

Walhalla Fish Hatchery

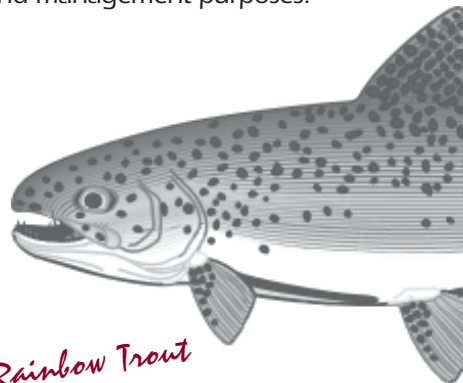


The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Fish Hatcheries

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) fish hatchery program is to propagate those species of fish in sizes required to accomplish fishery management objectives as recommended by the biological staff and approved by administrative personnel, and to provide pond owners, at cost, largemouth bass, redear sunfish and bluegill for private pond management purposes.



DNR



Rainbow Trout

Location: 198 Fish Hatchery Road, Mountain Rest, South Carolina 29664.

Background: Construction of the Walhalla hatchery began in the mid 1930's. The first trout released from here occurred about 1937. The stone hatchery building, the wood frame garage/workshop, and the hatchery quarters were built by the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The original rearing tanks were small circular pools. The present raceways and newer buildings were constructed in the 1950's and 1960's, with the exception of the public restrooms, which were completed in 1994. The oxygen supplementation system was added in 1990 to increase production. Originally, the hatchery was operated by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries, Department of Commerce. It was next under the direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior. In January, 1996, supervision of this hatchery was transferred to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The staff includes three technicians and one biologist.

Species Raised:

Rainbow trout
Brown trout
Brook trout



Land Acreage of Hatchery: 100 acres.

Hatchery Building: The fish growing cycle begins here. One section of this building is the incubator room where trout eggs are hatched in special jars or trays. Due to the ease with which these eggs can be damaged, the incubator room is normally not open to the public. The main section of the hatchery building has (12) concrete tanks where the young trout are started on feed and grown to about two inches before being moved outside. This area of the building is open to visitors with staff supervision.

Number of Raceways: Twenty-two raceways for raising fish, one raceway for display trout, one raceway for brood stock. Approximately 400,000 trout are stocked annually.



Trout being loaded on a fish distribution truck for stocking in local trout waters

