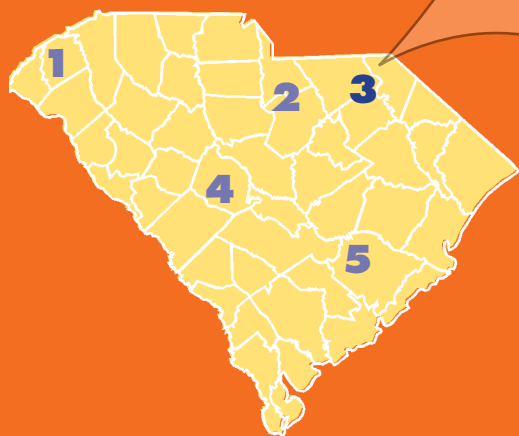
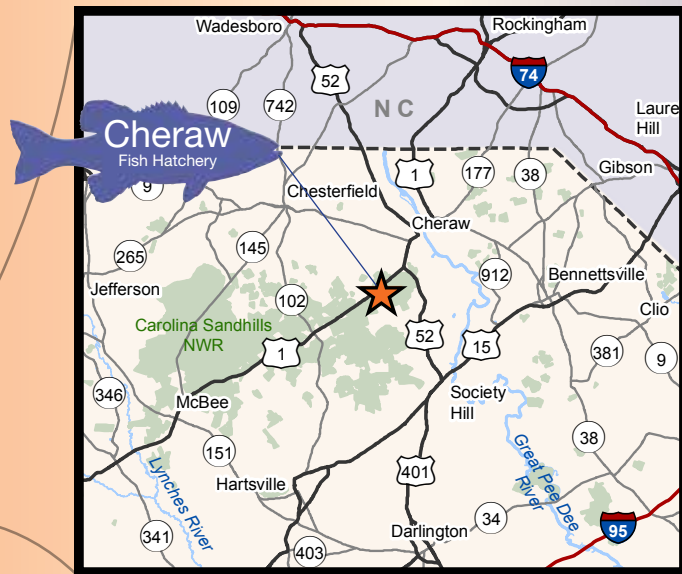


Cheraw Fish Hatchery is a key component of the SCDNR's Freshwater Fisheries Management program. Combined with regional biological survey offices, state public fishing lakes and four other hatcheries, the SCDNR is providing South Carolina's citizens and visitors with the best recreational fishing opportunity possible while protecting and conserving our aquatic resources.



### State Fish Hatcheries

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Walhalla<br>198 Fish Hatchery Rd.<br>Hwy 107N<br>Mt. Rest, SC 29664<br>864-638-2866    | 4 Cohen Campbell<br>2726 Fish Hatchery Rd.<br>West Columbia, SC<br>29172<br>803-755-2070  |
| 2 Spring Stevens<br>5290 Fish Hatchery Rd.<br>Heath Springs, SC<br>29058<br>803-273-3306 | 5 Dennis Wildlife Center<br>305 Black Oak Rd.<br>Bonneau, SC 29431<br>843-825-3387<br>and<br>Jack D. Bayless<br>264 Platt Rd.<br>St Stephen, SC 29749<br>843-567-3286 |
| 3 Cheraw<br>433 Fish Hatchery Ln.<br>Cheraw, SC 29520<br>843-537-7628                    |   |

For Additional Information, Contact:  
**Hatchery Manager**  
**Cheraw Fish Hatchery**  
**433 Fish Hatchery Lane**  
**Cheraw, SC 29520**  
**Phone: 843-537-7628**

Please call ahead to schedule a tour.



DNR

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13-8490

# Cheraw

## South Carolina Fish Hatchery



DNR

<http://hatcheries.dnr.sc.gov>

# CHERAW FISH HATCHERY

## What We Do

Operated by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), this fish hatchery is one of five in South Carolina serving a vital role in the management of our state's fishery resources. The Cheraw Fish Hatchery is a warm water fish hatchery, producing some 2 million fish annually for stocking in South Carolina's public lakes and rivers to enhance recreational fishing activities.

## History

The Cheraw Fish Hatchery was constructed in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration with additional funds from the South Carolina Game Commission under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Originally operated by the National Park Service, the hatchery was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1944. The hatchery was operated by the USFWS until September 1983, at which time operation management was assumed by SCDNR.



## Hatchery Facts

**Species Cultured:** largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, redbreast sunfish, threadfin shad and channel catfish. Cultured fish are typically stocked as fingerlings (2 – 3 inches), advanced fingerlings (3 – 4 inches) or Phase II (greater than 5 inches) size.

**Production Facilities:** 31 production ponds and 3 fish houses equipped with fiberglass tanks, concrete raceways, aeration systems and filtration systems. These facilities are used for rearing, holding and preparing fish for stocking in the wild.

**Water Source:** 2 reservoir ponds (Little Puddin and Big Puddin Lakes) and a supplemental source pumped from Juniper Creek.

**Acres of Water:** 21.3 acres for production and 21.5 acres for water supply

## Hatchery Production Cycle

The basic requirement of any fish hatchery is a dependable supply of suitable water. Ponds for spawning and rearing fish are of various sizes, ranging from 1/10 to 2 acres at the Cheraw Fish Hatchery. Each pond is constructed for independent filling and draining with water depths from 6 to 8 feet.



Spawning ponds are filled starting in early spring and stocked with adult fish. Newly hatched fish called fry are removed from the spawning ponds and restocked into rearing ponds. These ponds have been heavily fertilized to develop microscopic food organisms to promote rapid growth. Only one species are reared per pond. Hatchery personnel monitor water quality parameters, such as dissolved oxygen and pH daily, as well as maintain water levels.

Once fish reach the desired size, hatchery staff then begin the process of harvesting the fish. The catch basin is swept clean and the pond is slowly drained, forcing the fish into the catch basin. The catch basins are engineered to supply a constant flow of fresh water to support the fish until ready for harvest. Once the fish are contained within the catch basin, they are easily netted and hauled in specially outfitted hatchery trucks for stocking in state waters from the mountains to the coast. Various sizes of each species are cultured and stocked per requests from the Regional Fisheries Biologists.

