



Fisheries  
& Habitat  
Conservation



**Key Partners:**

- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership
- Asian Carp Work Group



USFWS photo.



Adult palid sturgeon at Natchitoches NFH. USFWS photo.

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

# Celebrating Habitat in Louisiana

- The Service spearheaded the creation of the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), which is comprised of State and Federal partnerships that extend beyond the traditional boundaries of resource management agencies. It has established commitments by State fishery resource agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and representation from the coastal Councils and Commissions to work for the benefit of the resource. The SARP now has 16 signatories, including the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- Environmental Contaminants in Louisiana has the largest oil spill program in the Southeast Region. The Service's main roles on spills are to protect trust resources during response actions and oversee wildlife recovery efforts. The program received notification of 1,825 spills from 2002 to 2004 and responded to 27 of these, including 12 on National Wildlife Refuges.
- The Service responded to 140 oil and hazardous substance spills in 2004, protecting 10,000 acres of wetland habitats and 150 river/stream miles. The Service worked with other agencies, industry and NGO's to use aerial surveys, wildlife hazing and other efforts to protect wildlife from oil slicks, reducing injury to at least 10,000 migratory birds and preventing more extensive habitat contamination.
- The Service and the USGS have been assisting the Corps of Engineers in planning and implementing their Atchafalaya Floodway Master Plan water management efforts by conducting a coordinated water quality sampling effort to identify areas of poor water quality within the Basin, and reaching consensus to remedy the area.
- In FY 2004, the Service completed Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act input, NEPA review, and ESA consultation on the programmatic Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Near-term Ecosystem Restoration Plan. The LCA Near-term Plan would serve as a vital first step in delivering critically needed large-scale projects to restore Louisiana's nationally significant coastal wetland ecosystem over the next 10 years at a cost of \$1.9 billion.
- The National Fish Hatchery System stocks more than 1.9 million fish annually to support anadromous fish restoration in the coastal rivers of the Gulf of Mexico and address imperiled fish species declines in the Lower Mississippi River.
- The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has engaged in 12 habitat improvement projects, with 1,746 acres of habitat improved in 2004.
- The Service is collaborating with Mississippi State University to survey and monitor waters in proximity to aquaculture facilities utilizing black carp to determine if the species is present in proximity to these facilities as a result of escapement due to flooding events or other reasons.
- The Aquatic Nuisance Species Program has provided technical assistance to National Wildlife Refuges to respond rapidly to eradicate infestations of Giant salvinia, an invasive aquatic plant currently spreading in waters of southern-tier states.



- The Service participates in the Asian Carp Work Group (ACWG), a multi-disciplinary group of Federal, State, academia, industry, NGOs, and private entities, primarily from the Mississippi River Basin States (60 members).

**Contact information:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1875 Century Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
404.679.4149

<http://southeast.fws.gov>

Tensas River NWR  
Photo by J. and K. Hollingsworth