The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was petitioned to list the paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*), a species of concern, as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1989. Paddlefish were formally listed as a species needing more detailed biological information.

The Fisheries Program, represented by Fish & Wildlife Management Assistance Offices and National Fish Hatcheries in 5 Regions, is working together with its partners to gain a better understanding of the population status, habitat requirements, and movement patterns of paddlefish. The information gained is used to conserve paddlefish populations and identify critical habitats for restoration.

The service’s leadership role, which has provided the Mississippi River Basin states with the technology to cooperatively manage such a complex, interjurisdictional fish, will continue as data from recaptured paddlefish increases during the next several years and data are analyzed to direct future management and conservation.