

Elk River Chain of Lakes Fish Shelters Project

Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Team



**Camp Hayo–Went–Ha Workshop
January 30, 2013**

Fred Sittel

Steve Young

Fish Shelters Project

Collaborating Organizations



Fish Shelters Project

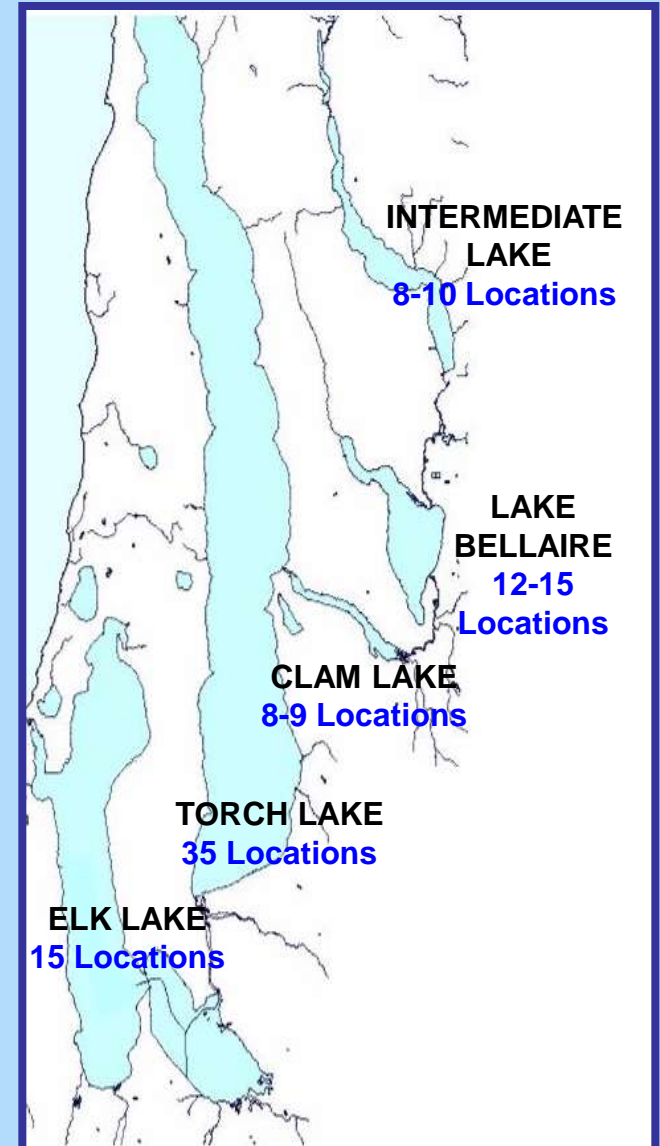
Acknowledgment

<u>TOWNSHIP</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SITES</u>
Forest Home Township	8
Helena Township	3
Milton Township	6
Torch Lake Township	2
Central Lake Township	4
Kearney Township	4
Central Lake Village	1
Whitewater Township	4
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Total	32

Fish Shelters Project

Scope and Purpose

- ✓ Provide habitat & improve sport fishing
- ✓ Compensate for lack of woody debris
- ✓ Over 80 locations across five lakes
- ✓ Over 240 individual shelter structures
- ✓ Located in 15 to 20 feet of water



Fish Shelters Project

MDEQ Permit Conditions

- ✓ Five year permit issued June 2012**
- ✓ Riparian owner permission**
- ✓ MDNR Fisheries Division biologist support**
- ✓ Minimum 10 foot clearance for boat navigation**
- ✓ Use durable natural materials**

