

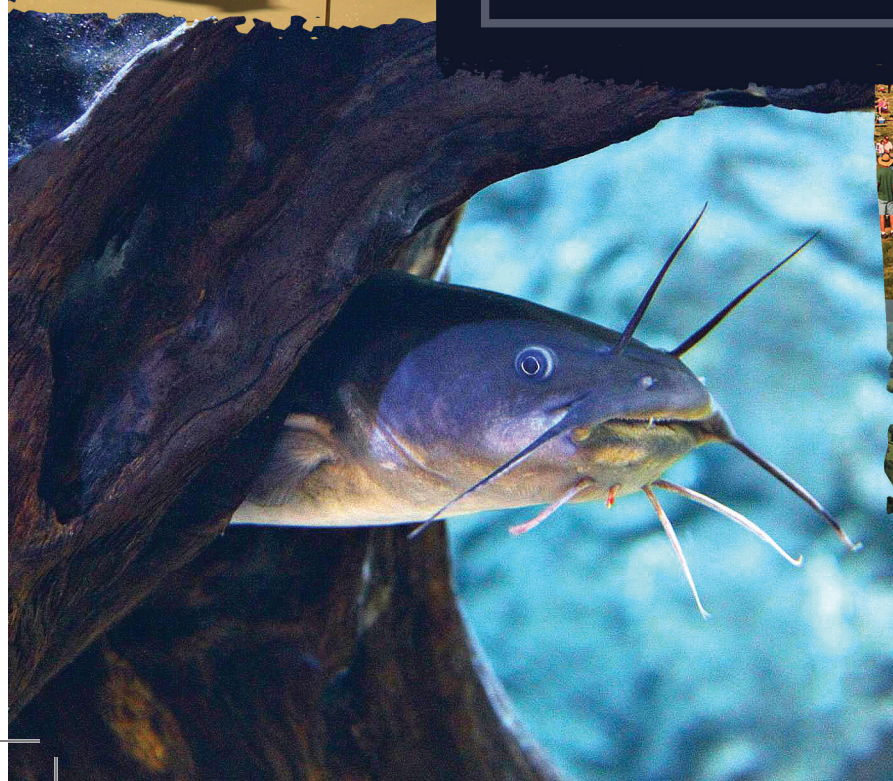


# BOB TYLER FISH HATCHERY

## VISITOR EDUCATION CENTER

---

### EDUCATOR'S PLANNING GUIDE







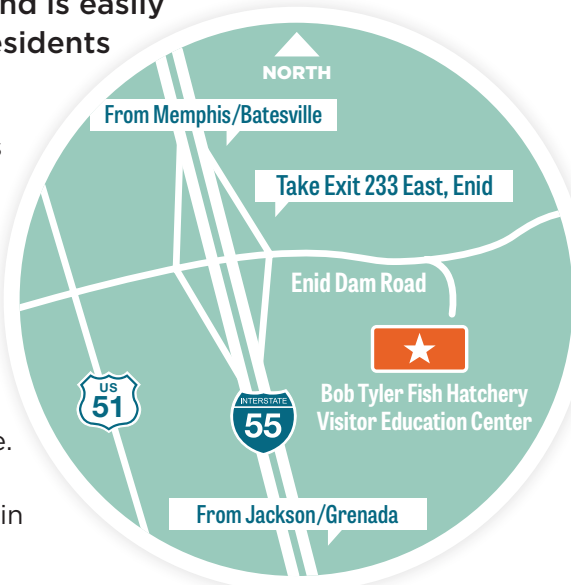
# Visitor Education Center



The Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery Visitor Education Center in Enid provides an educational and entertaining experience that promotes freshwater sport fishing, encourages conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources and offers information about the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP). The complex is located on 58 acres and is less than a quarter mile from Interstate 55. The facility is operated by the MDWFP and is easily accessible to Mississippi residents and out-of-state visitors.

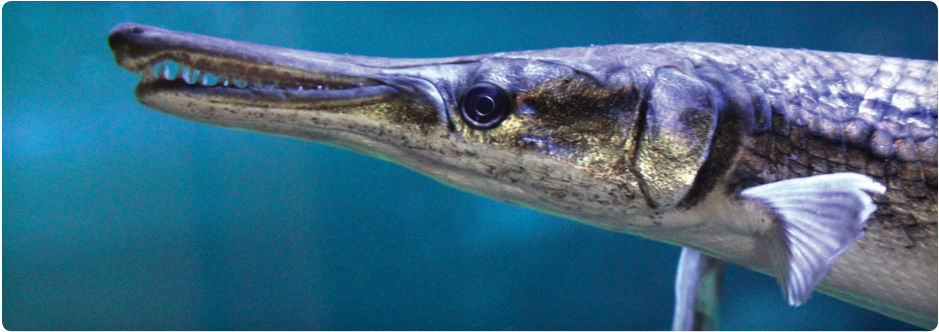
The Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery is one of two state hatcheries managed by the MDWFP.

