



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery
[DRAFT] Recreational Fishing Plan
March 2025
NEPA Tracking #2025-0096119-NEPA-001



**North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery
[DRAFT] Recreational Fishing Plan
March 2025**

**United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery
144 Bungay Road
North Attleboro, MA 02760**

Submitted:

Project Leader

Date

Concurrence:

Complex Manager

Date

Approved:

Assistant Regional Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Date

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I. Introduction

North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is part of the U.S. and Wildlife Service's (Service) Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) program. The FAC program works throughout the country to restore habitat across the landscape, prevent and control invasive species, assist Native American Tribes and other partners in managing their fish and wildlife resources, advance fisheries and aquatic sciences and technologies, foster outdoor recreational opportunities, educate the public on the economic and ecological benefits of aquatic species and their habitats, and address new and emerging challenges—such as climate change.

North Attleboro NFH is a 226-acre Service-owned, cold-water aquaculture facility located in North Attleboro, Massachusetts in Bristol County (Fig. 1). The facility is unique in that it has the ability for cold water, cool water and warm water fish culture. The site is located between two major cities, Providence, RI (30 minutes) and Boston, MA (1 hour).

The property contains an office building, combination garage/old office building, 2 storage buildings, 4 production tents with 14 circular pools, brood stock isolation building, 2 government quarters, a high hazard dam, and a warmwater pond complex (Fig. 2). Pond 2 has been identified as an ideal fishing opportunity as it is $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre, 5 feet at its deepest point, and is fed with cold well water from the hatchery, and has a handicapped-accessible pier.

In 1949, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts donated land to the federal government for fish and wildlife conservation. Under Congressional Act 64 Statute 1053 in 1950, the North Attleboro NFH was authorized to produce freshwater fish for the New England states. During the 1950s, the hatchery was developed with earthen and concrete raceways, ponds, hatchery and feed preparation areas, emergency generators, production wells, storage buildings, office spaces, and residences. Fish production began in 1953, initially focusing on species like bluegill, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and trout, with all but the trout supporting the New England Farm Pond Program. As fisheries program needs evolved, trout production increased significantly, expanding to brook, brown, and rainbow trout, while production of other species phased out by 1974.

In 1984, North Attleboro NFH partnered with the State of Maine to launch a striped bass restoration program for the Kennebec River. This program successfully restored the striped bass population, eventually eliminating the need for continued intervention. The hatchery also briefly produced walleye in the mid-1980s for stocking at the West Point Military Academy.

As the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) adapted its goals to meet new conservation needs, the hatchery shifted its focus. In 1985, it ceased producing trout and began raising Atlantic salmon. A partial renovation in the early 1990s included the construction of circular concrete pools, a broodstock holding facility, a hatchery annex for egg incubation and water recirculation, and making public areas accessible for people with disabilities.

From the 1990s to the 2010s, North Attleboro NFH focused on reconditioning sea-run Atlantic salmon kelts from the Connecticut and Merrimack River restoration programs. They provided eggs, fry, parr and smolts for the Merrimack, Connecticut, and Pawcatuck Rivers.

North Attleboro NFH currently raises millions of American shad for restoration efforts in the Taunton and Pawcatuck Rivers. Additionally, the hatchery supports dozens of local fishing events through the stocking of thousands of brook and rainbow trout.

Applicable laws, regulations, and policies which direct the operation and programs of the North Attleboro NFH include the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e; 48 Stat.401), as amended; Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251-1376; 62 Stat. 1155), as amended; Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j, not including 742d-1; 70 Stat. 1119), as amended; the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4); Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 2901-2911; 94 Stat. 1322); the Code of Federal Regulations; and Fish and Wildlife Service Manual.

The purpose of this document is to support bringing North Attleboro NFH into compliance with Federal regulations by formally opening the station to public recreational fishing at Pond 2. It is a priority of the Service to provide for fish and wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities, including fishing, when those opportunities are compatible with the purposes for which the hatchery was established and the mission of the Service. The mission of North Attleboro NFH is to “protect, conserve, and restore native fishes in the northeastern United States in order to sustain valuable fisheries and support recreational fishing for the benefit of the public.”

II. Statement of Objectives

The objectives of a recreational fishing program at NA NFH are to provide:

- The public with access to a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre fishing pond (Pond 2) in accordance with all applicable Commonwealth of Massachusetts recreational fishing regulations.
- The public with recreational activities to experience fish and wildlife on more hatchery lands and increase opportunities for anglers, especially for youth and families.
- Increased alignment with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) and a stronger association between State and Federal lands.

This recreational fishing plan is consistent with Secretarial Order 3356, “continues the Department of the Interior's efforts to enhance conservation stewardship; increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt and fish; and improve the management of game species and their habitats for this generation and beyond.” Therefore, the Service is proposing to allow public access for sportfishing from North Attleboro NFH property with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts fishing laws.

III. Description of Fishing Program

A. Areas to be Opened to Fishing

Recreational fishing is allowed on Pond 2 from existing public access points and parking lots on the hatchery property in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' fishing regulations, with additional hatchery-specific restrictions (described in Part IV). Fishing can be conducted along the banks of Pond 2 (Fig. 3), as well as from the handicapped accessible fishing pier.

B. Species to be Taken, Fishing Seasons, Fishing Access

The primary angling opportunities on Pond 2 are for hatchery stocked brook trout, hatchery stocked rainbow trout and naturally occurring sunfish.

Public fishing at Pond 2 is conducted according to laws and regulations established and published by Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including licensing requirements, season dates, fishing methods, and harvest, with additional hatchery-specific restrictions (described in Part IV).

Anglers can use the existing access point and parking lot to access fishing locations. Pond 2 may be accessed by foot, as it located on hatchery property. The hatchery currently maintains access to a single, paved visitor-parking space for Pond 2 off Bungay Road directly across from North Attleboro NFH.

C. Fishing Permit Requirements

Aside from hatchery-specific regulations for fishing on Pond 2 (described in Part IV), recreational fishing on both bodies of water is conducted in accordance with current published fishing laws and license requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No additional permits are required beyond what is required by Massachusetts recreational fishing laws and license requirements. Current Commonwealth of Massachusetts fishing laws can be obtained from MassWildlife, and licenses can be purchased online through the MassFishHunt system or in person through a licensed vendor.

