



Fisheries
& Habitat
Conservation

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

National Fish Hatchery System

As the only Federal hatchery system, the National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) works with partners through its 69 operational National Fish Hatcheries (NFH's), 7 Fish Technology Centers (FTC's), 9 Fish Health Centers (FHC's) and 1 historic National Fish Hatchery, and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Program, in cooperative conservation efforts to restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels, and to support Federal mitigation programs for the benefit of the American public.

The NFHS is the national leader in propagation and rearing techniques.

- Genetics and broodstock management
- Refugia
- Nutrition
- Fish health
- Research

Focused on the restoration/recovery of imperiled species

- Innovation in the development of new scientific technologies
- Pioneering fish culture techniques and methodologies for a variety of imperiled species such as
 - Apache and Gila trout
 - Atlantic sturgeon
 - Pallid sturgeon
 - Bonytail chub
 - Colorado pikeminnow
 - Razorback sucker
- Contributes to cooperative, ecosystem-based projects that recover aquatic species other than fish such as
 - Endangered native mussels
 - Wyoming toad
 - Texas wild rice

FHCs help develop comprehensive plans for fish health management, to provide the combination of prompt disease diagnosis and corrective actions to reduce mortality during rearing, increase survival after release, and help protect wild fish from common fish pathogens.

FTCs assist in development of genetics management plans that provide careful genetic screening and planning to ensure that both refugia populations and broodstocks are genetically appropriate for restoring nutrition, rearing temperature native stocks.

AADAP assists in acquiring approvals for new aquatic animal drugs that benefit aquaculture programs throughout the United States. Currently the program has active partnerships at 120 State facilities in 31 States as part of a coordinated national effort to generate data, analyze, disseminate information, and manage all aspects of requisite data submissions to FDA in support of new animal drug approvals for aquatic species.

In FY 2005, the NFHS distributed over 27 million fish, weighing approximately 800 thousands lbs. to States and Tribes for activities focusing on localized partnerships for enhancing fish populations.



USFWS Photos

NFHS facilities also serve local communities by providing public outreach and education programs that foster aquatic resource conservation as well as provide far-reaching economic benefits as a result of propagation and stocking.

For more information about the National Fish Hatchery System, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at 703/358-1715 or visit us on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/nfhs/>.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
800/344-WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>**

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