

**Edenton National Fish Hatchery
Draft Fishing Plan**

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Edenton National Fish Hatchery
1102 West Queen St
Edenton, NC 27932
Chowan County**

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EDENTON 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 Edenton National Fish Hatchery was established by Act of Congress 71 Statute 264, approved on July 7, 1898. The primary purpose was for production of warmwater fish, including American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) and striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*). The hatchery property consists of 63.59 acres.



For visitors to the area, Edenton Hatchery offers a nature trail, birdwatching, a public aquarium, and interpretive panels to ensure a rewarding experience for all visitors.

There has been no historical program previously established on Edenton NFH to fish public waters. Fishing from boats occurs in waters adjacent to the hatchery. The 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 Pembroke Creek, Edenton Bay, and the Chowan 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 Edenton NFH is to provide opportunities for visitors to fish from hatchery property in accordance with FAC goals and NCWRC 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 from the hatchery boardwalk extending to Pembroke Creek, and to bank fish along the shore near the hatchery intake from Pembroke Creek.
- 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

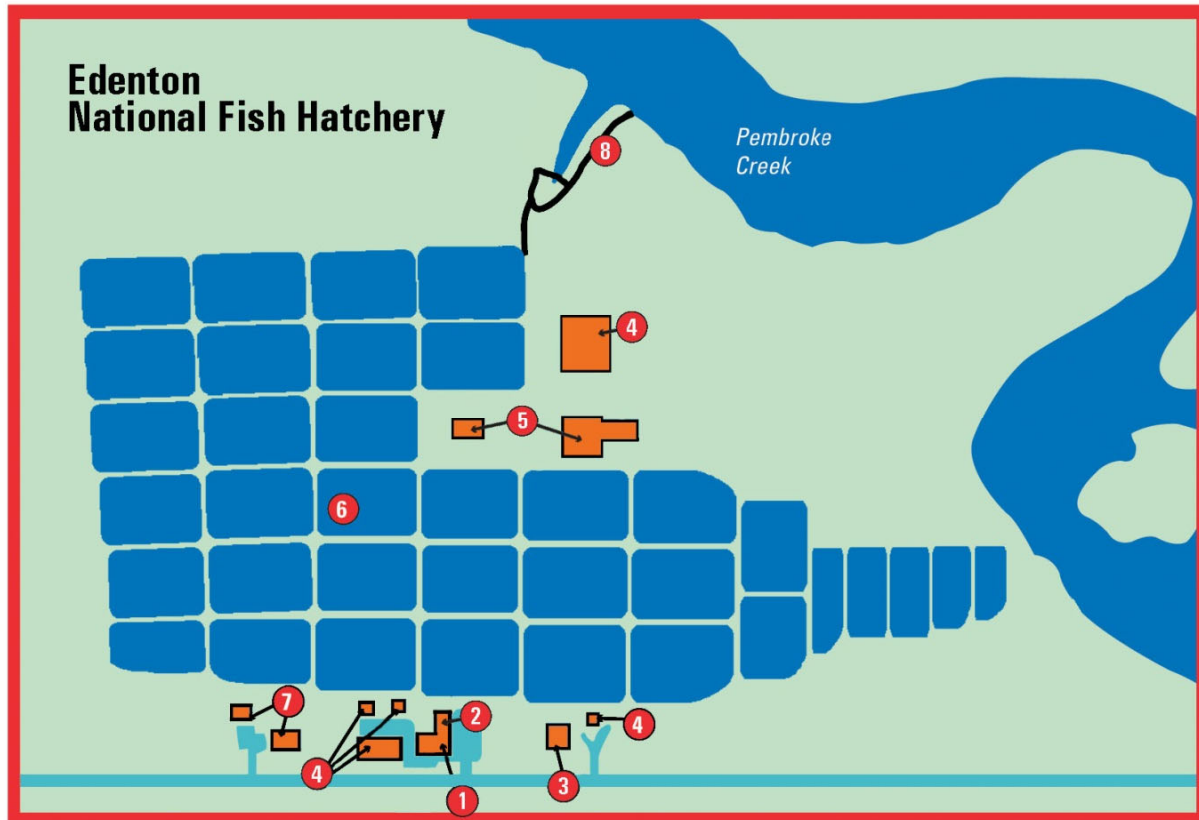
A. Areas to be Opened to Fishing

Bank fishing would occur along the shore by the hatchery intake and on the adjacent boardwalk. Available shoreline area is limited by extensive wetlands on either side.

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

The areas will be open for anglers when the hatchery is open. This is from 7:00am to 3:30pm daily including weekends and holidays April through mid-December. From mid-December through March the hatchery is typically closed on weekends and holidays. Anglers will access Pembroke Creek by walking North from the parking lot to the creek via the roads along the hatchery pond levees.

Species available in Pembroke Creek include black crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, common carp, flier, largemouth bass, longnose gar, pumpkinseed, redear sunfish, striped bass, warmouth, white catfish, white perch, yellow bullhead, and yellow perch.



Area 1: Parking

Area 8: Fishing Access

C. Fishing Permit Requirements

Anglers who are eligible to fish under North Carolina law are eligible to fish public waters from hatchery property. They must obtain a North Carolina fishing license and follow North 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 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission about support for the Service proposal.

E. Law Enforcement

The Service currently allows NCWRC enforcement officers to store Commission boats on the hatchery as part of a long running partnership between the agencies. As the hatchery has no law enforcement component, Commission 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;
- Fishing information will be available in the visitor kiosk and/or in the public aquarium.

F. Funding and Staffing Requirements

There will be costs associated with the development of infrastructure to support fishing at Edenton NFH. 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 Edenton NFH, 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 parking lot, 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 Edenton NFH

Activity or Project	One-time Expense	Recurring (Annual) Expense
Signage	\$800	
Trash and recycling containers	\$1,000	
Maintenance		\$1,500
Staff		\$3,000
Total	\$1,800	\$4,500

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 Fishing Regulations

There are no hatchery-specific fishing regulations.

C. Relevant State Regulations

<http://www.eregulations.com/northcarolina/hunting-fishing/warm-water-game-fish-regulations/>

<http://www.eregulations.com/northcarolina/hunting-fishing/other-fishing-regulations/>

D. Other Hatchery Rules and Regulations

- Camping, overnight use, and fires are prohibited.
- Cleaning of fish on the hatchery is prohibited.
- Fishing on hatchery lands is allowed during hatchery open hours only.
- Pets must be on leash while on the hatchery.

V. Public Engagement

A. Outreach for Announcing and Publicizing the Fishing Program

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

<https://www.fws.gov/edenton/>

B. Anticipated Public Reaction to the Fishing Program

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

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 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

VI. Compatibility Determination

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