MassWildlife email:
Mass.wildlife@mass.gov
MassWildlife phone: (508)389-6300

MassWildlife Headquarters Address:
MassWildlife Field Headquarters
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581

MassWildlife Website:
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-fisheries-and-wildlife>

MassFishHunt Website:
<https://www.ma.wildlifelicense.com/Internetsales/IS/Customer/InternetCustomerSearch>

Fishing Regulations Website:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-freshwater-fishing-regulations>

D. Consultation and Coordination with the State

National fish hatcheries conduct fishing programs within the framework of State and Federal regulations. All authorized fishing is regulated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This plan and the associated environmental assessment (EA) will be reviewed by MassWildlife. This document will be updated upon receipt of comment. North Attleboro NFH will continue to consult and coordinate with MassWildlife annually to ensure the recreational fishing plan is consistent with State regulations.

E. Law Enforcement

Public waters are under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts law enforcement officers. Federal law enforcement officers may monitor the public use areas on hatchery property.

The following methods are used to control and enforce fishing regulations:

- Law enforcement officers may randomly check anglers for compliance with laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Hatchery staff may randomly check anglers on Pond 2 for compliance with the hatchery-specific regulations.
- Hatchery area boundaries and public use areas will be clearly posted.

F. Funding and Staff Requirements

The costs of maintaining public access to Pond 2 for recreational fishing comes out of the hatchery's annual budget. Expenses include program management, staff resources, boundary posting, signage, parking lot and road maintenance, facility maintenance, gate maintenance, and other fishing-specific activities.

IV. Conduct of the Fishing Program

A. Angler Permit Application, Selection, and/or Registration Procedures

Other than fishing licenses required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts law, anglers do not need a permit to access these waters. There is no fee or check-in required.

B. Hatchery-Specific Fishing Regulations

In addition to the laws and regulations established and published by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

- Anglers must abide by posted signage and only fish in designated areas.
- We allow fishing on Pond 2 between dawn and dusk.
- The use of baitfish, shiners, or minnows is prohibited in the Pond 2.
- We prohibit any fishing method besides rod and reel on Pond 2.
- Any fishing equipment, bait, waders, boots, nets, rods, etc. are prohibited near other ponds in the complex.
- There is allowance for a 2 fish daily creel limit.

C. Relevant State Regulations

Recreational fishing is conducted according to laws and regulations provided by MassWildlife and published in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) including licensing requirements, season dates, fishing methods, and harvest, with the exception of the hatchery-specific regulations described above (312 CMR 4.00).

D. Other Hatchery Rules and Regulations for Fishing

All anglers at North Attleboro NFH must abide by posted signage and only fish on Pond 2. Angling equipment including, but not limited to, live bait, waders, rods and nets near other ponds is prohibited. Additionally, all anglers and equipment must stay at least 50 feet away from all fish culture areas to maintain biosecurity of reared fish currently on station.

V. Public Engagement

A. Outreach for Announcing and Publicizing the Fishing Program

To inform the public of the recreational fishing program, any updates will be posted at the hatchery office and on the hatchery website. Any outreach is intended to educate the public of the changes/updates to the fishing program; and inform the public where to get information regarding the program. The hatchery will also address public comments received and review them for incorporation into the recreational fishing plan.

B. Anticipated Public Reaction to the Fishing Program

It is estimated that about 10,000 people visit North Attleboro NFH annually. Visitors use the hatchery to enjoy public recreation such as educational tours and events, picnicking, wildlife observation, photography, and trail use including hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, leashed dog-walking, and trail-running. Visitors engaged in these activities have historically co-existed without conflicts. We anticipate that this will not change because of this

administrative action.

We conservatively estimate that 20-30 people per day during the summer months could visit North Attleboro NFH to fish at Pond 2, take a tour of the hatchery, or participate in other recreational activities. Visitors of the hatchery are expected to be supportive of the fishing program as it is expanding public recreational opportunities, according to the hatchery's mission, while still maintaining the integrity of the hatchery. Allowing recreational fishing at North Attleboro NFH is anticipated to bring an additional 5-10 anglers above the current daily visitation count. We believe all visitors will amicably utilize the property for a variety of recreational activities.

C. How Anglers Will Be Informed of Relevant Rules and Regulations

Angler orientation of the hatchery will occur by providing relevant information at the hatchery and on the hatchery website. There are also informational rule books for angling in Massachusetts available inside the Main Office building. Anglers may address questions to hatchery staff by calling, writing, e-mailing, or visiting the hatchery.

VI. Compatibility Determination

Under the proposed action, the Service's ability to reach its fish and wildlife population goals would not be negatively affected. Fishing activities proposed in the North Attleboro NFH Recreational Fishing Plan are compatible with the purpose of the hatchery. Recreational fishing, as outlined in the plan, "is not detrimental to the propagation and distribution of fish or other aquatic animal life" (50 CFR Ch. 1 71) at North Attleboro NFH.

VII. References

- MassWildlife. (2025). Freshwater Fishing Regulations. Massachusetts: Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Retrieved from <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/freshwater-fishing-regulations>
- Office of the Secretary of State. (2018). *CMR Title 321 Section 4.00: Fishing*. Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Office of the Secretary of State. Retrieved from <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/massreg.htm>.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (2015). *Strategic Plan for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program: FY2016-2020*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior. Retrieved from https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/pdf_files/FAC_StrategyPlan_2016-2020.pdf.

