



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers

Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing, and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems



Neosho National Fish Hatchery

Neosho, Missouri



Neosho National Fish Hatchery

The Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is the oldest Federal fish hatchery in operation. Established in 1888, the hatchery is located in the Ozark Mountain Region of southwest Missouri in the town of Neosho. It is one of 69 fish hatcheries operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Role of Hatcheries in Fisheries Conservation

The US Fish and Wildlife Service operates fish hatcheries throughout the United States. These hatcheries are a significant part of fisheries conservation and restoration efforts by producing and releasing rare, endangered and other fish back into America's lakes and rivers. Some of these hatcheries also help mitigate the loss of fishing from the large Federal dams built in the last century.

Over 130 species of cold, cool, and warm water fish have been produced at the Neosho NFH since it was established. The current focus is on paddlefish and lake sturgeon restoration, pallid sturgeon recovery, production of rainbow trout for mitigation, and native mussel propagation.



Feeding Pallid Sturgeon

-USFWS

The hatchery water supply is from four gravity flow underground springs, located up to four miles from the hatchery. The 1,600 hundred gallons per minute of 58 degree, high quality water allows hatchery staff to produce up to 90,000 pounds of fish annually and to rear several species of imperiled fish and other aquatic species.

The staff at the Neosho Fish Hatchery also protect the endangered Ozark cavefish in one of the springs that supplies the hatchery with water. In 1989, staff discovered Ozark cavefish using the spring. In 2002 efforts were taken to protect the area surrounding



Neosho National Fish Hatchery Staff

-USFWS

Left to right: Roderick May, Ralph Simmons, David Hendrix, Nancy Warner, Jeffrey Messens

the spring and protect the water quality necessary for cavefish survival. A remote camera provides live pictures of Ozark cavefish in the hatchery visitor center.



Ozark Cavefish



Aerial View of Neosho NFH; Neosho, MO

-USFWS

Visitors are welcome at the hatchery Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For detailed information or to reserve a tour please contact the Hatchery at: **(417) 451-0554**