

A day at the “Pines” lake sturgeon tagging on the Wolf River near Leeman, WI; 26 March 2012

Crew: Ryan Koenigs, Ron Bruch, Kendall Kamke, Jack O’Brien, Bob Marin, Paul Cain, Brian Finch



L to R: Ron Bruch (Relief PIT tag loader and Photographer), Kendall Kamke (Tail Gunner), Ryan Koenigs (Headman), Brian Finch (Passer) (Not in photo – Jack O’Brien, PIT Tag Loader and relief Photographer, and Paul Cain, Data Recorder and Clip Board Expert in Training).



Ace dip-netter aka “Big Dip” Bob “Hermie” Marin hauls in another lake sturgeon. Bob personally dipped over 50,000 pounds of lake sturgeon during the 2011 spawning assessment and was convinced to stay on the Team this year only after signing a large free-agent contract in the off-season.



Kendall and Ryan attempt to measure a “peeved” lake sturgeon, while PIT Tag Loader Jack O’Brien looks on ,and while Bob “Hermie” Marin dips another upstream.



Kendall reads the number off a monel tag recapture.

We used monel “cattle ear” tags attached to the dorsal fin from about 1955 to 2005. We started using PIT tags in 1999, using both tags for 7 years to determine the amount of tag loss for each tag type. Fish lost more than 30% of the monel metal tags we attached, while basically 0% of the PIT tags are lost. We insert the ½ inch long PIT tags behind the base of the skull plate with a large needle syringe.



Ryan Koenigs read off a PIT tag number to our recorder and clip board expert in training Paul Cain sitting at the top of the bank.



Kendall Kamke preparing to make one of his world famous and consistently high scoring releases.