



USGS Great Lakes Science Center

R/V Sturgeon Christening and Commissioning Ceremony

August 12, 2004

9:00-Noon

Cheboygan, Michigan

Christening/Commissioning of the R/V Sturgeon

9:00 **Commencement** (Cheboygan Opera House)

Welcome: Leon Carl, Center Director, Great Lakes Science Center

Master of Ceremonies and Speaker: The Honorable James Muschell,
Mayor of Cheboygan

Speakers: Harold Chase (Regional Representative for Senator Carl Levin)
Brandon Fewins (Regional Representative for Senator Debbie Stabenow)
Heather Grobaski (Congressional Aide for Congressman Bart Stupak)
Robert Doyle (Deputy Director, U.S. Geological Survey)

Awards Presentation: Leon Carl

To recognize those who have played a major role in the re-fitting of the R/V Sturgeon:
Greg Lee – USACE Marine Design Center
Dan Kobasic – Basic Marine Inc.
Bob Nester – Regional Safety Officer-Biology, USGS Eastern Region
Ed Perry – USGS, Captain of the R/V Sturgeon
Rhonda Aton – USGS Great Lakes Science Center Purchasing Agent

We will now proceed to the dock by the Cheboygan Vessel Base (by the lighthouse) for the Christening/Commissioning Ceremony

10:00 **Christening and Commissioning Ceremony** (Cheboygan Vessel Base)

Music will be provided by members of the Straits Area Concert Band

Convene: The Mayor will introduce Christening ceremony participants
Rev. Budd Wagner, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Cheboygan
Robert Doyle, USGS Deputy Director
Suzette Kimball, USGS Regional Executive for Biology

Invocation: Reverend Wagner, St. Thomas Lutheran Church

(Reflection based on the traditional reading from Psalm 107:23-24)

Those who go down to the sea in ships,
Who do business on great waters;
They have seen the works of the Lord,
And His wonders in the deep.

Christening: Suzette Kimball will christen the R/V Sturgeon by breaking a bottle of wine against the bow of the vessel. The wine is from the Nicholas Black River Vineyard and Winery, Cheboygan, Michigan.

Bagpipe Music: "Road to the Isles"

Tom Todd, Assistant Center Director, Great Lakes Science Center

Commissioning: Deputy Director Robert Doyle will officiate the commissioning of the R/V Sturgeon.

Mr. Doyle will call out the names of the vessel and scientific crew who are assembled alongside the Sturgeon.

Vessel Crew

Captain: Ed Perry
First Mate: Tom Girard
Engineer: Phil Pepper

Scientific Crew

Branch Chief: Jaci Savino
Biologists: Jeff Schaeffer, Dave Warner, Chuck Madenjian
Technicians: Courtney Faul, Tim O'Brien, Jeff Holuszko,
Tim Desorcie

Reading Orders to Commission: Deputy Director Robert Doyle

Presentation and raising of the Flags: *Flags will be presented to the Cheboygan VFW Color Guard*

Presentation of the Flag of the United States of America: Suzette Kimball

Presentation of the Canadian Flag: Jeff Schaeffer

Presentation of the Commissioning Pennant: Leon Carl

Raising the Colors: Cheboygan area VFW Post Color Guard will hoist the flags onboard the R/V Sturgeon.

The Straits Area Concert Band members will play the National Anthems of the United States and Canada as the flags are being raised

The Cheboygan VFW Color Guard will fire a gun salute off the rear deck of the Sturgeon after the anthems.

Closing Blessing: Dwight "Bucko" Teeple (Bay Mills Indian Community)

A Native American blessing for the safety of the vessel and crew

Assembling of vessel and scientific crew, speakers, and others involved with the R/V Sturgeon to board the vessel for the Inaugural Cruise.

11:00 **Showing the Colors Inaugural Cruise**

The newly commissioned vessel with the crew and key persons onboard will take a short ceremonial cruise to "show the colors" and will be saluted by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Closing music by members of the Straits Area Concert Band

Refreshments will be served on the dock

11:30 **Return to Port and Open House** (open house for the public is from 1:00-4:00)