VIII. Figure

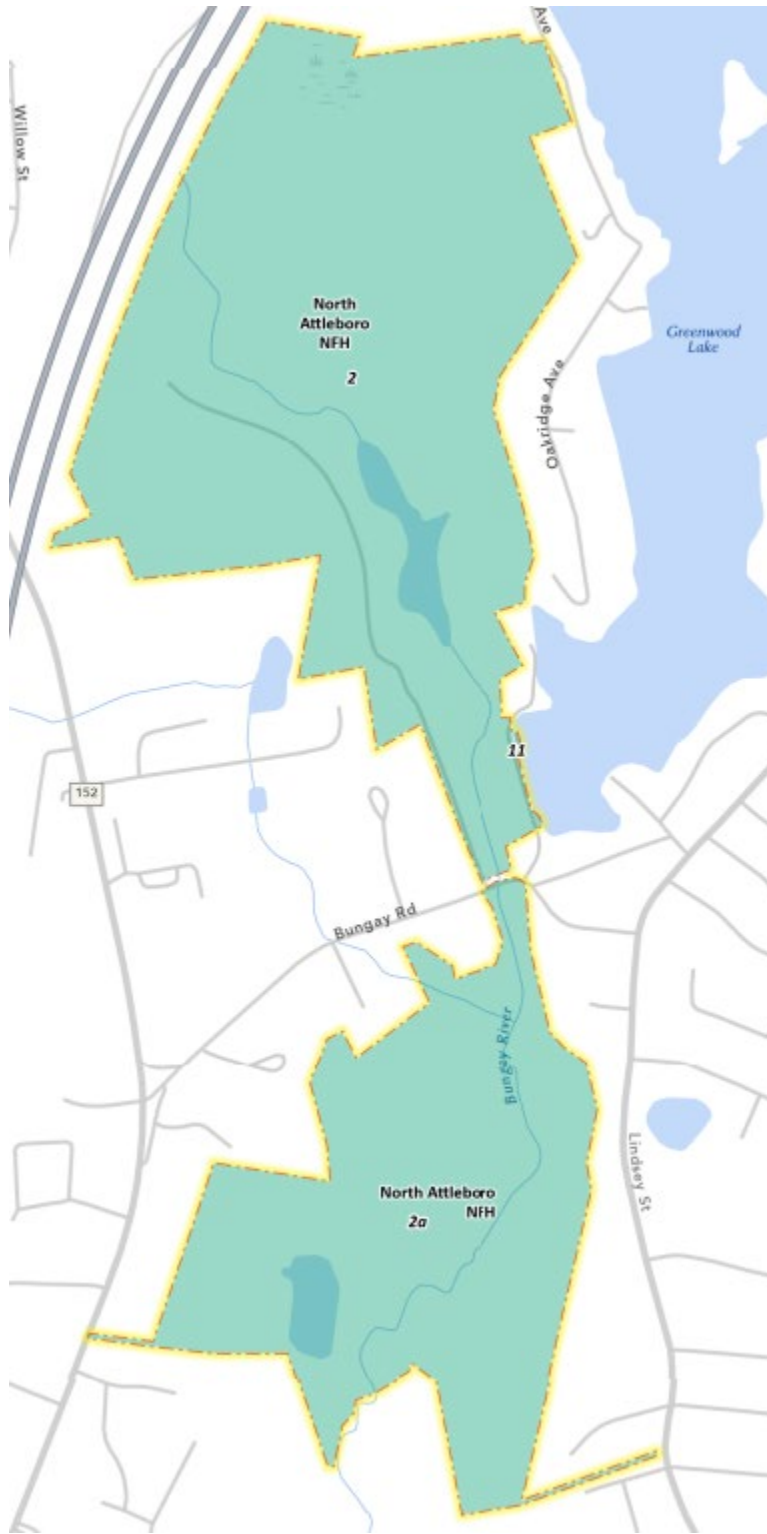


Figure 1. North Attleboro NFH Boundary (Highlighted in yellow).



Figure 2. North Attleboro NFH pond complex, Pond 2 marked with blue dot, parking lot highlighted in pink



Figure 3. North Attleboro NFH proposed recreational fishing pond (Pond 2) overhead view.

APPENDIX A

Environmental Assessment

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Environmental Assessment for
North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery
Fishing Plan and Other Recreation
March 2025
NEPA Tracking #2025-0096119-NEPA-001**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to evaluate the effects associated with this proposed action and complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance Department of the Interior (43 CFR 46; 516 DM 8) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (550 FW 3) regulations and policies. NEPA requires examination of the effects of proposed actions on the natural and human environment.

Proposed Action

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to continue allowing recreational fishing access on North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery (NFH) at Pond 2, in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts fishing regulations and the hatchery's Recreational Fishing Plan. In addition, the Service is proposing to continue allowing other forms of public recreation that currently occur on the hatchery property including picnicking, wildlife observation, photography, and trail use including hiking, snowshoeing, leashed dog-walking, and trail-running on public-use areas. Public use areas will be open to the public during daylight hours.

Background

North Attleboro NFH is part of the Service's Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) program. The FAC program works throughout the country to restore habitat across the landscape, prevent and control invasive species, assist Native American Tribes and other partners in managing their fish and wildlife resources, advance fisheries and aquatic sciences and technologies, foster outdoor recreational opportunities, educate the public on the economic and ecological benefits of aquatic species and their habitats, and address new and emerging challenges—such as climate change.

In 1949, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts donated land to the federal government for fish and wildlife conservation. Under Congressional Act 64 Statute 1053 in 1950, the North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery (NFH) was authorized to produce freshwater fish for the New England states. During the 1950s, the hatchery was developed with earthen and concrete raceways, ponds, hatchery and feed preparation areas, emergency generators, production wells, storage buildings, office spaces, and residences. National fish hatcheries are maintained for the fundamental purpose of the propagation and distribution of fish and other aquatic animal life, and managed for the protection of all species of wildlife (50 CFR Ch. 1 70.1). The mission and work of the National Fish Hatchery System is to "... improve[s] recreational and public use of aquatic resources, recovery of federally listed threatened or endangered species, restoration of imperiled species...and fulfillment of Tribal partnerships and trust responsibilities."

National Fish Hatchery System propagation addresses top priorities, such as:

- Enhancement of recreational fishing
- Enhancement of public use of aquatic resources
- Recovery of federally protected species
- Restoration of imperiled species
- Fulfillment of Tribal partnerships and trust responsibilities

As part of the National Fish Hatchery System, the mission of North Attleboro NFH is to “protect, conserve, and restore native fishes in the northeastern United States in order to sustain valuable fisheries and support recreational fishing for the benefit of the public.”

Fish production at North Attleboro NFH began in 1953, initially focusing on species like bluegill, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and trout, with all but the trout supporting the New England farm pond program. The hatchery stocked trout species in federal waters and programs. As fish program needs evolved, trout production increased significantly, expanding to brook, brown, and rainbow trout, while production of other species phased out by 1974.

In 1984, North Attleboro NFH partnered with the State of Maine to launch a striped bass restoration program for the Kennebec River. This program successfully restored the striped bass population, eventually eliminating the need for continued intervention. The hatchery also briefly produced walleye in the mid-1980s for stocking at the West Point Military Academy.

