

# Harrison Lake

## National Fish Hatchery

### Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Complex

#### Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)  
Senator James H. Webb (D)  
Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-3rd)

#### Contact

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The Virginia Fisheries Coordinator and Gloucester Fishery Resources Office are co-located with the Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery as part of the Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Complex.

#### Purpose

The original purpose of the hatchery was to rear warm-water fish for farm stocking programs. Today, Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery plays a key role in the Service's efforts to protect and restore declining and endangered populations of migratory fish and shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay, Abermarle Sound and Ohio River watersheds, as well as along the Atlantic coast.

#### Public Use Notes

- Interpretive visitor center
- Fishing (fully accessible)
- Hiking trail
- Birding
- Wildlife observation
- Dragonfly observation

#### Management Activities

- Cultures American shad, river herring and striped bass for restoration efforts
- Marks fish with chemical bath treatments for tracking purposes and to provide information on the success of stocking programs
- Helps Virginia Fisheries Coordinator conduct evaluations for American shad, striped bass and Atlantic sturgeon
- Works with other agencies on fish restoration projects
- Provides tours, presentations and other interpretive activities

#### Highlights

Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery cultures, marks and stocks up to 7 million American shad larvae annually for restoration projects in Virginia and Maryland. Since 1994, the hatchery has stocked over 47 million American shad.

The hatchery has stocked over 17 million American shad larvae into the Potomac River, thereby boosting the Potomac's adult spawning population by an estimated 52,000 fish.

The hatchery has stocked over 21 million American shad larvae into the James River, increasing the James' adult spawning population by an estimated 63,000 fish.

Staff and volunteers are constructing a new building for the culture of imperiled freshwater mussel species for recovery efforts.

The hatchery has stocked over 6 million American shad larvae into the Rappahannock River, thereby boosting the Rappahannock's adult spawning population by an estimated 18,000 fish.



American shad

Duane Raver/USFWS

Since 2005, the hatchery has been involved in a cooperative experimental river herring restoration project with Virginia Commonwealth University, using culture techniques developed at the hatchery.

The hatchery is working with partners to culture submerged aquatic vegetation for restoration plantings in the Chesapeake Bay.

#### Issues

In order to meet increasing fisheries management needs in Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coast, the hatchery requires upgrades and renovation. The estimated cost (in 2000) for the proposed renovation was \$9 million.

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