

*Office files*  
*6/6/56*



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JUNE 6, 1956

NEW FWS HATCHERY AT NORFORK, ARKANSAS, WILL SUPPLY NATION'S NEW TROUT FISHERY

When the Fish and Wildlife Service fish hatchery at Norfolk, Arkansas, puts its 80,000 pounds of trout each year into the stretches of cold river water created by the series of flood control and power dams on the White River watershed, American anglers will have a new and productive trout fishery in the heart of a populous region, John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said today.

Bids on the construction of the buildings for the new hatchery will be opened today at the Fish and Wildlife Service regional offices at Atlanta, Georgia. Bids for 48 raceways--concrete ponds eight feet by 100 feet--will be opened later in the month. Congress has appropriated \$455,000 for the project.

Work will be started immediately, Mr. Farley said. The Service production schedule calls for the distribution of the first fingerlings from the hatchery during the summer of 1957. The Service plans to plant both fingerlings and catchable sized trout.

The capacity of the hatchery is 80,000 pounds and it is the aim of the Service to build up to that maximum as rapidly as possible. The Service has several hatcheries at present producing approximately that amount or more each year.

The White River area has been well-known in the past for its float fishing for smallmouth black bass, but the construction of flood control and power dams is changing that in places. The project calls for the construction of 13 dams, most of which will also be used for power. In most instances the water drawn off from the bottom of the impoundments will be too cold for warm water fish but ideal for trout for several miles below the dams. It is in these waters that the Fish and Wildlife Service will plant the output of the Norfolk hatchery.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials feel that these new trout waters will be even more popular than the trout fishery which was developed in the Colorado River below the Hoover Dam and which has ranked among the finest in the Nation for several years.

The amount of water suitable for trout below each dam will vary. In one or two instances there will be none. Below the Bull Shoals Dam which has already been constructed there are 45 miles of trout streams.

The White River flood control project is being constructed under the supervision of the Corps of Engineers.