As the Service adapted its goals to meet new conservation needs, the hatchery shifted its focus. In 1985, it ceased producing trout and began raising Atlantic salmon. A partial renovation in the early 1990s included the construction of circular concrete pools, a broodstock holding facility, a hatchery annex for egg incubation and water recirculation, and making public areas accessible for people with disabilities.

From the 1990s to the 2010s, North Attleboro NFH focused on reconditioning sea-run Atlantic salmon kelts from the Connecticut and Merrimack River restoration programs. They provided eggs, fry, parr and smolts for the Merrimack, Connecticut, and Pawcatuck Rivers. Currently, North Attleboro NFH produces millions of American shad fry for restoration efforts of New England waters, and several trout species to support local recreational fishing opportunities.

It is a priority of the Service to provide for fish and wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities, including fishing, when those opportunities are compatible with the purposes for which the hatchery was established and the mission of the Service.

Applicable laws, regulations, and policies which direct the operation and programs of the North Attleboro NFH include the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e; 48 Stat.401), as amended; Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251-1376; 62 Stat. 1155), as amended; Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j, not including 742d-1;

70 Stat. 1119), as amended; the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4); Lake Champlain Special Designation Act (33 U.S.C. 1251); Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-596; 104 Stat. 3000); Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 2901-2911; 94 Stat. 1322); the Code of Federal Regulations; and Fish and Wildlife Service Manual.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

Fishing is a healthy, traditional recreational use of renewable natural resources deeply rooted in America's heritage. Federal laws and the Service's policies permit fishing on national fish hatcheries when those activities are compatible with the purposes for which the hatchery was established and the mission of the Service. The purposes of these proposed actions are to: (1) formally open North Attleboro NFH to public recreational fishing access so that recreational angling can occur at the hatchery consistent with hatchery's Recreational Fishing Plan; and (2) formally allow other recreational activities that currently occur on the hatchery such as photography, hiking, wildlife observation, and picnicking during opening hours of the hatchery. These actions are aligned with the purpose of Secretarial Order 3356 to increase access to public lands for hunting, shooting, and fishing, and put a new and greater emphasis on recruiting and retaining new sportsmen conservationists, with a focus on engaging youths, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreational activities.

The need of the proposed actions is to meet the Service's priorities and mandates as outlined by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to "recognize compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses as the priority general uses of the Federal Lands and "ensure that opportunities are provided within the National Fish Hatchery System for compatible wildlife-dependent recreational..."

Recreational fishing and outdoor recreational activities are priority public uses of the FAC program as identified in the core goals of the *Strategic Plan for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program: FY2016-2020* (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2015).

Alternatives Considered

No Action Alternative - Station Closed to Recreational Fishing and Other Recreation

Under the No Action Alternative, North Attleboro NFH would be closed to public recreational fishing access and other forms of recreation such as photography, hiking, wildlife observation, and picnicking. This alternative is being included in the EA for analytical purposes only, as under the status quo, recreational fishing and other listed recreational uses currently occur at the hatchery. For the purposes of this analysis, under the No Action Alternative, the hatchery would be closed to public fishing access and other recreational uses. Implementation of this alternative would not facilitate wildlife-dependent priority uses that have been found to be compatible with the purposes of North Attleboro NFH and the mission of the National Fish Hatchery System.

Proposed Action Alternative – Station Open to Recreational Fishing and Other Recreation

The North Attleboro NFH Recreational Fishing Plan, referred to here as "The Proposed Action

Alternative”, opens public access to Pond 2 for fishing on North Attleboro NFH in accordance with the hatchery’s Recreational Fishing Plan and the annually-updated laws and regulations established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including licensing requirements, season dates, fishing methods, and harvest (MassWildlife). The following additional hatchery-specific restrictions are in place on public fishing access:

In addition to the laws and regulations established and published by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

- Anglers must abide by posted signage and only fish in designated areas.
- We allow fishing on Pond 2 during daylight hours.
- The use of baitfish, shiners, or minnows is prohibited on Pond 2.
- We prohibit any fishing method besides rod and reel on Pond 2.
- We allow a daily creel limit of 2 fish per individual at Pond 2.
- Any fishing equipment, bait, waders, boots, nets, ponds, etc. are prohibited near other ponds within the complex.

The Proposed Action Alternative also formally allows other forms of recreation such as photography, hiking, wildlife observation, and picnicking (referred to as “other listed forms of recreation” in this document) on North Attleboro NFH property during daylight hours.

Affected Environment

North Attleboro NFH is a 226-acre Service-owned, cold-water aquaculture facility located in North Attleboro, Massachusetts in Bristol County. The facility is unique in that it has the ability for cold water, cool water and warm water culture. Eleven earthen ponds make up the warm water production portion. A 1,950 foot long dirt drainage ditch follows the east side of the vehicle access trail to the pond complex and drains into the Bungay River, entering the Ten Mile River in Attleboro, and ultimately emptying into Narragansett Bay. The site is located between two major cities, Providence, RI (30 minutes) and Boston, MA (1 hour).



Fig. 1. North Attleboro NFH pond complex, Pond 2 marked with blue dot, parking lot highlighted in pink

There is one recreational fishing opportunity within the earthen pond complex (Fig. 1), accessible via a paved parking lot across the street from the hatchery office. Pond 2 is approximately 0.74-acre in size, with a handicap-accessible fishing pier and maintained banks for angling access (Fig. 2). Discharge from the hatchery feeds 52F well water into Pond 2, maintaining water temperature ideal for stocked trout through the spring and early summer months.



Fig. 2. North Attleboro NFH proposed recreational fishing pond (Pond 2) overhead view.

This angling opportunity is governed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts fishing regulations.

Other listed forms of recreation are allowed on the public-use areas within hatchery property during opening hours of North Attleboro NFH, which are available on the hatchery's official website and subject to change.

Environmental Consequences of the Action

This section analyzes the environmental consequences of the action on each affected resource, including direct and indirect effects. This EA focuses on analyses of the environmental consequences on a resource when the impacts on that resource could be more than negligible and therefore considered an "affected resource." Resources that will not be more than negligibly impacted by the action have been dismissed from further analyses.

Impact Types:

Direct effects are those which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

Indirect effects are those which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

Impacts to Fishing and Fish Populations

The primary angling opportunities in Pond 2 are hatchery stocked species such as brook trout, and rainbow trout. Additionally, a small naturally occurring population of sunfish inhabit the pond.

