



Garrison Dam

National Fish Hatchery

Station Facts

- Three prehistoric fish species are produced at the hatchery
- One native fish species spawns in January when the water is 33 degrees Fahrenheit
- The visitor center at the hatchery has five large aquaria
- Hiking trails at the hatchery will connect you with nature
- Chinook Salmon, native to the west coast, call the hatchery home
- Garrison Dam NFH is open to the public and it's free!

Contact Information

Station Manager: Rob Holm

Phone: 701/654-7451

Fax: 701/654-7683

Email: garrisondam@fws.gov

Web:
<http://www.fws.gov/garrisondam/>

Directions:

To visit the hatchery exit south off the dam embankment west of Riverdale on state highway 200. Follow the signs east at the base of the dam to the hatchery's visitor center.



Who We Are

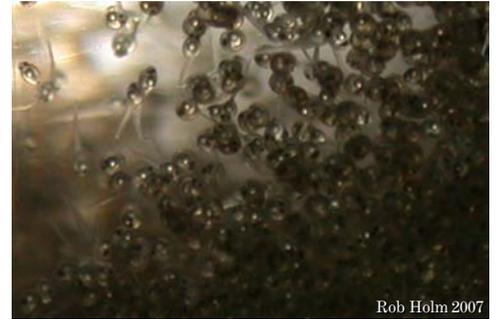
The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) is comprised of a network of 71 National Fish Hatcheries which propagate imperiled species for restoration and recovery programs, provide emergency refugia for species whose habitat is threatened, provide fish to benefit Tribes, and mitigate for federal water projects.

How We Help

Early spring marks the beginning of the cycle of life for many of our native fishes like pike and walleye. Eggs spawned from wild fish are brought to the hatchery in April to be incubated and grown. Visitors are encouraged to come and watch the life cycle of a fish.

The Cycle of Life

If you enjoy the outdoors and are up for a walk, the hatchery has just what you are looking for. The Lewis and Clark and Wetlands Trails provide an excellent opportunity for wildlife observation or simply enjoying the out-of-doors. Birders will find the trail a productive one as many of the feathered species found in this state may be observed along the route. Come often as the experience changes with the seasons. The length is about a mile and a half. You won't be disappointed.



Burbot Hatching

Rob Holm 2007

If you have a taste for the prehistoric, stop by the hatchery in early June. Adult paddlefish and the endangered pallid sturgeon may be at the hatchery awaiting spawning. These fish are undoubtedly the strangest looking of the North Dakota fish. The sturgeon has a 'sucker' mouth, beady eyes, whiskers, and a body covered with 'scutes', a scale like plate that gives the appearance of being covered with a coat of armor. The fish are a long lived fish, probably 50 years, and reach lengths of six feet and 90 pounds. The sturgeon have changed little since the early Triassic times. During the reign of the dinosaurs 200 million years ago, their ancestors were the dominant freshwater fish. Jurassic Park is alive and well at the fish hatchery! If you are still wondering what fish spawns when the water is near freezing - it's the native burbot or ling as they are commonly called.



Juvenile Pallid Sturgeon

Rob Holm

