



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

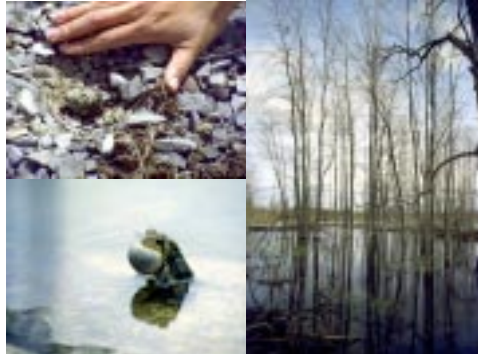
Fish & Wildlife Management Assistance

Federal Lands Assistance

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages more than 93 million acres of land in the National Wildlife Refuge System to conserve fish, wildlife, and plants, and to provide for wildlife-dependent public use. The Department of Defense manages more than 21 million acres of military land that contains sensitive ecosystems, threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and a variety of habitats, including forests, deserts, rivers, wetlands, and coastal areas.

The Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance program helps the National Wildlife Refuge System to manage fisheries and aquatic resources on refuges, and provides technical assistance to manage fish and wildlife on military lands. Effective management of these resources is vital to restoring and maintaining the health of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources, and providing increased fishing and other recreational opportunities.

The Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance program has strong capabilities and a long history of conserving, restoring, and recovering fish and wildlife on Federal lands. The program relies on about 300 professional fish and wildlife biologists located throughout the Nation to provide on-the-ground work, scientific expertise, and planning and technical assistance.



Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance provides a wide range of expertise in managing and restoring fish, wildlife and their habitats. Activities range from monitoring sandpiper nesting sites (upper left) and toad populations (left center) to restoring wetlands (upper right) to evaluating recreational fishing (middle left, right) and hunting opportunities (bottom).



regulations and access, stocking, habitat restoration, and exotic fish control. Fish and Wildlife Management



Assistance biologists assist refuge managers by conducting fish population surveys on refuge waters, developing fishery and aquatic resource management plans, and implementing management actions.

Our biologists also work with the Department of Defense to assist in developing Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans on military installations, including Federal, National Guard, and Reserve Center lands. These plans, required by the *Sikes Act*, are designed to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife resources and their habitats on military lands. These Management Plans allow multipurpose uses and provide public access to military lands when it is appropriate and does not diminish the capability for the military's mission.

Waters on National Wildlife Refuges provide a tremendous variety of sport fishing opportunities from salmon and trout fishing in the cold waters of Alaska and the Northwest, to fishing for bass and panfish in the warm waters of the South, to fishing for a variety of saltwater species on coastal refuges. More than 280 refuges have fishery resources, which are managed through fishing

What have we accomplished?

A few examples:

- n The Lake Champlain Fishery Resources Office conducted fisheries surveys at several National Wildlife Refuges and provided fisheries management assistance and wetlands assessment for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.
- n The Colorado Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Office manages fish and wildlife resources on military lands, including recovery actions for the greenback cutthroat trout, a threatened species.
- n The Panama City Fishery Resources Office initiated the aquatic portion of an ecosystem management program for Elgin Air Force Base, Florida, home to the endangered Okaloosa darter and other rare and endangered plants, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians.
- n The Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office assisted the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in New York by conducting field surveys for threatened and endangered species, developing management plans for northern harrier and short-eared owl, and initiating bird surveys and habitat management in grassland habitat.
- n The Cartersville Fishery Resources Office provided fisheries management technical assistance to Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and the Naval Weapons Center, Indiana.
- n The Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Office improved recreational fishing opportunities in 5 lakes on the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska
- n The Baton Rouge Fishery Resources Office provided fisheries management assistance to 12 National Wildlife Refuges in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.
- n The Western Washington Fishery Resources Office developed habitat restoration plans to support recovery and protection of threatened and endangered aquatic species and species of concern in the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
- n The Alpena Fishery Resources Office monitored fish passage and

water quality at the newly opened fish passage structure on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ohio

- n The King Salmon Fishery Resources Office initiated a population assessment of Dolly Varden and Arctic char on the Togiak River, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska.

The Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance program fills a unique and vital role in working with the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Department of Defense to restore and maintain the health of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Branch of Fish & Wildlife Management Assistance
703/358 - 1718
<http://fisheries.fws.gov/FWSMA/mamain.htm>

November 2000