

Fish Production & Stocking

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Inland Fisheries Stocking Policy

(Revised Aug. 2000)

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries recognizes that fish stocking, when used as part of a complete fishery management program, can enhance and supplement a fishery and add to the success and enjoyment of fishing. Fish stocking programs must be well thought out and must consider many important factors, the most important of which is habitat management. The following guidelines and requirements provide a policy to clarify the stocking of state waters, fish stocking rates, and stocking priorities.

Goal:

To restore, establish, maintain, and enhance Louisiana's public freshwater fisheries for the benefit of the resource and the public.

General Stocking Regulations:

1. Only public water bodies will be considered for stocking. A public water body is one that is no more restricted to the general public than to any other group or individual.
2. The Department must have the authority to set harvest regulations and sample the fish populations.

Priorities:

Priorities will be established annually using a two step process.

Each June, Inland Fisheries Biologist Supervisors will submit a prioritized request of the water bodies in their district to be considered for stocking. This list will be submitted on the standard Fish Stocking Request Form which contains the name of water body, acreage, species, and number requested. The request must include, for each waterbody, a detailed justification for stocking, including how the requested stocking is consistent with the fishery management program for that waterbody and the goal and/or a desired outcome from the stocking. The request should review the stocking history of the waterbody and any evaluation of past success. The request is then sent to the Fish Hatchery Program Manager, Robert Gough, who will compile the statewide request, include a projection of the hatchery program's capability to produce the total number of fish requested, and distribute the report to the Biologist Supervisors and Baton Rouge Inland Fisheries Staff including Division Administrator, Assistant Administrator, Program Managers and Assistant Secretary of the Office of Fisheries.

Each September a fish stocking workshop will be held and statewide stocking priorities set, depending on their "justifications". Waterbodies are stocked in order based upon their individual needs established in written lake management plans. The Division Administrator will approve the priority list which will be distributed to the Fish Hatchery Program Manager, Biologist Supervisors, and Assistant Secretary of the Office of Fisheries. Any subsequent changes to the priority list will be authorized in writing by the Division Administrator and distributed as an addendum to the statewide list.

Justifications:

- J-1. Newly constructed or renovated water body.
- J-2. Water bodies which have suffered a recent catastrophic event.
- J-3. Trophy, quality or special regulation lakes.

- J-4. Introduction of added genetic material.
- J-5. Reintroduction of species of special concern.
- J-6. Community Fishery Development.
- J-7. Predator/Prey management.
- J-8. Water bodies governed by other agencies.
- J-9. Cooperative agreements with other states, state agencies or universities.
- J-10. Catastrophic events in other states.

Stocking rates and Stocking Sizes:

Species/Subspecies	Number per acre	Size (Inches)
Florida Largemouth Bass (New Lake)	100	1.5-2
Florida Largemouth Bass (Trophy Lake)	100	1.5-2
Florida Largemouth Bass (Quality Lake)	50	1.5-2
Florida Largemouth Bass (Other)	10	1.5-2
Northern Largemouth Bass	10	1.5-2
Striped Bass	10	1.5-2
Hybrid Striped Bass	10	1.5-2
White Bass	10-50	3-5
Channel Catfish	10	3-5
Blue Catfish	5-10	1-2
Flathead Catfish	10-25	2-3
Crappie	100	1.5-3
Bluegill/Redear	100	1-3
Threadfin Shad		

The stocking policy and/or the set annual stocking priorities can be changed only by written notification from the Division Administrator, Assistant Administrator, Assistant Secretary Office of Fisheries, or the Secretary of the Department.

Annual Report:

At the end of each year a summary stocking report will be compiled by the Fish Hatchery Program Manager which will include information on what water bodies were stocked, number stocked, and sizes stocked, and to the extent possible, a genetic history of the stocked fish and any other pertinent information.

Glossary of Terms:

Newly Constructed Waterbody: An area of permanent freshwater habitat that is established where no permanent freshwater habitat existed before.

Renovated Waterbody: A lake that has undergone a major habitat change.

Community Fishery Development: Development of a fishery in usually smaller impoundments whereby the species stocked is targeted on the needs/desires of the community user groups of that area.

Species of Special Concern: Species of fish that are considered imperiled or threatened.