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Developing Burbot Propagation Methods - Aquatic Species Conservation

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Developing Burbot Propagation Methods - *Aquatic Species Conservation*



As many native fishes struggle with changes in the Missouri River Ecosystems, Garrison Dam NFH's role in fisheries conservation has evolved to include the production of native fishes, such as the paddlefish, sturgeon and burbot. To meet production requests for these fish, Garrison Dam NFH has modified the hatchery's existing infrastructure and developed new techniques in fish culture.



Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery (1957) was established to provide fish for recreational fishing in new reservoirs created by federal water development projects.



Burbot spawning occurs in January when water temperatures are near freezing. Female burbot like this one will produce over a million eggs!.

Service Fishery Conservation Offices, with our State and Tribal partners are concerned with downward trends in burbot populations. While the fisheries field offices are evaluating the status of local burbot populations and their habitats and assessing the need for supplemental stocking, Garrison NFH is pioneering methods to spawn and propagate burbot in captivity.



Close-up of burbot eggs hatching in hatching egg jars

Two month after spawning at 34 degrees the burbot eggs are finally hatching!



Yearling Burbot :The juvenile burbot seek out hiding places in the rocks

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