

Edenton

National Fish Hatchery



photo: USFWS



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Station Facts

- Established: 1898.
- Number of staff: seven full-time permanent.
- Acres of water: 25.

Geographic area covered

- Roanoke, Tar-Pamlico, Neuse River Systems, North Carolina (interjurisdictional restoration) Striped bass, American shad.
- Interjurisdictional fisheries restoration of the Atlantic Striped bass with Virginia and South Carolina.

Station Goals

- Provide interjurisdictional fish restoration (striped bass) for the Roanoke, Tar-Pamlico Neuse River Systems.
- Provide striped bass to South Carolina and Virginia to support interjurisdictional fish restoration.
- Provide technical assistance and rearing capacity in the recovery of Cape Fear shiners.
- Provide environmental education.
- Provide public outreach opportunities to visitors.

Fish Species and Capability

- Striped bass (interjurisdictional restoration) 2,400,000 fry.
- 750,000 Phase I fingerlings, 225,000 Phase II sub-adults.
- American shad: 2,000,000 fry.
- Cape Fear shiners.

Public Use Opportunities

- More than 15,000 visitors annually.
- Public aquarium, indoor classroom.
- Nature trail—raised boardwalk through wetland.
- Designated stop on North Carolina Coastal Birding Trail.

Calendar of Events

June: Annual Fishing Rodeo and Hatchery Open House.

Questions and Answers

What kind of fish do you raise?
Edenton NFH is a warmwater hatchery which means we raise fish that do best in water temperature above 65 degrees.

Where do you stock your fish?
Our primary area of focus is the rivers and streams of North Carolina but Edenton NFH provides fish for the states of South Carolina and Virginia to aid in their restoration efforts.

How do you get the eggs from the fish?
Personnel from Edenton NFH, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and North Carolina Marine Fisheries collect adult “broodfish” from the wild during spawning runs. These adults are transported to Edenton NFH where they are monitored for egg maturation. They spawn naturally in circular tanks where the eggs hatch. The 5-day-old fry are stocked in grow-out ponds or shipped to other facilities.

Do you provide fish to private individuals?
This was once a function of the National Fish Hatchery system. “Farm pond” stocking is not considered a Federal responsibility, and fish are no longer provided to individuals. All fish raised at Edenton NFH are stocked into public waters.

Do you give tours of the hatchery?
Edenton NFH has an active public use program. The hatchery has a public aquarium, a raised boardwalk through a wetland area, and a conference/classroom. All facilities are open to the public for self-guided tours. Large groups, as well as small, are given tours by station personnel if arrangements are made in advance.