

**Orangeburg National Fish Hatchery
Draft Fishing Plan**

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Orangeburg National Fish Hatchery
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ORANGEBURG NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY DRAFT FISHING PLAN

I. Introduction

National Fish Hatcheries are guided by the mission and goals of the National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS), the purposes of an individual hatchery, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter referred to as the Service or USFWS, interchangeable) policy, and laws and international treaties. Relevant guidance includes selected portions of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual, and the Strategic Plan for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program: FY2016-2020.

The mission and work of the National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS):

“... improves recreational and public use of aquatic resources, recovery of federally listed threatened or endangered species, restoration of imperiled species...and fulfillment of tribal partnerships and trust responsibilities.”

The Orangeburg National Fish Hatchery Substation unit was authorized in 1960 by Stat. 311. The site was acquired through three different transactions. The first tract of land was purchased under deed dated May, 29 ,1961, the second tract was conveyed to the USFWS from the County of Orangeburg under deeds dated August 12 and 23, 1962 and the third tract, which contained the water supply, was deeded by the County of Orangeburg in 1979. The primary purpose of the substation was for production of warmwater fish, including striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), redbreast sunfish (*Lepomis auritus*) and bluegill sunfish (*Lepomis macrochrius*). The hatchery property consists of 205 acres.



For visitors to the area, Orangeburg Hatchery Substation offers a nature trail, bird watching and

fishing from the fishing pier to ensure a rewarding experience for all visitors.

There has been no historical program previously established on Orangeburg Hatchery Substation to fish public waters. Fishing from boats occurs in the hatchery's 102 acre water supply. The main station hatchery regularly provides fishing clinics for special needs groups such as veterans, elderly, handicapped children, etc, but these are for specific timeframes in ponds dedicated to such events.

Recreational fishing is a popular sport off-hatchery on the navigable waters of the Edisto River, Lake Murray or Santee-Cooper River.

II. Statement of Objectives

Allowing fishing from hatchery property is consistent with the Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program's Strategic goal to "Enhance Recreational Fishing and Other Public Uses of Aquatic Resources". The Service has a long tradition of fostering public uses and enjoyment of aquatic resources through its work to conserve these resources, to support fishing and other aquatic outdoor recreational activities, and national education programs.

Fishing Plan Goal

Increase angling participation. Diverse, stable and productive angling opportunities are the basis for increased angling participation. Programs should foster life-long participation in fishing and the outdoors based on simple, easily available opportunities and skills that can be learned at any age.

Fishing Plan Objective

The objective of a fishing program on Orangeburg NFH Substation is to provide opportunities for visitors to fish from hatchery property in accordance with FAC goals and SCDNR fishing regulations.

The program will:

- Include clear and concise regulations that are readily available to visitors on the hatchery website;
- Pose minimal conflict with overall FAC and hatchery objectives;
- Pose minimal conflict with other priority public use activities; and
- Provide a quality angling program that provides opportunities for visitors to fish from or on hatchery lands.

Fishing Plan Strategies:

- a. Allow anglers to fish at the sub-stations fishing pier.
- b. At all locations where fishing is allowed, provide fishing line recycling containers for

anglers to discard their used monofilament line.

III. Description of Fishing Program

A. Areas to be Opened to Fishing

Fishing would occur on an upgraded fishing pier or by non-motorized watercraft via a canoe or jon boat. Available shoreline area is limited for use as it is used for hatchery fish production.

B. Species to be Taken, Fishing Periods, Fishing Access

The area will be open for anglers from dawn to dusk. This is from 30 minutes prior to sunrise to 30 minutes prior to sunset, daily including weekends and holidays year-round. Anglers will access the substation fishing pier and water supply reservoir using an access road named Hatchery Road.

Species available in the substation water supply include bluegill, channel catfish, common carp, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed, redbreast sunfish, striped bass, warmouth and yellow bullhead.



C. Fishing Permit Requirements

Anglers who are eligible to fish under South Carolina law are eligible to fish public waters from hatchery property. They must obtain a South Carolina fishing license and follow South Carolina state laws, limits, and regulations.

D. Consultation and Coordination with the State

The Service reviewed any applicable state fishing regulations to ensure consistency, and has been in contact with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources about support for the Service proposal.

E. Law Enforcement

The Service currently allows SCDNR enforcement officers to patrol the public access area as the hatchery has no law enforcement component, SCDNR officers would be able to enforce State laws and regulations on hatchery property.

The following methods are used to control and enforce regulations:

- Hatchery and fishing area boundaries will be clearly posted;
- The hatchery website will provide information for anglers including links to State websites relative to regulations and obtaining fishing licenses;

F. Funding and Staffing Requirements

There will be costs associated with the development of infrastructure to support fishing at Orangeburg NFH Substation. Following the development and approval of a fishing opening package, initial improvement costs will include acquisition and installation of signage as well as purchase and placement of recycling and trash containers.

Annual costs to administer the fishing program at Orangeburg NFH Substation, including salary, equipment, and maintenance, totals approximately \$3,500. Expenses will consist primarily of posting and maintaining “Public Fishing Area” signs, maintenance of the trail and access road, law enforcement patrols, retrieval of monofilament line deposited in waste containers, and production and dissemination of materials regarding fishing access and regulations.

Table 1. Costs to Administer a Fishing Program at Orangeburg NFH Substation

Activity or Project	One-time Expense	Recurring (Annual) Expense
Signage	\$900	
Trash and recycling containers	\$1,000	
Maintenance		\$1,500
Staff		\$3,000
Total	\$1,900	\$4,500

G. Boating

Non-motorized boating has historically occurred in the pond prior to the transfer to the Service in 1979, and has continued since via the public access road, regulated by the State of South Carolina. Fishing from non-motorized watercraft would be allowed under this Plan, with boaters following all State regulations for non-navigable waters.

IV. Conduct of the Fishing Program

A. Fishing Permit Application, Selection, and/or Registration Procedures

No special application or registration process is required.

B. Hatchery-Specific Rules and Regulations

- Camping, overnight use, and fires are prohibited.
- Cleaning of fish on the hatchery is prohibited.
- Nighttime fishing is prohibited.
- Pets must be on leash while on the hatchery.
- Boats and watercraft must be non-motorized.

C. Relevant State Regulations

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/fishregs/freshwaterregs.html>

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/fishregs/nongameregs.html>

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regs/boating.html>

V. Public Engagement

A. Outreach for Announcing and Publicizing the Fishing Program

Announcement concerning public fishing will be made on the Orangeburg NFH Facebook page, with information about fishing available on the Orangeburg NFH website:

<http://www.fws.gov/orangeburg/>

B. Anticipated Public Reaction to the Fishing Program

The Service does not anticipate any controversy as a result of opening this use on Orangeburg NFH Substation.

C. How Anglers Will Be Informed of Relevant Rules and Regulations

General information regarding fishing and other wildlife-dependent public uses can be obtained from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

VI. Compatibility Determination

Fishing and all associated program activities proposed in this plan are determined to be compatible with the purposes of the hatchery.