

Nashua

National Fish Hatchery

Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Judd Gregg (R)
Senator John Sununu (R)
Rep. Charles F. Bass (R-2nd)

Contact

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Purpose

The Nashua National Fish Hatchery supports Atlantic salmon restoration in the Merrimack, Pawcatuck and the New Hampshire coastal rivers by providing eggs for program needs. The eggs are obtained from adult sea run salmon captured in the Merrimack River and held on the station and from domestic broodstock maintained at the hatchery.

Public Use Notes

- Guided tours
- Lectures
- Multimedia presentations

Management Activities

- The station produces 3 million eggs annually from domestic salmon reared at the hatchery and from sea-run adults that have returned to the Merrimack River to spawn.

- The eggs are shipped to the North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery where they are incubated, hatched and released into the headwaters of rivers. The fry mature in a natural environment and migrate to the sea to complete their life cycle.

Highlights

Each year the Nashua National Fish Hatchery utilizes approximately 3,500 Atlantic salmon for egg production. Once spawned, these fish are surplus to program needs and are released into the Merrimack River for the largest directed Atlantic salmon fishery in New England. The fish are marked, transported and released by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

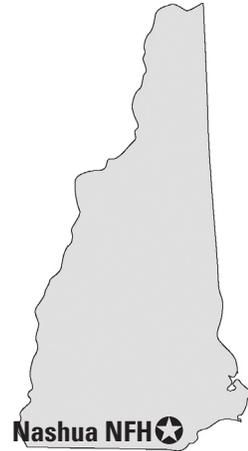
In addition to the economic benefits of approximately \$300,000 brought into the state annually, this program is designed by the Merrimack River Policy Committee to provide data on fish movement and habitat preference.

The Nashua National Fish Hatchery hosts approximately 3,500 students and adults from the Adopt-A-Salmon Family watershed education program, area schools and civic and scouting groups, and provides them with information about resource stewardship and the anadromous fish restoration programs.

The hatchery worked in conjunction with the Central New England Coordinator's staff to provide spawning demonstrations and eggs for the Adopt-A-Salmon program.

Issues

There are potential law enforcement problems when sea-run fish are permitted to freely enter the river.



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