

Orangeburg

National Fish Hatchery



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Station Facts

- Established: 1911.
- Number of staff: eight permanent staff.

Geographic Area Covered

- Southeast Region with emphasis in South Carolina.

Financial Impact of Striped Bass Program in South Carolina

- Annual budget (FY 06) \$524,000.

Station Goals

- Provide statutory mitigation and restoration fish (striped bass) for Federal water projects in South Carolina and Southeast region.
- Shortnose sturgeon are used for development of cultural techniques.
- Provide redbreast sunfish as a trade off for restoration in South Carolina managed waters.

- Provide environmental education and outreach.

Fish Species and Capability

- Striped bass (mandated mitigation) two million.
- Striped bass (restoration) two million.
- Redbreast (restoration/stocking public waters and Service land) one to two million.
- Shortnose sturgeon offspring are used in developing cultural techniques.
- Bluegill sunfish for stocking service land and for woodstock forage (recovery) 5-10 million.

Public Use Opportunities

- Over 14,000 visitors annually.
- Recreation fishing on 100-acre lake.
- Visitor center with aquarium.
- Nature trail.
- Offsite presentations.
- Picnic pavillion.

Calendar of Events

Throughout the year the hatchery holds events such as:

May: Handicap/special needs fishing.

June: National Fishing Week.

August: Senior citizens fishing days.

Questions and Answers

Where do you get the fish? What sizes of fish are raised at the hatchery?

Orangeburg National Fish Hatchery raises between three to four million striped bass yearly. We receive striped bass fry from South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Redbreast and bluegill sunfish are raised from broodstock maintained on station. Shortnose sturgeon broodstock are also maintained on station.

Where are the fish stocked?

The striped bass are stocked in Corps of Engineers Federal water projects and coastal streams for mitigation and restoration.

Where are the striped bass and redbreast raised?

The striped bass, bluegill and redbreast are raised in earthen ponds. The hatchery is a warm water facility, meaning that the fish raised here are in water temperatures between 65 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Where are shortnose sturgeons raised?

Shortnose sturgeons are raised in circular and rectangular tanks with a continuous flow of water.

What is at the hatchery to see?

The hatchery has a nature trail and bird watching. You can see the types of fish raised here in the aquarium.

Is the hatchery open everyday? What hours? Is there a charge?

The hatchery is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. There is no charge to visit the hatchery.