



# Lower Mississippi River

## *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office*

### Established

1994

### Location and Contact

c/o Pvt. John Allen National Fish Hatchery  
111 E. Elizabeth St., Tupelo, MS 38804

662/346-4403 [lmrfwco@fws.gov](mailto:lmrfwco@fws.gov)

<https://www.fws.gov/office/lower-mississippi-river-fish-and-wildlife-conservation>.

### Staff

Angie Rodgers, Project Leader

Angela Erves, Cartographer

Evan Boone, Fish Biologist

Caleb Aldridge, Fish & Wildlife Biologist

### Mission

Our Office is part of a nationwide network of field stations striving to conserve fish and aquatic resources for the American people. Biologists from the Arctic to the Florida Keys work to protect native species, restore imperiled species and their habitats, monitor and control invasive species, evaluate native fish stocks and their habitats, and make management recommendations to improve natural resources.

### About Us

We are collocated with Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Tupelo, MS within FWS Region 4 (Southeast Region). With a current staff of four, our office provides planning, management, and scientific support to State, Federal, and Tribal partners throughout the Southeast Region.

### Programs

#### *Aquatic Species & Habitat*

We facilitate aquatic species and habitat restoration in rivers and streams by working through government and non-governmental partnerships such as the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee.

#### *Aquatic Invasive Species*

We coordinate invasive carp management, monitoring, and research efforts in nine states of the Lower Mississippi River and Arkansas–Red–White Rivers sub-basins, leading strategic decision-making and developing decision support tools.

#### *At-risk Recovery & Hatchery Assistance*

We provide support for assessment, monitoring, evaluation, planning, and management for at-risk species and hatchery propagation efforts.

### Priority Species

- Invasive Carps
  - Silver (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)
  - Bighead (*H. nobilis*)
  - Grass (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)
  - Black (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)
- Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*)
- Southern Walleye (*Sander vitreus*)
  - Also referred to as Mobile River Basin or Gulf Coast Strain Walleye.
- Piebald Madtom (*Noturus gladiator*)
- Yoknapatawpha darter (*Etheostoma faulkneri*)
  - Named for American literary William Faulkner and fictional river name for the actual Yocona River.
- Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*)



Above: States and territories in Region 4.

Middle top: Yoknapatawpha darter.

Middle center: Student Conservation Assoc. biotech holding invasive Silver Carp.

Middle bottom: Fish Biologist, Evan Boone, with Alligator Gar.

Right: Dike notching effort to restore side channel habitat on the Mississippi River.

Photo credit: USFWS

