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Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program  
Fact Sheet

**FINGER LAKES**

Pool 5, Upper Mississippi River, Minnesota

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**LOCATION:** The Finger Lakes are five backwater lakes located on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River in pool 5, immediately below the Lock and Dam 4 dike. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

**RESOURCE PROBLEM:** With construction of the Lock and Dam 4 dike, fresh water flows could only enter the Finger Lakes overland during high water. This causes low dissolved oxygen conditions in the lakes which hampers fish productivity. Construction of a culvert through the dike by the Corps in the 1960's provided flow (and dissolved oxygen) to one of the five lakes - Lower Peterson Lake. The four other lakes continue to experience periods of low dissolved oxygen during the summer and winter.

**PROPOSED PROJECT:** The proposed project would provide for the installation of gated culverts in the Lock and Dam 4 dike to permit year-round fresh water flow into three of the four remaining Finger Lakes. Construction of another culvert to allow flow into the fourth lake is currently scheduled to be done under the Corps' O&M program.

**PROJECT OUTPUTS:** Minimum dissolved oxygen levels of 5 mg/l would be provided on a year-round basis, leading to increased use of the area by fish. The total project would improve fishery productivity in approximately 86 acres of backwater habitat.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** Funds totaling \$80,000 have been allocated through FY 1990 for the general design phase of the project. Construction costs are estimated to be \$705,000. Annual costs for OM&R are estimated at \$10,500. Because the project would be located on lands of the National Wildlife Refuge System and "managed as a national wildlife refuge" within the meaning of Section 906(e) of the 1986 Water Resource Development Act, general design and construction costs would be 100-percent Federal. Costs for OM&R would be 75-percent Federal/25-percent non-Federal. Annual O&M requirements will be satisfied through an agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the non-Federal sponsor. The non-Federal sponsor would be the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.