No Action

For the purposes of analysis, the No Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH property closed to recreational fishing access and other listed forms of recreation.

Anglers would not have public access to Pond 2 within the bounds of Service lands, and human activity would be decreased significantly. Therefore, there would be no impact from recreational fishing, stocking, or other recreation uses to fish species or populations.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH officially opened for recreational fishing access at Pond 2 and other listed forms of recreation. These listed forms of recreation besides fishing are not anticipated to affect fish populations since they currently occur on land and have minimal contact and interference with fish populations with no significant adverse effects on aquatic species. However, recreational fishing potentially could cause negative impacts to the small native sunfish population that currently inhabits Pond 2.

Additionally, trout will be stocked with the sole purpose of supporting recreational angling

opportunities.

Since this fishing pond is a contained water body, with the exclusive purpose of recreational angling, there is no concern about the impact of mortality, reproductive capacity, loss of genetic variation, altered behavior, or changes in ecosystems because of this proposed action (Lewin et al. 2006, Cline et al. 2007).

Recreational fishing may lead to introduction of non-native fish into Bungay River behind Pond 2, if the public were to manually move stocked fish from the pond to the river. Although unlikely, this action may negatively affect native fish, wildlife, or vegetation. State waters are under the jurisdiction of MassWildlife law enforcement officers, and Federal law enforcement officers may monitor the public-use areas on hatchery property. Law enforcement officers may randomly check anglers for compliance with laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to help reduce the potential for unwanted introductions.

Under the proposed actions, there are no anticipated impacts to the fisheries due to the small size and closed nature of Pond 2. Fish are to be stocked regularly for the sole purpose of recreational angling. Furthermore, the other listed forms of recreation are not anticipated to affect fisheries since they currently occur on land and have minimal contact and interference with fish populations with no significant adverse effects on aquatic species.

A valid fishing license from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is required to fish Pond 2 from the hatchery property (MassWildlife, 2025). No Federal permit or other compliance is necessary. The current proposed alternative would allow public access to recreational fishing in accordance with all Commonwealth of Massachusetts recreational fishing regulations. The current proposed alternative would also allow other listed forms of recreation from dawn until dusk.

Other Wildlife and Aquatic Species

No Action

For the purposes of analysis, the No Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH closed to recreational fishing access and other listed forms of recreational activity. There would be no public recreational fishing on Pond 2 and reduced human activity on hatchery property; therefore, there would likely be reduced impact to other wildlife and aquatic species.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH officially opened for recreational fishing access and other listed forms of recreation. Therefore, fishing has the potential to increase disturbance to wildlife that use Pond 2, including waterfowl and wading birds. The fishing season in Massachusetts coincides in part with spring and early summer nesting periods for many species of waterbirds. Human activity, such as photography, hiking, wildlife observation, and picnicking has the potential to affect the behavior, distribution, and abundance of waterbirds due to disturbance. Although disposal of trash is prohibited, there is some limited risk of fishing gear being lost which could result in bird, reptile, or amphibian entanglement. All recreational users are expected to follow a “carry in, carry out” trash policy in which all visitors take their trash with them when they leave Federal property.

Disturbance from recreational activities vary with the wildlife species involved and the activity's type, level, frequency, duration, and the time of year it occurs. Anglers and other recreational users may disturb nesting birds by approaching too closely to nests, causing nesting birds to flush. Flushing may expose eggs to predation or cooling, resulting in egg mortality. Anglers can use existing public-use areas to access the recreational fishing. Given the habitat types near the public-use areas and observation from staff, anglers would have minimal effect on nesting birds of conservation concern. No species of concern have been observed nesting in areas that anglers would utilize. Hatchery staff would close areas, as needed, to fishing if sensitive nest sites were ever to occur.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the use of the public-use areas might negatively affect individual wildlife species that are disturbance-sensitive, such as certain migratory birds during the nesting season, reptiles, and amphibians. Such impacts would be of short-duration and minimal, and are not expected to increase from current use. It is unlikely that continuing public use will affect the population viability of such species.

Threatened, Endangered, and Other Special Status Species

To check for effects on threatened, endangered, and other special status species because of the proposed actions, North Attleboro NFH coordinated with Endangered Species biologists from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services program. An official species list was obtained through the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) online regulatory review tool. There are few threatened, endangered, or special status species that occur in the vicinity of North Attleboro NFH, including the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

No Action

For the purposes of analysis, the No Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH closed to recreational fishing and other listed forms of recreation. While there would be no public recreational fishing on Pond 2, and reduced human activity on hatchery property, existing State and Federal laws are in place to protect threatened, endangered, and other special status species. Therefore, there would be no impact from recreational fishing and other forms of recreation to these species under the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH officially opened for recreational fishing and other listed forms of recreation. North Attleboro NFH evaluated the species of concern found in the vicinity of the hatchery. The determinations are summarized below.

The tricolored bat is proposed for listing as federally endangered and is state listed as endangered throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (MESA, 321 CMR 10.00). The monarch butterfly is proposed for federal listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Opening North Attleboro NFH to recreational fishing and other listed forms of recreation on public-use areas does not impact or interfere with crucial habitat for bats or butterflies, such as trees,

grasses, and milkweed. Therefore, effects on tricolored bats and monarch butterflies are not anticipated because of the proposed actions.

Public fishing and other listed forms of recreation are not anticipated to have a negative impact on threatened, endangered, or other special status species. Thus, the Service designates a ‘no effect’ determination for the species in the official species list, including the tricolored bat and monarch butterfly. Where potential exists for impacts attributable to public access from North Attleboro NFH, the staff can minimize disturbance by implementing area closures or restrictions such that threatened or endangered or at-risk species are not impacted by fishing and other recreational activities.

Geology, Soils, and Vegetation

North Attleboro NFH resides within the Ten Mile River Watershed, which covers 54 square miles from Plainville, MA to East Providence, RI. This watershed is highly developed with both residential and commercial operations.

North Attleboro NFH property is located within the North Attleboro Formation, which is a geological unit of the Hoppin Formation. The dominant rock forms within this formation are: shale, slate, limestone, and quartzite (USGS). The bedrock outcrop is a type of volcanic rock called Attleboro Red Felsite. The soils are categorized as smoothed udorthents that are loamy-sand in character. The minimally developed sections of the property are largely forested with mature growth providing a full canopy around trails and ponds.

