

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Norfolk

*National Fish
Hatchery*



The Norfolk National Fish Hatchery is one of many units in the National Fish Hatchery System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service also manages more than 500 national wildlife refuges across the country. As the nation's primary steward of fish and wildlife resources, the Service provides leadership in habitat and wetlands protection; fish and wildlife research and technical assistance; and in the conservation and protection of migratory birds, anadromous fishes, certain marine mammals, and threatened and endangered species.



Norfolk National Fish Hatchery

Norfolk National Fish Hatchery is located in the mountainous terrain of north Arkansas near Mountain Home. Established in 1955 and opened in 1957, the purpose of Norfolk National Fish Hatchery is to meet the fishery mitigation needs arising from the Corps of Engineer projects in the White River in northern Arkansas and southern Missouri.



The upper White River has been altered by the construction of four multi-purpose dams along its course. The construction destroyed the warm water riverine habitat and replaced it with cold tailwaters. Beaver Dam and Lake are the uppermost impoundment. From there, the river flows through Table Rock Lake, Lake Taneycomo and finally through Bull Shoals Reservoir. Tributary impoundments are Norfolk and Greers Ferry.



What is a Fish Hatchery?

Federal fish hatcheries have been part of our nation's resource management efforts for more than 100 years. Hatcheries can be warm water, cool water or cold water.



Norfolk National Fish Hatchery is a cold water hatchery primarily for the production of trout to restock the tailwaters below Norfolk, Bull Shoals and other dams. In addition, Norfolk National Fish Hatchery also provides trout to reservoirs and in cooperation with state game and fish agencies distributes fish throughout Arkansas and other nearby states. Resource managers across the country acknowledge hatcheries as a valuable tool for the preservation of our nation's fishery program.



What We Do Here

Norfolk National Fish Hatchery was established to raise trout for restocking areas impacted by construction of dams, primarily in the tailwaters of Norfolk and Bull Shoals. The hatchery is responsible for raising three kinds of trout: rainbow, brown and cutthroat. The hatchery receives fertilized eggs from other hatcheries in special shipping containers. When the eggs arrive at Norfolk they are placed into large hatching jars. The eggs will begin to hatch in approximately two weeks after they are placed into the hatching jars.

After the eggs hatch they are placed in aluminum troughs or tanks, where they will stay until they are about 2-3 inches long (about 3-4 months old). After the fish reach this size they are placed in the raceways outside where they continue to grow until they are large enough to stock. This happens when they reach 9 inches in length (about 18 months). When the fish are small they are fed 5-6 times a day and they will be fed only about twice a day just before being harvested and stocked. Hatchery fish are raised, harvested and stocked year-round.





Did You Know...?

Norfolk National Fish Hatchery stocks over 2 million rainbow, cutthroat and brown trout annually in Arkansas and the surrounding states.

That the water in the raceways flows at approximately 22,000 gallons per minute.

That while fish are at the hatchery they dine on a special commercial feed.

That trout need to have cold water that is high in oxygen to survive and that the aerator building adds the extra oxygen needed.

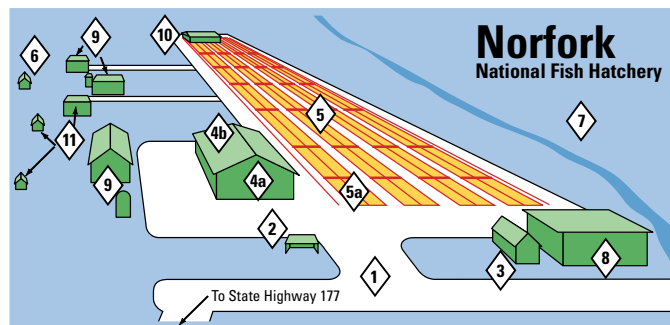
That the fish are reared to a size of approximately 9 inches in length at a cost of .32 cents each.

That the water used in the hatchery comes from the Norfolk Reservoir from a depth of 100 feet below the surface, where the temperature is a cool 44 degrees F.



Enjoy Your Visit

Visitors are welcome to tour the hatchery. During your visit, please feel free to ask questions you may have concerning the hatchery. The hatchery is opened from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm daily; restrooms, drinking water and parking are available.



Special group tours can be arranged by calling the hatchery in advance of your visit.

Dry Run Creek, just outside the fenced in area, provides a fishing opportunity for disabled individuals and anyone under the aged of 16. An accessible ramp, paved walk and picnic tables are located here. Fishing at this site is a catch and release program.

Directly across from the hatchery on Highway 177, the Corps of Engineers operates a campground and fishing area.

For More Information Contact

Hatchery Manager
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Photos by USFWS

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