

The National Lake Trout Hatchery in Antrim County Received More Than \$2 Million in Stimulus Money.

By [Melissa Smith](#)

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ELMIRA -- More federal stimulus money is making it's way to northern Michigan. This time the Jordan River Fish Hatchery in Antrim County will receive more than \$2.5 million.

"There's been other challenges and priorities across the nation that have taken up our limited funds, so we're ecstatic to get some of this funding," says hatchery manager, Roger Gordon.

This funding totals nearly \$2.6 million for the national fish hatchery. It's all part of the recently passed national stimulus package Gordon says will have specific purposes.

- **This includes \$955 thousand dollars to build a new lake trout culture building.**
- **"A large almost 50 thousand square foot building over our production raceways which are outside in the hatchery.**
- **We're also looking to build a large pollution abatement system associated with the fish culture operations at the hatchery," says Gordon.**
- **In addition to the money for the lake trout building and \$1.2 million for a pollution abatement system, there's also \$240 thousand for a geothermal heating project, and \$100 thousand for design and installation of a micro-turbine energy system.**

"Which will eliminate six-thousand gallons of propane that we currently use annually to heat this building," says Gordon.

Besides providing money for construction and projects at the fish hatchery, Gordon says it will also have positive effects on the local economy. "It's over two and half million dollars and I hope that we can get some local businesses that are very interested in applying for these funds and helping us carry out these projects," says Gordon. **These are projects that Gordon hopes will continue to keep the hatchery's mission going strong, which is restoration of the Great Lakes and specifically, the lake trout.**

"The lake trout is the poster child of the Great Lakes. It was decimated by some of the things we mankind did such as letting invasive species in, over fishing, habitat destruction and we as a people owe it to ourselves to treat our environment with respect," says Gordon.

All of the projects, except for the abatement system, are expected to be completed by the end of September.

The complete list of projects includes:

\$955,000 for construction of a Lake Trout Culture Building

\$1.285 million to rehabilitate an existing pollution abatement system

\$240,000 for a geothermal heating project

\$100,000 for design and installation of an energy generation system