


Spring Stevens 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.



For Additional Information, Contact:
Hatchery Manager
Spring Stevens Fish Hatchery
5290 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Heath Springs, SC 29058
Phone: 803-273-3306
 Please call ahead to schedule a tour.



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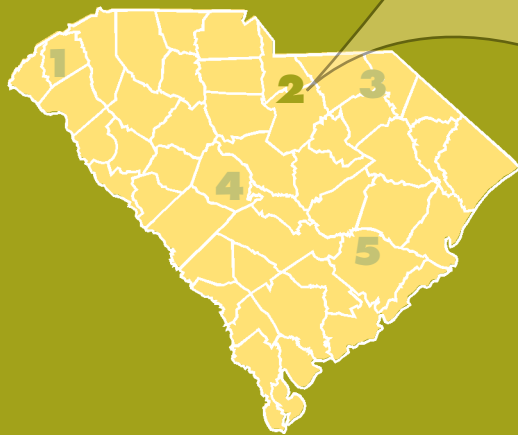
Spring Stevens

South Carolina Fish Hatchery



DNR

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



State Fish Hatcheries

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

SPRING STEVENS 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 Spring Stevens Fish Hatchery is a warm water fish hatchery, meaning it produces a variety of fish species that do best in summer water temperatures of 75 to 85°F. These species include striped bass and channel catfish to help support recreational fishing. Spring Stevens Fish Hatchery rears approximately 500,000 fish annually for stocking in South Carolina's public lakes, reservoirs and rivers.

History

Construction of the Spring Stevens Fish Hatchery was completed during 1936, on a site just south of the Lancaster County town of Heath Springs. The Federal government allowed \$24,100 in cash and labor donations for the construction on property, which was provided by Colonels Elliott White Springs and John T. Stevens. Construction was accomplished through the Works Projects Administration with major renovations occurring during the mid-1970s.



Hatchery Facts

Species Raised: striped bass and channel catfish

Production Facilities: 7 production ponds and 1 reservoir pond. Production of over 500,000 fish is done annually.

Water Source: reservoir ponds on Hanging Rock Creek

Acres of Water: 4.2 acres for production

Hatchery Production Cycle

The basic requirement of any fish hatchery is a dependable supply of suitable water. Ponds for spawning or rearing pondfish are of various sizes, ranging from one-half to 2 acres. Each pond is constructed for independent filling and draining with water depths from 2 to 6 feet.

Ponds are fertilized to develop microscopic food organisms for most young fish. Channel catfish are fed a pelleted food that floats. Fish spawned at other hatcheries are placed in ponds at Spring Stevens to grow out to a stockable size.

Rearing may sound like the easy part, but hatchery staff must develop and maintain a food supply for the fish. Hatchery staff are constantly monitoring water quality parameters, water levels and the abundance of fish in each pond to prevent overcrowding and predation.

Once fish reach a stockable size, hatchery staff then begin the process of harvesting the fish from the pond. This is done by draining the pond. As the pond is drained, fish collect in special concrete catch basins that are engineered to create a flow that attracts the fish. Once the fish are captive in the basin, they are easily netted and moved to a specially outfitted hatchery truck for travel, sometimes as far away as 250 miles. Fish are stocked throughout the year with striped bass being stocked in the spring and channel catfish in the fall.

