

# Southeast Region Fisheries

## *Celebrating National Fishing and Boating Week*

*“The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service works to enhance recreational fishing opportunities and provide the public with enjoyable places to observe and learn more about our Nation’s aquatic resources.”*

### **Creating Good Stewards**

Fishing is more than just catching a fish. Fishing can provide an important connection to the outdoors and help build a lasting appreciation for natural resources. Over 50 million Americans go fishing every year, and being with family and friends is one of the most important reasons why. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service works to enhance recreational fishing opportunities and provide the public with enjoyable places to observe and learn more about our Nation’s aquatic resources.

### **National Fishing & Boating Week**

National Fishing & Boating Week, held the first full week of June each year, is a time when National Fish Hatcheries across the Region participate in dozens of events that offer families the opportunity to experience and learn more about their local fisheries. National Hunting and Fishing Day, held the last Saturday in September, is also a time set aside for fishing and learning. Many states offer free-fishing days during these times so that it is even easier for people to participate. Young people who have never fished and adults who don’t know where or how to fish may find this to be the perfect opportunity to learn an exciting new pastime.



photo: USFWS

*Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery hosted 350 young anglers and their families at the 2005 Open House.*

### **There’s an Event Near You**

Fourteen National Fish Hatcheries and six Fishery Resource Offices in the Southeast Region help sponsor free fishing events, as well as assist National Wildlife Refuges, other Federal agencies, States and local groups with their events. Thousands of participants have the opportunity to experience the thrill of landing a fish, tour a hatchery, and gain valuable information and skills for helping to conserve fisheries.



photo: USFWS

*“Cast for a Rainbow” was held June 11, 2005, and was sponsored by Norfolk National Fish Hatchery. The event drew 250 participants and a number of partners and volunteers.*

(continued from front)

### 2005 Highlights

From Arkansas to Florida, Louisiana to Kentucky, over 10,000 anglers, young and old, descended on events sponsored by National Fish Hatcheries this year. Many of these events included valuable partners, such as hatchery Friends Groups, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State resource agencies, and hundreds of organizations, businesses and private individuals. Scores of volunteers were mobilized to coordinate the events.

The largest Service event in the Southeast is hosted by Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery. Nearly 1400 children participated in "Kids Catch a Rainbow" this year. Other events, such as the Open House held at Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery, also offered the opportunity to learn more about National Fish Hatcheries and the important work they do.

Even the rain didn't keep some eager anglers from casting their lines this year. Welaka National Fish Hatchery and Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery each held events with over 200 participants who enjoyed excellent recreational fishing opportunities despite the downpours.

Other events in the Region are held especially for people with special needs. Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery held its annual Special Kids Fishing Rodeo May 12-13. With an outpouring of support from the local community, 150 participants spent time with staff and volunteers who shared with them the joys of fishing and companionship.



photo: USFWS

*Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery provides an exciting event for families each year. With partners including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and local Clay County, the hatchery registered 575 participants who fished the river for more than 2,000 stocked rainbow trout this past June.*



photo: USFWS

*The popularity of Fishing Day at Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery continues to grow each year, with 300 youth participants in 2005.*

#### For more information, contact:

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*Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery Kid's Fishing Day is a popular event held annually at Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina.*

July 2005



photo: USFWS

*Edenton National Fish Hatchery hosts a fishing event especially for disabled adults each year.*