The hatchery produces and stocks a variety of sport fishes into Mississippi's public waters. The Visitor Education Center (VEC) at the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi. The VEC features a native habitat area, 10,000 gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, art gallery, and the world record white crappie. All of these elements serve as entertaining and engaging learning experiences for all visitors. The facility is located below Enid Dam in Yalobusha County, Exit 233 East off I-55.



Our experienced staff includes certified interpreters and retired educators. Staff are members of the following organizations:

- Aquatic Resource Education Alliance
- Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance (NAAEE)
- National Association for Interpretation
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums
- Association for Conservation Information



## Educational Groups Guided Tours

Educators have many opportunities at the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery and Visitor Education Center (VEC).

For teachers bringing classes for a guided tour, the facility offers inclusive, appropriate activities and tours for all ages, abilities, and learning styles. The goal of the VEC is to connect youth to Mississippi's natural resources and foster an interest in those same resources. Students explore the museum and 10,000 gallon aquarium.



### AREAS COVERED INCLUDE:

- ➔ **Carnivore, Herbivore or Omnivore? What's the Difference?**
- ➔ **Food Web: Predator vs. Prey**
- ➔ **What Makes a Fish a Fish?**
- ➔ **What All Fish Need to Live & Grow**



These same students learn about a hatchery, the hatchery's role in the **water cycle**, and about the **life cycles of fish**.

Material covered in the tours coincides with the following 2018 Mississippi state standards: Life Science K.1, L.K.2, L.K.3, L.2.1, L.2.3, L.3.1, L.3.2, L.3.4, L.4.2, and L.5.3.

Tours for high school and college classes are geared to the following subject areas: Biology, Environmental Science, Zoology, and Aquatic Science.

### GENERAL INFO.

**Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery & Visitor Education Center**  
P.O. Box 100  
457 CR 36  
Enid, Mississippi 38927

**PHONE:**  
(662) 563-8688 or  
(662) 563-8068

**EMAIL:**  
Emily-Jo.Wiggins@wfp.ms.gov

### OPERATION HOURS

**MARCH - OCTOBER**  
Tues. - Sat.  
8:30am - 4:30pm  
Closed Sun. & Mon.

**NOVEMBER - FEBRUARY**  
Mon. - Fri.  
7:30am - 3:30pm  
Closed Sat. & Sun.

**Closed Holidays**

### ADMISSION

**ADULTS**  
Ages 18-59: \$2.50  
Age 60+: \$2.00

**SCHOOL GROUPS**  
Per Student: \$2.00

**CHILDREN**  
Ages 3-17: \$2.00  
Under Age 3: No charge

**No charge** for School Teachers with classes, Bus Drivers, or Active Military.

### TOURS

All guided group tours must be scheduled. To schedule a tour, call or email the Visitor Education Center.



**SCAN FOR MORE INFO.**



# F.I.S.H. Programs

Educators planning a tour can also choose to add a special program. These programs are **Fun, Interesting, Surprising, and Hands-on (F.I.S.H.)**.



## FISH TRANSFORMERS

Students are “transformed” into “schools of fish.” They become specific species and learn about what they need to live and grow (diets, habitat). These “fish” identify themselves and some of the predators they would face in the wild. Students also discover whether or not they are raised at the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery.



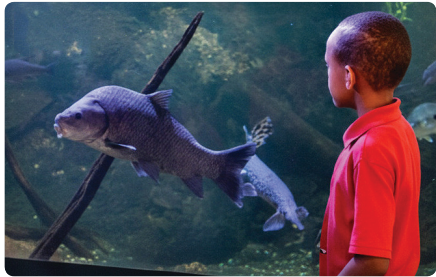
## MYSTERIOUS PREDATORS

Identify different Reptiles, Fish, Mammals, and Birds using the clues given. Learn which ones are predators for fish! See and touch specimens of these creatures that find their food beneath the water’s surface at the “fish predator exhibit.”



## FISH I.D.

Youth of all ages learn to identify common Mississippi freshwater fish species. Knowledge from the program is tested at the 10,000-gallon aquarium.



