

# Warm Springs

## *Fish Technology Center*



photo: USFWS



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**Vince Mudrak, Center Director**  
Warm Springs Fish Technology Center  
5308 Spring Street  
Warm Springs, GA 31830  
Phone: 706/655 3382  
Fax: 706/655 9034  
E-mail: [warmsprings@fws.gov](mailto:warmsprings@fws.gov)

### Photos (top to bottom)

*Removing cryopreserved pallid sturgeon sperm sample from a shipping dewar prior to use on fresh pallid sturgeon eggs.*

*Newly hatched striped bass fry.*

*Robust redhorse sucker.*

### Station Facts

- Established: 1993.
- The Fish Technology Center is a component of the Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center. Its mission is to improve and enhance fisheries management. It provides technical operational support to regional fisheries operations and technical assistance to the public.
- The staff at Warm Springs FTC includes four biologists and a computer assistant.
- The Fish Technology Center budget for FY 05 is \$443,000.

### Geographic Area Covered

The 10 states of the Southeast Region.

### Center Goals

- Improve and enhance fisheries management by providing technical operational support to regional fisheries operations, developing new fish culture techniques, and providing technical assistance to the public.
- Provide management support of interjurisdictional coastal and riverine fishes such as robust redhorse, shortnose sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, and Gulf striped bass.
- Provide conservation genetics support for regional fishery programs.
- Maintain the National Fish Strain Registry for dissemination of information and support of private, State and Federal broodstocks.

- Recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act, such as: shortnose sturgeon, Alabama sturgeon, and various small stream fishes.
- Develop cryopreservation techniques for imperiled fish and mussels.
- Develop hatchery product evaluation techniques.

### Services Provided to

- Federal agencies including other Fish and Wildlife Service program offices.
- State agencies.
- Native American Tribes.
- Military bases.
- Universities.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGO's).
- The public.

### Activity Highlights

- Cooperative studies are undertaken with various universities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and South Carolina.
- Member of the Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee which includes the states of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Fish and Wildlife Service, several power companies, Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, several additional state, federal and industrial entities.
- Cooperative efforts with the National Marine Fisheries Service; the Tennessee Aquarium; Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Commission; the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; and the National Broodstock Stations.
- Serve on the Ogeechee River Shortnose Sturgeon Working Group and the Tennessee River Lake Sturgeon Working Group.

# Warm Springs Fish Technology Center

## Public Use Opportunities

- Environmental education and public outreach opportunities to visitors, school groups, and various other organizations.
- Beautiful surroundings and natural environment.
- Aquatic display for off-site presentations.
- Co-located with Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery and Warm Springs Fish Health Center.

## Calendar of Events

**February:** Fish-a-Rama, Atlanta and Perry, Georgia.

**June:** Youth Fishing Event.

## Questions and Answers

*What is a Fish Technology Center?*

Fish Technology Centers were established in 1965 to provide leadership and guidance to the fish culture community. The Warm Springs Center is one of seven centers presently operating in the U.S.

Over the years, fish culture studies have focused on reducing costs, enhancing fish quality, and improving overall fish culture operations. The importance of fish technology centers became clear as fisheries program managers became increasingly aware of the need to produce fish that are healthy, genetically diverse, and well-adapted to fisheries management objectives.

Areas of specialty include cryopreservation of sperm and eggs from endangered species and genetic conservation of imperilled species, and management of the National Fish Strain Registry database.

*What kinds of work is accomplished by the FTC biologists ?*

Our biologists have advanced fisheries backgrounds plus specialized training and experience that allows them to conduct various studies, including cryopreservation of fish sperm, developing or improving fish spawning methodologies, diet testing, general fish culture technology development and improvement, genetic analysis and management of imperilled stock, and management of NFSR.

*Who will benefit from the information developed at the FTC?*

All of the information developed at the FTC is available to everyone. Our primary end user is the National Fish Hatchery System but the information is also provided to the general public; commercial aquaculturists; local, state and federal agencies; and NGOs.

Volunteers, students, and interns are a valuable part of the Warm Springs Fish Technology research efforts. Interested parties may contact center staff at [WarmSprings@fws.gov](mailto:WarmSprings@fws.gov).