

KIDS FISHING DAY

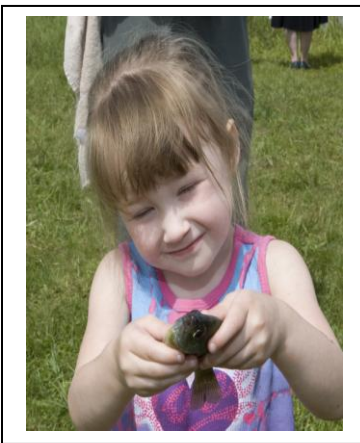
Fiscal Year: 2010

Event Location: Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
Chequamegon-Nioclet National Forest
Ashland, Wisconsin

Event Name: Kids Fishing Day 11th Anniversary on Saturday, June 5, 2010
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Number of Participants: 547 people attended (332 children and 215 adults)



Event Purpose: To teach local families techniques needed for successful, sustainable fishing, and to encourage these families to fish on their own.

Brief Event Description: This event features the *“Pathways to Fishing”* clinic format where families rotate through stations. Kids learn about stocking programs, fish structure, where fish live, what fish eat, and how to catch them. Fishing regulations and boating safety tips, baits, tackle box essentials, rods and reels, how to tie knots, and casting techniques are explained and taught to youth through hands-on activities. We also teach proper catch-and-release techniques. In addition, kids learned how to clean a fish and how invasive species can adversely affect fish and other animals and plants that live in aquatic environments.

Upon completing all the stations, families went outside to practice casting, and then finally had a chance to try their luck in the Center’s pond. Afterwards, children could complete a Geotaku craft activity, which involves painting on a rubber fish and transferring the image onto a bandana. Kids also learned how to tie flies and could take home their lure.

KFD 2010 Event Summary: In late May, 800 bluegill and 200 perch were introduced into the Visitor Center pond. These fish were donated by the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association in conjunction with a grant from Fortune Fish Company, Rushing Waters Fisheries and Gollon Bait & Fish Farm. Coaster brook trout were stocked in 2009 and a viable population also lives in the Visitor Center pond. There were a total of 547 participants, and each of the 332 kids caught at least one fish. Some caught as many as 6. A few of the fish that didn’t survive were filleted and the families were able to take the fish home. Each kid received a free starter tackle kit and door prizes, all of which were donated by tackle companies and local bait shops. Smokey Bear also made a visit mid-morning. Kids also toured a U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Vessel and learned about equipment used for water rescues. Best of all the kids could sit behind the wheel, beep the horn, and turn on the flashing signals and sirens!





Event Objectives: We focus on continuing family traditions, creating outdoor enthusiasm, and giving youth the knowledge, confidence, and skills needed to participate in outdoor recreation as a life-long activity.

Event Benefits: Healthy outdoor recreational pursuits, sustainable natural resource enhancement values, rural economic development

Geographic Area: This event draws families from northeastern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and other U.S. travelers.

Species: Bluegill, yellow perch, coaster brook trout

Event sponsors: Anglers All, Ashland Foundation, Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Department, Cabela’s Inc., Coleman Company, County Market, CSI Sports, Eagle Claw, Fortune Fish Company, Friends of the Center, Gollon Bait and Fish Farm, Hugo’s Pizza, McDonald’s Restaurant, Mercury Marine, Northland Fishing Tackle, Pizza Pub, Plano Tackle Logic, Plastilite Corporation, Rassat Outdoor Group-Rapala, River Rock Inn and Bait Shop, Rushing Waters Fisheries, Sixth Street Market, St. Croix Rods, Trout Unlimited, Outdoor Allure, U.S. Coast Guard, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, UWSP Aquaculture Demonstration Facility, Vexilar, Inc., Wal-Mart Supercenter, Washburn IGA, and the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association.