## HATCHERY FISH

Created for high school classes, this program provides an overview of fish species raised at the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery. The program explains why the hatchery raises particular fish species, discusses diploid and triploid fish, and identifies a hatchery’s role in conservation.



## AQUARIUM FEEDING

Students observe the fish in the aquarium. The aquarium feeding includes time for a “question and answer” session with students.



## SCAVENGER HUNTS

This activity requires students to test their knowledge. Students become fishing detectives or “time travelers” as they try to solve scavenger hunts that take them traveling through the exhibits from fishing past to fishing present. Recommended for groups of 30 or less. 4th - 9th grade.



## FLOWER GIRLS

Created for girl scouts, this program identifies native plants and flowers in the VEC habitat and discusses “interesting insects” and “beautiful birds” they attract. This program also identifies aquatic plants that serve as habitat for wildlife and fish species.



## WATER SAFETY

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the US Army Corps of Engineers are dedicated to teaching students about water safety. Students will benefit from talks and the Corps of Engineers’ Water Safety Exhibit on display at the Visitor Education Center.



## BE THE BIOLOGIST

Designed for scouts, middle, and high school students, youth will learn more about what Fisheries biologists do and identify equipment they use. Learn some interesting facts about biologists’ jobs and how they help to conserve Mississippi’s natural resources.



## VIRTUAL FISHING

Students have the opportunity to land a trophy bass on a virtual fishing simulator. Recommended for groups of 10 or less.



## ALIEN OR AQUATIC ANIMAL?

Fish are prey for many types of predators, BUT they are also predators for many types of prey. In this program, students will identify various macroinvertebrates lower in the food chain.

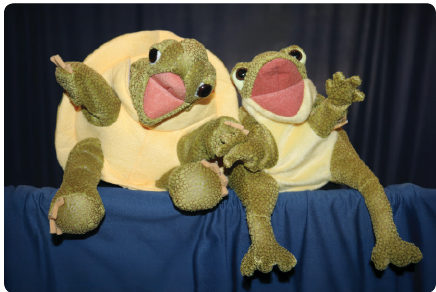


## THE ART OF CONSERVATION ART AND ESSAY CONTEST

The Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery Visitor Education Center partners with Wildlife Forever serving as the Mississippi host for the Art of Conservation Fish Art and Creative Writing Competition. The competition invites youth in grades K-12 to showcase their creativity and passion for conservation through art and writing.

## FISHING THROUGH THE PAGES

This reading program allows preschoolers to discover what animals live around a cattail, near a log, or under a rock. Coupled with a tour, this program allows children to use their senses of sight, hearing, smell, and touch.



## PUPPET THEATRE

This program is geared towards pre-school students. “Toby the Turtle” teaches the audience all about some of his wild neighbors and about his fish friends who live in the aquarium. A fun, educational program with captivating characters!



## ANNUAL ART CONTEST

Youth across Mississippi are able to participate in an annual contest, portraying a Mississippi native, wildlife species. The Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Marine sponsors this event. To learn more visit: MDWFP - Youth Art Contests.

SCAN FOR ART CONTEST INFO.





# Exhibits



## FISHING IN MISSISSIPPI: PAST & PRESENT

Students and teachers time travel through fishing past and present. Exhibits explore Native Americans and the first settlers as well as the evolution of fishing tackle and fish species targeted by anglers today!



## FISH PREDATORS

Learn about different Reptiles, Fish, Mammals, and Birds that prey on fish. See and touch specimens of these creatures that find their food beneath the water's surface.



## FOSSILS

Learn about prehistoric fish like the sturgeon, and see various fossils uncovered in North Mississippi.



## POLLINATION INVESTIGATION

Provided by the Smithsonian Institute, this exhibit was created to identify the Who, What, Why, Where, How, and When of pollination. This exhibit and corresponding lesson plans are provided in both English and Spanish.

# The Hatchery's Role in Conservation



Biological and environmental classes gain knowledge of hatchery operations and the MDWFP Fisheries Bureau's role in enhancing Mississippi's fish populations.

The Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery is equipped to primarily produce warm-water species. These warm-water species include white crappie, black crappie, northern largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, golden shiner, threadfin shad, grass carp, alligator gar, and paddlefish. The hatchery also produces one species of cold-water fish, the southern walleye. Students learn about the life stages of fish and about the hatchery's role in preserving threatened/at-risk species.



