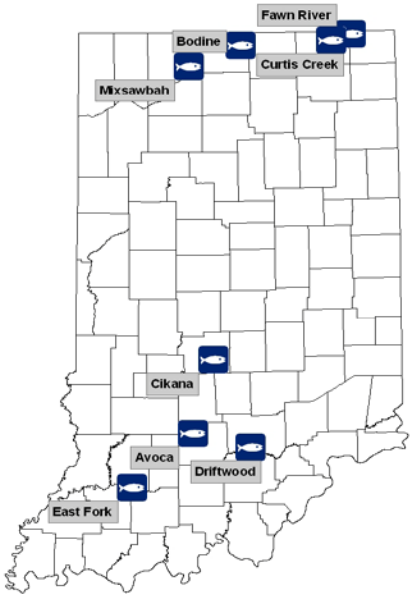
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)
Indiana State Fish Hatchery System

Facilities:

- DFW owns and operates 7 hatcheries and one trout rearing station
- Four facilities are in the south and four in the north



- Oldest hatchery is Avoca, built in 1923, and the youngest facilities are Bodine and East Fork, both became operational in 1983

Bodine State Fish Hatchery

- Average age of all 8 facilities is 53 years old (facilities are designed for a 30-40 year life span before critical infrastructure issues evolve)
- Other facilities critical to the annual operation and production of these hatcheries: Mounds Egg Taking Station at Brookville Reservoir for walleye broodstock collection and spawning, two fish ladders on the St. Joseph River (St. Joseph County) for steelhead broodstock collection, sea lamprey barrier and trap on Trail Creek (LaPorte County) for steelhead broodstock collection, and a remote egg taking station on Webster Lake (Kosciusko County) for muskellunge eggs
- Indiana State Fair fish display

Indiana State Fair Fish Display

- Additional critical infrastructure: dam for Starve Hollow Lake (water supply for Driftwood Hatchery), dam for Dogwood Lake (water supply for East Fork Hatchery), water supply dam for Fawn River Hatchery, water supply dam for Avoca Hatchery

Fish Production:

Hatchery stocked coho salmon caught from Lake Michigan

Fish Production:

- During the past 10 years approximately 25 different species or strains of fish have been produced and stocked by these facilities
- Current annual production involves approximately 23 million fish; 18 different species or strains; 3 wild broodstock operations; and 7 different captive broodstocks
- Cikana Hatchery provides captive holding and production for all State Fair fish
- Current production for all DFW hatcheries is supported by 7 different state and federal egg or fish sources outside of Indiana's hatchery system

Harvesting catfish at East Fork Hatchery for stocking

- Indiana's hatcheries provide fish trade assistance with 4 out-of-state agencies
- Indiana's hatchery system is an interdependent network in which each facility is dependent upon another to sustain current production. No facility operates independently. Production, stocking, and infrastructure improvements must consider impacts at multiple facilities before decisions are made

Muskellunge spawning at Fawn River Hatchery

- DNR hatcheries acquire fish from private facilities when it's the best option: broodstock forage minnows and rainbow trout eggs are purchased annually
- Private hatcheries can't duplicate the specific needs for stocking into public waters: strains and genetics, numbers, sizes, quality, disease management, timing, cost, species, or fish trades.

Infrastructure Review and Status:

In 2004, a comprehensive study was completed by a private engineering consulting firm to evaluate the infrastructure, fish production capabilities, and operational needs for Indiana's state hatchery system. The findings are documented in *The Indiana Fish Hatchery Facility Needs Assessment, December, 2004.*

The study was initiated to guide and direct facility improvements and serve as a strategic document for both short and long term decisions on operational needs of the entire hatchery system.

1. Findings and recommendations showed that Indiana's state fish hatcheries have been well maintained and are staffed, managed, and administered by professional employees that are capable, dedicated, and knowledgable.
2. The existing infrastructure is used to the extent that is possible, there is no underutilization, considering the existing age, physical, and technology limitations
3. Each facility has its own infrastructure issues which range from repairs and rehabilitation to replacement and new capital construction.

30 year old corroded pipe at Mixsawbah Hatchery

Over 300 individual improvements that included repairs, enhancements, or expansion of existing state fish hatcheries were identified. The improvements were prioritized for each facility. Age of the facilities, technology issues, size limitations, water quality and supply concerns, future unmet fish production needs, and emerging facility biosecurity risk were themes that needed addressed at most, if not all, facilities. Because Indiana's hatchery operations are highly integrated (one or more facilities require eggs or fish from another) any decision for repairs, improvements, or expansion must consider how multiple facilities will be impacted.

The study also included a modernization plan for de-commissioning of selected facilities and consolidating current production and future needs into a new facility.

This modernization and re-investment plan for Indiana's fishing future recommended some enhancements or improvements at existing facilities until construction of a new combined facility for warmwater, coolwater, and

coldwater production facility could occur. Three long term hatchery wide system plans were recommended: 1) improvements at existing facilities, 2) Item 1 plus some expansion at existing facilities, 3) Item 1, some of Item 2, plus modernization and consolidation by constructing a new hatchery. The system wide approach provides for future needs as well as current demands by consolidating facilities, staff, and funds to optimize efficiency and effectiveness for many chronic infrastructure issues identified above.

J.C. Murphy Lake largemouth bass after renovation and re-stocking

Fishing is BIG Business in Indiana

Sport fishing provides:

- $800 million in retail sales
- $1.3 billion ripple effect
- $93 million in federal tax revenue
- $77 million in state and local tax revenue
- 14,000 jobs in Indiana

Studies indicate 768,000 anglers spend 9,805,000 fishing days each year in Indiana. If fishing was ranked as a corporation nationally, it would be 47th on the Fortune 500 list well ahead of Microsoft and Time Warner. 40 million anglers in the U.S. generate$45 billion in revenue sales annually.

Fishing is important to the economy and quality of life of Hoosiers. Re-investment for future anglers is a tradition of resource conservation and management that makes unforgettable moments in people's lives.

Bruce Lake muskie

Harden Lake striped bass