Warm Springs
Regional Fisheries Center

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Photos (top to bottom)
Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center sign.

Aerial view of site.

Program work is complexed with recovery work at Bear's Bluff NFH.

Fishing rodeo during National Fishing Week.

Station Facts
- Established: 1990.
- The Center was established as the final step in developing a field station in the Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region's fishery program that would incorporate the Warm Springs Fish Health Center, Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery, and Warm Springs Fish Technology Center into a single, centralized complex. The Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery, South Carolina, was later incorporated into the complex as a unit under the Fish Technology Center.
- Staff of Center Director and two support staff who provide services to all other programmatic areas.

Geographic Area Covered
The 10 states of the Southeast Region.

Station Goals
- Restoration and management of interjurisdictional coastal and riverine fishes such as striped bass, sturgeon, paddlefish, and robust redhorse.
- Recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act, such as: the shortnose sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, robust redhorse, paddlefish, and various imperiled small stream fishes.
- Development of propagation and assessment techniques for native fishes in the southern United States.
- Evaluation and management of factors that affect the health of fish populations.

Services Provided to
- Federal agencies including other Fish and Wildlife Service program offices.
- State agencies.
- Native American Tribes.
- Military bases.
- Universities.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGO's).
- The public.

Station Programs
- Warm Springs staff members are currently involved with the development induced broodstock spawning and culture work with Gulf sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon, lake sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon.
- A line of Gulf Coast striped bass broodstock is being maintained at Warm Springs NFH for genetic-verification as a component of the Gulf Coast Striped Bass Restoration Program. These captive fish also provide both a back-up to wild broodstock and an opportunity to use both excess broodfish and limited numbers of progeny for various purposes.
- The robust redhorse is presently on the Georgia endangered species list and is a candidate species for Federal ESA listing. The hatchery and tech center units continue to develop culture techniques for this species in partnership with several states and universities.

Public Use Opportunities
- Public aquarium and visitor's area.
- More than 50,000 visitors each year.
- University staff and students meet and work with technical experts.
- Visitors from foreign countries enjoy discussing fisheries issues.

- Conduct a kids fishing day at Warm Springs and Bears Bluff annually.
- Environmental education to school groups, scouts and others.
- Bird watching.
- Native terrestrial (mammals and reptiles) viewing.

Calendar of Events
Friends of Warm Springs NFH sponsored events.

February: Fish-a-Rama, Atlanta and Perry, Georgia.

June: Youth Fishing Event.

Questions and Answers
What are the roles of the Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center?
The Warm Springs Center works to strengthen the fisheries program in the Southeast. This is done by using the talents of a wide group of professional biologists. Work involves studies and application of scientific information.

Examples of work include the following: improving the health of populations of sick fish; preserving the genetic material of endangered fishes; developing spawning strategies to propagate highly valued aquatic species; and, assisting state partners in their aquatic resource management work.

How does the Center get its direction?
Because of the complexity of the Center, direction comes from several sources. The Center Director receives immediate guidance from the Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries in the Regional Office. Other sources of Direction are varied and include the following:

- an inter-Regional Technical Team for Fish Technology Centers.
- a group of Fish Disease Specialists for Fish Health Labs.
- Activity Guidance from Ecosystem Teams.
- programmatic reviews.
- new legislation and/or policy dealing with fish and other aquatic species.

Does the Center welcome volunteers and community interaction?
Yes! The Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center strongly endorses interaction with the local community. The Center works with local teachers and students to provide opportunities for local youth to experience working with fish and wildlife.

The Center also encourages volunteers and social groups (like the scouts, etc.) to plan activities at the Center. Biologists from the Center continue to work with various local groups, and offer time and assistance to the community as a whole.

How many visitors frequent the Warm Springs Center?
The Center has a heavy visitation rate; and upwards of 50,000-75,000 visitors are expected annually in large part due to Roosevelt State Park and Roosevelt's Little White House who recorded annual attendance exceeds 110,000.

During the spring and early summer, bus loads of children visit as participants of scheduled school groups. Summer marks a heavy visitation rate by family vacationers, and fall brings many senior citizens, many of whom also come by bus. As Christmas holidays approach, the Center is frequented by families with young children — probably as a place to visit while town shopping is done by other family members.

Additionally, because of the rich Warm Springs town history, Georgians and many other Americans visit the town and FDR Institute, and the Regional Fisheries Center as part of their trip.