## AREAS COVERED INCLUDE:

- ➔ When is Fish Stocking Necessary
- ➔ Life Cycles of Fish
- ➔ Species of Freshwater Fish
- ➔ The Role of Hatchery Biologists in Fish Conservation



## HANDS-ON FUN!

## MANAGING THE HATCHERY

Students will also have the opportunity to "Become a Hatchery Manager." Students learn about fish production in the hatchery's two 80-foot raceways and learn more about managing fish spawning, harvests, and stocking.





# Visit Enid Lake After the Tour

Although created for Flood Risk Management, the Enid Lake Project offers many recreational and educational opportunities for visitors.

Enid Lake is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The construction of the Enid Lake Project began in 1947. It was completed in 1952.

This Project encompasses over 44,000 acres of both wetlands and forests. Today it is recognized as one of the top fishing spots in the country. Water is supplied to the hatchery by two ground wells and a pipeline from Enid Lake. Water leaving the hatchery is drained into the Yocona River.



Recreation areas are numerous, including the historic Ford’s Well interpretive site and trail. Groups enjoy fishing spots, nature trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds after a tour at the Hatchery and Education Center.



# Frequently Asked Questions

**What if parents want to accompany a group?** Parents, Guardians, and Grandparents are welcome to tour with a group. Admission price does not increase but remains \$2.50 per adult and \$2.00 for seniors.

**How long is the tour?** Length of tour varies from 45 min. to 1.5 hrs. Please call the VEC for details.

**My students are not familiar with fish or fishing. Is this a good field trip for them?** **Yes!** Whether your students are avid anglers or learning about fish for the first time, the VEC is a great opportunity to introduce youth to Mississippi’s freshwater, fish species!

**Can I bring more than one class? Yes.** Individual classes are grouped together for organization. This allows more opportunities for questions and participation in hands-on activities.

**Do you have educational events throughout the year? Yes.** Please visit [mdwfp.com/events](http://mdwfp.com/events) for a list of upcoming events, art contests, and special programs and events.



**I want to bring a scout group. Will the activities and tour help with merit badge requirements? Yes.** Activities and tours meet some of the requirements, particularly “Fish and Wildlife Management,” “Fishing,” and “Nature” badges. Please call the VEC for more information.



**What if my class wants to have a picnic lunch?** The VEC is located adjacent to Enid Lake, which has many picnic areas near playgrounds and hiking trails.

**What if I am bringing a group of various ages?** The tours and programs are structured to provide information and activities for all ages in a group.

**What about tours for children with special needs?** Tours are structured for youth with physical or cognitive challenges. The VEC is ADA compliant and is completely accessible to wheelchairs or motorized chairs. The facility also has designated “quiet spaces.” For questions or itinerary, please call the VEC.

**How does the school pay for a field trip?** The VEC takes checks, cash, or credit cards. We can also provide an invoice to the school for payment.

**Do you provide different types of hands-on activities? Yes.** The VEC does provide activities in a safe environment, allowing for students’ ages and abilities. Tour activities are structured with equivalent outcomes.

**Do you offer fishing events for children not with a school?** This facility does host an annual youth fishing rodeo and fish camps. Please check the calendar of events on the website for more information.



# Downloadable & Virtual Resources

The Visitor Education Center (VEC) is proud to serve our educators and anyone else who can benefit from our full archive of resources. These resources are tools for you made for easy access and download.



### ONLINE GAMES

Kahoot games are designed with the student in mind. Learn more about 'Fish Identification,' discover some interesting nicknames for fish in the 'Fish Name Game,' or uncover some "Fun Fish Facts!"



### ADDITIONAL DOWNLOADABLES

Other activities combine science with math in the 'Become a Hatchery Manager' lesson plan or provide activities across grades and ages with the 'Fish Food Web.' Find out about these lesson plans and more!

### FISH IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Learn to identify dozens of fish species. Scan now to get started!



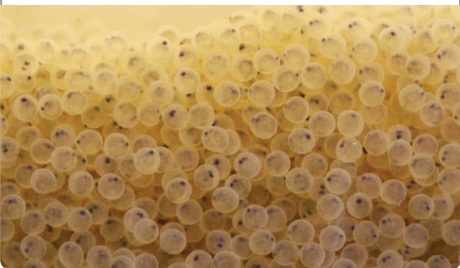
### POSTERS & ACTIVITY BOOKS

Explore the hatchery fish development posters, download activity books, and more! These resources cover various ages, languages, and state standards!