Pond 2 is accessible by foot from the designated parking lot. The path to the handicap accessible pier is paved, and the banks have a minimal grade covered with sandy-loam and native grasses.

No Action

For the purposes of analysis, the No Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH closed to recreational fishing access and other listed recreational activities. Therefore, there would be no impact from recreational fishing or other recreation to vegetation or soils on the hatchery property.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH officially opened for recreational fishing access and other listed recreational activities.

Pond 2 may be accessed on foot, via paved pathways from the parking lot to the pond complex. These paved paths help limit the impact of foot traffic on soil and vegetation. Anglers may fish on the banks of the pond, which are not paved, but are well established and maintained by staff. Effects of anglers utilizing the banks for fishing is unlikely to cause impact to the vegetation or soil surrounding the pond. Other listed recreational uses have also historically existed on hatchery property and trails without adverse effects on the vegetation or soils. Therefore, we do not anticipate soil erosion to increase because of foot traffic related to fishing and other recreation.

Visitor Use and Experience

North Attleboro NFH currently experiences approximately 10,000 visitors per year for fish and wildlife-dependent activities such as photography, hiking, wildlife observation, picnicking, educational tours and events, and general fishing access. Visitors engaged in these activities have historically co-existed without conflicts. It is currently estimated that 20-30 people visit North Attleboro NFH each summer day.

No Action

For the purposes of analysis, the No Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH closed to recreational fishing access and other listed forms of recreation. There would be a loss of approximately 2,500 potential annual angler visitations and 156 angler-use days with the No Action Alternative preventing recreational fishing at Pond 2 and other listed forms of recreation on hatchery property. This may negatively impact hatchery visitation and result in a lost opportunity to promote the Service's work to the angling community and recreational users. While the loss of public access to Pond 2 would negatively affect anglers that want to fish the waterway, it is anticipated that those anglers would substitute other nearby fishing opportunities.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH officially opened for recreational fishing access and other listed forms of recreation. This alternative would provide the hatchery with 2,500 recreational-use visitors and 156 angler-use days per year. These actions should not impact each other because anglers currently use the public-use areas without conflict and there is little spatial overlap among the recreational activities with angling. The Service plans to continually monitor for conflicts and evaluate mitigation measures that may be necessary to solve or to minimize conflicts between users should the need arise.

Cultural Resources

The property was acquired in 1948, and in November 1949 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts deeded the property to the USFWS. Construction at the hatchery began in June 1950, with most buildings being constructed between 1950-1958. The large broodstock building was erected in 1992, and the newest office space was completed in 2005.

Construction at the facility began in June 1950, and the first project undertaken was the multi-use Service Building, which was completed in 1951. Existing roads and trails are either original or date to no later than the 1960s.

In 2021, North Attleboro NFH was evaluated for its eligibility to be listed on the National Register for Historic Places (Sagerman 2021). The evaluation determined that North Attleboro NFH appears to be eligible as a historical district – “The Hatchery has made an important contribution to the history of fish culture in the United States and is the only fish hatchery in Massachusetts – the first state with a fish commission and fish culture research facility – that was originally developed by the USFWS” (Sagerman 2021).

Under both alternatives, there will be no construction of facilities, ground disturbing actions, or modifications of structures over 50 years of age, and following a discussion with a Service

Section 106 Specialist in March 2025, it was determined that the Proposed Action Alternative would not impact any cultural or historical resources.

It was determined through discussion with a Service Tribal Liaison in March 2025 that there are no known Indian Trust Resources on this hatchery and the proposed action will not impact any Indian Trust Resources.

Thus, the Proposed Action Alternative, that considers North Attleboro NFH officially opened for recreational fishing and other listed forms of recreation, would not impact any cultural, historical, or Tribal resources nor would the No Action Alternative.

Land Use and Administration

No Action

For the purposes of analysis, the No Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH closed to recreational fishing access and other listed forms of recreation. Therefore, there would be no impact from recreational fishing or other human activity to use of hatchery facilities (roads, public-use areas, parking lots) because they would be closed to the public. There would also be fewer administrative and maintenance responsibilities as a result of fewer visitors.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action Alternative considers North Attleboro NFH officially opened for recreational fishing access and other listed forms of recreation. Therefore, an increase in the use of hatchery roads, public-use areas, and parking lots may occur. The hatchery maintains public use and access areas for fishing and other recreational activities including a paved parking lot across the street from the hatchery. From the parking lot, visitors access the Pond 2 via a paved walkway. Other listed forms of recreation occur past Pond 2 and may be accessed via mowed paths.

No negative impacts are expected to land use because these public-use areas including existing access points, parking lot, and paths to access Pond 2 are well established. There are no new or additional anticipated effects to land use as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative given that public-use areas are established, and the area has been developed and maintained for decades. There are no new or additional anticipated effects to soil, vegetation, or land use ownership from the proposed actions since the access area has been in use.

Socioeconomics

According to data provided by the U.S. Census, the population in Bristol County, Massachusetts, has been increasing with an estimated 588,593 residences in 2024 and a positive annual growth rate of approximately 0.5 percent since 2010. The population of North Attleboro, Massachusetts has also experienced a positive annual growth rate of 0.5 percent since 2010, currently estimated at 30,943 residents. The median household income from 2019-2023 was \$109,000.

According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation,

approximately 532,000 anglers fished on Massachusetts waters, 71% being residents and 29% non-residents.

All fishing-related expenditures in Massachusetts totaled \$455 million in 2011. Additionally, approximately 1.8 million residents and non-residents participated in wildlife-watching, including wildlife observation and photography, in Massachusetts in 2011. All wildlife-watching expenditures in Massachusetts totaled \$1.3 billion in 2011.

Neither alternative is expected to have negative impacts on socioeconomics because it is anticipated that anglers would substitute other nearby fishing and recreational opportunities.

Indian Trust Resources

Following consultation with FWS Tribal Liaison in March 2025, it was determined that there are no known Indian Trust Resources on North Attleboro NFH property. The proposed action will not impact any Indian Trust Resources.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions

Recreational fishing (at planned events) and other listed forms of recreation currently occur on North Attleboro NFH property. Thus, the Proposed Action Alternative represents the status quo and does not present unknown or unique environmental risks. The Proposed Action Alternative is not expected to have any adverse effects on ecologically critical areas, historic, cultural, or archeological resources, air quality, fisheries resources, public health and safety, or water quality, including drinking water. No land use changes are expected. No hazardous wastes will be generated, transported, stored, or disposed of as a result of the implementation to any of the alternatives.

