

White River

National Fish Hatchery

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D)
Senator Bernard Sanders (I)
Rep. Peter Welch (D)

Contact

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Purpose

White River National Fish Hatchery biologists work in partnership with government agencies, conservation organizations and community groups to restore Atlantic salmon into the Connecticut River watershed, landlock Atlantic salmon into Lake Champlain and lake trout into Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

Management Activities

- Conduct tours, presentations and interpretive activities
- Partner with federal, state and non-government agencies to restore Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River basin
- Rear and maintain several year classes of broodstock, totaling 15,000 fish with size ranges up to 30 inches in length
- Process hatchery water, including river filtration, ultraviolet sterilization, heating, chilling, filtration and sterilization
- Spawn out nearly five million Atlantic salmon eggs and receive three million eggs from other federal and state hatcheries for incubation

- Hatch out eight million Atlantic salmon fry for stocking into all available habitat in the Connecticut River basin
- Use over 4,000 excess Atlantic salmon broodstock annually for recreational fishing within the Connecticut River basin
- Mark millions of Atlantic salmon fry with DNA fingerprinting
- Provide smolts for research and fish passage studies at hydroelectric dams
- Rear 188,000 landlocked Atlantic salmon as part of the restoration effort for Lake Champlain
- Rear 450,000 yearling lake trout as part of the restoration effort for lakes Ontario and Erie

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Atlantic salmon parr

USFWS

Highlights

The number of juvenile salmon migrating from the Connecticut River in 1998 was the largest recorded since the restoration program began. The White River National Fish Hatchery produced many of these fish.

Using DNA technology, hatchery biologists and staff from the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge marked millions of Atlantic salmon fry into ten regions of the Connecticut River. Biologists study genetically linked family groups to increase the effectiveness of future restoration efforts.

The new construction in water recirculation technology at the hatchery will increase smolt production and enhance future fishery restoration efforts in the Connecticut River basin.

Issues

Water alarm system upgrade is needed to provide a more reliable and secure system.

Improved water distribution system throughout the hatchery would increase capability to culture, protect and restore species to their natural habitat.

Enclosed indoor and outdoor rearing facilities would protect fish from predators and diseases introduced by wildlife and protect from poachers.

