), Cindy Lou Cordo of North Muskegon (White Perch, Bear Lake), Garrett Reid of Nashville (Quillback Carpsucker, Hardy Dam Pond), and Blake Wilson of Lake Ann (Quillback

Carp sucker, Hardy Dam Pond). You read that correctly – the record for Quillback Carp sucker was broken twice in FY2015, and on the same water body.

Trout Trails

Michigan's *Trout Trails* mapping tool was launched online in summer of 2015 in an effort to connect anglers with lesser known trout waters. The detailed information for each of the sites entices anglers to explore new fishing locations, while providing comprehensive site data so they know exactly what to expect at each access point. Site descriptions are provided by DNR fisheries biologists. This tool has proven to be very popular, with more than 19,000 visits in its first four months. More sites will be added each year, eventually creating *Trout Trails* across the state.

Fish Stocking

Michigan's world-class fisheries benefited in a big way from Fisheries Division's fish production efforts in FY2015. Approximately 25-million fish were stocked at nearly 1,150 locations. The nearly 336 tons of fish included seven species of trout and salmon (and one hybrid) and seven different cool- and warm-water species, providing a broad range of angling opportunities. The coolwater species included the Great Lakes strain of muskellunge that were stocked at several sites across the state, including a handful of lakes that will serve as broodstock lakes in the future.

Fisheries Division creates, promotes, maintains and enhances diverse fishing opportunities through species and habitat conservation and management, fishing regulations and permitting, outreach and education, and fishing access development and enhancement. One component of species and habitat conservation and management includes fish stocking, which can be prescribed to restore, enhance and create new fisheries in Michigan's inland lakes, Great Lakes and streams. To accomplish this task, Fisheries Division operates six fish hatcheries, cooperatively manages up to 50 walleye-rearing ponds and 13 imprinting net pen locations for salmon and steelhead, and maintains a fleet of 18 specialized fish stocking trucks.

Another key component of managing Michigan's fisheries is oversight of state-licensed commercial fishing and the implementation of consent decrees that provide for tribal commercial fishing rights. Management of state-licensed commercial fishing helps maintain stable fisheries, provide local economic stability, and accommodate tribal fishing rights in treaty-ceded waters by scientifically controlling harvest levels and minimizing conflict with recreational fisheries. Implementation of consent decrees and other legal judgments ensures protection of both the rights of all citizens and of Michigan's fisheries resources.

In FY2015, Fisheries Division staff:

- reviewed and issued 50 state commercial-fishing licenses applicable to four Great Lakes;
- continued implementation of the 2000 Great Lakes and 2007 Inland Consent Decrees and improved communications with Tribal governments in 1836 and 1842 ceded territories;

- initiated public scoping and internal preparations for negotiation of the 2020 Consent Decree with Tribal governments in the 1836 Treaty-ceded territory;
- acted upon 15 Fisheries Orders; 14 of which were modified and one renewed providing fisheries rule simplification and new recreational fishing opportunities;
- prepared and reviewed 115 fish management prescriptions recommending management actions designed to improve fisheries;
- held 19 public meetings across the state in FY2015 with 412 participants— major topics covered were bass catch-and-delayed release, chumming, steelhead bag limits and Saginaw Bay percid regulations;
- recognized 1,148 successful entries in the Master Angler Program, 210 of which placed anglers' entries in the top five for the category;
- disseminated weekly fishing reports to thousands of anglers using multiple communication tools to assist them in assessing local fishing opportunities;
- shared nearly 500 unique fishing-related messages with the hundreds of Twitter followers of @MDNR_Fisheries;
- saw more than 1.27 million visitors view the “Fishing” section of the DNR website;
- operated four streamside lake sturgeon rearing facilities on the Black (Cheboygan County), Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo County), Cedar (Menominee County), and Whitefish (Delta County) rivers to help restore lake sturgeon populations;
- distributed nearly 150,000 lake sturgeon and more than 186,000 muskellunge harvest tags, which will facilitate data collection and improve future fishing opportunities for these species—this is a 102 percent increase in sturgeon tags and 75 percent increase in muskellunge tags than were issued the previous year;
- operated six fish blocking weirs on five Michigan streams to capture returning adult steelhead, coho and Chinook salmon; eggs and milt collected from these fish perpetuate statewide rearing and stocking programs and in FY2015, Fisheries Division personnel collected:
 - more than 2.9 million Chinook salmon eggs at the Little Manistee weir during the fall migration, enough to fully meet our needs plus those of two neighboring states;
 - more than 2.8 million coho salmon eggs at the upper Platte River weir during the fall migration, fully meeting in-state and out-of-state requests; and
 - almost 3.2 million steelhead eggs at the Little Manistee weir during the spring migration.
- experienced no significant fish losses in the entire fish production system from mechanical malfunctions or human error; and
- evaluated the overall quality of stocked fish by completing 49 Fish Quality Assessments, 29 of which were conducted at hatcheries prior to stocking and 20 of which were conducted on fish that were temporarily held in cooperatively managed imprinting net pens.

