



Lake Superior Biological Station

The USGS Great Lakes Science Center is dedicated to providing scientific information for restoring, enhancing managing and protecting living resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes region. The Center is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and has biological stations and research vessels located throughout the Great Lakes Basin.



Background

The Lake Superior Biological Station (LSBS) is a field station of the USGS Great Lakes Science Center. The U.S. Department of the Interior established LSBS in 1957 to provide information on the status of lake trout populations in Lake Superior. Monitoring of fishery stocks by LSBS was part of a concerted effort by the United States and Canada as coordinated by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) to recover and manage fishes of common concern throughout the Great Lakes following their collapse from overharvest, sea lamprey predation, and habitat degradation.



The R/V *Kiyi*, based at LSBS

Facilities

Offices, laboratories, shop, and storage facilities are housed at 2800 Lake Shore Drive East in Ashland, WI. LSBS is co-located with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Ashland Fishery Resources Office, National Park Service, and Indian Public Health Service.

Vessels

In 2000 a new ship, the R/V *Kiyi*, was delivered to serve as principal research vessel and to replace the former flagship R/V *Siscowet*. The R/V *Kiyi* is much larger (107', 300 tons) than the R/V *Siscowet* (57', 50 tons) that it replaced. The roomy *Kiyi* can comfortably accommodate up to ten crewmembers for long cruises and has large modern wet and dry laboratories. Besides the *Kiyi*, the LSBS has a number of smaller vessels that are used for specialized research missions in near shore waters.

Partners

LSBS has established research and monitoring relationships with local, state, national and international resource agencies, as well as state and national parks, tribal interests and universities. The station's principal partner is the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and its Lake Superior Technical Committee that includes representatives from Ontario, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Native American nations that border the lake. The committee works cooperatively to manage Lake Superior fish stocks and their environments and identifies information needs and research priorities.

Research Capabilities

The Lake Superior Biological Station is part of a basin-wide program of annual fish stock assessment conducted by the USGS Great Lakes Science Center. This fish stock assessment program provides data to tribal and state agencies managing the fisheries. This assessment program was instrumental in providing the information necessary for management agencies attempting to



Lake trout

rehabilitate lake trout populations, which had been severely depleted in Lake Superior. In 1995, through a combination of sea lamprey abatement, stocking, and harvest control, the lake trout was naturally reproducing and declared fully restored and consequently no longer requiring annual stocking from fish hatcheries. It is a success story of native fish restoration in the Great Lakes. LSBS also monitors the status and trends of the Eurasian ruffe, an invasive fish that made its way into Duluth Harbor in the 1980's.