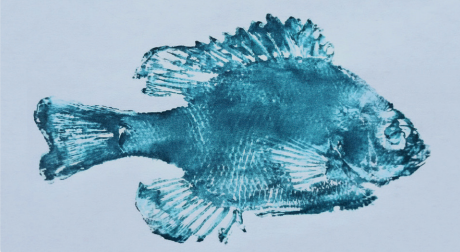
### L.A.B. (LEARN ABOUT BIODIVERSITY) WEB VIDEOS

Based off a Smithsonian exhibit, these images provide a unique "eggs-pert" look inside the eggs of native fish species!



### GYOTAKU 'HOW TO'

Gyotaku is the traditional Japanese method of printing fish. Learn how to incorporate art into your science class or vise versa. This is a fun way to turn S.T.E.M. into S.T.E.A.M. !



### ONLINE LESSON PLANS

Created with help from the California PORTS program, educators can use these lessons for in-classroom activities and off-site virtual learning. Educators can use these activities before or after a field trip for a blended learning experience. Simply login and share privately with students and/or other educators. All videos offer closed captioning for student members of the deaf community.



### APRENDE MAS

Teachers can download books, fishing checklists, and activity pages for Spanish speaking students. ¡Aprende más sobre peces y pesca aquí!



SCAN FOR RESOURCES

# Fish Vocabulary: Pre-Trip Fun!

Increase your knowledge before a trip to the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery!

**GENERAL VOCABULARY**

**FISH**  
*An animal with a skeleton, fins, and gills.*

**GILLS**  
*Organs that allow a fish to get oxygen from the water. Fish do not have lungs like humans. They cannot breathe out of the water.*

**AQUATIC HABITAT**  
*An environment where animals live. Aquatic describes things living in water or places having water. Examples of aquatic habitats are ponds, rivers, streams, lakes, and swamps. Fish live in aquatic habitats.*

**FISHERIES BIOLOGIST**  
*A scientist who studies fish.*

**ANGLER**  
*A person who fishes with a hook and line.*

**HATCHERY**  
*A place where fish eggs are collected and kept until they hatch.*

**ADVANCED VOCABULARY**

**FISHERIES CONSERVATION**  
*The efforts by Fisheries biologists to manage and protect fish populations and their habitats in public waters of Mississippi.*

**SPECIES OF CONCERN**  
*Animal populations that, if not managed properly, will decrease and become threatened. A threatened status can lead to endangerment, and endangerment can lead to extinction.*

**TRIPLOID**  
*Describes cells with an extra set of chromosomes for a total of 69 chromosomes. Cells with the normal 23 sets of chromosomes, or 46 in all, are diploid. The hatchery raises a triploid, hybrid crappie, which cannot reproduce.*

# What Teachers Are Saying -

- “ Thank you once again for the tour & the interaction with the students. We all really enjoyed it - even our bus driver thought it was very interesting! Keep up the good work!

— M.C., ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLASS
- “ Thank you so much for teaching our girls and coordinating our visit to the hatchery and our nature walk.

— A.S., TROOP 13232
- “ Our kids (including the chaperons) had a wonderful time on their field trip to the Fish Hatchery. It was so informative as well as interesting! You handled our group beautifully, and the playground and hike was a great climax to a fabulous day!

— C.L., SES
- “ A BIG thanks to you and your staff for a very educational and well-organized experience for our second graders. We had a blast...

— J.S., BIS
- “ Thanks again for an educational and fun day! Hope to see you again next year!

— D.D., BIOLOGY CLASS
- “ Thank you for hosting our school. Our kids had a great time, and enjoyed learning all about the fish. We've been talking about it all week! We hope to visit again.

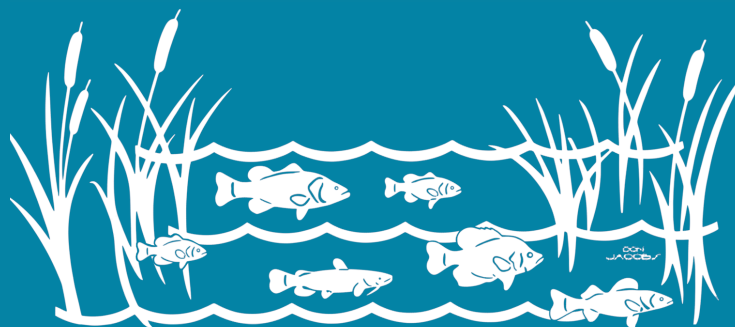
— CRENSHAW ES TEAM
- “ Thank you for making our field trip to the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery such a fun and educational day!

— D.E.S. CHALLENGE CLASS





MDWFP.COM



BOB TYLER FISH HATCHERY  
VISITOR EDUCATION CENTER