



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Berlin National Fish Hatchery Transferred to State of New Hampshire

Responsibility for operating a Federal trout hatchery has been transferred to the State of New Hampshire under an agreement between the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Fish and Wildlife Service director Robert Jantzen announced today.

Berlin National Fish Hatchery in Coos County, New Hampshire, will be operated and funded by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department under a memorandum of agreement signed October 19, 1982, Jantzen said. Title to the land, which is within the White Mountain National Forest, will be retained by the U.S. Forest Service.

"We're very pleased to have reached an agreement that will benefit both New Hampshire and the Federal Government," Jantzen said. "The transfer of the Berlin hatchery will increase the State's capability for managing its resident fish species, and will help the Fish and Wildlife Service improve the efficiency of Federal fisheries programs."

In 1981, more than 1.1 million fish--primarily rainbow trout, brook trout, and brown trout--were distributed from the hatchery. About 80 percent of the fish went to waters owned or managed by the States of New Hampshire and Vermont, with the remainder going to waters under the jurisdiction of various Federal agencies.

(more)

The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to close 31 of its 89 national fish hatcheries in order to meet anticipated funding reductions in FY 1983 and reduce overlap between State and Federal fishery activities. Traditionally, States are primarily responsible for managing resident fish species while the Fish and Wildlife Service is primarily responsible for anadromous, Great Lakes, and Indian fisheries; restoring endangered and threatened fish species; and mitigating the effects of Federal water projects. The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to eliminate duplication of State and Federal activities by closing Federal hatcheries that contribute more than half of their production to waters owned or managed by States. States have been given the opportunity to assume operation of hatcheries that the Federal Government has proposed to close. The Fish and Wildlife Service will focus the efforts of the remaining national hatcheries on high-priority Federal fishery responsibilities.

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