GOAL 3: Strategic Resource Partnerships

Platte River Effluent Issue

After nearly 30 years, FY2015 marked the completion of 60 consecutive months of compliance with all effluent limitations at Platte River State Fish Hatchery, associated with a settlement agreement between the DNR and the Platte Lake Improvement Association (PLIA). What had been an adversarial relationship with the PLIA was transformed into a very successful partnership. As a result of this team effort, the Platte River State Fish Hatchery has set the worldwide standard for effluent management for large-scale fish production facilities.

Hunt Creek Partnership

The DNR entered into a partnership with Lake Superior State University, opening a new chapter in the life of the Hunt Creek Fisheries Research Station. Established in 1939, the nearly 3,000-acre site in the northern Lower Peninsula has provided scientific information related to trout and stream habitat management used by fisheries managers throughout the nation to this day. In cooperation with the DNR, Lake Superior State University will operate the site as a teaching and research facility for students interested in natural resources management and research.

Snuffbox Mussel Relocation

The DNR partnered with Central Michigan University (CMU), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Ionia Conservation District to remove the Lyons Dam, restoring unique, high-gradient habitat in the Grand River (Ionia County). The presence of the federally endangered Snuffbox mussel at the project site required the team to evaluate several dam removal design options to avoid harm to the species. Conservation measures included reducing the overall footprint of the project, which will ultimately result in a more complete dam removal and improved channel restoration. To further protect the Snuffbox mussel and other state listed species, DNR divers aided CMU in a mussel relocation effort. As a result of these diving operations, 1,273 individual mussels were safely relocated to a refuge area.

School Outreach

In FY2015 the department's *Salmon in the Classroom* program expanded and is now in 251 classrooms statewide, teaching students about salmon life cycles and the importance of aquatic resources. There were 315 classroom tours of our weirs and hatcheries engaging 9,087 students, who discovered how fish are reared and then stocked in Michigan's waters. While learning in these hands-on educational environments, one student commented, "Taking care of my dog is a lot easier than raising fish!" He is correct—and the effect of these aquatic education programs will stay with these students well into their adult years.

Managing Michigan's diverse, world-class fisheries is no small task. In order to be successful, strategic partnerships with stakeholder groups, other Michigan state agencies, federal agencies, tribal governments, universities and many others have been developed over many years. These partnerships not only allow us to get more work

done, but they also serve to further educate and inform our stakeholders on issues important to the state's aquatic resources.

In FY2015, Fisheries Division staff:

- protected smallmouth bass, rainbow trout, brown trout, walleye and yellow perch populations from excessive predation by collaborating with the DNR Wildlife Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture and numerous active stakeholders to cull nearly 6,000 double crested cormorants;
- advanced electronic data-reporting options and efficiencies for charter fishing captains, commercial fishers, and fish wholesalers through a LEAN process review;
- hosted nearly 47,000 people at the visitor centers at Oden and Wolf Lake state fish hatcheries. These visitors participated in programs ranging from interpreter-guided tours of the hatcheries to structured catch-and-release fishing programs for kids;
- gained valuable assistance from 179 individuals who volunteered more than 1,896 hours of service;
- reared walleye in 30 ponds and lake sturgeon in three streamside rearing facilities through cooperative efforts with 16 different groups of partners;.
- provided technical guidance to multiple internal and external agencies on resource issues and concerns;
- cooperatively managed fisheries of four Great Lakes with multiple state, tribal, U.S. federal and Canadian agencies, much of which was facilitated through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission;
- served as active members of a work group aimed at ensuring that growth in the commercial aquaculture industry happens in a controlled, thoughtful way with the health of affected aquatic systems given premium consideration;
- continued to provide technical guidance to agencies and groups coordinating the "Restore the Rapids" project in Grand Rapids, which seeks to enhance recreational opportunities on the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids;
- received input and recommendations on important fishery resource issues by continuing to work closely with each Great Lakes and inland citizen fishery advisory committees and a broad range of other external committees;
- assisted with outreach programs at the DNR's five salmon weirs (11,514 people visited the weirs during the salmon season, as well as 64 school groups made up of nearly 1,812 children);
- assisted with the yearly implementation of the Salmon in the Classroom Program that had 222 schools and around 20,000 students participating in rearing and stocking Chinook salmon;
- continued collaboration with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and regional economic development initiatives; and
- collaborated with university, agency and public partners on several projects.

