

Warm Springs Fish Health Center

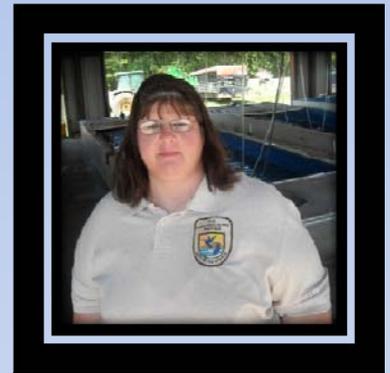
December 2011- February 2012 Activity Report



Norm Heil, Project Leader
Brian Hickson, Fish Biologist
Devin Chappell, Fish Biologist
Allison Hernandez, Fish Biologist
Nikki Persons, Fish Biologist (below)



The Fish Health Center (FHC) is a component of the Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center (RFC) and was developed to improve and enhance fisheries management. More specifically, the FHC provides a wide range of services from disease diagnostics to ploidy inspections.



Images are all courtesy of the US Fish and Wildlife Service unless noted otherwise.

Goals:

- Provide service, expertise and information that contributes to the health, survival, enhancement, restoration, and recovery of fish and other aquatic species in support of national and regional priorities.
- Supports hatchery operations to provide quality fish that contribute to ecosystem objectives.
- Assists in the development of management strategies through assessment and applied research to support the protection of wild stocks and recovery of threatened and endangered species.
- Educates key audiences about the elements of comprehensive fish health and its critical significance to healthy aquatic ecosystems.



5308 Spring Street, Warm Springs, GA 31830, Phone: 706-655-3382

<http://www.fws.gov/warmsprings/FishHealth/index.html>

Fish Health Diagnostics



Norm performed the annual inspection at Erwin National Fish Hatchery (NFH) with assistance from Scott Sellers. He timed the inspection so that he would be there for the annual spawning.



Left: Tony Garland assists with the release of eggs from female rainbow trout.

Fish Health Diagnostics



Above: Keith Wilson assists with release of “milt” or sperm from a rainbow trout.

Below : Trout eggs in an incubator system at Erwin NFH.



Fish Health Diagnostics



Brian and Norm investigated some lake trout that were sent to the Fish Health Center for diagnosis. No apparent problems were found.



Fish Health Diagnostics



Brian assisted the Warm Springs Fish Technology Center with their annual striped bass investigation. In addition, he conducted parasite and disease assessments on all of the fish.



Fish Health Diagnostics



Brian examined Atlantic sturgeon that were having some problems. He found that they had light-colored livers. The discoloration may have been related to diet.





Triploid Grass Carp Program

Preliminary observations



Allison and Nikki completed the project that was investigating spatial preferences of sibling diploid and triploid grass carp in tanks. No significant preferences were found for either diploids or triploids and congregating behavior was not observed. Allison presented the data to their peers at the Regional Fisheries Center on 26 January 2012 and subsequently sent out the information to the grass carp producers.

