



Oklahoma Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



Leopard Darter



Hatchery Reared Paddlefish
Recaptured in Lake Texoma, OK



Arkansas River Shiner

STATION FACTS

- Approximate annual budget \$175,000
- Office was established in 1992.
- One full time staff member
- Works with 5 listed species
- Provides fisheries consultations to Native American Tribes in Oklahoma.
- Works with partners to monitor the spread of zebra mussels, an Aquatic Invasive Species that has been found in Oklahoma.
- The OKFWCO works with the threatened Arkansas River shiner and Leopard darters.
- The OKFWCO works on restoration efforts for the alligator snapping turtle, alligator gar, and paddlefish to restore populations and prevent listing these species.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Directions:

Co-located with Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery.
Take Hwy 377 North 8 miles from Tishomingo, then west 4 miles on Hwy 7.

Who We Are

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs) restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources for the benefit of the American people, helping ensure that these resources remain among the richest and most diverse in the world. Working across geographic and political borders, FWCO biologists craft partnerships and solutions to conserve, restore, and enhance our natural resources.

How We Help

The primary mission of the OKFWCO is to assist in the conservation of imperiled aquatic species in the Arkansas and Red River basins, including paddlefish, Arkansas River shiner, leopard darter, alligator gar, prairie chub, and Arkansas darter. The OKFWCO fills a vital role in restoring fisheries by conducting fish population assessments, and then prescribing management actions, if needed.

Staff serve as technical representatives on programs aimed at the recovery of threatened and endangered species. These programs include the Arkansas River Shiner Recovery Team, the Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee of

the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association, and the Interstate Alligator Gar Restoration Team which has 10 cooperating states.

Staff also serve as fisheries consultant to National Wildlife Refuges in Oklahoma and North Texas, as well as to six Native American Tribes in Oklahoma.

Key Initiatives

The paddlefish, a large primitive fish that had declined over time, is making a comeback through the actions of the OKFWCO, working hand-in-glove with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery. Paddlefish populations have been restored above several Oklahoma reservoirs.

The alligator gar, a fish that reaches 13 feet long and 300 pounds, is getting the attention of OKFWCO biologists. They conduct distribution studies of this big-river behemoth, trying to learn how they behave and where specifically the fish live. Fish passage and habitat improvement projects have been initiated to benefit leopard and Arkansas darters.

Leopard Darter Habitat on Mountain Fork River