GOAL 4: Strategically-focused Assessment and Decision Support Tools

30th Anniversary of Creel Clerks

In FY2015, the “modern” version of our Statewide Angler Survey Program (SASP) celebrated its 30-year anniversary collecting creel survey data during winter and open-water fishing seasons. These extensive creel surveys took place across the Great Lakes coastline for lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior. In addition, a joint US-Canadian international creel took place on the Detroit River, and many more inland surveys were conducted in rivers and lakes statewide. We estimate SASP staff interacted with more than 78,000 people and sampled more 9,000 fish in FY2015.

Fish Health

Fisheries Division monitors wild fish populations for pathogens that could cause disease in wild or hatchery fish. This is done in partnership with the Michigan State University, Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory. In FY2015, approximately 1,200 fish were collected and tested. These included coldwater (salmon and steelhead) and coolwater (walleye and muskellunge) broodstock species used for hatchery production, wild fish collected in the vicinity of source waters for several hatcheries, fish transferred between lakes to meet fisheries management objectives, and fish reported dying or diseased. For all fish examined and tested, there were no new or significant pathogens found.

Non-game Sampling

In FY2015, the DNR was able to remove 20 species of fish from the Species of Greatest Conservation Need List. This action resulted from an increased effort by the department towards sampling and identifying non-game species. Comprehensive surveys and identification training have provided the DNR with a better picture of the condition of Michigan’s fisheries resources and revealed that many species were in better shape than previously thought.

Aquatic Invasive Species

In August 2015, DNR staff assisted the Illinois DNR with a fish removal effort on the leading edge of the invasive carp expansion on the Illinois River. In addition to increased training for Fisheries Division staff, Michigan DNR staff assisted in removing 100,000 pounds of these detrimental fish in reaches of the Illinois River just south of the Chicago Area Waterway System, where they pose the greatest risk of introduction to the Great Lakes. This collaborative work is critical for protecting our Great Lakes from future invasions.

Fish in Michigan’s Great Lakes, inland lakes, streams and hatchery systems require ongoing assessments to enable management of critical fisheries and fish populations including, but not limited to, walleye, yellow perch, muskellunge, lake sturgeon and many species of trout and salmon. Management actions may then be prescribed to improve a fishery through stocking, habitat improvement, regulations and education.

In FY2015, Fisheries Division staff:

- collected fish samples throughout the state for ongoing fish disease monitoring and contaminant analysis for the Michigan Department of Community Health;
- addressed fisheries management questions by conducting more than 50 research projects in the Great Lakes and inland waters;
- took actions to formulate new or evaluate previous management activities and to refine fish stocking strategies by completing 230 lake (122) and stream (108) surveys—these management actions create or enhance fishing opportunities for species such as walleye, northern pike, Great Lakes muskellunge, trout and salmon and enhance aquatic habitat that support sustainable fisheries;
- collected biological data from anglers on more than 10,000 fish at Great Lakes and inland creel survey locations;
- interacted with tens of thousands of non-angling members of the public to answer questions about fishing, hunting, parks, local geography and statewide policies related to natural resources management via 37 Statewide Angler Survey Program staff;
- maintained and developed partnerships with diverse entities to achieve common goals by reviewing and issuing 274 scientific collectors permits, allowing permit holders to survey and possess aquatic species for research or educational purposes;
- gained an understanding of the dynamics of fish populations in the Great Lakes by safely operating research vessels on four of these lakes, collecting a broad range of biological, physical and water chemistry data to facilitate management decisions for these waters;
- conducted annual monitoring to maintain long-term trend information about fish communities and recreational angling use and success;
- performed 108 fish health inspections for hatcheries and 49 fish quality assessments on 29 lots of fish from hatcheries and 20 lots from net pens and cooperative facilities; and
- analyzed 46 lots of wild fish, with a majority being trout, from the Au Sable River near Grayling for fish pathogens.

