

9. Ruffe

Recommended Actions:

Limit success of ruffe by restoring and maintaining a healthy, resilient, and diverse aquatic ecosystem.

- (1) MDNR/WDNR should focus on water quality, aquatic habitat, and the food web.
- (2) No action recommended to eradicate ruffe.
- (3) Continue research on biology and behavior; may lead to effective control.
- (4) Begin research on effects in Europe, with predictive models.
- (5) State/federal government should continue to develop regulations to prevent transport to new areas.

Implementors:

MDNR, MPCA, NBS, USFWS, and WDNR.

Actions Taken:

1/95: Recommendations presented to USFWS at meeting on ruffe control.

4/95: USFWS announces that states must initiate any ruffe eradication measures, due to opposition USFWS received from plan to eradicate ruffe in South Shore tributaries of Lake Superior.

6/95: WDNR says it has no plans to poison ruffe on South Shore. WDNR/USGS study in South Shore estuaries of the Iron and Sand Rivers provides evidence that a single chemical treatment in an estuary would be ineffective in controlling ruffe population reproduction because: 1) All reproducing ruffe are not in the estuary at any one predictable time. Many are still in Lake Superior. 2) The habitat and temperatures are within acceptable ranges within Lake Superior proper during the spawning period so movements into tributaries may not be required for successful reproduction. Horns, W.H. et al. 2000. "Seasonal Changes in Ruffe Abundance in Two Lake Superior Tributaries: Implications for Control." North American Journal of Fisheries Management. 20: 822-826.

8/95 MDNR summary report in file.

4/98: Follow up letters sent to MDNR, MPCA, and WDNR.

9/00: MN Sea Grant: 1994: Envirovet study published in Journal of Parasitology 80:476-478 about a native parasite infecting ruffe. 1996 Ruffe Control Plan was finalized. To date two of its six objectives have been met. 1996: Estimated 6 million ruffe in Lake Superior, population is thought to have stabilized. 1997: International Ruffe Symposium held with 5 European Countries; consensus was ruffe would not be a major problem in US. 2000: Discovery of a potent pheromone released by ruffe could be useful in controlling them. Round goby may be a bigger problem than ruffe.

11/00: Letter sent to MDNR.

Project Status:

Project not completed, but there are one or more agencies currently working on it.