

The National Fish Hatchery System



Fisheries
& Habitat
Conservation

Through innovation and continual adaptation, the National Fish Hatchery System has pioneered fish culture techniques for a variety of recreationally valuable and imperiled species such as striped bass, lake trout, salmon, pallid sturgeon, paddlefish, alligator par, and numerous other aquatic species. Many of these innovations are shared with the private sector. National Fish Hatchery facilities also provide educational programs in aquatic resource conservation for many Tribal entities and local communities.

The work of restoring depleted fish populations and their habitat is implemented under the guidance of multi-State fishery management, restoration and Endangered Species Recovery plans. While fish propagation is a strategy included in many management plans, the National Fish Hatchery System also works with partners to provide technical assistance to ensure that habitat restoration, genetic considerations, fish health issues and other aspects of aquatic species restoration are well-coordinated. National Fish Hatcheries also perform extensive mitigation work, helping insure that viable and healthy fisheries are maintained in water affected by Federal dam construction.

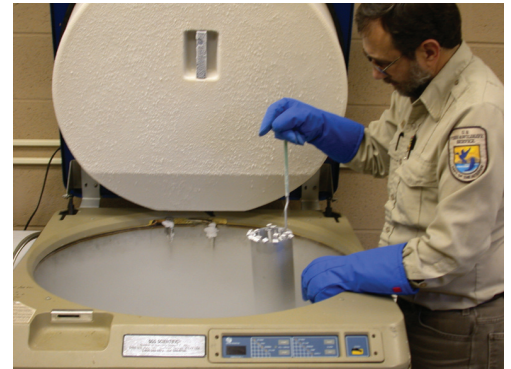
National Fish Hatchery facilities ensure that hatchery fish are able to compete in the wild, and Fish Health Center and National Fish Hatchery biologists develop and implement plans for fish health management for all propagation programs. The combination of prompt disease diagnosis and recommendations for corrective actions reduces mortality during rearing, increases survival after release and helps protect wild fish from inadvertent exposure to disease. The fish health program is also involved with partners in efforts to protect the nation's fishery resources from the introduction of fish diseases from foreign sources. Fish Technology Centers develop and provide new tools for use by the Service and partners in managing aquatic resources. In addition, scientists at Fish Technology Centers and National Fish Hatcheries develop genetic management plans to ensure that refugia populations and broodstocks preserve natural genetic diversity appropriate for restoring native populations.

Restoration of depleted populations of native game fish, through stocking by the National Fish Hatchery System, provides and enhances recreational fishing opportunities for the Nation's 35 million anglers.

For more information about the National Fish Hatchery System, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at 202/208-6394 or visit us on the Internet at <http://fisheries.fws.gov/>.

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

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USFWS Photo



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The National Fish

Hatchery System works

with partners through its 69

operational National Fish

Hatcheries, 7 Fish

Technology Centers, 9 Fish

Health Centers and 1

Historic National Fish

Hatchery and remains the

national leader in many

aspects of fish culture and

broodstock management,

especially for recreationally

valuable and imperiled

species.

