

Indiana State Report

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Marketing: The DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) partnered with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation to launch a direct-mail marketing program to increase fishing license sales. In the program's first year, DFW reached out to more than 60,000 anglers. The DFW received a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation to form a marketing strategy to increase hunting license sales.



New License Types: Several new license types were created by the 2008 Indiana General Assembly. The new apprentice hunting license allows first-time hunters without hunter education to hunt while being mentored in the field with a licensed hunter. The new senior fishing license captures license revenue the state had not been getting because of the large number of baby boomers becoming senior citizens and not having to buy a fishing license under previous rules.

Public Lands Program: Two wetland restoration projects were completed this summer and fall on Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area with funding help from the Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project Committee, NAWCA and Ducks Unlimited. Twelve water control structure tubes and gates were purchased for Kankakee FWA by the Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project Steering Committee, with the aid of NAWCA funds. These structures will improve the property staff's ability to



manipulate water in the marsh area for waterfowl management and handle floodwaters. Restoration of the new 200-acre Dick Blythe Wetland Conservation Area in LaPorte County was completed in time to allow the area to fill with water so waterfowl hunters could hunt the area this season. This was another project that was acquired and restored with funding by the Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project Steering Committee, through its NAWCA grant. More than 60 hunter, angler, and shooter-recruitment and retention events were conducted on FWAs, with more than 600 people of all ages participating. Local volunteers made these events possible through donations of time, money and talents.

Public Access: DFW's public access program oversees the maintenance, construction and management of approximately 350 public access sites in the state. In 2008, five new access sites were developed and eight existing sites were completely rebuilt. Repairs were made to 21 public access sites that were flooded during spring and fall 2008. Three new access sites were acquired. The fisheries section launched an interactive Web-mapping application that allows anglers to find public access sites across the state. Users can zoom in and out, turn on aerial photos, and click on icons to get more information about the public access sites.



Fisheries Research and Management: Research biologists implanted 33 walleye with radio tags and tracked them for one year in Monroe Lake and provided Web-based public updates of the study using color maps. Fisheries restoration projects were completed at three sites: Worster Lake (St. Joseph County), Lake Everett (northwest of Fort Wayne), and Starve Hollow Lake (Jackson County). The expectation is to improve fishing at each lake by creating a more balanced self-sustaining fishery that is attractive to anglers.



Lake and River Enhancement: In 2008, successful treatment of 2,972 acres of aquatic vegetation control was achieved through LARE-granted projects on 31 lakes, with a net result of more than 16,000 acres of lakes having improved aquatic habitat and enhanced



usability for fishing, boating, swimming and other activities. More than 86,000 cubic yards of sediment and organic material was removed in projects on several lake projects, improving the accessibility and usability of the water resources. Numerous LARE-funded Watershed Land Treatment projects addressed pollution prevention through measures installed in the watershed above lakes and rivers. These projects involve cooperation with county Soil and

Water Conservation districts and other state and federal partners in working directly with land users. Numerous diagnostic and design projects on lake watersheds were initiated to provide necessary background information to effectively conduct future LARE projects. These are multi-year, long-term projects. The use of newly acquired hydroacoustic equipment provided DFW with tools to more effectively and much more cheaply determine the depth of sediment deposits as well as the depth, location and types of aquatic vegetation. This equipment also is used by the research biologists in studies of fish behavior and habitat.