A valid fishing license from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is required to fish on Pond 2 from the hatchery property (MassWildlife, 2025). No Federal permit or other compliance is necessary to fish on Pond 2. Other recreational users may participate in photography, hiking, wildlife observation, and picnicking on the public-use areas on hatchery property.

Monitoring

Due to the small size and enclosed nature of Pond 2, there is no need to monitor the stocked populations within the pond. The hatchery staff plans to evaluate public access and use on an annual basis and modify, as needed, to protect fish, wildlife, their habitats, and hatchery infrastructure. The hatchery staff also plans to monitor for impacts related to fishing (e.g., garbage thrown in the public-use areas, along the shoreline, access related erosion, damage to restored vegetation, etc.) to these areas and may close properties or impose restrictions if needed. Alternatively, North Attleboro NFH can engage with the local community to help with needed clean-ups and any ongoing repairs to shoreline and vegetation that might become necessary.

The Service plans to continually monitor for conflicts and evaluate mitigation measures that may be necessary to solve or to minimize conflicts between users. North Attleboro NFH currently experiences approximately 10,000 visitors per year for wildlife-dependent activities such as

photography, hiking, wildlife observation, picnicking, educational tours, and general fishing access. Visitors engaged in these activities have historically co-existed without conflicts. We anticipate that this will not change as a result of these proposed administrative actions.

Compatibility Determination

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Service's ability to reach its fish and wildlife population goals would not be negatively affected. Fishing activities proposed in the North Attleboro NFH Recreational Fishing Plan and other listed forms of recreation are compatible with the purpose of the hatchery. Recreational fishing access, as outlined in the plan, and other listed forms of recreation are "not detrimental to the propagation and distribution of fish or other aquatic animal life" (50 CFR 71) at DDE NFH.

Summary of Analysis

This EA provides evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The term "significantly" as used in NEPA requires consideration of both the context of the action and the intensity of effects.

<u>Affected Environment</u>	<u>No Action Alternative</u>	<u>Proposed Action Alternative:</u>
Impacts to Fish Populations	Negligible impacts	Minimal impacts because fishing is conducted in accordance with State regulations to ensure sustainable fish populations and other listed recreational uses have little interference and contact with fish populations.
Other Wildlife and Aquatic Species	Negligible impacts	Minimal impacts because areas to be opened have already been developed as public-use areas are well established.
Threatened and Endangered Species	No impacts	Minimal impacts because the areas to be opened are well established and the Proposed Action Alternative is not anticipate to have significant impacts to Monarch butterflies or Tricolored Bats.
Geology, Soils, and Vegetation	No impacts	Minimal impacts because the areas to be opened have already been developed as

		public-use areas are well established.
Visitor Use and Experience	Negative impacts; no additional recreational opportunity.	Minimal impacts because allowing recreational fishing and other forms of recreation at the hatchery expands the use of the hatchery while not impacting each other.
Cultural Resources	No impacts	No impacts
Land Use and Administration	No impacts	Minimal impacts as areas to be opened have already been developed as public-use areas and are well established; however, this may increase awareness of public fishing access and other recreational opportunities at the hatchery.
Socioeconomics	No impacts	No impacts
Indian Trust Resources	No impacts	No impacts

No Action Alternative (Station Closed to Recreational Fishing and Other Recreation)

Under this alternative, North Attleboro NFH would close public access to recreational fishing and other listed forms of recreation. Disadvantages of the No Action Alternative include not being able to promote priority public uses of the National Fish Hatchery System and the inability to meet Secretarial Order 3356 that “continues the Department of the Interior's efforts to enhance conservation stewardship; increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt and fish; and improve the management of game species and their habitats for this generation and beyond.” There is no cost associated with this alternative. There would be no impact to the environment.

Proposed Action Alternative (Station Open to Recreational Fishing and Other Recreation)

The Service believes that allowing the other listed forms of recreation and maintaining public access to recreational fishing on North Attleboro NFH property in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts fishing regulations does not have any significant impacts on habitat, wildlife, or the human environment. Opening the hatchery to fishing access and other listed forms of recreation would promote Secretarial Order 3356 that “continues the Department of the Interior's efforts to enhance conservation stewardship; increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt and fish; and improve the management of game species and their habitats for this generation and beyond.”

The proposed actions do not establish a precedent for future actions that have significant effects on resources, nor do they lead to a violation of Federal, State, or local environmental laws. The effects of the proposed actions on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be

highly controversial.

List of Preparers

Katie Marony, Biologist, North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery

State Coordination

The Service reviewed applicable State fishing laws and has contacted the MassWildlife about North Attleboro NFH's Recreational Fishing Plan. MassWildlife is supportive of the Recreational Fishing Plan and supports public access to Pond 2 as well as other listed forms of recreation

Tribal Consultation

Consultation with FWS regional Tribal liaison indicates that the proposed action within the North Attleboro NFH Recreational Fish Plan will not have the potential for adverse interests on any local Tribes. Tribal outreach is not warranted for opening public fishing on Pond 2 (email communication 3/27/25).

Public Outreach

This EA and the North Attleboro NFH Recreational Fishing Plan will be provided to the public for a 45-day comment period. We will inform the public through the Federal Register, local venues, and on the hatchery's official website. Comments received from the public will be considered, and modifications may be incorporated into the final plan and decision documents.

List of Sources, Agencies, and Persons Consulted

Mark Tissa – Director, MassWildlife
Todd Richards – Assistant Director of Fisheries, MassWildlife
Sarah Nystrom – FWS Endangered Species Biologist
Tom Binzen – FWS R5 Tribal Liaison
Amy Wood – FWS R5 Historic Preservation Officer

Determination

This section will be filled out upon completion of any public comment period and at the time of finalization of the Environmental Assessment.

