



Status of Martens on the Apostle Islands

Historical Reintroductions & Stocking Efforts

- 1925** - The last sighting of a wild Wisconsin marten in Douglas County.
- 1953** - Wisconsin Conservation Department (WCD) released 5 martens on Stockton Island (3 female, 2 male) - stock from Kalispell, Montana.
- 1956** - WCD released 5 marten on Stockton Island (3 female, 2 male) - stock from British Columbia via the Wisconsin Game Farm at Poynette.
- 1964** - WCD set 75 live-traps for martens - none were caught.
- 1969** - Marten observed on ice near Presque Isle Bay (Stockton Island.)

Note: Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Established in 1970.

1970 - 2009 No documented marten sightings or sign occurred in the Lakeshore for 40 years, despite efforts to track and monitor marten and other mustelids.

Recent Documentation

2010 - Marten photographed off of the Presque Isle Trail (Stockton) by NPS Ranger Zach Rozmiarek (note: this photo was not ID'd until 2015)

2014 (Late summer/early fall) - Remote cameras deployed throughout Stockton Island as part of a carnivore survey (UW Madison).

2014 (Early fall) - Marten confirmed on Manitou Island from photographs taken by a park visitor. Volunteer Denise Bosak confirmed that she had seen a marten on Manitou Island in 2013 and 2014, but didn't know what it was. Remote cameras and hair snares placed on Manitou Island with help from Jon Gilbert, Great lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

2014 (Early fall) - Because of the confirmed sighting on Manitou Island, 1/2 of the camera sites on Stockton were baited with Caven's Gusto.

2015 (Spring) - Results of camera monitoring on Stockton Island revealed marten at multiple locations, including multiple instances of two martens at a time.

2015 (Summer) - Dr. Erik Olson of Northland College led a scat collection effort to determine if this is a feasible way to obtain genetic samples. Genetic analysis has the potential to determine species, sex, and identify DNA from suspected marten scat samples. Hair is normally collected, however, the logistics of working on the islands makes this option problematic. Scat was collected on Stockton, Manitou, Michigan, Rocky, Otter, Outer and Raspberry Islands.

2015 (Summer) - A campfire talk on Stockton by NPS interpretive staff raises awareness of marten to the general public. Reports of potential marten on Oak (Facebook post with image); Otter (visitor pic); and Rocky Island (Scout leader notes in journal of marten observation; no photo documentation).

2015 (Fall) - Cameras are relocated from Stockton Island to Bear, Cat, Devils, Eagle, Hermit, Ironwood, Manitou, North Twin, Oak, Otter, Raspberry, Rocky, and South Twin Islands. These islands form the center core of the Lakeshore and little is known about marten, or wildlife on these islands in general.

2015-16 (Winter) - Preliminary DNA analysis of scat by Phil Manlick at UW-Madison confirms the presence of marten on Rocky, Otter and Outer Islands (in addition to Stockton and Manitou) and marten are likely present on Michigan Island.

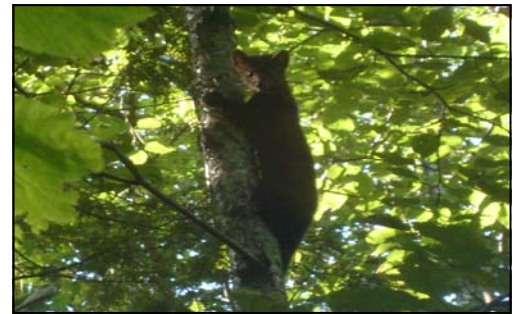
2016 (Spring) - Camera checks verify marten on Cat, Otter, and Rocky (probable) Islands. Marten now confirmed on 6 islands (Cat, Manitou, Otter, Outer, Rocky and Stockton).

Future Plans

Great Lakes RI funding for 2016/17 to determine occurrence, distribution, relative abundance and origin; expand camera trapping, collect hair samples and scat, and conduct DNA analysis.

2016 (summer/fall) - Camera relocation and Installation on islands that have not previously been researched, including Michigan and Outer.

Stockton Island 2010



Manitou Island 2014



Project Collaborators and Cooperators

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
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U.W. Madison (PI- Dr. Tim Van Deelen;
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Northland College (Co-PI - Dr. Erik Olson)

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (Dr. Jonathan Gilbert)

Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resource Office (Jeremy St. Arnold; Chad Abel)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Jim Woodford; John Olson; Todd Naas)

Stockton Island 2014-2015