GOAL 5: Efficient Division Operations

Lean Process Improvement

Fisheries Division engaged in two Lean Process Improvement projects during FY2015. The Master Angler program completed its first implementation plan, resulting in a streamlined process for applications with angler-friendly online submission options and a significant increase in program participation. The first improvement cycle and implementation plans for the wholesale, commercial and charter reporting systems were also started. Improving existing processes from the ground up with changes suggested by those who do the work has increased the efficiency of these programs and strengthened staff work relationships.

Fisheries Division is similar to many other businesses in that we have to do our work with fewer staff than we have had historically. To do so effectively, requires deliberate strategic direction, division-wide planning, outreach and quality human and financial resources that ensure efficient operation and accountability of the division to the public.

In FY2015, Fisheries Division staff:

- encouraged employees to critically evaluate current Fisheries Division processes and developed and implemented an internal “Bureaucracy Buster” process—five suggestions were submitted during the year, with actions taken to address three of the issues and the other two referred to the department;
- managed an annual appropriation of more than \$31 million, with funding appropriated from the following sources: \$19,279,400 (Game and Fish), \$945,100 (Game and Fish Settlement), \$8,769,628 (Federal, Dingell-Johnson), \$17,730 (Federal, Other), \$590,345 (Private), \$30,300 (Invasive Species Fund), and \$1,405,300 (General Fund/General Purpose);
- appropriated the above funds to Fisheries Division initiatives including: \$975,400 for Aquatic Mitigation; \$9,209,265 for Fish Production; \$18,963,559 for Field Management, Research and Assessment, Resource Support, Creel and Administrative Support;
- implemented year two of the five-year strategic plan (Charting the Course: Fisheries Division’s Framework for Managing Aquatic Resources) and its associated supplemental tactical plan;
- completed nearly 40% of the tactics determined by the strategic plan and implemented a biennial review to keep us on track and to assess our progress;
- sought input from all levels of staff in the development of an updated staffing plan that is focused on accomplishing the goals set forth in the strategic plan;
- facilitated the division’s human resource, information technology, education and outreach, purchasing, accounting and budgeting activities; and
- benefitted from 39 different training sessions attended by 119 employees, which ensures life-long learning by staff and has helped them gain new skills or improved and refined existing ones.

Partnerships

Michigan not only has world-class aquatic resources, it has world-class stakeholders and organizations committed to partnering with Fisheries Division to protect, enhance and provide recreational fisheries for current and future generations. Fisheries Division simply could not adequately achieve its mission without the assistance and dedication of diverse partners throughout the state. We are extremely grateful to all the individuals and organizations that partner with us. We take this opportunity to recognize some of the individuals and organizations we partnered with in FY2015.

The following received Fisheries Division’s Outstanding Partnership Award in December 2015, which recognizes individuals or organizations (i.e., clubs, industries, municipalities) outside of the DNR that have shown dedication and enthusiasm in

helping Fisheries Division provide recreational fisheries and/or protection of the fishery resources:

- Roger Greil with Lake Superior State University, Aquatic Research Lab for helping to create world-class Atlantic salmon fishery in the St. Marys River;
- Explore the Shores Initiative at the Alliance for Economic Success & Manistee County Community Foundation for enhancing angling opportunities in Manistee County;
- Greg Potter with Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited for engaging numerous kids each year in the annual Michigan Trout Unlimited Trout Camp and assisting with a variety of habitat and stream improvement projects on the Kalamazoo River;
- Pam Stevenson with the Michigan Attorney General's Office for helping to address legal issues affecting the Pigeon River; and
- The Department of Natural Resources, Gaylord Repair Shop for their continuous assistance with repair and maintenance jobs needed by the division.

In addition to the above mentioned partners, the DNR worked collaboratively in 2015 with several other entities and individuals on special projects. These collaborations and projects included:

- various research and management projects in collaboration with the Michigan State University, Partnership for Ecosystem Research and Management (PERM);
- Atlantic salmon production in cooperation with Lake Superior State University; and
- the Boardman River dams removal project, which involves more than 20 stakeholder groups working collaboratively to restore the natural flow regime of the watershed by removing three dams.

Learn more about Fisheries Division and fishing in Michigan by visiting michigan.gov/fishing.

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To provide comments on this report, please email them to

<mailto:DNR-Fish-Accomplishments@michigan.gov>.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