- ☐ The Service's action will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. See the attached "**Finding of No Significant Impact**".
- ☐ The Service's action **may significantly affect** the quality of the human environment and the Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

Preparer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name/Title/Organization: _____

Reviewer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name/Title: _____

References

- Cline, R., Sexton, N., and Steward, S.C. (2007). *A human-dimensions review of human-wildlife disturbance: a literature review of impacts, frameworks, and management solutions*. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Geological Survey, Open-File Report 2007-1111.
- Lewin, W.C., Arlinghaus, R., and Mehner, T. (2006). *Documented and potential biological impacts of recreational fishing: insights for management and conservation*. Reviews in Fisheries Science, 14, 305-367.
- MassWildlife. (2025). Freshwater Fishing Regulations. Massachusetts: Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Retrieved from <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/freshwater-fishing-regulations>
- Sagerman, P. (2021). Historic Resource Report: North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Table of Population Estimates as of July 1, 2018 (Bristol County, MA/North Attleborough MA). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/northattleboroughtowncitymassachusetts/PS T045224>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (2015). *Strategic Plan for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program: FY2016-2020*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior. Retrieved from https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/pdf_files/FAC_StrategyPlan_2016-2020.pdf.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau. (2018). *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: Massachusetts (Revised Edition)*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-vt.pdf>.

OTHER APPLICABLE STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS & REGULATIONS

Cultural Resources

- American Indian Religious Freedom Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1996 – 1996a; 43 CFR Part 7
- Antiquities Act of 1906, 16 U.S.C. 431-433; 43 CFR Part 3
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, 16 U.S.C. 470aa – 470mm; 18 CFR Part 1312; 32 CFR Part 229; 36 CFR Part 296; 43 CFR Part 7
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470-470x-6; 36 CFR Parts 60, 63, 78, 79, 800, 801, and 810
- Paleontological Resources Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470aaa – 470aaa-11
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3001-3013; 43 CFR Part 10
- Executive Order 11593 – Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, 36 Fed. Reg. 8921 (1971)
- Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites, 61 Fed. Reg. 26771 (1996)

Fish and Wildlife

- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668-668c, 50 CFR 22
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544; 36 CFR Part 13; 50 CFR Parts 10, 17, 23, 81, 217, 222, 225, 402, and 450
- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C. 742 a-m
- Lacey Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.; 15 CFR Parts 10, 11, 12, 14, 300, and 904
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 703-712; 50 CFR Parts 10, 12, 20, and 21
- Executive Order 13186 – Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, 66 Fed. Reg. 3853 (2001)

Natural Resources

- Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q; 40 CFR Parts 23, 50, 51, 52, 58, 60, 61, 82, and 93; 48 CFR Part 23
- Wilderness Act, 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.
- Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species, 64 Fed. Reg. 6183 (1999)

Water Resources

- Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.; 15 CFR Parts 923, 930, 933
- Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (commonly referred to as Clean Water Act), 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.; 33 CFR Parts 320-330; 40 CFR Parts 110, 112, 116, 117, 230-232, 323, and 328
- Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 401 et seq.; 33 CFR Parts 114, 115, 116, 321, 322, and 333
- Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.; 40 CFR Parts 141-148

- Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management, 42 Fed. Reg. 26951 (1977)
- Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands, 42 Fed. Reg. 26961 (1977)

APPENDIX C: Attachments

Letter of Support/Concurrence:



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery
144 Bungay Road
North Attleboro, Massachusetts 02760

Phone: (508) 695-5002

Fax: (508) 696-5098



To Whom It May Concern,

In 2025 the North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery prepared a Fish/Hunt Plan to allow open access recreational fishing at the 3/4-acre, handicap-accessible fishing pond located on the south side of Bungay Rd ("Pond #2"). The Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool was used to determine if the proposed project was likely to require formal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.


A Species List generated by the IPaC tool identified the Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) as potentially occurring in the project area. Subsequent use of the Tricolored Bat Rangewide Determination Key (DKey) yielded a determination of 'No Effect' for the Tricolored Bat. We are further making a 'No Effect' determination for the monarch butterfly (after discussing the project with biologist Sarah Nystrom) because the project is not expected to impact monarch habitat or place the species in jeopardy. Conferencing and further coordination are not required either species.

This memo serves as a record of our good-faith efforts to ensure that the proposed project will not result in unauthorized take of ESA-listed species or cause harm to critical habitats.

Kevin Cheung

Project Leader
North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery

Attachment 1. Endangered species/Section 7 good faith memo.

 Outlook

Re: Recreational Fish Plan for North Attleboro NFH

From Binzen, Timothy <Timothy_Binzen@fws.gov>
Date Thu 3/27/2025 12:34 PM
To Marony, Katelyn (Katie) <katelyn_marony@fws.gov>

Hi Katie,

It's nice to meet you! Regarding Tribal outreach:

For anything that the Service funds, permits, or does, we should ask early on "Does this proposed action have the potential to affect the interests of any federally recognized Tribes?" We should think broadly about Tribal interests.

If the answer is Yes or Maybe, we have a further due-diligence discussion about which Tribal interests we are thinking of, and which Tribes we are talking about.

If your proposed action is "Development of a Recreational Fish Plan for North Attleboro NFH," then I don't think that action has the potential for [adverse] interests on any Tribes. So Tribal outreach is not warranted. If you concur, you should put a copy of our correspondence in the administrative file for the action, as dated documentation of our due-diligence discussion of this point.

It's a separate topic, but NFHs sometimes deliver native fish to Tribes (the Tribe has to meet certain conditions and criteria — a suitable body of water that possesses adequate fish habitat conditions, has truck access, and is not connected to a natural watercourse). This has not been done from North Attleboro NFH, but I have had preliminary discussions about the concept over the years with the Narragansett Indian Tribe (southern RI) and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (Cape Cod).

I am available if you would like to meet for further discussion.


Best,

--Tim

--

Timothy Binzen
Tribal Liaison (Northeast and Southeast Regions)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mobile: (413) 800-2071

Attachment 2. Communication with USFWS Tribal Liaison

 Outlook

Re: North Attleboro NFH Fish Plan

From Wood, Amy B <amy_wood@fws.gov>
Date Fri 3/28/2025 3:17 PM
To Marony, Katelyn (Katie) <katelyn_marony@fws.gov>; Westfall, Esther N <esther_westfall@fws.gov>

Hi Katelyn,

If you are not providing a permit, have no ground disturbance and are not modifying buildings or structures over 50 years of age then, with regard to Section 106, I do not see a need to contact them. Your action does not meet the threshold of an "undertaking" and therefore does not require consultation.

If anything changes and you will be doing any of the above then yes we will need to initiate consultation with the SHPO.

Thank you!

Amy

Attachment 3. Communication with USFWS Historic Preservation Officer