

North Mississippi Fish Hatchery

Hatchery

Largemouth Bass

(*Micropterus salmoides*)

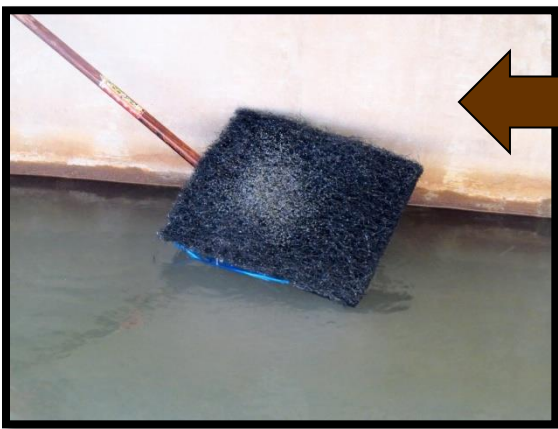


Bass are collected in the wild and transported to the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery where they are placed in outdoor raceways.



1. Egg

Bass spawn in the two, 80-foot raceways. Bass create nests in the wild. In the raceways, bass select a mat as their "nest" area and deposit their eggs. These eggs hatch in about 48 hours!



The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is managed by the Fisheries Bureau of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Hatcheries help manage fishery resources by producing and stocking sport fish into Mississippi's public waters.

Largemouth Bass begin spawning when water temperatures reach 65 - 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Hatchery staff collects adult in the spring.



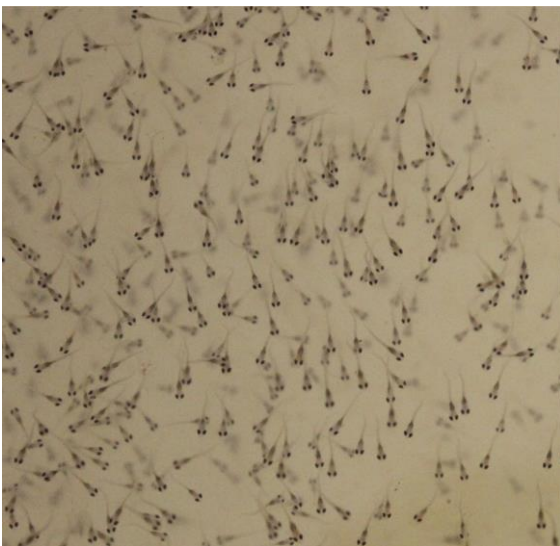
Did you know?

Fry are born without mouths. A fry feeds off its yolk sac until its mouth develops!

In the wild, males build nests next to areas having brush piles, near underwater logs, or in areas under overhanging tree limbs. The male cares for the nest, protecting it from predators and keeping the eggs fanned until the eggs hatch. He also guards the young for a week or more after the hatch.

2. Fry

Bass mats are collected and taken into the hatchery. They are kept in an indoor raceway until the eggs hatch. Newly hatched fish are called fry.



3. Fingerlings

After the fry have formed mouths, they are placed into hatchery ponds where they feed on plankton. These fish are harvested in the fall when they reach 2 - 4 inches in length.

These fish are called fingerlings. Fingerlings are then stocked in lakes and rivers in Mississippi.

