Warm Springs
National Fish Hatchery

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Photos (top to bottom)
Welcome sign.

Aerial view.

National Fishing Week activity.

Striped bass pond harvest.

Station Facts
- Established: 1899.
- This facility is a warmwater hatchery that was authorized by Congress in 1898.
- The species of fish and mussels propagated here do best in spring and summer water temperatures of 60 degrees to 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Species such as striped bass, sturgeon, robust redhorse and paddlefish which are vital to the fishery resources of the Southeastern United States and the Atlantic Coast are raised here and stocked in cooperation with the various state game and fish agencies.
- The staff includes four people.
- The Warm Springs NFH consists of 56 acres with 40 ponds totaling 18.23 acres of water.

Geographic Area Covered
Primary area of concern is Georgia, but work performed benefits species throughout the 10-state Southeast Region.

Station Goals
- Restores and manages interjurisdictional coastal and riverine fishes such as shortnose sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon and Lake sturgeon.
- Recovers species listed under the Endangered Species Act, such as: the endangered shortnose sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon and freshwater mussels.
- Develops culture techniques for native fishes, mussels, and other aquatic animals.
- Develops hatchery product evaluation techniques.

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.

Activity Highlights
- Four sturgeon species are currently on station: shortnose, Atlantic, Gulf and lake sturgeon.
- Gulf Coast strain striped bass are cultured and distributed for restoration work in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Robust redhorse are hatched and reared on station for recovery of this species.
- Lake sturgeon eggs are hatched and reared on station for reintroduction and restoration of this species in the Upper Tennessee River, Tennessee and the Coosa River in Georgia.
- Endangered and threatened freshwater mussels propogation for recovery of seven species in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River.

Fish and Other Aquatic Species
- Gulf striped bass, including eight-year classes of captively reared broodfish.
- Endangered shortnose sturgeon, including captively reared broodfish.
- Threatened Gulf sturgeon and imperiled Lake sturgeon held for development of culture techniques.

- Robust Redhorse, held for development of propagaion and culture techniques, including captively reared broodfish.
- Freshwater mussles held for development of culture techniques and pond refugia.
- Two outdoor pools with Georgia native fish.
- Facilities include a large recirculated intensive culture/holding system; a large tank for holding large fish species; a large recirculated egg incubation/larval rearing system; numerous holding and intensive rearing tanks; quaratine, isolation and rearing facilities for threatened and endangered freshwater mussels and small riverine fish; and propagation and rearing facilities for lake sturgeon. Also, two buildings for quarantine and isolation of threatened and endangered mussels.
- Water supply is from three springs; one spring supply has the capability of being buffered to meet the requirements of individual species.

Public Use Opportunities

- Public aquarium and visitor's area.
- Environmental education and public outreach opportunities to visitors, school groups and various other organizations. Beautiful surroundings and natural environment.
- Aquatic displays for off-site presentations.
- Boardwalk with a pond with native aquatic plants, American alligators and native southeast fish species.

Calendar of Events

Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery Friends Group events.

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

June: Youth Fishing Event.

The hatchery celebrated 100 years of operation on September 25, 1999.

Questions and Answers

Where does water needed for hatchery operations come from?
Water for station operations originates from several springs on station. Water from Cold Springs is shared with the town of Warm Springs. This water flows out of the ground at a constant temperature of 17 degrees centigrade year round. Water leaving the station eventually runs into the Flint River.

How are the ponds and tanks used?
Each of the 40 ponds on station has an individual fresh water supply and drain. They range in size from 0.1 to 1.6 surface acres. Many of the ponds now have electrical outlets for power equipment and have full time supplemental aeration available. All ponds have a sloped bottom allowing water and fish to be concentrated in harvesting basins when they are drained. The hatchery also has hatching jars, aquariums, tanks and cages of various capacities for hatching and rearing aquatic species.

These facilities are used to culture a variety of aquatic species such as striped bass for eventual distribution under guidelines of established management plans. The facilities may, however, be used to evaluate new hatchery techniques for species under culture which may not yet be stocked into public waters under existing management plans.

Is the hatchery open to the public?
Yes, our facilities include a public aquarium, display pools, boardwalk and displays which highlight the work done on station and by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Educational opportunities for groups exist during visits to learn more about hatchery operations and resource issues.