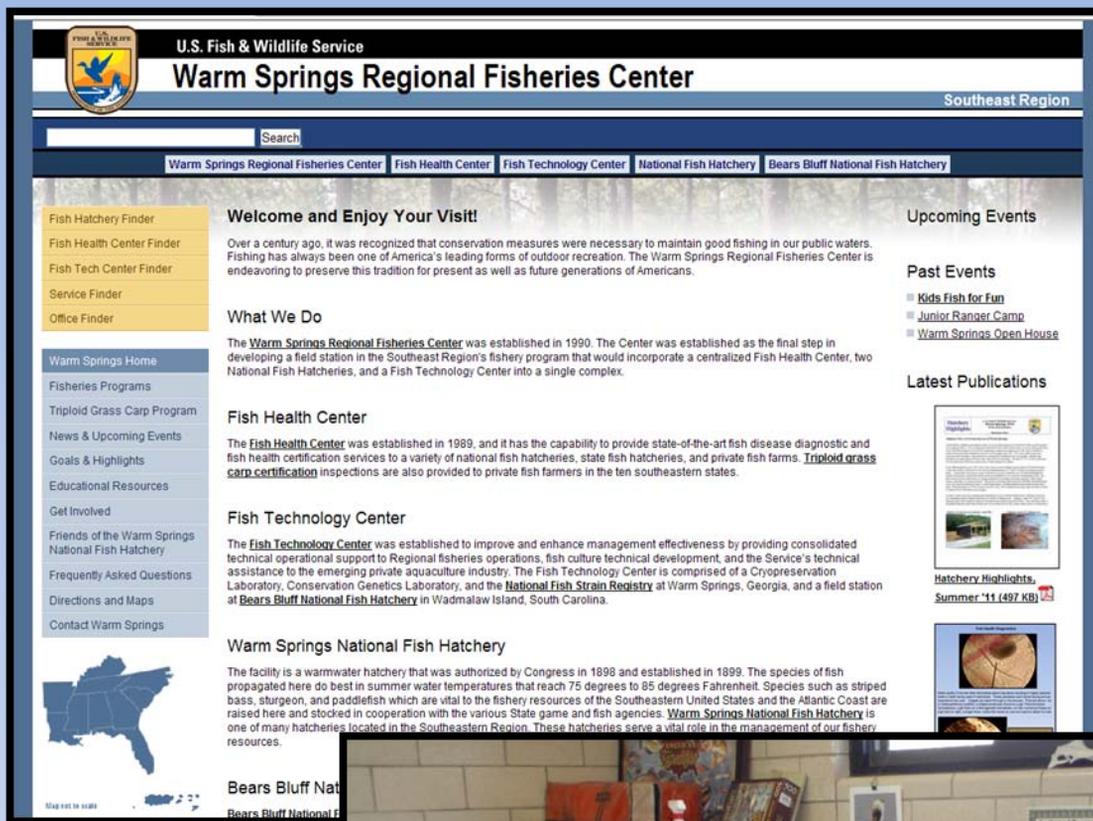


Other FHC Activities Training

Devin attended a fish identification training in December at NCTC providing him with more skills for conducting wild fish survey collections.



Other FHC Activities Training



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center website. At the top, it features the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service logo and the text "U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service" and "Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center". The "Southeast Region" is noted in the top right. A search bar is located below the header. A navigation menu includes links for "Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center", "Fish Health Center", "Fish Technology Center", "National Fish Hatchery", and "Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery".

Welcome and Enjoy Your Visit!
Over a century ago, it was recognized that conservation measures were necessary to maintain good fishing in our public waters. Fishing has always been one of America's leading forms of outdoor recreation. The Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center is endeavoring to preserve this tradition for present as well as future generations of Americans.

What We Do
The **Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center** was established in 1990. The Center was established as the final step in developing a field station in the Southeast Region's fishery program that would incorporate a centralized Fish Health Center, two National Fish Hatcheries, and a Fish Technology Center into a single complex.

Fish Health Center
The **Fish Health Center** was established in 1989, and it has the capability to provide state-of-the-art fish disease diagnostic and fish health certification services to a variety of national fish hatcheries, state fish hatcheries, and private fish farms. **Triploid grass carp certification** inspections are also provided to private fish farmers in the ten southeastern states.

Fish Technology Center
The **Fish Technology Center** was established to improve and enhance management effectiveness by providing consolidated technical operational support to Regional fisheries operations, fish culture technical development, and the Service's technical assistance to the emerging private aquaculture industry. The Fish Technology Center is comprised of a Cryopreservation Laboratory, Conservation Genetics Laboratory, and the **National Fish Strain Registry** at Warm Springs, Georgia, and a field station at **Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery** in Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina.

Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery
The facility is a warmwater hatchery that was authorized by Congress in 1898 and established in 1899. The species of fish propagated here do best in summer water temperatures that reach 75 degrees to 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Species such as striped bass, sturgeon, 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. **Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery** is one of many hatcheries located in the Southeastern Region. These hatcheries serve a vital role in the management of our fishery resources.

Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery
Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery

Upcoming Events

Past Events

- Kids Fish for Fun
- Junior Ranger Camp
- Warm Springs Open House

Latest Publications

Hatchery Highlights, Summer '11 (497 KB)



Allison was involved with a website design and development training held via webcam on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning in late February. She is currently the website manager for the Regional Fisheries Center. The homepage for the Regional Fisheries Center is:

www.fws.gov/warmsprings/

Other FHC Activities



Staff appreciation

Staff Appreciation Day for the Regional Fisheries Center was on January 12. Staff ate pizza for lunch and then went bowling at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation Gym where they have a six-lane alley. Norm was the highest individual score for the day at 171. Lower left picture: highest scoring team was the guys playing for the Fish Technology Center