



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery, South Dakota

Restoring America's Fisheries



"The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

National Fish Hatchery System: Who We Are

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) is comprised of 70 Fish Hatcheries, 7 Fish Technology Centers, and 9 Fish Health Centers nationwide. The NFHS operated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has a unique responsibility in helping restore native aquatic populations, mitigate for fisheries lost as a result of federal water projects, provide fish to benefit Tribes and the National Wildlife Refuges, and to recover species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The NFHS works closely with other programs in the Service and with the States, Tribes, and the private sector to complement habitat restoration and other resource management strategies for maintaining healthy ecosystems that support healthy fisheries.

DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery

Established in 1896, DC Booth Historic NFH, formerly Spearfish NFH, is one of the oldest operating hatcheries in the country dedicated to fish culture and resource management. The hatchery was constructed to propagate, stock, and establish trout populations in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. After a very successful fish production history, the hatchery ceased operations in the mid-80's and reopened with a new mission and partnerships to help preserve the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's historic and cultural heritage.

Today, DC Booth Historic NFH serves as a living fishery museum to the public and many organizations. Still rearing trout for the Black Hills through a cooperative effort with the State, the hatchery also serves to protect and preserve fishery records and artifacts for educational, research, and historic purposes, and provide interpretive and educational programs for the public.

How Do National Fish Hatcheries Help?

National Fish Hatcheries help in many ways! Hatcheries across the nation are rearing dozens of different fish species that are stocked in thousands of waters throughout the country. These fish help to replenish and encourage sustainable fish populations and provide angling opportunities for recreational users like you.

As the natural aquatic habitat changes from *natural* (drought, flood, habitat destruction) or *human* (over-harvest,

pollution, habitat loss due to development and dam construction) influences, the natural production of fish declines. Stocking of fish is one of the many management strategies used by biologists to help replenish the populations for years to come.

Public Use Opportunities

DC Booth Historic NFH provides many exciting visitor opportunities, as well as gives back to the local communities.

Open to the public, DC Booth Historic NFH welcomes visitors to the historic hatchery and museum for an educational closeup view of the fish production process.

With over 145,000 visitors annually, the dedicated staff and volunteer hosts at the Visitor Center and Museum bring the hatchery experience alive with educational hatchery and museum tours and exhibits. Educational programs/tours are provided for the public and school groups during business hours.



Historic 1905 Superintendent's Residence, USFWS



DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery; USFWS

Some of the many exciting recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities are:

- Museum tours
- Underwater fish viewing
- Fish feeding
- Fish ponds
- Picnic/playground area
- Birdwatching
- Photography
- Hiking/nature trails
- Fish Culture Hall of Fame
- National Fishery Artifacts and Records Center
- Special events
- Gift shop
- Fishing in Spearfish Creek
- Replica Fish Car Exhibit
- Yellowstone Boat

The hatchery has also worked closely with the Spearfish school system to develop an on-site curriculum for all teachers K-5th grade.

Hatchery Fun and Celebrations!

Come join the hatchery staff and volunteers for year-round festivities and celebrations! DC Booth Historic NFH hosts an array of public events, including:

- December Holiday Celebration
- Spearfish Holiday Enchantment
- National Fish Culture Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies
- DC Booth Day
- National Fishing Week
- Family Creek Fair
- National Wildlife Refuge Week

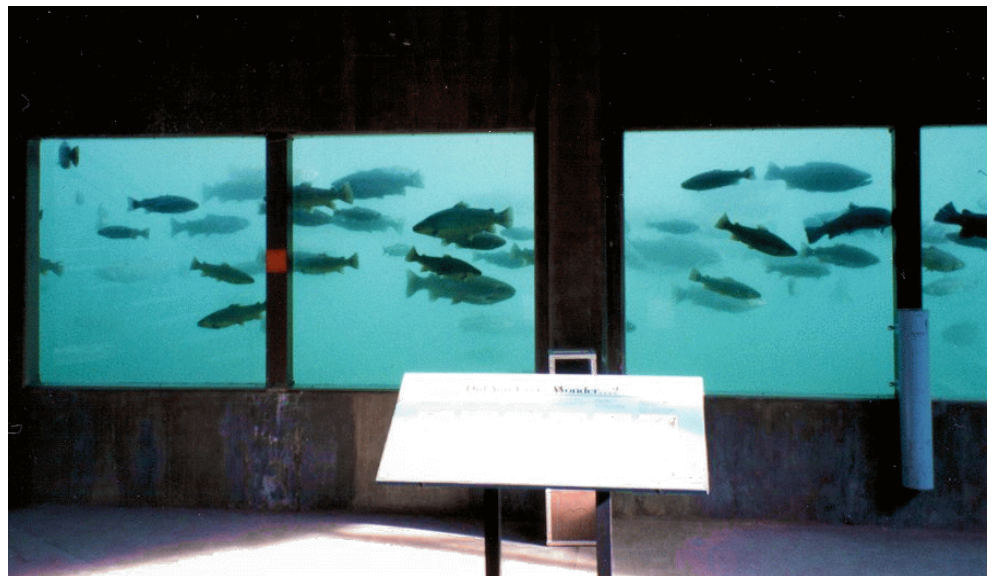
Partnerships Make it Happen!

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service operates the hatchery, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, through a series of partnerships with: the non-profit Booth Society, Inc., City of Spearfish, American Fisheries Society - Fish Culture Section, and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

In addition, many local volunteer citizens, civic groups, and school groups are actively involved with the hatchery's operations, education, and outreach.

These dedicated partners and volunteers keep the treasured DC Booth Historic NFH available to you, your family, and future generations.

DC Booth Historic NFH is located adjacent to Spearfish City Park and City Campground. Combine a trip to DC Booth with attending Spearfish's famous Passion Play from June through August, enjoying vaudeville-style productions at the 1902 Matthews Opera House, or touring the High Plains Heritage Center Museum. Come prepared for a day of fun!



Underwater Fish Viewing Aquarium; USFWS

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>
February 2001

***For Additional Information,
Please Contact:***

D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery
423 Hatchery Circle
Spearfish, SD 57783
605/642 7730
R6FFA_DCB@fws.gov