Fish Shelters Project

Structure types

- ✓ **Hardwood slab tree**



- ✓ **Hardwood crate filled with natural brush**



- ✓ **Hardwood stump with root ball**

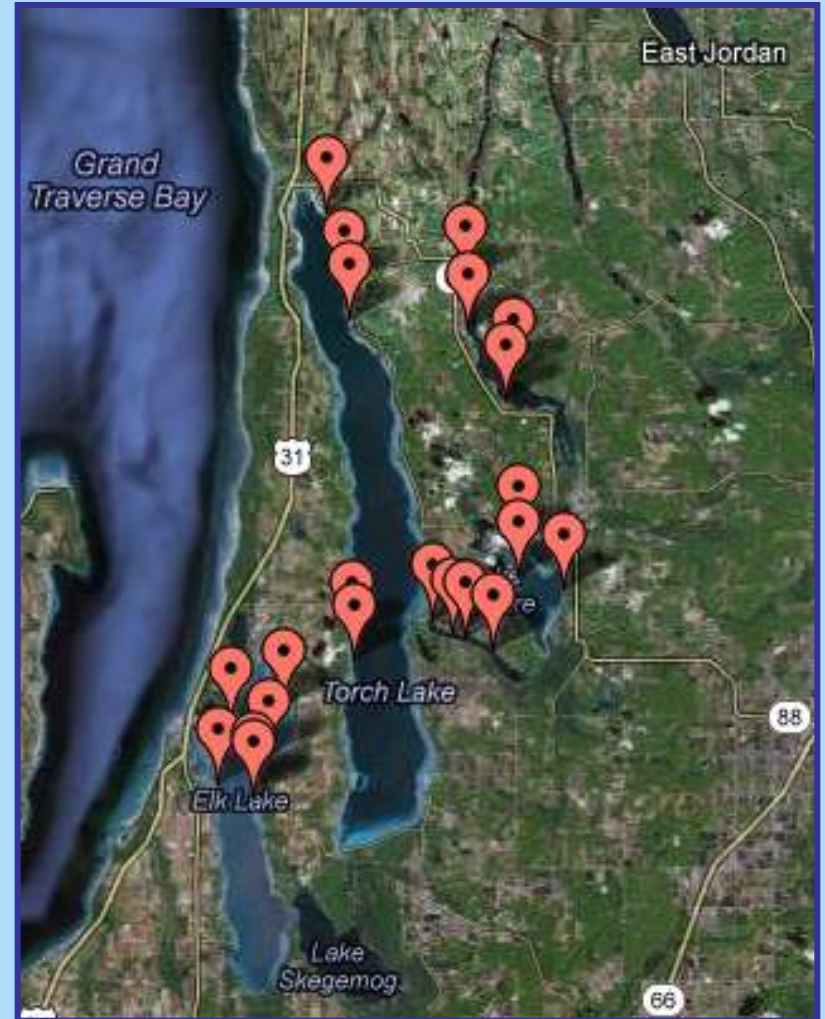


Fish Shelters Project

First Year Accomplishments



Construction, placement and follow up



22 locations completed in 2012

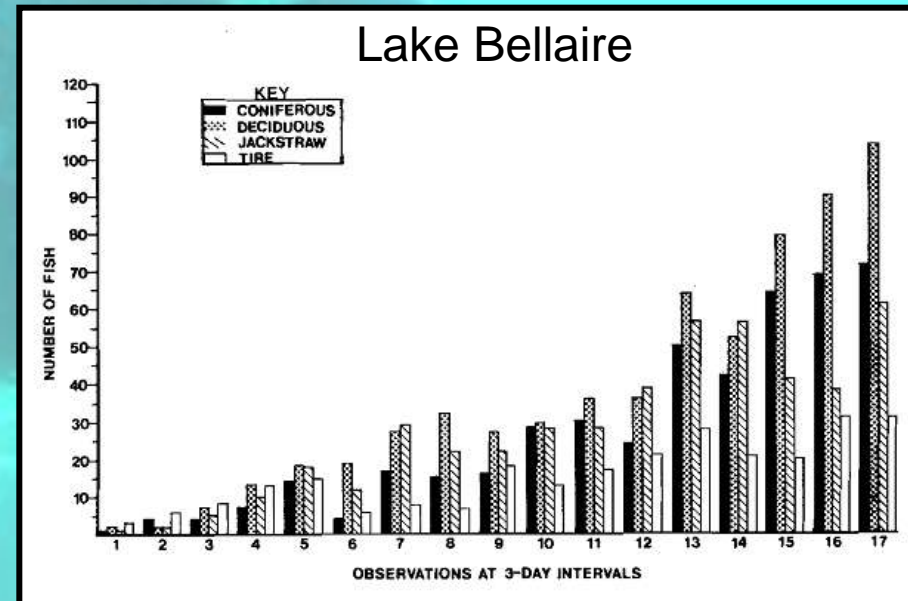
Fish Shelters Project

History

The Colonization of Artificial Shelters by Fishes in an Oligotrophic and Mesotrophic Lake

*1977 Thesis by
CMU Student Bruce Pelletier*

- ✓ Torch Lake & Lake Bellaire
- ✓ Four shelter types
- ✓ Diver observation & net capture



Fish Shelters Project

Observations



- ✓ Rapid colonization
- ✓ Larger fish on hardwood tree
- ✓ Small fish on stump & crate
- ✓ Smallmouth bass & rock bass



Fish Shelters Project

First Year Experiences

- ✓ **Overwhelmingly popular**
- ✓ **Provide habitat for many types of fish**
- ✓ **Opportunities for recreational fishing**

For additional information visit any sponsoring organizations web site