

Harrison Lake

National Fish Hatchery

Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Complex Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)
Senator George F. Allen (R)
Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-3rd)

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The Virginia Fisheries Coordinator is co-located with the Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery as part of the Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Complex.

Purpose

The original purpose of the hatchery was to rear warm-water fish for farm stocking programs. Today, Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery plays a key role in the Service's efforts to protect and restore declining and endangered populations of migratory fish and shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay, Abermarle Sound and Ohio River watersheds, as well as along the Atlantic coast.

Public Use Notes

- Interpretive visitor center
- Fishing (fully accessible)
- Hiking trail
- Birding
- Wildlife observation
- Dragonfly observation



Management Activities

- Cultures American shad, river herring and striped bass for restoration efforts
- Marks fish with chemical bath treatments for tracking purposes and to provide information on the success of stocking programs
- Helps Virginia Fisheries Coordinator conduct evaluations for American shad, striped bass and Atlantic sturgeon
- Works with other agencies on fish restoration projects
- Provides tours, presentations and other interpretive activities

Highlights

Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery cultures, marks and stocks up to 6.7 million American shad larvae annually for restoration projects in Virginia and Maryland. Since 1994, the hatchery has stocked over 36 million American shad.

The hatchery has provided nearly 16 million American shad larvae for the Potomac River Restoration Project, thereby boosting the Potomac's adult spawning population by an estimated 46,000 fish.

The hatchery has stocked more than 17 million American shad larvae into the James River, increasing the James' adult spawning population by an estimated 51,000 fish.

In 2003, the hatchery provided 639,000 American shad larvae for the first year of restoration stockings in the Rappahannock River.

The hatchery is developing a protocol for producing marked river herring larvae to be used in restoration projects along the Atlantic coast.

The hatchery is working with partners to culture submerged aquatic vegetation for restoration plantings in the Chesapeake Bay.

Issues

In order to meet increasing fisheries management needs in Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coast, the hatchery requires upgrades and renovation. The estimated cost (in 2000) for the proposed renovation was \$9 million.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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January 2004

