

# North Mississippi Fish Hatchery

## Hatchery

# Bluegill



*(Lepomis macrochirus)*

The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is managed by the Fisheries Bureau of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Hatcheries help manage fishery resources by producing and stocking sport fish into Mississippi's public waters.

Bluegill like many other fish species are nest spawners. The males create nests by making depressions on the lake or river bottom. Once the female lays the eggs, the male will guard the fertilized eggs until they hatch.



### 1. Eggs

Bluegill are allowed to spawn naturally in the hatchery ponds! Staff place gravel beds in the ponds, so the males can make a nest in the ponds just as they would in the wild.



### 2. Fry

Newly hatched fish are called fry. Bluegill fry stay in the ponds and grow until they are fingerling size!



### 3. Fingerlings

These fish are harvested in the fall when they reach 2 to 4 inches in length. These fish are called fingerlings. Fingerlings are then stocked in lakes and ponds across Mississippi.

The hatchery will drain the pond and collect the fingerlings in nets. The fingerlings are placed into a large tank on a truck. This tank is filled with water providing the fish with oxygen until they reach their destination. They are then released into the lake.

