

# Warm Springs

## *Fish Technology Center*

photo: USFWS



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### Photos (top to bottom)

*Robust redhorse.*

*Taking water quality samples.*

*Taking semen sample from shortnose sturgeon.*

*Removing cryopreserved lake sturgeon sperm sample from a shipping dewar prior to use on fresh lake sturgeon eggs.*

### Station Facts

- Established: 1993.
- The Fish Technology Center is a component of the Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center to improve and enhance management effectiveness. It provides consolidated technical operational support to regional fisheries operations and technical assistance to the public. Includes laboratories at Warm Springs, Georgia, and a field station in Bears Bluff, South Carolina.
- The staff at Warm Springs FTC includes three Tech Center biologists. The Bears Bluff Unit works under the guidance of the Fish Technology Center and has two biologists and an animal caretaker.
- The Fish Technology Center budget for FY03 is \$195,900.

### Geographic Area Covered

The 10 states of the Southeast Region.

### Center Goals

- Improve and enhance management effectiveness, by providing consolidated technical operational support to regional fisheries operations, fish culture techniques, and providing technical assistance to the public. Restore and manage interjurisdictional coastal and riverine fishes such as robust redhorse, shortnose sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, and Gulf striped bass.

- Provide conservation genetics support for Regional fishery programs.
- Maintain the National Fish Strain Registry for dissemination of information and support of private, State and Federal broodstocks.
- Recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act, such as: the endangered shortnose sturgeon, the threatened Gulf sturgeon, and various small stream fishes.
- Develop culture techniques for native fishes.
- Develop hatchery product evaluation techniques.

### Services Provided To

- Federal agencies including other Fish and Wildlife Service program offices.
- State agencies.
- Native American Tribes.
- Military bases.
- Universities.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGO's).
- The public.

### Activity Highlights

- Cooperative studies are undertaken with various universities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and South Carolina.
- Support the Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee which includes the states of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Fish and Wildlife Service, several power companies, Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, several additional state, federal and industrial entities.

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# Warm Springs Fish Technology Center

- Cooperative efforts include the National Marine Fisheries Service; the Tennessee Aquarium; Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Commission; the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; and the National Broodstock Stations.
- Serve on the Ogeechee River Shortnose Sturgeon Working Group and the Tennessee River Lake Sturgeon Working Group.

## Public Use Opportunities

- Environmental education and public outreach opportunities to visitors, school groups, and various other organizations.
- Beautiful surroundings and natural environment.
- Aquatic display for off-site presentations.
- Co-located with Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery.

## Calendar of Events

**February:** Fish-a-Rama, Atlanta and Perry, Georgia.

**June:** Youth Fishing Event.

## Questions and Answers

*What is a Fish Technology Center?*

Fish technology centers were established in 1965 to provide leadership and guidance to the fish culture community. The Warm Springs Center is one of seven centers presently operating in the U.S.

Over the years, fish culture studies focused on reducing costs, enhancing fish quality, and improving overall fish culture operations. The importance of fish technology centers became clear as fisheries program managers became increasingly aware of the need to produce fish that are healthy, genetically diverse, and well-adapted to fisheries management objectives.

Areas of specialty include technical support for fisheries resource programs such as interjurisdictional fishes, estuarine and riverine fishes, non-indigenous aquatic nuisance species, threatened and endangered species, and other emerging high priority aquatic resource needs.

*What kinds of work is accomplished by the FTC biologists ?*

Our biologists have a general fisheries background plus specialized training and experience that allows them to conduct various studies, including storage of fish sperm, developing or improving fish spawning methodologies, diet testing, general fish culture technology development and improvement, genetic analysis and management of imperiled stock, NFSR provides a platform for interested parties to compare strains of species of interest for making management decisions.

*Who will benefit for the information developed at the FTC?*

All of the information developed at the FTC is available to everyone. Our primary end user is the National Fish Hatchery system but the information is also provide to the general public walking in off the street; commercial aquaculturists; local, state and federal agencies; and NGOs.

Volunteers, students, and interns are a valuable part of the Warm Springs Fish Technology research efforts. Interested parties may contact center staff at [WarmSprings@fws.gov](mailto:WarmSprings@fws.gov).